

# 'EEL' DIES IN GAS CHAMBER

HOME EDITION

## The Carolina Times

Reaches the Masses of Readers

VOL. 20 NO. 25 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2nd, 1939 PRICE SEVEN CENTS

# USHERS CLOSE SUCCESSFUL SESSION

## Dr. J. E. Shepard Delivers Key Address At Meet

BY WILLIAM A. TUCK

BURLINGTON, N. C.—At the Sunday morning session of the 15th annual convention of the Inter Denominational Ushers Association of North Carolina which convened at Burlington, N. C. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 25th-27th, Dr. James E. Shepard, President and founder of North Carolina College and Grand Master of the Masons of North Carolina delivered the main address at the Ebenezer Christian Church. In this challenging address he pointed out to his anxious listeners numerous "Visions of Peril and Visions of Triumph."

out emphatically the "Visions of Peril" which haunt the lives of those who live in "this age of turmoil. Some visions of peril are: The World War which is almost immediately at hand; the wickedness of people as evidenced in the oppression of races and religious castes, segregation, and injustices in the courts and on the highway of life. As a means of eliminating these perils Dr. Shepard said: "I am praying for war if peace will not eliminate these things. If man will not reason in peace, he must listen to the thunderous voice of God" (through war).

Viewing the world situation from the brighter side Doctor Shepard pointed out several uplifting "Visions of Triumph." There are increasing examples of justice, it was pointed out, as well as more thoughts in terms of brotherhood among the people of the world. It is a triumphant vision to realize that man does not have to wait for money to "have things." "Make a beautiful song, paint a picture, build a better mousetrap," the speaker advised.

For the promotion of brotherhood the association was advised to "Teach men that you love them; no race can rise to heights hating another; no man can rise on hatred."

In the outset, Dr. Shepard paid high tribute to the association and to President L. E. Austin for the many evidences of high type organization in the convention. "It means much to be organized," he said; "I am helped in my own life by coming here. You have demonstrated that denominations can be organized." Congratulating the association for its excellent choice of a leader, Dr. Shepard said: "No man is striving harder to bring the rights of the Negro to the Negro than Mr. Austin."

Dr. Shepard's enlightening address had two distinct divisions. In the first part he pointed

# CHARLOTTE PHYSICIAN DIES



DR. NAPOLEON B. HOUSER, 70 year old Charlotte physician who succumbed Monday night, Aug. 28. Funeral services were held Thursday morning at the 7th Street church and interment was made at Pinewood Cemetery.

## Dr. N. B. Houser Passes After Six Weeks Illness

CHARLOTTE, The city was saddened on Monday night when news went swiftly around of the death of Dr. Napoleon B. Houser, 70 year old nationally known physician who had one of the best practices in the south. Dr. Houser practiced medicine for forty eight years, twenty years in Helena, Ark., and twenty here in Charlotte. Funeral services are set for Thursday morning at Seventh Street church with interment in Pinewood cemetery. Dr. Houser was a faithful member of the Seventh Street church.

Dr. Houser's life shows that he was a man of unusual ability and he proved himself able to attain supremacy in business and artistic endeavor as well as outstanding in his profession. He was born in Gaston County on February 14 1869 but was reared in Charlotte. His father was a prosperous brick manufacturer owning two brick yards and as a young boy Dr. Houser worked until he learned all parts of the brick making trade. He also helped on his father's farm during his youth.

As a very young man he took over the business management of his father's business and, no trained accountant could have been more capable in handling the wide spread business. He went through the elementary school here then entered Biddle University and after finishing decided on a medical career, although the story is told that he had never seen a colored doctor.

He entered the Leonard Medical School at Shaw University in 1887 five years after finishing Biddle and was an honor student winning first prize in obstetrics while finishing the four year



HORACE A. DAVENPORT, the president of the class of 1924 at Johnson C. Smith University, a star football player and honor student, who will be on hand to welcome the incoming freshmen at the opening of the University on Sept. 26th. Mr. Davenport is a member of the Student Activities Committee and is a very popular

## Times Beauty Contest Winner Goes To New York

"MISS DURHAM" WILL ARRIVE TUESDAY

LOLA GOURDINE GUEST OF BOOKER T. WASHINGTON TOURS

NEW YORK—The second beauty contest winner in two weeks arrives Tuesday Sept. 5 as the guest of the Booker T. Washington Tours in the person of Miss Lola Gourdine who represents Durham, N. C. The first was Miss Bronzeville from Chicago. Miss Gourdine, who attends North Carolina State College won the trip to New York after vying with a dozen or more other beauties from various cities in the State. It was a real beauty contest that Miss Gourdine won, not a popularity affair, and New York is in for a treat when Miss Durham makes her appearance in the several public receptions that have been planned for her.

