

Escapee From Georgia Sharecropper System Finds Way Here

Had Nine Children On Georgia Farm; Tells Of Hardships, Exploitation

BY CLAY ROSS
DURHAM—An escapee from the vicious sharecropper system—a modern system of slavery by which thousands of colored Americans are being ground to death, physically and morally by “Simon Legree-like” landlords who wax fat and rich from the profits of the toils of their enslaved tenants—no longer being able to endure the whims of his unprincipled landlord, removed his family from the landlord’s farm and alternately walked and hitch-hiked 400 miles from Milledgeville, Georgia to Durham.

For William T. Hunter, with deep furrows in his brow, engraved from year of anxiety and worry over the welfare of his family who existed on the paltry pittance doled out by his overbearing landlord, with mortal fear in his weary eyes, confusion reeling in his brain and physical exhaustion from the long trip from Georgia preying on his limbs, it was the first time in his 43 years that he has gotten outside of Georgia. The tale of human exploitation and virtual slavery unfolded to this writer by Hunter is so very common to thousands of Negroes now living under the “modern slavery system.”

Hunter, who supported a family of six out of nine children and a wife working as a sharecropper on the 200 acre farm of N. T. Cochran near the town of Milledgeville, said that he was no longer able to “take it,” and after Cochran had cursed him and slapped him in the face, he “had to get out.”

Hunter turned on his landlord after Cochran had slapped him and knocked him down. After the fight Hunter said he had no doubt that “they” would lynch him if he had stayed there. Hunter removed his family to Atlanta and “got as far a way from there as I could.” He said that he had no idea as to where he would stop but that he knew he was not going to stop in Georgia.

The relationship between the landlord and Hunter had been bearable until that fateful day three weeks ago. On Tuesday, December 6, Hunter said that his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Hunter told him that she wanted to go into town to “buy some things for the children for Christmas.” Hunter said that he went to see Cochran for a settlement on the 13 bales of cotton that the two jointly owned.

Hunter said that when he mentioned settlement, Cochran became angry and told him in effect that nobody told him when to sell his cotton. Hunter then reasoned with Cochran to the effect that at least seven of the cotton bales, less than half of the thirteen, belonged to him since the original agreement was that they share half of the profits. At this, Hunter said that

Cochran became furious and re-torted, “you don’t have no d—cotton.” Hunter said that Cochran slapped him in the face, breaking his eyeglasses with such force that a piece of the broken glass lodged in the side of his face.

Hunter said that he could not contain himself and pounced on his landlord, knocking him out. Cochran’s son ran to his father’s rescue and struck Hunter across the head and arms with a heavy stick. Hunter ran off with Cochran’s son yelling to him that he had better not be on the farm come “sun-down.”

With the aid of a friend, Hunter sent his family to Atlanta to live with brother, Odell, while he waited on the farm seeking a chance to get some of the

clothing for himself and his family. However, the Cochrans had quickly gathered their friends and neighbors together and were scouring the farm in search of Hunter or some members of his family. Hunter stated that he hid until dark and left the farm and Milledgeville “going anywhere far from that place.”

He walked part of the way and hitch-hiked part of the way. His feet are so swollen from the walking that he can not tie his shoe laces. His hands yet bear scars where they were burned from fires that he made along the way in ditches trying to keep his body warm. At night he slept in the woods with an overcoat given him by some friends as his only covering. He said that he got seven dollars from a fu-

neral home in Atlanta for the 400 mile trek.

Arriving in Durham Tuesday night, Hunter was taken in at the Biltmore Hotel and given a meal. Wednesday morning he was sent to the CAROLINA TIMES office where he was helped to get a room and a job. Hunter says that his intention is to secure a place to stay and a job so that he can bring his wife and three youngest children “outta there.”

Hunter said that his landlord had not been unbearable during the twelve years in which he had worked for him—although at times he thought that he had not given him quite his share of profits from the farm in accordance with the agreement. Hunter

ter, his wife and six of his nine children stayed in a three room, unpainted shack on the Cochran farm. One of the rooms was taken for a kitchen and the other two were used as bedrooms.

