

Sheriff Offers Reward WILKES CHURCH BOMBED

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In Louisburg Shooting

MINISTER ASKS PROTECTION

Sheriff Willing To Help

LOUISBURG—“I am supposed to exercise my rights according to the Constitution, I think that something like the recent incident here creates a spark of fire in the minds of the oppressed.” These words were spoken by Rev. Luther Coppedge, Louisburg civil rights leader, in a recent interview with the CAROLINIAN.

Rev. Coppedge was referring to the near tragedy which occurred at his Louisburg home at 10:10 p. m., Christmas Eve. He related how three rifle shots, fired by an unknown assailant, ripped through his home. Had he been lying three inches higher, Rev. Coppedge would have been killed by one of the shots.

Mrs. Coppedge gave the following description: “I was sitting on the floor wrapping Christmas gifts with my son. When I went to the dresser for tape, I heard three shots. I ran to the door thinking that the sound had come from fire works. Upon returning, I noticed that the dresser and the window had been shattered.

Billy Croker, State Bureau of Investigation Agent told the CAROLINIAN that one bullet hit a porch chair and another the porch wall. The third bullet was the one which hit the mirror and dresser described by Mrs. Coppedge.

(See PROTECTION, P. 2)

Worried Over Race Unrest

CINCINNATI - Judge Wade McCree Jr., generated by the urgency he feels in the Negro community, is speaking out and is alarmed over what his people can do to America. Judge McCree holds a position with the U. S. Circuit Court, the second highest court in the land.

“American has let the traditional leaders down,” said Judge McCree who was in Cincinnati for the December session of the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. “Roy Wilkins, Whitney Young, even Martin Luther King, as well as many dedicated white leaders are being repudiated as persons who led Negroes down the wrong path,” he continued.

In many communities, stated the Judge, there is more defacto segregation in housing and schools now than there was before restrictive covenants were outlawed in 1948, and separate

(See UNREST, P. 2)



JUDGE WADE MCCREE

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3 Brothers Plunge To Watery Death Tues.



BRIDGE TRAGEDY - Gatesville: Two of three bodies have been removed from a station wagon which plunged from a bridge into 36 feet of water, on route 158 2 miles west of here. Dead are Thomas A. Lassiter III, 18; Dennis Lassiter, 16 and William Lassiter, 16, all of Strasford, Conn. (UPI PHOTO).

Alleged Rape Victim Leaves Northampton County

JACKSON - Overtones of the alleged rape of Mrs. Selma C. Williams, white, who is said to have been the victim of rape, by seven Negroes, on the night of Dec. 9, contrast the famed Buddy Bush arrest, escape and ultimate return, with no striking semblance.

The CAROLINIAN learned Wednesday morning that Mrs. Williams left her home in Garysburg recently and left no forwarding address. In the meantime the seven accused youth, were reported, as being out on \$1,000 bonds each, for the allege crime.

A hearing was held Friday and Judge Ballard S. Gay ordered the defendants held for the next term of criminal court,

Miss. Firm Bows To U.S. Gov't

WASHINGTON, D. C. - Three Negroes, former employees of a Louis Dreyfus Corporation facility in Pascagoula, Miss., have been paid \$3,000 after complaining to the government of being fired on racial grounds. The firm signed an agreement with the Departments of Labor and Agriculture to pay

after finding probable cause. There was some conjecture as to the amount of the bond, in view of the seriousness of the case.

The seven youths, Curtis Lee Porch, 18, Levern Bradley, 23, Guster Lee Underdue, 20, Cornell Underdue, 31, Alexander Mallory, 17, Wardell Mallory, 17, and Willie Walter Prince, 21, were charged with raping the woman twice each and first degree burglary. The Underdue boys are brothers, while the Mallorys are said to be of no relation.

Mrs. Williams is alleged to have reported that the seven boys entered her home on a Saturday night, by unlawful entry and proceeded to assault

her. The woman is reported as having been separated from her husband, who is reported as living in New York. It was not determined whether she left for New York or some other point, but the reply to the CAROLINIAN inquiry shed very little light on the entire matter.

Man Dies In Flames

BETHEL - In an effort to heat a frame house quickly, Sunday morning, one man perished in ravaging flames and another escaped the flames but had to be hospitalized for exposure.

Jeff McCless, 54, was burned to death about 3:30 a. m. Sunday, when he is said to have poured oil on a pile of hot coals that were not consumed, during the night. Jimmy Jones, who lived with McCless, is said to have told officers that McCless, an early riser, awoke and went to the stove, where he poured oil on to the smoldering embers. The application of the oil caused the stove to blow out, setting the house and the man afire.

