

FATS WALLER DIES SUDDENLY

DURHAM UNIV. LIBRARY
DURHAM, N. C.

MAILING
EDITION

The Carolina Times 7c

THE TRUTH UNBRIDLED

VOL. XXIII—NO. 51

Durham, North Carolina, Saturday, December 18, 1943

Says Urban League-AFL Conference Is Important

Writer Warns League's Forthcoming Meet With Labor Bears Watching

BY ERNEST E. JOHNSON
Associated Negro Press

WASHINGTON, — The forthcoming conference here between officials of the National Urban League and the American Federation of Labor bears watching, in the opinion of many observers.

The announcement was released last week by league officials in New York following an exchange of correspondence between executive secretary Lester B. Granger of the social work organization, and William Green, president of the labor organization.

While no specific objectives were set forth in the announcement, it is not likely that the two groups would sit down at a table for the sole purpose of correcting statements and positions attributed by one to the other. It is reasonable to assume, therefore, that an agenda will be drawn up that should provide for a free and open discussion of how best Negroes may be organized into the labor movement.

It was during debate at the annual AFL convention on the resolution of A. Philip Randolph, Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, seeking to establish a committee on discrimination in the federation, that president Green declared that prominent organizations had repeatedly thwarted the efforts of the AFL in its organizing attempts among Negroes.

"At International Harvester company in Chicago," he declared to the convention, "we sought to organize these Negro employees and found that the representatives of the Urban League and the representatives of the so-called National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and other representatives of Negro organizations in America, appeared in Chicago and opposed the AFL representatives in their effort to organize the Negroes into the AFL. As a result," he added, "these Negroes voted to stay out of the AFL."

Green said that not only were they prevented from organizing Negroes, but that these groups encouraged Negroes to sign up with the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

It was the exception taken to the Green statement by the Urban League that has brought about the conference.

Please turn to Page Two

First Christmas



Vernelle Doretha, age 11 months, daughter of Prof. and Mrs. Vernon D. Cowan and granddaughter of Dr. J. D. Cowan, presiding elder of the Morganton District of the A.M.E. Church.

War Correspondent Delivers Address At N. C. College

Thomas W. Young, war correspondent of the Norfolk Journal and Guide, described his six months stay with the famous all Negro 99th Pursuit Squadron of the United States Army Air Forces here Wednesday at North Carolina College.

The first Negro correspondent credited to the army Air Forces, Young recently returned to this country from overseas allied air bases in North Africa, Sicily and England.

The correspondent noted that shortly before his departure from the 99th's advanced base in Italy, September 2, a new group of replacement fighter pilots arrived. Lt. Clinton B. Mills, Durham youth, son of Dr. and Mrs. J. N. Mills, 1211 Fayetteville Street, was in the first group of fighter pilots.

Please turn to Page Two

Dr. Bluford Praises A&T Signal School Graduation Class

BY C. A. IRVIN

"We congratulate you on having completed so much work in such a short period and contributing a great deal to the spirit and life of our campus during your period of study here," declared President F. D. Bluford, A and T College, Greensboro, last Friday to the Group 17 graduating class of the Fourth Service Command Signal School.

The members of the class were composed of soldiers from the Anti-Aircraft Units in the various United States Army camps. — The trainees, mostly former college students, were selected to pursue this advance training at A and T College on the basis of excellence in competitive test. They were trained in the basic phases of electricity for Anti-Aircraft fire control. The students ranking from Private to Technician Fifth Grade, left the campus immediately after the graduation exercises for their various home camps.

Speaking in behalf of the graduates, Pfc. George Davis expressed appreciation of the soldiers for the opportunity they had been given and thanked the college for the many social courtesies extended to them.

Please turn to Page Two

Noted Musician Succumbs To Heart Attack

Succumbs



"Fats" Waller, noted musician who died in Kansas City Wednesday as the result of a heart attack. Death came while Waller was in his berth just as the train pulled into the Union Station.

Kansas City. — A pall of profound grief fell over the theatrical and musical world Wednesday, April 15, as news of the death of "Fats" Waller, noted pianist and band leader, spread over the nation. Death came while the famous musician, whose age was 39, was lying in his berth here, just after the train had pulled into the station enroute from Hollywood, California, where he had been working in a series of picture productions, including "Stormy Weather."

Waller, who was known in private life, as Thomas Wright Waller, began playing the organ and piano at 10 years of age. He started his professional career at 14, in a Harlem theatre. His mother was a singer and pianist and his grandfather Adolph Waller was a violinist in the south. His father was the late Rev. Edward Waller, pastor of the famous Abyssinian Baptist Church of New York.

