

SIX PERSONS DIE IN FLAMES

Marshall To Korea In Defense Of Convicted Negro Soldiers

Parents, Four Children Burned To Death Near Chapel Hill Sunday

Succumbs



Dr. James A. Valentine, who for thirteen years pastored St. Joseph A. M. E. Church of Durham, died at his home in Philadelphia Monday morning, February 5 at six o'clock. Dr. Valentine had been in ailing health for about the last three years. Final rites were held for the well-known minister on Thursday, February 8, from Jones' Tabernacle A. M. E. Church in Philadelphia.

Air Force Officer Asked To Resign

New York — Protesting the demand of the United States Air Forces for the resignation of Captain Charles A. Hill, Jr., of Detroit, from the reserve force on the question of loyalty, Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has wired Thomas K. Finletter, Secretary of the Air Force, urging "immediate exoneration of Capt. Hill."

The young officer, a three-decorated veteran of World War II, was asked to resign on the basis of his alleged political views, activities and associations of his father and sister. He was given the opportunity of resigning or facing a service hearing. He chose to present his case at a hearing scheduled for Selfridge Field, Michigan.

In his wire to Secretary Finletter, Mr. White said: "The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is shocked to learn of the demand of the Air Force for the resignation of Capt. Charles A. Hill, Jr., of Detroit, on the irrelevant basis of the alleged activities of his father, the Rev. Charles A. Hill."

As reported in the press, the wire continued, "there is no indication of any disloyal act on the part of Capt. Hill. In essence he is accused of associating with and aiding his own father in an election campaign. His meritorious service in World War II in itself refutes and exposes the flimsy character of the charges against him. This summary action seems to be another phase of what appears to be a concerted effort to discredit Negro servicemen. We urge immediate exoneration of Capt. Hill."

Meanwhile, in Washington, Clarence Mitchell, director of the NAACP Washington Bureau, was informed by James P. Goode, deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force, that Capt. Hill may appeal to Washington if he is not exonerated by the Selfridge Field hearing. The Air Force declined to state specific charges "in the interest of not violating Capt. Hill's privacy."

The Association has offered its full support to Capt. Hill in his efforts to refute the charges questioning his loyalty. NAACP branches throughout the country are being asked to send protests to Secretary Finletter and to take other independent action in his behalf.

Bodies Of Children Couldn't Be Found

Four children and the parents of the Blacknell family of Durham County perished in an early morning blaze Sunday which destroyed their two-story log cabin home near the Durham-Orange County line on Highway 54.

Mr. and Mrs. Blacknell, 36 and 30 years old, respectively, and their four children, Betty Lou, 5; Leroy, 4; Maggie, 3, and Fransene, 2 were burned beyond recognition, according to Coroner R. A. Harton of Durham. What was recovered of the remains was buried Tuesday in one casket. Funeral services were conducted from St. Joseph's C. M. E. Church in Chapel Hill, with the Reverend D. W. Roston, officiating.

The children were sleeping on the second floor of the structure and the parents on the first floor. Durham County Deputy Sheriff C. P. Fogleman and Deputy E. P. Tiney, first officers to reach the site, surmised that the fire started from a tin not-blasted stove in the room occupied by the parents.

A fifth child, Victor, 8, escaped the tragedy and possible death because he was spending the night with relatives who lived nearby.

Durham County firemen who began a search of the smoldering ashes upon their arrival, were only able to find remains of the bodies of the parents. Coroner Harton said that the bodies of the four children were probably completely burned. He added that since it was such a cold night, the parents had apparently banked a big fire for the night and the excess heat ignited the wall.

Persons living nearby were awakened by the sounds of cracking fire and rushed out to help put out the fire, only to be met by what seemed like a roaring barn-fire, as the frame dwelling place collapsed before them.

Raleigh Doctor Beaten, Robbed In Office

Raleigh — Dr. W. B. Pettiford, a physician who has practiced here for several years, was attacked by an intruder in his office after closing time Saturday night who escaped with his wallet containing \$135.

The assailant, described by Dr. Pettiford as wearing a light gabardine coat and dark suit, walked into his office at 510 South Person Street shortly after 8 P. M., and without warning struck him several times. When Detectives Fred W. Polard and John Smith were called by telephone about 8:15, they found the elderly doctor lying on the sofa in the reception room.

The victim put up resistance, but his heart condition and age didn't permit him to handle the intruder, whom he says he saw sprawled out on the back seat of his car a few minutes before. At that time the doctor ordered him out, and the intruder gave the explanation that he thought it was his brother's car. Later the unidentified man followed the doctor into his office and attacked and robbed him, knowing that the week-end is the time that the physician makes many of his collections.

The doctor declared that he cut open the intruder's lip with a blow to the mouth, but was halted when the thief pulled his knife and escaped. The robber being sought is further described as having worn a grey felt hat, 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighing about 165 pounds.

The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBRIDLED

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Remains Of Inferno That Claimed Six



The remains of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Blacknell that was destroyed by an early morning fire Sunday. Both

parents and four children burned to death when heat from a tin hot-blast stove ignited the wall. Only parts of

the parents were found and it is thought that the bodies of the children were completely destroyed.

