

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

2 More Convicted In Dynamite Cases

Both Appeal After Getting Maximum Sentences Of 6 Months, \$100 Fines

BY BILL MOBLEY

Two men convicted of illegal possession of dynamite yesterday in Recorder's Court have appealed their fines and jail sentences to Circuit Court.

Robert E. Chambliss, 59, 2505 32nd av. n; and John Wesley Hall, 36, Gardendale, were given maximum penalties of \$100 and 60 days and 180 days in jail by Judge Earl Langner.

A third man, Charles A. Cagle, 22, Rt. 1, Box 205 Gardendale, was given an identical sentence Tuesday. All three men were charged jointly in the same case.

In a written confession which was introduced as evidence, Cagle told State Investigators, Capt. Willie B. Painter and Capt. R. W. Godwin that he saw John Wesley Hall take a box from the trunk of Chambliss's car on the night of Sept. 4.

He said he showed Hall where to hide the case of dynamite in Gardendale, and the investigators were later taken to the spot by Cagle.

The three men, all with Ku Klux Klan backgrounds, were arrested in the wake of several racial bombings including one which killed four Negro girls as they attended Sunday school.

The three men were freed on \$300 appeal bond.

The three men were arrested on the night of Sept. 29 a few hours after Governor George Wallace made an announcement that "arrests were imminent" in connection with recent bombings in Birmingham.

Confession Told

Maj. Bill Jones, head of state investigators, testified that Chambliss admitted to officers that he bought a case of dynamite Sept. 4, the morning prior to the bombing of Negro Attorney Arthur Shores' home.

Jones quoted Chambliss, a truck driver, as saying he bought the explosive to blast stumps on property where the KKK planned to erect a building.

Jones said that Cagle later led the investigators to an area in Gardendale where 133 sticks of dynamite were found in an open case.

Hills Parrish Jr., attorney for

Chambliss, argued that the state failed to prove that Chambliss had possession of dynamite or that his house was located within the city limits. Parrish also said that State Public Safety Director Albert J. Lingo and other officers refused to discuss the matter with him, and that he was not allowed to see Chambliss.

Story Changed

Investigators testified that Chambliss at the time of his arrest denied ownership of the dynamite, but changed his story three days later and admitted making the purchase.

Matt Murphy Jr., attorney for Cagle and Hall, predicted his clients would be freed when their cases are put before a county court.

Judge Langner conceded most of the evidence was circumstantial, but said he felt there was a sufficient proof that the three had possessed dynamite without a permit.

Langner heard the trials without a jury. None of the defendants took the stand and the defense attorneys called no witnesses.



FINED—John W. Hall.



CONVICTED — Robert E. Chambliss.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

1 THE BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 10/10/63

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Author: BILL MOBLEY

Editor: JAMES E. MILLS

Title:

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FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

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Chambliss, Hall, Cagle free on bond to appeal dynamite possession verdicts

Three Birmingham area men are appealing six-month jail sentences and fines of \$100 each following conviction in Recorder's Court of illegal possession of dynamite.

Free on \$300 appeal bonds are Robert E. Chambliss, 59, of 2505 1/2 Ave., North; John W. Hall, 57, Gardendale, and Charles Cagle, 22, Gardendale.

Judge Earl Langner imposed maximum sentences on Chambliss and Hall Wednesday after meeting out the same punishment for Cagle Tuesday night.

None of the defendants took the stand and defense attorneys called no witnesses.

The state based much of its case on an alleged statement signed by Cagle in which he said he saw Hall take a box from the trunk of Chambliss' car on the night of Sept. 4.

CAGLE WAS QUOTED as saying he showed Hall where to hide the dynamite. Investigators testified that Cagle led them to the spot where the dynamite was hidden.

(Ma) Bill Jones, head of state investigators, testified that Chambliss admitted to officers that he bought a case of dynamite Sept. 4.

Jones said Chambliss contended he bought the dynamite to blast stumps on property where the Ku Klux Klan planned to erect a building.

Chambliss also said the man who sold him the case of dynamite gave him three loose sticks of the explosive, according to Jones.

Jones said Cagle later led the investigators to an area at Gardendale where 133 sticks of dynamite were found in an open case. Two and one-half sticks of the explosive were found in a paper sack nearby, he said.

HOLLIS PARRISH JR., attorney for Chambliss, argued that it had not been proved that his client had possession of the dynamite.

Investigators had testified that Chambliss, at the time of his arrest, denied ownership of the dynamite but that three days later admitted making the purchase.

Judge Langner said he realized most of the evidence was circumstantial but that he felt there was sufficient proof the three had had dynamite in their possession without having a permit.

During the Cagle trial Tuesday, Capt. R. W. Godwin of the

state's investigation division testified that Hall told him that he (Hall) and Cagle hid a case of dynamite in a wooded area the night of Sept. 4.

The state introduced a signed statement by Cagle corroborating Hall's oral account.

Chambliss and Cagle were arrested by state investigators the night of Sept. 29. Hall was arrested later.

IN JUDGE LANGNER'S court Tuesday night, prosecuting attorney William Thompson added a charge of aiding and abetting in illegal possession of dynamite to each defendant.

Capt. Godwin testified that Hall and Cagle admitted attending a Ku Klux Klan rally at Bessemer Sept. 4 and afterward gathered at Cash's Barbecue on Third Avenue North. That was the night Negro attorney Arthur Shores' home was bombed.

Hall and Cagle said they listened to a Birmingham police radio report of the bombing of Shores' home, Godwin said.

Hall said he left the restaurant and drove to Chambliss' house; followed by Cagle, according to Godwin.

Mrs. Chambliss gave him keys to a car parked outside the house, Hall said, and he removed a case of dynamite from the trunk, Godwin testified.

THE OFFICER SAID Cagle and

Hall told him they took the case of explosives to a wooded area on Mockingbird Lane in Gardendale and hid it.

Deputy Fire Marshal W. E. Berry testified that no permit for transporting dynamite had been issued to Cagle, Hall or Chambliss.

Attorney Matt Murphy Jr., who represented Cagle and is also attorney for Hall, objected to admission of the alleged confession. Murphy questioned whether the statement was made

voluntarily, and said Cagle had been held without charge for 72 hours after his arrest.

Murphy said a writ of habeas corpus to show cause why Cagle should not be released had already been issued before Cagle led state investigators to where the dynamite was hidden. The attorney said the state was aware of this writ.

Chambliss was given a lie detector test by Birmingham police, but the results have not been made public.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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THE BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

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Author:
Editor: JOHN W. BLOOMER
Title: BAPBOMB
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OCT 10 1963	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Dynamite sentences bring 6-month terms

Three men released on \$300 bond

Two men were convicted in Recorder's Court today of illegal possession of dynamite and were sentenced to six months in jail and fined \$100 each.

Robert E. Chambliss, 59, 2505 2nd Ave. North, and John W. Hall, 35, Gardendale, both were freed on \$300 appeal bonds.

A third man tried on the same charge, Charles Cagle, 22, of Gardendale, received the same sentence Tuesday night. He also posted \$300 appeal bond.

Major Bill Jones, head of the state investigators, testified that Chambliss admitted to officers that he bought a case of dynamite on Sept. 4.

JONES SAID Chambliss contended he bought the dynamite to blast stumps on property where the Ku Klux Klan planned to erect a building.

Chambliss also said that the man who sold him the case of dynamite gave him three loose sticks of the explosive.

Jones said Cagle later led the investigators to an area at Gardendale where 133 sticks of dynamite was found in an open case.

Two and one-half sticks of the explosive were found in a paper sack nearby, he added.

Hollis Parrish Jr., attorney for Chambliss, argued that it had not been proven that his client had possession of the dynamite.

Investigators had testified that Chambliss, at the time of his arrest, denied ownership of the dynamite but that three days later admitted making the purchase.

Judge Earl Langner said that he realized most of the evidence was circumstantial but that he felt there was sufficient proof the three had had dynamite in their possession without having a permit.

During the Cagle trial Monday, Capt. R. W. Godwin of the state's investigation division testified that Hall told him that he (Hall) and Cagle hid a case of dynamite in a wooded area the night of Sept. 14, the same night Negro attorney Arthur Shores' home was bombed.

The state introduced a signed statement by Cagle corroborating

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

THE BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 10/9/63

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Editor: JAMES W. BLOOMER

Character: BIRMINGHAM

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Fund Total Near \$10,000

Over \$5,000 Paid Out For Victims

Almost \$10,000 has been received in donations to the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church Memorial Fund, after a Sunday School bombing resulted in the loss of six lives throughout the day of Sept. 15.

Funeral and hospital expenses of victims of the bombing and its aftermath paid to date from the fund total more than \$5000 bank officials said yesterday.

Donations are still being received for the fund at First National Bank and at Birmingham Trust National Bank. Funds still on deposit amount to \$4,327.08.

Checks issued to date include funeral expenses for the four Negro girls who died in the bombing and two Negro youths who were shot after the bombing. Expenses for the six deaths totaled \$3634.90.

A \$400 bill at Norwood Clinic was paid out of the fund for Dennis Earl Robertson, white youth hit by a brick as he was riding a bicycle home.

Other hospital expenses paid out of the fund for both whites and Negroes treated at University Hospital after the bombing have totaled, to date, \$1607.85.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

2 THE BIRMINGHAM
POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 10/25/63

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Author:

Editor: JAMES E. MILLS

Title:

BAPBOMB

Character: BM

or

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Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

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2/11/73

Paw

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Saddened city prays for peace, guidance

The bells tolled. And Birmingham prayed. Prayed for forgiveness on this, the city's blackest day. Blacker even than the days of the cholera plague shortly after Birmingham's birth, when hundreds fell. Or this day of wrath and warning followed a day of murder: murder most black, most reprehensible, most sickening. Four innocent children lay dead, mangled by 10 sticks of dynamite.

AND THERE WERE some who asked God to have mercy on the souls of those who perpetrated this blackguardly deed, this bombing of a church where children in their fresh dresses and neat suits prayed.

Men, women and children paused a minute to pray under the bright sky of September noon. Stenographers paused at their typewriters. Executives halted dictation. Housewives took time out from their chores.

Men and women in parked cars bowed their heads.

On the street, shoppers and lunch-goers paused, many under the pretense of window gazing, to offer a silent prayer. In restaurants and cafeteria lines, they quietly prayed, while others went into churches.

YOU MAY NOT have realized they were praying. There was nothing ostentatious about it. Most prayed, as Christ advised, in secret. Some prayed as they walked.

And the church bells tolled. And as sad chimes floated over the city, some, perhaps, thought of the words of the English poet John Donne, "Never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee." . . . "Any man's death diminishes me because I am involved in mankind." . . .

The city prayed for 60 seconds at noon in response to an appeal

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

THE BIRMINGHAM
POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 9/16/63
Edition: R D STAR FINAL
Author: GEORGE C. BIGGERS
Editor: JOHN W. BLOOMER
Title: UNSUBS; BOMBING OF
16th. STREET BAPTIST
CHURCH, 9/15/63
Character: RM

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Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

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REWARD NEARING \$80,000

A reward fund for arrest and conviction of Birmingham's bombers was expected to reach \$80,000 today, within hours after the latest explosion on Birmingham's Southside.

