

Ku Klux Klan Re-Emerges in Desegregation Era as Piecemeal Body With Power Lacking

Editor's Note: In the Ku Klux Klan rally, which was a powerful force of terrorism in the South, the United Press made a survey of key cities throughout the South plus interviews with Klan leaders for this dispatch.

By JAMES RUSSELL
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Atlanta—The Ku Klux Klan, which has raised its hooded head periodically in the South since the days of Civil War reconstruction, has re-emerged as a piecemeal body of feuding wizards and klanettes.

The power it once enjoyed has long vanished. The caliber of its leadership has greatly diminished. Only in isolated pockets does the 1957 version of the hooded order hold any real strength. State and local laws enacted

for the express purpose of defiling the Klan do so at every turn. Eight southern states have laws that prohibit the wearing of masks on public property except during celebrations such as Halloween. Some states forbid cross burnings on public property.

Klan Bounces Back
Louisiana routed the Klan years ago with a law requiring public filing of membership lists but it bounced back in limited form last year. Georgia revoked the Klan charter 10 years ago for engaging in unlawful activities but a new Klan, professing to be law-abiding, is now chartered in the state.

Klan members still wear white robes, hoods and sometimes

masks, just as they did after the Civil War when a terrorist campaign was directed by Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest against the carpetbaggers.

But the sheeted night riders of the 19th century have given way to ceremonious marchers who mass at pre-arranged meeting places on private property and often invite people to come see the show.

Only Small Groups
There is no cohesive, south-wide or nationwide Klan organization today. Terrorism on a widespread basis dissolved with the conviction in 1952 and 1953 of more than 100 Klansmen on charges arising from floggings

and kidnappings in the Carolina border country.

An occasional case of brutality in the South is blamed on the KKK, but the public views the order more with curiosity and amusement than with fear and apprehension.

Leaders of the modern Klan direct their acid remarks as much at one another as they do at integrationists, Communists and religious minorities.

To join the Klan you must—in addition to taking a number of oaths—pay a membership fee of \$5 to \$10, depending on which group you pick. There are possibly a dozen "klans" in the South.

Bill Hendrix of Florida and E. L. Edward of Georgia are possibly the best known Klansmen.

Neither recognizes the other as a genuine leader and Hendrix, who successively has been a grand dragon, imperial emperor and imperial officer in one or more Klans, called Edwards a Johnny-come-lately.

Freedom and Liberty
"Today, the Klan is fighting for individual freedom and liberty," Hendrix maintains. "If any Catholic can take our oath we will take him into the Klan."

A few years ago Hendrix, a carpenter and construction worker, invited Negroes into his Klan provided they were strict

segregationists, but apparently

none ever joined. He resigned from the order after a 1951 federal conviction for sending defamatory material through the mail but the Supreme Court ban on segregated schools brought him back.

The group headed by Edwards, an Atlanta auto paint sprayer, claims nationwide representation and restricts its membership to "Protestant Christian Aryans."

It staged the biggest KKK rally of recent years at Stone Mountain near Atlanta last year. The keystone of Klan strength is in the South's most cosmopolitan state—Florida. In the northern and central "cracker" coun-

ties, Klan rallies are held fre-

quently by members of three separate organizations. The best

estimates, however, indicated that combined membership does not number more than 5,000.



HEADING FOR HOME PORT—The Matson Lines' newest passenger ship, the SS Matsonia, flies dress flags as she squeezes through the lower level of Pedro Miguel Locks of the Panama Canal. She's on her way to Los Angeles and San Francisco to prepare for her maiden voyage to Hawaii June 11. Aboard the 26,000-ton liner on inaugural cruise from New York to the West Coast are 760 passengers.

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Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS

London—Evening Standard critic Ramsden Grieg on Soviet party boss Khrushchev's television interview:
"Nikita Sergeyevitch Khrushchev is a sort of Yul Brynner of USSR."

New York—Dr. Herbert Berger, chairman of the New York state Medical Society's committee on narcotics and alcohol addiction, charging before the American Medical association that athletes may have used stimulant drugs to help them run four-minute miles:
"The recent rash of four-minute miles is no coincidence. When I was a college boy the four-minute mile was as unlikely as flying to the moon."

New York—Don Bowden, the nation's first sub-four-minute miler, on a charge that the recent flurry of four-minute miles was due to the use of stimulant drugs:
"The coaches and athletes I know have too much integrity to use drugs."

Boston—Defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson, on the rise of Communism:
"Due to our international policies and our strong defense here is reason to believe that the rise of Communism has reached and passed its peak—in spite of Mr. Soviet party boss Nikita S. Khrushchev's recent forecast."

Asheville, N. C.—Vice President Richard M. Nixon, urging white and Negro leaders in the South to remove the causes of racial prejudice:
"It may take decades to achieve equality of opportunity for your Negro citizens if we rely on law alone. And that type of struggle in turn could leave a legacy of bitterness which would poison our nation and hurt our prestige abroad."

New York—Evangelist Billy Graham on racial prejudice:
"Man looks on the outward appearance of his fellow man. God on the inside. We are made of one blood—all the nations of us. Jesus had none of the bigotries that we have. I fear that there is bigotry even in some of our churches today."

Washington—President Eisenhower, on a suggestion that the time might be ripe for a realignment of the major political parties:
"I am busy. I am working hard. I haven't any time for such stuff as that."

Warsaw—Polish Communist Party boss Wladyslaw Gomułka, criticizing the United States for delays in granting aid to Poland:
"Even though the credit is rather modest with regard to our needs, it can, to a certain degree, alleviate our present economic difficulties."

San Francisco—Alan C. McIntosh, president of western newspaper representatives, on weekly newspapers:
"The weekly newspaper is the last frontier of personal journalism here in the United States."

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DRINKING can of beer on campus of Monmouth College, Illinois, causes suspension of Patricia Thomson, 18, daughter of Wisconsin's governor. (International)

DIMINISHING RETURNS
Tallahassee, Fla.—The Florida Railroad and Public Utilities Commission has agreed to let the Georgia Southern & Florida Railroad stop passenger service on two trains between Palatka, Fla., and Valdosta, Ga. The company said it cost \$4,382 last year to provide service that attracted two passengers and brought in a total revenue of \$1.98.

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