According to where McCless' body was found, it is believed that he attempted to get out of the path of the flames, but had become so enveloped that he fell on reaching the outside and died.

Jones is alleged to have also sought to avoid the raging flames and still clad in a pair of pants and a T-shirt, made his way outside the house, where he was overcome by smoke, several hundred feet from the house. He was taken to the Pitt Memorial Hospital, where he was treated and released Sunday morning.

The third occupant, Willie Stokes, 52, escaped the flames and made his way to the nearest home, where he reported the disaster. Firemen were summoned, but when they arrived the fire had consumed the frame dwelling.

Locked In Station Wagon

GATESVILLE - Three teenage brothers, who had come from Stratford, Conn. to spend the holidays with parents and relatives plunged into a mill pond early Tuesday morning and lost their lives, in 25 ft. of water. The deaths are said to have been due to the fact that the station wagon, in which they were riding, failed to make a detour turn and went off a temporary bridge.

The highway patrol identified the victims as Thomas Lassiter, III, 18; Dennis, 16; and William, 15, all of Stratford, Conn. The tragedy occurred three miles northwest of Gatesville, on U. S. 158, where a bridge is being repaired. A detour bridge carries traffic across the pond.

Authorities said the vehicle made a right turn on the detour but failed to make a left turn. Two divers from the Suffolk-Namessmond Rescue Squad of Suffolk, Va., confirmed the boys were in the car but could not remove the bodies without pulling it from the water.

The tragedy was discovered when the father, Thomas Lassiter, Jr., requested a search of the pond.

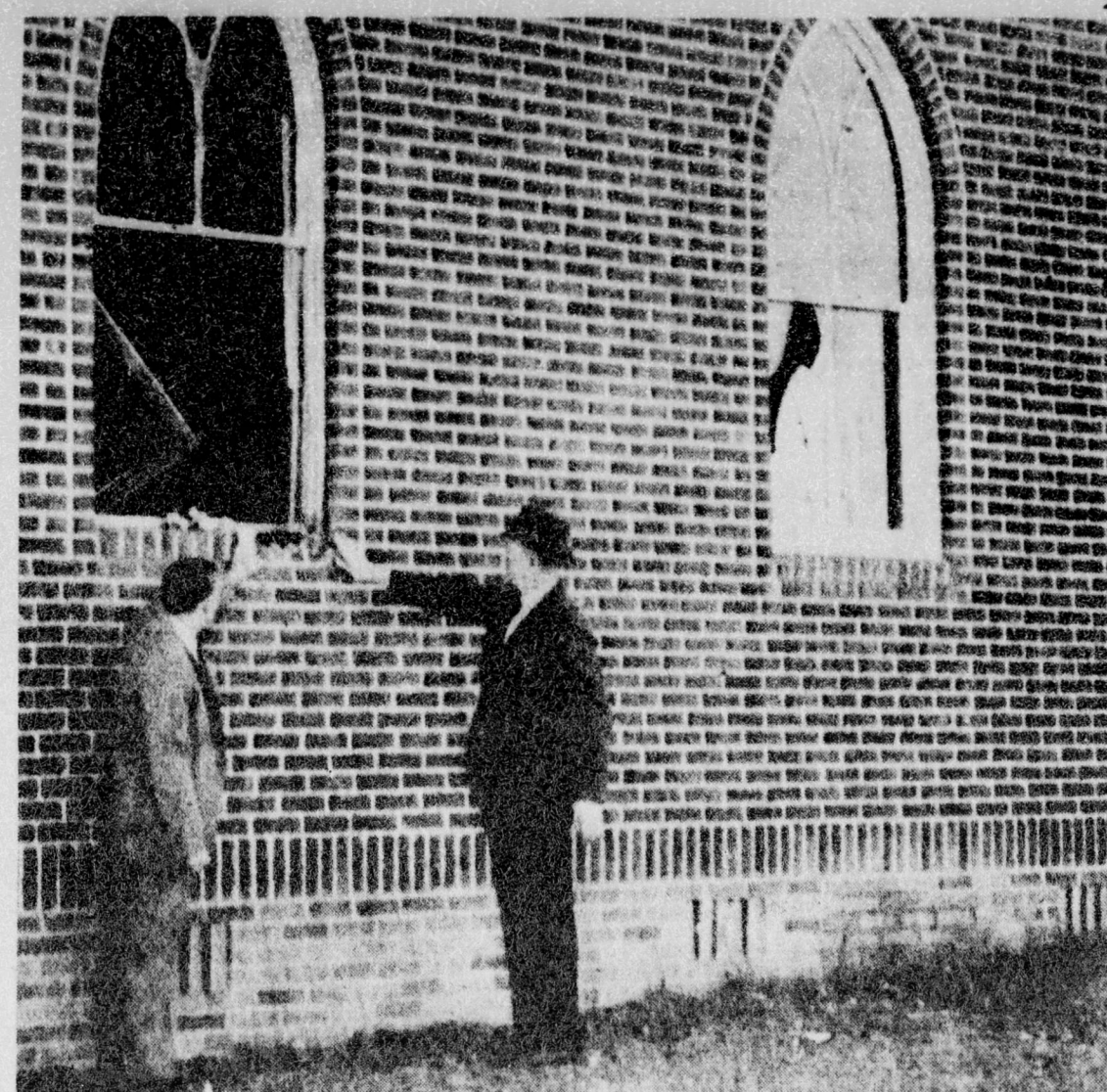
Lassiter, out looking for the boys himself, noticed a wooden guard rail of the bridge had been ripped off. A construction worker was repairing it.

