



Woman with child mourns King's death in Sunday memorial



Students wait outside of one of the few open restaurants Tuesday

Requiem

ATLANTA (UPI) — The body of Dr. Martin Luther King, flanked by the great and the humble, was borne through the streets of Atlanta in a funeral tribute unprecedented in the nation's history.

His resting place will be white marble crypt inscribed with a refrain from an old slave song: "Free at last, free at last, Thank God Almighty, I'm free at last."

Many grim-faced, other sobbing, Americans, black and white, came by the tens of thousands to pay their final respects to the integration leader who was killed by a sniper's bullet while in Memphis last Thursday to lead a protest march for striking sanitation workers.

The mourners-officials estimated there were 150,000 of them — walked with the creaking, mule-drawn wagon, "anthem" of the civil rights movement, "We Shall Overcome," and others striding along with arms linked in a symbol of brotherhood.

The procession, a sea of humanity stretching out for four miles, wound its way from Ebenezer Baptist Church, where King's father is pastor, to the quadrangle on the Morehouse College campus, resplendent with the pink and white blooms of dogwood, the "crucifixion flower," and fresh green grass in the warm, spring sunshine.

The cortege reached the campus for the public services after a two-hour procession through the streets.

The crush of humanity was so great outside the college gates that the mule train, with Hosea Williams, a King aide, leading the animals by their halters, was unable for a time to get through.

Once inside the grounds, the African mahogany casket was hoisted atop a platform covered by a blue cloth.

Temperatures climbed into swarms around the casket, those at the speakers stand urged: "Get back please. My friends, this is a worship service and I know we all knew and loved Martin Luther King and all wish to make our expressions, but let's all make them as orderly as possible."

During the main eulogy Benjamin Mays, president emeritus of Morehouse College

and the man who steered King into the ministry, praised the slain Nobel Peace Prize winner as a "prophet of the 20th century" and "champion of all."

He noted that he had promised to preach King's eulogy in the event King died before he did. King was 39. Mays, 73, said it was like asking a man "to eulogize his own son — so precious he was to me."

Before Mays delivered his 20 minute talk, those on the speakers stand had to appeal repeatedly to the crowd to "move back... people out there are fainting."

They also urgently requested: "Please, no more flowers on the grounds."

Negro spiritual singer Mahalia Jackson, wiping tears from her own eyes, sang the

hymn that King requested just before his death, "Precious Lord Take My Hand."

Never in the history of the nation had there been such an outpouring of mourners and tributes for a person outside government. Much of Atlanta suspended business operations and ambassadors and representatives from foreign lands streamed into the city to pay their last respects.

The service finally ended at 4:17 p.m. EST. By this hour the skies had darkened and thunder rippled overhead.

King's body was carried to a waiting hearse and taken to South View Cemetery, south of the city. The cemetery was founded in the 1890's by Negroes who rebelled at being asked to bring their dead through the rear entrance

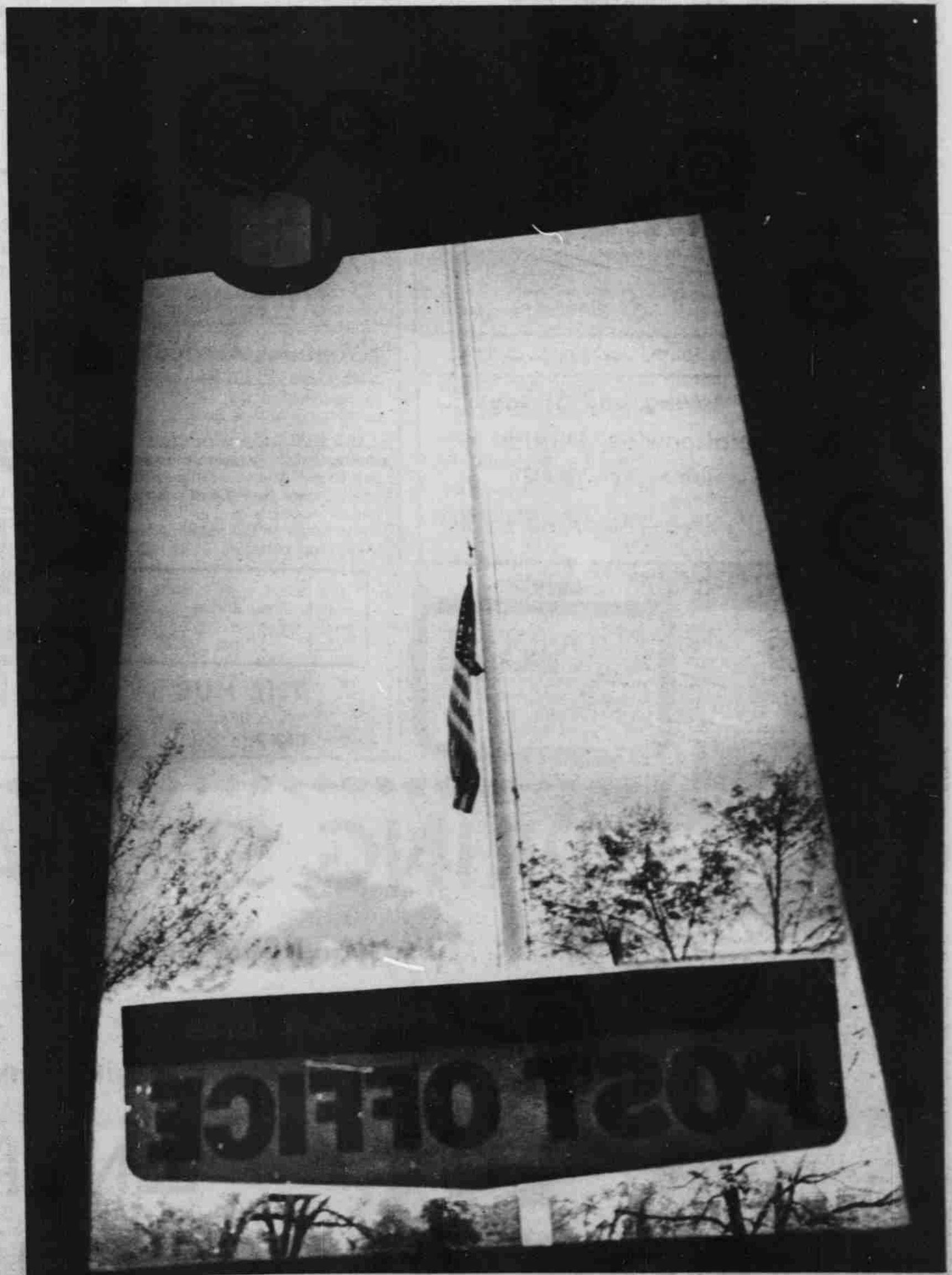


Joe Shedd solicits signatures for open letter to Mrs. King

Photos
by
Wang
and
Adams



Preston Dobbins waves trampled Confederate flag



Flag flies at half mast in front of the Post Office