

Fire From Page 1

Firemen dragged Broadus Johnson out through a window, but the children were already dead.

Gwendolyn Johnson, the victim's mother told firemen that she heard her father stuffing newspapers into the stove at approximately 3 a.m. but didn't pay much attention because it was part of the elder Johnson's routine.

Ms. Johnson was awakened a short time later by smoke, according to her statement, and saw her father trying to drag an overstuffed chair outside that had caught on fire. The chair got hung in the door and the house was ignited.

The fire totally gutted the inside of the Johnson dwelling and burned several hours before firefighters were finally able to extinguish the blaze.

Two other grandchildren who lived in the house, Curtistine, 11, and Sidra, 4, were treated for minor smoke inhalation and released from a local hospital.

Johnson, when contacted at the home of his son-in-law at 1515 E. 24th St., late Tuesday said that fire officials are wrong about how the fire started.

"I don't know who said that about me starting that fire. I didn't start no fire," said Johnson who told firefighters that he had no idea how the fire did get started.

Scales said that a series of incidents which lead the fire department's involvement in the Johnson case could have prevented the tragedy.

A little before 3 a.m. a Southern Bell telephone operator received a call from someone who said that their house was burning.

According to the operator, the person dropped the phone before she could get an address.

The operator then called the fire department and alerted them while officials at the phone company attempted to trace the call.

When the number had been traced, fire officials had to match the number and the city directory to find a corresponding name and address. Once the location was confirmed, firefighters were dispatched to the scene.

According to Scales, if a name or address had been given to the operator, there is a chance that the two Johnson children might have been saved.

Scales was quick to add, however, that he was speculating and was not placing the blame on anyone.

Klan Watch From Page 1

that direct, aggressive action in the political arena is our most appropriate course of action."

Dr. Hooks said that the NAACP, mobilized by the "vote white" strategy of former Philadelphia Mayor Frank L. Rizzo, turned out 80 percent of the black vote two years ago to defeat a referendum that would have allowed him to seek reelection.

"We've proven by our past actions in Philadelphia in '78 and 33 targeted areas in '80 that we've learned the political ropes," he noted. "Now, we'll direct our experience and strength at Klan candidates, Nazi party members and others expressing hate on the campaign trail."

Dr. Hooks said that extremists have been encouraged to seek public office for two reasons:

- The highly publicized republican primary election victories of two white supremists seeking congressional seats last year in southern California and Michigan; and
- Recent statements by congressional leaders which "legitimize bigotry."

"When the incoming chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee announces one of his priorities is to eliminate the 1965 Voting Rights Act from the statute books, the effect is to encourage extremist candidates," Dr. Hooks said. "It is under this act that black registration rose in Senator Strom Thurmond's South Carolina from 144,000 to 213,000. This jump from 38.7 percent of the black voting-age population to 57.3 percent simply would not have been possible without the Voting Rights Act. It was also Senator Thurmond, along with North Carolina's Jesse Helms, that led anti-bussing legislation successfully through the closing days of the Senate's 96th session last November. Radicals see this type of behavior on Capitol Hill as the signal to go public with their hate."

He said the growth of the Klan in pure numbers is not impressive—up an estimated 7,000 actual members from the assumed 6,000 to 8,000 base in 1965.

"The danger is in the alarming increase of sympathetic Klan onlookers," Dr. Hooks pointed out. "In Michigan's 15th Congressional District race last year, the GOP candidate, Gerald Carlson, got 53,000 votes running on the platform that would make it illegal for negroes to live and shop in Dearborn. He also advocated a dusk to dawn curfew for all blacks. He amassed this total, best ever for a republican nominee, at a campaign outlay of just \$180.00. His campaign was quite high profile, and the republican chairman of the district said that stunning vote total was deliberate and based on the knowledge that he was a former Nazi party member advocating a white supremacist way of life."

Klan alert, to be administered by Joe Madison, head of the NAACP's Detroit-based Voter Education Department, will direct money, volunteers and a variety of in-kind services to NAACP branches faced with opposition from the Klan, the Nazi Party or other known supremacist groups. In some instances, where strategy dictates, it will never be made public that the organization was in the campaigns.

