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The Carolina Times

"THE TRUTH UNBRIDLED"

PRICE
5c

Volume XXIV—Number 51

Durham, North Carolina, Saturday, December 25, 1941

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Slavery Case Before Supreme Court

INSURANCE EMPLOYEES VOTE AGAINST LABOR UNION

Georgia Lawyers Fight For Right To Hold Negroes In Bondage

Washington. —(ANP)— Georgia peonage and injustice to Negroes came to the attention of the supreme court of the United States Monday, the very day the entire country was observing the 150th anniversary of the famous bill of rights of the constitution, whereby every human being in this country is guaranteed the four freedoms of which the president has so often spoken.

The case was that of Ira Taylor vs. the state of Georgia, and two white attorneys from Georgia appeared before the full court to plead for the rights of Negroes in that state, who now are victimized even more so than they were during slavery days.

Charging violations of the 13th and 14th amendments to the constitution in that Taylor was deprived of his rights, the attorneys told the story, which they assert is the one of many similar stories that they know have happened in Georgia.

Ira Taylor contracted to work on a house for R. L. Hardie, a white storekeeper, it is reported, at the rate of \$1.25 per day. Hardie is said to have paid Taylor in advance and was supposed to have called Taylor when he needed him. Later, Hardie charged that Taylor lived in a house belonging to the latter for three months without paying any rent. Rent had been charged at the rate of \$4 per month when Hardie suddenly decided to have Taylor arrested for non-payment of the rent and thrown into jail.

The court record says Hardie told the court he should have gotten something else other than a warrant for Taylor. After Taylor was jailed, he brought up the other charge and then paid the sheriff an additional \$5 to release Taylor to work out his debt.

This came when Taylor, on trial, was ordered to pay \$35 fine in three days or in default to work in a public work camp for a period of eight months. It was at this point that Hardie paid the fine for Taylor.

When the case was brought up before the higher courts of Georgia, the action of the lower courts was sustained, although the constitution of Georgia, a state founded by persons fleeing debtors' prison says, it is against the state constitution to imprison a person for debts.

"This is an appeal from the Supreme Court of Georgia affirming

the conviction of applicant as a common cheat and swindler by the supreme court of Wilkinson county. Three times the case has been before the Georgia Supreme court and on each occasion the verdict of the court has been the same. The case was taken to that court on the strength of a similar case in Alabama, where the supreme court ruled in favor of the defendant; but in Georgia, the court ruled that the supreme court in that instance did not apply to Georgia. The decision was handed down 30 years ago and still stands in Alabama.

Indignant Georgians, especially Baptist convention, white, said of the case, "There are more Negroes held by these debt slaves than were actually owned as slaves before the War Between the States. The method is the only thing which has changed."

Former Gov. Hugh Dorsey asked about the same charges when a group of Georgians were bathered to discuss similar cases before. "We stand indicted as a people before the world. If conditions indicated by these charges should continue, both God and man would justly condemn Georgia more severely than man and God have condemned Belgium and Leopold for his Congo activities."

Taylor himself denies having received any money and further declares that he never lived in the house for three months.

Georgia law does not permit accused persons to testify in their own behalf, neither does it permit sworn statements from such persons. They may make informal statements, which the courts hear, but advises the jury that it can either consider the statement or throw it out.

Appearing on behalf of the defendant were Leonard Haas and Thomas Taylor Purdum, two members of a white firm, serving without pay. Opposing them was C. S. Baldwin, solicitor-general for the Oklawaha circuit court.

The case had the full attention of the court with Associate Justice Robert Jackson asking pertinent questions attacking the law when it was adjourned on Monday. Other pertinent questions had been shot at the three lawyers by Justice Black, Byrnes, Roberts, Reed and Frankfurter. Chief Justice Stone joined in the questioning. Only Mr. Justice Murphy asked no questions on the first day.

of Georgia," the brief stated.

Atlanta City Directory To Use "Mrs" For Negroes

Atlanta. —(ANP)— A minor victory in the interest of greater respect accorded Negroes was won this week by the Atlanta Urban League when it was announced that the Atlanta City Directory for 1942 will carry the title "Mrs." before the names of Negro married women. The action was taken by the directory publishers after protest was made by the league over listing Negro married women by their first names. In a letter to the publishers, W. Y. Bell, executive secretary, stated that it had been brought to the league's attention that the disrespectful practice was being carried on by the company.

The reply from the company's vice-president stated that, "The point you have taken in regard to the title 'Mrs.' not appearing in the Atlanta City Directory in those listings of married women is well taken. There is no reason why this change is made on the 1942 edition of the Atlanta City directory."

AKA TO HOLD ANNUAL

Philadelphia. —(ANP)— The University of Pennsylvania campus here will be the scene of the 24th annual boule of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority Dec. 27-30, it was recently announced by Mu, Psi and Omega Omega chapters. The boule's theme will be "All for Defense and Defense for All," and will have the representatives from the various branches of the national defense program participating. These are to include Crystal Byrd Foust, Jane S. Williams, Stacie Steele, Dean William Pickens, Rachael Davis DuBois, Maurice B. Fagan, George Johnson, Vivian Carter Mason and Elizabeth Johnson McDonald.

With delegates expected from more than 150 chapters, the local sorors have planned an extensive program to interest all attending. Saturday, Dec. 27, the public will be invited to head Phillipa Schuyler and Camille Williams in a recital at the Irvine auditorium, while on the following day in the same auditorium, Dr. Dorothy Boulding Forebee, supreme basileus, will speak on "Alpha Kappa

"Miss Living stone --- 1941"



Honors for Livingston's "Campus Queen of 1941" go to Miss Fredericka Flack of Detroit, Michigan. Miss Flack, a member of the senior class, is an honor student, member of the

Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and very active in extra-curricular activities. Included in the above is the "Queen" and her attendants. Reading from left to right are Misses Sarah Bowser,

Lydia Staton, Mae Knox, Fredericka Flack, Neoma Harrison, Helen Cattrell and Lucille Canady.

