

Grand Jury Investigating Guilds Lake Murder of Erwin Jones

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Break Ground for Meharry Alumni Hall; \$100,000 Mark Passed on Contributions



Photo by Associated Negro Press Staff Photographer

Nashville alumni and former students of Meharry Medical college, Nashville, are in the midst of a nationwide drive to raise funds for the erection and equipment of Alumni hall, ground for which was recently broken in ceremonies on the campus. The photographs show groups and activities identified with the event. Picture No. 1 shows the dental class of 1920 which won the competition of graduating classes for honors in the building campaign. Left to right, front row, are: Dr. E. A. Goodlee, E. Chicago, Ind.; Dr. R. B. Taylor, Okmulgee, Okla.; Dr. C. O. Henry, Tyler, Tex.; Dr. T. M. Johnson, Shreveport, La.; Dr. C. E. Bomar, Orange, N. J.; Dr. W. R. Henry, Philadelphia and Dr. J. P. Gipson, Fulton, Mo.

Second row: Dr. M. E. Dysart, Leavenworth, Kan.; E. A. Young, Joplin, Mo.; Dr. Henry Goss, Chicago; Dr. D. K. Jenkins, Columbia, S. C.; Dr. P. A. Ervin, Tampa, Fla.; Dr. W. P. Dowell, Birmingham, Dr. J. C. Cashin, Huntsville, Ala.

Third row: Dr. L. A. Hayward, Chicago; Dr. B. H. Atkinson, Griffin, Ga.; Dr. J. O. Young, Chattanooga; Dr. E. M. Gilmer, Bessemer, Ala.; Dr. S. F. Riley, Philadelphia; Dr. B. D. Donatto, Opelousas, La.; Dr. J. C. White, Anniston, Ala.

Shown in picture No. 2 are principals in the ground breaking ceremonies for Alumni hall to be erected in 1946. Left to right: Dr. M. Don Clawson, president Moharry; Dr. D. T. Rolfe, executive secretary, alumni association and Dr. J. W. Anderson, president, alumni.

In No. 3 are members of the alumni association who brought their wives to the 69th annual commencement. Left to right, front row: Dr. and Mrs. W. R. Henry, Philadelphia; Dr. and Mrs. T. M. Johnson, Shreveport, La.; Dr. and Mrs.

D. K. Jenkins, Columbia, S. C., rear row, Dr. and Mrs. P. A. Goodlee, E. Chicago, Ind.; Dr. and Mrs. L. A. Hayward, Chicago; Dr. and Mrs. H. B. Atkinson, Griffin, Ga.; Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Bomar, Orange, N. J.

No. 4: The class of 1920 celebrating its 25th anniversary by a banquet during the commencement exercises at Nashville, Sept. 14-17.

No. 5: The line of march of the commencement, left to right, Miss A. E. Gault, dean of the school of nursing; Lt. Col. J. V. Sims, commandant, ASTP; Lt. G. Overby, adjutant, ASTP; Dr. C. O. Dumnot, dean of dental school.

No. 6: Members of the alumni association who met during the 69th commencement. Officers on front row: Dr. J. H. Holman, Nashville, honorary life member; Dr. D. K. Jenkins, Columbia, S. C., vice-president; Dr. C. C. Machen, Chicago, executive committee; Dr. S. W. Smith, Chicago, chairman executive committee; Dr. J. W. Anderson, Dallas, president; Dr. E. S. Lee, Nashville, recording secretary; Dr. M. J. Bent, Nashville, treasurer; Mrs. T. A. LaSaine, Nashville, executive committee; Dr. H. H. Walker, Nashville, executive committee; Dr. D. T. Rolfe, Nashville, executive secretary.

No. 7: The procession leaving the administration building is headed by pathology professor W. S. Quinlan, M. D., the parade marshal. He is followed by President Clawson and Father Schwitalla of St. Louis, commencement speaker.

No. 8: Fellow medics look on as Dr. M. E. Gilmer, of Tuscaloosa, Ala., first to spade the ground for the new Meharry Alumni hall, poses for the camera.

No. 9: Students in line of march for the commencement are J. W. Coleman, Eugene Sims, Oliver W. Crawford, Natalia Tanner, and W. A. Taylor.

Witnesses Heard Wednesday And Thursday on Guilds Lake Tragedy

In response to a request sent to Governor Earl nell last week by the committee representing the family of the murdered Erwin Jones, the case was sent to the Grand Jury on Wednesday of this week. Following a Coroner's Inquest that was nothing more or less than a whitewash of the case, the committee sent the following letter to the governor:

Portland, Oregon,
October 12, 1945

Hon. Earl Snell,
Governor,
Salem, Oregon.

Dear Governor Snell:

We are addressing this letter to you as members of a Committee representing the family of Edwin Jones, deceased.

You have undoubtedly read in the newspapers that Mr. Jones, an innocent Negro, was shot and killed in his home by a Portland police detective while in company with two other detectives and a Multnomah County deputy district attorney. The deceased left a widow, five little children between the ages of two and eleven years, and three brothers in the United States army, two of whom are overseas.

