

Wright Murder Verdict---"Not Guilty"

PORO COLLEGE THROWN OPEN TO ALL ST. LOUIS TORNADO VICTIMS

St. Louis, Mo.—(A. N. P.)—Poro college at St. Ferdinand and Pendleton avenues is temporarily a lodging house and relief center where 5,000 meals are supplied daily by the Red Cross to members of our race who were victims of the storm.

Lodging 100 Sufferers

Mrs. Annie Malone, founder and owner of the college, is in the east on business. As soon as she heard of the tornado and the havoc it wrought in St. Louis, she notified Charles S. Stone and Edgar E. McDaniel, her representatives, by long distance telephone to throw open the college to storm victims and devote all its resources to relief work. Mrs. Malone insisted that Poro college should be kept open until all refugees have been provided for.

In addition to this service, lodging for more than 100 individuals has been provided in the auditorium of the institution, together with a nursery for women with babies. The overflow of lodgers from this place is housed at Sumner High school, Cottage and Pendleton avenues, Central Baptist church, Washington and Ewing avenues, and Lane tabernacle, C. M. E. church, Newstead and Enright avenues.

Equipped for Emergency

The Poro college building is admirably adapted for an emergency of this kind, as it is modern in every respect, with a medical department and a staff, an operating room and a kitchen and a dining room large

enough for hotel requirements. At Poro, first aid is administered to the slightly injured, and clothing, food, and lodging are provided for others.

Through the Red Cross and with the aid of Charles Stone and Edgar McDaniel, supervisors of the college, relief measures have been quickly organized.

Astonish Red Cross Workers
Red Cross workers express amazement at the fortitude and spirit of our people as they have found them in distress. They cite a case of a man and wife with 13 children in a badly damaged home on Enright avenue, who, although without provisions, could scarcely be induced to accept food, this family urging that others could be found in greater distress more deserving of the aid.

Among others cared for at Poro were Mrs. R. L. Tapp, 4024 Finney avenue, who with her two children, 3 and 4 years old, was imprisoned for three days in the basement by the collapse of their home. They escaped injury, but were ill from shock and hunger.

Mrs. Lucille Blackman, 4044 West Belle Place, who found a refuge at Poro, was on the third floor of her home when the storm came. The interior of the house collapsed. The floor on which Mrs. Blackman stood stopped at the street level, and she stepped out through the front door uninjured. Those on the lower floor were killed.

THIRTY-SIX YEARS PRIEST

Tuesday, October 18, St. Luke's Day, will be the thirty-sixth anniversary of the ordination of the Rev. John Albert Williams to the priesthood. There will be a celebration of



the Holy Communion that day at 7 o'clock in the morning. Sunday, October 16, however, the anniversary will be marked by a special service at 11 o'clock at which all the members of St. Philip's and other friends of the rector are invited to be present.

ST. LOUIS ROMAN CATHOLICS CREATE HEALTH BUREAU

St. Louis, Mo.—Negro Roman Catholics of this city are rejoicing over the fact that the St. Louis Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women has agreed to raise \$12,500 a year for the maintenance of a health bureau for the parochial schools of the city. There are a large number of Negro Roman Catholics in St. Louis and the mortality rate among Negro children has been relatively high. Negro Roman Catholic children who are eligible to health care by the proposed bureau, and who have heretofore been treated merely by volunteer workers, will doubtless climb to a splendid health status in the coming years under the painstaking attention of Roman Catholic physicians and nurses.

New York, N. Y.—The Los Angeles branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People held a dinner conference October 7 to arrange for the nineteenth annual spring conference of the association in that city next June.

IS RACE MAKING PROGRESS? ENERGY PROPERLY DIRECTED?

Durham, N. C.—(A. N. P.)—Is the Negro standing still or going forward? Is prejudice increasing or on the wane? As the tide of migration moves northward are conditions improving or is proscription advancing? What is the actual economic status of the race? How nearly are our organizations functioning in the various fields, doing an effective job? Is the church living up to its opportunity? Are we getting somewhere or just kidding ourselves?

