

THE OMAHA GUIDE

JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

ALL THE NEWS WHILE IT IS NEWS

NEW TO THE LINE

LARGEST ACCREDITED NEGRO NEWSPAPER WEST OF CHICAGO AND NORTH OF KANSAS CITY

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FIRE PARTIALLY DESTROYS OLIVET AS THOUSANDS WAIT WILLIAMS' FUNERAL

CHICAGO, Nov. 11 (ANP)—Tragedy, which struck eight days before when Dr. L. K. Williams, president of the National Baptist Convention, Inc., was killed in an airplane crash near Charlotte, Mich., struck again Wednesday morning when fire partially destroyed historic Olivet Baptist Church and drove into the streets 4,000 mourners awaiting the funeral services for Dr. Williams, also its pastor. Damage was estimated at \$50,000.

The crowd, including distinguished leaders from all parts of the nation, began assembling before 9 a. m. Services were to start at 11 o'clock that morning. Around 10:30, with every available seat filled and other hundreds standing inside the auditorium, the Rev. Joseph Braham, assistant pastor discovered flames in the third floor classroom.

Running downstairs, he found three policemen on duty there Sgt. Carl Nelson, former bodyguard for Joe Louis; Sgt. Thomas Chapman and Patrolman Louis Frank, the latter two white. All returned to the classroom to try and subdue the blaze but it had gained too much headway. A fire alarm was turned in immediately by Officers Louis Steinberg and Robert White on duty outside, who noticed wisps of smoke trailing from the steeple.

Meanwhile, Sgt. Nelson had gone to the control panel of the public address system in the choir loft and cut in on the organ music being played over the speakers.

"There has been a fire in the church but it's out now," he said, although the flames were steadily mounting in the upper part of the church. "However, the firemen want the building cleared. You will please leave, single file."

At the same time, some persons in the balcony had noticed smoke and had broken out windows preparing to jump to the street. But officers stopped them and made them leave through the door.

Nobody believed at first there really was a fire, thinking these outside had concocted a scheme to get inside the church. When no attempt was made to leave Sgt. Nelson repeated his instructions and the crowd stood up and started moving toward the exits.

From the choir loft Sgt. Nelson controlled the crowd, telling the people to "quit pushing" and stopping them when congestion was too great at the doors. As a result, the thousands got outside in perfect order. The only injuries sustained were by two men who suffered minor cuts from broken glass and by a woman, Mrs. Arnette Jones, 41, whose ankle was broken.

As the last of the crowd was leaving, the flames broke through the ceiling. Deacons then removed the casket from the front of the church, where it had been laying in state since Monday evening. There were four carloads of flowers banked around the altar but they were not removed. Later, when part of the ceiling fell in from the weight of debris falling from above, the flowers were partially buried. The tons of water shot into the blaze knocked them all over the floor.

The casket was taken to the Bell Funeral Home on Michigan avenue, a few blocks away, where it remained until open air funeral services were held in front of the church starting at 2 p. m.

More than 30 fire trucks rushed to the scene as a 5-11 alarm was sounded, and at least 10,000 persons stood watching the blaze which was brought under control within an hour. Many of those who watched remained on the streets outside until services in the afternoon. Some had left their overcoats in the building. It was around 40 degrees above zero at the time of the conflagration.

Defective wiring is generally believed responsible for the fire, although the church organist, who said the huge electric instrument had been played almost continuously for two days while thousands viewed Dr. Williams' body,

asserted she had felt heat from the organ Tuesday night and had reported it but nobody did anything about it.

Much of the rich walnut and mahogany woodwork of the church was a total loss and the roof, part of the floor, and much of the upstairs rooms will have to be rebuilt. Most of the church records were saved. The loss was covered by insurance and rebuilding is to start soon.

Olivet has the largest membership of any Protestant church in America, around 10,000. It was built to its present size mainly through the efforts of Dr. Williams. The building is 80 years old and was once a station on the "underground railroad" of pre-Civil war days.

ART'S LAUNDRY UNDER NEW MANAGER

Art's Laundry, 2627 Cuming St. has been taken over by Mr. William Lyman, who has had twelve years experience in the dry cleaning and laundry work and who is at present operating two plants, one at the above address and the other at 4909 North 42nd street or 42nd and Grand Ave.

Mr. Lyman's experience and qualifications have always been O. K. to the public. We sincerely offer our services to all. Give us a trial and be convinced. Call Art's Laundry, 2627 Cuming St., JA. 7745.