City Council Tuesday officially ratified appointment of four trustees of the bomb reward fund, and established distribution rules and regulations.

Trustees are Dr. John H. Buchanan, Amos Kirby, James O. Haley and Reuben Farr, with sole authority over reward payments.

The Council resolution allocates \$15,000 of the total for arrest and conviction of those responsible for the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in which four Negro children were killed.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

4 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS
THE BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 9/25/63

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title: BAPBOMB

Character: BM

or

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Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

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102

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Dynamite Figure Gets 6 Months

Admissions Are Related By Officers

Charles Cagle Draws Maximum Under Laws

One of three men charged with illegal possession of dynamite during recent bombings was convicted last night in Recorder's Court here.

Charles Cagle, 22, was fined \$100 and sentenced to six months hard labor. He posted a \$300 appeal bond and was released. The charge is a misdemeanor.

City Judge Earl Langner convicted Cagle on two counts involving the dynamite.

The two other men, scheduled to be tried this morning, are R. E. Chambliss, 59, and John Wesley Hall, 35. Both are charged with possession of dynamite without a permit and with aiding and abetting in the illegal possession of dynamite.

~~During testimony on Cagle's~~ case yesterday, a state policeman said two men told him they helped hide a case of dynamite in the woods the night a Negro leader's home was bombed last month.

Statement Introduced

In Cagle's trial, the state introduced a signed statement Cagle made to Capt. Robert Godwin corroborating Hall's version of what happened the night of Sept. 4.

According to Cagle's statement, the dynamite was allegedly hidden after Atty. Arthur Sheres' home was bombed.

A bomb exploded at a corner of Shores' house on Center-st late that night, touching off a riot in which one Negro was shot to death. It was the second time in two weeks the home had been bombed, and came on the day Negro children registered for the first time at nearby Graymont school.

Cagle's statement said he went to a Ku Klux Klan rally the night of Sept. 4 in nearby Bessemer, where he met Chambliss and Hall. Later, the statement said, all three went to a restaurant where they ate supper and "sat around listening to a Birmingham police radio about the bombing."

When they left they went to Chambliss' house at 2505 32nd-av, in where, Cagle's statement said, Hall and a woman who came out of the house went to a car parked there and brought out "a box which I was afraid was dynamite."

Hidden In Vines

He said they took it outside town and hid it in some kudzu vines on Mockingbird-ln in Gardendale.

Defense Atty. Matt Murphy Jr. objected strongly to admission of the alleged confession. Murphy questioned whether it was made voluntarily. He said that Cagle had been held incommunicado for 72 hours after his arrest.

W. E. Berry, deputy fire marshal, testified that no permit for possession of dynamite had been issued to Cagle, Hall or Chambliss.

Cagle and Chambliss were arrested by state investigators Sept. 29. Hall was taken into custody two days later.

Birmingham has had more than 40 racial bombings since World War II, including that of Sept. 15 in which four girls were blasted to death at Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

In passing sentence Judge Langer said testimony definitely established that the defendant is guilty of having in his possession explosives and "coming at times like these the court feels compelled to assess the maximum fine of \$100 and costs and six months of hard labor."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

THE BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

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Title: BAPBOMB

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CONVICTED—Charles Cagle (center), convicted yesterday by City Judge J. Earl Langner for illegal possession of dynamite and given 180 days at hard labor plus a \$100 fine, is shown leaving the courtroom with Alabama Highway Patrol Chief A. Lingo following his conviction. Officer W. L. Vining of the Birmingham Police Dept. watches the two leave.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Fields Sues News, Writer

A suit seeking \$1 million from the Birmingham News and from syndicated columnist David Lawrence for libel was filed in Circuit Court here yesterday by Edward R. Fields, head of the National States Rights Party.

The action, filed in Field's behalf by Atty. Matt Murphy, seeks \$500,000 damages for each of two counts which are based on Lawrence column which appeared in the News Sept. 25. The statements, the suit contends, in effect charged the plaintiff "with the crime of being a party with an international revolutionary Communist conspiracy which is committed to overthrow by force and violence the government of the United States and several states, including Alabama.

It further alleges that the article charged or intimated Fields "was a member of the Communist Party" whose objective and purpose is to "overthrow the Federal or state government by force and violence, and that he "knowingly participated in the revolutionary activities of the Communist party knowing the revolutionary object or purposes thereof."

The suit seeks both punitive and compensatory damages on each of the counts and asks for a jury trial.

Fields' address was listed as 1507 Mtms-av.

Count one of the suit cited the following passage from the article, as having been published with "intent to defame" the plaintiff:

"FROM WHERE? Where does the money come from to finance such a mischief-making organization? The time would seem to be ripe for the House Committee on Un-American Activities to subpoena records and ascertain whether any foreign funds have been coming to the Birmingham group.

Again and again, in different parts of the world—especially in Latin America—groups that seem to be still espousing the Hitler-Nazi doctrines are found to have close links with Communist agents. What more natural way for the Communists to stir up trouble and friction!"

Cited as basis for the damages in court two, was the following quotation from the newspaper article:

"A Federal grand jury has just indicted some of the members of this so-called states' rights group — all of them white — for alleged conspiracy to interfere with a court order and some for allegedly obstructing by violence, the process of law enforcement in desegregating public schools.

"Two white boys — arrested and charged with shooting a 13-year-old Negro boy a few hours after a Negro church was bombed on Sept. 15 in Birmingham—had just attended an impassioned rally held by the states' rights group."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

14 THE BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

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Author:

Editor: JAMES E. MILLS

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11/20/63 (157-352-3505)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Lingo says church bombers to be caught

BY HUGH W. SPARROW
News staff writer

MONTGOMERY, Jan. 11—State Public Safety Director Al Lingo is convinced that the bombers of a Birmingham Negro church last Sept. 15, in which four children were killed, eventually will be brought to trial.

"It may take time," Lingo said here Saturday. "But the big thing that will eventually break the case wide open is that great big reward."

"More than \$70,000 is waiting to go to the person or persons who can provide the necessary missing links and I feel certain that sooner or later the right persons will talk."

Lingo emphasized, also, that investigators of the Public Safety Department never have halted efforts to crack the case.

Additional facts, he said, may play a major part in the final solution.

LINGO SAID IT IS QUITE

significant to him that since 137 sticks of dynamite were found concealed in a wooded area about two weeks after the church bombing there have been no further bombings in Birmingham.

It may be interesting to know, he declared, that state investigators expect to de-

velop a confession in the possession cases.

That person, said Lingo, is going to admit that the dynamite cache belonged to all three defendants.

These facts, he said, could give investigators sound leads toward arrests of the bombers.



SPARROW

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

C-8 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

THE BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 1/12/64
Edition: SUNDAY
Author: HUGH W. SPARROW
Editor: JOHN W. BLOOMER
Title: BAPBOMB

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JAN 15 1964	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

\$186,761 donated to bombed church

The pastor of the bombed 16th Street Baptist Church, which will be restored and ready for occupancy about May 1, said today that the church has received \$186,761 contributions from persons all over the world.

Four Negro children were killed when the church was dynamited last year. Squads of FBI agents and state and local police are still investigating.

The Rev. John H. Cross said approximate cost of restoration of the church has been set at \$100,000, of which \$46,938.63 was covered by insurance.

The remaining funds and any future contributions will go toward the construction of an educational building, which will cost approximately \$300,000, the minister said.

Cross said he hopes families of the children who were killed in the blast will consent that the educational building be donated to memory of the victims.

He said certain rooms in the new structure would be named after the girls who were killed.

DONATIONS received by the church for families of the deceased children now total \$16,949, the minister said. He said there has been an additional \$3,609.47 earmarked specifically for an educational fund for children attending the church.

The Negro minister said contributions were received from the United States, Venezuela, Great Britain, Mexico, Canada and other countries. Contributions are still being received, he said.

Cross said the restoration of the church will include many new changes.

CONGREGATIONS at the church have been meeting in the L. R. Hall auditorium since the bombing but plan to be back in the restored church by May 1.

Cross issued thanks to all persons who have shown concern about the bombing.

"We shall never really cease

to weep as we think of our four beloved young girls, but the tears, prayers and sacrificial gifts of yours that were, and are, mingled with ours—these—make us have a joyful realization that the truth of God is yet good and, you, our earthly brothers are yet concerned.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

3 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS
Birmingham, Alabama

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Editor:
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SEARCHED <i>[initials]</i>	INDEXED <i>[initials]</i>
SERIALIZED <i>[initials]</i>	FILED <i>[initials]</i>
JAN 17 1964	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

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In racial bombings—

Officers continue Rosecrans probe

Birmingham and Jefferson County officers will continue investigating the possibility William Sterling Rosecrans is connected with Birmingham racial bombings, officers said.

Police Chief Jamie Moore said the case was not closed after returning Friday from Jacksonville, Fla., where he, Sheriff Mel Bailey and city detectives questioned the suspect without results.

Rosecrans, a 30-year-old Indiana laborer, is being held in Florida in lieu of \$25,000 bond on a federal charge under the 1960 Civil Rights Law. He is accused of bombing the home of a Negro first grader, first of his race to enter Lackawanna Elementary School. No one was injured.

An FBI polygraph expert said a lie detector test given

Rosecrans Friday concerning Birmingham bombings was inconclusive. He said he wanted additional time to study Rosecrans' mental background and to review the polygraph charts made during an examination of more than four hours.

Florida officers reported that lie detector tests cleared Rosecrans of implication in dynamitings of the Florida East Coast Railway.

The initial investigation against him started after leads were turned up during the railway dynamite investigation.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

2 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS
Birmingham, Alabama

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Edition: Red Star Final
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Editor:
Title: BAPBOMB

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157-352-SF1-84
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SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

The Law Pursues Bombing Answer

Birmingham officers including Police Chief Jamie Moore, Sheriff Mel Bailey, and Detectives C. L. Limbaugh and V. T. Hart were very prompt in flying to Florida to investigate possible connection of an accused bomber with racial bombings in this city.

Very great attention has been given these cases, particularly the tragic bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in which four Negro girls died. While the bombings may have dropped out of the news, the investigations have not let up. Numerous officers have dug endlessly into the cases. This was just one more lead being pursued by officers.

This community and state hope that solution of the bombings is near. Although this lead appears to have run to a dead end, you can be sure that efforts of lawmen will not cease. No one wants to see the bombings solved more than our law enforcement agencies themselves.

Nor more than any decent citizen.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

18 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS
Birmingham, Alabama

Date: 3-6-64
Edition: RedStar Final
Author:
Editor: E. L. HOLLAND, JR.
Title: BAPBOMB

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MAR 10 1964
FBI - BIRMINGHAM

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Rosecrans lie test said inconclusive

BY TOM LANKFORD

News staff writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., March 6—Officers agreed further investigation into the possibility William Sterling Rosecrans is connected with Birmingham racial bombings is warranted after he underwent a lie detector test today.

"At this point you could flip a coin and either way it landed you could be right," an FBI polygraph expert said.

He said he wanted additional time to study Rosecrans' mental background and to review the polygraph charts made during an examination of more than four hours.

BIRMINGHAM POLICE Chief Jamie Moore said further investigation is called for.

He, Jefferson County Sheriff Mel Bailey and two Birmingham

detectives were to return to the Alabama city this afternoon pending further reports from the FBI.