These and kindred questions are the subjects which are to be tossed on the table for discussion at the Stock Taking and Fact Finding conference to be held at Durham, N. C., December 7 to 9, when leaders representing different phases of Negro activity, various organizations and schools of thought will gather around a round table to look the issues squarely in the face, attempt to take stock of the situation and using the facts presented by experts in different avenues of Negro life as a basis, try to see just what the present day status is and what we as a group need to do.

An executive committee on which Dr. R. R. Moton, Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois, Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, Dr. James E. Shepard, C. C. Spaulding, Rev. L. K. Williams, John R. Hawkins, W. G. Pearson, and J. M. Avery are arranging the meeting which is being planned in a fashion that is hoped will make it definitely successful. Dr. James E. Shepard, president of North Carolina college for Negroes at Durham is secretary of the committee and able to give the public any information desired.

DR. E. W. LOMAX PASSES AWAY

Bluefield, Va.—(A. N. P.)—Dr. E. W. Lomax, founder and head of the Lomax hospital, died here Friday after an illness of two or three weeks. His passing was wholly unexpected and was a great shock to the community which he has served for a number of years.

Since coming to Bluefield, Dr. Lomax has gained quite a reputation as a surgeon and was active in civic affairs, always working for the advancement of his race. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Olive Wright Lomax and two children.

Band concert Monday night, Tech High. Going? Sure!

EDITORIAL

The supreme need of the Negro in the United States is UNITY and then intelligently directed and sane mass action. "All our weakness lies in discord, all our strength is in our union."

No doubt you are familiar with the story of the old Indian chief who was anxious to teach his sons, who were inclined to be quarrelsome with one another, a much-needed and useful lesson. Calling his sons around him, he bade each one of them pick up a twig. He then told each one to break his twig. Of course, each twig snapped under slight pressure in the hands of the brawny braves. He then bade each one pick up another twig and hand it to him. Binding the several twigs in a bundle, he passed the bundle to each one of his sons in turn and bade him break it. The strongest was unable to do so.

"See, my children," the wise old chief said, "one twig, alone, has little strength and a child can break it; many twigs put together in one bundle have great strength and a strong man cannot break it. Be a bundle; be a heap big bundle, and your foes will not overcome you."

We, as a people, need to learn the lesson taught by this Indian chief. We must become a bundle, a heap big bundle. United we can withstand foes, for we have them, and aid our friends, for we have them, too.

The policy under the slave regime, was to keep the field hands suspicious of and spying upon the house servants, and vice versa; to encourage the slaves upon one plantation to be suspicious and unfriendly to those on other plantations. It was the old Roman policy of dividing and conquering, but only under a little different form. The psychology acquired under this system is a difficult thing to eradicate. That accounts for the inherited suspicions and jealousies which have long kept our group from united action. It explains why it is still comparatively easy, although fortunately becoming more difficult, for this one and that one to array our people, in little groups, one against the other, in almost every community. Why we remain mere weak twigs and not strong heap big bundles.

We need to pool our money in a heap big bundle and develop commercial enterprises; to put our votes in one heap big bundle and make them count; to put our opposition to the curtailment of our civil rights by discrimination and segregation in one heap big bundle and make its influence felt.

There is no need of our living in a fool's paradise, or blinking the fact, that as we rise in intelligence, wealth and self-respect, prejudice, instead of abating, rises proportionately and efforts to humiliate and suppress our just and laudable ambition for progress become more strongly organized, entrenched and determined. Instead of this causing us the least dismay it should only make us the more determined to be and "dare to do everything that may become a man." It indicates clearly what we must do and that is organize and unite our racial forces, since America seems determined to have it so, in every community in which we exist in any considerable numbers, and also nationally and make a mass attack upon evils within and without which would stay our progress.

Individuals, be they however intelligent, learned, influential or wealthy, can accomplish but little alone. Their efforts, however, united with those of others, tied in a heap big bundle, can bring mighty things to pass.

We believe that in this community there is a growing recognition of the need of such unity as we have suggested and we hope the day is not far distant when such will become a reality and not a dream.

Freedom brought responsibilities. When white men owned colored men, they cared for their every need because they represented a cash investment and so much profit. When colored men's problems are settled, they will now be settled by colored men themselves, if colored men are to own themselves.