The Booker T. Washington Tours is fast becoming the official host to visiting luminaries. Already various organizations, business, and social, are arranging contests with visit to New York as the "big prizes" and the Booker T. Washington Tours has demonstrated the ability to entertain in a manner that justifies the title Your host in Harlem.

When Miss Durham arrives Tuesday she will find that all arrangements have been completed for her entertainment. On Wednesday she will have dinner as the guest of Eddie Malloy at the Fat Man on Sugar Hill.

## Oklahoma City Greets Negro Business League

OKLAHOMA CITY, Sept. 2nd (ANP)—In the vanguard of delegates arriving here for the National Business League Convention, August 29-31 was the delegation arriving by special train from Atlanta, among whom were C. C. Spaulding of Durham, N. C. former League president. Stops were made in Chicago, St. Louis, Detroit and other cities, where additional delegates and officials joined the

party. The train was made up of all Pullman cars with regulation, first class equipment and service.

A local pre convention highlight was an elaborate entertainment and lawn party, on Aug. 28 at the Haseman Heights Addition a low cost housing project, being built under direction of W. J. Edwards, president Oklahoma City Negro Business League.

## Complete Plans For State Fair

CHARLOTTE All plans are complete for the North Carolina Colored Agricultural State Fair according to J. W. Hunter in charge of the fair and already scores of persons have communicated with him concerning placing exhibits. Mr. Hunter cautions all prospective exhibitors to contact him as early as possible, as he and his coworkers are desirous of knowing ahead of time just how much space in the mammoth exhibit hall to allot to the various departments. Mr. Hunter can be reached at 628 E. 3rd Street in Charlotte. The Fair will be held October 1-7 in spacious newly constructed fairground on Oaklawn Ave two block north of Beattie Ford Road.

Mr. Hunter also wishes all prospective candidates for the popularity contest among young women to contact him at the above address. Valuable prizes will be awarded in this department.

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## Paroled

CHARLOTTE, Herbert Knox, 24 year old youth who has recently been paroled from the Georgia prison will give a Bible lecture at Friendship Baptist church Monday and Wednesday nights of next week. Mr. Knox took an active part in religious activities while in prison. It was largely on this account that he was given a voluntary parole by Governor E. D. Rivers of Georgia. His subjects will be: "Claspings Against the Holy Ghost," "What Is The Soul Of Man?" "Where Are the Dead?" and "What Is The Terrible Beast Spoken of in Revelation." No admission will be charged for the services but a free offering will be taken.

## Wm. Green Will Investigate AFL Jim Crow In Fla.

NEW YORK—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, will undertake an investigation of two lily white AF of L construction unions in Tampa, Florida whose Jim Crow tactics enabled them to "freeze" more than 500 Negroes pioneer union members out of their jobs, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced here today.

Green's promise to investigate the Tampa situation, which involves more than \$9,000.00 in Government shipbuilding contracts, was contained in a letter sent to the association from Atlantic City where the AF of L executive council was in session. The letter came in response to a report sent to the President of the federation by the NAACP last fortnight by Walter White

who made a special trip to Florida to investigate the situation. Green's letter said in part: "I promise you that I will go into the complaint you make. I will take it up with the officers of the Building and Construction Trades Department and will endeavor to have it investigated and adjusted if it is possible to do so."

