Klan Burns Cross, Sends Bullet in Mail to Richmond Teacher Who Entered New Neighborhood Threatened

Police Protection Sought and Prosecution Asked for Postal Law Violation

RICHMOND

Two threatening letters, one containing a "live" bullet and the other several clippings from newspapers on Ku Klux Klan cross burnings, sent to a local teacher, were turned over to postal authorities Monday for investigation.

The teacher, who appealed to police for protection, is John M. Sweat of 2700 Barton Ave., on the front lawn of whose home a KKK cross was burned last Thursday night while he was attending the annual meeting of the Leigh St. YMCA in Armstrong High School.

(Mr. and Mrs. Sweat, who formerly lived at 1915 Grayland Ave. purchased the house recently and moved into it several weeks ago. Several other homes in the block have been purchased by colored persons, but have not yet been occupied by the owners.)

The first missive, postmarked in Richmond, was delivered to Mr. Sweat's home by a mail supervisor after postal authorities learned that it contained a bullet, according to Fergus McRee, local postmaster.

Postal Laws Violated

Pointing out that it is a violation of postal laws to send a "live" bullet or threatening matter through the mails, Mr. McRee said that the letter containing the bullet was turned over to Washington authorities for investigation.

The other letter, mailed in Washington and containing a threatening note, a picture of a Klan initiation and clippings from a newspaper of a story relating to the burning of crosses, was turned over to local police for investigation, the postmaster said.

According to police, the Washington letter contained a piece of white paper with the words, "You Are Not Smart," written on it in large capital letters. Also included was the clipping of the Klan initiation with the caption:

"Klan Spread Widely"

"Started in Georgia in 1915, the Ku Klux Klan spread widely and was variously anti-N—o, anti-Jewish and anti-Catholic. Above members initiated under the flaming cross near Brunswick, Md."

In addition, the Washington letter contained a long clipping, believed to have been from a Washington newspaper, detailing the burning of the cross on the lawn of Sweat's home and a similar episode that took place in front of a store in Nanesmond County a few days later.

Mr. Sweat, teacher at George Mason School, and his wife, Virginia Union student, live in the Barton Heights section of a Richmond, lily-white up until a few years ago but which now contains hundreds of colored families.

Live in All-White Block

The couple, with their two children, live in a corner house at 2700 Barton Ave., remainder of the homes in the block being occupied by whites. That is nothing out of the ordinary in Richmond, however, similar conditions prevailing in many sections of the city.

The affected section, formerly owned largely by a Colonel Barton, is now popularly known as "Sugar Hill," largely because of the high real estate prices that colored buyers had to pay in purchasing homes there. All property in the section formerly was under restrictive covenants.

Whites Decid to "Unload"

During the past war, however, high prices for real estate, forced up by the housing shortage, partly active among colored people, induced some whites to sell to colored persons. That led to a race on the part of these neighbors to "unload" while prices were good.

Most of the houses, although of pre-World War I vintage and of frame (some with asbestos siding, some stuccoed) construction, sold at first for from $6,000 to $8,000. Now, however, prices have advanced to the dizzy heights on from $8,000 to $17,000.

Unable to rent living quarters, however (there is not a house in Richmond for rent to colored residents, as far is known), colored persons are still buying these homes at the exorbitant prices asked.

Government Adds to Misery

To add to the misery, approximately 100 families were forced out of the lone Federal housing project here last year because their income had increased beyond the minimum allowed for tenants in a low-rent housing project.

They were permitted to remain during the war years, when the project was considered a war housing development, but were evicted last year by the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing, their over-income status being the basis of the eviction.

Although hundreds of homes were erected in Richmond during the past year or two, only a small fraction of that number has been available to colored residents, then only on a purchase basis. There have been none erected for rental to them.

Fiery Cross Lit in Front of Home in Husband's Absence

This Ku Klux Klan symbol, a cross covered with oil-soaked burlap, was set afire and left blazing on front lawn of the home of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Sweat at 2700 Barton Ave., Richmond, formerly an all-white block in a section (Barton Heights) covered by restrictive covenants. High real estate prices led white owners to ignore the covenants. Police doused the blaze and are investigating the incident.

