

We include the continual and constant threats and demonstrations of the Ku Klux Klan against the Negro people as acts which cause serious mental harm to members of the group.

The cases are bare reports, a few among thousands. The incalculable damage that each "case" causes not only to the individual, but to the Negro community, requires little elaboration. What is obvious from casual notice is the careless disregard for Negro life, liberty, and person that is the distinctive trait of genocide.

Of great pertinence then in the conclusion of Helen V. McLean in an article "Psycho-dynamic Factors in Racial Relations" published in the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*.

"The high incidence of hypertension among southern Negroes is probably one indication of an unconscious attempt at the mastery of the hostility which must be controlled. . . . the chronic rage of these individuals produces the hypertension which initially is fluctuating in character. Eventually the pathological changes resulting from this overload on the cardiovascular-renal system lead to a consistently high blood pressure.

"All available evidence from clinicians," the article continues, "indicates that functional (that is psychosomatic) disease is markedly on the increase in the Negro."

Dr. E. Franklin Frazier supports this view in an article titled "Psychological Factors in Negro Health" published in the *Journal of Social Forces*, Volume 3.

"The psychology of the Negro, developed in the repressive environment in which he lives, might be described as the psychology of the sick. . . . It must certainly mean a reduction in that energy which characterizes healthy organisms."

The mental harm done to the Negro people of the United States by the conditions forced upon them is incalculable. It has been ably documented in such studies as "Black Metropolis" by Horace Cayton and St. Clair Drake; "An American Dilemma" by Gunnar Myrdal; "Caste, Class and Race in a Southern Town" by John Dollard; "Brown Americans" by Edwin R. Embree; "The Negro Family in the United States" by Dr. E. Franklin Frazier; "Negro Liberation" by Harry Haywood; "Hemmed In" by Robert C. Weaver; "Patterns of Negro Segregation" by Dr. Charles S. Johnson; "The Philadelphia Negro" by Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, and the President's Report on Civil Rights and many others.

August, 1943.—The chief of police of *Sandersville, Georgia* ordered all Negroes in the city who were over 16 years of age to wear badges showing the name of their employer and work schedule. He further required that all Negroes report each Wednesday for farm work, regardless of their other, regular employment.

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- June 6.—A petit jury in DeKalb County, *Georgia*, acquitted two white men charged with kidnapping and raping a 17-year-old Negro school girl last Christmas eve, despite her unshakable testimony. The young woman was driving from church with a young man when she was forced into another car, driven to a shack and raped.
- July 13.—The U.S. Navy Department upheld the 1944 conviction of fifty Negro seamen on charges of mutiny for refusing to load ammunition at *Port Chicago, California*, where more than 300 had been killed earlier in an explosion. Mr. Thurgood Marshall of the NAACP declared in a communication of the Secretary of the Navy that if the men had been white "the case would not have merited a trial."
- June 17.—WILLIAM PALMER was shot five times by J. C. Bradford of *Brandon, Mississippi*, because he refused to abide by segregation rules at the Knox Glass Company. Palmer will be crippled for life. Bradford went free after a hearing.
- July.—Mayor Grady Cochran of *Lake City, Florida*, pleaded guilty on November 8, 1945 to a charge of aggravated assault against three Negroes whom he beat in their homes in July, 1945. The mayor had invaded two homes and violently attacked two men and a woman.
- July 1.—White crowds attacked a large number of Negroes in *West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania* streets after a white taproom owner had insulted and refused to serve several Negro couples. Bricks were thrown and traffic was stopped.
- July 2.—CHARLES COLLINS, organizer of the AFL Food Local Union 6, was assaulted by a policeman in the House Rules committee room in *Washington, D.C.* where a delegation had gathered from New York and Pennsylvania to urge funds for the FEPC. (Mrs. Collins is a signer of this petition.)
- July 9.—PFC. HELEN SMITH, PVT. TOMMIE SMITH and PFC. GEORGIA BOSON, all members of the *U.S. Women's Army Corps*, were brutally beaten in the *Elizabethtown, Kentucky*, bus terminal for sitting in the "white" section when the "colored" section was full. A civilian policeman ordered Pfc. Smith and her two companions to move. When they protested, they were beaten. The policeman involved was later tried and acquitted.
- July 23.—MR. AND MRS. HENRY BUFFINS of *Bayside, New York*, appealed to police for protection after several months of heckling by white neighbors, who had been trying to force the Negro family to move. The couple stated that provocative acts against their children were followed by threats to make the Negro family so miserable that they would sell their home.
- July 28.—ALBERT PETERSON, 11 years old, of *Queens, New York*, was burned so badly that the flesh hung from his body. Robert Shilling, the son of a policeman, was accused of doing the burning, using ignited cigarette lighter fluid. For many weeks nothing was done to find the culprit.
- August.—A young Negro woman was raped twice on an August afternoon in a tobacco field in *Wake County, North Carolina*. When the case came to court, evidence against her white attacker piled up and his attorneys decided to enter a plea of guilty to a lesser charge, assault with intent to rape. The judge accepted the lesser plea with its resulting lighter sentence—10 to 15 years—on the ground that it was in accordance with the general character of the defendant. The court's approval was gained by the defendant's statement that he refused to allow his parents to collect their social security payments, preferring to support them himself. The judge said: "A man

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September.—When MR. AND MRS. J. SMYIL moved into their new home in *Philadelphia*, some of their windows were smashed and neighbors made threats of further violence against them.

September.—MRS. RUBY MAYNARD, former WAC, was awarded damages in federal court at *Montgomery, Alabama*, against the Capitol Motor Lines. En route from Tampa, Fla. to Greenwood, Miss., Mrs. Maynard protested when the bus driver abused a Negro who sat down next to a white soldier. The driver cursed and threatened her and she was ejected from the bus at Uniontown, Ala.

September 15.—L. C. AKINS of *Dallas, Texas*, was sentenced to die for defending himself against a white policeman. On September 15, 1945, as he boarded a Dallas street car, a policeman's wife charged that he had jostled her. The policeman struck Akins and shot him through the body. In the struggle that followed, Akins picked up the gun and shot and killed his attacker. Akins was sentenced to die. The U.S. Supreme Court refused to reverse the sentence, although Justices Stone, Black, and Murphy dissented. Akins' sentence was finally commuted to life by Governor Coke Stevenson of Texas.

September 21.—Sixty-four-year-old Mrs. WILLIE BRADLEY was beaten unconscious by the turnkey in a *Springfield, Illinois* jail. Mrs. Bradley was in jail because six policemen had entered her home and arrested her, her daughter, Anna Bee Bradley, and Kenneth Scruggs. Removed to the hospital after the beating, Mrs. Bradley was found to have suffered two broken ribs. In court, the police magistrate gave Miss Bradley thirty minutes to leave town after she refused to promise the Chief of Police that she would not discuss her mother's case elsewhere. Although Mrs. Bradley was a day worker registered with an employment office and was often employed, her daughter worked in a war plant, and Mr. Scruggs was employed at the State House, all three were held on a charge of vagrancy.

October.—ROBERT YOUNGER, a cook in *Rockingham, North Carolina*, was threatened with lynching when he carried out the restaurant owner's order not to allow the white waitress to use the toaster. When Younger transmitted the order, the waitress charged that he attacked her. Negro friends rushed Younger to Hamlet, N. C. by car, but a lynch mob followed and surrounded the house. Police removed the man to the Hamlet jail, but the mob stormed the jail. Removed to still another jail, Younger was tried in a lynch atmosphere. When the waitress admitted during the trial that Younger had not attacked her, the judge ordered him freed. However, local hostility against Younger was so pointed that he was forced to leave Richmond County and find work elsewhere.

October.—Because a white merchant in *Lexington, Georgia*, claimed that her son, then in the army, owed his store a debt, Mrs. HATTIE CANTRELL was badly beaten by the merchant. A complaint was entered with the Attorney General of the United States on Mrs. Cantrell's behalf in October, 1945.

October 12.—*Harlem, New York* Democratic leader, GUY BREWER, was beaten and kicked in the face by a policeman when he protested the closing of a registration board before its scheduled time. When the case came to court, Brewer, not the policeman, was found guilty of disorderly conduct. The Appellate Term of Special Sessions Court reversed the sentence.

November.—FLETCHER MILLS, 19-year-old Negro sharecropper from Tuscaloosa, Alabama, was held on an extradition charge, pending hearing before Gov. of *Pennsylvania*. The Alabama farm owner had struck Mills over the

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December 22.—CAB CALLOWAY, famous bandleader, was slugged by a city policeman at the entrance to *Kansas City's Play-Mor Ballroom*. Calloway had been invited to the hall by Lionel Hampton, whose band was playing there. Calloway was struck over the head with a pistol several times by a policeman. Eight stitches had to be taken in his head, and Calloway was charged with drunkenness and disturbing the peace. All charges against the bandleader were dismissed in court.

