

\$70,000 Building Total Loss

Church Destroyed By Early Morning Fire



This view of the charred remains of the St. John's Baptist church was taken from the front of what was once the sanctuary. Inset shows church as it stood on completion in 1952.

Durham firemen were still conducting investigations late Wednesday to discover the cause of a fire which swept through St. John's Baptist church in the pre-dawn hours of Wednesday, leaving the building a shambles of charred rubble.

The building, erected some five years ago, was declared a total loss. The interior was completely gutted and only the brick walls were left standing.

Rev. L. M. Gooch, pastor of the church, told the TIMES that insurance coverage on the building amounted to approximately \$35,000. A recent appraisal of the building valued it at \$70,000.

Luckily, some \$15,000 worth of new furniture for the church, including carpets, pews and pulpit furniture, which had been recently purchased had not arrived and was not in the building at the time of the blaze.

Assistant fire chief C. H. Lawson told the TIMES that every possible angle was being checked to determine cause of the fire, but at mid day Wednesday, no cause had been discovered.

Deputy Chief C. A. Woods said, however, that the possibility of foul play had not been discounted.

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GETS HELP

Attorney James R. Walker of Weldon, currently facing a \$500 fine for conviction of assault on a female, may be in the path of a financial windfall from indications this week. A TIMES reader in Bolivia, learning of the crusading lawyer's plight, mailed a check to the TIMES for Walker. Reports also indicate that a grass roots movement to send the young lawyer money for the fine may be developing. Walker's conviction grew out of his militant efforts in registering Negroes in eastern North Carolina. See details, this page.

Three Stayed

Preachers Snub Segregation At Movie Preview

A majority of Negro ministers of Durham turned thumbs down on an invitation to attend a segregated special showing of the new Hollywood movie, "The Ten Commandments," at the Center theater Tuesday morning.

However, the TIMES learned that some ten persons, including three prominent ministers, stayed to see the movie and sat in the traditionally Jim Crow balcony, reserved for Negroes.

The three were identified as Rev. J. W. Smith, pastor of Covenant Presbyterian church, Rev. Louis Wade, pastor of Orange Grove Baptist church of Durham, and Piney Grove Baptist church of Creedmoor, and Rev. C. G. Johnson.

The three could not be contacted at press time to confirm or deny the reports.

The special preview was held at the theater at 9:30 Tuesday morning, and ministers and persons interested in religious education in the Durham area, were invited to attend.

Invitations were reportedly issued by Lawrence Terrell, a

branch manager of a film distributor out of Charlotte.

Center theater manager C. H. Lewis was reluctant to discuss the issue with the TIMES this week, but he did state that two Negro ministers who came to the theater and talked with him and Terrell, left without going in to the showing.

However, Rev. D. A. Johnston, pastor of St. Joseph's AME church, told the TIMES that he, Rev. C. E. McLeister, pastor of Morehead avenue Baptist, and Rev. M. F. Ward, pastor of Chestnut AME Zion in Broadway, stayed outside the theater for several minutes and explained the segregated arrangement to two other ministers who arrived during their stay and who subsequently turned away and left after hearing of the arrangement.

Several ministers told the TIMES that they did not make the trip to the theater because they felt the film distributor wanted to use them to endorse the picture for commercial reasons and that they would be segregated once there.

Rev. Miles Mark Fisher, pastor of White Rock Baptist church, told the TIMES that he didn't pay attention to the invitation because he feared he would be subjected to segregation at the theater.

Rev. Johnston said that he and Rev. McLeister, who went to (Please turn to Page Eight)



J. L. WHEELER

JIM CROW TO GO IN GREENSBORO

Judge To Rule On Golf Case

GREENSBORO Segregation was expected to be given a shove on its way out in Greensboro Thursday as a Federal Judge was to rule against enforced segregation on the city-owned Gillespie Park golf course.

Judge Johnson J. Hayes, presiding in Middle District Federal court here, was scheduled to hand down a ruling in favor of Negro plaintiffs contending the right to use the golf course.

He is expected to issue an injunction restraining course operators from excluding persons by reason of race.

Judge Hayes made known the intent of the decision about three weeks ago when the case was originally scheduled for an opinion. It was put off, however, and re-scheduled for Thursday, April 4.

Judge Hayes told attorneys for both sides at that time that although several persons would not like his forthcoming decision, he had no choice but to follow the direction as set out by higher federal courts in the issue.