Hunter said that he has had previous experiences with unscrupulous, money grabbing landlords. He said that he had once worked for a man in Athens Georgia and received \$25 dollars for his share of 25 bales of cotton which sold for nearly 30 cents a pound at that time.

Of his nine children three are married and helped him on his share at the Cochran farm. The three married are: Lizzie, Albert, and Francis. The six others are: Geoffrey, 20; Jeff, 18; Jean Eva, 17; Edna Mae, 14; Thelma 12; and Joanne, 10.

Alabama Gov. Calls For “Fair Share” For Negro Population

MONTGOMERY, ALA.
Alabama’s famous baby-kissing Governor, in the true spirit of the Christmas season, called on the citizens of his state to break down racial hatred by following “the teachings of Christianity and democracy.”

James E. Folsom, a definite rarity as far as Southern governors go, thus struck a passive blow at discrimination and at the same time recognized the situation as deplorable, something several Southern office holders have yet to recognize.

Two Southern churchmen praised Folsom’s Christmas message calling for a “fair share of living.” Dr. Louis D. Newton of Atlanta and Rev. T. A. Russell of Montgomery concurred with the Alabama chief executive in feeling.

Governor Folsom said in his Christmas message that Negroes constitute 35 per cent of the state’s population. “Are they getting 35 per cent of the fair share of living,” he asked.

“As long as Negroes are held down by deprivation and lack of opportunity the other poor people will be held down along side of them.”

“In the past few years there has been too much negative living—too much stirring of old hatred and prejudices and false alarms. The best way in the world to break this down is to lend our ears to the teachings of Christianity and democracy,” he added.

Dr. Newton, pastor of the Druid Hills Baptist Church of Atlanta, Ga., and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention said of the Governor’s message:

“Certainly we hail with pleasure any effort to make the relationship of the races definitely permanent and Christian.”

Rev. Russell, pastor of the Cloverdale Baptist Church here said:

“We have always tried to follow the same policy in the church by following the teachings of Christianity.”

GREENSBORO NEXT SAYS KLAN

The Carolina Times
THE TRUTH UNBRIEDED

Entered as Second Class Matter at the Post Office at Durham, North Carolina, under Act of March 3, 1879.

FOR 25 YEARS THE OUTSTANDING NEGRO WEEKLY OF THE CAROLINAS

VOLUME 27—NUMBER 52 DURHAM, N. C., SATURDAY, DEC. 31st, 1949 PRICE: TEN CENTS

Gastonia Klansman Says Gate City Is Next Target

W. F. Brower Is Head Of Negro Dimes Division

W. Frank Brower, local attorney, has been appointed chairman of the Negro division of the March of Dimes, according to an announcement from Southgate Jones, Jr. general chairman of the drive.

The campaign is scheduled to begin January 15th and to run through the remainder of the month.

Brower, who succeeds W. L. Bradsher as division head, was appointed this week following a meeting of the executive committee of the Durham Committee on Negro Affairs.

Brower has had several connections with local civic affairs for sometime. At present he is secretary of the local chapter of the NAACP. Recently elected to this post, he was installed along with other officers Dec. 19.

He is a graduate of Hampton Institute and the North Carolina Law School; chairman of the election committee of the Durham Business and Professional Chain; co-founder of the Christmas Cheer Club; director of the United Negro Press; public relations director of the Shriners; informational officer of the Old North State Bar Association; and served as divisional public relations head for the last Community Chest drive.

By Staff Correspondent
GREENSBORO

Next target for the legions of night riders and cross-burners will be the third largest city in the state, Greensboro, according to Tommy H. Panther, Gastonia Klan spokesman.

The Ku Klux Klan has already set up a Klavern at Charlotte and indicated its intention to organize Klaverns all over the state. In announcing Greensboro as the next target for a Klan organization, the KKK seems to be following the principal cities of the state.

Panther said that he and Jack Dempsey, Augusta, Ga. Klansman, will visit Greensboro next Wednesday or Thursday to discuss setting up a Klan unit there.

A garage operator, Panther reported “considerable interest in Greensboro.” He said that he had received five telephone calls and eight letters from Greensboro asking information on establishing a Klan Chapter. One correspondent asked: the Klansmen to “investigation conditions” in Greensboro, he said.