1946

- Police were especially violent against Negro strikers during the strike against the Piedmont Leaf Tobacco Co., at *Winston Salem, North Carolina*, in 1946. MRS. MARGARET DEGRAFFENRIED, mother of four children, was beaten by police during the strike and sentenced to three months on a road gang. CAL ROBERSON JONES, a worker at another tobacco plant, who happened to pass by the Piedmont plant, was beaten by police and sentenced to eight months on a road gang. BETTY KEEL WILLIAMS, a young woman striker, was sentenced to 30 days. PHILIP KORITZ (white), organizer for Local 22, Food and Tobacco Workers Union, was sentenced to six months on a road gang for coming to the defense of Jones while Jones was being beaten. The union was asking a wage of 65 cents an hour.
- WILLIAM DUDLEY, member of the United Cement, Lime and Gypsum Workers Union, was kidnapped, handcuffed and flogged in *Wilkinson County, Georgia*, by four hooded men who said they were Klansmen.
- LEON JOHNSON, steel worker of *Clairton, Pa.*, was ordered extradited to the Georgia chain gang by Governor Martin of Pennsylvania. Johnson testified that on the chain gang he had been subjected to almost daily beatings by the prison guards, forced to work while heavily shackled, deprived of needed medical care, and that his life had been repeatedly threatened by the prison guards.
- January 25.*—In *Birmingham, Alabama*, 100 Negro World War II veterans marched on Jefferson County Courthouse to demand that they be registered as voters. Their demand was rejected by the Board of Registrars. Veteran after veteran was turned down for refusal to 'interpret the United States Constitution.' Alabama law only requires the ability to read or write as a condition for registration.
- January.*—TRAVIS BUTLER, a veteran, was shot in the back in *Houston, Texas*, because he took the only seat vacant in a bus. The seat happened to be in the "white" section and the conductor asked Butler to move. When he refused, a general melee took place, during which Butler was shot. He was subsequently fined on a charge of "aggravated assault."
- January 23.*—ARNOLD P. JOHNSON, uniformed veteran, was forced to go to the 110th street headquarters of the 120th MP Battalion in *New York*, where the officer in charge beat him up. Johnson, as a discharged veteran, was not under the jurisdiction of the Military Police. Yet the reason given for his arrest was that Johnson was illegally wearing his army uniform, in spite of the fact that government regulations stated that a veteran could wear his uniform as long as necessary after discharge, because of the clothing shortage. Johnson was held in the station overnight and was neither allowed to make a phone call nor notify his family in any other way. When he was finally released, Johnson charged that many Negro soldiers and ex-soldiers

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ham, North Carolina by an all-white jury. The complainant against him, a white woman charging "rape," testified at the trial that she could not identify Benton. Benton's "confession" had been signed after a two-day police third degree, during which his life had been threatened. The North Carolina State Supreme Court set aside the verdict Dec. 2, 1946 and ordered a new trial. At the new trial Benton's relatives urged him to plead "guilty" to a lesser charge rather than to go before the prejudiced all-white jury again. He did so and received a life sentence.

May.—NAPOLEON RIVERS, SR., an elderly man of *Mobile, Alabama*, was beaten unconscious by a patrolman in May, 1946, when he went to the Board of Registrar's Office to "vouch for" a number of Negro veterans who were trying to register.

May 7.—Two white patrolmen stopped and searched the car driven by COUNCILMAN BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, in *New York*. They declared they were searching the car "on suspicion." They also questioned the occupants. In the car was a white friend and co-worker of the Negro City Councilman, George Blake Charney. In a letter to Police Commissioner Wallander, Councilman Davis stated: "In my judgment, my car was stopped only because it was in a 'white' section of the city at an early hour of the morning, and because one passenger was white." (Mr. Davis is a signer of this petition.)

May 20.—LORENZO REED, who had escaped from a Florida road camp in 1945, was ordered extradited from *New York* by Governor Thomas E. Dewey. Reed had been sentenced after being accused of stealing twenty cents. In New York, he testified that his life had been threatened by guards; that he had been beaten while held over a keg; that he had been kept in a sweat box. His trial took place in Panama City, Florida, without counsel, and had lasted exactly ten minutes. The trial resulted in a conviction of twenty-five years.

May 28.—BONIS E. BYRD accidentally bumped into a policeman in *New York*. He apologized but got three blows on the legs and additional blows on the body. He was taken to a police station where the same policeman poked him in the eye with a billy. Byrd was then booked on charges of assault. The case was called up five times but had to be dropped because the officer never appeared.

June 8.—Three white thugs raped a young Negro woman, YVONNE KENNY and beat her white escort, Jack Hylands, to death in *New York City's* Central Park.

June 8.—A lay preacher, WILLIAM J. DESSAURE, was beaten by four white policemen in *Rockville Center, Long Island*. Dessaure had gone to the police to register a complaint about a gambling place. When the police found the place empty, they charged Dessaure with having led them on a wild goose chase. They beat him, then booked him on a charge of second degree assault, saying he had assaulted all four of them. All charges against the police were dismissed, although many witnesses testified to the beating of Dessaure. Dessaure was found guilty by a jury drawn from a panel that excluded Negroes. Two prosecution witnesses admitted under cross-examination that the District Attorney had suppressed sections of their statements which revealed that the police had threatened Dessaure's life. Dessaure was sentenced on May 16, 1947, to one and a half to three and a half years in jail.

June 12.—After an argument with a taxi driver in *New York* who refused to take him home, CARLTON POWELL, bass player, was beaten almost to

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July 24, 1946.—At Newark, *Delaware*, a fiery cross was burned on the fringe of the Negro community.

July 25.—EDGAR HOLT, a vice-president of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, was beaten on July 25, 1946, at *Newport News, Virginia* by the foreman and several other whites while he was on a construction job. Holt had asked the foreman for a drink of water, but was told that whites drank first. When he objected, the foreman struck him in the face and several whites joined in to beat him. The men then dragged Holt to a road and left him lying there.

July 31.—When Miss CONSTANCE CHANEY and CHARLES MARTIN resented a policeman's question as to their business while they stood talking on a *New York* street, the questioner beat them over the head with his club.

August.—Three deputy sheriffs gave LUCIAN J. HOPKINS four blackjack beatings as he was being transported over back roads from *Alton to Edwardsville, Illinois*.

August. JOHN T. WALKER, Negro veteran, received threats and warnings from white people when he began to build a house in August 1946 in *San Mateo, California*. The house was burned on December 6 before it was completed. Officials dubbed the arson as "a boy's prank" not to be taken too seriously.

Summer, 1946.—On June 14, a Ku Klux Klan death threat was mailed to David Levinson of *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*, a civil liberties attorney. *Philadelphia* papers on June 21 carried photostats of this threat. A fiery cross burned on the grounds of the First Baptist Church at Crestmont, Pa., on July 26. The *Bellefonte, Pa. Centre Daily Times* reported the burning of several Klan crosses in August. The Franklin County Klan inserted an advertisement in the *Chambersburg, Pa. Public Opinion*. Following many demands, Governor Martin of Pennsylvania ordered an investigation. The investigation showed that the Klan was doing business in Pennsylvania; leaders were named and places given where meetings were held. In October, 1946, the Secretary of State of Pennsylvania wrote to an attorney, Saul Waldman, that the Klan had a business permit for the state.

Summer, 1946.—Records in the office of Secretary of State Thomas J. Curran of *New York* revealed to investigators in 1945 that the Knights and Women of the Ku Klux Klan became a corporation under New York law on October 30, 1925. One of the incorporators was Queens Motor Vehicle Commissioner Horace A. Demarest, a Dewey appointee. A letter mailed on April 5, 1946, to Dorothy Langston (white), secretary to the Committee for Justice in Freeport (L. I.) announced that the KKK would take action against those active in behalf of the Freeport victims. On August 14, 1946, Assemblyman Leo Isaacson and Chester Addison, American Labor Party candidates for state assembly, charged in a joint letter to Borough President James J. Lyons that the Klan was being revived in the Bronx. They stated that Wilson Bush, Bronx Klan leader, was cited by Assistant District Attorney Duke of Georgia as having recently met with other Klan leaders. The Klan in New York State was ordered dissolved in July, 1946.

August 3.—GEORGE MIKE ELIOT, war veteran who had been blinded and wounded in action, was talking to a friend on a *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*, street, when a policeman began to shove him. Eliot protested that he was blind, and the policeman then clubbed him and kicked his wounded leg.

