

# Witnesses Arrive for Guilds Lake Murder Investigation

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### Erwin Jones' Inquest Scheduled For Tuesday

SCOTT THOMAS, KEY-WITNESS, ESCAPEE FROM COUNTY JAIL, STILL AT LARGE

The coroner's inquest into the killing on August 21st of Erwin Jones in his home in Guilds Lake will be open to the public. This was announced the first of the week by Rev. George W. Brown also of Guilds Lake who heads a committee that has demanded the inquest be held. Dr. Earl Smith, county coroner, stated that the hearing will be held in the courtroom of Judge Crawford in the County Courthouse at S. W. 4th and Salmon street at 9:30 a. m. on Tuesday, October 9th.

Mrs. Erwin Jones, widow of the victim returned to Portland on Tuesday of this week to be present and testify at the hearing. Accompanying Mrs. Jones were two of her sisters who are eye-witnesses of the tragic affair. They were returned here through the efforts of the committee headed by Rev. George Brown who raised the funds necessary to bring them back to Portland. The District Attorney, Thomas B. Handley paid the expense of bringing one of the witnesses back from Louisiana after requests to have the state pay all of the expenses had been denied.

Jones was killed by Detective Bard Purcell while the police officer was hunting for Scott Thomas who had killed a woman. According to the detective, he was informed that Thomas had gone to the home of Jones. Purcell, in the company of two other detectives went to the Jones home, Purcell going to the rear while the other two policemen went to the front door. Jones, allegedly fired at the two detectives at the front door when they knocked and asked for admittance. Purcell then broke a rear window and shot Jones in the back killing him almost instantly. Witnesses say that the police officers did not identify themselves but merely demanded admittance to Jones' home. It has also been stated that Jones did not know Scott Thomas and that Thomas had never been in the Jones home.

Thomas was one of seventeen prisoners to escape recently from the county jail and the only one that HAS NOT BEEN CAUGHT. A key witness in the forthcoming inquest, there has been some speculation as to what bearing his disappearance will have on the outcome of the inquest. Police report no clue as to his whereabouts.

A decision by the company insuring the life of Jones NOT to pay the insurance claim followed a "justifiable homicide" exoneration of the detective by his superior officer Captain James Fleming of the City Police Bureau. This order was later rescinded through the efforts of Rev. Brown who is pastor of the Community Church at Guilds Lake. Through his efforts several community and civic organizations began to take an interest in the case. Irwin Goodman, a member of the law firm of Goodman and Levinson, offers his services to Rev. Brown and the committee that had formed. Mr. Goodman will represent the family of the victim at the inquest.

### Ask Congress to Set Aside Day Honoring Carver

WASHINGTON (ANP)—Sen. Myers, Democrat, Pennsylvania, said last week he introduced a resolution designating January 5 of each year as George Washington Carver day. He said the noted scientist should be honored for his "notable contributions to agriculture."

He pointed out that although Dr. Carver was born of slave parents, he rose to great heights in the scientific world. The Negro people, together with others, "may well be proud of George Washington Carver," he said.

### ANOTHER "FIRST"



Announcer Mr. Excell (Bass) Harris, Portland's first Negro Radio M. C., who has his own show, the "Bronze Community Hour" on Station KWJJ every night from midnight to 1 A. M. —Photo by Margaret C. Robinson.

### Local Negro Gets M.C. Job on Station KWJJ

Mr. (Bass) Excell Harris, who is heard nightly over radio station KWJJ, has the distinction of being the first Negro announcer in the state of Oregon.

From Monday through Saturday Mr. Harris produces and announces his own program from 12 to 1 A. M. It's object is to increase better race relations and provide musical entertainment.

Bass is the son of the late Rev. D. L. Harris, builder of the first C. M. E. church in Los Angeles, Calif. He attended Texas college in Taylor, Texas. Later the family was transferred to California and then and there Bass took to the stage.

First appearance was with a concert group known as the West-Jubilee Singers. A short time later he began to organize his own groups namely, The Big Four Quartette, The Golden West Four and the best of the group, The Exposition Jubilee Four. They played the top spots including the Palace in New York City. For awhile he toured with the New York Syncopated orchestra thru-out Europe.

1935 was the big year because it marks the beginning of his radio career. He produced the first commercial program over station WAAB (mutual) in Boston, Mass. Now that he is in Portland, he is proving to be very popular with his "Bronze Community Hour" program.

Wednesday night Mr. Harris interviewed Mrs. Margaret Robinson, photographer for the Portland Inquirer and also Mr. Ralph H. Faulk, managing editor of The Portland Inquirer, who were unexpected visitors at his broadcast.