Last year, Madison administered a \$500,000 program aimed at registering 2 million new blacks. This growing base, Dr. Hooks said, will provide the foundation for the new program.

"With more than 1,700 branches and nearly 460,000 members, we have personally been responsible for registering more black voters than any other group." He concluded, "But in this climate of suspicion and hate, we must now take our activism a major step further. Klan alert becomes our vehicle for survival as free people."

T.I.P. From Page 1

counties, with five counties whose rates were higher and six counties whose rates were lower.

In addition to increased pregnancies, the rate for venereal disease in young women is also on the increase. In 1979, there were 27 cases of gonorrhea for the 12-14 year old age group. For the 15-19 year old age group there were 694 cases of gonorrhea, two cases of syphilis and 2 nonspecific urethritis cases.

For further information concerning getting discussions in community houses, churches, or recreation centers, contact T.I.P. at 727-8172 or visit the office on the 5th Floor, Reynolds Health Center at 741 Highland Avenue.

YMCA From Page 1

definitely going to be the black community in new site of the East Winston "Y."

Hauser did say, however, that the Patterson Avenue "Y" would not close down until a site had been chosen and an interim facility had

been chosen to house the YMCA and the senior citizens center currently housed in the YW section.

"We need to get out of the Patterson Avenue

area," said Art Brown, general director of the Metropolitan YMCA.

Brown explained that the Patterson "Y" is located in an area of town that has deteriorated into rubble and is now being sought by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco for expansion.

Hauser told the Chronicle that he is confident that Reynolds is "sympathetic," to the plight of the Patterson "Y" and has taken the facility's meaning to the

Ceremony From Page 1

present treasurer, chaired the groundbreaking committee and presided at the ceremonies.

Alderman Virginia K. Newell, who represents the ward, welcomed the group and spoke briefly. Father Michael Curry gave the invocation, and remarks were made by Mayor Wayne A. Corpening, Community Development Director Gary R. Brown, and Bishop Sylvester Johnson. Mrs. Geneva C. Hill, president of the association, responded.

Ms. Gwyn led the group in the litany of groundbreaking. Participating in the act of groundbreaking were Mayor Corpening, Assistant City Manager Joe H. Berrier, Gary R. Brown, Sister Edmund Marie and Mrs. Vanessa Rawls who suggested the project to the association.

Others participating in the act of groundbreaking were Alderman Newell, Ms. Gwyn, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Vernetta Braham who is assistant secretary of the association, and Mrs. Agnes Cook an association member.

The association purchased the land upon which the houses will be built from the Redevelopment Commission. It takes bids for the homes it will build from prospective buyers, and contracts to have the houses built. A prospective buyer may furnish his own plans or select plans from the association.

The homes will sell for around \$38,000. In order to purchase one of the homes, a family must qualify on a scale based on income and the number of persons in the household.

Persons who are interested in contracting for one of the homes who think that they may meet the guidelines, and who may need help in developing plans for home ownership, should contact Mrs. Gloria C. Goore, project coordinator, at 722-0918 or 722-3051 for further details.

Black History Month From Page 1

by the absence of materials in the curriculum on the achievements of Blacks and urged the board to take steps in the future to remedy this situation.

There was general agreement on the board with the spirit and good will in which the request was made. However, the discussion seemed to indicate a feeling that the matter would set an unhealthy precedent and that it could be better handled administratively.

It appeared that after the discussion that the matter would be ended with the chairman thanking the representatives from the Association for the spirit in which the matter had been presented and a move to the "Homework Hot Line."

Discussion on the request was resumed when Clifton Graves rose from the audience and asked if any action was going to be taken on the request.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wooten and seconded by Dr. Sheppard calling for the Board to acknowledge February as Black History Month and urging the schools to provide information to their students on the contribu-

tions of Blacks to the American heritage.