KKK Cross Burns in Richmond

Mr. and Mrs. John M. Sweat stand on the porch of their newly-purchased home at 2700 Barton Ave. ("Sugar Hill") Richmond, where hoodlums burned a fiery cross, Thursday night, while Mr. Sweat, a teacher at George Mason School, was attending the annual meeting of the YMCA. Mrs. Sweat, a student at Virginia Union University, and their children were in an upstairs room and knew nothing about the Ku Klux Klan symbol until a neighbor rang the doorbell. Police Chief O. D. Garton has promised a "full investigation of the incident" and is keeping a careful police watch on the neighborhood. All other residents in the block are white, but several other homes there have been purchased by colored persons.

Student Amazed at Fiery Cross in Her Front Yard

RICHMOND

The burning of a fiery cross in the yard of a school teacher and his college student wife, here, last week, apparently has shutned the wife into a recognition that the era of "peace on earth and good will to men" has not completely arrived yet.

The student, who attends Virginia Union University and is the wife of J. M. Sweat, teacher of the local George Mason School, said last Friday, the day after the cross burning, that she "did not have the slightest idea" who could be responsible for the act and that she was somewhat puzzled by its significance.

"I know such things happened during the last century," she said, "but I didn't know there were any Ku Klux Klanners in Richmond. It looks like a KKK act."

Not so "unbelieving" as the wife was Mr. Sweat, who asked for protection of city police as soon as he had extinguished the five-foot high cross, constructed of burlap bags on a wooden frame, which had been doused with gasoline and set ablaze.

The incident occurred at about 8:30 p.m., Jan. 20, in the yard of the home at 2700 Barton Ave., into which the Sweat family recently moved, as the vanguard of several colored families planning to move into the formerly all-white block.

Officers at the Second Police District have informed Mr. Sweat that policemen on the beat in which the home is situated have been instructed to pay special attention to activities in the block, particularly during the day, when both the complainant and his wife are away.

White Neighbor Warns Man

Mr. Sweat said that on Thursday night, he and his wife were upstairs playing their radio and did not know that the cross was being ignited in their yard until they were warned by a white neighbor, who rang their bell and informed them.

Witnesses said the crudely constructed cross burned for some 10 minutes before Mr. Sweat could extinguish it by pouring water on the flames.

The tenant, aided by police, then moved the hate symbol to the yard behind his home. A small crowd had gathered to watch the burning, but there was no demonstration when Sweat came out of his house and disposed of the burning cross.

The family had moved into the house several weeks ago, but said they have had no previous trouble nor warnings of trouble.

While all the other homes in the 2700 block of Barton Ave. are occupied by whites at present, several of them have been bought by colored persons who expect to occupy them in the near future.

Ga. Powers New Disfranchise Bill

Plan Small Board to Dodge Court Ruling

ATLANTA (NNPA)—Passage of a voters' qualification bill, designed to disfranchise colored voters, was recommended, last Tuesday, by the State of Republic establishing a state-wide commission to draft uniform questions for prospective votes to answer.

The Governor would name a 10 member commission, one person from each Congressional District, to promulgate questions to test the intelligence and moral character of voter applicants who are unable to read and write. The voter applicant who can read and write would not necessarily be given these tests.

Questions for Applicants

The tax collector would ask all applicants questions and fill out cards giving information as to whether the applicant:

(1) Was of voting age (18) and had resided in the county and the State long enough to be qualified to vote; (2) had a criminal record; (3) could read a portion of the Federal and State Constitutions; (4) could write a portion of the Federal and State Constitutions; (5) Stated that due solely to physical infirmity he could not read or write portions of the Constitutions, and after having it read to him, could explain it satisfactorily, and (6) had paid $1 registration fee.

The Tax Collector would send these cards to the Boards of Registrars, which would decide whether a person was qualified to vote. The Tax Collector also could notify an applicant to appear before the Board for further examination.