Gates county sheriff W. H. Eure and a deputy probed the bottom of the pond from a boat and found the car in about 25 feet of water.

A construction crane lifted it from the water around 4:30 p. m., with the three bodies still in it.

Members of the Lassiter family were visiting relatives in the county for the holidays. The boys were returning from an uncle's home when the accident occurred. The patrol said they left about 1 a. m. and started home.

The Lassiter's only other child, a 14-year-old son, decided at the last moment, not to visit with his brothers.



RESULTS OF BOMBING-NORTH WILKESBORO: SBI Agent David Beal and Wiles Sheriff Hoke Wiles examine one of the windows damaged in the apparent bombing of the Poplar Springs Baptist Church, a colored church 15 miles east of here in the Roaring River Community. Bombing was not discovered until Tuesday morning. UPI TELEPHOTO

County Officers Show Concern In Hate Act

ROARING RIVER (WILKES COUNTY) - Sheriff Hoke Wiles and Rev. J. B. Hampton are two of the most surprised people in the nation. They can see no reason why night riders would resort to violence and attempt to destroy the little frame Baptist church, located on a rural road, about two miles from here.

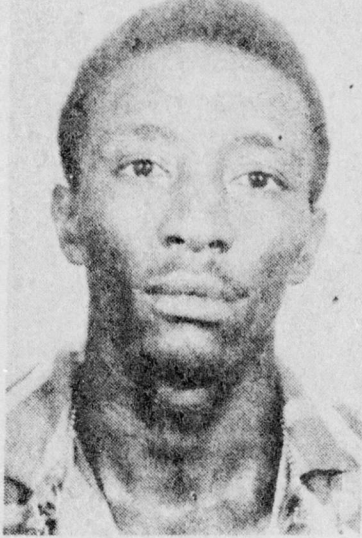
The rural community had settled down to a Christmas calm Sunday night, to await the celebration of the coming of Christ, which is symbolic of that lasting peace, when suddenly there was a blast that not only blew out some of the windows, about 11 o'clock, but it shook the pride of citizens of both races and caused chairman of the Deacon Board Ed Mitchell to say, “I can't figure it. We get along well with people.”

The pastor was at a loss and hastened to say that the church had never been used to espouse civil rights. There was no evi-

dence that there were persons, in the community, who had naught against the pastor, the officers, or the members for the part they had played in race relations.

Sheriff Wiles was so disturbed until he announced that a drive was on to offer a reward for the guilty persons and that he would be the first to make a contribution, to see that the perpetrators were brought to justice. The SBI is said to have been on the scene as late as 1 a. m. Wednesday and would return to the scene in a few hours.

The FBI is also said to be investigating to determine whether there was any violation of federal law, in connection with the bombing. The damage is estimated at more than \$1,000. It was not learned whether there was any insurance and what the officers were going to do about repairing the bombed building.



CEDRIC BOST

Alarm Betrays Burglar

It was not the night before Christmas and the burglar alarm would not keep quiet. The result was that its sounding brought officers to the Salisbury Street side of Liberal Credit Company, 126 Fayetteville St., 9:42 p. m. Saturday.