August 6.—At *Miami, Florida*, ROOSEVELT WINFIELD, chief steward of the Porters and Cleaners Unit, CIO Transport Workers Union, was driving

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possible death if returned to that state. Johnson was sentenced in New York to from fifteen to thirty years in prison.

September 4.—One hundred and thirty-nine soldiers recently returned from war duty overseas were arrested on September 4, 1946, in *Florence, South Carolina*. Police armed with riot guns approached them and made them march single file through the city to jail. There they were charged with "disorderly conduct" and all but two were fined.

September 9.—ALBERT WOODEN, a porter for the Illinois Central Railroad, was beaten with a blackjack in *Memphis, Tennessee* by a white conductor for the same railroad after Wooden had protested segregation of Negroes. While Wooden was being beaten a policeman looked on, handling his gun as though he meant to shoot Wooden.

September 15.—JOHN FULLER, CARL WATKINS and RICHARD BERRY were attacked by white hoodlums in an attempt to prevent them from attending a dance that was to be held at the Queensbridge Housing Project community center in *New York*. The white hoodlums approached the three Negro youths with cries of ". . . kill the n——s."

September 17.—PAUL DORSEY, veteran, was assaulted in *Waynesville, North Carolina* by four white hoodlums who ordered him off a bus and into a waiting automobile. A lynch mob of 400 persons planned to murder Dorsey, but the police intervened and prevented the lynching. Dorsey was placed under arrest, however, and the lynchers went free.

September 25.—A white conductor for the Illinois Central Railroad shot JAMES GRAVES, a porter, through the chest in *Mound Bayou, Mississippi*. Graves and the conductor had argued over the seating of two Negro passengers. The conductor slugged Graves behind the ear with a blackjack, then shot him.

September 27.—One Negro high school student was severely beaten, another stabbed and scores battered and bruised as the result of an attack by white high school students outside the Benjamin Franklin High School in *New York*. The following day large gangs of white youths attacked Negro youths. Police of the 23rd Precinct said that the attacks were "just one of those things."

September 28.—The Coney Island, *New York* Civil Rights Committee charged that hoodlums, having recently threatened to drive all Negroes from Coney Island, hit ARTHUR CRAWFORD, a veteran, from behind with a blunt instrument, causing him to be hospitalized for a week. PFC. THEODORE TARVER had been clubbed and arrested by the police on the pretext that he did not move fast enough during a parade.

October.—AURELIUS S. SCOTT, educator, was confined to a mental institution under circumstances that pointed to a frameup. Mr. Scott had filed his candidacy for the post of coroner in *Atlanta, Georgia*. Of the thirty-three white candidates among whom the vote would have been split none was willing to withdraw. There was, therefore, a good chance that Mr. Scott might be elected. Much pressure was exercised to force him to withdraw his candidacy. On October 20, 1946, *The N. Y. Times* ran a story from which the following section is quoted: ". . . a reservation has been made at a Nashville, Tennessee sanatorium for 45-year-old Aurelius S. Scott, whose entry into the Fulton County race had caused turmoil in local political circles and a prediction that he stood a good chance of being the first Negro office-holder in the deep South since Reconstruction." The action was de-

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men physically assaulted Negroes and whites both inside and outside of the Golden Gate Ballroom in Harlem, *New York*. Occasion was Governor Thomas E. Dewey's wind-up election rally. When they protested some of Dewey's remarks, three Negro veterans, WALTER GARLAND, BURT JACKSON and DANIEL HARDY were beaten in full view of the audience. Dorothy Langston and Ruth Sacknowitz, both white, were also hit by police.

November 9.—HENRY NEAL, 28 years old, was sentenced at *Tridelfhia, West Virginia*, to a life term in the penitentiary for allegedly stealing \$40 worth of home furnishings.

November 9.—JAMES E. JACKSON, a veteran, was besieged in his *New Orleans, Louisiana* home by white hoodlums who threatened to take him to the woods and shoot him. The police who were called arrived too late to catch the besiegers. Instead, they took Jackson to the police station and charged him with "disturbing the peace" because he broke a window in an attempt to attract the aid of neighbors during the siege. He was fined \$25.

November 13.—Governor Walter E. Edge of *New Jersey* ordered HERMAN POWELL sent back to Georgia on November 13, 1946 to finish serving a life term on the Georgia chain gang. Powell had been originally sentenced because, in March, 1941, when he swerved on a slippery road to avoid striking a car containing two white women, he lost control and crashed into the car instead. After he regained consciousness in the hospital and was able to face trial, Powell was tried in Johnson County Superior Court before an all white jury and convicted of the murder of one of the women. An appeal to the Georgia Supreme Court resulted in affirmation of the conviction. He escaped the chain gang and reached Newark, N. J. where he was joined by his wife and two children. In Newark, Powell had begun to reestablish his life, found work, and earned his living for two years before the Governor of New Jersey ordered his extradition. The daughter of the dead woman, who had been in the car with her, testified that the accident was unavoidable.

November 19.—SAMUEL TAYLOR of *Pritchard, Alabama*, was convicted and condemned to die on November 19, 1946 on a charge of "rape." The NAACP in filing its appeal declared that Taylor's "confession" had been wrung from him by means of physical assault on his person. For four consecutive nights he was third-degreed and threatened with death by policemen if he refused to "confess." In December, 1948, the U.S. Supreme Court decided to review the case.

November 20.—KEITH HOWARD, editor of the *Yellow Springs News* and a leader of a movement to end discrimination in *Yellow Springs, Ohio*, was attacked by two cafe proprietors with whom he attempted to consult concerning their practice of discrimination. Howard was beaten and threatened with death if he tried to enter the cafe again.

December.—L. C. JENKINS, a veteran, was castrated by a group of white men near *Collins, Mississippi*, but the crime was hushed up in the local press. It became known only through a letter from the wife of a Chicago NAACP official who happened to be visiting in Mississippi. Jenkins and a friend, W. C. Holloway, accepted a ride from an unknown white man after they had attended a movie in Collins. After going a short distance, the driver ordered Holloway from the car and told him to leave town. The driver stated that he wanted to "get" Jenkins because of Jenkins' attentions to a young Negro woman in whom the white driver was also interested. Jenkins

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December 6.—JOHN R. FORT and LETHOLIAN WADDLES, two Negro veterans and their families, were targets for an anti-Negro demonstration at the Airport Housing Project in *Chicago*. They had moved into the Project along with 91 white veterans and their families. When *Theodore Turner*, another Negro veteran had moved into the project a month before, a cordon of 500 police had to be detailed to guard his life and those of his family. As a result of this mob terrorization, seven other Negro families withdrew the applications for housing which they had already filed with the authorities.

—A reign of terror against Negroes was carried on in Greenwich Village, *New York*, during 1946 and 1947. Fifteen to twenty hoodlums attacked MISS SARAH VAUGHAN, MISS NAOMI WRIGHT and GEORGE TREADWELL, three entertainers of Cafe Society Downtown, as they entered a subway station on August 11, 1946. The two women were kicked, struck, spat on and called filthy names, and the man was physically assaulted. The three reported to a nearby police station, but were told that the police were too busy to bother. On the same morning, ARTHUR SMITH, a jeweler, was chased into the arms of the police by a crowd. A few weeks earlier, in the same area, REVELS CAYTON was attacked by a gang. Still earlier, in the same area, J. C. HEARD, a band leader appearing at Cafe Society, was struck from behind. In June, 1946, SAMUEL BENSKIN, a pianist, was attacked. On April 11, 1947, LT. STEVE KERR and his wife, NORMA KERR were dragged from their apartment in the Village because they had invited a Negro friend, CHARLES WHITE, to live with them. The police were called three times during the beating, but failed to respond. The following day, April 12, CHARLES WHITE and DAVID McADOO, Negro, were beset by a crowd in the neighborhood. Both suffered scalp lacerations.

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—MARGUERITE DAISY CARR, 13, early in 1947 petitioned to attend a white school in the *District of Columbia* because Negro schools offered only half day's work, due to overcrowding. Petition denied. The court held that it was "not open for this court" to judge segregation in schools.

January 1.—GOLDEN YAMAR HOWARD, who had testified before the grand jury investigating the *Monroe, Georgia* lynchings, was approached in Monroe by two white brothers who demanded to know what he had told the jury. He was beaten about the face, then dragged to a shed behind the ice plant where he worked and beaten again.

January 31.—When two white men accosted EDWIN WAY, a veteran, on the highway near *Woodford, South Carolina* and accused him of breaking into one of their homes, Way denied their charges. The whites then tried to force Way into a car and he shot at both of them in self defense. One white man was killed. Placed on trial for "murder" in Columbia, S. C., Way received a life sentence. Before the event on the highway, Way had been threatened by a group of white railroad workers.