Panther, who said that he was a Klan Klokard, would not reveal the names of the Greensboro residents he got in touch with.

He said that an open meeting of the Gastonia Klan, originally scheduled for January 18 will be held January 8. Members will (Please turn to Page Eight)

Landlord Denies Pay To Mother Of Daniels Lad

Man Helping Needy Has His Coat Stolen

By Staff Correspondent

Shocking evidence of semi-slave sharecropper conditions that exist in this so-called liberal state was revealed recently when reports out of Greenville stated that Mrs. Alice Daniels, mother of Lloyd Ray Daniels, now in the death house at the state prison in Raleigh, has been denied any money for her entire year’s crop by her landlord, whose name is reported to be Bruce McLawhorn, because he wanted to “see to it that no money made on his farm went to help that boy, Lloyd Ray.”

In Greenville, as in so many places in the South, the landlord’s word on such things as payments and settlements for crops worked is the law. There are few if any written contracts. The landlord’s verbal promise to “furnish” so much—fertilizer, groceries or a credit account, and other year’s supplies—and to permit a stated share of the crop to the tenant, is his to live up to or go back on to suit himself. The usual case is that he sells the whole crop, keeps all the records, as well as much of the money from the crops, keeps the sheriff and judge of his choice in office.

LANDLORD’S WORD IS LAW

So when McLawhorn recently came to Mrs. Alice Daniels and told her that she, her grown daughters, and several grandchildren were to receive not one penny for their entire year’s labor, he meant exactly what he said and his word was the law.

He was reported as telling Mrs. Daniels that their crop—corn, peanuts, cotton—wasn’t worth anything; in fact he claimed that “he went \$200 in the hole on it.”

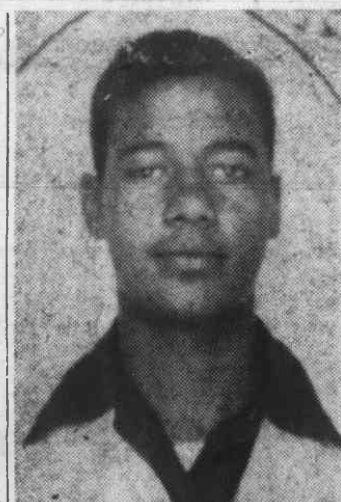
“Anybody will tell you I had a pretty good crop,” Mrs. Daniels says. She also told how the landlord, after getting them on the farm, had not provided any furnishings, only fertilizer, forcing them to make their own ar-

Perhaps this is not the story of the meanest man but it is a tale of a mean man.

While out collecting food, money and clothing to give to the needy for Christmas, I. R. Holmes had his overcoat “collected” from him without his consent.

Holmes, chairman of the Christmas Cheer Club, an organization whose purpose is to provide for the needy during the Yule season, stated that his Army trench coat, valued at \$75.00, was taken from his parked car last Tuesday while he was on a mission for the Christmas Cheer Club.

He said that he parked his car beside the Durham Armory last Tuesday afternoon, leaving his (Please turn to Page Eight)



LLOYD RAY DANIELS

Negro Condition Improving Says Urban League

NEW YORK

A steady improvement in the economic and industrial conditions of this country’s Negro population was reported yesterday by the National Urban League in a year-end summary.

Lester B. Granger, executive director of the interracial social service organization, said the league spent \$1,500,000 in 1949 and achieved “significant results.” He told of day-to-day successes in “bringing the races together on the same team for the good of American communities.”

Aid Increasing In National Drive For Civil Rights

NEW YORK

Steadily mounting interest in the National Emergency Civil Rights Mobilization is indicated by reports received here of mass meetings and conferences being held in various parts of the country and of preparations to send delegations to the three-day conference and lobby in Washington next January 15-17.

Meetings and conferences have been held or are planned for Boston and Springfield, Mass.; Hartford, Bridgeport, New Haven, New Britain and Norwalk, Conn.; and Providence, R. I.; Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Kansas City, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Gary, Indianapolis, Chicago, Baltimore, Houston, Camden, and Buffalo.