Officers E. D. Whitley and E. L. Randolph reported that they arrived just in time to see a man putting his hand in the window. As they approached, the man is alleged to have started running down Salisbury St. The officers went in pursuit and discovered that Cedric Bost, 1914 Oakwood Ave., had used the lid of a garbage can to cart off loot, that was identified as having been taken from the store.

Upon investigation it was found that Bost had \$957 worth of jewelry and watches, in the lid and on his person. The loot is said to have consisted of five rings and several watches.

Bost was not only jailed for having broken into the store and carrying away articles without the proper authorization, but was also charged with receiving and carrying a concealed weapon.

(See BURGLAR, P. 2)



ROBERT N. HOUGH

Negro Gets High Job In D.C. Police Dept.

WASHINGTON - Washington's Public Safety Director, Patrick Murphy, has selected Robert N. Hough, commanding officer of the city's second precinct as his personal aide in improving community relations.

The selection of Hough was Murphy's first action since becoming safety director two weeks ago. Murphy says that he expects Hough to “double the contacts of my office with the public.” Hough was named to the precinct a little over a year ago.

Murphy stated in an interview that Hough's 29 years of experience on the force and his educational background qualified him “superbly” for his new job. Hough earned a bachelor's degree in education from Howard University in 1933 and received various kinds of command schooling in the armed forces.

“It is also highly desirable that we have more Negro officers,” Murphy said, not just in top jobs, “but from private on up” to achieve “a more representative racial balance.”

Murphy said he also intends to be flexible as possible in filling future opening in the force's top rank.

Hough, known as a soft spoken and sensitive officer, became a police lieutenant in 1964. He was promoted to captain last year when he made the second highest score on the Civil Service examination.

Ten Democratic Congressmen, led by Representative John Conyers, Jr., yesterday introduced an omnibus bill costing \$30 billion annually “to assure every American adequate employment, housing and education on a truly non-discriminatory basis.”

“The 1967 session of Congress ending this week has consistently worked to cut back

WEATHER

Temperatures during the period Thursday through Monday will average below normal. Normal high and low for the period are 51 and 30. Precipitation will total 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch or more.

FROM RALEIGH'S OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

THE CRIME BEAT

CORRECTION

A report theft of \$25.00 to the Raleigh police Department from the pocketbook of Mrs. Pearl Winston of 1225 1/2 Fayetteville St. occurred inside the Winn-Dixie store according to Mrs. Winston and not near the store as stated in a report of the incident in last week's CAROLINIAN. We are glad to make this correction as requested by Mrs. Winston.

A Clean Sweep

Beulah Bumpers, 800 Coleman St., told Raleigh Police that she left home at 7 a. m. Friday and returned home at 4:30 p. m. to find her home had been entered and her money taken. She had \$185.00 in her alligator purse in the right hand top dresser drawer and some-

one went straight to the drawer and got the money. Nothing in the house was disturbed and everything was neat. The house was very neat and in order and the glass around the broken window from the kitchen door on the west side of the house had been swept up. Complainant has no idea who took her money.

"Hubby" Returns

Christine Griffin, 1344 Walnut St., told police she was cooking when her former husband, John Griffin, 1200 Walnut, with whom she no longer lives, came into her rear door. He hit her and upon throwing her on the floor, he threw her on the door onto the ground. Then, he stomped her.

(See CRIME BEAT, P. 3)

Open House

LOUISVILLE, Ky. - The city's Board of Aldermen has adopted a strong open-housing law as a result of demonstrations in which hundreds were arrested

last spring. Another result of the fight for open housing was the election of a new board of aldermen.

(See OPEN HOUSE, P. 2)

SWEEPSTAKES NUMBERS

200 1050 751
WORTH \$50 WORTH \$30 WORTH \$50

Anyone having current YELLOW tickets dated Dec. 23, 1967, with proper numbers, present same to The CAROLINIAN office and receive amounts listed above from the SWEEPSTAKES Feature.

No Sweepstakes Winner

Santa Claus was very much disappointed last week when he did not get any help from Sweepstakes in his purchases for the Raleigh community. There were no winners, even though there was \$65 in the kitty.

That amount has been added to this week's sum and there is

now available \$130. Certainly Raleigh shoppers should busy themselves and find this money. It is in three of the stores listed on the Sweepstakes page and it is a fine way to get started in the new year. Go to one, or all of the stores listed, and when you have finished your business, pick up a

ticket. Compare the number, on the ticket, with those shown above and see if you are a winner.

The tickets are dated Dec. 23 and the numbers and values are as follows: Ticket 200 is worth \$50; 1050 is good for \$30 and 751 will bring you \$50. The tickets are yellow.