### Vancouver Sun Employee Slugged And Robbed Wednesday

Mr. Kelly Stroud, an employee of the circulation department of the Vancouver Sun newspaper, was hit over the head with a gun or heavy instrument and knocked unconscious Wednesday in Bagley Downs. He was robbed of about \$80.

### Attempt to Force Negro to Do Domestic Work

ATLANTA (ANP)—Following up numerous complaints filed with the Atlanta Urban League's Industrial and Labor division by Negro workers relative to the denial of unemployment compensation benefits and other discriminatory practices charged to the claims section of the USES, a citizens committee last week launched an investigation.

The committee, headed by W. E. Inman, head of the Urban League's industrial and labor division, conferred with Bon T. Hulet, commissioner of the department of labor of Georgia, employment security agency, at state capital relative to the complaints. They informed Hulet that Negroes were not being given fair consideration in regards to unemployment benefits and that on several occasions they had been treated discourteously in the USES claims office.

A number of Negro women had revealed that the claims section seemed determined to force Negro women into domestic services at weekly salaries from \$5 to \$9 per week. A number of the jobless women had been released recently from employment at the Bell Aircraft plant at Marietta where they aided in making B-29s in the victorious war on Japan. Offered jobs as domestics, the women said they refused because of their training and experience in higher skills. They filed claims for unemployment compensation, but had not received any money after several weeks of unemployment, and contended that the claims section officials are making every effort possible to push Negroes into domestic and common labor jobs. The officials become indignant when told higher skilled jobs are sought, according to reports.

Labor Commissioner Hulet told the citizens committee that the policy of his department was to see that all applicants were treated with due courtesy and were being given benefits entitled under law. He did say, however, that persons who flatly refuse to accept jobs and training were not entitled to benefits under the law. He promised to correct cases of discrimination and discourtesy brought to his attention. The committee also asked Commissioner Hulet for a fair share of jobs in the administration of the unemployment law. The commissioner was non-committal on the question, however.

### Detroit May Elect Rev. Hill to City Council

By Robert Crump

DETROIT (ANP)—To many political minded people here the time seems to be now or never when speaking of the possibilities of electing the Rev. Charles T. Hill to the common council at the next election, come November. While it has always been a difficult task to elect a Negro to that august body because councilmen here are elected at large instead of through the ward system as is the case in many cities, it is the consensus of political opinion that Rev. Hill stands an excellent chance of being elected.

The reasons given by those in the know is not alone that Mr. Hill is one of the most able men ever to be nominated for public office here with almost the entire Negro voting public behind him, but that he has the endorsement, financial backing and moral support of the UAW-CIO through its Political Action committee and Richard T. Frankenstein, an out and out labor candidate for mayor of the city. Frankenstein, a man of splendid educational, cultural and musical attainment, is one of the vice presidents of the UAW (CIO).

## School Strike Spreads to Chicago



CHICAGO.—Dr. A. J. Offord and co-workers praised by Chicago's Mayor Kelly as final summer park district musical "Search for Talent" concerts closed. The programs were presented weepily with more than three hundred participants. Top 1 to 7. William H. Jones, James H. Barr, director. Robert McKenzie, Shiloh S.D.A. Choral Society, Talman Thomas, Shining Light Harmonic Choir; Arthur S. Loan, Monumental Baptist Goodwill Spiritual Choir. Garner Kendrick, Christ Temple Youth Chorus, James T. Campbell, Harzell Methodist Church Chorus. Middle row: Dr. A. J. Offord, general chairman, director. Monumental Baptist Church Glee Club; Oscar Wycliff Harman, Attorney for the Association; Max

### Small Number Zoot Suiters Stir Trouble

Separate Buildings Demanded For White and Negro Students

CHICAGO (ANP)—White high school students of the local high schools followed the pattern of Gary's youthful anti-Negro strikers last week by demanding separate school buildings for white and Negro students.

Taking the lead of students of Froebel High school in Gary, Ind., white students of Morgan Park high school signed a petition demanding that the local board of education erect separate schools for students of the two races after refusing to continue their strike by the eloquence of the Rev. Glenn Harding, white, assistant minister of the Morgan Park Methodist church.

Talking to the students bare-headed in the rain, he said: "our older brothers were fighting overseas against just this sort of thing. If you go ahead with this kind of strike, remember you are striking against the constitution of the United States."

A group of 150 Englewood high school students, led by Carl Giarracino, told George Cassell, assistant superintendent of local high schools, their trouble. Cassell advised them to take up the matter with their aldermen through their parents. After the meeting, Giarracino said the student strikers "won't go back to school until conditions are settled, or until we hear what the school board is going to do about it."

