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SWEET JURY DISCHARGED

NEGRO STOREKEEPER SINCERELY MOURNED BY TOWNSPEOPLE

Acclaimed in Death as Village's Most Prominent Citizen and Greatest Public Benefactor

LEAVES MUNIFICENT LEGACY

John Wesley Underhill Bequeaths Large Fortune to New Jersey Village for Benefit of Children

Mays Landing, N. J.—This village of 2,500 inhabitants, many of them adherents of the Ku Klux Klan, paid high tribute today to John Wesley Underhill, who was the only Negro resident of the community. The rich and poor of the village—Catholics, Protestants, town officials, and newsmen,—joined in singing and whispering his praises as the body of Underhill was laid to rest in Union Cemetery after funeral services that were unique, like the career of the man himself.

In life, merely a hail-fellow-well met and never considered seriously by his neighbors, he attained today the status of the village's most prominent citizen. He has gone down in its history as its greatest public benefactor—as one of the immortals. This posthumous fame was achieved by Underhill because of what his fellow villagers now call the noble deed of an honorable gentleman of color.

Nobody knew much and perhaps cared less, about the affairs and thoughts that guided John Underhill through life, but when he died Monday last the villagers were amazed to learn he had left a fortune of more than \$100,000, nearly all of which was left for the improvement of the village and to provide the children better recreational facilities.

This money will go chiefly into the construction of a public gymnasium and the erection of a playground for children. In his will Underhill specified in detail that he believed the gymnasium should be erected in the new high school to be built here.

The playground is to be equipped with everything dear to the heart of children, from swings to shoot-the-chutes and slides.

When the local business men, clergy-men, and officials heard of Underhill's bequest they were aghast, as for years he had been living in their midst in a modest unassuming almost apologizing way as the only colored man in the town. He was a recluse. As a man of sixty he enjoyed no close friendships.

But in the little store he erected here children used to come and talk to him and buy candy and sing and dance. This gladdened the heart of John. That he was colored made no difference to them. Stories are being told here today of how he would give children two sticks of candy for a cent. Many a ragmuffin, who looked into the windows of his store longingly at a cap pistol or a box of chocolates, had his great wish fulfilled through the generosity of John.

He was lonely. You see the great folks of the town never bothered him, no one asked him for opinions. But he often would just about being the only change of color hereabouts. But as John lay in his impressive coffin today there was a smile on his face. It was as though he was enjoying his last laugh. For all the village is wondering now why John never let on before, why he kept so silent about a great ambition that was realized only in death.

Today the local paper contains two columns about him. Today nearly every citizen in the community followed his coffin into the Atlantic County Court room here. For the first time in the history of the county such a service was held in the Court house. It was a community affair.

His coffin was banked with numerous flowers, and prominent among them was a wreath labeled "Our Citizen." Men and women came up and gazed into his face and wept. Three preachers attended and took part in the funeral services—the Rev. Dr. William Arthur Thomas of the Mays Landing Presbyterian church, the Rev. Dr. T. Richardson of the Methodist Episcopal church, and the Rev. Father Frederick Haloran of the Roman Catholic church.

They hailed John Underhill as a great benefactor to humanity. They called him a good Christian. They pointed to him as the man who through his deed exemplified the spirit of tolerance.

And all the time the man's body reposed in the coffin with a smile on his face.

"We now know," said Dr. Richardson, with emotion, "that we lacked and missed our opportunity. He has shown us himself through his deed. He has shown us what the town really needs. We did not understand or fully appreciate him until now, and now we learn that the man who

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY "DEFENDS" PRISONER

New Orleans, La.—(By the Associated Negro Press) Notwithstanding the declaration of Frank De Rocha that he "felt like killing a couple of niggers" which resulted in the brutal murder of John and Ernest Batiste on a street car near the immigration station the state attorney is not asking the death penalty at the trial now on before Judge Humphrey in the criminal court. De Rocha is a blacksmith and somewhat of a local politician. In October of last year, just before the local campaign for the city election, he entered a street car. John and Ernest Batiste were occupying a seat in the rear end of the car. Filled with liquor, De Rocha stopped for a moment with a smile of contempt on his lips, and with the remark, "I feel like killing a couple of niggers this morning," drew his revolver and began firing; John Batiste grabbed the colored passenger seat sign in self-defense, but was shot down instantly; a second bullet caused the death of his brother Ernest a few hours later. The dying declaration of Ernest was to the effect that he begged De Rocha not to shoot his brother any more and then the white man shot him.