In explaining the bill, former Senator Alex Weaver said that it would comply with recent Federal Court decision on Alabama's Boswell Amendment. A criticism of the Boswell Amendment was that Alabama's 80 different registrars gave different intelligence tests, Weaver said.

Myers, Dawson, Ewing to Be Featured at Freedom Rally

PHILADELPHIA

Sen. Francis J. Myers (Dem., Pa.) will be one of the speakers at the Freedom Day Rally at Town Hall on Tuesday evening, Feb. 1, it was announced this week by J. E. C. Wright, president of the National Freedom Day Association.

Other speakers for the final public meeting of the three-day observance will include Rep. William Dawson (Dem., Ill.), newly appointed chairman of the House committee on expenditures in the executive departments; and Oscar Ewing, Federal Security Agency Administrator.

Already 15 States have certified delegates to the exercises, commemorating signing of the 13th Amendment, Mr. Wright said, and a large number of others are expected to send representatives.

Special Music Slated

Special music for the rally will be provided by the Freedom Day Chorus, directed by Madame A. C. Bilbrew, widely-known musician and actress, who came to Philadelphia from Hollywood to supervise training of the choral group.

The official hymn, "This Is Freedom," written by Mrs. Bilbrew, will be sung at the Town Hall meeting.

The pen with which President Truman signed the bill authorizing observance of National Freedom Day will be presented to the association by Elder Solomon Michaux of Washington.

Scholarships to Be Awarded

Tribute will be paid the late Major R. R. Wright Sr., founder of National Freedom Day.

Cash scholarship awards will be presented to several young men and women by Dr. D. W. Henry, treasurer of the association. Names of the recipients will not be announced until the evening of the program.

Mayor to Open Occasion

At the opening session on Sunday evening at Town Hall, St. Matthews AME Church Youth Choir, directed by Paul Roberts, will be featured. This choral group sang last year.

Speakers will include Brendan Byrnes, assistant national director of the American Heritage Foundation, sponsors of the Freedom Train; Elsie Austin, Washington attorney, and Mayor Bernard Samuel, who will officially welcome the association.

Monday will be devoted to business sessions, but on Tuesday, the association will converge on Congress Hall at 10 a.m. for a brief program, which will include address by Dr. Horace Mann Bond, president of Lincoln University at Oxford, Pa., and J. Finley Wilson, grand exalted ruler of the Elks.

Independence Hall Ceremony

At the conclusion of the session, the body will conduct a ceremony in Independence Hall at which time a wreath will be laid on the Liberty Bell in honor of those who have given their lives for freedom. Major remarks will be made by Dr. Frank Loescher, Philadelphia FEPC executive director.

Other highlights will include reading of the Freedom Day Bill, and the Freedom Pledge, led by Rev. Arthur Keimel, program day director of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Both of these sessions will be directed by Dr. John W. Davis, president of West Virginia State College until the body will then adjourn until 8 p.m. for the Town Hall rally.

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N.J. Federation Endorses State Civil Rights Bill

Women's Group Maps Plans for NACW Convention, $100 Scholarship Award

TRENTON — The New Jersey State Federation of Colored Women's Club, which has waged an uphill struggle for equality of opportunity in the State, this week, endorsed the new civil rights bill, a revised edition of A-512, which the Federation co-sponsored last year.

In so doing, the Federation approved the action of its president, Mrs. Russell C. Caution, and backed up its endorsement with a cash contribution to the Joint Council for Civil Rights to aid in the legislative fight.

Herbert R. Tate, chairman of the Joint Council, which wrote the bill and of which the Federation is a member, outlined the measure in detail and stressed the "great amount of work" that is to be done if the bill is to pass.

The resignation of Mrs. Lenore Willette of Belleville, N.J., as chairman of the legislative committee, was accepted by the board with regret. Mrs. Willette has been appointed to the Migrant Commission, through the courtesy of Federation and the past president, Mrs. James H. Beckett.

Mrs. Willette Resigns

Mrs. Caution reported that Assemblyman James Curtis of Newark is interested in the Federation's proposed legislation to have Crispus Attucks Day officially observed in New Jersey. It is believed that this legislation will be drawn and introduced by Assemblyman Curtis, who will meet with the Crispus Attucks committee, headed by Mrs. Ella B. Brown of Jersey City next week.

