Move launched to oust La.'s Leander Perez

NEW ORLEANS — (NPI) — The first official step toward relieving stormy and racially prejudiced Judge Leander Perez from office as head of the Parish (County) Commission council in Plaquemine parish — just below New Orleans toward the mouth of the Mississippi —began last week when the group endorsed the youngest son of the political boss for the post.

Perez has been the most outspoken and most bitter opponent of the Negro in the state of Louisiana. In a section where the racial identity of most of the people is always subject to controversy, Perez has insisted upon complete segregation and discrimination against the Negro.

So tight has been this discrimination that, in some sections, there have been separate schools for whites, for colored and for mulattos — three systems.

Perez has been excommunicated by the Catholic church for some of his racial utterances against the church due to racial attitude, and comment is divided as to whether the young Perez will continue in the 19th Century steps of his powerful father or select the modern viewpoint of present days in racial affairs.

Against crime bill

WASHINGTON (NPI) — Opposition to the D.C. crime bill recently reported out by the House District committee has been registered by the Washington Bar association because of its "faults."

Among these said association chairman Alexander L. Benton are the provision "taking away a basic constitutional right of an arrested person by not requiring he be taken without delay before a judicial officer;" and the detention of any persons by a police officer who believes such person is committing or has commited a crime.

HAPPY WINNERS — These alert people were among the Lucky Coin winners, when the AFRO's Money Man went about the city Saturday afternoon. Get and check yur AFRO Lucky Coin now. You, too, may soon be a winner. The AFRO's Money Man is out every Wednesday and Saturday looking for Lucky Coin holders. These winners, left to right, are: Mrs. Lovellen Brown, 1019 N. Wolfe St., Mrs. Mary Stewart, 200 N. Aisquith St.; Milton Mathews, 219 N. Wolfe St.; Mrs. Evelyn Wooden, 200 N. Aisquith St., and Mrs. Barbara Jones, 200 N. Aisquith St.

THE MONEY MAN visited these lucky AFRO readers on his first trip out on Wednesday, July 12. They are: Mrs. Thomasine Mitchell, winner of $5, (shown with Robert Rea of the AFRO); Mrs. Martha Lewis, $6 winner, Thomas Kiah, $1 winner, and Mrs. Martha Lewis, another $6 winner.

37 inmates burned to death in Florida prison barracks

BERRYDALE, Fla. (UPI) — Brawling black and white convicts touched off a fire in a prison camp barracks in a remote section of the Florida panhandle Sunday night and 37 inmates died in "tree-top high" flames.

"It started in a flash. The worst such disaster in Florida history.

"The whole building was on fire almost momentarily," said State Prison Director Louie Wainwright, who called it the Only eight of the 51 prisoners in the white, frame building escaped unharmed. Six other inmates were hospitalized with severe burns.

There were conflicting reports over whether the door of the barracks was opened immediately after the fire broke out shortly after 9 p.m. CDT.

* * *

WAINWRIGHT SAID since it was integrated and that black and white convicts fought Sunday night for the second time within a week.

Rowells said the brawl broke a gas fixture and a smashed flourescent light ignited the leaking gas.

Santa Rosa Deputy Jesse Cobb said "it was just like a horse race when they tried to get out." But he said more prisoners would have survived "if they hadn't panicked."

PASCO ROWELLS, a road gang foreman, said there had been trouble at the camp weeks ago.

Marriages

ATTENTION ALL AFRO READERS

James Bond on probation

James Bond is known for his cool, suave manner.

But Municipal Court Judge Edgar Silver in a Central District case, Sunday, put Bond on probation for six months for creating a disturbance at the Crystal Ballroom Saturday night.

This James Bond, 17, of the 3900 block Woodridge St., didn't act like James Bond — the movie personality. "He's a gentleman," the judge said.

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STUDIOUS STEVE—Stevie Wonder, child prodigy turned adult star, gets hand with his homework from Rita Ross, sister of Diana Ross, lead singer of the Supremes. The 17-year-old singer will be graduated with honors from Michigan State School for the Blind in January. He plans to attend University of Southern California to study composing and arranging.

