



Scenes from the rape trial in Durham's Superior Court which resulted in life sentences for four young Orange County Negroes this week are shown here. In picture at left is seen Elton Burgess (below arrow), the youth who accompanied Mrs. Hope Sims Lloyd on the night of the attack and who was beaten by one of the defendants. In the picture at right, defense attorneys are shown during a momentary break in the long and tedious court proceed-

ings. Left to right are Attorneys M. H. Thompson, W. A. Marsh, Eugene Gadsden and C. O. Pearson. Shown directly behind Pearson is one of the defendants, Claudius Parrish. Insets along the top of the pictures show the defendants and prosecutrix. Left to right are Willie Shaw, Otho Roberts, Claudius Parrish, John D. Brooks and Mrs. Lloyd.—Staff photos by STANBACK.

## WARRENTON TRIAL PUT-OFF

# Four Get Life On Rape Rap

Rape was the big story here in North Carolina this week. In Durham, four Negroes received automatic life sentences after pleading guilty to a charge of raping a thrice-married 30-year-old white woman. In Warrenton, where two white men were scheduled to be tried for raping a teen age Negro school girl, the trial was postponed until the May term of the Superior Court at the request of the prosecution. Sentenced to the State prison for the rest of their lives were Willie Shaw, 24; Otho Roberts, 19; John D. Brooks, 25; and Claudius Parrish, 20. Judge Q. K. Nimocks, a very patient

judge who stopped the lengthy-court proceedings at several points to lecture to the overflowing often noisy crowd in manners, recommended that the defendants never be paroled or that their sentences be commuted. Acceptance of a plea of guilty by Solicitor W. H. Murdock brought to an abrupt halt the six day trial which had been in process at the Superior Court here. It came shortly after the judge had delivered the charge to the jury and the 12 men had retired to deliberate a verdict. The plea of guilty made automatic the life imprisonment sentence.

The quartet, all from Orange County, had been charged with raping Mrs. Hope Sims Lloyd, 30 year-old Chatham County divorcee, and beating her youthful companion, Elton Burgess, 19, on the night of August 30. The crime occurred in a wood just off the Fayetteville road. During the trial, all but one of the defendants took the stand. It was learned from the defense attorneys that it was the wish of the defendants that they be given, a chance to testify. Roberts turned an offer to take the stand. The State's witnesses included Sheriff E. G. Belvin of Durham, J. E. Latta of Orange County,

Mrs. Lloyd, Burgess and Ernest Bolden, the storekeeper summoned by Burgess on the night of the crime to go back to the scene and rescue Mrs. Lloyd. Acting as defense counsel were Attorneys M. Hugh Thompson, R. P. Reads, C. O. Pearson, Sigmund Meyer, William A. Marsh and Eugene Gadsden. Two Negroes were among the jury selected to hear the trial, but, as it turned out, didn't have to decide on a verdict. They were William Hubbard and Fletcher Parker. They ate and slept with other jurors at the Malbourne hotel (white) here during the duration of the trial.

## AFTERMATH OF \$160,000 HAUL

# 'If I Had Only Known', Jailed Spouse Pleads

### Says She Would Have Turned In Her Husband

WASHINGTON, D.C. Mrs. Mamie Landis, wife of the man accused of taking \$160,000 from the Bureau of Engraving on New Year's Eve Day, was out on bail this week. An anonymous benefactor had put up a \$10,000 cash bond for the comely Mrs. Landis, who has repeatedly asserted she would have tipped off the police as her father did of the sensational robbery, if she had only known. "I knew nothing about the robbery," she claims. "I only want to help in every way possible." The bond money for Mrs. Landis' bail was handled by Douglas R. Smith, a vice-president of the National Savings and Trust Co. Said Mr. Smith about the benefactor: "He is a highly reputable client of our bank who does not desire personal publicity." He did however add that the



Two of the Mutual Savings and Loan Association's youngest shareholders, June Rower, 12, and Marsha Goodwin, 11, are shown chatting with the Association's top officials and Reverend A. S. Croom, extreme right, following the annual meeting of the organization in Durham this week. Mutual Savings and Loan officials shown are E. R. Merrick, (extreme left) president, and J. S. Stewart, (second from right), secretary-treasurer. For more details, see story, this page.



The front view of the drive in branch of the Mechanics and Farmers Bank is shown here. The branch, located on Fayetteville Street at Elm in the Hayti section of Durham, will be formally opened in ceremonies Friday night at the building. Erected, equipped and furnished at a cost of some \$98,000, the building is among the most modern in the city, featuring bullet proof and bullet resistant windows. E. R. Markley was the architect and George W. Kane the contractor.