The Birmingham officers questioned the 30-year-old Indiana laborer for three hours Thursday night without results. Rosecrans denied being in the Birmingham area during bombings last year in which four Negro children were killed.

He is being questioned about the bombing of a Jacksonville Negro home. During the polygraph test, Rosecrans was questioned about the Birmingham bombings and Florida racial and railroad bombings.

The slender ex-convict earlier had refused to submit to the test.

Detective C. L. Limbaugh and V. T. Hart said Rosecrans answered all their questions during the long interview at Duval County Jail. The officers planned to give him a polygraph examination following the interview but cancelled it because the subject was exhausted.

The officers quoted him as saying he was in Mobile, where he worked as a mechanic, when the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church occurred. (The FBI said it has been established that Rosecrans was in Mobile Saturday, Sept. 14, but his whereabouts the following day (Sunday, Sept., 15) has not been proven.

SHERIFF'S OFFICERS reported that lie detector tests Thursday cleared the suspect of implication in dynamitings of the Florida East Coast Railway. The initial investigation against the suspect started after leads were turned up during the railway dynamite investigation.

The FBI, meanwhile, has issued a statement here saying more arrests are expected in connection with the Feb. 16 bombing of the home of a Negro first grade pupil at a previously all-White school.

D. K. Brown, special agent-in-charge of the Jacksonville FBI office, said investigation is concentrating on members of the Ku Klux Klan. Rosecrans is known to have been in the company of Jacksonville klan members the night after the bombing, Brown said.

THE FBI HAD Rosecrans under surveillance for several days after the house bombing and the suspect fled into the woods after he spotted agents searching his car which contained sticks of dynamite.

Officers later found 800 sticks of dynamite near where the car had been parked.

Capt. R. N. Godwin and investigator Dexter Haney of the State Troopers have been in Florida for two days seeking to interview Rosecrans. They said they hoped to talk to the man sometime today.

Birmingham detectives Hart and Limbaugh said Rosecrans

readily told them how he would have handled the Birmingham explosions had he been the bomber.

Rosecrans explained in detail how to make shrapnel and other type bombs used in Birmingham, the officers said.

They also quoted him as saying he would have bombed the church late at night so no one would have been killed.

Rosecrans is being held under \$25,000 temporary bond awaiting a preliminary hearing to be scheduled after he has retained an attorney.

He is being held on Federal charges and the State of Florida is contemplating filing charges against him.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS
— Birmingham, Alabama

Date: 3-6-64
Edition: Red Star Final
Author: TOM LANKFORD
Editor:
Title: BAPBOMB

Character: BM
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

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FBI — BIRMINGHAM

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Bombed church almost rebuilt now

Fifteenth Street Baptist Church, shattered last September by a bomber who killed four people in Sunday School, is almost rebuilt.

The Rev. John H. Cross, pastor, said today a dedication service in the new facilities is tentatively planned for a Sunday in June.

The church is replacing its entire basement; refinish-

ing the pews and floor and installing new fixtures in the main sanctuary; installing new seats in the balcony, replacing many stained glass and regular windows; and is completing many other improvements and replacements.

The Rev. Cross estimated the cost of rebuilding at \$150,000. He said insurance covered about one-fourth of that amount and

the remainder was raised by contributions. Money is on hand to pay for all facilities, he said.

A memorial window for the girls is being built by the nation of Wales, the Rev. Cross said. It will be sent during the summer and will contain a rainbow; nine doves in flight, symbolizing the Beatitudes; names of the victims; and an inscription from Wales.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

47 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

THE BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 4-22-64
 Edition: Red Star Final
 Author:
 Editor: John W. Bloomer
 Title: Bapbomb

Character:
 or Racial
 Classification:
 Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

Being Investigated

SEARCHED INDEXED
 SERIALIZED FILED
 MAY 6 1964
 FBI - BIRMINGHAM

157352-SF1-87

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Hill Gets Probation

By JANE ALDRIDGE

Louvert Hill, 20-year-old Negro who recently was sentenced to seven months in County Jail in connection with a rock-throwing incident here which left a white youth seriously injured, has been placed on two-year probation.

The probation order was signed by Circuit Judge Alta L. King on the recommendation of Solicitor Emmett Perry and Deputy Sol. Rufus Elliott.

Elliott had handled preliminary phases of the case and helped work out the earlier agreement for Hill to plead guilty to the rock assault and receive the seven-month sentence.

Hill already has spent approximately eight months in the County Jail here while awaiting trial and then pending disposition of his request for probation.

In recommending probation for him, Solicitor Perry called attention to the fact that the man already has been confined in jail the length of the sentence and he added that the probation supervisor, George Raley, who will oversee Hill's probation, had studied his situation and termed him a good subject for probation.

Happened Sept. 15

The incident happened last Sept. 15, the same day the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church here was bombed, killing four young Negro girls. Also on that day two white youths shot and killed a young Negro boy.

Victim of Hill's rock was Dennis Robertson, 16, of 2407 21st-av,n, who was knocked from a motor scooter and dragged a considerable distance by the vehicle.

He had been on his way home from Farmer's Market, where he worked, when the rock was thrown as he passed Hill's house.

Equals Earlier Penalty

The seven-month jail sentence and the two-year probation term duplicates the penalty meted here earlier to the two white youths who had been charged in the slaying of the Negro boy.

Hill was represented in the case by Atty. James G. Adams Jr.

It was understood that investigating officers and the parents of Robertson had concurred in the sentence and in the granting of probation.

He originally had been charged with assault with intent to murder but entered the guilty plea to the reduced charge of assault and battery.

At his preliminary hearing in County Criminal Court he stoutly denied that he had thrown the rock but other witnesses identified him as the man who threw it.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

11 THE BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 4-21-64
 Edition: FINAL
 Author: Jane Aldridge
 Editor: James L. Mills
 Title: BOMB

Character: RM
 or
 Classification: BIRMINGHAM
 Submitting Office:

Being Investigated

157-352-SF1-88

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY - 7 1964	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI Used 231 Agents In Birmingham Crisis

BY GENE WORTSMAN

Post-Herald Correspondent

WASHINGTON, April 27—FBI

Chief J. Edgar Hoover revealed

that he had 231 special agents

in Birmingham during racial

demonstrations last year.

His testimony before a House

appropriations subcommittee

showed that the agents put in

19,457 hours of unpaid overtime

"Special type investigations have continued to place very heavy demands upon our available manpower and resources," Hoover said.

"Related matters growing out of the sit-ins, bombings, and demonstrations at Birmingham, Ala., required the peak assignment of 231 special agents . . .

"Overall, our costs at Birmingham are estimated at \$434,965 as of Jan. 11, 1964," he said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

2 THE BIRMINGHAM
POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 4-28-64
Edition: Final Edition
Author: Gene Wortsman
Editor: James E. Mills
Title: BAPBOMB

Character: Racial

or

Classification: BIRMINGHAM

Submitting Office:

Being Investigated

157-352-581-219

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY - 7 1964	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Weaver Tells Of Interview

Talked To Reporter 'Few Months Ago'

U. S. District Atty. Macon Weaver, after hearing of the forthcoming Saturday Evening Post story claiming authorities knew the identity of the bomber of a Birmingham Negro church, said he talked to a Post reporter about 20 minutes.

He said he talked to the reporter a few months ago at the Birmingham Justice Department headquarters.

Weaver said the reporter told him at that time he had "his story" written, but wanted Weaver to "verify" a few things.

The district attorney said the reporter had talked "with the sheriff, police and everybody else" before coming to him and they talked of "what is generally known" in the Birmingham community: That there is evidence pointing toward who did it, "but not enough to take into court."

Weaver said he was not sure of saying the FBI "knows," because "what the FBI knows is their own business."

When asked about statements attributed to him in the Post article, Birmingham Police Lt. Maurice House said here yesterday: "I haven't read the article and can't make any comment on it."

After a brief discussion in which he was apprised of some of the statements in the article, he said:

"I won't even comment on it after I read it."

Inspector Capt. W. J. Haley said he would have no comment "until I have had a chance to read it and study it." Police Chief Jamie Moore was out of town.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 BIRMINGHAM POST-
HERALD
Birmingham, Alabama

Date: 5-30-64
Edition: Final
Author:
Editor:
Title: BAPBOMB

Character: BM
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

Being Investigated

2 CBS

157-3525F1-90

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 31 1964	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

POLICE, ^{Now} FBI MUM ^{5/30/64} ON BLAST

Local and state authorities reacted for the most part with an emphatic "no comment" to a Saturday Evening Post article which reported that FBI officials know who bombed the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church here.

The Sept. 15 bombing took the lives of four Negro girls and touched off tension which resulted in the death of three other persons.

The Post report said Birmingham police and FBI officials know the "Mister X" who planted the explosive in the church but don't have enough evidence for a conviction.

"LAW enforcement officials know who the bomber and his accomplices are — have known for months. But they have not been able to put together the kind of airtight case they need to take 'Mister X' to court," the Post article said. The report was written by George McMillan, whose story appears in the Post's June 6 issue. The Post described the author as "an authority on policing integration disturbances."

Asked about the article, Ray Faisst, agent in charge of the Birmingham FBI office, said he had no comment. Police Chief Jamie Moore was out of town. Other police officials also said they had no comment. Alabama Public Safety Director Al Lingo made a similar response.

THE POST ARTICLE said that officials have enough evidence to believe that the 'Mister X'...

—"Planned the . . . bombing at a meeting in Birmingham two weeks before it happened."

—"Was at the house of the men who planted the bomb two nights before the bombing."

—"His car was parked two blocks away from the church on the Sunday morning the bomb went off."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS
Birmingham, Alabama

Date: **5-30-64**
Edition: **Red Star Final**
Author:
Editor:
Title: **BAPBOMB**

Character: **BM**
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: **BIRMINGHAM**
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SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 31 1964	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Killing 4 Girls—
City And FBI
Know Bombers
Of Church
Here, Post
Says

Lt. House,
Atty. Weaver
Are Quoted

Says 'Every Detail
Known, Except They
'Have No Evidence'

NEW YORK, May 29
 (AP)—Police and Federal
 agents know the identity of
 the Birmingham bomber and
 the men who helped him do

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD
Birmingham, Alabama

Date: **5-30-64**
 Edition: **Final**
 Author:
 Editor:
 Title: **BAPBOMB**

Character: **BM**
 or
 Classification:
 Submitting Office: **BIRMINGHAM**

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
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MAY 31 1964	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

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blame a Negro church kill-
four young girls, it was
orted today.
The ringleader of the gang of
ers, known as "Mister X,"
as not been taken into custody
cause officials do not feel they
ave enough evidence to put him
nd his henchmen in the electric
hair or behind bars, the current
sue of the Saturday Evening
st reported.

"The FBI knows who bought
the dynamite, who made the
bomb, who placed it there, and
who engineered the crime," Ma-
jor Weaver, U.S. attorney in
Birmingham, was quoted as say-

"We know every detail about
it but we just don't have the
evidence," said Lt. Maurice
Hulse, chief of Birmingham de-
tatives, according to the ar-

The bombing was on a sunny Sunday
morning last Sept. 15, just as
day school classes were get-
ting out, that the dynamite
bomb planted under the stairs
of the Sixteenth Street Baptist
church exploded, hurling rub-
ble for blocks in the Negro sec-

tion.
The blast killed four young
Negro girls and injured 19 per-
sons. It was one of many ex-
plosions that have kept racial
tensions at a fever pitch for
months.