When the colored citizens of the State of Louisiana demand their right of suffrage and make their presence felt at the polls on election day the state authorities will then be compelled to ask for the same penalty for the murder of a Negro as they do for a white man.

WILLIAM MATTHEWS WINS CASE FOR GOVERNMENT

Lincoln.—(By the Associated Negro Press) Hon. William H. Matthews, special assistant of the U. S. Attorney General, was selected to prosecute the case of two former officers of the City National Bank of Lincoln. They were L. J. Dunn and L. B. Hovey, charged in the federal court with misapplication of the bank's funds. The acceptance on their part of bad papers which the directors of the institution had to make good was included in the charges. Under the skillful and able direction of Mr. Matthews, the case was won for the government and the charges sustained. Dunn and Hovey were forced to accept such fines as the court saw fit to impose. The court penalized them \$2,500 each.

This is the first of the cases brought to trial by Mr. Matthews, the recognized national leader in the Negro Republican camp, since his appointment as special assistant to the government's legal forces. He made a fine showing during the trial.

NORTHERN DEMOCRAT FLIRTS WITH SOUTH

New York, N. Y.—(By the Associated Negro Press) Tammany Hall is stretching its political wings, according to observers here, and the visit of the newly-elected mayor of New York, James Walker, to the South, is interpreted as being the first effort of New York's Democrats to line up the South for the big fight in 1928.

NEGRO VOTERS HOLD BALANCE OF POWER IN LOUISIANA

New Orleans.—(By the Associated Negro Press) A movement is on foot to have all colored citizens, male or female, pay their poll taxes before the first of the first of the year in order to overcome the "lily white" republican movement now being organized in the state. There are sufficient colored voters it they choose to exercise their right of franchise to turn the tide of elections either way in Louisiana.

Went humbly amongst us had been thinking all the time of our welfare.

"He has taught us tolerance," said Father Halloran. "He must have wanted to leave behind not merely a legacy of money, but of this lesson of tolerance."

Dr. Thomas broke down and wept as he hailed the Negro in his eulogy as the best educated man, the most progressive business man and the ideal Christian of the village.

WHITES GET WORSE AS NEGROES GET BETTER, SAYS JUDGE

Greenwood, S. C.—(By the Associated Negro Press) Negroes are getting better every day and white people are getting meaner and meaner in every way, Judge C. J. Ramsay told the grand jury here Monday morning in opening the November term of county court.

During the last sixteen years Judge Ramsay said he had been presiding over courts all over the state as a special judge and it was his observation that Negroes are appearing in court much less than white people.

Many of the crimes for which whites are arrested are automobile stealing, moon-shining, and petty disputes with Negroes.

Mr. Allen Kennedy left Omaha last Saturday for St. Louis and Dayton, Ohio. While in Dayton, Mr. Kennedy will visit his sister, Mrs. Bertha White, who is ill.

DEFENSE FUND GROWING STEADILY

New York.—In the week just ended \$4,319.83 has been contributed by people in all parts of the United States toward the \$50,000 Legal Defense fund being raised by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue. This brings the total raised by the National Association and its branches to date up to \$10,342.43 and leaves the fund in the following position:

Given by Garland Fund.....	\$ 5,000.00
Offered in addition.....	15,000.00
Required to meet offer.....	30,000.00
Total.....	\$50,000.00
Raised to date.....	\$10,342.43
Still to go.....	19,657.57

Among the large gifts toward the defense fund received during the week was: the R. W. G. Council, I. O. of St. Luke, Richmond, Va., \$300; \$200 voted by the vestry of St. Philip's Church in New York City; Mrs. Maggie Walker of Richmond, Va., \$50; Dr. A. A. Brill, noted alienist and widely known as the leading exponent of Dr. Freud's psychoanalysis in America, sent his check for \$20.

Branch remittances toward the fund received during the week are as follows: Denver, \$200; St. Paul, \$375; San Francisco, \$25; Arkansas City, \$25.75; Zanesville, Ohio, \$82.52; Tekamah County, \$25; Holyoke, \$5; Chicago, \$735; Indianapolis, \$83.35; Hollidaysburg, Pa., \$28.85; Fort Wayne, \$21.

