

FORMER SLAVE SEES EARLY WAR

Says That Nation Will Be Crippled By Russia This Year

By GERTRUDE CARRAWAY Staff Correspondent

NEW BERN, Aug. 23—Having lived through five wars, Charles McClees, Negro, of 872 Howard street, New Bern, who will be 104 years old September 21, says that another World War worse than all others will break out in atomic bomb fury when he is 105 years old.

The aged darky, born a slave in Tyrrell county, predicts that the United States will become involved in another disastrous war before the end of 1948, unless every possible means is exerted to prevent it. Indeed, he does not see how it can be avoided. He says nothing was really settled by World War II. Fighting is still going on in Europe. Russia and the United States still have too many differences of opinion and policy.

"Those Russians have been planning while we have been asleep," McClees says. "They may bomb us so suddenly next year that we won't be able to win the war as we have been doing in the past. We better wake up and get busy, so our country won't be ruined."

McClees was never educated and he can neither read nor write, but he says he was educated by the Holy Ghost and is familiar with world affairs and problems. He quotes the Bible to show there will be wars and rumors of war.

Born Sept. 21, 1843, as a slave owned by John McClees near Columbia, he did not participate in the fighting of the War Between the States. He spent most of those war years in a Tyrrell county cave taking care of his master's horses and protecting them from Northern troops.

One day, he recalls, his master called him and told him that President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation had order freedom for all slaves. He was asked what he wanted to do or where he preferred to go. He replied that he would like to go search for the mother that he had not seen since he was a baby, eight months old.

Learning that the mother had been sold on Roanoke Island but that many Negroes had been moved from there by the Union soldiers to James City near New Bern, he came to this area in his quest. From house to house he went inquiring about a woman named Adeline McClees. At one but he was told that the person he was questioning had a sister nearby named Adeline McClees, a former slave from Roanoke Island and Tyrrell county. This turned out to be his mother.

For a time he remained at James City, then moved to Pamlico county and bought a farm in the Wild Cat tract. He lost this property because of a faulty title, and came back to New Bern, where for years he drove a hack. When automobiles turned hackmen out of business, he drove a dray for many years.

His long life and good health he attributes to good behavior and Christian character. He has followed the command of the fifth commandment, he says, which promises: "Honor thy father and mother that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God hath given thee." This means he points out, not only one's own father and mother but all older persons.

McClees is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, residents of New Bern. He is alert and active, with a remarkable memory, and is able to recall many of the older citizens of the area and numerous incidents that happened here three-quarters of a century ago.

Rev. Otten To Preach At St. Paul's Today

The Rev. Kenneth Peschau Otten, pastor of St. John's Lutheran church in Melrose, Penn., will deliver the sermon at this morning's 11 o'clock service at St. Paul's Lutheran church.

The Rev. Mr. Otten is a congregational son of St. Paul's and his grandfather, Dr. F. W. E. Peschau, served the church as pastor from 1882 to 1893. The Rev. Mr. Otten is now visiting his sisters, Mrs. Samuel Behrends and Mrs. W. P. McLaughlin, here.

Today's service will be in charge of the Rev. Walter B. Freed, pastor of St. Paul's, and prior to the worship service, Sunday school, with classes for all ages, will convene at 9:45 o'clock.