February 3.—At *Oswatomie, Kansas*, a lynch mob attempted to murder GEORGE MILLER, a section hand. The lynchers had already thrown a rope around Miller's neck when sheriff's deputies rushed him to Lawrenceburg for safekeeping. The lynching was averted.

February 11.—When police demanded to see his draft card, HAROLD JONES, a fruit peddler, was a bit slow in taking out his wallet. Before he could get

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him of disorderly conduct, searched him and threw him into a car. In the car he was beaten unconscious by the officers. He awoke the next morning in the hospital with a bandage over his right eye and an arrest ticket near his pillow. His eye had to be removed.

April 1.—MR. AND MRS. AGGIE HONTON were severely beaten near *Dacula, Georgia* by white men who entered their apartment and falsely identified themselves as policemen. The white men forced the couple into a car and struck them with a pistol.

May 1.—About 400 men stormed the St. Clair County Jail at *Poll City, Alabama*, and fired shots through the windows at ROBERT HUNT. State highway patrolmen finally dispersed the mob and two carloads of police took Hunt to Birmingham for safekeeping. During the transfer Hunt was nicked on the arm and leg by flying glass when one bullet smashed a window.

May 27.—In *Rich Square, North Carolina*, GODWIN BUSH had been arrested by local police on May 22 on a charge of attempted rape. He was later taken to jail by several armed and masked white men and pushed into a waiting car from which he leaped and ran as the thwarted mobsters fired their rifles at him.

May 1.—A sharp struggle broke out in the *Federal* prison at *Fort Leavenworth, Kansas* between Negro and white military prisoners and their guards. The white prisoners had objected to eating in the same mess hall with Negroes, and on the following day, May 2, 514 white prisoners attacked 213 Negroes.

May 5.—WOODROW DRUMMONDS, a veteran, was slapped by a white patrolman because their cars grazed each other. The event occurred at *Greenville, South Carolina* on the opening day of the trial of lynchers of WILLIE EARLE.

May 23.—GODWIN BUSH was seized by lynchers from the Northampton County Jail in *Jackson, North Carolina*. The lynchers received the jail keys from the jailer. Bush was at first believed to be lynched. He managed, however, to break away from the mob of armed, masked men, and gave himself up to two FBI agents. Bush was then sent to Central State Prison in Raleigh. (Charge against him was "attempted rape" although the supposed victim, Mrs. Margaret Bryant (white) stated that she couldn't identify Bush.) Seven white men were arrested on charges of attempting to lynch Bush; at least one of them confessed to the FBI, naming six accomplices. All seven were at once granted bail of \$2500 each. On May 28, day after the seven were arrested, newspapermen had to leave Jackson because threats had been made against their lives in connection with the whole lynch attempt. An official who refused to be quoted told reporters one of them "might be killed." Reporters later were told that they better get going "if they didn't want their cars torn up." In the same area on April 26, 1947, about a month before the attempt to lynch Bush, WILLIE CHERRY and DICK BOONE, charged with rape, had been threatened by lynchers while being held in the same jail from which Bush was taken. They were saved by transfer to Raleigh State Prison.

June 10.—JAMES HARRIS, 18-year-old Negro of *Hurtsboro, Alabama*, narrowly escaped death at the hands of a lynch mob after he was rescued by Mayor Hugh Van. A mob of white men had already beaten Harris and put a rope around his neck when the Mayor arrived on the scene and with three assist-

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found guilty of disorderly conduct. At the same time, his store at 101 W. 143rd St., was completely wrecked by the detectives and Symonette was forced out of business, as a result.

November 1.—CALVIN MOORE, a 16-year-old youth, was beaten by Patrolman George Romanovich in the *Brooklyn, New York*, Fort Greene Housing project. Romanovich claimed the youth had a burglar tool and arrested him. At the same time OTIS WILLIS, 15, and TYLER TOULAN, 16, were also arrested and beaten in the 88th precinct.

November 10.—DON ALONZO BRIGGS, 47-year-old Harlem, *New York*, seaman, was beaten by Patrolman Bernard Martin of the 28th precinct in his home at 68 Lenox Ave. Briggs, a member of the National Maritime Union, was on the way up the stairs of his home when Martin and two white sailors accosted him. He was forced into his apartment after one of the sailors said "look he has a white hat on, he looks like the man." Briggs was taken to the police station after being beaten and was released when he promised to pay Martin \$300.

November 18.—HOWARD WHITE was sentenced to die in the electric chair for "armed robbery," a crime for which no white man would be likely to receive the death penalty. An appeal to the *Mississippi State* Supreme Court, which was made on March 18, 1947, upheld the death sentence although three of the Supreme Court justices denounced it as a "barbarous, cruel and inhuman sentence."

November 23.—JAMES SIMPSON, Negro truck driver of *Rock Island, Illinois*, arrested and charged with negligent driving, was attacked by police officer James Swift, who beat him across the head with a blackjack and struck him in the left eye, as a result of which he lost his sight in that eye. He was left for hours without medical attention. When he was finally removed to a hospital doctors discovered there was no possibility of restoring his vision. Swift was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury the week of October 16, 1948.

November 27.—MRS. ROSA LEE INGRAM and her sons WALLACE and SAMMIE, of *Ellaville, Georgia*, were sentenced to life imprisonment for the self-defense slaying of John E. Stratford who had molested Mrs. Ingram. The mother and her sons were originally condemned to death, but nation-wide protests forced the commutation of their sentences by Ga. Supreme Court Judge William H. Harper. [Mrs. Geneva Rushin, a daughter of the imprisoned Mrs. Ingram, is a signer of this petition.]

December 5.—JOHN WESLEY SCOTT was beaten by six *Memphis, Tennessee* officers who arrested him on charges of burglary and house breaking. The officers were indicted in April, 1949 by a Federal Grand Jury.

December 25.—WILLIE AND BESSIE BANKS of *Boston, Massachusetts*, were walking home when Mrs. Banks suffered an attack of indigestion. The intense pain caused Mrs. Banks to scream and her husband ran for a taxi cab. A 200-pound patrolman, seeing the suffering woman, ordered her to hush, and when she didn't, banged her head against the pavement knocking out her teeth. He then beat up Mr. Banks and arrested the couple for assault and battery. Subsequently the conviction of the couple was reversed in a higher court.

—Sheriff Jenkins A. Hill of Clarke County, Alabama, and Deputy Willie H. Harrell, *Grove Hill, Alabama*, were indicted on federal charges of beating and torturing nine Negroes between Dec. 1947 and June 1948. The persons

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State highway patrolmen, James W. Revis and John Hackett while he was handcuffed. Pierce was arrested for speeding on a highway and was kicked and stamped on by both police. Revis was fined \$50. Hackett was freed of assault charges brought by Pierce, while Pierce was found guilty of speeding.

February.—The NAACP received an anonymous letter on behalf of 300 inmates of a *Texas* state prison farm camp. The letter read in part: "There is no one we can go to and tell our troubles without being beaten and kicked like we are dogs—not even a doctor. Do we have to be beaten and run like cattle merely because we are in prison? Do we have to be worked in the rain, or forever eat the food that a dog would not eat? We are not asking for freedom until we have paid our debt to society, but we are asking for someone to make it safe here for us while we are here."

The manager of the Texas prison system admitted that some of the alleged conditions were true.

February 1.—REGINALD HENRY, 28, and his wife, MARY, 22, of 538 E. 15th St., *Bronx, New York*, were beaten by a gang of over fifteen who broke into their apartment. Five of the men were identified and arrested. They were: Lawrence Madison, 510 E. 150th St.; John Haynes, 19, 441 E. 146th St.; John Hines, 19, 552 E. 150th St.; James McGrath, 523 E. 150th St.; and James Spinelli, 19, 510 E. 150th St. The Henrys had recently moved into their basement apartment.

February 8.—Five Negroes were attacked by a gang of over twenty whites in Coney Island, *New York*, as they walked along the street late at night. The gang used sticks, iron pipes and bottles. All five were severely injured. They were LUTHER BOSTIC, 23, 2823 W. 30th St.; his wife GRACE, 23; JAMES SPEARS, 28, 2829 W. 30th St.; JAMES and JOLIN McCCLAIN, 64 Community St., *Jersey City*.

