

Ku Klux Klan, Like Severed Heads of Hydra, Fails to Die

By AL KUETTNER
United Press International
ATLANTA (UPI) — The Ku Klux Klan, like the mythical Hydra whose nine severed heads kept growing back, refuses to die.

Ever since its founding as a secret social club in Pulaski, Tenn., in the closing days of the Civil War, the Klan has had periods of relative feast and famine. In nearly a century since the war, the hood-wearing, cross-burning order almost faded into extinction a number of times. But through its numbers and militancy declined, the Klan survived.

Klan membership and political action campaigns currently are in progress in north Florida and Louisiana. A new Klan Klavern (chapter) was established in recent weeks in Winston-Salem, N.C., and two men arrested in connection with the bombing of a church in Birmingham, Ala., which killed four Negro girls were linked to the Klan — at least as former members.

Figures Are Elusive
Accurate membership figures for the Klan are elusive because officials of the order tend to grossly exaggerate their numbers. It is believed, however,

that there are now fewer than 10,000 Klansmen — in sharp contrast to the eight million the organization once claimed.

Whereas it once was political expedient for political office-seekers to carry Klan cards, particularly in the Deep South, it now would be a political kiss of death to admit membership in all but a handful of places.

The White Citizens council, a newer, better organized Southern segregationist organization, publicly opposes the Klan. But an outspoken opponent of the council, Editor Hodding Carter of the Greenville, Miss., Delta Democrat Times, still calls it "The Uptown Klan."

Refuses to Fold
Though the Klan's terror-induced power and influence have waned since its post-World War I heyday, it stubbornly refuses to fold and, in fact, appears to be attempting a comeback in some places.

Just last week, a Klan leader confirmed the establishment of a new Klavern in Winston-Salem, but he promised the group would use legislative pressure rather than violence to fight racial integration.

"We are not troublemakers or bombers," according to R. E. Mabe, 35, Exalted Cyclops (president) of the Klavern. "I can honestly say it is a fine organization and we don't go for violence. We hope to achieve our goals through legislation."

National Organization
Mabe, a self-employed home builder, said the Klavern was established about a month ago and chartered by the state as an affiliate of the United Klans of America, Knights of the KKK, which he described as "a national organization with headquarters at Tuscaloosa, Ala." Membership is restricted to white Protestants, Mabe said.

Mabe vigorously denied any connection with James (Calfish) Cole, former Grand Wizard of

the North Carolina Klan, who organized a number of chapters in the 1950s and openly advocated violence. He served a two-year prison term after conviction in 1959 for inciting to riot.

The Cole-organized Klan chapters faded out after a group of Lumbee Indians donned war paint and pulled a howling, screaming raid on a nighttime Klan rally in Maxton, N. C., driving the Klansmen sheetless to the winds. It was a lesson in reverse terror with comic opera overtones.

Hold Political Rally
White-robed and hooded Klansmen filled a 45-acre cow pasture near Jena, La., recently for a political rally. A crowd estimated at 5,000 was told by a "Grand Dragon" that the Klan's choice for governor (not announced) would get between 40,000 and 50,000 votes from the organization.

Constitutional government, states right and segregation were the stalwart platform planks on which the rejuvenated Louisiana Klan stood four square. Such had been the plank since Reconstruction days. The Klan also is strong on womanhood.

A lady with wanton habits once was abducted by night raiders in a Southern town. She was stripped and shorn of her long tresses which were nailed to a post in the middle of town.

Beaters Are Flogged
Wife beaters have been hauled out of bed and flogged by the Klan, as have philandering husbands, naughty maidens and deadbeats.

Most Klans are chartered today for so-called "social and charitable" functions. Occasionally in a Southern rural area, Klansmen in full regalia surprise church congregations in the midst of worship. They march down the aisle, leave an offering at the pulpit, commend the preacher for the

"christian" work he is doing and melt away into the night.

The original Klan was virtually disbanded at the end of the Reconstruction Era following the Civil War. Its job of "protecting whites, reducing the Negro vote and expelling carpetbaggers" appeared to have ended.

Proclaim Rebirth
But in 1915 at a place called Stone Mountain, 10 miles from Atlanta, a group led by William Joseph Simmons proclaimed the Klan's rebirth and the revived organization sprouted roots all over the country.

The Klan's own rules of secrecy, helped by hoods and masks, have helped bring it into disrepute. Some of the violence attributed to the order undoubtedly was committed by non-Klansmen who conveniently slipped into sheets and pillow cases for their deeds.

In Georgia, the Klan was quite strong until 1940 when a series of floggings produced a public uproar and a tough anti-masking law. Until then unmasked Klansmen roared through the suburbs once a

week en route to their rallies at Stone Mountain.