Although he was paid \$4,000 a week with a 13-piece band, he preferred to play with a five-piece combination. He is said to have paid taxes on an income of \$72,000 in 1941.

The 278-pound musician is best known for his musical productions of "Fet's Too Big" and "Ain't Misbehavin'". His most recent musical compositions was in connection with the picture "Early To Bed."

The body will be taken to St. Albans, Long Island, New York, where funeral arrangements will be made.

A representative of the coroner's office said after a preliminary examination that he had suffered a heart attack. The body was removed to an undertaking parlor and a further examination was expected to be made.

A physician who had been called to attend another patient was summoned to Waller's car. The station master's office said that Waller collapsed while talking with his manager.

Fats Waller was known as the nation's number one swing pianist but he was more than that. He was the only jazz musician who ever played the organ at Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris. When he toured Europe in 1938 he drew record crowds. His own attitude toward jazz was simple.

"I am nobody to get mighty about swing," he said. "It's just a musical phase of our social life."

Something To Fight For



Mrs. Alma Herndon Wade, wife of Sgt. Louis H. Wade, (inset) and son born one week after father was sent overseas. Mrs. Wade is employed as a stenographer at the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company. Prior to entering the army Mr. Wade was a member of the faculty of the DeShazor Beauty College.

Popularity Contest Closed At The Little River High School

The Little River High School of Durham County closed its Popularity Contest on the night of December 8, with a program consisting of Reading, Solos, Folk Dances and the Crowning of "Miss Little River."

Miss Lucille Turrentine, a member of the seventh grade, won this title by selling the largest number of votes. The total amount raised was \$250.

The stage was beautifully decorated with ferns, roses and pinks. The Candelabra gave quite a setting to the arrangement. The color scheme being pink and green. The queen's attendants were chosen from all the departments of the school.

Little Misses Celestine Parker and Arnette Parker acted as heralds for the occasion. Mack Justice carried the crown and Mary Lee Vanhook presented the queen with a beautiful gift.

The ceremony was read by Mr. Cosby Tabon of the 11th grade, after which he crowned

The son of a minister, Waller was born in Greenwich Village in 1904 and at 10 was playing in school orchestras. He became a New York theatre organist at 14, but his first break came when he played for rent parties in Harlem and met George Gershwin and other composers. By 1928 he was writing show music and had gained recognition not only in Tin Pan Alley but from musical authorities.

Miss Turrentine as "Miss Little River." Miss Turrentine was dressed in a beautiful pink evening gown and carried a large bouquet of flowers. Her attendants were as follows: Mary Lee Vanhook, Johanna Jones, Arnette Parker, Louise Kenion, Celestine Parker, Nannie Brandon, Mack Justice, Doris Parker, Jean Justice, Bernice Riley, Bernestine Turrentine, Dorothy Mangum, Shirley Parker, Katie Lee Jones, Maryland Johnson, Frances Roberson, Joyce Jones, Margie Brandon, Marjorie Rogers, Mary Alice Woods, Shirley Yancey, Yancey, Bernice Roberts, Emma S. Daey, Catherine Sneed, Eglantine Carrington, Delois Kenion, Mary Bell, Louise Moor, Ola M. Riley, Gertrude Johnson, Jacqueline Justice, Margaret Parker, Leone Lonsford, Andre Glenn, Pattie Mangum, Lorine Parker, Christine Hart, Louise Mack, Gladys Bullock, Louise Harris, Dorothy Riley, Mable Riley, Joyce Evans, Hazeline Watkins, Annabelle Parker, Gaynella Parker, Vivian Parker, Annie Brooks, Beatrice Scott, Inez Harris, Bonnie D. Smith, Arletta Mangum, Floyd Deay, Ida M. Pearks, Gladys Harris, Veltie Moore, India Allen, Mary L. Day, Emma L. Bullock, Alesae Harris, Rosa Lee Moore, Joseph S. Parker, Melvin Harris, Alfonso Parrish, Cosby Tabon, Clinton Bullock, Alesae Woods, Leroy Harris, Kermit Parker, Thelma Parker, Naomi Cazart and Desmore Parker.

West Durham S. S. Class And Bereans Exchange Visits



The above photo shows members of the Men's Bible Class of the West Durham Baptist Church in a return visit to the Berean

Sunday School Class of St. Joseph A.M.E. Church. In the foreground, with his back to the camera, is J. H. Markham, teacher of

the West Durham Bible Class, who was guest teacher during the visit. L. E. Austin is teacher of the Berean Class. More than 50

men were present, many of whom expressed their delight at inspiration gained from the exchange of visits and brotherly good will.