OFFICERS TO BE CLOSED

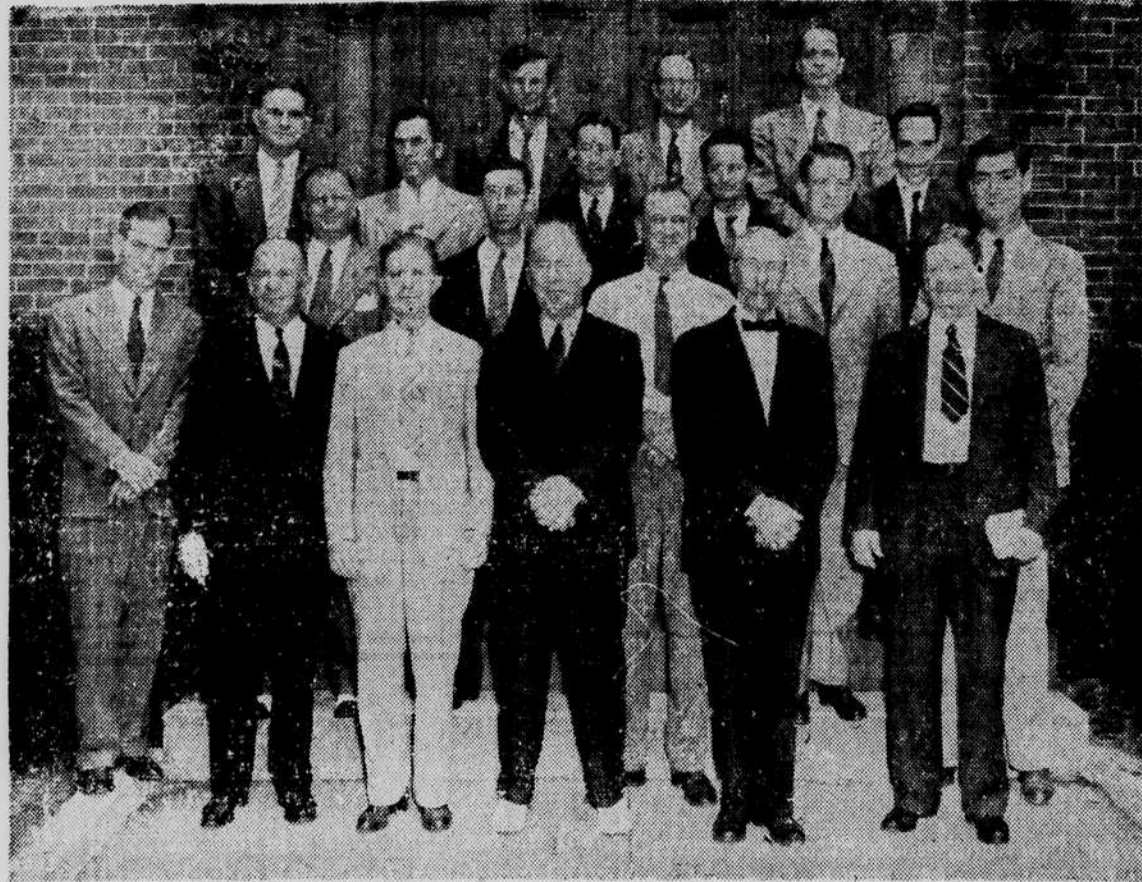
COLUMBIA, S. C., Aug. 23.—(UP)—The Veterans' Administration will close six contact offices in South Carolina, according to Edward B. Turner, manager of the South Carolina regional office, at Fort Jackson.

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PICTURED ABOVE are a group of Baptist pastors who at a recent meeting decided to lead their churches in raising \$65,000 for the enlargement of Wake Forest college on its new campus at Winston-Salem. Left to right: first row, Ben B. Usery, Carolina Beach; H. S. Strickland, Wrightsboro; E. W. Pate, Calvary; C. E. Baker, Tabernacle; T. H. King, Winter Park; J. H. Foster, pastor emeritus of the First Baptist Church, Wilmington. Second row: E. C. Chamblee, City-Associational Missionary; J. B. Doshier, Centerville; Paul Nix, Maffitt Village; G. C. Lewis, Sunset Park; W. A. Poole, Burgaw. Third row: Guy C. Moore, Southside; C. E. Briscoe, Gibson Avenue; J. H. Blackmore, Masonboro; Paul Merritts, Holly Ridge; Fred Kelly, East Wilmington. Fourth row: T. K. Woody, Jr., Atkinson; Shiloh and Moore's Creek; L. G. Burgess, Jacksonville; C. A. Maddry, First Church, Wilmington. Pastors not shown in picture: W. J. Stephenson, Temple; J. N. Evans, Jr., Wallace; J. E. Allard, Seagate and Wells Chapel; A. A. Glazier, Teachey; Harry Moore, Long Creek; Ivanhoe and Bear Branch; C. B. Horne, Haw Bluff and Canetuck; L. L. Johnson, Bethlehem; Mr. D. W. Sullins, Lake Forest Mission; Lester King, Bethany Mission; E. H. Cannady, Catherine's Lake; A. L. Benton, Penderlea and Forest Hills; C. R. Taylor, Riley's Creek.

Take the Laughter

by Karen DeWolf
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CHAPTER XXX

Sherry could feel herself pale and her head swam dizzily. Then the blood pushed to her face again and throbbled at her temples.

No! It couldn't be Tony! She couldn't see him just all of a sudden like this! She had to brace herself and be prepared for it!

She knew she was starting, but she could not help it.

She thought, Oh, Tony! Tony! I've got to know if it's you or not! and the man turned around and looked at her.