But it was the one that
shocked the nation as nothing
else had and caused President
Kennedy to say he felt a "deep
sense of outrage and grief."

The magazine said that 10
days after the church bombing,
the killers struck again — this
time with a pair of bombs de-
signed to kill policemen and
detectives who were making
things uncomfortable for them
by probing into their activities.
The first bomb, probably one
pound of dynamite, was set off
on a vacant lot. Police rushed
to the scene, but could not locate
it immediately. The second
bomb, dynamite in a can filled
with rusty shrapnel, went off
a few minutes after the first.

"It was meant for us," a po-
liceman was quoted as saying.
It was set to allow just enough
time for us to get there. If we
had found the bomb, maybe 50
officers would have lost their
lives or been mangled.

The article said FBI agents
feel that State Police Chief Col.
Al Ringo "seriously hurt the
chances of building a case
against the bomber and his
gang by arresting two men who
had been involved in Ku Klux
Klan activities.

The men, R. E. Chambliss, 59,
and Charles Cagle, 22, both of
Birmingham, were charged with
illegal possession of dynamite
and subsequently were con-
victed, fined \$100 each and sen-
tenced to 180 days in jail.

The magazine said the FBI
considered it a premature ar-
rest which tipped off the bomb-
ers that authorities knew a great
deal about their activities but
also showed they did not have
enough evidence to convict them
of the church bombing.

To prevent any of the gang
from talking, the magazine said,
a "kiss of death meeting" was
held with all of the group in-
volved in the bombing attend-

ing.
"If any one of you ever talks,
it will be the kiss of death for
you," the ringleader, Mister X,
was reported as vowing. "We
join hands here and now in
swearing that each of us takes
a vow to kill the man who gives
anything away to the police."

The magazine said that detec-
tives and Federal agents follow
"Mister X" constantly. He
knows they are following him
and sometimes spits at them
and yells "you hogs" at them.

The bomber is being so care-
ful now, the magazine said, that
officials have little hope they
can convict him of murder.
They have more hope of pin-
ning a conspiracy charge on
him.

"You've pretty nearly got to
have somebody who was at the
meeting when it was planned,"
Weaver was quoted as saying.
"And just remember that the
people who did this are going
to the chair."

Mount Clipping in Space Below

Gafford Is Delegate To Convention

Robert C. Gafford, president of United Americans for Conservative Government here and a partner in a radiator and electrical repair firm, defeated late Rep. Don Collins yesterday in a runoff for delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

With 364 boxes of 367 accounted for, Gafford had 35,324 votes to 29,244 for Collins.

Two alternate delegate spots also were in contest.

City Councilman Don Hawkins defeated Hubert Page 36,261 to 31,112 for alternate place No. 1 in the race for Alternate No. 1. Joe Ingram defeated Guy [unclear] to 36,261.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEW

7 THE BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 6-3-64

Edition: FINAL

MRS. E. MILLS GAFFORD

BIRMINGHAM

b7c *cc placed in [redacted] file.*

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157-35251-93

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN - 4 1964	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

DYNAMITE TRIALS ARE PUT OFF

Trials for three Birmingham area men, charged with illegal possession of dynamite, were postponed two weeks Wednesday in Circuit Court over the strenuous objections of defense Attorney Matt H. Murphy Jr.

The defendants are Robert E. Chambliss, 59, of 3505 32nd Ave. North, and John W. Hall, 35, and Charles Cagle, 22, both of Gardendale.

"The very lives of these men are in danger as long as these cases are hanging fire," Murphy told Judge George Lewis Bailes in arguing against the continuances until June 16.

Murphy said the three men have been threatened through telephone calls.

Chambliss told Judge Bailes that an obscene card and a letter addressed to him from New York City were in the hands of postal authorities.

A long distance truck driver, Chambliss also said that one of the rear tires on his car had been slashed.

MURPHY SCORED an article in the current issue of Saturday Evening Post concerning the Birmingham bombings, terming it "judgment without trial" in its references to the three defendants.

Judge Bailes told Murphy he had "studiously avoided" reading the article.

The three cases came before Judge Bailes on appeal from Birmingham Recorders Court, where Recorder Earl Langner handed each defendant maximum punishment of a \$100 fine and 180 days in jail.

In asking the continuances Wednesday, Asst. City Atty. William C. Walker told Judge Bailes that he planned to place Hall on trial first, followed by Cagle and then Chambliss.

Several state investigators, headed by Public Safety Director Al Lingo, and Maj. William Jones, waited around court all day for the cases to be called.

THE DELAY WAS occasioned when a jury required an unusually long time in its consideration of a petit larceny appeal trial.

The city court convictions were returned after a trial which linked the three men to 133 sticks of dynamite found in an open case near Gardendale.

Two and one-half sticks of dynamite were found in a paper sack nearby.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

2 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS
THE BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 6-4-64
Edition: RED STAR FINAL
Author:
Editor: JOHN W. BLOOMER
Title: ROBERT E. CHAMBLISS, JOHN W. HALL, CHARLES CAGLE
Character: RM
or
Classification: BIRMINGHAM
Submitting Office:

Being Investigated

157-352-SF1-94

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 5 1964	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Bombed Negro Church's Reopened

Members of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church went back to their church home yesterday. For the first time since the Sept. 15 bomb blast that shattered part of the sanctuary and Sunday School rooms and killed four little girls, the congregation worshipped in their rebuilt church.

Sarah Collins, whose sister, Addie Mae, died in the blast, was among the several hundred who marched into the church in quiet procession. She herself spent months at University Hospital while surgery sought to save some of her sight from the effects of splintered glass.

Claude Wesley sang too. Beside him was Shirley, who has been taken into the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley to fill some of the loneliness that has been there since their daughter, Cynthia Diane, was killed in the blast.

"Her mother has been kind enough to let her live with us and we'll see about adoption," said Wesley. "A deacon in the church, Wesley is principal of Lewis Elementary School.

"The church looks very different. The wood paneling is much lighter," said Wesley. "It looked like a different church inside. That helped me to go back."

Mrs. Alvin Robertson, mother of Carol, who lost her life at Sunday school last September, was in the hospital and unable to attend. Mr. and Mrs. Chris McNair have an illness in their family, too.

Their only child, Denise, was killed in the explosion that took the lives of Addie Mae, Carol, and Cynthia. They are expecting another child later this year.

Since the bomb blast, members of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church have held Sunday services in L. R. Hall Auditorium of A. G. Gaston Building.

The dedication of the rebuilt church will be sometime in August, said Joseph E. Parrish, chairman of the board of trustees. Enough of the repair work has been completed to hold services in the church from now on, he said.

On Sept. 15, Parrish had stood at the hospital emergency room unmindful of his own head wound, to help still-stunned members of the congregation.

He was with Mrs. Clevon Phillips, Sunday school teacher who had taught a lesson on love minutes before the blast, Deacon B. H. Wilson Sr., and Mrs. Mamie H. Greer, Sunday school superintendent.

"We were happy to be going in," said Parrish yesterday, "but it was the kind of happiness that was close to tears. There was a sadness in it even as we sang."

Wilson was in the congregation yesterday, as was Mrs. Greer and Mrs. Phillips.

Rev. Cross assembled the congregation yesterday in a line on the sidewalk outside. Slowly worshipers filed up the steps and into the church.

Fourteen persons were baptized earlier in the day, two for other churches and 12 as new members of Sixteenth Street Church.

Sunday school services for children were held in the basement where the tragedy occurred. Two church workers, Miss Mabel Bibb and Mrs. Rosetta Young, were in the basement when the bomb exploded. They were back at their desks yesterday.

A white clergyman, Dr. H. O. Hester, secretary of the Department of Missions, Alabama Baptist State Convention, was guest speaker at the service. A Baptist Mission Center, now moved to larger quarters in Ensley, long occupied quarters at Sixteenth Street Church.

Architect Stanley B. Echols, who planned the church renovation after the blast, was introduced to the congregation.

During services there were only a few references to the bombing. The Rev. Cross said a new Bible had been donated to the church.

"This Bible," he said, "was given us in recognition of the tragedy that happened here." At another point he admonished the congregation "not to look back in revengeful ways, but with love in our hearts."

More than \$200,000 has been sent to the church from all parts of the world. Parrish said some of the money was earmarked for survivors of the children killed. Some has been used to repair and remodel the church. And some has been put into an educational scholarship fund to be administered by a special church committee.

A blind soloist, Miss Eleanor Smith of Atlanta, sang yesterday "His Eye Is on the Sparrow." In this hymn, there is the line, "I sing because I am happy, I sing because I'm free."

"Yes, yes," softly murmured the congregation.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEW

THE BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

4

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 6-8-64
Edition: FINAL
Author:
Editor: JAMES E. MILLS
Title: BOMB

Character: RM
or
Classification: BIRMINGHAM
Submitting Office:

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SERIALIZED	FILED
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FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

MEMBERS MOVE INTO RENOVATED SIXTEENTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
 First services since church was bombed were held Sunday

Doors of church open first time since bomb

Sixteenth Street Baptist. The Negro church in the downtown area held regular worship services in Birmingham Sunday for the first time since it was bombed last year.

Dr. H. O. Hester, secretary of missions to special groups of the Alabama State Baptist Convention, spoke from Revelation 21 which reads-- "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth."

DR. HESTER said that out of this text come the ways and means of developing a blueprint of the new earth. "The new earth will come only as we follow the strategy of Christ," Dr. Hester said.

HESTER TOLD the congregation that on the day of the bombing he wrote to the families of four girls who were killed in the blast. Victims of the unsolved explosion were Carol Robertson, 14, Denise McNair, 11, Addie Mae Collins, 14, and Cynthia Wesley, 14.

The congregation gathered outside the church before the services, where the message board still carries the date, Sept. 15. Then Cross led them into the sanctuary for the first time in nine months. Some wept. Some smiled. Some embraced.

Fourteen persons were baptized. Sunday School was held in the basement rooms where the young children died.

CROSS SAID the church was rebuilt with offerings from around the world totalling more than \$200,000. A memorial window depicting "the suffering servant" is yet to arrive from Wales, he said.

Stanley B. Echols of Birmingham, the architect who renovated the church, was introduced to the congregation. Two white newsmen received a warm welcome.

Cross said contributions came from Australia, England, Nigeria, West Africa, Canada and Wales, as well as throughout the

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

2

THE BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 9-8-64
 Edition: RED STAR FINAL
 Author:
 Editor: JOHN W. BLOOMER
 Title: BAPTOMB

Character: RM

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

[Being Investigated]

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Post's Bomb Suspect An Atlantan?

ATLANTA, June 10 (AP) — A suburban Atlantan with a history of racism is the suspect referred to in a national magazine article about the Birmingham chain bombing selective squad.

Capt. R. F. Little, head of a special security squad, did not identify the man but said the individual in whom the Post refers does live in the metropolitan area and has a history of racism.