Pretty newcomer to films girl with 2 first names

HOLLYWOOD — Meet Janee Michelle, an actress with two first names and somewhat of a problem.

"Nobody pronounces my first name correctly," bemoans the pretty young newcomer to Hollywood's celluloid scene, who has her most important film role to date in Sam Katzman's "The Love-ins."

"Frankly, I was about to change it when I realized that people always remembered me even if they couldn't pronounce my name. It was because they couldn't pronounce it that they remembered me, I think."

Confusing? Not to Janee (pronounced Ja-Nay).

* * *

"YOU SEE, two years ago when I got my first professional part in a film, my name was still Geneva Mercadel," points out the New Orleans-born beauty. "Neither the studio nor my agent thought this would do very much for me on a theatre marquee."

So Jahee and her agent got their heads together for a new name. It was Janee who came up with the new moniker.

* * *

"I JUST played around with the first two syllables in Geneva and 'zap' I had my first name," she recalls. "The last name was easy. I had always liked the name Michelle and I thought it would be unique to have a name with two first names."

Since then Janee's career has blossomed and so has her "problem." She has several TV shows to her credit as well as three feature motion pictures including "Clarence The Cross-Eyed Lion" and the soon-to-be-Columbia release, "The Love-Ins," in which she has the third feminine lead opposite Ronnie Eckstein, son of famed entertainer, Billy Eckstein.

* * *

"I PLAY A hippie in the film," says Janee, "which is about the group that inhabits the Haight-Ashbury district of San Francisco. It's a far out film but not as far out as making the picture itself.

"Producer Katzman imported some 75 hippies from San Francisco to play themselves in the film. That was an experience working with them. The bathtub never looked so good when I got home each night."

Janee, who besides being an actress is an accomplished dancer, got the part of Lamelle in "The Love-Ins", by, of all things, going to church.

* * *

A CASTING director saw Janee do a dramatic interpretation of one of James Weldon Johnson's sermons at the Christ Chapel of Divine Science in Los Angeles, where her mother is the minister.

"He called the church the next day to find out the whereabouts of a 'Janey Michaels'," remembers Janee. "My mother squared him away as to the right name, had him call my agent, and the part happened.

"My agent is now hip to all of my names", laughs Janee. "Whenever she gets a call for anything close to my name, I go.

"As they say, I don't care what they say about me, as long as they say 'Janee Michelle' —or something similar."

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Gordon's Gin

Sidney Poitier rights speaker

ATLANTA — Sidney Poitier, the first colored artist to win the Academy Award for best actor and an active supporter of civil rights, will be the principal speaker at a banquet Aug. 14 at the Regency-Hyatt House opening a four day meeting of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Theme of convention is "Where Do We Go From Here?"

* * *

CITYWIDE mass rallies will be staged at night and daytime workshops are planned on economic, political, social, civil rights, governmental and international

Entertainment

Shown as Lena's hubby, he sues mag and wins

LONDON — David Nathan, a critic for a London daily, has been awarded damages and costs in the High Court because he was pictured by the magazine Weekend talking to Lena Horne.

The caption erroneously identified him as Lennie Hayton, Miss Horne's husband.

The mag carried an article about friendships and marriages between show biz personalities of different races. It cover line was, "Color Blind Couples," and its inside headline was, "Love Makes the World Go Color Blind."

NATHAN, who was joined by his wife in the suit for libel, conceded that the photograph of himself and Miss Horne, taken when he was interviewing her, had been supplied to the mag as a picture of Miss Horne and her husband.

His suit charged, however that fact in no way diminished the embarrassment suffered by both of them.

The Nathans suit against Associated Newspapers, publishers of the mag, was settled by an apology in open court, plus damages and costs.

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) — A ticket for driving too slowly? That's right, says the California State Automobile Association. Motorists who drive at less than the normal speed but stay in fast freeway lanes are getting cited — and paying an $18 fine.

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