WHY NATIONS DECLINE AND FALL

A few days ago a student of social phenomena and social facts, delivering an address to a group of social workers in this city, said that history reveals that the one outstanding cause of the decline and fall of nations is the increase of the inferior man and the decrease of the superior man. He argued from this premise that it is the duty of society through the Church and welfare and social agencies to raise the status of the inferior man to approximate as nearly as possible that of the superior man.

The speaker is absolutely right. For the preservation of all that that is highest and best in civilization, for the preservation of civilization itself, every effort should be made to raise the inferior to the level of the superior, and thus increase the number of the superior and decrease that of the inferior.

This being true any country or community which would perpetuate an inferior caste among any group of its inhabitants or citizens by giving them inferior schools and placing them under other disadvantages, civil and residential, is displaying suicidal short-sightedness. It is inviting its own decline and fall according to the infallible teaching of both history and prophecy.

CHINESE PREMIER HAS WOMAN AIDE

Peking—Premier Pan Fu has appointed Miss Nadine Hwang of the Chinese Bureau of Economic Information as his "press secretary."

Miss Hwang, daughter of a former Chinese diplomatic representative in Spain, who died last year, is an accomplished linguist and holds the honorary rank of colonel in the Shantung army.

DESDUNES' BAND TO GIVE CONCERT

The famous Dan Desdunes' band, which is an organization of which

Omaha is justly proud, will give a band concert Monday night in the Technical High school auditorium. In addition to the fine musical program which Desdunes' band always gives, there will be special features by high-class and popular entertainers, among them being Miss Irene Cochran, soprano soloist, and Mr. Levi Broomfield, tenor. Others on the program are Mr. Dan Morton and Mr. Samson Brown.

The Elite Whist Club held its opening meeting at the residence of Mrs. H. J. Pinkett, 2218 North Twenty-fifth street, Tuesday afternoon. The highest score was made by Mrs. T. P. Mahamitt.

MRS. ALMA WRIGHT TRIED FOR MURDER AND IS ACQUITTED

Woman Accused of Shooting Her Husband on Twenty-Seventh Street After a Quarrel at Home Goes Free

SEVERAL STATE WITNESSES

Many Testify to Seeing Defendant Hunting With Gun for Husband. Fourteen-Year-Old Boy Saw Her Shoot

The jury in the Wright murder case brought in a verdict of "Not Guilty" Thursday night after a trial which lasted several days.

Mrs. Alma Wright, charged with first degree murder for the alleged shooting of her husband, Ailus Wright, May 24, went on trial Monday morning in district court, before Judge Fitzgerald. The large courtroom was well filled with interested spectators, who manifested great interest in the trial.

In the face of what was considered damaging evidence against the accused, the coroner's jury freed her, May 25. As there had been several homicides among Negroes in which the accused had been exonerated by coroner's juries, committees waited upon the county attorney requesting a thorough investigation of this case. As a result Mrs. Wright was rearrested, charged with first degree murder and bound over to the district court and has been confined in the county jail.

In the trial which began Monday, the defendant was represented by Judge Ben Baker and Ralph Wilson. John Yeager and Ross L. Shotwell of the county attorney's office appeared for the state. Monday morning was occupied in empanelling the jury and with the opening statements by the attorneys for the prosecution and defense. Monday afternoon witnesses for the state of which there were several began giving their testimony.

The first witness was Jessie Wright, daughter of the defendant, who testified to the relation existing in the family in the last few months and as to the quarrel in the home preceding the shooting which occurred on the street. She testified that she did not hear the shots and knew nothing of the shooting.

Several witnesses testified to seeing Mrs. Wright leave her home with a gun, apparently going in quest of her husband and two or three of these also testified to hearing her say, "I'm going to kill him."

Mrs. Lightner, next door neighbor, testified that she heard her crying and making threats and leaving home with a gun. The Rev. Charles Lightner, also testified that he saw her leave home with a gun, and he also saw the defendant at the scene of the shooting.

Mrs. Theodocia Rouhlac, who lived directly across the street from the Wrights, at the home of her parents, the Rev. and Mrs. Russel Taylor, testified to seeing her coming out of her home carrying a gun and asking some children "which way he went," going first east on Charles street and returning, going west towards Twenty-seventh street.