The FBI declined comment. The Saturday Evening Post in a recent article that authorities have identity of a bomber but lack sufficient evidence for an arrest. Four Negroes were charged in the bombing, which was checked the day after the last Sept.

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

THE BIRMINGHAM
POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 6-11-64
Edition: FINAL
Author:
Editor: JAMES E. MILLS
Title: BOMBING

Classification: RM
Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM
Submitting Office File: 157-352-SF1-77

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 11 1964	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

2 copies to Bureau

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Probation Hearing In Blasts Put Off

A probation hearing scheduled today for James T. Maxwell of Tuscaloosa, under sentence in connection with setting off dynamite near the University of Alabama campus, has been continued until Sept. 24, Circuit Solicitor Fred Nicol said.

The hearing will be held before Circuit Judge Reuben Wright.

Maxwell entered a plea of guilty to charges of setting off dynamite and was sentenced to two years in prison in a settlement agreement entered on the court record several weeks ago.

Two other defendants in the case, James Perkins of Tuscaloosa and Charles Holifield of Marion, are scheduled to be tried here Monday.

157-352-4141

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page # 2

TUSCALOOSA NEWS
TUSCALOOSA, ALA.

Date: 6/5/64

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

NORMAN BASSETT

Title:

JAMES T. PERKINS
ETAL

Character: RM

or

157-611

Classification:

Submitting Office:

BIRMINGHAM

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SEARCHED <i>4</i>	INDEXED <i>4</i>
SERIALIZED <i>4</i>	FILED <i>4</i>
JUN 8 1964	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

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67c

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Cagle Is Cleared In Dynamite Case

BY BILL MOBLEY

The case of a 23-year-old klansman charged with the possession of dynamite was dismissed yesterday by Judge Elias C. Watson before it got to a jury in Circuit Court.

Charles A. Cagle, 1305 Vanderbilt rd., was released in his appeal from the Birmingham Recorder's Court, where he was fined \$200 and costs and sentenced to 180 days in jail. The trial was held before Judge Earl Langner on Oct. 9.

Cagle, John Wesley Hall, Gardendale; and Robert E. Chambliss, 2505 32nd av. n, were arrested on Sept. 20 by State Troopers. The arrests climaxed extensive investigation by Birmingham, FBI and the state officers into the series of bombings in Birmingham including the one of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in which four Negro girls were killed.

While in City Jail, Cagle made certain statements which were related yesterday by Capt. Robert Godwin and State Public Safety Director Al Lingo.

Statement Read

Godwin read the statement to the jury purportedly signed by Cagle, in which he told of a case of dynamite which was taken from the trunk of Chambliss' car and put into a car driven by Hall.

In the statement, Cagle said Hall requested him to follow his car from a Ku Klux Klan meeting to pick up "something Chambliss wanted to get rid of." He said he stopped at the Chambliss home in North Birmingham and watched Hall get something from the trunk of Chambliss' car and put into Hall's car.

He said he later learned it was dynamite. He said he carried Hall to a spot beyond Gardendale, on Mockingbird ln, where the case of dynamite was hidden in the kudzu vines.

According to Cagle's statement, Hall got worried and asked Cagle to get someone to move the explosive. He said he told a friend where it was and asked him to move it.

Birmingham in its original complaint had charged Cagle with having in his possession dynamite without a permit from the city, and then having failed to introduce evidence to substantiate the charges; he was doing his duty as a judge to grant the motion.

Judge Watson set the case of Chambliss for 9 a.m. today but Lingo said they could not go into the Hall case because Capt. Willie B. Painter is a key witness in the case. He is with the security force accompanying Gov. George Wallace in Dallas and will not be available until Monday.

Had Words Later

Later he said he and Hall had words about it being moved, when Hall went to the scene and found it missing. After Hall got peeved about it being moved, he said he called the friend and told him to put it back.

Lingo testified that when he saw Cagle at City Jail, Cagle told him he had been wanting to tell him all he knew about the circumstances. He said Cagle told him he had been harrassed by the FBI agents who had interrogated him several times and had failed to find the dynamite after he told them where it was.

No testimony was presented by the state to show where Cagle ever touched the dynamite, or had it in his possession in any way.

Testimony of Godwin and Lingo revealed how Cagle guided them to the place where the dynamite was hidden, about eight or 10 miles out of Birmingham.

No Permit Issued

Fire Marshal A. Rgsenfeld, chief of fire prevention in Birmingham, said no permit for the possession of dynamite had been issued to either Chambliss, Cagle or Hall during the past four years.

However, after the state closed their case without introducing evidence to show that Cagle ever possessed the explosive in the City of Birmingham, Defense Atty. Matt Murphy asked for a dismissal.

Judge Watson granted the motion in the absence of the jury but explained to the members why he had done so, when they resumed to the courtroom. He said that since the City of

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

THE BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 6-16-64
Edition: RED STAR FINAL
Author:

Editor: John W. Bloomer
Title: Charles Cagle, Robert E. Chambliss And John Hall

Character: Bapbomb
or RM

Classification: BIRMINGHAM
Submitting Office:

Being Investigated

757-352-SFI-99

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JUN 18 1964	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

67C



RELEASED — Charles Cagle, 22, (at left), was released yesterday after charges of illegal possession of dynamite were dismissed against him. Two other men face the same charge. Seated from left are Robert E. Chambliss, 59, of Birmingham and John Hall of Gardendale, who are charged with possession of the dynamite. Standing is Matt Murphy Jr., their lawyer. All three men were convicted of the dynamite charge in Birmingham Recorder's Court. Judge George Lewis Bailes threw out the case against Cagle yesterday.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Wiretappers busy, Wallace tells Center Point audience

BY JOE CAMPBELL
News staff writer

Gov. George C. Wallace told a crowd estimated at 7,000 in Center Point Saturday night that "there's no telling how many telephones have been tapped in Jefferson County and elsewhere in Alabama."

He said State Public Safety Director Al Lingo informed him just before his speech that four telephones had been found tapped thus far in Jefferson County.

Without indicating who the wiretappers might be, Wallace said "We know the Justice Department spends \$20 million a year on wire-tapping equipment."

WALLACE, WHO said the state is not tapping telephones, declared. "We believe people ought to have the right of privacy protected."

Wallace's speech climaxed the three-day "Center Point Days" trade promotion sponsored by Center Point Chamber of Commerce.

He crowned the winner of the "Miss Center Point" title, Pam Torck, 14, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Torck. Winner of second place in the contest was Pat Hubbard, Geneva Liner placed third.

Wallace told the enthusiastic gathering, "There will be a junior college in your area by September of next year."

He said he will attempt to get the special session of the Legislature to appropriate more funds for the junior college so as to build a school twice the size as originally planned.

Wallace said the larger school

would be needed because a large enrollment is anticipated.

Touching on his presidential primary campaigns in Wisconsin, Indiana and Maryland, Wallace said people throughout the nation are beginning to awaken to the trends which are taking away individual rights.

"In your lifetime," he said, "there has never been a national convention, by either party, which has been concerned about the South."

BUT, HE SAID, "they know now that the way the people of the South vote in this election will determine who the President will be."

Attacking the Civil Rights Act, Wallace said the measure has taken over every city, state and county government in the nation, labor unions and businesses.

Wallace said his reply to liberals who say "If you are not going to conform you will not get industry" is that last year Alabama gained \$344 million in new and expanded industry and is still gaining it this year.

The governor said he had talked with 100 top industrial leaders throughout the nation. "Not one of them said he was in favor of the civil rights bill," he declared.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

1

THE BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 8-15-64

Edition:

Author: JOE CAMPBELL

Editor: JOHN W. BLOOMER

Title: BAPBOMB: RL
WIRE TAPPING

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

BIRMINGHAM

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AUG 17 1964	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Tiny, sensitive bugs make treasured privacy extinct

BY RUD GORDON

News staff writer

Privacy — like the whooping crane — is fast becoming extinct in the U.S.

Even in Alabama, the long cherished freedom of secret speech and action is vanishing, exposed by electronic "eavesdropping" devices, and super cameras which can take pictures in the dark.

Three miniature electronic devices for monitoring telephone conversations have been found in Alabama during the past month, according to Public Safety Director Al Lingo.

One such device was found last Thursday, attached to the telephone wire in a Birmingham home. Another was located in a Birmingham home about three weeks ago. Still another was located on the telephone of Miss Sybil Poole, member of the Alabama Public Service Commission.

In all three cases, the devices were tiny, self powered short wave radios, capable of broadcasting phone conversations several blocks away to a receiver.

All three devices were ingeniously constructed at a cost from \$150 to \$250. They were cleverly concealed.

ALTHOUGH THE state has "a good suspect," persons who installed these electronic bugs are not known. Tracing the instruments, according to Lingo, is almost impossible.

Manufactured in Miami and San Francisco, the bugs bear no manufacturer's label. A few, Lingo said, are being made right here in Alabama by skilled electronic technicians.

A few years ago, tapping a phone wire was a major project beyond the capabilities of ordinary agencies — private or public. But recent strides in minia-

turized electronic devices using tiny transistors instead of tubes has brought the wiretapper's art within the reach of the ordinary investigator or espionage agent.

Time Magazine recently revealed the federal government buys some \$20 million of telephone bugging devices a year. Many of these bugs are used by federal officials on their own phones to record conversations in secrecy.

Most expensive among the bugs is the tiny transmitter. Some of these are no larger than a lump of sugar and many are smaller than a pack of cigarettes.

Most popular is the simple induction coil, which picks up both ends of a phone conversation.

A FEW ULTRA-sophisticated bugs can perform their spychores without being connected to a phone. The only limit to the size of the instrument is battery power. Experts predict nuclear power will further reduce their size.

Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy put a bill before Congress in 1962, which would permit federal authorities, under orders of the Attorney General, to wiretap, with a court order.

In certain situations — such as espionage, subversion, murder, kidnaping, interstate racketeering and narcotics — wiretapping would be legal, and would yield legal court evidence.

In espionage, the Attorney General could sidestep the court, if he thought asking for a court order would endanger the national interest.

Under the bill, all other forms of wiretapping would be prohibited and punishable by a \$10,000 fine or two years in federal prison.

But, the bill has met opposi-

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

38 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

THE BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 8-16-64
Edition: SUNDAY
Author: BUD GORDON
Editor: JOHN W. BLOOMER
Title: BAPBOMB;
RE: WIRETAPPING

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM
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AUG 17 1964	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

tion and has failed to pass in the two years it has been pending.

Recent federal wiretap laws there are as many interpretations as there are courts and judges. Some judges hold wiretapping a crime in itself, while others hold it illegal only if the intercepted messages are disclosed.

ALABAMA, LIKE 32 other states, has laws making wiretapping a crime punishable by heavy fines and jail sentences. Under Title 48, Sections 415 and 416, of the Alabama Code, wiretapping or interfering with telephone communication is a misdemeanor punishable by a \$500 fine or six months in jail, or both.

Eleven states have no laws at all governing wiretapping or recorded telephone conversations. Six states permit wiretapping — but confine its legal use mainly to law enforcement.

The threat to privacy is by no means limited to monitored phone conversations.

A child can order through the mail a \$15 device which magnifies sound and can pick up a conversation in a room across the street.

For \$17.90, anyone can have an instrument which "taps" a telephone without touching a wire.