McGhee Death Due March 8; Lawyers' Lives Threatened

New York — With the execution of Willie McGhee, Mississippi Negro, scheduled to be set for March 8th, Mississippi newspapers have begun to threaten his lawyers and other defenders trying to save the rape frame-up victim's life, the Civil Rights Congress has revealed.

The Jackson Daily News has published three editorials recently openly calling for violence against counsel for McGhee, and attacking the editor of the Jackson Advocate, leading Negro newspaper in that state, the CRC report.

"If Aubrey Grossman . . . attorney for the Civil Rights Congress, again comes to Mississippi on McGhee's behalf," wrote the editor of the Daily News, "he will do so at his own risk. There are times when patience is not a virtue and when tolerance can neither be asked or expected. This would be one of them." The same editorial went on, "From now on, any lousy conscienceless lawyer who seeks to defeat the ends of justice in the Willie McGhee case should be branded as a public enemy and treated as such."

A second editorial, written in the same vein, used the war in Korea "as one of several excellent reasons why there must be no interference with the orderly administration of justice in the Willie McGhee case."

"In fact," said the paper, "it is the one supreme reason why no personal safety can be guaranteed to Aubrey Grossman or any other lawyer employed by the Civil Rights Congress if he sets foot on Mississippi soil and seeks to continue the legal travesty that has so sorely tried the patience of our people for more than five years."

In releasing the excerpts from the editorials, William L. Patterson, CRC national secretary, declared, "Not content with murdering the seven innocent Martinsville Negroes, the lynchers are so intent on killing still another innocent Negro that they are threatening to do violence to his lawyers."

"All pretenses by American government to be defending democracy abroad are lies.

The murder of the Martinsville Martyrs and the plans to execute an innocent Negro, Willie McGhee, and the Trenton Six, are incontestable proof of American government's official policy of racism, at home and abroad."

"The destruction of the rights of minority political parties is being perpetrated by the government to remove opposition to its program of further legal lynchings."

The Civil Rights Congress has appealed for letters and wires to Gov. Fielding Wright, Jackson, Mississippi, urging he grant a stay of execution and a full pardon for the innocent Willie McGhee.

McGhee is facing death for alleged rape of a middle-aged white woman in Laurel, Mississippi in November, 1945. The woman never identified McGhee, and admitted in court that a sick child was in bed with her, that two other children and her husband were in an adjoining room, and that she gave no outcry.

Four times in the last five years, national and world protests have saved McGhee from death in the Mississippi electric chair.

George Thomas Held In Jail For Killing Brother

New Bern — Pamlico County's second killing in two months occurred near Oriental, about 26 miles east of here, when George Mac Thomas attacked his brother, Ben Thomas, with an axe during an argument over a radio.

According to Coroner Jack Harris of Bayboro, death came as a result of loss of blood from the severance of a main artery leading to the heart.

George Thomas told authorities investigating the death that he was defending himself from his brother who pulled a knife on him. Thomas is being held in the county jail at Bayboro on a charge of murder.

Dies Here



Last rites for James Brodie Alston were held at White Rock Baptist Church, Monday, February 5 at 2:30 P. M. The Reverend Miles Mark Fisher, pastor officiated.

Mr. Alston took ill Wednesday at his home, 512 Price Street, when he complained of having a pain in his stomach and died the next day at 4:30 p. m.

Mr. Alston was born in Wake County, the son of the late Lewis and Fannie Dunn Alston. He was brought here when a very small child and lived here when a very small child and lived here the remaining part of his life.

He was a member of the Shepard Bible Class of White Rock and attended church there regularly. He was also a member of Doric Masonic Lodge No. 28 of Durham.

One son, Harvey Alston, by a former marriage survives, in addition to his wife, Mrs. Susie Littlejohn Alston, to whom he was married in 1946.

Three brothers and four sisters also survive. The brothers are: Zee, Otis and Moses Alston, all of Brooklyn, New York. The sisters are: Mrs. Alice Ligon, Mrs. Alvin Martin and Mrs. Mrs. Lovey Dunstan of Raleigh and Mrs. Ella Rich of Wake Forest.

Active Pallbearers were members of Doric Lodge. Floralbearers were members of District No. 8 of White Rock Baptist Church.

Klan Threatens NAACP Meeting On Bias; Ignored

Aiken, S. C. — Defying Ku Klux Klan threats, several hundred citizens crowded the Friendship Baptist Church here to hear Clarence Mitchell, director of the Washington Bureau of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and South Carolina officials of the NAACP, report on efforts to get full and fair employment on the H-bomb project being developed near this city.

The Atomic Energy Commission and DuPont officials had earlier assured a NAACP committee that employment would be offered without discrimination, Mr. Mitchell reported. He noted, however, that Negroes had not been included in the initial hearings and urged colored citizens to file applications for employment immediately.