## New Branch Of Mechanics And Farmers

# Hayti Section Of Durham To Get Banking Service For The First Time

DURHAM Another milestone in the remarkable growth and development of the Mechanics and Farmers Bank will take place here Friday, January 15 when a Fayetteville Street branch of the institution will open its doors for business.

With the main office located at 114 Parrish Street the Raleigh branch located at 13 E. Hargett Street, in the state's capital city and a third office located at 615 Fayetteville Street the Mechanics and Farmers Bank now becomes the first and only Negro bank in America with a branch office in the city in which its main office is located. Already it holds the distinction of being the only race bank in the country with a branch in another city.

For the 17,000 or more Negro citizens living in the Hayti area of Durham the Fayetteville St. branch will furnish every banking service to be found in the main office and except loans, will make banking quicker for everyone who lives or works in the growing southern section of the city and county. The new edifice, beautiful in design and

## History Of Mechanics And Farmers Bank Is Replete With Fine Examples Of Achievement

"We've had problems...many of them...just as any other financial organization. But I feel it is a tribute to the management that the bank has been able to maintain its record of steady progress through the years." So spoke Mechanics and Farmers bank president John Harvey Wheeler on the eve of the opening of the bank's new branch here this week. Bank officials have had their chests stuck out for the past few days, days that have led up to the formal opening of the new branch located at Fayetteville Street at Elm in the Hayti section. And they are rightly proud, for the opening of the branch marks another concrete advance by the organization whose history is replete with fine examples of achievement. As President Wheeler unfolded the history of the bank to this writer between commingles to his secretary, short conferences with various tellers and his chief aide, cashier I. O. Funderburg, and not infrequent ac-

ceptance of incoming telephone calls (he is easily one of the city's busiest men), the names of Fitzgerald, Merrick, Moore, Warren, Shepard, Pearson, Donnell, McDougald and Spaulding, household words to most native Durhamites, fell into their proper places in the rolls of the bank's history. But Wheeler, who is reluctant to speak of progress in terms of individual men for fear of overlooking someone to whom credit is due, was quick to convey the impression that it was the confidence of the people in the bank which did more than any single official to make possible its rapid growth. Mechanics and Farmers bank had its origin in 1907 when nine men banded together to form the financial institution. These nine men were R. B. Fitzgerald, John Merrick, Dr. A. M. Moore, Dr. S. V. Warren, Dr. James Shepard, J. A. Dodson, George Stevens, W. G. Pearson and John R. Hawkins. On August 1, 1909, the doors

of Mechanics and Farmers bank were first opened for business. It was chartered some 18 months earlier, in January 1907. Its first site was on Parrish Street, next door to the present building, the site now occupied by Mutual Savings and Loan Association. But for the persuasion of Messrs. Merrick and Moore, the bank would have been located at five points, where the present White Palace Cafe is situated, however the afore mentioned two gentlemen influenced the bank owners to locate on Parrish St. Fitzgerald, a well-to-do brick maker who owned a considerable brick manufacturing establishment in what is now known as the west end section, became the institution's first president. Merrick succeeded him one year later and held the post until his death. Pearson became the young organization's first cashier, but held the job only one year, relinquishing it because of his

## State Baptists To Dedicate New Building

RALEIGH Baptists from every section of North Carolina are expected to gather in Raleigh, Wednesday, January 20 to witness and participate in the dedication of the recently constructed State Baptist Headquarters building. The new structure, located on the corner of Wilmington and Lenoir Streets, will be dedicated in formal ceremonies conducted in the basement of the building. The initial program will begin at 11 a.m. in the Shaw University Church, with Dr. P. A. Bishop, Rich Square, president of the General Baptist Convention, presiding.

The Rev. Thomas Kilgore, Jr., former Executive Secretary of the Convention and currently pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, New York City, will give the principal address. Greetings will be extended by Atty. F. J. Carnage, representing the citizens of Raleigh; Dr. M. A. Huggins, general secretary of the Baptist State Convention; Dr. W. R. Strasser, president of Shaw University; Dr. W. C. Somerville, Executive secretary of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention, USA.; Mrs. M. A. Horne, president of the Woman's Home and Foreign Mission Convention of North Carolina; and the Rev. T. H. Brooks, superintendent of the Oxford Orphanage.

The Rev. K. O. P. Goodwin, pastor of Winston-Salem's Mt. Zion Baptist Church, and trustee of the Convention, will preside over the Litany of Dedication. The Rev. G. S. Stokes of Middlesex will pray the prayer of dedication and the benediction will be pronounced by the Rev. A. L. Thompson of Lumberton.