Touches Off Flogging
The Georgia investigation was touched off by the fatal flogging of a white barber, Ike Gaston. Witnesses paraded before a grand jury with accounts of father-son beatings and of a man whose shoulder was dislocated by a laughing hoodlum.

Sometimes violence attributed to Klansmen has been even more ghastly. Several years ago, six robed and hooded men mutilated a Negro handyman at Birmingham, Ala. Four of them were sentenced to 20-year prison terms.

A perennial Klan leader whose name has figured in the news of the Southern racial troubles recently is J. B. Stoner. Currently he is attorney for the National States Rights party in Birmingham. For 20 years Stoner has been active in anti-semitic and segregation movements.

Offer to Send Help
Stoner was listed as Imperial Wizard and archleader of the Christian Knights of the Ku

Klux Klan, one of numerous offshoots of the KKK. That branch sent a letter to New York Police Commissioner Stephen P. Kennedy in 1959 offering to send 5,000 Klansmen (out of uniform) to help "clean up Harlem" and wipe out the black supremacist Muslims.

Some of the most optimistic Klan promotion is being put out these days by the Florida Klavern (chapter) which has been conducting rallies in Jacksonville, St. Augustine and Ocala.

"We can match the numbers of marchers on Washington (200,000) and have more to spare," according to KKK leader Don Cochran at Jacksonville. But he declined to be more specific.

The Florida shindig, like many Klan promotions of recent years, has borrowed the common of a side-show barker with large signs, search lights, soft drink stands and showings of the old Klan "documentary" film, "Birth of a Nation."

Rag Fires Are Replaced
It's not unusual in these electronic days to see Klan crosses

with neon lights to replace kerosene-soaked rag fires.

Anti-masking laws have been adopted by most Southern states in recent years and provide a strong deterrent to vigilante activity.

Tennessee, with one of the strongest masking laws, estab-

lishes three categories of punishment. They range from \$1 or 11 months and 29 days in jail for alarming the citizenry to 21 years for committing an assault with a deadly weapon while masked.

The modern day Klan uses all sorts of gimmicks to attract

members. One group even accepts Roman Catholics (if they are interested). The earlier Klan was militantly anti-Catholic and became the brunt of many jokes in Atlanta after the Catholic church bought the former headquarters of the KKK as an official church resident.

Two Drivers Are Cited by Police

Two drivers were cited for traffic violations following investigation of accidents in Medford Thursday, according to police reports. No injuries were reported, officers said.

Carol Alene Rose, 31, Phoenix, was cited for failure to yield the right of way after her car collided with a vehicle driven by Arnold Joseph Hoyt, 52, of 615 Diamond st., about 4:30 p.m. at Plum and Murray sts.

Shirley Taylor Cantrell, 31, of 314 Willamette st., was cited for failure to yield the right of way and for failure to obtain an Oregon operator's license after her car collided with a vehicle operated by Viola Fae Gish, 36, of 8 Richmond ave., about 8:30 p.m. at Fourth st. and Central ave.

Three citations were issued to Alfred Crank, 50, of the Veterans Domiciliary, after his car collided with a vehicle driven by Maurice Luvorne Tuttle, 40, of 86 Renault ave., about 4:30 p.m. Wednesday at Central ave. and 12th st.

Crank, who was lodged in city jail in lieu of bail, was cited for failure to leave information at the scene of an accident, for failure to obtain an Oregon's operator's license, and for making an improper left turn. No injuries were reported in the mishap, officers said.

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TO THOSE WHO EXPECT TO VOTE AT THE SPECIAL ELECTION ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1963!

Undoubtedly you have read the proposed law in the Voter's Pamphlet. You will observe many things, including a minimum tax of \$5.00, especially for those who have never been on the income tax rolls. You have listened to the radio and have read the newspaper articles which contain all the dire threats of calamity that will befall the State if this Act is not approved by the people.

We propose a more equitable solution to the revenue problem that will benefit the individuals of the State, the State Industry and State Institutions and it will not be necessary to suffer any or all of the consequences that have been pointed out to you by those who are sponsoring Ballot Measure No. 1.

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The purpose of the proposed \$5.00 minimum tax is to get all possible tax payers on the income tax roll. Once you are on it, how would you expect to get off of it?

A "NO" vote on Measure No. 1 is your opportunity to obtain equitable personal and property taxation in the State and Counties of Oregon.

A moderate sales, income and property tax will benefit the public institutions of the State, including the schools, and will benefit the personal residents of the State; will bring in new industries and, therefore, new revenue to the State and to its present and future residents.

Respectfully submitted for your consideration
Committee for a Moderate and Beneficial Tax Program as Opposed to Measure No. 1 on Ballot To Be Voted on October 15, 1963.

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