Previously, federal courts have ruled in favor of Negro plaintiffs in the matter of using municipally owned facilities. The Supreme Court recently upheld the right of a group of Negroes in Norfolk, Va., to use the Seashore Park facilities.

Judge Hayes' expected decision will have far reaching implications. It would in effect open all city-owned facilities in Greensboro to Negroes.

Already, attorneys for the city have indicated they will appeal the decision to the next federal court level, which is the Fourth Circuit presided over by Judge John J. Parker.

The city contended that since the property on which the golf course is located had been

leased to a private organization, the private operators had a right to decide who could use it.

However, attorneys for the plaintiffs are contending that it is nevertheless city property and that the city could not do by indirectness what it could not do directly.

The decision expected is seen as opening the way for the obtaining of injunctions by Negroes in any city in which they are denied the use of the city owned facilities.

Already, reports were to the effect that citizens in Durham intend to test the expected ruling public facilities, including the library and parks.

The case stemmed from an

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H. M. Holmes, principal of Hillside High School and a graduate of Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, will head the 1957 United Negro College Fund Drive which is scheduled to be launched in Durham soon. The Fund is made up of 31 privately supported Negro institutions.

Embattled Lawyer Gets Financial Help

What could blossom into a state-wide grass roots drive to raise money for embattled civil rights lawyer James R. Walker of Weldon appeared this week as a check for \$5 made to Walker was received this week by the TIMES from a reader in Bolivia concerned with the attorney's plight.

Walker currently faces a \$500 court fine for conviction of assault against a female. He lost his appeal from the fine and a suspended sentence recently when the State Supreme Court refused to hear his plea.

The check for Walker came this week along with a letter from Herbert J. Bryant of Bolivia. It was made out to Attorney Walker with instructions that it be delivered to him.

The letter read as follows: "Dear Sirs, in response to your editorial of March 30, entitled 'The Fight for Civil Rights in Eastern North Carolina,' you will please find enclosed my personal check for five dollars (\$5.00) payable to Atty. James R. Walker.

"Not knowing his exact address, I am forwarding this check to you to be delivered to him. May I commend you for your very fine editorial in support of Atty. James R. Walker, and that this small contribution will encourage him to continue the fight for justice in eastern North Carolina."

Last week's issue of the TIMES carried a lead editorial commenting on Walker's plight and suggesting that an appeal be made to solicit funds to help him pay off the fine.

The editorial said, in part: "Let it never be said of Attorney James R. Walker of Weldon that he was too indolent to (Please turn to Page Eight)

The Carolina Times

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Farm Agent Tiff Waxes Hot, Heavy

OXFORD Charges and counter charges flew fast and furious here this week as lines were drawn

tighter in the battle now being waged between supporters of Mrs. Willie W. Lewis, former assistant Home Agent and supporters of Mrs. Irene P. Powell, Home Agent, both of Granville County.

During a meeting of the Granville County Commissioners here Monday, April 1, a delegation of Negro citizens again appeared before the Board to request that the Commissioners request State Extension Service authorities to "dismiss or transfer" Mrs. Powell.

Apparently irked at the forced resignation of Mrs. Lewis, the delegation, headed by H. M. Bullock, insisted that Mrs. Powell could not get the cooperation of farm families in the county. Other persons informed

the Carolina Times that because of Mrs. Powell's general unpopularity with the farm families, numbering about 3500, meetings which she held with them were poorly attended and a general lack of cooperation existed. Said one informant who requested that her name not be used, "she is just hard to get along with."

Mrs. Lewis' resignation, which was requested in a letter sent to her by Mrs. Minnie Miller, assistant State Home Agent, on November 8, last year, charged the assistant Home Agent of Granville County with "irregularities."

A full text of the letter is as follows:

Dear Mrs. Lewis: (Please turn to Page Eight)

Durhamites Have Lead Roles In AKA Session

Dr. Rose B. Brown, General Chairman of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, to meet at North Carolina College April 5 to 7 this week, announced the names of the Durham women who will participate in the three-day program. The work sessions, business meetings, public gatherings, and social affairs are expected to attract some 200 delegates and friends from 40 chapters in the three-state area of eastern West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina.

