

Irate Race Prisoners Slash Deputy, Escape; Recaptured

LUMBERTON — A deputy sheriff in Robeson County narrowly escaped death Saturday when two irate race prisoners, who were being taken to Central Prison at Fayetteville, slashed him about two miles south of Fayetteville.

J. P. McMillan, the deputy, received a long slash in his neck and later a physician at Fuquay Springs reported that he could see the man's jugular vein pulsing while he was busy sewing him up. The effect was not hospitalized, however, and his condition is deemed satisfactory.

Both of the prisoners were recaptured with the aid of a State Wildlife Commission airplane and bloodhounds secured from a Harnett County prison camp.

According to reports, the two men have records of previous escapes. The men, Weldon G. Ross, 23, and James Melvin, 32, had previously escaped from a Scotland County road gang where they were serving time for the larceny of an automobile.

This account of the incident was given by Wake County Sheriff Robert J. Pleasant.

McMillan was transporting the prisoners to Central Prison at Raleigh from Lumberton. He also a Parkton policeman had encountered the pair last May 27 while they were attempting to break in at Parkton. During that time, one of the men is reported to have

slashed at the officers and the slug is said to have gone through one of the policemen's pants leg. After they were jailed it was learned that both were escapees from a Scotland County road gang.

The men were tried and convicted of breaking and entering and assault with a deadly weapon and were sentenced to terms ranging from 5-7 years.

The deputy is reported to have left Lumberton with Melvin and Ross and two other prisoners at about 8:30 a. m. He dropped one of the prisoners off at the Cumberland County Jail in Fayetteville.

Reports show that Ross was in the back seat of the car with another prisoner, John Henry Hayes, 26, up for housebreaking and larceny. Melvin is reported to have been riding in the front seat of the car.

Another car, bearing Robeson County officers and several more prisoners being taken to Central Prison here, followed a short distance behind McMillan.

When the vehicles reached the outskirts of Fuquay Springs, they became widely separated because of heavy traffic.

Ross reached over the back seat and clutched Deputy McMillan about the head. Melvin, who also was on the front seat, jumped to the attack, one of the men slashed the officer's throat with a razor blade he had held concealed.

One grabbed his gun. The third Negro, apparently not a party to the plan which officers believed was conceived by Ross and Melvin, begged the pair to stop the assault.

After the deputy's gun was wrested away from him the pair told the protesting Hayes "we'll give you the same thing."

One of the men further threatened the deputy with "I'll kill the s---b."

The deputy is alleged to have said then, "you've got my gun—don't shoot me."

The two assailants forced the deputy and Hayes out of the halted car and Hayes fled, running to a nearby house and summoning help. Ross and Melvin are also alleged to have run and in a few minutes, a passing motorist picked up Deputy McMillan.

He was taken to the office of Dr. A. G. Crumpler in Fuquay Springs. Dr. Crumpler told police officers that if the wound in the deputy's neck had been a fraction deeper, the jugular vein would have been cut and McMillan probably would have bled to death.

The man also suffered from a broken capsule in his left knee.

Bloodhounds from the Lillington prison camp were secured after an immediate alarm was spread and a hunt was inaugurated for the prisoners. The Wildlife Commission enlisted an airplane for the hunt.

Highway patrolmen coordinated the chase and communicated by radio with the plane's pilot who was supplied with a walkie-

talkie. The posse was also supplemented by sheriff's officers from Wake and Harnett Counties.

Hayes, the other prisoner, who had begged the men to stop their attack on the deputy, was returned to custody by officers. He apparently had no hand in the break and is reported to have said what he could to aid the deputy.

A car was stolen by Ross and Melvin. However, they abandoned it just inside the Harnett County line a short distance from the site of the break. After finding the car, officers immediately set up a block in the area.

The scent of the two men was gained by the bloodhounds, who soon made their way into a wooded area where the men were found hiding.

The progress of the bloodhounds was reported to officers who were closing in from other areas and dived down when the men surrendered. No resistance was offered to the officers. The men meekly gave up the pistol that they had taken from Deputy McMillan.

The fugitives were brought to Raleigh and placed in Central Prison.

They had been recaptured about two and one half hours following the attempted escape. The two have been charged with auto theft and assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill.

Whether the men were handcuffed at the time of being transported has not been ascertained by Sheriff Robert J. Pleasant.

Last Rites For Phelps Stokes Sec'y

NEW YORK — (ANP) — Funeral services for Leo A. Roy, former executive secretary of the Phelps-Stokes Fund, were held here last week at the Thomas C. Bible Funeral home.

Roy died in Florida at the age of 64. Some time ago he suffered a heart attack which forced him to take a rest.

After nearly 30 years of service with the fund, Roy resigned as executive secretary on July 1, 1948. Throughout that period, he maintained a deep interest in Liberian affairs and in particular the educational development of the country.