The unions involved are the Local 1,207 of the International Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers Union of America, which was formed after twelve Negro and one white worker went out on strike at the Tampa Shipbuilding company prior to June 1, 1938; and a local of the International Brotherhood of Holtermakers, Iron Shipbuilders and Helpers of

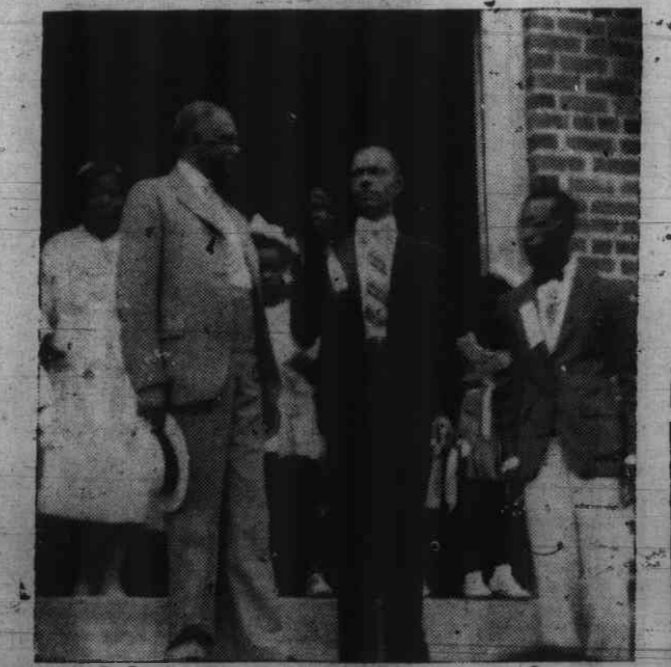
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## Ernest Cotton Buried

DURHAM—A throng of friends and beautiful floral tributes all that was mortal of Ernest Cotton, well known citizen of Durham who passed this life Monday night, August 21, was laid to rest on a beautiful green hillside at Beechwood cemetery Thursday, August 24. Funeral services were held from the White Rock Baptist church of which he was a member with Rev. Miles Mark Fisher officiating. The senior choir, of which his wife has long been a member.

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## JUST AFTER ANNUAL ADDRESS



The above photo shows Dr. James E. Shepard, president of North Carolina College for Negroes and L. E. Austin, president of the North Carolina Interdenominational Ushers Association during the Ebenezer Christian church service after Dr. Shepard had delivered a most stirring address to the 15th annual convention which closed in Burlington

## Morris Faces Death With A Smile

DURHAM BURGLAR PAYS WITH LIFE AFTER SERIES OF PRISON BREAKS

(Special to the Times)

RALEIGH, N. C.—After smilingly waving goodbye to his prison mates and shaking hands with the executioner, Arthur Morris 24 year old Durham man who became known as "THE SLIPPERY EEL" paid with his life in the central prison gas chamber Friday morning Sept. 1, at 10 a. m. for a robbery which he committed more than a year ago and which netted him 20 cents plus a check which he was never able to cash.

He was convicted of first degree burglary because he allegedly entered and robbed after dark houses where persons were asleep. He succeeded in escaping prison several times and received the name "Lucky Morris" when he was at the height of his elusiveness in and around Durham.

Apparently Morris welcomed the death, which was to put a period to his career for he was full of smiles from the time he left his cell until he breathed his last in the white, triangular gas chamber. He even had smiles for the executioner, R. A. Bridges, with whom he shook hands on entering the chamber. After waving to the witnesses he calmly took his seat.

The gas fumes began to rise in the room about two minutes after he entered the death chamber and just before he lost consciousness the Eel waved a last good bye.

Morris, a native of Wake County, began his career of crime in North Carolina with a long series of burglaries for which he was sentenced only to serve a few days of his sentences before escaping. The last crime for which he was convicted was entering the home of a Raleigh physician.

Rev. Lawrence A. Watts director of religious training at the prison stated shortly before the execution:

"Arthur is ready to face the ordeal of death. He is sorry for all the crimes he has committed and wishes to be forgiven. He affirms his faith in Jesus Christ."

## TEACHES VOCATIONS



MRS. S. HERBERT ADAMS, wife of the Registrar at Johnson C. Smith University and teacher of vocational guidance at Second Ward High School in Charlotte. Mrs. Adams holds the masters degree and is recognized as one of the nation's outstanding teachers in the field. She is the only vocational guidance teachers in Charlotte.

## PRINCIPAL



J. E. GRISBY, principal of Second Ward High school in Charlotte and a widely known educator. Mr. Grisby came to Charlotte in 1931 from Winston Salem where he was on the faculty of the Teachers College. His school expects a record enrollment this year.