Other participants will include: M. A. Ham, architect; J. M. Thompson, Jr., contractor; Dr. O. S. Bullock, Raleigh, and Dr. J. W. Tynes, Greensboro, trustees; Dr. R. M. Pitts, Winston-Salem, chairman of the Executive Committee; Dr. J. T. Hairston, Greensboro, chairman of the Board of Missions; the Rev. O. L. Sherrill, Executive Secretary of the General Convention; Mrs. Ellen S. Alston, Executive Secretary of the Woman's Convention; J. T. Hawkins, president of the Baptist Training Union Convention; E. M. Butler, president of the State

## EDITORIAL

### CONGRATULATIONS MECHANICS AND FARMERS BANK

The Carolina Times is happy to felicitate the MECHANICS AND FARMERS BANK this week for achieving another milestone in its long and useful career, as the hub around which all of Durham's Negro business institutions revolve. The opening of the Fayetteville Street branch of the bank, which will take place on January 15, will not only provide better and bigger banking service for the Negro citizens of Durham—that is a small part of the overall significance—but it also is proof positive that the Durham Negro business group is many steps ahead of those in other cities. Although there are only about 27,000 Negroes in the entire city and county of Durham, the MECHANICS AND FARMERS BANK ranks second in the nation as the largest banking institution owned and controlled by Negroes, towering well over Negro banks in large urban centers like Philadelphia, Atlanta, Memphis, Savannah and Kansas City, and ranking close behind the leading one located in Washington, D. C. This fact is testimony that the Durham institution is well managed and has among its officials men of vision and foresight.

It may not be known to many white and Negro citizens of Durham, but the MECHANICS AND FARMERS BANK is the only one in the race that has a branch in another city or elsewhere in the city in which it operates. This fact also bespeaks of the fine leadership the institution has had through the years. What has been done in the banking field in Durham can be accomplished elsewhere if Negroes will only learn to bury their personal differences and cooperate for their own benefit. There are many cities in the nation with much larger Negro populations but because of personal animosity, selfishness and littleness on the part of their leaders they are unable to even have a first-class credit union, to say nothing of a banking institution. Again, we extend our congratulations to the MECHANICS AND FARMERS BANK and trust that its new branch will not only serve the Negro citizens of Durham in a better way but that it will be an inspiration to members of the race in other cities to awaken to the great possibilities they have if only they will learn the spirit of cooperation.

## Durham Financial Institution Reports Over 2 Million In Assets

DURHAM The 33rd annual shareholders' meeting of the Mutual Savings and Loan Association was held here Tuesday, evening, January 12 in the auditorium of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company with a representative group present. The meeting was presided over by E. R. Merrick, president. The report to the shareholders was read by J. S. Stewart, secretary-treasurer, who disclosed that the Association closed the year 1953 with total assets of \$2,459,604.58, "representing an increase of \$117,808.82 over the preceding year." The Association has served a total of 2,162 persons either financing their homes or providing them a safe and convenient plan and place for their

savings, Stewart said. The Association granted home loans during the year to the amount of \$315,582.95 to 227 persons. Dividends were distributed in the amount of \$57,779.47 which was the highest ever paid to shareholders. The Association has total reserves of \$179,553.67, representing a reserve ratio of 7.8 percent. During the meeting a most interesting film was shown the shareholders, entitled, "Where The Heart Is." The film was produced by the U. S. Savings and Loan League at a cost of \$80,000 and had its premiere showing last November at the United States Savings and Loan League Convention in Chicago. It gave 27 minutes of informative entertainment, explaining through an engaging story, the importance



T. D. PARHAM, trust officer of the Mechanics and Farmers Bank, who at his request, was granted retirement at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors here last week. Parham has been connected with the bank for over thirty years and attributed ill health as his reason for wishing to be relieved of the responsibilities of heading the bank's Trust Department. Because of his long years of faithful service, the Board voted to grant Mr. Parham's request with an appropriate retirement allotment. He will retain his place on the Board of Directors and the bank's Trust Committee, according to J. H. Wheeler, president.

## Fuquay Session Council Sets Boy Scout

FUQUAY The Oconeechee Council annual divisional Boy Scout meeting and banquet will be held at the Fuquay Springs consolidated high school here Tuesday night Jan. 19 at 7:30. J. H. Wheeler, president of the Mechanics and Farmers Bank of Durham, will be the principal speaker. He is scheduled to address the banquet on "Opportunities for Living." J. M. Schooler, principal of the Whitted elementary school of Durham, will preside over the meeting. Schooler is chairman of the Council which comprises some 12 counties in Piedmont North Carolina. H. W. Gillis, local field executive, announced this week that many phases of the program planned for the coming year will be previewed at the banquet.