

Crime Crackdown

(Continued from page 1) Negroes drink "Sneaky Pete" and Negroes commit crime but some one should tell the News and Observer and other white

people that Negroes do what they see white people do. Drinking and crime are not original with the Negro, when the white man sees a better example, Negroes will quite likely follow it. However if the News and Observer, Mr. Car-

per and the City of Raleigh is really interested in checking and preventing crime in East Raleigh, we would like to offer a few suggestions. We would begin by clearing out the slums of East Raleigh. Negroes in that area are living in hovels and shacks unfit for animals, because they have no place else to live and certain real estate interests here who own those human firetraps are now clamoring for the removal of rent controls in order that they may reap a richer harvest from the unfortunate people who have to live in them. It has long been an accepted fact that over-crowded, unsanitary, run-down living quarters are breeding places for crime of every description. If rent controls are lifted, this condition will be magnified, because to avoid paying higher rents, more people will occupy fewer houses by doubling up, crowding three and four large families in one house.

Next, Raleigh should see that its Negro citizens get work to do with salaries in line with the ever increasing cost of living. It is certainly not the Negroes' fault that in Raleigh, less than ten percent of the Negro population has a monthly income over \$300.00. Yet, Raleigh is the Capital City where the state, county and city governments, using the tax money of both black and white citizens, pays out hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to white workers, while employing a handful of Negro laborers at the lowest pay possible, not only do the governing bodies discriminate in the employment of Negroes, but the white businesses of Raleigh steadfastly refuse to employ Negroes for any but the stickiest menial tasks at starvation wages. All of this, despite the fact that ninety-eight percent of the Negroes' earnings is spent with the white merchants of Raleigh.

Better housing, better streets, better job opportunities for Negroes in Raleigh, would go a long way toward reducing Negro crime in Raleigh although it would not wipe it out, since crime is not confined to the Negro in Raleigh or any other place.

Finally, we would suggest that Mr. Carper follow the lead of Charlotte, Durham and many other progressive southern cities and employ a Negro police force, adequate to handle and to cope with the situation whatever it may be. A city the size of Raleigh should have at least ten Negro police officers, with their own Captain and Lieutenants. Although we will never subscribe to the stupid idea that a Negro police officer's power to arrest be limited to Negroes only, that idea however may be in line with Mr. Carper's apparent reasoning, that only Negroes commit crime, it seems reasonable to believe that an adequate number of Negro policemen, stationed in the Negro districts, would reduce Negro crime to a minimum and that the elimination of crime breeding slums and better job opportunities in Raleigh would make Raleigh the Capital City in reality.

In conclusion, it might be interesting to note, that the same issue of the local daily which carries Mr. Carper's demand that the Raleigh police get tougher toward Negroes, and which also intimated that "Sneaky Pete" drinking and crime was confined to East Raleigh, there was a lengthy detailed story of "Sneaky Pete" drinking, rowdiness, stealing and disturbing the peace in Raleigh's all-white north end. But everyone knows that crime is not racial, well not quite every one. Remember the City Manager's orders to his police chief — get tough with Negroes. — BFC

CLAYTON POLICE

(Continued from page 1) morning

The stories told about the killing of Young Watson are so conflicting that only a scientific test of the bullets used in the shooting can prove with any degree of certainty, what story is true. We interviewed the mother of Watson who told us she was an eye witness to the shooting and said that her son was shot down in cold blood without any provocation. We interviewed Chief Carter who told us he killed Watson in self defense. Both persons seemed quite sincere and honest in their statements but both of the statements cannot be true.

Both Mrs. Watson and Chief Carter are in substantial agreement as far as the story of Watson's unprovoked attack upon Constable Moore. Both say that Watson seized Moore from behind, overpowered him and disarmed him for no apparent reason other than it was something he wanted to do. But no where else does the testimony of Mrs. Watson and Chief Carter agree.

According to Mrs. Watson, Chief Carter and two officers came to her home about ten o'clock last Sunday night and told her they had come to arrest her son for his assault upon Constable Moore earlier that day. Mrs. Watson says she admitted the three officers and told them that Young Watson was asleep in an adjoining room. Mrs. Watson goes on to say that the officers passed through her room to her son's room and told him they had come to arrest him and ordered him to get up and dress so he could go with them. Mrs. Watson says her son was complying with the officers request when one of them remarked that Watson was not dressing fast enough and without further ado began shooting the Negro man, firing several shots, some of them striking Watson and others going into the walls of the house. According to Mrs. Watson, her son, after he had been shot two or three times while sitting on his bed, ran from the house with the officers in hot pursuit, shooting at him as they followed him from the house. Mrs. Watson told us that she was standing in the door way of her son's room, looking on and that his first shot, that he did not have any type of weapon and did not offer any resistance to the demand of the officers that he get dressed and go with them. After she

saw him shot, and run from the house, Mrs. Watson says she became frightened and ran to a neighbor's house. Later that night she was told that her son had been pronounced dead when he reached the hospital in Smithfield. Mrs. Watson is a middle aged woman, tall and somewhat gaunt and gives the impression of an honest, truthful person.

