



# MYSTERY SHROUDS KILLING

## Wife Is Axe Slaying Victim

### Mother's Skull Broken In Spat

ASHEVILLE—A pre-dawn Sunday quarrel was climaxed when a 38-year-old wife was killed and her mother critically injured by blows to the head with an axe.

Samuel Huff, 49-year-old resident of 8½ Pine Grove was being held in city jail here early this week on charges of murder and assault with a deadly weapon.

His wife, Mrs. Annie Huff, was found by police officers lying at the foot of the back steps at the Huff house early Sunday morning. Inside the house, sitting on the floor with a deep gash in her forehead was Mrs. Willie Mae Jenkins, mother of the slain woman.

Mrs. Jenkins told investigating officers that her son-in-law first struck her daughter and then her with an ordinary wood chopper's axe shortly before dawn Sunday.

Officers H. F. Holland and R. B. Moore arrived on the scene around 3:34 following a call to police headquarters by some unidentified person.

According to Mrs. Jenkins' story, Huff had been drinking heavily Saturday night and early Sunday morning, a quarrel developed between him and his wife. Huff apparently became enraged, got his axe and struck down his wife. Mrs. Jenkins was struck as she tried to stop him from striking her daughter.

Huff was arrested about an hour after officers were called to the scene in the driveway of 20 Pine Grove Avenue with the murder weapon beside him. He had been seen by neighbors leaving the house with the axe in his hand.

Police said that Huff told them he had been drinking and at the time was not sure whether he had hit his mother-in-law, Mrs. Jenkins, although he did admit he remembered swinging at her.

Mrs. Huff was rushed to a local hospital where she was pronounced dead on arrival. Her mother, Mrs. Jenkins, was hospitalized with a fractured skull.

His wife's body was removed to a local funeral home Sunday. Funeral services were scheduled to be held sometime this week in Washington, Georgia.



A mother's undying patience and hope seemed well on the way toward being repaid when it was announced this week that Pfc. Robert L. Gregory (inset), son of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Gregory of Route 3, Oxford, was among some 150 Americans being released by the Communists in an exchange early this week in operation "big switch." Mrs. Gregory's flagging hopes were given a big boost last May when an American G. I. repatriated during "operation little switch" reported that he had seen young Gregory alive and had a message from him for his parents. The above picture of the Gregorys was taken shortly after they received news last May that their son was alive. Prior to this information, the last word they had received concerning their son was a letter from the Defense Department in May, 1952 advising them that he had been reported missing in action.

## The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBRIDED

FOR THIRTY YEARS THE OUTSTANDING WEEKLY OF THE CAROLINAS

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## VA Hospital Official Promises Clean Slate

### Administrator Says Segregation To Be Removed



REVEREND CHARLES JONES Charles Jones Slates Speech

WASHINGTON

"I assure you that we find any degree of segregation undesirable; and, that we hope the day is not far removed when there will be no semblance of racial separation in VA hospitals," H. V. Higley, new Administrator of the VA, told the Washington Bureau of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People this week.

Higley made the statement in a reply to Clarence Mitchell, Director of the NAACP's Washington Bureau. Mitchell urged the new VA chief to drop all racial segregation, including designations on hospital or domiciliary care application forms.

The NAACP said that racial designations on application forms open the door for a prejudiced person to discriminate against veterans of certain racial groups.

The NAACP also charged that some hospitals of the VA exclude colored veterans suffering from critical ailments because so-called colored beds are not available.

Higley said this part of the NAACP's complaint "causes Admiral Boone (Chief Medical Director for VA) and me considerable worry. If such a thing has happened, it is wrong. This charge is being looked into and instructions issued that veterans who are in need of care shall be admitted if beds are available."

The new Administrator, speaking on segregation in general, said, "In certain areas, it has been found that segregation to some degree is necessary for the medical well-being of patients. We are continually reviewing this situation and are eliminating segregation as rapidly as possible without sacrificing medical considerations."

In commenting on Higley's statement, Mitchell said, "As a layman, I am totally unable to see how racial segregation in any degree has medical value." However, he said that he had asked the VA head to clarify what the statement meant and that Dr. Montague Cobb, Chairman of the NAACP's National Health Committee, had agreed to comment on whatever further information the VA offered.