Mrs. Lucille Tryon, State chairman of education, presented plans for creation of the Armita Doig Isaa Scholarship Award fund for $100 annual awards to the member of the Junior Federation who meets the requirements.

Plan Convention

Appointed to represent the Federation on the newly-created Women's Advisory Council to the State Division Against Discrimination were: Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas of Jersey City, chairman of interracial relations; Mrs. Delia Martin of East Orange, chairman of business and employment; Mrs. Omega V. Mason of Salem, chairman of the executive board, and the president, an ex-officio member.

Entertainment of the biennial convention of the National Association of Colored Women was discussed and the president appointed Mrs. Omega V. Mason to serve as assistant to the national chairman to be aided by a State committee. The convention will be held in Atlantic City.

Mrs. J. Leon Harris of Asbury Park, welfare chairman, was appointed to serve on the new Welfare Council Committee studying needed increase in public assistance grants.

Coroner's Office Gets New Physician

Dr. Cornelius G. Wooding (second from right), first colored physician appointed to the Philadelphia Coroner's office, takes oath, Monday morning, in a ceremony at the City Morgue. Others shown are, left to right: Matthew A. R oth, chief deputy coroner; Dr. John Allan Bertolet, coroner; and Dr. Benjamin Gooley, chief medical examiner.

Unique Africana Exhibit Given by Aide to Liberia

WASHINGTON

Wesley B. Speller of 768 Fairmont St., N.W., recently gave a one-man exhibition of his collection of African furs, jewelry and other souvenirs, which was viewed by some 100 persons comprising not only Washington residents but also out-of-town curio connoisseurs.

The souvenir collector, who spent some three years in Africa, gave his exhibit in his fashionable Fairmont St. home, at the request of local officers of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Varied Collection

Included in his collection are: The Goddess of Virtue statuette, chaser, monkey, leopard and snake skins, French African cloth, pair elephant tusks, Liberian chief's robe, Moroccan leather bag, snakeskin pocketbook, black monkey rug, Dakar table mat, black gum cane.

Humidor, ivory paper cutters, pair black gum busts, boa over stricter skin, witch doctor mask, Dunker (West African) skin, pamphlet on Liberia, jewelry and a pipe holder.

Washington School Teacher

Mr. Speller left the United States in 1945 for Liberia, where he spent three years as an instructive maintenance superintendent with the U. S. Public Health Service.

He was on loan to the State Department from the District public school system. (Mr. Speller is a machine shop instructor at Armstrong High School.)

During the three years he was overseas, most of the time in Liberia, Mr. Speller met an old friend, Thomas Johnson, U. S. Army, a former hunting companion in this country, with whom he went on hunting expeditions in Africa.

Hunting Sparked Hobby

The hunting of game in a strange country inspired the beginning of Mr. Speller's large collection of African furs and other skins.

"It was my interest in artistically designed articles that caused me to add to the collection earrings, bracelets and other bejewelry," Mr. Speller explained.

The teacher, a native Washingtonian, is a graduate of Howard University. His wife is the former Miss Lucy Stewart.

Mr. Speller recommended Liberia as a country with unlimited possibilities for colored youths with technical training.

Rally for Sextet Opposed by Group

TRENTON — Clifford R. Moore, secretary of the legislative committee and legal redress committee of the New Jersey State Conference of NAACP, said Tuesday that one of 16 volumes covering the trial of six men in the Horner murder case had been sent to the national office of NAACP for study.

He said any additional help in seeking justice in the Horner murder case, in which a number of flagrant errors in the trial were detected, was welcomed.

However, the legislative and legal redress committees were arranging rallies being held at this time for the six prisoners, because they caused hysteria which would have no weight on the Supreme Court decision.

BARY SHOT ACCIDENTALLY

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (ANP) — A 15-month-old baby, Donald Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. Abygia Jones, was accidentally shot in the chest last week. The child was struck by a bullet from an automatic pistol owned by a roomer in the Jones home. Ilson White, as he showed it to friends.