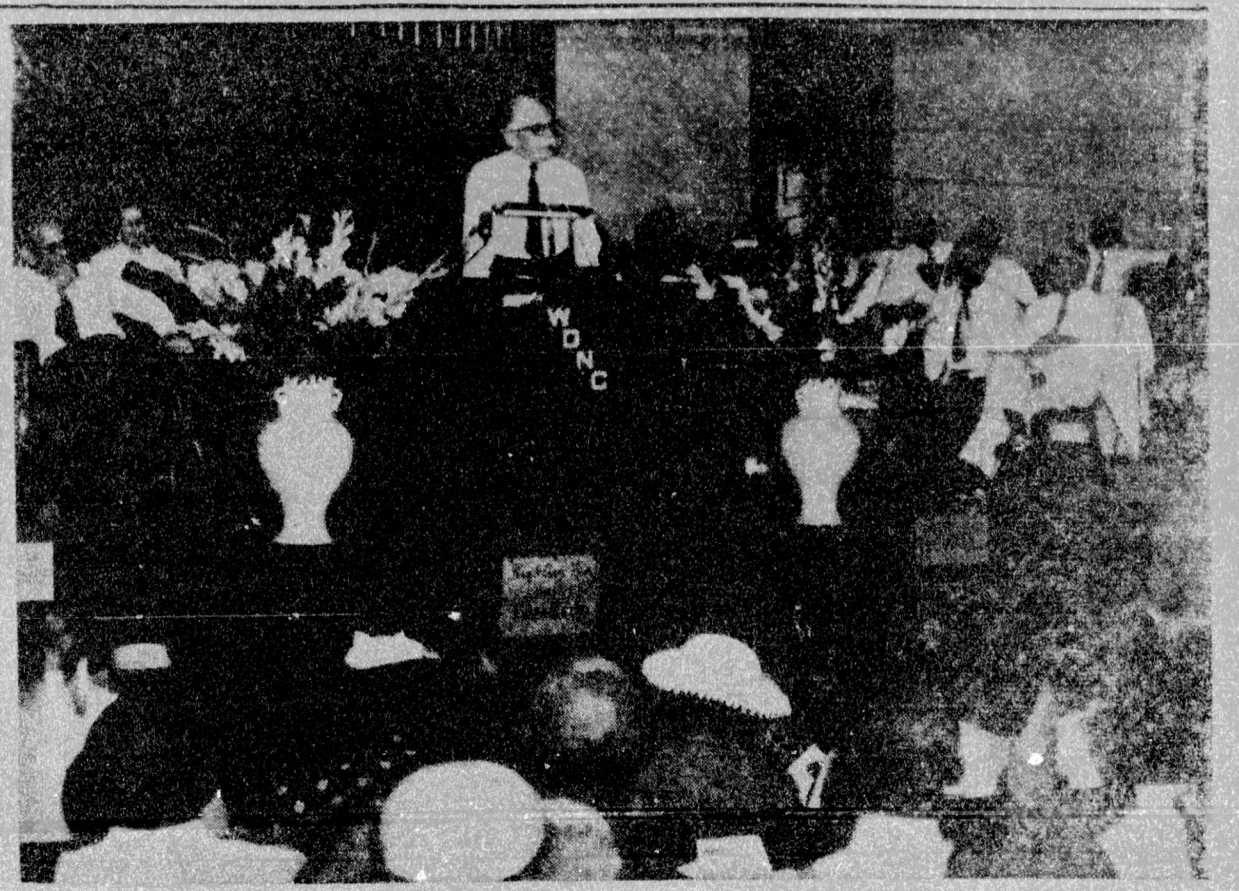
Beside his work with the Fund, Roy also served as assistant secretary-treasurer of the board of trustees of Booker Washington Agricultural and Industrial Institute at Kakata, Liberia.

Dr. Channing H. Tobias, former director of the Phelps-Stokes fund, upon learning of the death of Roy, wrote:

"Roy was a distinguished personality without claiming the headlines; rather he preferred to appear too much in the limelight, contenting himself with doing a full day's work in the interest of humanity and for the good of human relationships.

"His long term of service with the fund is an inspiring chapter of that organization. His interest in Liberia and the development of the Booker Washington institute in the trying days of that institution will ever remain a treasured memory with all who were associated with it on this side and the other side of the water."

Survivors include the widow, Mrs. Estelle King Roy, and three daughters, Mrs. Richard Blegg, Carol Roy and Mrs. James Shaw.



WALTER WHITE ADDRESS-ES 4-F RALLY—Walter White, executive secretary of NAACP is shown as he addressed 2,000 people in White Rock Baptist Church, Durham, on the occasion of the Fighting Fund For Freedom rally June 13, during which \$2600 was raised for NAACP work to push integration. On platform (seated) left to right are Counsellor E. N. Harris, State NAACP proxy Kelly Alexander, Dr. M. M. Fisher, Attorney M. E. Johnson, Durham NAACP head and the White Rock choir in the background — J. B. Harten Photo.