T. B. Dyson, to whose home Wright had gone after the alleged quarrel in his own home, testified to her bursting in his screen door, with a gun in her hand, and of his wresting the gun from her as she and her husband were tussling and of her returning later, demanding the gun, saying it was her brother's and of his returning it to her, when she went out the alley and shortly thereafter three shots were heard. His testimony was corroborated by Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Smith, who were making their home at Dyson's. Smith testified that he and Wright were sitting on the screen porch and seeing Mrs. Wright approaching with a gun in her hand, Wright went into the house. Mrs. Wright burst open the screen door and started after her husband when Dyson intercepted her and took the gun. Mrs. Smith, who was formerly Mrs. Kellogg, while corroborating the testimony of Dyson and Smith, added further that she asked Dyson why he was so foolish as to return the gun

to Mrs. Wright, while she was in such an angry mood. Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Smith were acquainted with the Wrights.

Mrs. Russel Taylor testified to seeing Mrs. Wright with the gun as also did the Rev. Russel Taylor, whom she called a vile name, when she heard him laughing as he was joking the World-Herald carrier, evidently thinking that he was laughing at her, Mrs. Wright.

Stephen Taylor, the 14-year-old son of Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, testified that he was going west on Charles street and just as he neared Twenty-seventh street, he saw Mrs. Wright point a gun in his direction and shoot, and he scooted for home and ran under the porch. He didn't see who she was shooting at. "It looked like she was shooting at me."

Dr. Scott, Mrs. F. L. Barnett and Mrs. Scott, testified to hearing three shots fired, and hastening to the scene of the shooting, saw a gun passed between a woman and a man and the man run up the alley. Scott and Mrs. Scott further testified as Wright fell Mrs. Wright struck him with some square object.

The chief witness for the defense was Douglas Munson, Mrs. Wright's brother, who testified that Wright left home with a gun wrapped in a towel, and that hearing the shots, he ran up the alley and saw Wright holding the gun in his hand with Mrs. Wright under him, and Wright said, "I shot myself, get a doctor," and when Wright dropped the gun, he, Munson, picked it up and ran up the alley with it to the Wright home, where he attempted to call a doctor. "I called one doctor," he testified, "but getting no answer, I returned to the scene of the shooting."

Olga Turner, Mrs. I. B. Johnson, and Rev. A. Waggoner were called as character witnesses for the defendant and Dr. A. L. Hawkins testified as to the nature of the wounds.

The opening argument to the jury for the defense was made by Attorney Ralph Wilson and for the state by Ross L. Shotwell, who in closing said, "there ought to be a closed season for going gunning for husbands." Judge Baker closed for the defense, caustically castigating the witnesses for the state as prevaricators and painting the defense witnesses as paragons of truth. He closed dramatically with the question, "Who fired the shot?"

Attorney Yeager made a masterly argument in closing for the state. He agreed with Judge Baker that the important question was, "Who fired the shot?" He reviewed the testimony of the witnesses who saw Mrs. Wright with the gun, of her going to the Dyson home. According to all these witnesses, reputable people, "Mrs. Wright went gunning for her husband." He riddled Munson's testimony. He showed how impossible it was for Wright to hold the gun in his right hand as Munson testified he did, and shoot himself through the left thigh without being an expert contortionist.

Judge Fitzgerald instructed the jury, stating that there was either one of four verdicts that they might render, guilty of murder in the first degree, guilty of murder in the second degree, guilty of manslaughter, or not guilty.

C. C. SPAULDING A GRAND DADDY

Durham, N. C.—(A. N. P.)—Insurance, banking, educational, fraternal, and social circles in this busy community all paused last week to extend congratulations to C. C. Spaulding, widely known and revered president of the North Carolina Mutual company, because of an event which gladdened his heart and those of all his friends. A bouncing baby boy was born to his daughter, Margaret, and her husband, A. Moore Shearin, jr., general manager of the Southern Surety and Fidelity company. Mr. Spaulding, who has regained his health, was jubilant over the occasion and Durham predicts that a new star has arisen to carry on in the financial world.

Hear Desdunes' band in concert at Tech High school Monday night.—Ad.