The meeting, held on January 26, followed a conference in Augusta, Ga., with AEC officials. Participating in this conference were Mr. Mitchell, J. M. Hinton, Conference of NAACP branch president of the South Carolina; Eugene Montgomery, executive secretary of the South Carolina Conference; J. C. Artemus, a member of the executive committee of the South Carolina Federation of Labor; H. J. Hardy, a soil conservation expert; William Wilburn; Dr. C. C. Johnson and R. A. Brooks.

It is estimated, Mr. Mitchell said, that some 2,500 Negroes will be forced to move from the bomb site area, which is located in Aiken and Barnwell counties. The NAACP is giving special attention to their problems through the South Carolina Conference and the Washington Bureau.

New Farmers To Compete In Shop Contest For This Month

Greensboro — The North Carolina Association of New Farmers of America, the organization of Negro farm boys receiving systematic instruction in agriculture in 113 Public High Schools of the state, announced plans for holding the state wide Farm Mechanic Contest for its members during the month of February. The contest will be conducted on a federation basis, and is expected to draw boys from each of the 113 schools in the state.

The contest will have as its purpose to give the farm boys of the state a better appreciation for the identification, use, and care of tools used on the farm. The contest will be conducted at the following vocational agriculture departments throughout the state on the dates listed below:

February 5
The "Dudley Federation" at the Graham High School. Professor I. C. Hartfield is the teacher of agriculture and Professor Dow Spaulding is the principal of the school.

February 6
The "Beverly Federation" at the Deep Creek High School near Wadesboro. Professor W. A. Morgan is the teacher of Agriculture and George Williams is the principal of the school.

February 7
The "Atkins Federation" at the Green Bethel High School. Professor W. D. White is the teacher of Agriculture and Mr. Herbert Gidney is the principal of the school.

Walter White Urges Negro Appointed Judge Of Army Appeals Court

Guest Minister



Dr. Kenneth Clarke, Professor of New Testament Language and Literature at Duke University, who will be the guest minister at the morning service at White Rock Baptist Church on Sunday morning.

Dr. C. H. Brown Speaks To Women's Club

In a meeting of the executive board and officials of the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs, held here Saturday, February 3 in the Jade Room of the Do-Nut Shop, Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, founder and honorary president of the organization declared that "practically every movement in the State that has to do with betterment of women and children has had its beginning in the mind of Negro women, backed up by the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs."

Dr. Brown, who is also founder and president of Palmer Memorial Institute at Sedalia, stated further that, "the first interracial working group for the good of all children was initiated by the women's organization which was recognized by Mrs. W. T. Bickett, wife of the late Governor Bickett of this State. Mrs. (Please turn to Page Eight)

New York—Following a conference with General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, Thurgood Marshall arranged to leave Japan for Korea last week end, the NAACP special counsel reported to the national office here Friday.

At the conclusion of his investigations in Japan of the courts martial of Negro GIs, Mr. Marshall met in conference with General MacArthur; Major General Doyle O. Hickey, chief of staff; Inspector General Edwin A. Zundel and the Judge Advocate General for the area. After he reported on his findings, clearance was given for his departure for Korea for further investigations.

In Korea, Mr. Marshall will go to the Eighth Army Headquarters and thence to the 24th Division Headquarters near the front lines for conferences with the men and officers of the 24th Infantry (to which the convicted GIs belonged), provided they are not actually "engaged with the enemy" at the time.

Before leaving Japan, Mr. Marshall talked with all of the officers and enlisted men, including Lieutenant Leon Gilbert, who have requested the assistance of the NAACP. In addition, he talked with two of the men convicted in the Guam case.

Meanwhile, Walter White, NAACP executive secretary, wired President Truman, urging appointment of "a qualified Negro civilian to the position of judge of the Court of Military Appeals pursuant to the power vested in you by Public Law 506."

Mr. White urged such appointment "in view of the disproportionate number of court martial cases involving Negro members of the armed forces in World War II and in the present UN actions in Korea . . . Such an appointment, in our view, would be clear evidence to the world of your determination to afford to all members of the armed forces, regardless of race, creed, equality of treatment."

Dr. Seabrook Appears Before Budget Group

Raleigh — Two presidents of state colleges this week urged the joint appropriations committee of the General Assembly to set aside sufficient additional funds during the next two years to raise the standard of teacher instruction at their institutions.

They were Dr. J. W. Seabrook, president of Fayetteville State Teachers' College, who asked for the allocation of \$785,250 for the construction of an infirmary and health building, an annex to the present gymnasium, a central heating plant and a laundry; and Dr. S. D. Williams, president of Elizabeth City State Teachers' College, requesting \$325,000 for a new girls dormitory and \$16,600 to purchase land adjacent to the college for future expansion.

Both schools are seeking membership in the American Association of College and Universities, and the leaders explained that the aforementioned appropriations would make the improvements necessary to meet the rigid standards of the association.

Dr. Seabrook told the committee that several additions to the faculty were necessary in order that the general "standard of teacher instruction be raised to provided minimum facilities for complete teacher education before we can gain the recognition we desire." He said that due to heavy load carried by the present instructors, individual aid with student problems was impossible. He pointed out that Fayetteville State and Elizabeth City were the only two Negro colleges in North Carolina that were not recognized by (Please turn to Page Eight)