Elva Jones, the widow, and Susie and Zandaree Rambo, her two sisters, returned from Louisiana, where they went to bury Mr. Jones, to testify at a coroner's inquest held on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. A jury of six white citizens, selected by the coroner himself, exonerated the officer. This verdict, we believe, constitutes an initiation to lawlessness, a serious threat to the security of all persons in their own homes, and a grave miscarriage of justice.

As citizens of a democracy, and as representatives of several organizations, we believe an immediate Multnomah County grand jury investigation of this case should be made. For instance the grand jury would have the legal authority to compel a police sergeant to produce his official record of the killing, his refusal to produce it at the non-judicial inquest having been sustained by the coroner.

Now the purpose of this letter is to request that you immediately direct the At-

torney General pursuant to your authority under OCLA, Vol. 6, Sec. 90-105, to conduct the grand jury investigation. This for the reason that one of the deputy district attorneys of this county was present at the time of the killing of Erwin Jones and at the coroners inquest publicly condoned the killing as an act of Justifiable Homicide. That office, therefore, should not direct the grand jury investigation of this case.

We shall call upon the district attorney Saturday morning (October 13th, 1945) and request that the grand jury investigation begin next Monday so that Mrs. Jones and her two sisters will be present to testify. Copies of this letter are being forwarded to: Hon. George Neuner, Attorney General, Mr. Thomas B. Handley, District Attorney and to the press.

Cordially yours,

Ruth Haefner, Chairman of the Legal Redress Committee of the Portland Branch N.A.A.C.P.
Re. James J. Clow, President of the Portland Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Nels Peterson, Attorney.
Nancy Honeyman Robinson, Democratic National Committeewoman.

Rev. F. L. Shoemaker, Pastor Millard Ave. Presbyterian Church.

Elizabeth Genne, Social Education and Action Committee Portland Presbyterian.

Mr. George Thomas, Director Race Relations, Portland Council of Churches.

Fern S. Gage, Chr. Fellowship of Reconciliation (Portland Branch).

Rev. George W. Brown, Pastor Gona Street Community Church.

Rev. F. L. Shoemaker, Pastor Millard Ave. Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Frank M. Phelps.
Mrs. George H. Bendshadler, President Portland Council of Church women.

Irvin Goodman, Attorney for Jones family.
By (Signed) RUTH HAEFNER,
4242 N. E. Failing St.,
Portland, Oregon.

Governor Snell's answer was to order the case sent to the Multnomah County Grand Jury. Jones was killed on the night of August 21st by Detective Bard Purcell of the Police Bureau under circumstances that were questionable to say the least. His commanding officer, Cpt. J. J. Fleming of the Detective Bureau exonerated him on the grounds of "justifiable" (Continued on page 2)

Truman Slow On Clearing Status

By Ernest E. Johnson

WASHINGTON, (ANP)—It has taken 23 days for President Truman to transmit a memorandum to his attorney general in which the FEPC has asked for a clarification of its position and its future, the Associated Negro Press learns exclusively.

The memorandum prepared by the committee as a follow-up of previous discussions held with the chief executive late in August was sent to the White House on Sept. 17. This letter asked for a redefinition of function in light of changed circumstances and the sharp and obvious cut-back in the committee's jurisdiction since the Japanese surrender.

Reportedly there had been some quibbling in high administration levels as to whether this letter should have gone to the President or rather directly to the Attorney General. Whether or not the argument was ever reconciled is not certain. The fact is that the memo was sent to the White House.

According to a well-informed source, this letter did not arrive from the White House at the office of the attorney general until Wednesday, Oct. 10.

Leaning over backwards in a cautious attitude, the FEPC has refrained from making any statements, public or private, on the situation. It has obviously kept out of the news for fear that to do otherwise might jeopardize the case.

The deduction that is being put upon the current trend of events by outsiders is that "the relationship between the committee and the White House is not too good." Evidence being cited by these

Protest Organization Bias to State Senator

COLUMBIA, S. C. (ANP)—A vigorous protest against practices of the registration board in Marion county was filed here Tuesday with State Sen. Earle R. Ellerbe at Marion.

The protest was made by the Progressive Democratic party whose chairman John H. McCray cited from affidavits gathered after the board filed from more than 100 applicants. The letter said F. M. Boatright, registration officer, evaded his responsibility under the law, maintaining a practice begun last year when a series of scheme effectively prevented a single Negro from obtaining a certificate.

McCray disclosed that unless the matter is corrected by Nov. 5 court action would be brought against the board.

Ethiopia Miscs Conference

WASHINGTON (ANP) Other business is keeping the government of Ethiopia from participating in the aviation conference now in process at Quebec and the organization meeting of the United Nations Food and Agricultural conference, which opens at Montreal later this month, according to Gethaoum Tessema, charge d'affaires of the Ethiopian legation here.

Blotta Ephren T. Medhen, the minister, is still either in London or Paris, it was said, and is not expected to return soon. Nor is the government sending other representatives to attend these conferences.