For \$150, a budding spy can buy a television camera which can scan a room in complete secrecy and transmit pictures, with sound, to a hidden receiver several blocks away.

PRIVATE DETECTIVES conceal microphones, some with built-in transmitters, in hatbands, wrist watches or tie clasps. Microphones, no larger than a button, feeds conversations to a recorder concealed on the detective's person, then relays it to a receiver several blocks away.

Tiny transmitters can be installed in rooms, offices and even automobiles. They are powerful enough to send conversations several blocks to several miles.

Even executives have reached the point where they fidget if a visitor even so much as sets a briefcase or purse near them.

Although it is extremely dif-

icult, most telephone bugging devices can be detected.

Lingo said there is no special equipment for revealing the presence of a bug, but added the devices can and often do betray themselves.

In all the three cases here in Alabama, the bugs malfunctioned and caused trouble on the telephone lines. In Miss Poole's case, there was a buzzing on the line even after a number had been dialed.

The two bugs installed in Birmingham homes caused other conversations to "leak" through. In other words, the user of the bugged phone, could hear other people talking while they tried to carry on their own conversations.

Sometimes, a malfunctioning bug will cause interrupted dialing or other oddities in the phone's operation.

A PERSON WHO suspects his phone has been tapped can easily relieve his mind by asking the telephone company to check his line. If the repairman finds a "voltage drop" on the line, it is almost certain the phone is being tapped somehow.

All bugs aren't detectable however. For example anyone can be recorded by the person on the other end of the line without detection.

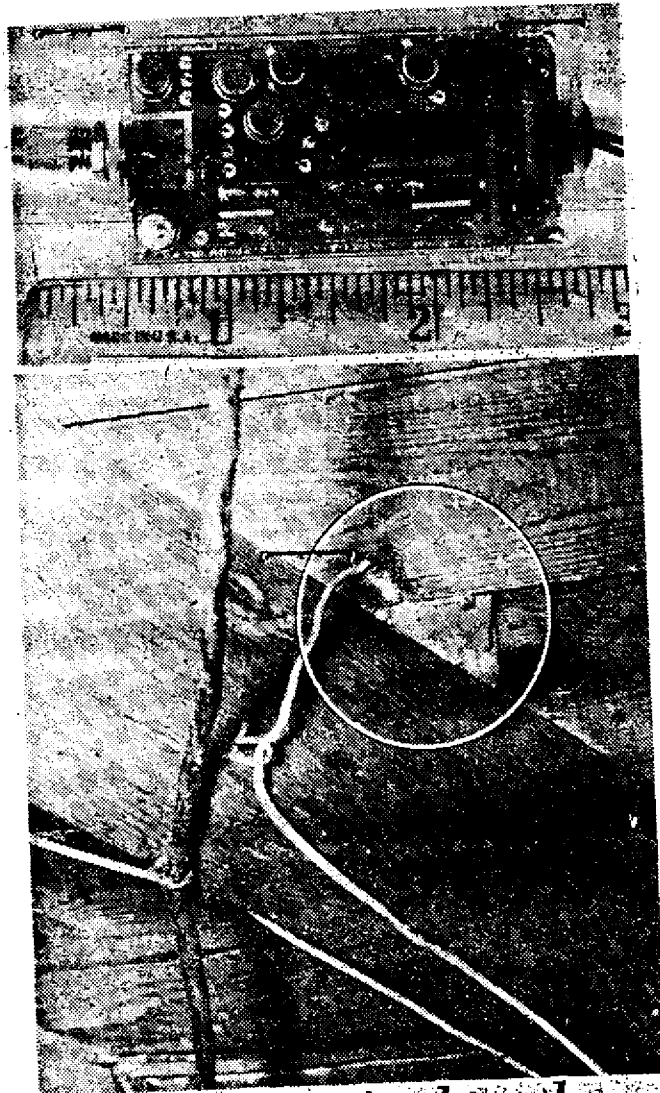
Anyone suspecting his conversation is being recorded, can foul the recording by simply tapping the mouthpiece of the phone with a pencil or other objects during the conversation. The noise will magnify and blot out parts of the conversation.

Similar results can be obtained by other noises in the room, such as music, a loud television or even running water. Devices for recording telephone conversations are extremely sensitive and will magnify the slightest noise.

ABOVE ALL, Col. Lingo warned, make sure the man who comes to check for termites or to check your phone is who he says he is. Ask for credentials. If he has none, check with his office. Don't let unidentified people in your home.

There was a time when secret

information was filched with the use of liquor, women and mail interception. That time is long past. Today it's done far more scientifically and forms a far greater threat to freedom of privacy than ever before.



'Bugs' in Birmingham home

This tiny transmitter (top photo) was found attached to the telephone wire in the home of a private citizen in Birmingham. The miniature device is transistorized, has its own power supply and measures about 2½ by 1 inches. It is tuned to a certain frequency and is capable of transmitting both ends of a telephone conversation several blocks. Photo below shows how the transmitter was installed in the Birmingham home. Someone entered the basement with a pass key, connected the device, then concealed it with insulation. This particular bug cost between \$150 and \$250.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Forgiveness urged in rededication of bombed church

"We rededicate it to the service of God and of man," said the Rev. John H. Cross, pastor of the 16th Street Baptist Church, which was bombed last Sept. 15. Urging his congregation to forgive those responsible for the dynamite blast which killed four Negro girls, the Negro minister spoke at rededication ceremonies for the renovated church building Sunday.

Denise McNair, 11, Carol R. Robertson, 14, Cynthia Wesley, 14, and Addie Mae Collins, 14, lost their lives in the bombing.

"I HAVE RECEIVED many letters asking, How can you preach love when you have had the most hideous thing done to you?" Cross told his congregation.

"We must follow the example of Jesus Christ," he said in answer to the question. "When Christ was put on the cross, it appeared all the good, all the truth had been eradicated. Hatred was rampant. Love was buried—buried for all time.

"But then Jesus said, 'My God, My God' and then he said 'Father forgive them, forgive them, for they know not what they do.'"

SERVICES were resumed in the church about two months ago, after approximately \$200,000 in repairs had been completed.

Only a fifth of the loss was covered by insurance. The rest of the funds were furnished by donations.

The main speaker at the dedication ceremonies was the Rev. Alex B. James, dean of religion and vice president of Virginia Union University.

He mentioned the bombing only briefly, saying, "It's hard enough on some of the people you say don't want the

bad memories coming back to them."

HE ADDED that he was proud to see that the bombing had not made the congregation fearful, saying the church must be "militant."

Rewards totaling more than \$70,000 have been posted for information leading to arrest and conviction of those responsible for the bombing.

Negroes battled police for an hour in Birmingham after the blast occurred. Scattered racial incidents across the city throughout the day and night claimed the lives of two more Negro youths. Scores of persons were hurt.

Negroes used the church as headquarters for massive civil rights demonstrations during the spring of 1963.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

21 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

THE BIRMINGHAM
POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 8-31-64

Edition: LATE FINAL

Author:

Editor: JOHN W. BLOOMER

Title: REDEDICATION OF
16th BAPTIST CHURCH,
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Character: RM

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

BIRMINGHAM

Being Investigated

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157-352-5742

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SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP - 1 1964	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Memorial rites held for bomb victims

BY GERALDINE MOORE

"If we do not stand against
evil and for good, we will be
engulfed by evil."

"Our need is for new life.
We need love, hope and faith
to enter into us to give us new
life."

This was the message of Ed-
ward Harris during a special
service at the Unitarian Church
Tuesday night memorializing
the deaths of Denise McNair,
Carol Robertson, Cynthia Wes-
ley and Addie Collins, in the
6th Street Baptist Church
bombing last Sept. 15. Also in-
cluded in the memorial service
were James Robinson and Vir-
gil Ware, two other children
whose deaths were attributed in-
directly to the bombing.

"WE HAD BEEN waiting for
a number of years for this
bombing to happen. We had
been waiting with our silence.
We had endured the castration
of Judge Aaron and one bomb-
ing right after another," Harris
said.

He also referred to slavery
as the beginning of it all, and
made a fervent plea that we
will "search our hearts and
resolve that we shall never
again approve those things
which gave rise to this ter-
rible incident of Sept. 15,
1963."

The Rev. Lawrence E. Mc-
Ginty, who gave selected read-
ings from the Scriptures, made
these remarks: "There is only
one man in the world, and that
man's name is 'all men.' There
is only one woman in the world,
and her name is 'all women.'
There is only one child in the
world, and that child's name is
all children."

MUSIC WAS provided by the
choir of the church and by a
female quartet under the direc-
tion of Mrs. Ruth Crowell,
teacher at Wilkerson Elemen-
tary School.

The program was closed
with prayer led by Harris,
after which the audience
joined in the singing of
"America the Beautiful."

The Rev. McGinty is minister
of the church. Harris was in
charge of the program.

Relatives and friends of the
deceased attended.

(Indicate page, name of
newspaper, city and state.)

38 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

THE BIRMINGHAM
POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 9-17-64
Edition: LATE FINAL
Author: GERALDINE MOORE
Editor: JOHN W. BLOOMER
Title: BAPOMB

Character: BOMBING MATTERS
or
Classification: BN #157-352
Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM
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SEP 2 1964	
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Lingo Hints He Knows Identity Of Bomber

BY SID GOLDSTEIN

Albert J. Lingo, head of the Alabama Highway Patrol, said here yesterday he thinks he knows who bombed Sixteenth Street Baptist Church last year.

But he said it "will interfere with our investigation" to divulge the identity of the suspect or anything about him.

Lingo made the remarks at a luncheon meeting of Birmingham's Business and Professional Men's Assn., following a talk in which he spoke against liberalism, centralized government and "the pink press."

The state public safety director was asked whether he knew who was responsible for the September, 1963, church bombing that killed four Negro girls and whether his suspect was a white man or a Negro.

Refuses Further Comment

"I personally think I know who did it," Lingo said, but declined to give any information leading to the suspect's identity. He refused to say whether the suspect is Negro or white. He said there is not enough evidence to warrant a prosecution.

Lingo, asked whether he suspects the same person whose identity was hinted at in a Saturday Evening Post article earlier this year, answered:

"I don't know who they suspect. In fact, I don't care."

Lingo's speech included vigorous praise of Gov. George Wallace for his forays into the North. He compared the governor's travels to those of a famous character in the American Revolution.

"At a time when the cause of Americanism was leaderless and rudderless," he said of Wallace, "a Paul Revere rode across this nation. And I have bad news for the Communists and the pinks and the liberals. He is scheduled to ride again."

Lingo also was asked about the prospect of more civil rights demonstrations in Alabama. He said there were rumors of some this past Summer that did not materialize.

"I'm ready for them if they come," he said.

He talked about law enforcement tactics in answer to other questions. "You've seen the liberal magazines accusing us of having a police state at this time," he said. "But we're doing no more than any other state's doing."

Lingo said his men have been charged with police brutality but he said "we only take necessary action."

"Can you placate a mob without force?" he was asked from the audience. "No sir," he answered, "you can not."

Lingo told his audience that he started as a patrolman when the state organization was established as the Highway Patrol in 1935.

"A lot of people say, 'What does he know about law enforcement?'" Lingo said. "But I'm a charter member."