Speaking of racial designations on hospital records, Higley said, "The point you raise regarding designation of race on (Please turn to Page Eight)



Citizens of Charlotte are sponsoring an appeal for a wheelchair for Mrs. Betty Heath (above) 87-year-old amputee who lives at 606 Meyers Street. Mrs. Heath, a diabetic whose mid-thigh amputation three years ago left her with only one leg, depends on her daughter for support. Recently, her daughter, Mrs. Mary Walker, became ill leaving her to depend entirely on her 14-year-old grandson. Although Mrs. Heath has maintained a cheerful attitude throughout the sufferings of her later years, she needs some help now to enable her to help herself until her daughter is well enough to care for her again. Anyone who has a wheelchair is asked to call 4-4207 or write at 708 Baldwin Avenue in Charlotte.

## YOUTH GOES ON SPREE WITH 22 GRAND, STOLEN FROM BOSS

PHILADELPHIA

A 20 year old kid, with a year for an expensive automobile, calmly told this week how he stole \$22,000 from his white employer, the head of the Eagle Upholstery Co., and then tried to cover up the theft by starting a six alarm fire which damaged the five story building of the company to the tune of \$150,000.

## Torture Death Of Dunn Man Baffles Police

DUNN

The exact method of the torture death of a young farmhand last Sunday remained a mystery to Harnett County law enforcement officers who late this week were still seeking an explanation as to just how John McLean died.

McLean, 30 year old tenant farmer, was found dead Sunday about six miles from Dunn on the Cape Fear river road. His address was given as Erwin, Route 1.

Examination by Dr. C. W. Byrd who was called in by County Coroner Grover Henderson showed that young McLean died from internal chest hemorrhages.

Dr. Byrd theorized that a rope or wire was put around McLean's chest and twisted or pulled taut. Dr. Byrd told the TIMES Wednesday that the pressure from the rope or wire fractured five of McLean's ribs, one of which punctured his lungs and eventually caused his death by internal bleeding.

Two of McLean's neighbors, Leroy McNeil and Tommy Cameron, both about 35, were ordered held under \$1000 bonds for grand jury action on Sept. 8.

At first police believed that McLean was tied behind an automobile and dragged to death, but Dr. Byrd's examination ruled out this theory, as he pointed out that there were not enough bruises on McLean's body to warrant a belief that he had died in this manner.

McNeil and Cameron both denied any implication in McLean's death. They said that they found him lying on a highway about nine p.m. Saturday night. Believing him to be drunk, they said they took him into their automobile and visited friends for about two hours. Around 11 o'clock they awakened him and drove him to a point on the highway near his home and drove off.

They were ordered held when other witnesses contradicted their testimony.

McLean's death must have been painful, according to Dr. Byrd's report. Dr. Byrd said that his examination showed that McLean was squeezed to (Please turn to Page Eight)

## Citizens Seek Action In Park Improvements

ASHEVILLE

Some action designed to gain improvements of recreational facilities for Negroes appeared in the offering here this week as the aftermath to the latest in a series of requests for the City Council to do something about improving what has been termed an "appallingly inadequate" situation.

A delegation, led by Attorney Harold Epps met with the Council recently and were promised that a recreational facility "second to none" would be developed for Negroes.

Epps' delegation, which was composed of Attorney Rueben J. Dailey, W. R. Saxon, and Mrs. Z. B. Cooke, asked the Council to explain why a proposed \$25,000 improvement plan for the Walton Street park had been omitted from the budget in favor of a \$5,000 improvement appropriation.

Epps said after the council meeting that all of the several groups which have expressed a similar desire to see some improvements made in recreational facilities for Negroes in the city would be called together in a mass meeting soon to work out some program of joint action.

In answering the delegation, city manager J. Weldon Weir promised that the city has plans for a development at the Campbell Woods at Hill Street school which would be "second to none" in the city. He said that the reason the smaller sum was earmarked for improvements at the Walton Street schools, was that it was impractical to spend more money at the site because of the limited possibilities for expansion and improvement.

Earlier during the summer, a group of white and Negro citizens appeared before the council requesting expansion and improvement of recreational facilities for Negroes. This group, which included Attorneys Geo. (Please turn to Page Eight)

## School Reunion

BRICKS

On August 29-30 the annual reunion of the alumni of Joseph K. Bricks School will be held at Bricks located three miles south of Enfield on the Atlantic coast line. From all indications the annual meeting this year will be largely attended with members of the alumni association coming from all over the country to pay their annual visit to the school.