Plot to Conceal Rape-Murder Facts in Girl's Death Quelled

CONWAY, S. C. (ANP)—A plan to conceal facts behind the raping and killing of 16-year-old Lila Bell Carter of Pine island by listing "drowning" as the cause of her death on Aug. 15, was smashed Monday of this week when a persistent reporter finally cracked the case open.

Officials had variously denied the rape-murder charge during efforts to verify charges of the girl's relatives and leaders here that she had been criminally assaulted, allegedly by a white insurance agent who washed blood from his hands and person about the time she is believed to have met death. Monday, from unimpeachable sources which must be guarded for the present, a story more brutal than was at first suspected, broke as to her death.

Jaw and Neck Broken
The left jaw and neck of the girl were broken, it was learned upon inspecting her body, the fact being sufficient to cause death. Struck a powerful blow by her assailant, apparently for the purpose of forcing her into submission, she was then ravished, then dragged several feet away and her head placed face downward in a pool of water. There were patches of blood on her clothing and a semen discharge within her person as well as on the underside of her clothing. The young woman was virginal.

Traced some four hours after she had gone to a store to purchase rice for supper, the girl's body was discovered by her father and neighbors who had joined in the search. Told for better than two weeks the guilty man would be apprehended, the father is said to have vowed to take vengeance out on the white man

commonly suspected. For this threat he has been jailed by county officers who seem unable to question even the man suspected.

Asks Investigation Into Girl's Rape Death

COLUMBIA, S. C. (ANP)—A state investigation into the rape and death of 16 year old Lila Bell Carter of Pine island on August 15 was asked by the state conference of NAACP Wednesday.

James M. Hinton, state NAACP president, requested Gov. Ransome J. Williams to investigate circumstances surrounding her death after county officers have failed in two months to dispose of it.

Miss Carter, a high school student, was first reported as having died as a result of drowning but a newspaper reporter has since dug up facts proving the girl was criminally assaulted and had both her left jaw and neck broken by her assailant, believed to have been a white insurance agent, neighbors say, washed blood from his hands and person the afternoon the girl's body was found with the head placed down in a pool of water.

The girl's father has been jailed by county authorities for allegedly announcing his intention to avenge her death on the suspected man.

The wish for twins is twice as often fulfilled in Northern countries as in Southern climates, but there are only 10 triplets born to every 1365 sets of twins.—H. G. Beigel, Marriage Fables, Facts and Figures.

Navy Medic Visits Here



—Photo by Margaret C. Robinson

Lt. (j.g.) Colbert S. Davis, M.C., USNR, spent the week end visiting friends in Portland. He is stationed at the Bremerton Naval Base, Bremerton, Washington.

Lt. Davis studied pre-medic at Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois, and is a graduate of Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tenn., class of '43, where he was a classmate of a local physician, Dr. Robert N. Joyner Jr. He successfully completed nine months internship and nine months residence at Provident hospital, Chicago.

Before coming to Bremerton, Lt. Davis was stationed at Great Lakes, Chicago, Ill., and has a charming wife and son living there now. He is the son of the late Dr. Colbert Davis of Rock Island, Ill.

GI Sentences Suspended in Riot

The returned veterans who were responsible for a near riot at the Club Acme last week have been turned over to military authorities by the Portland police. This followed a serious outbreak which resulted in the arrest of five soldiers and one civilian, a woman. All were charged with carrying concealed deadly weapons and held for police court. Three of the soldiers were given sentences of thirty days and the remaining two were to be tried for more serious charges in criminal court. The sentences of the three were suspended when all of the defendants were turned over to the military authorities. The soldiers had taken a sum of money from the check room attendant at Club Acme and later assaulted several civilians and were said to have taken two diamond rings from civilians during the night of debauchery.

Colored and White Workers Demonstrate On Coast for Jobs

LOS ANGELES (ANP)—Thousands of workers, colored and white, men and women, turned out for the CIO sponsored job-for-all demonstration held last Wednesday in front of City hall. Speakers were virtually unanimous in emphasizing that the country faces two alternatives: either full employment—or apple selling and a depression far more catastrophic than the one experienced during the worst days of the early '30s.

Notable aspect of the demonstration, estimated at its peak to number approximately 10,000 people, was the largest percentage of Negroes who participated. Nearly a fourth were colored.

FLASH!

GRAND JURY LATE
THURSDAY NIGHT EX-
ONERATED PORTLAND
DETECTIVE IN GUILD'S
LAKE KILLING OF ERWIN
JONES.

Negro Group Meet to Launch Business Venture

A score or more of Negroes of Portland met Sunday, October 14, at Masonic Hall, 116 N. E. Russell street, to form the nucleus for a company to promote business enterprises financed and conducted solely by Negroes. The meeting called at the suggestion of Mr. B. D. Robinson, 310 N. E. Sacramento street, promises to be the most important happenings in the life of Negro business in this area. A Study Committee was formed to investigate Oregon laws and requirements in establishing a legitimate business venture in the near future.

Plans for the yet unnamed organization call for participation of more than one hundred Negroes of this area in a proposed business that will be announced to the public soon, said a spokesman.