Nebraska Clothing Co. Gives Valuable Certificates

54TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT A MONEY SAVER FOR ALL. Everyone is pretty well acquainted with the Nebraska Clothing Co. idea of selling clothing and wearing apparel. The Nebraska always strives to sell at the lowest possible price for strictly FIRST grade merchandise. But right now the Nebraska is celebrating its 54th Birthday—and is giving Appreciation Certificates with purchases all over the store. These Certificates are redeemable in merchandise in any department at the Nebraska up to Dec. 31st, 1940.

In a display announcement on page three in today's Omaha Guide, the above liberal proposition is explained in detail.

Book Review By Dr. F. Smith At Clair Chapel

A book review by Dr. Frank G. Smith, will be given Tuesday evening, November 26th at 8 p. m. at the Clair Chapel Church, 22nd and Miami Sts., Sponsored by the Modern Priscilla Art and Study club Literary Dept., for the benefit of their shoe fund.

We wish to take this opportunity in thanking all of you for the splendid cooperation you have given us in the past.

Dr. Smith will review "How Green Is My Valley" by Llewellyn. Our motto "Lifting As We Climb"

For further information call—WE. 0624, or WE. 1658.

"Let Us Be Thankful"



Chrysanthemum Festival



Two of last year's younger visitors found the Chrysanthemum Festival at Forest Lawn, too beautiful for words—but their eyes spoke volumes!

From November 17 to 21

GETS N. Y. CASE WORK APPOINTMENT



Miss Annie D. Singfield, 1940 graduate of the Atlanta University school of Social Work, has recently been appointed case worker on the staff of The Five Points House, New York City. She is also a graduate of Paine College, Augusta, Georgia, and has taken special courses at the North Carolina A. and T. College, Greensboro. Miss Singfield taught for a number of years in various high schools of North Carolina before entering the Atlanta University School of Social Work. She brings to her present position an excellent cultural and educational background.

Tries 3 Years For Two Jackpots; Gets 158 In Draft

Nashville, Nov. 6 (ANP) Albert Teasley, 32, holder of No. 158 in

One of the outstanding things about Thanksgiving week in Omaha—especially to the City's thousands of flower lovers—is the annual Forest Law Chrysanthemum Festival, and this year will be no exception. The Tenth Annual Forest Lawn Festival will be held from Sunday, November 17th through Thanksgiving Day, November 21st, at the Forest Lawn Conservatory. Every year from Omaha and vicinity, twenty to twenty-five thousand persons visit this unusual display which features from ten to twelve thousand Chrysanthemums, representing more than forty varieties. And this year the Festival offers an unusual opportunity to see about seventy-five orchids massed together in one glorious display. Shades of deep purple, yellow and white will be included in probably the largest orchid display ever held in this section of the country. Hours are from 10:00 A. M. to 6:00 P. M. daily, and admission is free. Everyone is cordially invited to attend this beautiful show—opening day is this coming Sunday, November 17th.

the national draft lottery, finally hit the jackpot Tuesday. He commented: "It sure is funny. I've had my name in the jackpot at two theaters for three years and it ain't never been called."

Liberia Issues New Postage Stamp

In celebration of its 100th anniversary, the Republic of Liberia has issued a special of postage stamps. Collectors are said to regard them as one of the most interesting and colorful sets of stamps, recently issued.

VA. TEACHERS AGREE TO SALARY PARITY IN THREE YEARS; ACCEPT \$129 000

NORFOLK, Va.—Following a conference here Thursday, November 7, members of the Norfolk Teachers Association voted to accept an offer made them by C. Alfred Anderson, city attorney, of \$129,000 to be paid them over a period of three years, thus equalizing their salaries with those of white teachers at the end of this period.

The offer was made in connection with the Melvin O. Alston case, which involved an action brought against the Norfolk school board by Mr. Alston, a local school principal, in behalf of himself and the Negro teachers of Norfolk, in November, 1939, to force the board to pay him a salary equal to that of a white teacher doing the same type of work.

According to Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, attorneys in the case who were invited to attend but urged the Negro representatives not to participate in any such conference while the case was pending before the court, unless the city attorney made a specific offer in writing, preliminary to the holding of the meeting.

MRS. ROOSEVELT BECOMES MEMBER OF ROSENWALD FUND BOARD

President's Wife Praises Work Chicago, Nov. 12 (ANP) — Election of the following new trustees of the Julius Rosenwald Fund is announced by Edwin R. Embrase, president of the Fund, following the annual meeting of the trustees held Monday, November 11.