After looking at the many bullet holes in the house, we left Mrs. Watson's home and called on Chief Carter, asking him to give us his version of the affair. As already stated, his story of the events leading up to the shooting was almost identical with Mrs. Watson's. He said he was out of town when the constable was attacked by Young Watson, and later, upon his return that night he, the constable and another police officer, went to Watson's home to arrest him for his assault upon the Constable Moore. Chief Carter said that when he told Watson to get up and get dressed, Watson jumped up and pulled a pistol from his snrt and fired at him, the bullet grazing his left cheek. Seeing Watson's move, the chief says he fired at Watson but that his aim was better than Watson's because his bullet struck Watson in the chest. According to the chief Watson ran from the house as soon

as he had fired his pistol and the three officers followed after him, shooting him down as he ran. After he had fallen, some distance from the house, the chief says he and the other two officers picked up Watson and carried him to the hospital but he was dead upon arrival there.

We asked the chief what became of the gun Watson shot at him with but he said it could not be found. Chief Carter showed us the side of his face which was reared by a dark streak about three inches long. He said that Watson had a very bad police record, had served time on numerous occasions and was under a suspended sentence at the time of the shooting. He told us that Watson had on one occasion before the Sunday incident, overpowered an officer taken his weapons and his car from him and had made the officer walk back to the police station. Chief Carter said he has been a police officer for twenty years and had never shot any one before. He said that before coming to Clayton, he had served as chief at Mount Olive and Franklinton, North Carolina and was in the army for three years. He expressed deep regret over the killing and said he was sorry it had to be that way but it was either him or Watson.

We talked with several Negroes in Clayton and they all said that Chief Carter had always treated them, straight and could not be classed as a trouble maker. The chief was very cordial to us and was willing to answer all questions put to him and consented to have his picture made between he and Mrs. Watson. It would be hard to say which one was more sincere or more honest, apparently, but with two stories, so widely apart, both of them can not be true and we make no attempt to say which one is true.

What became of the pistol, Chief Carter says, Watson shot at him with is quite a mystery. It would seem that in the name of justice that pistol should be found. What Watson thought he could do with these armed policemen standing over his bed is also a mystery. It is also rather puzzling to attack three armed officers. On the other hand, we can not understand what was going on in Watson's mind Sunday afternoon when he attacked and overpowered the constable. But dead men tell no tales. Watson will never be able to answer that or will he ever tell us what became of the gun the chief says was fired at him one time.

— JAR —
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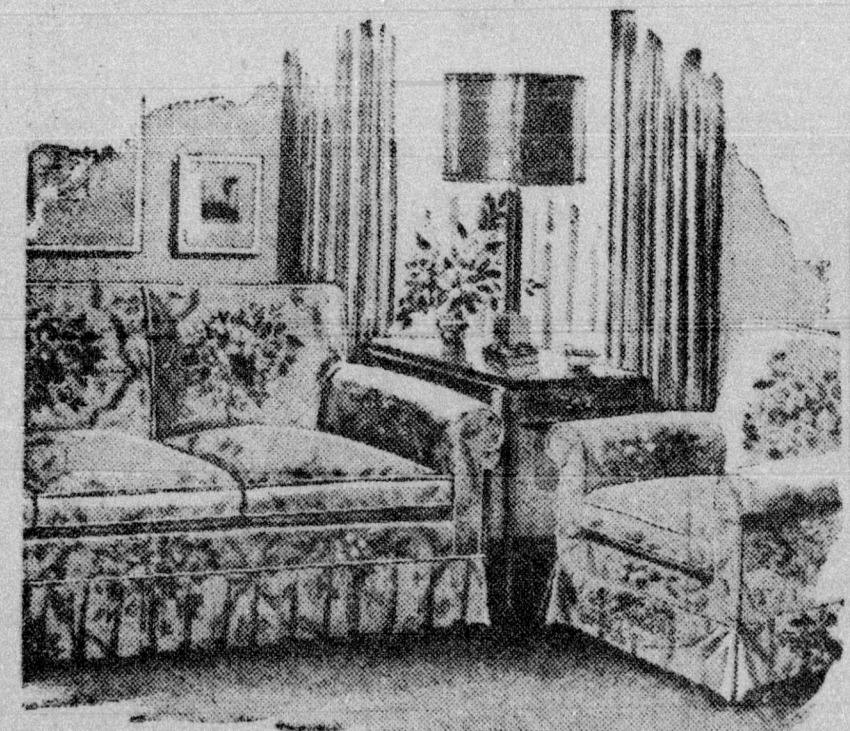
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