February 11.—JOHN MCKENZIE, RALPH COOPER, HORACE WILSON, JAMES THORPE, MCKINLEY FORREST and COLLIS ENGLISH, since become known as the "Trenton Six" were arrested and accused of killing William Horner, a merchant in *Trenton, N. J.* They were sentenced to death, but the courts later granted a retrial because of trial errors. Evidence shows the men could not have committed the crime, and were victims of a terror police dragnet in the Negro community at that time. Retrial, in which the state's own witnesses recanted, resulted in the freeing of four—two found guilty. Further appeals for the two are under way. (Miss Bessie Mitchell, sister of Collis English, is a signer of this petition.)

February 13.—A one-armed Negro Navy veteran, LEROY MCGOWAN, was arrested in *Jackson, Mississippi*, and was beaten by seventeen police officers at the corner of Amite and North Farish Streets. The case was reported to Att. Gen. Clark.

February 19.—Crosses burned in Negro section of *Gadsden, Alabama*.

February 20.—MRS. MAMIE PATTERSON, 54, of *Tuscomb, Alabama*, mother of six children, was raped at pistol point by Charles Berryhill, 29, and Herschel Gasque, 27. The two men forced their way into the Patterson home, struck JAMES PATTERSON, her husband, over the head, beating him into unconsciousness. The men claimed they were trying to collect a debt from Patterson. They then raped Mrs. Patterson.

February 21.—In *Jackson, Mississippi*, J. V. WILLIAMS, a Negro veteran, was arrested in a Negro cafe. The officer pushed him into the street and then shot him in the hip, claiming he had attempted to escape. While the veteran

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April 18.—OLES PRINGLE of *Cincinnati, Ohio*, was beaten by three officers who broke his leg. The officers were Ted Saddler, John L. Scudder and Joseph W. Rouse.

April 23.—ANNIE GRAYSON, 23, and MALINDA JACKSON of *Wetumka, Alabama*, were raped by John O. Howard and Jack Oliver, both 30 years old. The Negro women were riding with their husbands, Sam Grayson and William Jackson, when the white men shot the tires of their car and forced them out at gun point. They were taken into a wooded area, raped, and then robbed. The rapists were later arrested.

April 25.—MICHAEL BOOKER, 35, 1182 Jackson Ave., *Bronx, New York*, a cripple, charged that Anthony Russo, 40, Newark, N. J. bus driver beat and shoved him from a bus. Booker charged that between *Jersey City* and *Newark* two men got on and one said "Where I come from n—s aren't allowed to sit in front." Russo agreed with the man and made offensive remarks about Negroes. An argument ensued and Russo pushed Booker from the bus into the road. A motorist picked him up.

May 1.—JOSEPH BEAUFORD, 27-year-old Negro, and five companions, were attacked in a parking lot at Broadway and East Houston Street, *New York City*, by a gang of twenty-five or thirty whites. Beauford was badly beaten and was on the critical list in both Columbus Hospital and Bellevue Hospital. He received no treatment on admission to Columbus and was sent later to Bellevue. Two were arrested as a result: one 17-year-old white youth, Daniel Sgobbo, and a 15-year-old whose name was not given.

May 3.—GEORGE EDGAR WALLACE and JOHN WESLEY GRANT of Chicago charged that in *Covington, Kentucky*, while on the Greyhound Bus en route to Clarksdale, Miss., the bus driver told them "get in the back seat where n—s belong." Another driver, they declared, got a fire ax and threatened to kill them. They were then arrested by Kentucky police and lodged over night in the Covington jail and made to pay a fine. They later sued the bus company for \$70,000.

May 3.—GUS LAWRENCE, 54, of *Norfolk, Virginia*, was beaten and kicked at the Precinct Station 2. Lawrence declared he was knocked down, kicked and stamped on and that he lay on the jail floor for nine hours with broken ribs. Lawrence also said police beat a Negro in the cell with him at the time named Millard Massenberg. Police claimed Massenberg beat Lawrence.

May 15.—MRS. LENA THOMAS of Harlem, *New York*, was beaten by 28th precinct Patrolman Jack Shep. Subsequently, the entire community was aroused and hundreds of police were rushed into the area. Mrs. Thomas was beaten at the Foremost Food Market when the manager called the cop during an argument between Mrs. Thomas and a food checker. Mrs. Thomas sued the New York Police Department for \$10,000 damages.

May 16.—ED BLAINE, 30, of *Memphis, Tennessee*, was blinded by Patrolman Lonnie E. Bryan. Blaine had been arrested and claimed that Bryan and officer Carl W. Brewer had robbed him of \$10. When he reported it to the police station, Bryan hit him across the face while he was wearing glasses. Police Inspector Dwyer ordered the officers to take Blaine to the hospital, and during the trip, they blackjacked and clubbed him. Later, Blaine's right eye had to be taken out. Bryan was fined \$51 and Brewer was found innocent of the charges.

May 18.—A fiery cross was burned in *Gadsden, Alabama*, in front of the home of K. J. SULLIVAN, president of the Local NAACP branch of Etowah County.

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nity of *Denville, Mississippi*, that seventy-five armed themselves and took refuge in the woods. According to the Associated Press, one section of the posse was "searching Negro houses in the area and carrying Negroes off to jail at Hazlehurst." Chief deputy Sheriff E. L. Bishop said the Negroes were being taken to jail "for questioning and for safekeeping—to keep them away from the mob at Denville."

July 24.—A mob of about 200 white men gathered outside jail at *Ocilla, Georgia*, demanding custody of a Negro man charged with molesting white woman.

July 24.—A cross was burned at *Stone Mountain, Atlanta, Georgia* before hooded Ku Klux Klansmen.

July 31.—LEON AND ALFONSO LIPSCOMB, brothers and both veterans, were shot in *Brooklyn, New York* by Patrolman Frank Hogan in front of their home at 1458 Bedford Avenue. Hogan was drunk at the time.

August 9.—Two crosses were burned near Negro settlement in *Riviera Beach, Florida*, following a proposal to the town council that another Negro housing project be built.

August 9.—A cross was burned near Negro meeting in *Columbia, South Carolina*, where voting in Democratic primary had been discussed.

August 10.—REV. ARCHIE WARE, 66, was attacked at *Calhoun Falls, South Carolina*, after he had voted in the Democratic primary. In an affidavit filed with Att. Gen. Tom Clark, Rev. Ware listed the names of his attackers and two policemen whom he charges saw the assault and refused to protect him.

August 14.—Mrs. Lula Glass of Brooklyn, N. Y., appealed to *Bunnell, Florida*, authorities to help her find her son, whom she said was recruited by a white trucker for farm work in Florida during December of previous year. Said she had heard from relative that her son, TILLMAN STOVALL, was being held in peonage and fed bread and water.

August 23.—The house of CHARLES L. FULL, 12862 St. Aubin Street, *Detroit, Michigan*, was fired and the garage completely burned. The NAACP demanded an investigation. It noted that several other Negro-owned homes in this area had been under attack by the Corville District Improvement Association, a hate group. The Arson Squad investigated.

August 23.—The home of CECIL MARSHALL, 17803 St. Aubin Street, *Detroit, Michigan*, was fired and the garage destroyed. The NAACP demanded an investigation. It noted that several other Negro-owned homes in this area had been under attack by the Corville District Improvement Association, a hate group. The Arson Squad investigated.

August 24.—A cross was burned in the Negro section of *Anderson, South Carolina*.

August 27.—A public meeting of the Ku Klux Klan was held at *Cordele, Georgia*.

September 1.—There were 12 cross burnings in central *Florida*.

September 4.—Two police were charged with arresting and threatening Negro youth in *Fulton County, Georgia*, who refused to obey their order to go to church.

September 9.—LIVERT JONES, 23, of *Augusta, Georgia*, escaped death at the hands of a hooded gang that kidnapped him. Jones had applied for civil service examination to be a policeman. The gang pulled him from his home at gun point and put him in a car. Jones, however, grappled with the men

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as a white man, was sentenced to five years in prison in *Mississippi*, after marrying Junie Scradney, white woman, on testimony that his great-grand-mother was a Negro.

December 22.—The Ku Klux Klan paraded through the streets of *Bessemer, Alabama* in a fifty-car caravan.

December 22.—The Ku Klux Klan paraded through the streets of *Brighton, Alabama* in a fifty-car caravan.

1949

—Pianist HAZEL SCOTT, wife of Representative Adam C. Powell, refused service in a *Pasco, Washington*, lunch stand although she had been snowbound and without food for hours.

—Pastor of Capitol Christian Church in *Tallahassee, Florida*, invited Dr. JAMES E. HUDSON, chaplain of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College for Negroes, to speak during Brotherhood Week. Board of Elders cancelled the invitation.

—The *American Medical Association*, at national convention, maintained "white only" membership in segregated territory and other areas, and also refused to permit Negro physicians located in segregated areas to affiliate on a purely national level.