The institution was founded immediately after the Civil War and for nearly a half century did much to furnish educational opportunities for Negroes in the South and the rest of the country. Many of its graduates are now engaged in teaching, business, ministry and other professions throughout the nation.

The school, operated under the auspices of the American Missionary Association and under the administration of Prof. T. S. Inboden, was considered one of the outstanding educational institutions in the South.

President of the alumni association is Fletcher Atkins of Washington, D. C., and Miss Kathryn Paylor of Greensboro is secretary.

## news capsules

### TWO CHARLOTTE YOUTHS CHARGED WITH MURDER OF WHITE NURSE

CHARLOTTE—Two juvenile purse snatchers were arrested early this week and confessed to the stabbing of a white nurse to death on a dark street here when they mistook a paper bag she was carrying for a purse.

The boys, Karay Harris, 16, and William A. McQuerry, 14, each accused the other of the fatal stabbing of Miss Helen Swink here on August 2, police chief Frank Littlejohn said.

Both were charged with first degree murder.

### "ONE OF THE BIGGEST" NARCOTICS DEALERS IN WASHINGTON GRABBED

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Described as "one of the biggest narcotics men in the city," Dover (Big Bill) Walker, a 39-year-old Negro, was arrested here in his home by District police and Federal narcotics agents. Big Bill is being held for possession and sales of drugs.

Walker was cited by Narcotics Squad Captain John Layton as a "large retailer. He's not as big as Catfish Turner (a convicted narcotics figure) but he's still a big man."

### POSTMASTER TO FIRE OFFICIALS WHO PRACTICE PREJUDICE

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.—"I will dismiss any man who deals unfairly, unequally and dishonestly with the problems involving you," Assistant Postmaster General Norman R. Abrams told the National Alliance of Postal Employees' convention here last Friday, in discussing the problem of discrimination in the Postal Service.

Abrams, who is in charge of the Operations Bureau of the P. O., was speaking directly for the new GOP administration and Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield, whom he was representing. He directs a department employing over 450,000 postal workers in the nation.

### \$700 TO FREEDOM FUND

NEW YORK—A total \$727.24 in special contributions to the "Fighting Fund for Freedom" was received by the NAACP in the two weeks ending August 18, as follows: Paul R. Williams, Los Angeles, Calif., \$252.24; San Antonio, Tex., NAACP Branch, \$100; Dressmakers Union, Local 22, ILGWU, New York, \$100; Kimball, West Virginia, NAACP Branch, \$50; United Furniture Workers, New York, \$50; Richmond, Calif., Branch NAACP, \$50; United Packinghouse Workers, District 6, New York, \$50; Middletown, Ohio, NAACP Branch, \$25; Schenectady, N. Y., NAACP Branch, \$25; and Brazos County, Tex., NAACP Branch, \$25.

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## Slum Clearance Plan Would Oust 2,000

WASHINGTON

Representatives of Birmingham, Alabama, citizenry on Friday urged Housing Chief Albert Cole to halt a multi-million dollar Federal assistance program to the city for slum clearance because of its flagrant segregation features.

The City of Birmingham plans to clear an area where over 2,000 colored people now live and will use the space for a Medical Center. Originally, the plan also provided for housing units. Tax experts recommended that, if colored families were permitted to live in the new housing, the city would receive a much needed boost in income.

City officials, however, first announced that the housing would be for whites only. Later, the plan was revised to provide only limited dormitories for employees of the Medical Center. These, too, would be for whites only.

Present plans include setting aside one part of the cleared area for small businesses such as retail stores and shops. The city refuses to agree that these shops will be open to all business people without regard to race.

In addition, the delegation stated that the city has not provided a workable plan for rehousing the families that will be displaced by the project.

The Birmingham delegation pointed out that, even though housing and business facilities in the area will be limited, they should be open to all. The delegation also charged that an incredible pattern of segregation bars colored people from present hospital facilities or forces them to submit to humiliating segregation. This pattern would prevail in the new set-up.

One of the present hospitals requires colored patients to use a freight entrance. "Often patients find themselves riding on the same elevator with garbage cans," the delegation charged.

Present plans for the Center include a park which, under Birmingham city ordinances, will be off limits for colored people. Certain areas are designated for badminton courts. "It is ironic," delegation spokesmen said, "that space which could be used for badly needed (Please turn to Page Eight)