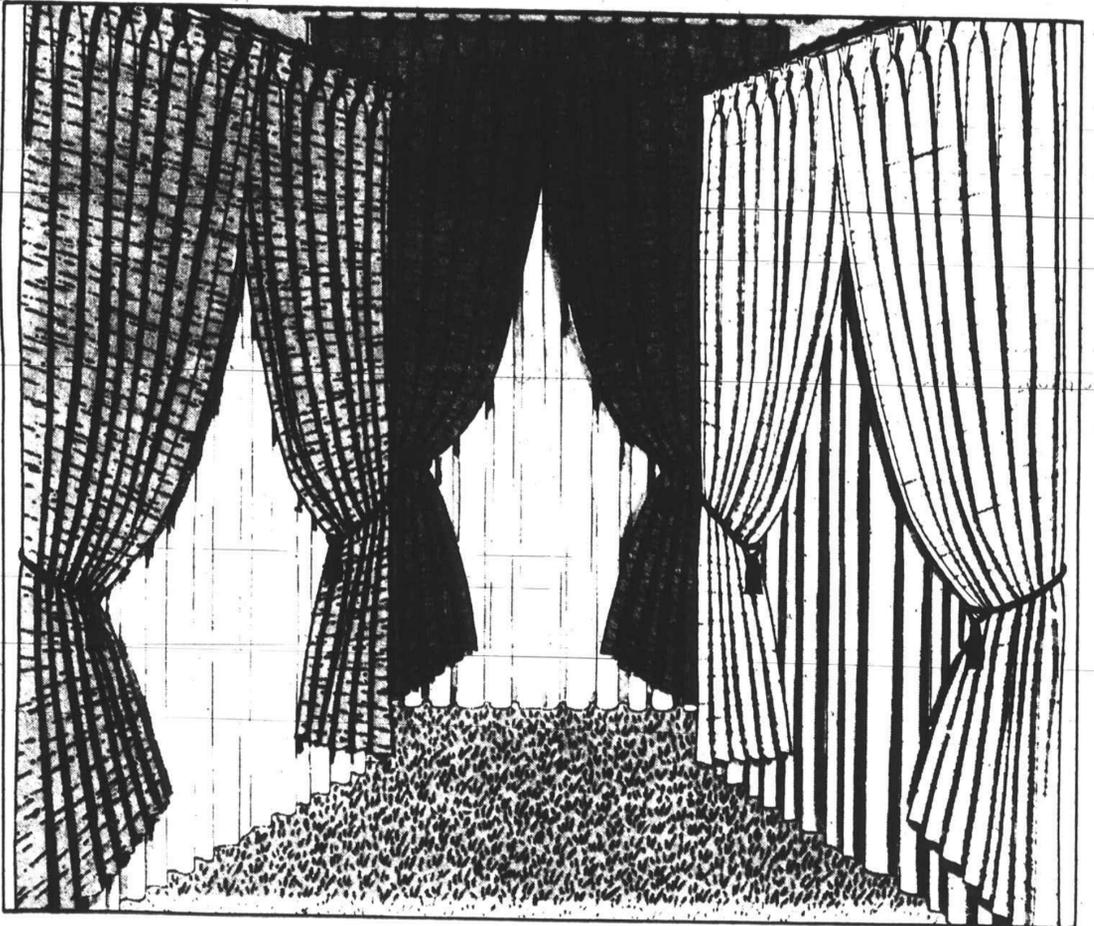
In the discussion before the motion was passed unanimously, Dr. Sheppard called attention to the fact that notation of the celebration of Black History would be entered into the Congressional Record, and that a proclamation on the matter would be issued at both the state and city levels.

Graves spoke to the issue saying that "the Association wanted the Board to take a moral stand on the issue and let the administration work out the logistics."

Dr. Adams stated that there was no need for board action as he was in sympathy with the spirit of the motion and could handle it. Also, he encouraged the association to work at the state and local levels to effect the selection of materials which would reflect the contribution of Blacks to the American culture.

Mr. Wood seemed to be bothered by an action which he said would be a new departure, but voted for the motion when he was informed that similar resolutions had been adopted in the past.

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