—DR. RALPH JOHNSON BUNCHE, former mediator in Palestine and director of the United Nations Trusteeship Council for Non-Self-Governing Territories, felt it necessary to turn down appointment as Under Secretary of State for the United States because his children would not be allowed to attend the school of their choice in *Washington, D. C.*

—WILLIAM LOEW, of *East Orange, New Jersey*, advertised his home for sale to either whites or Negroes. Received numerous threats, including "Sell To Negroes And Suffer."

January 14.—Police cleared the path for a parade of armed and hooded Klansmen through *Opelika, Alabama*.

January 17.—At *Talmadge College, Alabama*, forty automobiles, filled with hooded Klansmen, rode through the campus, warning the student body not to participate in the Alabama Students Conference on Civil Rights.

January 22.—A cross was burned in the Negro section of *Suffolk, Virginia*.

January 22.—A cross was burned in front of a Negro-owned store in *Driver, Virginia*.

January 27.—Police escorted a motorcade of robed men bearing an electric cross and KKK pennants in *Tallahassee, Florida*.

February 9.—Two hundred and sixty-nine hooded Klansmen paraded in the rain through streets of *Denmark, South Carolina*, carrying red flares.

February 19.—A five-foot cross was burned in front of the Jefferson School (a Negro school) in *Union, New Jersey*, where a meeting was held to protest the death sentence imposed on the "Trenton Six."

February 19.—Three crosses were burned in front of the *Miami Shores (Florida)* Community Church. A Negro minister had been invited to speak to the white congregation.

February 19. OTIS SMITH, Electrical Workers Union leader was blinded after being beaten by *Eric, Pennsylvania*, police who seized him during an automobile accident. Smith was beaten by Patrolmen Harry Staszewski and

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his hands, Fowler charged, while the others took turns beating him with a thick leather strap.

March 14.—MRS. CATHERINE SCALES, 27, was attacked in a Coney Island, *New York* bus by the driver, Michael Carras, 25, and John Poulos, 23. Mrs. Scales, pregnant at the time, suffered a miscarriage.

March 18.—WARREN CRAWFORD, 396 Tompkins Avenue, Brooklyn, *New York*, charged he was severely beaten and assaulted in the 28th Precinct in Harlem when he reported being robbed. Police claimed he struck one of them and "demanded to be arrested."

March 18.—The Third U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals freed a 34-year-old Negro, LEON JOHNSON, and ruled that a state cannot extradite chain gang fugitives whose custodians inflict "unusual, brutal or inhuman punishment." Leon Johnson was convicted of murder in Georgia in 1943 and escaped six months later. He was arrested in Pittsburgh and held there for six years under a warrant issued by former Governor Arthur James. Johnson has contended that prison guards would kill him if he were returned to Georgia.

March 24.—Three houses occupied by Negroes in the North Smithfield district of *Birmingham, Alabama*, were shattered by dynamite.

March 25.—The home of BISHOP S. L. GREEN of *Birmingham, Alabama*, was bombed by terrorists who resented Negroes moving into a previously white community. Birmingham police failed to find the terrorists.

March 25.—ALONZO GUYTON, Purple Heart veteran, was beaten and kicked by *Brooklyn, New York* police of the 79th Precinct. Guyton and friends were walking down the street when the plainclothesmen accosted them. Guyton was knocked to the sidewalk when he demanded that they identify themselves.

March 26.—MANZIE THOMAS of *Orlando, Florida* was seized by two carloads of men, carried to a wooded area near Fairville and flogged until unconscious. Thomas reported the kidnapping to Detectives J. R. Beach and John Willard.

March 29.—A public meeting of the Ku Klux Klan was held at *Americus, Georgia*.

April 2.—Seven Negroes were flogged by a mob of fifty to seventy-five masked and robed men, at *Hooker, Georgia*. A trial later established that the sheriff of Dade County, John W. Lynch, and three deputies, turned the men over to KKK mob. The sheriff was found guilty in March, 1950, and sentenced to one year in prison.

April 9.—EDWARD L. HAYWARD, 24-year-old postal employee of *Los Angeles, California* was beaten by police after a traffic altercation. Hayward was beaten with a pistol by two plainclothesmen who then arrested him for assault with a deadly weapon. The charge was later changed to a misdemeanor.

April 10.—When 40-year-old SAMUEL SPEARS paused at an information table set up on a *New Orleans, Louisiana* street corner to examine literature displayed for voters by the Young Progressives, he was mauled about by police and carried to a precinct station in a police car. Spears was beaten as soon as he reached the station, in spite of the efforts of several organizations to prevent the brutality. He also lost his job as porter in an optical goods company. As a result of the beating, Spears, a small and rather frail man, had a cut chin, burst ear drum, bruises and contusions.

May.—*New Orleans, Louisiana* police invaded the campus of a Negro uni-

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Rev. H. Frank Ledford and Rev. Luther Brown were the witnesses.

Week of June 5.—Over 200 white men surrounded the homes of *Atlanta* Negroes on Ashby Street between Greensferry and West End Avenues and warned them to move out and turn their property over to whites. Uniformed police are reported to have accompanied the mob.

June 12.—RICHARD D. BROWN of *Harlem, New York City*, was shot and killed by Abraham Yudenfreund. At the same time, the policeman, off duty at the time, shot and wounded JAMES LEE TAYLOR, cousin of Brown. Yudenfreund had interfered in an argument Brown was having with his wife at the corner of 115th Street and Fifth Avenue at the time.

June 21.—A mob attack occurred in *St. Louis, Missouri* when about 200 white hoodlums attacked some fifty Negro youths, swimming in the Fairgrounds Park Municipal pool, with baseball bats, clubs and knives. This was followed by sporadic attacks on Negroes in other parts of the city.

July 1.—JOHN HENRY McCULLERS, Negro farmer and father of six, was beaten with heavy sticks during June 1949, in *Clay County, Alabama*, he told Jefferson County grand jury.

July.—MARSHALL JOHNSON, 15, and his sister EDWINA, 16, of Newark, New Jersey, were visiting relatives in *Montgomery, Alabama*. They boarded a city bus and, not knowing of the segregation law, sat in front. The driver, S. T. Law, drew a pistol and kicked them off the bus. They were arrested and held in jail for two days. Judge Wiley C. Hill, Jr. threatened to send the children to reform school until they were 21.

July 1.—HATTIE COOK, 29-year-old Negro woman of *High Point, North Carolina*, was shot and critically wounded by a white dance hall operator, O. L. Werst, who fired into a crowd of Negroes in Winston Salem.

July 12.—The Appellate Division of the *Pennsylvania* Supreme Court heard the case of FLETCHER MILLS, who fled a lynch mob in Alabama after he fought off an assault from a white landlord with a knife. He was arrested by the FBI in Philadelphia on the Alabama Fugitive Act. An appeal is scheduled to be heard in his case.

July 12.—The Appellate Division of *New York* gave Clarence Jackson a temporary reprieve from being returned to a Georgia prison camp where he said "certain death" awaited him. He escaped in 1948.

July 19.—DRAYTON WILLIAMS, 30, of Brooklyn, a bus driver on Staten Island, *New York*, charged that he was beaten by a white inspector, John Miller, and Miller's son, Pete, because he was "fresh." A policeman to whom Williams complained threatened to arrest him instead of his attackers, who had severely injured his right hand. Williams was one of the first Negroes to be assigned to the Staten Island run by the Board of Transportation.

Week of July 20.—WOODROW WHITE's home in *Chattanooga, Tennessee* was bombed after he had lived there only one month. He had purchased from a white family. The explosion ripped a hole in the porch and shattered windows.

July 25.—Masked men beat five Negroes and shot two of them in *Columbia, South Carolina*. A Negro minister, Rev. M. W. Jackson, reported the attacks. Among the victims were JOHN BATES, 45, and ELLIOTT BATES, two of three brothers who were beaten. John was shot. The wife of one of the brothers was beaten as was a small girl relative.

July 27.—The home of ROSCOE JOHNSON of *Chicago, Illinois*, was attacked by a mob of over 2,000 whites with rocks and flaming gasoline soaked rags

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vicinity were brought from Florida with promises of 50 and 60 cents per hamper of beans but were paid only 40 cents when they got to work. The *Pittsburgh Courier* received a letter from a woman picker who wrote, "Please, please do something before they mob us all."

September 2.—The U.S. District Court ruled that segregation in the dining room of *National Airport, Washington, D.C.*, where Mrs. Helen Nash was refused service, does not conflict with Constitution, Interstate Commerce Act or other Federal law.

Week of September 8.—GLOVER DAVIS, an auto repair shop owner of *Tuscaloosa, Alabama* was pistol-whipped by a gang of robed men. Davis was pulled from his home by the gang.