James McDonald, Comer, business man and liberal leader of Birmingham, Ala.; Mrs. David M. Levy of New York City, a daughter of the late Julius Rosenwald; Leonard Reiser, attorney of Chicago and Mrs. Franklin R. Roosevelt of Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Roosevelt stated that she accepted membership in spite of the tremendous pressure of her other commitments "because of the basic work the Fund is doing in education and health, especially for groups which do not yet have the opportunities we crave for all Americans."

"THE TRUTH ABOUT ME"

(by Wm. Henry Huff for ANP I drugged and sent myself to school— Who else was there to do it? I hoed the cotton, plowed the mule And smiled while plodding through it. I had no books from which to read. But that did not deter me For in the class I'd often lead. My plight seemed to bestir me To go ahead and blaze away Through forest, field or thicket. I'd take the same rough course today If it were mine to pick it.

Buddy McCrea Knocks Out Boxcar Kline of Ore.

Buddy McCrea of Denver, weighing 143, knocked out Boxcar Kline of Portland, Ore., in the fifth round of their semi-final bout.

McCrea, well known among Omaha sport fans and a seasoned performer, was too smart and too tough for the Boxcar, who weighed in at 147. McCrea's bobbing style bothered Kline from the start and the issue was never in doubt.

A report coming directly to us from Buddy himself says that he will be in Omaha on the 29th at which time he will stage a fight for Max Clayton.

According to Attorney Julian D. Rainey of Boston, head of the colored Democratic eastern division, "The reelection of Roosevelt will affect the Negro as it will affect a great majority of the people in the Negro's economic group. It means uninterrupted progress for underprivileged people. I am sure we have made enormous political gains and under the President will make further economic and social gains."

Somewhat similar sentiments were expressed by Dr. C. B. Powell of New York, eastern Democratic publicity director, who declared, "In New York and the east the new Democratic victory strengthens the Negro's hands and presages hope for the future. It points to many lessons the first of which is the need for political organization which really represents the people. Such an organization will supersede the welfare workers who frequently usurp its position and will be in independent position to present to the administration the authoritative views of the Negro voter without reference to any individual's personal future."

Calling for an end to the bitterness of the recent campaign, Mrs. Eunice Hunton Carter, assistant district attorney of New York City, said, "It is my sincere hope that the Negro, like all other good American citizens, will unite in an effort to achieve that national harmony without which we shall not be a nation strong enough to withstand the enemies boring from within and battering from without. On the other hand all democratic governments need strong minorities to keep those in power aware of their ultimate responsibility to the people of the country. It is to be hoped Republican Negroes will, in next four years, continue to work for and articulate concerning the defects in the policies of the Democratic party in regard to the Negro. The New Deal must be kept aware of the fact that the Negroes of the country gave it no such sweeping mandate as it did in 1936."

Atty. S. R. Redmond of St. Louis, Republican western director, asserted, "The Negro in America thinks and acts very similarly to his white fellow man which explains in part our vote. It is encouraging to note that in most states in the western division the Republican candidates got at least 50 percent of the Negro vote. The future course should be to keep up the educational fight. In the central west alone we captured states with one-third the nation's votes. With Mr. Roosevelt's plurality cut down 7,000,000 the Democrats are on their way out."

A Democratic editor, J. E. Mitchell of the St. Louis Argus thinks "The election of Roosevelt assures Negroes a more substantial place in the body politic. The President's election for a third term also gives assurances of the continuation of his social legislation which has meant so much to the poor, especially to the Negro. However, it is a sign of progress to see Negroes divided politically just as her races and groups are."

In a letter written to the White House, Dean William Pickens of the NAACP, said he was opposed to the third term but congratulated Roosevelt on his reelection with

LEADERS SAY ELECTION RESULTS SHOW NEGRO'S POLITICAL POWER STRENGTHENED

ASK UNITED FRONT NEXT FOUR YEARS; SOME THINK RACE WILL GET BETTER TREATMENT BUT WARN OF PLENTY OF HARD WORK NECESSARY

CHICAGO, Nov. 12 (ANP) — Outstanding leaders of the race, both Democratic and Republican, hurled aside the masks of partisanship this week to ask that Negroes present a united front in fighting for further integration in to national life, according to a survey conducted by the Associated Negro Press. At the same time they said results of the recent election showed the race's strategic political importance, while some inted to general African-American satisfaction with the policies of Roosevelt as expressed by the vote and foresee even greater benefits.

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(continued on page 2)