Innocent Man Freed After 9 Years In Jail

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Pastor Refuses To Surrender Passport

Attractive Sparrows Point Waitress Killed In Accident

Fights For Passport

The Rev. James H. Robinson, founder - pastor, Church of the Master, Presbyterian, New York City, who this week refused to give up his passport as requested by the U.S. State Department.

Red Smear Hits Noted Cleric

Asks Rev. Robinson For His Passport

NEW YORK — The Red smear has now enmeshed the Rev. James H. Robinson, founder and pastor of the Church of the Master, Presbyterian.

The State Department's Passport Division has asked him to give up his passport until a probe is completed of his affiliations with Communist front organizations.

Shocked and surprised over the request, the popular cleric has refused to do so. After his trip last year to India, Egypt and other Middle East and Far East countries, he was praised highly by numerous United States envoys as an ambassador of democracy abroad.

Coach Others Going To Asia

In addition to that, the State Department has asked him to coach U.S. workers before they left for Asia to work. A gold key was given to him last month by the Jewish Temples in Nassau County for his good work.

In attempting to restrict the Rev. Mr. Robinson's travels to the boundaries of the U.S., the State Department accuses him of:

Sponsoring the American Youth Conference in 1941; of making a

(Continued on Page 2)

Invalid Found By Visitor As Charred Body

Neighbor Making 'Sick Call' Finds Second Fire Victim

Making a routine visit to a sick friend, a South Baltimore housewife retreated in horror, Friday, on finding the fire-blackened invalid dead in a flame-swept kitchen.

The victim, Mrs. Emma Wright, 54, 600 block Barre st., was pronounced dead by Dr. Robert Lovett, assistant Medical Examiner.

Her death marked the second housewife to die from a fire during the Christmas week end. The other holiday fire victim was Mrs. Sarah Wallace of the 700 block Pierce st.

Mrs. Wright's charred body was found by Mrs. Rose Sydnor, a friend of more than 30 years, also living in the 600 block Barre st.

The dead woman was alone in the two-story house at time of the fire.

Smelt Burnt Flesh

Because the invalid had been sick for a long period, Mrs. Sydnor had been making daily visits to check on her welfare.

On arriving at the house, Friday afternoon, Mrs. Sydnor noticed a strong odor of burnt flesh "that smelled like roast meat" on opening the front door.

On the floor in front of a stove in the living room was half a bag of coal and several pieces of still smouldering wood.

"I called Miss Emma and got no answer," Mrs. Sydnor related.

"I heard running water and so I started toward the kitchen.

"When I reached the dining room I saw a sight I shall never forget if I live to be a hundred.

Describes Body Position

"Miss Emma was half-kneeling, half-lying in a little hallway between the kitchen and the dining room.

"She didn't have on any clothes and all her body was burnt black.

"Her face was all wrinkled like she was going to laugh, and she had her arms outstretched like she was trying to grab at the walls.

"There was almost a foot of

(Con' d On Page 3)

The Captain Gets A Big Hug

Captain George H. Reddy and his wife, Evelyn, rejoice in their Jamaica, L.I. home over the promotion he received on Christmas Eve when he was elevated from lieutenant to captain in the New York police department, the first colored officer to attain this rank. The job pays $6,880 a year.

Paul Robeson Elated

By JAMES HICKS

NEW YORK—Singer Paul Robeson declared Monday that the $25,000 peace award given to him Sunday by Russia's Joe Stalin is the "highest honor I could receive" and said he will immediately apply to the State Department for a passport to Russia so he can go there and accept the money in person.

Robeson told the AFRO in exclusive interview in his midtown apartment Monday: "There is no honor that could come to me more important than this one. It represents the feeling of millions of people and the affection and respect they have for what I've been trying to do."

On Stalin's Birthday

Moscow announced Sunday that Robeson had been declared winner of one of the International Stalin Peace Prizes and that as such he would receive 100,000 Russian rubles, equal to $25,000 in American money, for his work in the interest of peace in the world.

The Stalin awards are made annually on Stalin's birthday. The Russian premier was 73 years old Sunday.

Recalls '49 Statement

"Maybe what I said in Paris in 1949 is becoming a little more clear to my people now," Robeson said.

He said Monday he never made such a statement but that the press had distorted what he had said. "What I really said in Paris was this," Robeson went on:

"I pointed out that Russia did not want war against anyone. That all over the world she was defending the rights of colonial black peoples against the colonial powers.

"And I said since Russia is doing all this for black peoples, do you think that if a war comes that a black man is going to pick up a gun and shoot Vishinsky?"

"Wouldn't Make Sense"

Elaborating further on his Paris speech, Robeson said what he had meant was that it would not make sense for black people to go to war against the nation that was helping them most.

He added, however, that what he had said had been taken completely out of "context" and made to appear that he had said American colored citizens would never fight Russia if the two countries

(Continued on Page 2)

Girl At Wheel, Car Hits Pole Near Golf Links

Della Christian, Philadelphian In Traffic Fatalities

As the holiday traffic death toll continued to mount, it claimed among its week-end victims an attractive 19-year-old Sparrows Point waitress, and in another accident a man from Philadelphia.