AME Church Bishop Dies

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — (ANP) — Bishop John H. Clayborn, who had been ill for more than a year, died at his home here last week. He was 73 years old.

The bishop presided over the 13th district of the AME church, covering Tennessee and Kentucky.

Born in Arkadelphia, Ark., Dec. 2, 1881, Bishop Clayborn was elected prelate on the fifth ballot at the General Conference of his denomination at Philadelphia in 1944. He received the largest number of votes ever given a candidate for the bishopric — 982.

Prior to becoming bishop, the prelate had served as pastor, presiding elder, editor of the Southern Christian Recorder, and college president.

He earned his A.B. at Shorter college, B.D. at Jackson Theological seminary, D.D. at Wilberforce university, and an LL.D. at Campbell college.

He served as a delegate to the General Conference of the church in 1916, 1924, 1928, 1932, 1940 and 1944.

He also served as trustee of Shorter college for more than 30 years; Wilberforce University, 12 years; and Payne Theological seminary, 12 years.

As bishop, he advocated reforms for A. M. E. Church schools. He recommended

that several of the smaller schools be combined to strengthen their facilities and curriculum. He submitted a plan for this to the last AME General Conference, which met in Chicago in 1952.

A Republican, Bishop Clayborn was one of two Negro ministers named to serve as chaplains at the Republican National convention in 1952.

Small of stature, Bishop Clayborn nevertheless, was most forceful in getting his views over. He was seen by many as the champion of the rank and file in the AME church.

A benevolent prelate, he gave the AME connection for superannuates, widows and orphans \$1,140.50. He also gave in 1936 \$101.50 net proceeds from the Southern Christian Recorder to the church dependents. He bought and gave an \$18,000 printing plant for printing the Southern Christian Recorder.

He taught for some 25 years in the public schools of Arkansas, and was made president of Shorter college in 1940.

Organizations in which he held membership included Omega Psi Phi fraternity, Urban League, NAACP, Free and Accepted Masons, American Woodman and Fraternal Council of Negro Churches in America.

Role Of Negro Actors Clarified By Statement

NEW YORK — (ANP) — A statement designed to clarify the role of the Negro in the entertainment world was released last week by the Coordinating Council for Negro Performers.

Endorsed by the NAACP, the Negro Actors Guild of America, the Coordinating Council and other organizations, the statement was drawn up sometime ago by a committee representing Actors' Equity, Chorus Equity, Dramatists' Guild and the League of New York Theatres.

The statement said in part:

"The realities of the American scene today confirm the portrayal of the Negro as a mere general part of the scheme of our society, for example, as postmen, policemen, clerks, secretaries, government workers, doctors, and teachers, without the necessity of emphasis on race.

"If writers, producers, directors and casting agents would consider the Negro artist primarily as an artist, to be given consideration for casting in any roles which his ability permits, it would be a vitalizing force in the theatre.

"Apprehensive of doing in-

justice to the Negro citizens and offending humanity, writers and producers have tended to completely eliminate the Negro in comedy and servant roles.

"This policy, well-meant though it may be, is unrealistic and has seriously curtailed the employment of the Negro artist. While caricature and stereotype are always to be condemned, there is nothing inherently wrong in comedy and servant roles when they are a part of a living presentation. However, when the Negro citizens are presented exclusively in such roles, an imbalance results, and their integration in American life is improperly set before the world.

"We correct this situation, not by eliminating the Negro artist, but by enlarging his scope and participation in all types of roles and in all forms of American entertainment—just as in American life.

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NAMED VICE PRESY — William G. Black of Interstate U-

ited Newspapers, Inc., has recently been named Vice President in Charge of Sales for the entire Interstate organization.

A Summary of What His Honor Said

Arrested on charges of "Peeping Tom" Monday, William Harris was sentenced to twelve months on the roads.

Harris, 47, of Method, who also faced charges for trespassing, was captured by "redhanded" by C. W. Norman of 2611 Hillsboro Street, according to testimony heard by Judge Albert Doubt. The Harris man claimed that he was only "taking a short cut home."

Norman testified that he

found Harris hiding behind some shrubbery in his yard after Norman's wife had asked him to look into "some noise" that she thought she heard. Norman also testified that the man had placed a stool under one of his windows, and topped a Coca-Cola crate on the stool.

In another court case, three men, one of them a Negro and two white, were convicted on charges involving a disorderly house.

Malcolm Herd of Greenville and Robert Bumpass, Negro of Durham, were arrested as occupants of the disorderly house after they were found in bed together at 2:30 in the morning. A drinking party had reportedly ensued prior to the arrest.

Willard Moody, white, 32 of 204 N. Person Street, was arrested for operating a disorderly house.

Moody reported that he met the two men in Moore Square where they were all drinking wine, and invited them to come with him. He accused Bumpass of attempting an unnatural sex act on him.

LIFE AT THE LORD CALVERT



Singer Jo Thompson, now appearing at Ciro's in Miami Beach, takes the sun at the Lord Calvert Hotel.



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