Week of September 8.—JUNIOR CHARLES of *Roseland, Louisiana*, was attacked by a gang of armed men who warned him to stop delivering milk, after he bought a new truck. Subsequently a white man took over the business.

Week of September 8.—FLETCHER WILLIAMS, 52, of *Wilmer, Louisiana*, had his home burned by terrorists after he protested to Federal authorities at being denied the right to vote.

September 9.—DAVID MONTGOMERY, 17, and his cousin PAUL WILLIAMS, were beaten by a gang in *Philadelphia*. Williams is from Woodbury, New Jersey. Both youths were severely beaten and suffered head and body injuries. Five white suspects were later arrested and charged with assault and battery.

September 9.—MRS. MAY HUNT of *Raleigh, North Carolina* was attacked by Giles Beal, Jr. of Gastonia, N. C. during the Debutante Ball at the Sir Walter Hotel. Mrs. Hunt came to the rescue of her daughter Mildred who was operating an elevator when Beal attempted to bring a chair onto it. The girl called her mother and Mrs. Hunt told her not to move the car until Beal took the chair off. He became angry and struck Mrs. Hunt, fracturing her jaw. He was fined \$50.

October 31.—CHARLES RIVERS was beaten insensible in front of his home at 826 Dawson Street, *Bronx, New York*, by Patrolman John Smith in the presence of ten eyewitnesses. Smith had accosted Rivers on the street, searched him, and found a small knife, and proceeded to beat him, fracturing his skull.

November.—MRS. CONSTANCE BAKER MOTLEY, assistant special counsel for the NAACP, accompanied by three delegates to the NAACP youth conference, was struck and physically evicted from the Four Acres Restaurant in *Dayton, Ohio* by bartenders Robert Gallagher and Carl Latotus, when she complained that her group had been refused service. W. W. Fox, a policeman summoned to arrest the attackers, refused to make any arrests and in profane language attacked a white member of the group for associating with Negroes.

November 1.—MRS. LENA FAUSSET of *Jamaica, New York*, was beaten by policewoman Mary Shanley when she inadvertently bumped into the policewoman on the street. Mrs. Fausset was beaten in the 103rd Precinct.

November 4.—Police attempted to break up a torchlight parade being held for Councilmanic candidate Benjamin Davis, on Lenox Avenue, in *New York City*. Several marchers were injured, six arrested. One of those hurt was Negro newspaper reporter, TED POSTON, from *N. Y. Post*, struck by policeman's club. Another, ADRIANNE BOUGH of 168 Lenox Ave., was hit on the mouth by a club.

November 9.—Beginning on November 9 and continuing for several days, mobs numbering up to 2,000 attacked Negroes and Jews in *Chicago, Illinois*.

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at *Piscataway, Maryland*, were denied entrance, and told to use side doors and sit in rear of church.

MRS. DONETTA BELL, Negro instructor at Jackson College, *Mississippi*, was singled out of a group of white jaywalkers by police, slapped and jailed.

January.—ED ROBINSON and his brother, HILLIARD ROBINSON, of *Montgomery, Alabama* were beaten and shot by four white men. They later sued for \$100,000 damages each. The men accused were Daniel and Curvin Davis, Grover Gardner and Alex Fannin, and were indicted for assault and intent to murder. The Robinsons were beaten with pistols and then shot.

January.—IRA COSTEN, North Carolina farmer living in Ohio, had been charged with "attempt to rape" in North Carolina. Two attempts to extradite him had failed. The Federal Grand Jury in North Carolina returned an indictment stating that anyone who travels interstate "to avoid prosecution or custody or confinement after conviction" has committed a felony. (North Carolina has no law covering "attempt to rape.") Office of Atty. Gen. McGrath suggested the federal authorities in Ohio invoke the Federal statute of removal proceedings, a law akin to the fugitive slave law. The indictment of the Federal Grand Jury of North Carolina was sent to the U.S. Commissioner in the Cleveland District and hearing was to be held on January 28, 1950. Actually this was a move to dispossess Costen from his farm, where his white neighbors disapproved of his economic advancement.

January 12.—ANDERSON LARK was returning from the home of a friend when he was set upon by police in a *San Francisco, California* street and beaten, kicked and robbed.

January 25.—JAMES WILSON was arrested in *New York City* in 1949 after escaping from a chain gang in *South Carolina*, where he had been placed for killing a man who had been molesting his wife. Despite public protests, Lt. Gov. Hanley signed the extradition order to return Wilson to South Carolina. The Civil Rights Congress had been fighting the extradition since Wilson was arrested in 1949. Wilson was returned to South Carolina on January 25, 1951.

January 26.—ROBERT KIRKENDOLL, 19-year-old Negro youth of *Chicago, Illinois*, was sentenced to seventy-five years in prison because he refused to pay a five-dollar shakedown fee to police officers.

February 19.—ED WALSH, noted artist of *New York*, was set upon and beaten by four white men while on his way to the Freedom Theater where he is scenic designer.

March 7.—IRMA SEUELL, Negro artist in Greenwich Village, *New York City*, had the street window of her shop smashed by hoodlums four times. Complaints to the police authorities produced no results.

March 11.—JESSIE LEE GOLDMAN was flogged by a band of over twenty-five hooded men near *Eastman, Georgia*. Subsequently, Alfred Crumley, Theo Lewis, and F. M. Smith were arrested, and charged with assault and battery. Sheriff Ollie P. Peacock at first refused to act in the flogging and expressed fear of the Klan. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation entered the case three days after the flogging.

April 2.—WILLIE ANDERSON of Los Angeles was injured in an automobile accident near *Globe, Arizona*. At the Gila County Hospital he was treated so inhumanly that the wound became infected. A cast was put on his leg over an open wound. When it was cut off, the skin and flesh came off with the cast.

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When he protested, they set upon him and later arrested him, booking him for drunken driving and assault and battery.

June.—A movement was begun in *Gary, Indiana*, to stop the extradition of HERMAN LAWRENCE, a Negro youth, who came to Gary in June of 1950, after escaping from a chain gang in Alabama. He got a job in Gary. Following a report to police of Gary that Lawrence was wanted for theft in Alabama, he was arrested and jailed. Lawrence's counsel says that he is not wanted for theft, but that he is sought by a former employer in Alabama who did not want him to leave. The NAACP brought case to public attention.

June.—JOSEPH BROWN, 18-year-old Negro, upon returning to *Miami, Florida*, from a visit to Harlem, was arraigned before Criminal Court Judge Ben Willard on a charge of stealing \$6. "What would you rather do—that I call you 'mister' and give you five years or that I call you 'Joe' and send you home to Poppa?" Judge Willard asked. "Call me Joe," the youth replied, as reported by the *Associated Press*.

June 2.—ANDY ALLEN, 27, of *Los Angeles, California*, was beaten and arrested by Detective Potts Neal when he was stopped in his auto. Allen had a picture of his sweetheart Muriel Nelson, a very fair-complected Negro, in his car. The officer asked him what he was doing with the photo, obviously mistaking it for a white girl's picture, and when Allen answered that she was his fiancée, he was beaten up.

June 2.—LEONARD C. JOHNSON of *San Luis Obispo, California*, was beaten by Los Angeles police after he demanded that they treat his wife with respect. The Johnsons were driving along when stopped, and Johnson was forced to "walk the chalk line" to test him for drunkenness. One policeman referred to Mrs. Johnson as "that gal."

June 3.—A large fiery cross was burned during a meeting of the Ku Klux Klan outside city limits of *Jacksonville, Florida*. A police escort was given the parade through the city before the meeting.

June 6.—GEORGE GUILLORY, 19, and his brother FRANK, 18, of *Opelousas, Louisiana*, were beaten severely while they looked for the draft board in the St. Landry Parish Court House. They went to the vote registration office by mistake. Neither could speak English very well. The day before, six Negroes who attempted to register to vote were pistol-whipped.

July 13.—MRS. ALMA SCOGGINS, 42-year-old domestic worker, was attacked and intimidated by hoodlums because she refused to vacate an apartment on the lower east side of *New York City*. The attack has been connected with the attempt of Michael Zwerling to evict Mrs. Scroggins. She was subsequently evicted after the City Rent Commission and municipal and county courts ruled she was a squatter, having acquired the apartment from a white friend.

June 24.—WILLIE PALMER was shot five times by J. C. Bradford in *Jackson, Mississippi* at a Knox Glass Co. canteen. The white counterman shot the Negro because he persisted in refusing to obey the segregated eating set-up imposed by the company. Sheriff Troy Mashburn practically cleared Bradford when he said the shooting was in self-defense, and released the white man on \$1,500 bail. Bradford told police he asked the Negro "in a nice way" to observe the Jim Crow rules and when he didn't, pulled his gun and let him have it.