The dead are:

Miss Della Christian, 19, of 706 I st., Sparrows Point; and Walter B. Swann, 40, of Philadelphia.

According to police report, Miss Christian was driving the car of a neighbor, Herman Saulter, when the accident occurred at 9:30 p.m. on Dec. 26, in the vicinity of the Sparrows Point golf course, near Route 151.

The car apparently failed to round a curve, but crashed into an electric light pole and then careened off the highway.

Funeral service will be held at 1 p. m. Tuesday at Union Baptist Church, 9th and J sts., with the Rev. Carlton Cook officiating. The body will be taken to her native home, Appomatox, Va. for burial.

Miss Christian is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Abner Christian, three sisters and four brothers.

They are Misses Bernice and Vercine Christian; Mrs. Margaret Watson, all of Sparrows Point; George Christian of Turner Station; James of 2564 Arunah ave., Baltimore; William at Fort Bliss Texas and Thomas, at Camp Stewart, Ga.

The Philadelphian was killed when his car crashed into a concrete buff on Route 301, near Waldorf, Md., while being chased by a state trooper.

Officer W. N. Earle reported that he pursued the car after noticing it being operated in a dangerous manner.

A passenger in the car, Maymon Harmon, 31, also of Philadelphia was critically injured in the accident and was taken to Physicians Memorial Hospital in La Plata, Md.

In Baltimore, two pedestrians were reported to be hit-run ac-

(Continued On Page 3)

Freedom After Nine Years

Smiling Silas Rogers leaves the Virginia State Penitentiary cell block after being granted a pardon by Governor John S. Battle. Sentenced to die for the slaying of a policeman, a nine-year investigation proved him innocent of the crime.

Silas Rogers Wins Pardon In Cop Killing

Governor Says False Testimony Was Given; To Visit Sister

RICHMOND

The nine-year effort of a Richmond newspaperman to free a man who had been convicted on false testimony of killing a policeman and sentenced to death, paid off Tuesday morning when the man walked out of the State penitentiary here, pardoned by the governor.

Silas Rogers, the 30-year-old innocent man, smiled broadly as he left the prison and told AFRO reporters "Gee this fresh air smells good."

Walking at his side was the man largely responsible for his release. Jack Kilpatrick, editor of the Richmond News-Leader.

Kilpatrick was a reporter for that paper when Rogers was arrested early on the morning of July 18, 1943 and was beaten so brutally that he "confessed" killing Officer R. B. Hatchell of the Petersburg, Va. police department.

Off To See Sister

Clad in a blue stripped suit, a brown sport shirt and wearing blue sole shoes, Rogers was grateful as he shook hands with Kilpatrick, the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Evans and newspapermen who met him at the prison gate.

Asked about his plans for the future, Rogers said he first wanted to get in touch with his sister, Mrs. Mattie Birch of 222 Court st., Newark, N.J., who did not yet know he had been freed.

Witnesses Falsified

In granting the pardon on Monday, Gov. John Battle said:

"I have studied this case for many months and have found that the state's two principal witnesses testified falsely and that if their testimony is eliminated, there is not enough evidence to establish that degree of certainty necessary for a conviction."

Gov. Battle said his conclusion was based on evidence adduced since the trial and was not available to the trial court or the Virginia Suprême Court which sustained Rogers' conviction.

Most of that evidence was uncovered by Mr. Kilpatrick working with newspapermen in five other states.

Met By Attorney

Among the first to meet Rogers was Robert Cooley, NAACP attorney of Petersburg, who defended Rogers at the trial, and Bob Rhay, a special investigator for the Court of Last Resort. At the

(Continued on Page 2)

Fla. Killing Case Brings More Tension

Man Slain Christmas Day, One Year After Moore Blast

B-U-L-L-E-T-I-N

HOMESTEAD, Fla.—Paul Minnick, local police officer, was arrested last week on a first-degree murder charge in the killing of Emmet Jefferson.

Justice of Peace Vernon Turner issued the warrant after conference with E. F. Lassiter, of Sheriff's Bureau of Criminal Investigation, and John D. Marsh, assistant state's attorney. Minnick was booked at the county jail 90 minutes after the warrant was issued.

By JAMES L. HICKS

MIAMI, Fla. — A white policeman pumped three bullets into a motorist here Christmas day as his father pleaded for his life and this city in the Greater Miami area which had regained its calm since the Christmas day slaying of NAACP leader Harry Moore was once again shrouded in racial tension.

The tension which came on Christmas day exactly one year since Harry Moore was blasted to death by a bomb at Mims, Fla., was brought on when Patrolman Paul Minnick of Homestead, Fla., shot and killed 30-year-old Emmett Jefferson after he had evaded a highway roadblock set up by Florida police and escaped into his yard.

Attorney George Everett, of Miami, who went to Homestead to investigate the shooting called Jefferson's death not only "unnecessary" but charged that Minnick had killed the wrong man.