Bureau Director Heads Mu-So-Lits

Club Plans Forum on Foreign Affairs

WASHINGTON

Leslie Perry, attorney and director for the Washington NAACP Bureau recently was elected president of the Mu-so-lit Club succeeding Perry W. Howard, former special assistant U. S. Attorney General.

Other officers elected at the annual election were J. B. Duncan, first vice president; Aaron Russell, second vice-president; J. Flipper Dorrinette, secretary-treasurer and Frank E. Davis, assistant secretary.

Mr. Perry announced that the club was planning a series of Wednesday night forums dealing with foreign affairs in addition to its annual Lincoln-Douglass banquet on Feb. 12.

The first of the forums on the subject, "The Current Situation in Korea," will find Harry McAlpin, former NNPA White Correspondent, who spent two years in Korea in the office of civil information in the Department of Army.

Mexico 2nd to be Discussed

On Feb. 9, the subject, "Ethnic Relation's in Mexico and Guatemala," will be handled by Dr. Mark Hanna Watkins, professor of Anthropology, Howard University.

Dr. Mercer Cook, an authority on the Republic of Haiti, and professor of Romance Languages at Howard U., will discuss "Haiti" on Feb. 16.

William Steen, former director of information for the Ethiopian government, will speak on "Ethiopia Since Liberation" on Feb. 23.

According to Mr. Perry, if the forums prove successful from the attendance standpoint, they will be continued.

Councilman to Address Elk Cap and Gown Club

RICHMOND

Oliver W. Hill, city councilman, will be principal speaker during anniversary and installation services of the Cap and Gown Club of Queen Esther Temple of Elks, Sunday, at 6 p.m. in Williams Lodge house.

The Cap and Gown Club is an affiliate of the education department of the Elks and aids in raising funds for scholarships presented annually to worthy students. Dtr. Edna Lourides is organizer. Dtr. Dora Walker, president, and Dtr. Sweetie Dawson, secretary.

Brinkley Freed in Murder Case

Charged With Killing His Brother-in-Law DEFENDED SISTER

Beat Irked Relative With Rolling Pin

PHILADELPHIA

Deliberating less than three hours, Tuesday, a Quarter Sessions Court jury of six men and six women found Joseph E. Brinkley Sr. of 1822 W. Berks St., 38-year-old public school teacher, not guilty in the fatal beating of his brother-in-law.

Brinkley, member of the faculty of Douglass Junior High School, Zane and Norris Sts., was accused of fatally beating his sister's husband, Eli McCrimmon, with a rolling pin outside the couple's home, 1228 N. Alden St., last Oct. 23.

McCrimmon, a waiter, died in Mercy-Douglass Hospital less than 24 hours after he was freed on bail on charges filed by his wife, Althea, for an alleged criminal assault on his stepdaughter, Sandra, 14.

Threats to Sister Told

It was testified that Brinkley and McCrimmon grappled when the latter returned home and threatened to attack his wife if she refused to drop the morals charge against him.

Held in $5,000 bail, after his brother-in-law's death, Brinkley, a teacher for six years, was indicted on both murder and manslaughter charges.

Alexander Wins Case

Assistant District Attorney John F. Kane asked a verdict of "at least voluntary manslaughter" ending the trial, before Judge Eugene V. Alessandroni.

An impassioned plea for acquittal was made by Raymond Pace Alexander, defense counsel, at the close of Monday's session, in Room 646, City Hall. The jury was charged when the trial was resumed Tuesday morning.

Stayed at Sister's Request

Brinkley, who spent nearly an hour on the stand, gave testimony which was substantially the same as that of the chief Commonwealth witnesses, who were his sister and her two children.

He said that he had learned of the habeas corpus proceedings on the day that McCrimmon was admitted to bail. He said that he found Mrs. McCrimmon "highly agitated" when he went to her home that evening to have dinner with her.

Mrs. McCrimmon, Brinkley said, told him that on the first trip, her husband came into the house, got some of his belongings, struck her twice and then left. She said she pressed the criminal assault case against him.

On the second trip, Brinkley said he was in the kitchen when he heard a knock on the window.