Plans for sending mass delegations to the Washington conference are being formulated in Chicago, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore. A delegation of 1,000 is expected from Baltimore. Leaders of the movement in New York and Philadelphia plan to send 300 from each city. Chicagoans will move on to Washington in a cavalcade (Please turn to Page Eight)

Local Charities Provide For 327 Needy Families

- The combined efforts of the Christmas Cheer Club and the Empty Stocking Club benefited 327 families with an aggregate total of nearly 1,000 children this year, according to reports released from I. R. Holmes, chairman of the Christmas Cheer Club.
- Food and toys were distributed to the families and children, bought from donations received by over 70 organizations and persons.
- The following is the list of donors to the Christmas Cheer Club:
- Community Mission Club — \$10.00
 - Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Durham Chapter — \$25.00
 - Daughters of Dorcas, Junior Club — \$5.00
 - Dance Club, W. D. Hill Commission Center — \$5.00
 - Ladies Auxiliary of V. F. W. — \$5.00
 - Happy Pals Club — \$10.00
 - Mechanics and Farmers Bank — \$25.00
 - Staff of Southern Fidelity — \$6.00
 - R. N. Harris — \$5.00
 - Dillard’s Self-Service — \$5.00
 - P. W. Holly, Jr. — \$5.00
 - Cosmetologist Club Number One — \$7.00
 - Weaver McLean Post of American Legion — \$25.00
 - Missionary Circles of White Rock Baptist Church — \$8.05
 - Social Workers Round Table — \$10.00
 - J. L. Page and Sons — \$2.00
 - G. and K. Food Store — \$1.00
 - Home Modernization and Supply Company — \$2.00
 - Speight’s Auto Service — \$5.00
 - I. O. Funderburg — \$5.00
 - Dr. A. S. Hunter — \$5.00
 - Durham Business School — \$2.00
 - Senior and Junior Social Club — \$15.00
 - Ballet Club, W. D. Hill — \$5.00
 - Dramatics Club, W. D. Hill — \$5.00
 - Dr. R. P. Randolph — \$10.00
 - Tobacco Workers Union, Local 208 — \$25.00
 - Ladies Auxiliary, American Legion — \$5.00
 - Price Street Neighborhood Club — \$2.00
 - Shaw Alumni, Durham Chapter — \$5.00
 - Junior Mothers Club — \$10.00
 - Nathan Garrett — \$2.00
 - N. H. Cordice — \$2.00
 - Royal Cleaners — \$2.00
 - Royal Cleaners — \$2.00
 - Mrs. Josephine Strayhorn — \$2.50
 - Service Printing Company — \$5.00
 - Beta Phi Chapter Omega Psi Fraternity — \$25.00
 - Durham Chapter, Hampton Alumni — \$25.00
 - Durham Association of Public Schools Teachers — \$25.00
 - Choral Club, W. D. Hill Com. — (Please turn to Page Eight)

NAACP Bans ‘Commies’ From Nat’l ‘Rights’ Drive

NEW YORK

In a move to avert infiltration of extreme left wing elements into the National Emergency Civil Rights Mobilizations, Roy Wilkins and Arnold Aronson, chairman and secretary respectively, have sent to the 50 sponsoring organizations a letter setting forth the accreditation procedures adopted by the national steering committee for the registration of delegates to the Washington Conference next January 15-17.

Expressing the hope that the conference will be well attended by delegates “motivated by a sincere desire to bring about the speedy enactment of FEPC and the entire civil rights program,”

the letter asserts, “we do not consider any communist front organizations to be so motivated,” and accordingly, “we do not want and will not permit delegates of such organizations to be registered.”

Specifically banned from participation in the Mobilization were the Civil Rights Congress, all political parties, and the ten unions now under investigation by CIO on charges of Communist domination: American Communications Association; Fishermen and Allied Workers; Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers; United Public Workers; United Office and Professional Workers; Mine,

Injunction Asked Against Judge In ‘Trenton Six’ Case

NEW YORK

A federal injunction against Judge Charles P. Hutchinson’s attempts to deprive the Negro victims in the world-famous Trenton Six frame-up of the right to choose their own lawyers in their coming second trial has been asked in a complaint filed with the U. S. District Court in New Jersey, the Civil Rights Congress has announced.

The three men — Collis English, Ralph Cooper and James II. (Please turn to Page Eight)