Mrs. Elizabeth Young, Physical Education Professor at St. Augustine's College, will preside at the Saturday luncheon meeting where Mrs. Elna Spaulding will speak on "Culture in India." Mrs. Barbara Cooke and Mrs. Lavinia Parker, prominent local artists, will render piano duos, Malaguena and London-derry Air, at the morning and afternoon sessions on April 6.

Chairman Brown said that Mrs. Frances Eagleson will preside (Please turn to Page Eight)

Wheeler had been in retirement since 1950, when he quit his post as vice-president-assistant agency director of the North Carolina Mutual life insurance company. He abandoned an educational career which had taken him to the Presidency of Kittrell College to join the insurance firm.

Born in Nicholasville, Kentucky on July 8, 1869, he was trained at Wilberforce (A.B., 1897) and the University of Chicago.

He entered the teaching ranks in 1898 at Kittrell College and remained there for ten years, ultimately being selected to head the institution.

Wheeler resigned from his post as President of the AME-supported college at the church's 1908 general conference and began his career with the North Carolina Mutual.

He started what was to be a 43 year stay with the firm with an assignment as an agent on the Raleigh district in 1908. (Please turn to Page Eight)

Outstanding Alumnus To Be Selected By N. C. Hamptonians

BRICKS Hampton alumnus from North Carolina will gather here Saturday at the Franklinton center for the annual meeting of the regional alumni association.

Key items on the agenda are expected to be the selection of the alumnus of the year in the state, addresses by L. E. Austin, publisher of the Carolina Times, Doswell Brooks, president of the national Hampton alumni association, and Dr. William Martin, dean of the Hampton Institute Faculty.

Theme of this year's meeting the 17th, will be "Meeting the Challenges of Today." Mrs. Fannie Newsome, president of the organization, will conduct the sessions.

The meeting opens Saturday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. and the afternoon sessions will be concerned largely with business matters pertaining to the operation of the organization.

Speeches by Brooks and Dr. Martin will be heard at the conclusion of the afternoon session, which will also see the appointment of the next year's officers. (Please turn to Page Eight)



Photo shows program participants in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Mid-Atlantic Regional convention in Durham's North Carolina College, April 5 to 7. Standing, from left to right: Mrs. Barbara Cooke, and Mrs. Ruth Eagleson. Seated, Mrs. Elizabeth Young, Mrs. Gwendolyn McCallum, Mrs. Lavinia Parker, Mrs. Bar-

J. L. Wheeler Succumbs; Burial Rites In Durham

The body of John Leonadas Wheeler was returned to Durham Wednesday for burial services at Beechwood cemetery. Rev. D. A. Johnston, pastor of St. Joseph's AME church, officiated at the graveside rites at 3:00 p.m.

Wheeler, father of Mechanics and Farmers Bank president, died in Atlanta, Ga., Saturday night, March 30, after a brief illness.

Scores of dignitaries from the business and educational world, AME church officials and civic leaders of Atlanta attended his funeral services Tuesday at Big Bethel AME church, where he had been a long time active member. Rev. H. I. Boarden, pastor of Big Bethel, delivered the eulogy.

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NAACP Concedes, Pays \$500 N. C. Levy

RALEIGH The NAACP has apparently conceded to the State of North Carolina in the running fight between the two over the question of the NAACP's status. The organization submitted by mail Monday a check for \$500 to the State in accord with the Attorney General's contention that it was subject to a penalty fine for not having registered with the secretary of state as

a foreign corporation doing business in the state.

The NAACP had argued in court action it brought that the interpretation of the law regarding foreign corporations doing business in the state did not apply to it.

The case reached the State Supreme Court which returned it to a lower court on a technical matter. Subsequently, the NAACP dropped the action and

complied with Atty. Gen. George Patton's ruling that it must register.

Patton revealed that he had received the check after notifying the NAACP that he would file suit unless it paid the \$500 penalty fine.

He said payment of the fine was an admission by the organization that it was doing business in the state, as the state had maintained earlier.

NCC SPEAKER

Rev. Douglas E. Moore, pastor of Asbury Temple Methodist church of Durham, will speak at North Carolina College's vespers service Sunday afternoon at 3:15 p.m.

"Who's in your gallery," will be the subject of Rev. Moore's address.

Rev. Moore is a 1949 graduate of North Carolina College. He received the Bachelor's degree in Theology from Boston University and has done additional work toward a higher degree at the same institution.