Deposed AMEZ Bishop Matthews Asks Trial by Jury

Insists He Wasn't Given Chance to Offer Evidence

Denies He Falsified Age; Makes No Reference to Marriage Charge

WASHINGTON

Bishop William W. Matthews, 8 Logan Circle, who was forced to retire as a bishop in the AMEZ Church at the General Conference in Louisville, Ky., recently, is asking for a jury trial to weigh charges against him.

In a statement to the AFRO Tuesday Bishop Matthews declared:

"I want a jury to try me who will be fair and just enough to try me on the evidence produced by competent witnesses.

"My church," continued the Bishop, "failed to allow me to be tried by witnesses who had evidence to offer other than unfounded rumors which was picked up from the masses on the outside."

Bishop Matthews was charged with falsifying his age; "violating the discipline of the church," and engaging in "tyrannical dealings and conduct unbecoming one of his office."

Left Without Appointment

The charges were brought by Charles E. Tucker, lawyer and presiding elder, Indiana Conference, 5th Episcopal District over which Bishop Matthews presided.

The "tyrannical dealings" charge was brought as the result of the bishop's leaving Tucker without an appointment at the 1945 annual conference.

Tucker claimed that the bishop falsified his age so as to continue to serve as bishop after he had reached retirement age.

A photostatic copy of a passport issued to the bishop in 1923 from which it was figured Bishop Matthews had reached retirement age at the general conference in Detroit four years ago.

Married Secretary Divorcee

The bishop also was charged with marrying his former secretary, Miss Eteria G. Dryver, a former divorcee, shortly after the death of his first wife.

According to the church laws, the presiding elder contended, a minister is barred from the bishopric if he marries a divorcee or has been divorced himself.

In his statement to the AFRO Tuesday Bishop Matthews made no comment or reference to the divorcee charges specifically, but said his opponents were in error on the passport and age allegations.

He did state, however, that "of the two specifications there wasn't a witness offered by the prosecution to support the charges set out in the indictment."

Produced No Witnesses

Concerning the passport alteration he averred that the prosecution failed to produce a single witness who "would or could testify that he had changed any figure or writing in the passport which was issued in 1923.

Bishop Matthews declared that the passport was issued in error in that it stated the date of his birth as having been Oct. 28, 1871, whereas it should have been 1876.

The Bishop's mother, who issued the original birth certificate in 1923, according to an affidavit he exhibited, corrected the error and issued a new affidavit giving the date of his birth as Oct. 28, 1876.

Bill May Retire Davis as General

WASHINGTON

Brig. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis may be retired with the permanent rank of brigadier general instead of his present Regular Army rank of colonel, the AFRO learned Monday.

Sen. Clyde R. Hoey (D., N.C.) told the AFRO, that he will introduce such a bill in behalf of Gen. Davis as soon as he receives his records from the Army and if he finds that there is a basis for such action.

The request for Sen. Hoey to introduce the measure was made by Secretary of the Army Kenneth C. Royall, a North Carolinian, as the result of a request by his civilian aide, James C. Evans.

May Be Unopposed

If the measure is introduced, it is expected that little or no opposition will be offered. The main source of possible resentment is believed to have been committed not to oppose the bill.

The Army issued orders last week, saying that Gen. Davis would be retired June 30 in his Regular Army rank of colonel.

Gen. Davis is the only colored person ever to be made a General and has been in the service since July 13, 1898. He has served as a cavalryman, military instructor and commander.

Gen. Davis is at present assigned to the Office of the Secretary of the Army but is not an assistant to the Civilian Aide to the Secretary as was stated in a recent publication. He has no connection with Mr. Evans's office whatsoever.

African Council Sues Dr. Yergan

NEW YORK — A suit to enjoin Dr. Max Yergan from representing himself as executive director of the Council on African Affairs, Inc., was filed in Supreme Court on June 2. Hearing was set for June 4 at 10 a.m.

In an affidavit by Paul Robeson, president of the council, it was pointed out that Dr. Yergan had been suspended from the post after he failed to answer charges of "malfeasance, misfeasance and non-feasance."

When Dr. Yergan did not appear at a May 26 meeting, even though he had been duly notified by petition slates, "the charges were sustained and the defendant suspended by a unanimous vote."

According to the papers filed in connection with the suit, the African Council has as its goal the dissemination of material on African peoples and a composed of 65 persons.

Methodists Merge Two Texas Colleges

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Trustees of Wiley College, Marshall, and the Trustees of Samuel Huston College, Austin, Tex., have voted to merge these two Methodist institutions, according to Dr. M. S. Davage, of the Department of Institutions of the Methodist Board of Education.

The merged institution will be located in a Texas city which offers superior advantages for developing a fully accredited church-related liberal arts college.

Total enrollment of these two schools is approximately 1400. The annual budgets now approximately $700,000.

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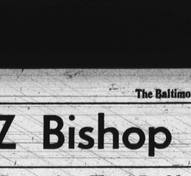

Mrs. L. M. Dennis, principal of the Handicapped School, No. 176, presents Miss Dolores Lappard booklets, "Negro Heroes," as Elmer Henderson of the Urban League and A. J. Allen and Miss Charlotte Mebane observe.

Memorial Birthday Celebration Honors Editor Monroe Trotter

BOSTON — A memorial birthday celebration honoring the late Monroe Trotter, crusading editor of the Boston Guardian, was held last Tuesday at the Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Speakers who lauded the work of the famed newspaperman included Grant Reynolds of NYC, Irwin T. Dorch, Miss Gladys Holmes, Dr. Walter O. Tayor, Dr. Silas Taylor and Mrs. Maud Trotter Steward, present editor of the Guardian, who recalled incidents in Trotter's long fight for equality and against discrimination.