Individual contributions ranging from one dollar to several hundred continue to come to the National Office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Besides those mentioned above, individual contributors of the week include the following: Harold Guinzburg, New York City, \$50; The Martha Tabernacle No. 11, C. U. O., B. and S. of Love and Charity, New York City, \$25; Mrs. Bessie Bearden, New York

CAPITALIZING THE WORD "NEGRO"

A Brief for the Newspapers of Indianapolis, Indiana

(By William Pickens for The Associated Negro Press)

The Interracial Committee in Indianapolis, Indiana, asked the daily papers to capitalize the word "Negro", in accord with grammar and common-sense, and the newspapers after listening to the oral statements, asked the Committee to present a brief to all the newspapers, so as to bring the matter formally to the fore. William Pickens happened to reach Indianapolis for a day or so at this time, and the Interracial sub-committee, which had been appointed to get up a brief to present to editors, asked him to write a suitable one for them.—Following is the word which he presented:

It was a custom growing out of American slavery to write the word Negro with a small "n" (negro). That custom had at least a semblance of reason in slavery days, but even that semblance has passed, as we shall explain.

In some of the very old English books, and books beyond the influence of the customs of slavery, the word Negro was capitalized ages ago.

Of course the word was originally a common adjective in Spanish, derived from the word "niger", Latin adjective meaning black. But the word is in its present use a noun, designating a particular race or group. When a noun denotes the name of a particular person, group or institution, it is a proper noun, and should be capitalized. To say that the word Negro should not be capitalized

FLASH!

Detroit, Mich., Nov. 27.—(Special to The Monitor.)—Jury in Sweet case reported unable to agree on verdict and was discharged by Judge Murphy.

HAD NARROW ESCAPE

Mr. and Mrs. H. Leland of North Thirtieth street recently returned from a hunting trip in the Sand Hills near Alliance, Neb. While away Mr. Leland had a pretty close call and counts himself fortunate in being alive. He was caught in a blizzard and lost on the prairie nearly twenty four hours. His friends at Alliance were much excited about his absence and told him that he should be thankful that he did not freeze to death.

ROSAMOND JOHNSON'S PROTEGE MAKES GOOD

New York.—(By the Associated Negro Press) Making his first public appearance as a singer, in New York, Taylor Gordon, a protegee of J. Rosamond Johnson's, made a pronounced hit in his recital of Negro Spirituals, at the old Garrick Theatre, down in West 35th Street, Sunday night. The singing of Mr. Gordon, whose program consisted of spirituals in its entirety, was remarkable in view of the fact that he had never sung them before; but he had as a background the one and only Rosamond Johnson, who not only accompanied him, but assisted in the singing as well. The theatre was packed and the singers were well received.

Mrs. James W. Headley, of 917 North Twentieth street, was taken to the Methodist hospital Tuesday where she is very ill with pneumonia.

DOCTOR SWEET MAKES GOOD IMPRESSION ON THE WITNESS STAND

Tells of Experience Within His Home and Reveals His Mental Attitude on Night When Mobbit Was Killed

COOL WHILE CROSS EXAMINED

Case Given to Jury After Masterly Summing Up of the Evidence by Clarence Darrow and Hayes

Detroit, Mich.—The closing days of the Sweet murder trial were marked by the testimony of Dr. Ossian P. Sweet and the masterly summing up of the evidence by Darrow and Hayes. The case was then given to the jury which after being deadlocked for forty-eight hours was unable to agree and was discharged by the court Friday morning.

Dr. Sweet made a most favorable impression as a witness. Cool, calm and collected he told the story of his life and the struggle for a competency. He gave a vivid recital of two mob attacks, one in Washington, D. C., and one in the South through which he had passed, all of which bore upon his mental condition when his house was surrounded by a mob on the night of September 8.

He told of missiles being hurled through the windows and landed on the roof of his home and of the crowd outside and with the vivid experience of former mobs he feared for the lives of himself and family and of his determination, if worse came to the worst, to protect his loved ones to the last.

The grilling cross-examination of Prosecutor Toms could not shake his testimony or perturb him in the least. White neighbors from the neighborhood in which he had resided for twelve years testified to his high character as did many others.

TUSKEGEE CONFERENCE TO CONSIDER FARM AND HOME

Tuskegee Institute, Ala.—(By the Associated Negro Press) Improving the farm and home life will be the chief topic for discussion at the annual Tuskegee Negro Conference to be held January 27, 28, 1926. The various phases of this subject, such as the budget system on the farm and in the home as a basis for progress and thrift, keeping account of the cost of raising crops, investing surplus cash, how to borrow money at a low rate of interest, and cooperative buying will be discussed. There will also be discussion of improving the farm by draining, ditching, and terracing, the raising of soil improving crops, the use of labor saving machinery, and how to hold and get good tenants.

