

Church Burnings Upset Minorities

Two black churches in northeastern Mississippi were destroyed by fire late on Monday, police said, adding to a wave of suspicious church blazes that has swept the Southeastern United States.

Federal and state arson investigators combed through the ruins of the two sanctuaries late into the night to determine if the incidents were linked to fires that have occurred at 34 other black churches in the South over the past 18 months.

The 109-year-old Mount Pleasant Missionary Church and the Central Grove Church were completely destroyed by fires that authorities labeled as suspicious. The churches were located a few miles from each other, just south of the Tennessee border near the town of Kossuth.

Police said hundreds of onlookers, many in tears or uttering prayers, stood in the sultry Mississippi night air and watched the sanctuaries burn as volunteer firefighters waged a futile battle to put out the flames.

The fires were reported to police by telephone calls to the 911 emer-

gency number. The calls came about 15 minutes apart, the first at 9:11 p.m. local time.

"It seems extremely suspicious that two churches would burn at the same time, both of them having black congregations," said Alcorn County Sheriff Jimmy Taylor.

Police quickly called on the FBI, the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the Mississippi State Fire Marshal's Office to help determine the cause of the fires.

Taylor said results of the investigation would be announced Tuesday morning. "If we find out that it's arson, we are going to stick together as a community and bring the people responsible to justice," the sheriff said.

The two blazes raise to 36 the number of black churches damaged or destroyed by fire in the South since late 1994.

Earlier on Monday, arson investigators sifted through the remains of a predominantly black church in Rocky Point, North Carolina. It was the second black church to burn in the

state in less than a week.

The fires have revived memories of the Ku Klux Klan firebombings of black churches in the 1960s and have attracted the scrutiny of the federal officials and political groups.

President Clinton plans to meet with the governors of the affected states on Wednesday to coordinate a strategy for battling the outbreak.

Meanwhile, leaders of the white conservative Christian Coalition were due to meet with the pastors of burned black churches Tuesday in Atlanta.

Although investigators say some fires have been racially motivated, there has been no evidence of coordinated activity among hate groups.

Two whites arrested for setting fires at black churches—a volunteer fireman in Alabama and a 13-year-old girl in North Carolina—are alleged to have done so for reasons having nothing to do with racism.

Officials in Mississippi's Alcorn County were quick to defend what they called model race relations in their community, where about 12 percent of the population is black.

The predominantly white electorate of Corinth, the county seat, has twice elected a black man as mayor, they noted.

But police said a handful of local residents did attend a Ku Klux Klan rally held a few months ago by a traveling Klan organization from Arkansas.

Oregon First Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ BANQUET DINNER

A semi-formal dress, banquet dinner, held in the honor of Bishop A.R. Hopkins, on Saturday June 29th at 7pm, at the Jantzen Beach Red Lion, 909 North Hayden Island Dr.

Contact Mrs. Dorathy Wilson at (503) 287-8500. Tickets \$25 per person, public welcome.

Response To Cross Burning

The East Metro Human Rights Coalition and The Metropolitan Human Rights Commission of Portland and Multnomah County wish to express their shock and horror at the violent racist act of hate demonstrated by the cross burning at the home of a Gresham resident. In response to this heinous crime, the two organizations invite the community to participate in a "Time for Prayer and Peace" to be held on Sunday, June 23 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 507 W. Powell Blvd. (Corner of Powell and Eastman Parkway) at 1 P.M. People of all faiths are welcome to join in this public show of unity against racism and for peace in our communities.

Several hundred organizations representing many ethnic groups have been invited.

Want regular discount on your Water Bill? Call 285-0493 Ext.217

Also, limited funds available for shut-off notices on light bills, to people not having received any energy assistance for this year.

A Tribute To Ella Fitzgerald, The First Lady of Song

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those days, music was everywhere. Better put, "Songs were everywhere" for in the 1930's even elementary school kids read well in the 'ghetto'. Second and third graders could read the "green 'song sheets' which were peddled by itinerant vendor around the school yards.

Ten cents would get you eight mimeographed sheets of song lyrics, from the jazz world, popular songs or classic Broadway show tunes. Many

of us had our early versions of the "Walk Man", Zenith portables with aa telescoping aerial which could 'reach to the moon' and others had little battery-powered record players with which we could serenade our 'ladies!

There were the great bands, Ersking Hawkins, Earl Hines, Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, Louie

Jordan, Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Glen Miller, Stan Kenton, etc, and there were the great vocalists, Billy Eckstein, Herb Jeffries, Al

Hibbler, Sarah Vaughn, Peggy Lee and on ad infinitum.