Winston Salem Woman Burns To Death

Winston-Salem. —(CP)— Mrs. Lizzie Crockett was burned to death while she was trying to start a fire with kerosene oil at her East Winston home her Saturday night.

There was no eyewitness of the beginning of the blaze, but police decided she must have spilled oil on her clothes and thus became ignited with the flames.

Miss Ommie Bass, neighbor of Mrs. Crockett, told officers that of the house enveloped in flames Alpha Reconstruction White, De-fending."

Social activities will be limited to the inter-fraternal dance Friday, Dec. 26, which will welcome Phi Beta Sigma men and Alpha Kappa Alpha women. The AKA dance and banquet will be closed to honor the visiting delegates.

Honorary soror, Marian Anderson, will be at home to her sorors Sunday afternoon, Dec. 28. Rev. Marshall L. Shepard, of Mt. Olivet Tabernacle Baptist church, will hold worship services for the sorors Sunday morning.

and, aided by a man who was passing the house at the time, he threw her to the ground, threw a coat over her head and extinguished the fire.

An ambulance was called and she was taken to Kate Bittling Reynolds hospital where she died about 12:30 a. m. Sunday after she was treated for horrible burns over her entire body.

She told physicians who treated her she was using kerosene oil to start a fire, and police said they found kerosene spilled on top of the stove, some kindling and a burned match. The flames did not spread to the house.

Apparently she had gone into the house and was starting a fire in the stove.

Alvin C. York, War Hero: "We have been ambushed by a

Henderson. —(CP)— Each Monday and Thursday is Negro day at the Vance Theatre here and no white patrons attend shows on those days.

Says Bishop Russel's Method May Split CME Conference

Anderson, S. C. — With three prominent ministers of the 9th Episcopal District of the C. M. E. Church having deserted their denomination since Bishop C. L. Russel became the Presiding Prelate less than four years ago, the District was again threatened with a distinct loss last week during the annual conference which was held at the Mt. Carmel Church here. Highlight of the closing session last Sunday was Bishop Russel's rebuke to the large delegation representing the outstanding Sidney Park C. M. E. Church of Columbia, S. C. the Rev. Dr. J. C. Coleclough, pastor. The delegation were on hand with a petition requesting the return of their esteemed and beloved pastor who has been the centre of controversy with the Bishop for some time. Dr. Coleclough, one of the oldest men in the denomination and formerly editor of the Christian Index, official organ of the church has insisted, from time to time, that the Bishop make certain changes in the District especially for the benefit of the Presiding Elders whose districts held only five and six paying appointments when the law of the church or discipline demands that a Presiding Elder's District should not have less than 12 paying appointments.

In rebuking Sidney Park's congregation which has a membership comprising some of the most prominent citizens of the South Carolina capital, the Bishop who was elevated to his exalted position at the last quadrennium, aroused the ire of all persons present. About 65 years ago, 700 members which formed the bedrock of Sidney Park's present congregation saw fit to quit the A. M. E. Church due to mistreatment by the Bishop of the then pastor of Bethel, Dr. J. C. Waters. As a consequence, Sidney Park has grown to the distaste of pastoral mistreatment of their liking. The congregation has never taken very kindly to the idea of Episcopal leadership since those days, nevertheless, Dr. Coleclough, an ardent christian worker, has in an untiring manner, done much in an effort to keep the situation intact due to his undying love, not only for the church but for humanity.

According to the findings of a survey made public by Dr. Weaver, a total of 13,401 Negro technical, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers were employed in United States Navy Yards on September 30, 1941, as compared to 5,934 such workers on September 30, 1940. During the same period, the percentage of Negro workers in these yards increased from 6.03 per cent to 8.08 per cent of the total employment figures.

Noted among the remarks made by Bishop Russel at the meeting last Sunday was, "I have the power to make you or kill, and this I am going to do. I am coming back to South Carolina another four years no matter what anybody says." An incident of interest was his decision to select one of two ministers to preach the 11 o'clock sermon by means of "flipping a coin" before the altar and said "if the face of the woman is up Dr. J. B. Boyd will preach the 11 o'clock sermon. If the face of the eagle is up, Dr. Luther Stewart will preach." The result of this gamble was in favor of Dr. Boyd, and Dr. Stewart was heard at the 3 o'clock service according to the countess decision in the sacred edifice.

RJR Tobacco Co. Retires Three

Winston-Salem. —(CP)— The R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company recently placed three twin citizens on the company retired list, it was revealed here last week.

They are Claude Forneberger, 611 East Fifth street and Mrs. Mary T. Flup, 1563 East Fourteenth street, who have been employed 26 years, and Mrs. Fanny G. Mayberry, 1042 East Fourteenth street, who has been employed 21 years. Oldest of the three was Mrs. Mayberry who is 62 and who was employed the shortest length of time. Mr. Forneberger is 48 and Mrs. Flup is 59.

They were all permitted to continue their group life insurance at the same rate they payed while in the employ of the company.

ing day of the conference, members of Sidney Park have become rather indignant. Unquestionably a most intelligent group of religionists, all persons of this institution who heard the presiding officer personating them as being disloyal and disrespectful simply because they requested the return of their esteemed pastor, recalled vividly, the sting of their experience of 65 years ago.

And it is now popular talk in Columbia and elsewhere that the return of Bishop Russel to South Carolina will destroy the upward trend and prevailing peace of the splendid congregation.

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