The home will be considered in terms of the following discussions, "How I have made my home surroundings more attractive," "What I am doing to keep my children on the farm," "What we are doing to encourage home owning in our community," "Educational facilities and regular school attendance," "The religious life," "Wholesome recreation and health."

INDIANS OWN NEARLY TWO BILLIONS IN PROPERTY

Washington, D. C.—(By the Associated Negro Press) The value of property owned by the American Indians was materially increased during the fiscal year of 1925 according to an estimate just completed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the Interior Department.

The total value of Indian property is now fixed at \$1,656,046,550. Figures included in the estimate consist of both property held by Indian tribes and by individual Indians under the guardianship of the Government.

VICTORY LIFE ENTERS NEW YORK

New York, N. Y.—(By the Associated Negro Press) According to Lester Walton in the New York World the Victory Life Insurance Company of Chicago has been licensed to do business in the state of New York. It represents a signal victory for the officials of this company, no other outside organization having gone into the state within the last twenty-five years, so stringent are the laws concerning insurance.

MUST DIE JANUARY 8

Little Rock, Ark.—(By the Associated Negro Press) Gov. Terral has issued a proclamation setting Friday, January 8, as the date for the electrocution of Aaron Harris, convicted of first degree murder for the killing of Scott Street, white, a deputy sheriff.

PULLMAN PORTERS HOLD SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL MEETING

Benefit Association Takes Under Advancement Plans for Further Development of Organization

PULLMAN OFFICIALS PRESENT

Man Who Has Served as Pullman Porter for Past Fifty Years Recites Very Interesting Experiences

Chicago, Ill.—(By the Associated Negro Press) What the Pullman Porter's Benefit Association is doing to improve and protect the Pullman porters and means for further development of the work in this direction was discussed here at the convention of the Association, held Tuesday and Wednesday in the auditorium of the Wabash Y. M. C. A.

According to reports of the officials of the association, the progress of the organization during the past year has been gratifyingly rapid and through the work many porters and their families have been benefited. A program of extensive expansion was adopted by the convention that is expected to further enhance the value of the organization.

The feature of the convention was the public meeting which was largely attended by porters and some of the leading business and professional men of Chicago, including the president of the Pullman Company, E. H. Carey, and other officials.

The principal addresses of the evening were delivered by E. H. Carey, president of the Pullman Company, and Perry B. Parker, president of the Pullman Porter's Benefit Association. Mr. Carey, praised the loyalty, efficiency, and service of the porters and declared the company appreciated these efforts and would stick by the men.

Mr. Parker reviewed the work of the association and outlined the new program. He also related interesting phases of his work as chief investigator for the Pullman Company in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The speaker also referred to the large number of Negroes now employed as skilled mechanics in the Pullman shops and predicted that this number would be increased rapidly. Both speakers denied that the Pullman Company had any direct connection with the Pullman Porter's Benefit Association.

Another interesting feature of the program was the short address by J. B. Newsome, who told of his fifty-five years in the service of the Pullman Company as a porter. His address was filled with valuable information, as he traced the history of the company and the various changes in types of cars and conditions.

The convention opened Tuesday morning with 62 of the possible 63 delegates present at the roll call. The public sessions were largely attended.

MINISTER'S ALLIANCE HOLDS WEEKLY MEETING

The Minister's Alliance met Tuesday morning in the parlors of St. John's A. M. E. church and transacted much important business. An interesting paper on "The Minister, His Pulpit and its Influence" was read by the Rev. R. Kidd, pastor of Bethel A. M. E. church and greetings were brought by the Rev. Dr. Greene of Sioux City, Iowa, who has been conducting a revival at Zion Baptist Church. The speaker next Tuesday will be the Rev. J. P. Jackson of Council Bluffs.

COUPON PAYS PART OF ADMISSION PRICE

The Monitor has made arrangements with the Lake Theatre for the admission next Monday night of all adults and children for half price when presented with the coupon found in this paper. The regular price of admission for adults is 20 cents and for children 10. This coupon with 10 cents will admit an adult and with five cents a child. Here's a chance for you to see a good movie and enjoy good music and help boost Dan Desjardines' Lake Theatre.

SENDS DONATION TO N. A. A. C. P. DEFENSE FUND

The Northwest Needle Craft Club met with Mrs. A. Black, 1923 N. 35th street, Nov. 17. The club sent five dollars to the Defense Fund for the Sweet case at Detroit, Mich. The next meeting will be with Mrs. L. T. Boggs, 3518 Paeker street, Tuesday, December 1.

Bill, son of Dr. and Mrs. W. W. Peebles was detained at home from North High school this week by a severe cold.