About five minutes after he reached the McCrimmon home, Brinkley testified, the husband began banging on the front door. He said he went to the door and asked him to leave. McCrimmon, he said, waved profane and threatened to kill everyone in the house.

The defendant, who said he had been warned by his sister that her husband might be armed with a gun, said he was trying to secure the lock on the door when the door flew open in his face. McCrimmon, he charged, tore upon him swinging.

Attacked Him, Witness Says

Brinkley testified that McCrimmon's attack by swinging at him with a rolling pin, which he said had been given to him by his neice. McCrimmon, the teacher said, dodged the blow and the weapon flew from Brinkley's hand.

Brinkley, a 140-pounder, said he then hit the 208-pound McCrimmon with a shoulder-block and sent him staggering across the porch. Following up this advantage, Brinkley said he grabbed the bigger man and tried to subdue him.

Fatal Fight Describe

During the ensuing struggle, the two men, according to Brinkley, rolled down the steps onto the pavement. There, the defendant said, McCrimmon reached for the rolling pin. Brinkley said he got to the weapon first and used it to pummel his adversary into submission.

Police who responded to neighbors' telephone calls said McCrimmon was still breathing when they arrived on the scene. They said the rolling pin, stained with blood, was found lying in the street.

Disclaimed Malice

Questioned by Alexander, Brinkley said the only thought that crossed his mind as he and McCrimmon struggled was that he was not himself in "a situation from which there was no retreat."

Cross-examined by Kane as to his feelings toward the dead man before they began fighting, he said that he had no feelings of "revenge" towards him.

He said the report of McCrimmon's conduct with his stepdaughter had only "dumaged" and "disgusted" him.

ANOTHER BARRIER SMASHED:

Dr. Wooding Sworn In as Coroner's Physician

PHILADELPHIA

The first colored physician ever appointed to the Coroner's office was sworn in Monday morning, when Dr. Cornelius G. Wooding, 57, of 1531 Christian St., took the oath from Matthew A. Roth, chief deputy coroner.

The ceremony was witnessed by Dr. John Allan Bertolet, Coroner, and Dr. Benjamin Gooley, chief coroner's physician.

The appointment was made on the recommendation of William F. Meade, chairman of the Republican City Committee, and William A. Upshur Jr., Republican leader of the 30th Ward.

Opposition Over Ruled

It was learned that there was considerable opposition to Dr. Wooding's appointment in the $4,142-a-year post by certain white physicians, but Meade put his foot down and said he was standing behind Upshur's recommendation.

A graduate of Lincoln University and Temple Medical School, Dr. Wooding served his internship at the Douglass Hospital (now a part of Mercy-Douglass) and has been practicing in Philadelphia for 24 years.

He served as pathologist at the Douglass Hospital until the merger, then became co-pathologist for the Mercy-Douglass Hospital. He is also on the staff of the American Oncological Society.

Specialist in Pathology

He has done post-graduate work in pathology (post mortems) at Mount Sinai Hospital and the New York Post Graduate School, under the auspices of Columbia University; at the Sprague Memorial Pathological Institute of Chicago University, and at the Massachusetts General Hospital, under the auspices of Harvard University.

He also studied as a private student of Dr. Pierre Nasson at Montreal University; and as a student of the late Dr. Joseph MacFarland.

His wife, a graduate nurse who worked in the Department of Health for several years, is taking a post graduate course at Mount Sinai Hospital. They have no children.

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Back plasters are the one product made for 3-way relief of painful, muscular backache:
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Tests by doctors show that Johnson's BACK PLASTER helps nearly 9 out of 10 sufferers. It's made by Johnson & Johnson—known for fine products for 61 years. At all drug stores.

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To gently cleanse broken out skin, then soothe itchy irritation, and promote healing use
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CREOMULSION for Coughs, Chest Colds, Bronchitis

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FEEN-A-MINT tastes like delicious, mint flavored chewing gum. And you chew it like gum. And scientists say chewing makes FEEN-A-MINT's fine medicine more effective—"readies" it so it flows gently and gradually into the system.
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