It was Tony.

His face lit with delight and he got up quickly but the waiter was coming with his highball and Tony had to tell him he was changing tables.

Sherry's automatic smile was frozen on her face. She clenched her hands hard and tried to breathe naturally.

"You're glad to see him of course," she told herself desperately, "but you can't swoon in his arms, you fool!"

Then Tony was saying, "I just tried to get you on the telephone! Jenny tells me you're working!" and he kissed her and sat down.

Sherry said, "Yes, I'm working. How well you're looking! Did you like New York? How's Joyce?"

She thought, That's it! Make a blithering idiot of yourself!

Tony seemed to be excited too, and they both tried to speak at once and laughed.

He said, "We're acting like a pair of lovers! People'll be looking at us. I only got in this morning, flew a business conference on a new contract. I'm leaving by train tonight."

Sherry's heart turned sickeningly.

She said, "Oh, no, Tony! Not so soon!" without meaning to say it, and they caught each other's hands.

Well, that was all right, she told herself, they always had.

Tony said, "I should have wired, but I wanted to surprise you."

She said, "Oh, what a shame!" because it was the thing to say.

"I called you the instant I was through," he told her. "How do you like working? Tell me all about it."

They talked about the studios and the people they knew and about each other's work. They talked about Peter and the accident and why Tony had not written sooner.

Sherry had another cup of tea and Tony smoked a lot of cigars. He had been given a feature, his first big picture, and a grand new contract.

"We'll celebrate tonight!" he told her. "What a rotten scheme we haven't Henri's!"

Sherry agreed with him, but she was thinking, I can't stand it, that's all! I can't talk about old times and Joyce all evening!

Tony was looking puzzledly around.

"This is Henri's," he said, "isn't it? I mean where Henri's used to be?"

Sherry had hoped he would not think of that. The realization made her want to cry. She had to say something quickly so she asked about Kris, but Tony had not heard anything for months either.

"But isn't it grand about Sandro!" he said. "He's one of the mighty now; did a swell job on his last picture. I wouldn't mind having him for mine."

Sherry smiled.

She said, "And after the way you used to razz him!"

"Well, we've all made the grade, sweet!" Tony said. "Funny when you think of it—the four of us doing the things we planned." He stopped for a minute, then his voice was quieter.

hot dog . . . it was all the money I had . . . and you made me feel like a big shot. . . I loved you that night, Sherry."

She said, "That night. You loved me that night!"

Well, what difference did it make if Tony knew? As if pride mattered now.

He said, "And lots of other nights . . . you knew that, didn't you?"

Sherry lifted her chin.

She said, "If I had, do you think you could have married me off to Peter?" but she did not look at him.

"You were so young," Tony told her, "and you'd been so sick and I couldn't take care of you. We've been fools, Sherry, both of us. We belong, and we've always known and talked ourselves out of it."

He found her hand and they clung under the table. Sherry leaned her head against the seat because her temples throbbled.

Tony was right — they belonged. Her hand was in Tony's again. Time seemed stopped.

She said, "It's too late, Tony—Joyce—"

His voice was quiet.

He said, "Joyce knows. I told her before we were married. She'll understand."

Sherry thought, "This is wrong! Wrong! Tony's married! Joyce—"

And suddenly she knew she could not fight it. There was only Tony and she in the whole world. It had always been like that. They had gone back to the beginning; of the temple territory.

nothing in between could matter now.

(To Be Continued)

Pastor Emeritus To Preach Sermon At First Baptist

The choir of the First Baptist church will sing Handel's great "Hallelujah Chorus" Sunday morning at the 11 o'clock service. W. O. Page, Jr., staff soloist, will sing Leon Hoffmeister's "Arise, O Lord, Let Not Man Prevail."

The Rev. J. H. Foster, D. D., now completing his twelfth year as pastor emeritus, will preach in the morning on "The Music of the Spheres," and in the evening "Contrasts."

Guest soloist at the evening service will be Orma Jean Willis, soprano, who will render Wilfred Sanderson's "Green Pastures."

Henri Emurian, organist, will play as the morning prelude Theodore Salome's "Grand Choeur in G," and evening Edwin Lemare's "Andantino in D flat."

NEW BERN, Aug. 23.—(UP)—A special fall ceremonial of Sudan Shrine Temple will be held Sept. 2-3 at Manteo, it was announced today by Temple Recorder Charles A. Seifert. A decision will be reached at the meeting whether to hold a late fall meeting in another part of the temple territory.

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