Meanwhile, the school situation assumed sufficient magnitude to attract the attention of Mayor Edward J. Kelly and members of his Mayor's Committee on Race Relations. Kelly expressed an intention of getting at the bottom of the anti-Negro strikes.

An infection "The situation in Gary schools has been an unfortunate source of infection," declared Edwin R. Embree, chairman of the mayor's committee. "The school children of Chicago have gone to school together for a long time. They will continue to do so. Chicago will stand squarely for democracy and against any hegregation in its public schools."

"Parents and students should see to it that there is no brouhaha in school attendance. This is the time for calm and deliberate spirit among our people dedicated to democracy without compromise."

Legal action against approximately 850 strikers has been ordered by the Gary Board of Education. Richard Nuzum, principal of Froebel, has been ordered to expel all students 15 years old and older and to bring legal action against the parents. He reported that 600 white students and 850 Negro students are in attendance at the school.

Joe Smith, 17-year-old zoot suitor, and Dan Casko, 18, were identified as the student strike leaders in Gary. Morgan Park strike leaders were identified as Roland Tozer and Charles (ex) Bowman, who recently came here from Beaumont, Tex.

### Woman Slashed, Vanporter Held

James A. Perkins, 31, Negro, East Vanport City, was held Tuesday in the county jail on a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon. According to the complaint, issued by Deputy District Attorney Charles E. Raymond, Perkins slashed the throat of Hattie Jamieson, Negro woman, with a pocket knife.

Officers said Perkins admitted he quarreled with the woman as they left together for work early Tuesday and, while waiting for a bus at N. Denver and Union avenues, pulled out his knife and cut her throat. She was removed to Vanport City hospital. Her condition was reported as fair.

### Investigate Rape Death of High School Girl

CONWAY, S. C. (ANP)—An investigation into the rape and murder of a 17-year-old high school girl on Pine Island two weeks ago is being made by local police and organizations, it was reported on Monday.

The girl's body was discovered late one afternoon after she had failed to return home from making a purchase at a store some distance from her home. Violated and with much of her clothing torn away, her head had been submerged in a water-filled depression. County officers have failed to act on numerous accounts which connect a white insurance with the incident and last week, jailed the girl's father and uncle for a reason yet not disclosed. It is felt the two men jailed either to intimidate them into remaining quiet on demands for the agent's arrest or, because they have vowed to take their own revenge out on the man if the county doesn't act.

### Anti-Discrimination Law Feared; Insurance Firm to Hire 5 Negroes

NEW YORK (ANP)—Fear of the Ives Quinn Anti-Discrimination law caused the Metropolitan Life Insurance company to employ five Negro white collar workers in its main offices, said C. W. Taylor, vice president, last week.

According to Taylor, the new employees include four women clerks and one man, who is engaged in a special assignment in the personnel division. Metropolitan Life, frequently criticized for its discrimination against Negro workers, is said to be the largest insurer of Negroes in America.

The new hiring policy, the vice president admitted, was motivated by the existence of the Ives-Quinn Anti-Discrimination law, which forbids employment discrimination against workers because of race, color, creed, color or national origin.

Previous to the hiring of the five white collar workers, the names of hundreds of Negro high school graduates were sent to the company for consideration after the extension of an invitation to high school graduates to work for Metropolitan Life.

### SEND GENERAL E. M. ALMOND TO TEXAS

CAMP SWIFT, Tex. (ANP)—Maj. Gen. E. M. Almond, former commanding general of the 92nd Division, has returned to the states and been reassigned to command of the veteran second infantry division, here. With the end of the war the division is engaged in discharging highpoint men through separation facilities already in operation.

### 761st Tankers En Route Home

By Trezvan W. Anderson  
WITH THE 761st TANK BATTALION IN EUROPE (ANP)—With 33 veteran tankers of the crack 761st Tank battalion having already gone on the high seas en route home, another group of 137 high-pointers from the first Negro-composed armored unit to ever enter combat under the American flag, is now on the high seas en route to America and discharge.

The first group of 33 left after transfer to the homeward-bound 163rd Chemical company. The larger group is in the assembly area with the 548th Engineer Light Pontoon company, one of the only two such Negro units in the ETO during the war. There are five officers who also are coming home with the 548th from the 761st. Three were company commanders, and the other two were veteran frontline tank platoon commanders who had been in the thick of the fighting ever since the initial battle engagements with the enemy when the 761st jumped off last November against the crack German 11th Panzer division in the "Saar" basin with the 26th "Yankee" Infantry division.

The company commanders are Capt. Irvin McHenry, Leavenworth, Kans., Richard W. English, New Orleans, and James T. Baker, of Indianapolis.