Follows Auto Chase

Jefferson's death came after a wild automobile chase that started in Florida City after a colored man had forced a white woman driver off the road.

Florida City police first arrested Jefferson and when he allegedly broke away, they phoned ahead and had a roadblock set up to stop him.

Jefferson's car evaded the block, but as he pulled into the yard of his home, in Homestead, police caught up with him.

Father, Daughter Watch

According to reports, Jefferson's father, James Jefferson, and his daughter, Ida, and at least eight other witnesses were around the

(Continued on Page 2)

Siamese Twins Die In Miss.

Boys Born To Couple In August

GREENWOOD, Miss. (ANP) — While the eyes of the nation were hopefully watching progress of the Brodie siamese twins, two

similar colored tots died over the week end.

The colored siamese twins were John L. and John Edward Flowers, born in Greenwood hospital

(Continued on Page 2)

5 Boys, 5 Girls Bless Families On Christmas

While making his rounds Christmas Eve, Santa Claus delivered 10 babies, five boys and five girls, to three local hospitals.

AT PROVIDENT

A baby girl, weighing 7 lbs. 11 oz., was born to the Sterling Coopers, 6200 Falls Road, Rt. 9, at 12:30 a.m. at Provident Hospital. Five minutes later, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Jones, 1706 N. Calhoun st., were blessed with a daughter weighing 6 lbs. 15 oz.

The first boy arrived at 7:32 p.m. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Fields, 1022 N. Gilmor st., he weighed 7 lbs. 5 oz.

Mrs. James Hawthorne, 1117 W. Franklin st., gave birth to a 8 lbs. 7 oz. son at 11:47 p.m.

Rounding out the holiday at the hospital was baby girl Britt, the 7 lbs. 2 oz. daughter born to Mr.

(Continued on Page 2)

NOTICE

On the front page of the AFRO dated Dec. 20, 1952 appeared a photo labeled "Principal Witnesses Against Scarlett." Included in the photo was an unidentified man. We've since been informed that the unidentified man in the picture was Herman D. Williams. He was not a witness in the case. The AFRO is glad to make this entirely clear.

THE EDITORS

Names Sought For AFRO Honor Roll

The time has rolled around for the AFRO Honor Roll.

As an AFRO reader, you are invited to help select the ten persons who will be honored in this way as outstanding citizens who deserve public commendation.

Everybody Eligible

Your suggestions should include persons from all walks of life—ministers, businessmen, government or municipal workers, laborers, teachers, housewives, professional people, mothers or fathers of outstanding children.

(Continued on Page 2)

499 DAYS

since charges were filed and sustained against the Superintendent of

Boys' Village

The January grand jury recommended that no State employee should be named to the Board of a State Institution.

Inside Your Afro

- SUPREME COURT HIRING—Inequities in employment inside the nation's highest tribunal offices.—Magazine.
- THUNDERHEAD—Second installment in this thrilling adventure story of the Kenya uprising.—Magazine.
- TOM DAY—CABINET MAKER—True story of the man who overcame North Carolina's jim-crow laws over 100 years ago.—Magazine.
- FAST MAN WITH A PUCK—Meet "Fleet" Dorrington, one of the most promising ice hockey players in the game.
- THE PERFECT PASTOR—Leading citizen by day, passionate love-letter writer after dark. It really happened.
- SHE WHIPPED ARTHRITIS—A plucky school marm returns to the classroom after a bout with this crippling malady.

SOUTHSIDE MATRON GETS GOOD, BAD NEWS:

Husband Hurt In Korea, Brother Wins Bronze Star

News about her two Korean servicemen — one her husband and one her brother — brought both holiday joy and sorrow to Mrs. Shirley Garnett of 510 W. West st.

Her husband, Cpl. Samuel Garnett, 21, lost his right hand in an overseas accident on Dec. 5. He arrived in the states on Dec. 22 and is now a patient at Walter Reed hospital in Washington.

On the brighter side, Mrs. Garnett's brother, Pfc. Albert Briscoe, a Korean war veteran, was awarded the Bronze Star on Dec. 19 in ceremonies held in Detroit, Mich., where he is in encampment with Battery A of the 18th Anti-Aircraft Battalion.

Hero In Korea

The decoration, one of the Army's highest awards for outstanding gallantry in action, was presented to Pfc. Briscoe for meritorious service in Korea from October 10, 1951 through June 21, 1952.

The young hero received the decoration from his commanding officer, Major George W. Seabrook III after a citation from the commanding general of the Tenth Corps in Korea was read to his unit.

The citation stated: "Pfc. Albert Briscoe, Chemical Corps, United States Army, performed his duties as an ammunition bearer in an exemplary manner at all times. His character and moral soundness are above reproach.

"His unusual ability to get along with other people, set an example for the rest of his squad and brought them closely together, working efficiently as a team.

"On Nov. 29, 1951, observation post telephone lines were knocked out by incoming mortar and artillery rounds.

"In order to relay the fire com-

(Continued on Page 2)