"America's national purpose has been changed from the divine goal of man's individual and spiritual growth toward freedom," Lingo said, "to the base slavery of the equality doctrine, forced and enforced by a growing central government," Lingo said.

"Through a system of award and reward," he said, "the left-wingers have built an awesome control over the news, entertainment, and educational media."

"Only those writers who preach equality and environment receive the awards. Only those movies, only those educators, only those news commentators are rewarded with prestige and gain—until the full impact of the absurdities were brought home with the crowning stupidity of the Nobel Prize to a Martin Luther King."

His references to "equality" and "environment" were to what he said are doctrines of Communism. "There are two primary Communist doctrines," he said. "One is based on equality, the other on environment."

He said the equality doctrine is used to justify an "all-powerful central government" and the environment doctrine is based on the belief that "man is matter—nothing else."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

BIRMINGHAM POST
 11-17-64
 157-352

Date: 11-17-64
 Edition: FINAL
 Author: SID GOLDSTEIN
 Editor: JAMES L. HILL
 Title: ALBERT J. LINGO

Character: P
 or P
 Classification: 157-352
 Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM
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 NOV 12 1964
 FBI - BIRMINGHAM

W.C. Bureau

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI Says Klansmen Were Church Bombers Patrol Criticized For Early Arrests

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25 (UPI)—"A small group of Klansmen" is believed responsible for a church bombing in Birmingham which killed four Negro girls, the FBI said today.

But, said the FBI, there was insufficient evidence to assure a conviction and the Alabama Highway Patrol "prejudiced" the investigation with premature arrests.

The church was bombed Sept. 15, 1963. It was filled with Sunday School children at the time.

"This investigation was prejudiced by premature arrests made by the Alabama Highway Patrol," the FBI said. "Consequently, it has not yet been possible to obtain evidence or confessions that would assure successful prosecution."

The FBI said it had "identified a small group of Klansmen believed to be responsible."

Answers King's Charges

The statement was issued in a report following charges made by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. King said the FBI has not done its best at all times to protect civil rights workers.

State troopers arrested three men shortly after Gov. George Wallace's office announced the Highway Patrol had found evidence that would solve a series of bombings in Birmingham.

The men, Charles Cagle, R. E. Chambliss and John Hall, were charged only with illegal possession of dynamite. They were convicted in Birmingham Recorder's Court but appealed and were found innocent in circuit court.

The church was the scene of many civil rights meetings during the Spring and Summer of 1963 when mass demonstrations were staged in Birmingham.

The bombing was the last and most serious one in a long series of racially-connected attacks on a motel and the homes and churches of Negroes.

The FBI report also said today it knows who killed the three young civil rights workers in Philadelphia, Miss., last Summer.

Probing Continues

"Intensive investigation is continuing to develop the case for prosecution as quickly as possible," an FBI spokesman said.

Acting Atty. Gen. Nicholas Katzenbach has said previously that Mississippians refusing to come forward and testify have prevented arrests in the slayings.

The three killed last June were Andrew Goodman, 20, of New York; Michael Schwerner, 24, of Brooklyn, N. Y., and a

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

1 THE BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 11-26-64
Edition: FINAL

Author:
Editor: JAMES E. MILLS
Title: BOMBING OF SIX-TENTH ST. BAPTIST CHURCH. -9-15-63

Character: RM

or
Classification: **BM #157-352**
Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

Being Investigated

157-352-5F1-105

NOV 27 1964

157-352

Negro, James Chaney, 21, of Meridian, Miss.

Their bodies were found in a deep grave near Philadelphia about two months after they were last seen alive. They had been shot.

Today was the first time the FBI officially admitted it knew the identities of the slayers.

The FBI spokesman said:

"The FBI launched a massive investigation following the disappearance of the three civil rights workers in the vicinity of Philadelphia, Miss., on June 21, 1964. The FBI located their bodies in an earthen dam and has developed information identifying those responsible."

King Sends Telegram

King had cited the lack of arrests in the Philadelphia and Birmingham killings in a telegram to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. King said those and other incidents showed inadequate FBI protection for Negroes in the South.

King sent the telegram in reply to Hoover's charges that King was the "most notorious liar in the country" for saying the FBI refused to act in Southern civil rights cases because agents were Southerners.

In his telegram to Hoover, King also charged that no arrests had been made as a result of brutalities to Negroes participating in mass civil rights meetings in Albany, Ga., during the Summer of 1963.

Replying to King's statement, the FBI spokesman conceded no arrests had been made. But

he added that the FBI had submitted to the Justice Dept. the results of investigations of the Albany, Ga. complaints.

"The Department of Justice did not believe there were grounds to prosecute any of the incidents arising out of these demonstrations," the spokesman said.

Sources said Hoover has received 2000 letters and other communications about his exchange with King. Only about 10 were critical of Hoover, the source said.

Complains to LBJ

Ten Negro leaders officially presented King's complaint about the FBI to President Johnson at the White House last week.

The FBI spokesman also listed FBI accomplishments in the field of civil rights in the South. They included:

—Arrest of Deputy Marshal Denver E. Short Jr., in Sasser, Ga., 20 miles from Albany on charges that he cursed voter registration workers and fired his gun at the tires of their cars. Short was acquitted by a district jury in Georgia, Jan. 25, 1963.

—Arrest of four white men who were charged with burning the Mount Hope Negro Baptist Church near Dawson, Ga., Oct. 17, 1962. Three of the men were sentenced to seven years in

prison and the fourth a juvenile, was put on three years probation.

—Arrest of two white men on charges in connection with the burning of the Shady Grove Baptist Church near Leesburg, Ga., Nov. 4, 1962. Grand juries refused to indict the men.

—Investigations leading to 11 arrests in McComb, Miss., on state charges involving bombing and other violence.

—Seven arrests in Natchez, Miss., on state charges in shootings and beatings.

—Seven arrests for racial violence in Pike County, Miss.

—Five arrests of present and former law enforcement officers in Neshoba County, Miss., on charges of police brutality.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI 'knows' bombers and rights killers

The FBI says it still lacks sufficient evidence to get a conviction of Klansmen whom they say bombed the 16th Street Baptist Church here last fall killing four small Negro girls. The agency also said in Washington it knows who killed the three young civil rights workers in Philadelphia, Miss., last summer. In a statement from Washington a spokesman for the FBI was quoted as saying "a small group of Klansmen" is believed to be responsible for the church bombing but there is insufficient evidence to make any arrests.

AT THE SAME TIME the agency was highly critical of the Alabama State Troopers whom they said "prejudiced" the investigation with premature arrests.

The church was bombed on Sept. 15, 1963. The four girls were among hundreds attending Sunday School when the blast ripped through the structure.

In its statement, the FBI said, "this investigation was prejudiced by premature arrests made by the Alabama Highway Patrol. Consequently it has not yet been possible to obtain evidence or confessions to assure successful prosecution."

State Troopers arrested three men shortly after Gov. George Wallace announced evidence had been found that would solve the series of bombings in Birmingham.

CHARLES CAGLE, R. E. Chambliss and John Hall were

charged with illegal possession of dynamite. They were convicted in Recorder's Court but appealed and were found innocent in Circuit Court.

The church was the scene of many civil rights demonstrations in the spring and summer of 1963.

The bombing was the last and most serious one in a long series of racially connected attacks on a motel and the homes and churches of Negroes.

IN CONNECTION with the Philadelphia, Miss., case, the FBI spokesman said "intensive investigation is continuing to develop the case for prosecution as quickly as possible."

The three civil rights workers killed last June were Andrew Goodman, 20, of New York; Michael Schwerner, 24, of Brooklyn, N. Y. and a Negro, James Chaney, 21, of Meridian, Miss.

Their bodies were found in a deep grave near Philadelphia two months after they were last seen alive. They had been shot.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS
Birmingham, Alabama

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Author:
Editor:
Title: BAPBOMB

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Classification:
Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM
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NOV 29 1964	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

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Still seeking evidence FBI believes bombers, kidnap-killers known

The FBI believes it has identified the killers of four children in a Birmingham Negro church bombing last year and the slayers of three civil rights workers in Mississippi, an FBI spokesman said in Washington today.

A spokesman said the agency is trying to gather enough evidence to go to court in both cases.

The statement came as the FBI defended itself against charges that the bureau is ineffective in civil rights cases.

The Sixteenth Street Baptist Church was bombed while Sunday School services were being conducted there on Sept. 15, 1963.

THE CIVIL rights workers disappeared after being arrested on a traffic charge at Philadelphia last June 21 and released on bond. Their bodies were found in a dam Aug. 4.

The bombing victims were Carole Robertson, 16; Carol Denise McNair, 11; Addie Mae Collins and Cynthia Dianne Wesley, both 14. No arrests have been made in the case.

The three civil rights workers were Michael Schwerner, 24, and Andrew Goodman, 20, both

New York residents, and James Chaney, 21, a Meridian, Miss., Negro.

They had driven to Neshoba County from Meridian to investigate a church fire on the day they were arrested.

SCORES OF FBI agents joined state and local officers in the search for the killers. Some Mississippi officers claimed that the FBI withheld information from them.

A federal grand jury at Biloxi, Miss., investigated the deaths of the three men but did not return any indictments.

Two indictments were returned charging five law officers, including Neshoba Sheriff Lawrence Rainey, with denying Negroes their civil rights by arresting and beating them during a period beginning in 1960.

Rewards for the Birmingham bomber or bombers rose to \$70,000. Col. Al Lingo, state public safety director, predicted that the size of the reward eventually will crack the case.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS
1
THE BIRMINGHAM
POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 11-25-64
Edition: LATE FINAL
Author:
Editor: JOHN W. BLOOMER
Title:

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or
Classification:
Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

Being Investigated

157-352-SF1-107

SEARCHED *11/27*
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NOV 27 1964
FBI - BIRMINGHAM

5732
11-11-64
2

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Bomb reward near deadline

BY GEORGE BIGLERS III
News staff writer

If almost \$80,000 in reward money can't help unravel this

city's grim history of racial bombings, including one that murdered four Sunday School children last year—what will?

The money, over \$77,000 handed up by local citizens to pay informants, has been available more than a year. But there have been no takers.

After Dec. 31, the reward won't be collectible. And this comes as a blow to investigators who had hoped it would make somebody talk.

Set deadline

OF THE AMOUNT, \$15,000 had been offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church.

Under terms of a resolution adopted by the Birmingham City Council, trustees holding the money may pay rewards in amounts they deem advisable for information concerning other bombings which occurred after April 15 of last year.

However, no reward can be paid after Dec. 31 of this year—the time set by the City Council for the bombing reward to be dissolved.

Gov. George Wallace put \$10,000 into the fund on behalf of the state. Whether this amount will remain available is not known.

ACCORDING TO Dr. John Buchanan, one of three trustees appointed by the Council, only about \$1,500 of the fund is in cash. The remainder is in the form of pledges.

The FBI has announced that the case of the 16th Street Baptist

Church is as good as cracked. It has been for some time.

The guilty persons cannot be arrested because the one thing needed for convictions is missing—testimony that would convince a jury.

The church bombing was next to the last in a long series of dynamitings in Birmingham over the years. It is estimated that a total of 22, including the church bombing, remain unsolved.