Participants in the concert part of the program included Mrs. Helen W. Holiday, Mrs. Matilda Charleston, Marion McCree, Fodora Manning, Mary L. Brown, the Marionettes Quartette, Mrs. Viola Winbush, William B. Sexton, Victor Mascoll, Newman Smith and Professor Ernest O'Bayoun, who directed the musical program.

Guests Present

Among those present were: Governor and Mrs. Paul A. Dever, Judge and Mrs. Harrison Vale, McKinley Kingsford, Mrs. James R. Lesner, Doctor W. A. Lenane Howard, Franklin Myers and Albert Saunders.

Attorneys and Mesdames Roy Latzetta, Irvin Dorch of Randolph, Mass., the Reverends and Mesdames Samuel H. Bullock, Morris Grady, William S. Ravenell, J. E. Jeitz, A. J. Wynn.

Mrs. Maud Trotter Steward, Lydia T. Brown of Attleboro, Mass., William Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. Maizy Rounts of West Medford, William Schalk.

Messrs. and Mesdames Fitzallen, C. Noel Jackson, Edward Burnett, Robert Dendridge, Robert Dorch, Joseph Tenney, Jr., Roberts, Julian Steele, St. Clair Kirkum, William B. Sparrow, James Faust, William A. Howard, C. E. Hawkins, Patrick Brown.

Mesdames Ebbe B. Perry, Edna Williams, Maud G. Johnson, Anna Davis, Naomi Gwordin, Evelyn Hall, Ruth James, Gladys Howard, Arbalad, Bailey, Maud Johnson, E. A. Archibald, Sarah Arnold, Mattie Lon Reid, morician, Sturgis Robinson, Van Hise, Mary C. Jackson, Obelion L. Lamb, Imogene Powell, Fannie Lewis, Florence Hoggie Taylor, Frederick P. White, Sadie Pearson, Louise B. Taylor, Bessie Pearson, Louise B. Taylor, Bessie Pearson, Louise B. Taylor, Rosa Lillian Williams, Reda Morgan, Doris Thomas Thorke of Providence, R.I., Eleanor Sister of Atlantic City, N.J., Misses Eleanor Vincent, Fredericka Walker, Madelyn Brown, Josephine Hodges, Dr. Silas Taylor, Dr. Isaac Sterkey, Messrs. Jackson, Lucius Taylor, Albert B. Crosby.

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South Baltimore Notes

The Progressive Republican Club of the 23rd Ward met recently at 1120 Leadenhall St. and accepted seven new members. The members are Henry Lawson, Charles Minor, Cornelius Dorsey, Myles Parker, Mary Brinkley, Ethel M. Bond, Clarence Bond and Louise Bond.

Joseph C. Woodhouse is president of the club and Allister Lawson, reporter.

The Pawn Bombers Club met at the home of Vincent Young, 1811 Riggs Ave., and completed plans for a dance at Dotson Tavern on June 11. L. Bryant is president of the club and Vincent Young, secretary.

Mrs. Bruce Spence and her sister, Mrs. Lula Beth Epps spent the week end in Philadelphia visiting Mr. and Mrs. Cordelia Garland.

New Tower Comes Down

Mrs. Thelma Forbes of New York City, spent the holiday week end in Baltimore visiting her daughter, Gwendolyn, and her mother-in-law, Mrs. Lillian Forbes. She also visited Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Hill of 2320 Huron St.

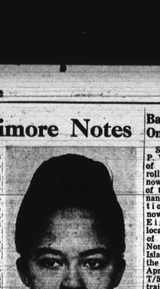
One of the more promising fighters on the Southside is Kenneth Clark, Douglass High grad and veteran now attending the Veterans Institute.

The Baltimore Singers will appear at Arnett Methodist Church 8:45 p.m. June 13. Prof. Frank Wilson is director of the singing group, Gertrude Jones is president, G. Bernard Young, manager and G. W. Hill, publicity director.

Mrs. Willa Mae Jones of 2806 Huron St. entertained guests from New York and Philadelphia on Memorial Day.

Many Attended Parade

Among the more popular Southside matrons is Mrs. Willa Carter of 210 Henrietta St. — this week's



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The wife of Kenneth Carter and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Napoleon Morrow, Mrs. Carter spends considerable time doing recreational work.

She is a graduate of Johnson and Douglass High School and now is a senior at Coppin Teachers College. Mrs. Carter is also a Sunday School teacher at Leadenhall Baptist Church.

Two Traffic Mishaps in Less Than 3 Hours

Within less than three hours, Tuesday, police were summoned to investigate two traffic mishaps in Northwest Baltimore within a few blocks of each other.

The first occurred at Gilmor and Lanvale Sts., when an auto operated by George E. Joynes, 18, of 722 Harlem Ave., struck another parked near the intersection. The parked car is the property of Lee Cade of 1600 W. Lanvale St.

Faces 3 Charges

Police charged Joynes with reckless driving, operating on an expired license and operating without a registration card.

The second accident occurred at Madison Ave. and Mosher St., when a northbound No. 31 street car struck an auto belonging to Robert J. Wiggins, 24, of 1301 Woodyear St. Wiggins was treated at Provident Hospital for slight cut of the face.

No traffic charges were lodged

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