The veteran platoon commanders, both ex-cavalrymen, are 1st Lt. Thomas E. Bruce, of Fort Scott, Kan., and Harold B. Gary, of Abilene, Kan.

Having faced a change to occupational troops, the 761st is reorganizing while assuming its role in the military policing of Hitler's so-called "Bavarian Redoubt," as high-pointers and men between 35 and 38 years old are being prepared for discharge to be replaced by men with low points from other units.

### Birmingham Gets \$10,000 Quota for Negro College

BIRMINGHAM (ANP)—Citizens here rallied to the cause of the United Negro college fund drive by raising \$10,000 to meet its quota. A total of \$1,550,000 will be raised this year throughout the nation to divide among 32 Negro colleges. Only \$3,000 of the \$10,000 quota had been raised up to Sept. 7, when Cooper Green, president of the local commission of the UNCF fund drive, appealed to all unions and organizations to boost the drive to meet the quota. Citizens of Atlanta exceeded their \$15,000 quota within a short period after the drive was launched there.

Ed's Note—Oregon donated nothing.

### S. C. Cops Beat, Jail Man, Charges Are Framed

HEMINGWAY, S. C. (ANP)—How Police Chief Walter Britton and a special deputy named Morris beat into insensibility Isaiah Wright, section hand on the Seaboard Railroad company, Monday night and then threw his blood-drenched body in jail without charges was told to a citizens' meeting here Sunday afternoon.

A special committee providing assistance for the young man said it had the statements from eye-witnesses to the beating and Wright, transferred to the county jail at Kingstreet, whom they interviewed Thursday.

Wright was returning home from a carnival the night of the incident. Morris is said to have walked up, grabbed him and said "you're under arrest." Wright is quoted as saying, "Yes sir, but what am I being arrested for?"

Told to "keep your damn mouth shut" but asking again to know why he was being arrested, Wright was set upon by Morris who told him, "No nigger's got any business questioning a white man."

After being struck several times, Wright turned to defend himself. Chief Britton, arriving simultaneously at the scene, joined in the beating, prostrating Wright to the ground where both men beat and kicked him until he lay helpless. His bloody body was thrown in the local jail, where he remained two days without medical attention, after which he was transferred to Kingstreet. The committee reported that a white patient at Kingstreet, sympathetic to the man's treatment, had interviewed him later secured medical attention.

Efforts to learn why Wright was being arrested have proved futile. Sheriff Williams Lambuth of the county (Williamsburgh) doesn't know why but Friday, the committee said, Britton and Morris had charged the man with resisting arrest, although no warrant has been drawn authorizing his detention.

### OVERCHARGES BRING LAW SUIT

The OPA last week sued the Tarola Motor Car Company, Portland, for \$949.80, three times alleged overcharges on sale of a 1941 Chevrolet Master DeLuxe 5-passenger coupe at \$316.60 above the ceiling price. The firm had sold the car for \$1,200 which exceeded even the "warranty" rate, and failed to give the purchaser a written guarantee. The OPA regulations provide that dealers who have received OPA authorization may sell cars at the warranty rate and add \$100 or 25 per cent of the base price, whichever is greater, but they must give purchasers a written guarantee.

### LT. ROBERT DEIZ RELATES HERE



LT. ROBERT DEIZ

Portland's own No. 1 hero, Lt. Robert Deiz, is here visiting a few days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Deiz and brother, Carl.

Lt. Deiz will be remembered as the ace of the 99th Pursuit Squadron who led them on 93 missions and is credited with bagging a number of enemy planes. He was also chosen by the War Department to have his portrait painted for the War Bond Poster that received nationwide circulation.

Deiz is stationed at Tuskegee Air Base where he is an instructor. He will return Sunday after stopping in Los Angeles and Mexico.

Ex-Lt. Carl Deiz was recently discharged from the Army Air Corp., and he was also stationed at Tuskegee. He is now residing with his parents and attending Portland University.

Also visiting in the Deiz home is Lt. Ruth Faulkner of the Army Nurse Corp. Lt. Faulkner is the head nurse at the station hospital in Tuskegee.

### S. C. Mayor Criticized for Affront to Negroes

COLUMBIA, S. C.—(ANP)—Mayor Fred D. Marshall of Columbia is the target for bitter criticism, it was disclosed this week.

The criticism is being made by leaders of the Progressive Democratic party which is host to the National Council of Negro Democrats meeting here October 15-16.

Marshall, as mayor of the city, rejected an invitation to welcome the council at the Monday night session without a reason. Other sources, however, report the refusal was based solely on a racial issue.

John McCray, state chairman of the Progressive Democrats, said Monday that learning of the mayor's attitude, several other city officials have volunteered to appear in the welcoming spot.