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policeman W. N. Darden. Stanton sued Darden after Police Chief A. L. Sims cleared the officer.

September 10.—The FBI sought to return CURTIS HOPKINS, a Negro veteran, to *Mississippi*, where he faces death on a rape frameup. Governor of Ohio refused in November, 1949 to extradite him. The FBI, acting at request of the State of Mississippi arrested Hopkins on September 15, 1950 for "unlawful flight to avoid prosecution." The case is being handled by local and National NAACP.

September 28.—CHARLES SANDERS, 18, farm hand of *Greenville, Mississippi* was jailed for one year with no charge against him. He was found in jail by newly-elected Sheriff Thompson, who released him. Sanders had been arrested in connection with a slaying. Murray Ethridge, chief deputy under the late Sheriff Foote told Thompson that "feeling was running high" at the time of the killing of the white woman, and that Sanders was held for his own good. County Attorney McIlwaine said that each six months he is given a list of prisoners held in the Washington County jail but he was positive that Sanders' name never appeared on any list in the past year.

October 30.—White students at University of Mississippi touched off a fiery cross on the campus at *Oxford, Mississippi*. The cross was burned to "protest" an editorial in the student newspaper, written by editor Harry Krebs. The editorial urged admission of Negroes to "white" state colleges in the South.

October.—WESLEY EUGENE BYRD was tortured by Hubert Beasley, former head of the *New Mexico* State Police. The torture consisted of placing padlocks around his testicles. A federal grand jury found Beasley and two other officials guilty of torturing Byrd.

October 10.—The home of SAM PERRY of *Orlando, Florida*, was burned by eight night-riders. The home is near the Seminole-Orange County line. Perry, a fruit picker, recently bought the home.

Week of October 20.—VERNA MAY FLOYD, 22, of *Rocky Mount, North Carolina*, charged that Howard C. Carson criminally assaulted her at pistol point at a rooming house where she was employed.

October 21.—ACIE LOCUS, an aged farmer of *Wilson, North Carolina*, was beaten and robbed of \$27,000 by two white armed men who invaded his farm. Locus, who kept his money in a safe, declared the bandits bound and gagged him, and then hacked open his safe with an axe.

Week of October 20.—BISHOP E. B. PULLIAM, of *New York City*, pastor of St. Mary's International Temple of Truth, charged that he was refused medical aid for severe face burns at the Knickerbocker Hospital. Bishop Pulliam declared he had to wait for half an hour, and then was forced to seek private treatment for his second degree burns sustained when a flame-filled chimney exploded in his face.

Week of November 3.—JOHN DAVIS, a chauffeur, was shot in *Arcadia Parish, Louisiana* by a white cafe owner. Davis was driving for Henry Kest of New York, and was refused service by Ellis Cohart, the cafe man. When Davis protested, Cohart shot him, according to Sheriff W. V. Lacarde. Cohart was placed under bond, but no charges were filed.

November 21.—The home of DR. PERCY L. JULIAN of *Chicago, Illinois*, noted scientist and director of research at the Glidden Company, was attacked by hoodlums who tried to burn it. Dr. Julian's home is in an area that racists have tried to keep lily-white by restrictive covenants, etc.

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August 16.—FERDINAND C. SMITH, the first Negro ever to become a top leader of a major American trade union, was deported as a part of the witch hunt spurred on by the Smith and McCarran Acts. Mr. Smith, a British subject, had lived in this country many years. (Mr. Smith is a signer of this petition.)

Special cases of soldiers being brutalized, given unjust prison sentences, etc., while in service. Some in Korean conflict, but most in World War II while on overseas duty.

1944

February 7.—In Nashville, Tennessee, PURDIE S. JACKSON, Negro soldier, was convicted by general court martial and sentenced to dishonorable discharge and confinement for twelve years for "assaulting three white civilians with criminal intent." The charges grew out of an altercation which occurred in a drug store owned by one of the civilians, because the Negro soldier sat in a section reserved for the exclusive use of white patrons. Jackson acted in self-defense; the whites were the aggressors. The NAACP filed petition for clemency on October 23, 1945.

November 21.—ZACK C. TAYLOR, Negro serviceman was sentenced to 20 years when found guilty of a violation of the 61st and 93rd Articles of War by a court-martial sitting in France. In December 1946, the NAACP obtained reduction of sentence to 9 years. It was pointed out that the prosecution failed to sustain its burden of proof and that the identification of the defendant as the attacker had not been clearly established.

1945

January 30-31.—ALFRED HAYES, Private of Headquarters Service Company, 298th Air Base Security Battalion was charged with violation of the 93rd Article of War—"assault with intent to commit the crime of rape." He was found guilty by general court-martial and sentenced to be dishonorably discharged and to be confined at hard labor for twenty years. Prosecution failed to establish the intent necessary for conviction of the crime for which Hayes was tried and convicted. Also, Hayes was never identified as the attacker beyond the reasonable doubt required by law.

April.—The death sentence was given to Negro serviceman LUSTER WRIGHT, from Cleveland, Ohio, charged with allegedly having attacked two German women. It was later changed to thirty years imprisonment, then to eighteen years.

June 25.—WILLIE WILSON was tried by general court-martial for the alleged premeditated killing of a fellow soldier, and sentenced to life imprisonment. In June 1946 the sentence was reduced to twelve years after an NAACP petition. The petition pointed out that it was "apparent from the cumulative testimony of the witnesses to the killing that there was no malice aforethought or premeditated intent on the part of Wilson to shoot or kill the deceased."

August 21.—From a statement issued shortly after VJ Day by the NAACP: "Colored Americans cannot forget that while millions of servicemen and their families are looking forward to release from uniform, our men, for

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stay of execution was granted by Secretary of War Patterson. Woods had written his family in Detroit that he was forced into a "confession" by brutal beatings by the military CID. In November, 1946, after an Army Review Board had granted Woods a new trial, he was brought from the Philippines to San Francisco. There he was held in solitary confinement. An order signed by the provost marshal of the prison where Woods was held in San Francisco, required that he be kept in solitary except for meals and exercise, when he was to be handcuffed to a guard. The guards were forbidden to speak to him and he was to be checked every fifteen minutes. Woods' attorney charged that these prison orders "reflect a spirit of persecution."

May.—Members of the 1940th Engineer Aviation Utilities Company, stationed in Japan, were attacked by white troops on their way into the city of Tokorozawa. When the Negro non-commissioned officers of the company went to investigate the unprovoked attacks, they were beaten up in turn. When one of the men was taken to the hospital with seventeen stitches in his leg and bad cuts from a knife thrown at him, the Negroes decided to arm in self-defense. As a result, they were court-martialled and the whole company put under area restriction for two weeks.

July 3.—Fear of future beatings if he testified to brutalities practiced against Negro soldier prisoners at Litchfield, England, led SIMON BLOCKER to refuse to give any further testimony at the trial of the former Litchfield Commander. The court excused him.

July 28.—Seven Negro soldiers were sentenced to death in *Mannheim, Germany*, after having been found guilty of "mutiny and sedition" by a court martial. The seven—DANIEL JONES, CURNEY C. WINSTEAD, JAMES SHERED, JR., SWELL W. SMITH, WALTER D. HICK, JAMES WEBB AND SAMUEL H. SEWELL—had gone on an excursion, with permission. On their way back they met a captain noted for his hatred of Negroes. The captain started action against them. The men had no witnesses, since all the witnesses had been transferred from the area by the same captain.

August 5.—WALTER A. BROWN was sentenced to fifteen years hard labor by general court-martial for shooting a white officer at the front "with intent to kill." The shooting incident occurred in a town on the front line at night when Brown was leaving a barn and was fired upon by an unknown assailant. Uncertain whether the fire, seemingly directed at him, was coming from an enemy or one of his own men, Brown shouted: "I am an American soldier," before returning fire in the general direction from which the flashes of gunfire continued to come. Injured by one of the shots, Brown collapsed, to discover upon regaining consciousness that he was being placed under arrest, charged with the crime of shooting an officer.

August 9.—At *MacDill Field, Florida*, SAMUEL H. CHANCE, Negro serviceman was found guilty of desertion by general court-martial and sentenced to dishonorable discharge and confinement at hard labor for five years. It was found that although absent from service for over a year, Chance had been a victim of amnesia and was not responsible for failing to return to his service unit. He last remembered having been in Philadelphia, Pa., in May 1944, and could recall no events between that time and May 1945 when he found himself in Bellevue Hospital in New York. The hospital wired the court-martial board to the effect that the serviceman had come to them in

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