But indelibly stamped on our minds even today, are the lilting, nursery rhyme-like lyrics of Ella Fitzgerald's "A-Tisket, A-Tasket, I lost my yellow basket, and if I don't find it I don't know what I'll do, Was it red? No, no, no, no, no, no, Was it blue? No, no, no, no, no, no, Was it green? No, no, no, no, no, no, Just a little yellow basket."

Indeed, a yellow basket that launched a most wondrous talent.

Lucious Hicks Seeks City Commission Seat

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neighborhoods. Portland is great neighborhoods. However, there are some who feel left out- who feel that city government does not work in true partnership with them, 'said Hicks. "All my life I have successfully brought people and organizations together. We need to reach out to our community and neighborhoods and

truly make them a working part of Portland."

Hicks continued, "Just as there are neighborhoods who feel left out, so are there people and families.

The middle class is feeling squeezed, the lower class is feeling left out, so are there people and families. The middle class is feeling squeezed, the lower class is feeling left out. Housing growth, health care,

job security, education, crime are all serious problem for all classes. We need to reach out to these families as well and include them in the dynamic of our economy 'said Hicks.

Hicks stressed that he will run a positive campaign on the issues and Portland future. If you are interested in getting involved in the campaign please contact the Lucious Hicks for Portland Committee at 285-7125.

Nike Sweatshop Allegations

NIKE, Inc. (NYSE: NKE) responded to claims made by Joel Joseph, chairman of the Made in the USA Foundation, of under-age Indonesian workers making NIKE's line of Air Jordan shoes for 14 cents an hour by stating that his allegations are completely false.

"Perhaps Mr. Joseph should have looked at an Air Jordan shoe on store shelves to learn that the product is made in Taiwan," said Donna Gibbs, NIKE's director of corporate communications. "One has to question the credibility of an individual whose organization is largely financed by labor unions opposed to free trade with developing nations," she said. "It's also too bad that Kathie Lee Gifford has found it necessary to avoid the media spotlight by pushing Michael Jordan into it."

Thorough reviews conducted over several days included interviews with workers, examination of safety equipment and procedures, review of free health-care facilities at the work site, investigation of worker grievances and audits of payroll records.

The average line-worker's wage in Asian subcontracted facilities is double the government-mandated minimum.

THE 1996 MULTICULTURAL MUSIC AND FOOD FESTIVAL

Friday June 28, 6 - 10 p.m.
Saturday, June 29, 12-10 p.m.
Sunday, June 30, 12-6 p.m.
Holy Redeemer Area School Campus
127 North Portland Boulevard
283-5175

Musicians

Tall Jazz with Mario De Priest, Marilyn Keller and Lee Wuthenow
Five Guys Named Moe
La Mayor Orchestra (Salsa)
Jazz Allstars: Mel Brown, Mary Kaddery, Tom Grant and Jodie Seiferr
Calvin Walkers Funk Machine
Boka Marimba
The Michael Harrison Quartet
The Norman Sylvester Band
Soul Vaccination (Funk)

Children's Fest

Saturday 12-5 p.m.
Sunday 12-6 p.m.



"Community parade of nations"
Charles Moose - Grand Marshal
Friday June 28 5:30 p.m.
Blazer Boys and Girls Society

Performers

Molly Malone Irish Dancers
the Main Vietnamese & Location Dancers - Oasis Outlaws - Country Western Line Dancers - Blue Lake Chorus - Female Barbershop Quartet - Ecumenical Ministries - Gospel Singers - Askari (African Drummer and Story Teller) - Shoe Horn (Tap Dancer and Saxophonist)

Food & Drink

Mexican, Barbecue, Ethiopian, Cajun Italian, Moroccan, & More

Ethnic Marketplace

Arts and Crafts

Call 283-5175 For More Info

Sponsored by the Neighborhood Outreach Association
Rose Festival 3 Day Pass \$12.00 Per Family, 1 Day Family pass \$5.00
Adult \$3.00 A Day, Children \$1.00 A Day

Chinook Winds weekend beach concerts.



Williams & Ree June 29
7pm & 10pm



Nitty Gritty Dirt Band July 12 & 13
7pm & 10pm



Jose Feliciano July 26 & 27
7pm & 10pm

Lou Rawls July 5th & 6th

June 28th is the Grand Opening of Oregon's premiere gaming & convention center, Chinook Winds. Discover Las Vegas style entertainment and the most exciting casino experience in the Northwest. Early shows begins at 7pm and the later show starts at 10pm. So, expect week after week of the best headliner entertainment available. Then, enjoy over 800 video slot machines,

Keno, Poker, Blackjack, Bingo and Off-track Betting.

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