After the church bombing, the FBI launched what it called the "biggest manhunt since the Dillinger case." City and county authorities joined the federal agency and began piping information to it.

Separate probe

THE STATE police, acting under orders of Director Al Lingo, began a separate investigation which subsequently led to the arrest of three men. They were not charged with the bombing, but with illegal possession of dynamite.

The trio was convicted in City Records Court, but appealed and later were found not guilty in Circuit Court.

When the state made its arrests, there was no notification of any kind given the other investigative agencies. And since that time, there has been no official communication between Lingo and the FBI.

In a statement from Washington a week ago, the FBI said the investigation "was prejudiced by premature arrests made by the Alabama Highway Patrol." Consequently it has not yet been possible to obtain evidence or confessions to assure successful prosecution.

Testimony needed

IF AND WHEN the FBI does move, the agency probably would turn over its evidence to the state for prosecution. The

federal government could prosecute only if it is proven that the dynamite used was shipped across state lines for an illegal purpose.

A source close to the investigation says investigators believe they know when the bomb was made, when it was transported to the church—and how.

The FBI here has refused to comment on the bombing investigation further than what was said in the FBI's Washington statement.

However, it is clear federal agents know much more than they admit. Obviously they are ready to testify.

What is needed now is the last piece to complete a giant jigsaw puzzle—an informant who is willing to go before a jury and

next week or next month. I could take a year.

But the investigators here feel certain of no more news.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 BIRMINGHAM NEWS
BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

Date: 12-6-64
Edition: LATE FINAL
Author: GEORGE BIGLERS III
Editor: JOHN W. BLOOMER
Title: BOMBING

Character: RY

Classification: BU #357-352

Submitting Office: BE

Being Investigated

157-352-5F1-108

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC - 8 1964	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Bombing reward money returned

Over \$1,500 in reward money for the arrest and conviction of those responsible for killing four Negro girls in bombing the 16th Street Baptist Church in September 1963 has been returned.

Almost \$80,000 was given or pledged as a reward for information. In addition to the \$1,527 actually collected, there was \$78,052 listed as "firm pledges over responsible signatures."

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES for the reward fund met last Wednesday and voted to return the money. Terms of a resolution by the City Council dictated the money must be returned if not paid out by Dec. 31, 1964.

Spokesmen for the four-man board of trustees was James Haley, former president of the Birmingham Bar Association. Other members were R. E. Farr, District 36 director of the United Steel Workers; Dr. John Buchanan, retired pastor of Southside Baptist Church, and Amos Kirby, public relations director at Carraway Methodist Hospital.

Haley said the board of trustees was also authorized to pay any amount of the \$1,527 that in their discretion was necessary for information

leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone bombing a residence or other building in Birmingham. None was ever paid.

All but \$6 of the money collected was returned. Coming from an unknown contributor, the \$6 was used for postage to mail the 57 checks necessary to return the money.

After the board of trustees voted to return the money a letter was necessary from Birmingham Police Chief Jamie Moore stating that no one had been arrested in connection with the two-year-old bombings.

Haley said there will probably be some wrong addresses among the 57 checks, for some people have moved since donating the money. One \$5 check has already been returned.

The money was kept in a bank account at no interest for two years. Haley said the board years. Haley said had the board known it would have been for two years, they might have set up some sort of interest account.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

12 BIRMINGHAM NEWS
BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

Date: 3-23-65
Edition: LATE FINAL
Author: UNKNOWN
Editor: JOHN W. BLOOMER
Title: GREENBOMBS
LAPD 14

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or

Classification: BH 157-352-174-6*

Submitting Office: BH

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157-352-SF1-107

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 29 1965	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Attempted bombing

1 dead, 2 critical in wild Meridian battle

Pretty teacher slain, Klansman wounded

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 7-1-68
Edition: Dixie
Author: George Metz
Editor: John W. Bloomer
Title: BAPBOMB

Character:

or

Classification: 157-352
Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

Being Investigated

157-352-SF-110

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

JUL 1 - 1968

FBI - BIRMINGHAM

BY GEORGE METZ
News staff writer

MERIDIAN, Miss.

Police kept a 24-hour hospital guard around a young Mobile man today in the wake of an early Sunday running gunbattle that left the man's pretty school teacher companion dead and two other persons — including a patrolman — critically injured.

The gunfire broke out after police attempted to arrest the man near the home of a widely-known Jewish businessman where they had been staked out.

Thomas Albert Tarrant III, 22, of Mobile, remained in a Matty Hersee Hospital room this morning, an armed Meridian policeman at his bedside and Mississippi highway patrolman posted outside.

While his condition was listed as serious, police were advised by hospital officials late Sunday that he is expected to survive. He was wounded in a running gunfight with police following the attempted bombing of a residence here.

The condition of both Meridian policeman J. M.

(Mike) Hatcher and Navy Aviation Machinist Mate 2-c Robert E. Burton, who Tarrant is accused of machine-gunning, were described as "still critical."

Hatcher, hit four times with slugs from a German-made submachine gun, still had one slug lodged in the membranous tissue of his heart early this morning, with a second slug closeby.

A team of Jeff Anderson Memorial Hospital surgeons removed two bullets from his upper abdomen during a more than five-hour operation Sunday morning but made no attempt to remove the two bullets in the vicinity of his heart. It was not known when surgery would be resumed.

A POLICE OFFICIAL from the Meridian Police Department said today that Tarrant, 22, of Mobile, had "gone into shock but is still hanging on."

expert, had "gone into shock but is still hanging on."

Meanwhile, a formal charge of attempted murder was lodged against Tarrant about midday Sunday by County Judge Emerson Harwell after Hatcher's police prowl car partner, patrolman T. E. Tucker, named Tarrant as the gunman. Tucker testified that after he rammed a speeding late model black Buick chased from the scene of the alleged attempted bombing, the driver, whom he identified as Tarrant, turned a machine gun on the police car.

Tucker ducked beneath the car dashboard but Hatcher caught four slugs as he leaped from the patrol car — two and possibly three shots striking him through the windshield.

Burton was cut down by a burst from the submachine gun when he emerged from a

nearby residence to see what had happened.

Found dead on the floorboard of the Buick later was the body of a young, attractive woman, identified by police Chief Roy Gunn as Mrs. Kathy Ainsworth, 26, a Jackson school teacher, whose purse contained a loaded 25-caliber pistol and membership cards in both the Americans for the Preservation of the White Race and Ku Klux Klan.

Chief Gunn gave the following account of the gun battle, shortly after midnight Sunday which ended in her death, the wounding of Tarrant, Hatcher and Burton. He stated that about 15 officers, wearing black polo shirts had staked out the 29th Avenue residence of Meridian businessman Meyer Davidson when the Buick automobile was seen driving past the residence.

Several officers were wounded in the gun battle. Tarrant was seen driving past the residence several times. When the car stopped about 50 feet from the building, later, a man now identified as Tarrant stepped out carrying a box and started walking toward the car port. Ordered to halt, he dropped the box, in which 29 sticks of dynamite and an alarm clock detonating device were later found, wheeled and in Chief Gunn's words "pointed a pistol."

Officers fired and the suspect appeared to be struck, dropped his pistol but ran to the black Buick and fled under a barrage of withering police fire.

HATCHER AND Tucker, the only officers at the scene with an automobile, attempted to block the path of the Buick but wound up in a highspeed, bullet-punctured chase, for approximately 15 blocks — when Tucker rammed the Buick and it went out of control striking an embankment.

It was at this point, police charged Tarrant fired on the officers with the submachine gun. He fired until the weapon was empty, dashed across a nearby lawn, and was trying to climb over a fence when other pursuing officers caught him with their fire.

It was unclear just where Mrs. Ainsworth was killed. Police said it might have happened during the first at Davidson's house, or more likely during the chase when Hatcher fired at the fleeing car with a Winchester rifle.

She was struck in the back of the head and was probably killed instantly.

Tarrant was described by Gunn as a "prime suspect" in other bombings and recent night rider violence here and in Jackson. The Temple Beth Israel Synagogue here, shattered by a dynamite blast several weeks ago, was the only instance of bombing at Meridian; however, the synagogue at Jackson, the homes of a Jewish rabbi, and a white Presbyterian lay leader were bombed last year. Gunn named Tarrant as a suspect in all the incidents.

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Meyer Davidson, 51, a leader in Meridian's Jewish community, instrumental in raising a \$75,000 reward following the Temple Beth Israel bombing here, was at home when police set their trap outside the home. Davidson's residence was one of several staked out by police in recent weeks. An automobile parked in his driveway only a few days ago had been struck by bullets fired from a speeding car. But police officials would not confirm a report that some 10 men staked out the house Saturday night after receiving information it would be bombed.

Tarrant was arrested at Collins December in company of Sam Holloway Bowers Jr., Imperial Wizard of the Imperial Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and now under 10-year federal sentence for the slaying of three civil rights workers in Philadelphia. Collins officers found an M-3 submachine gun in the car driven by Tarrant with Bowers as a passenger.

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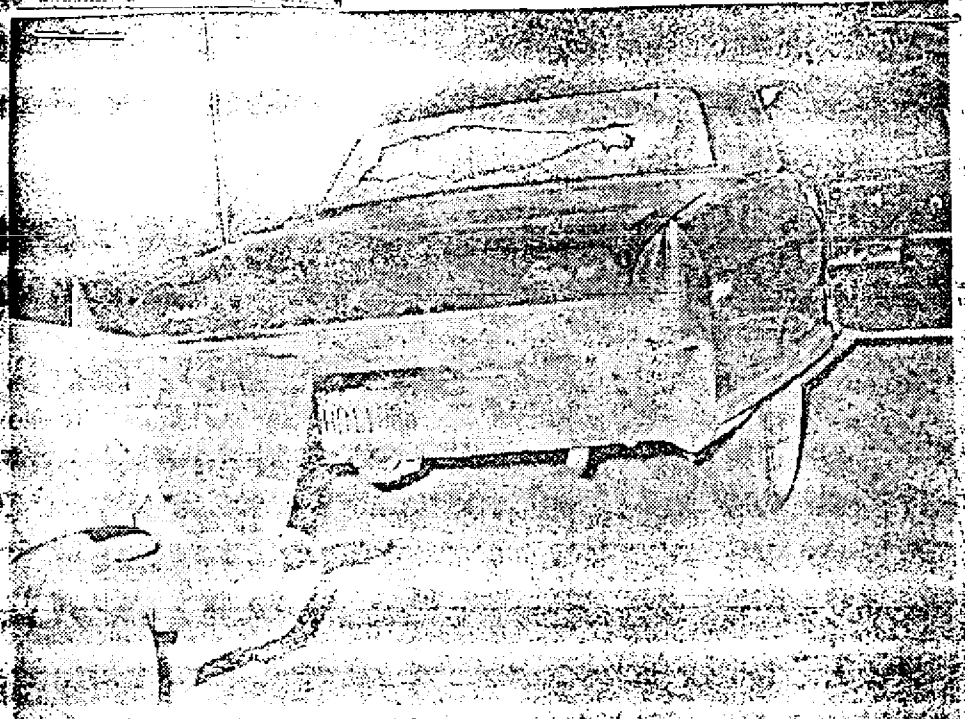
Tarrant was arrested at Collins December in company of Sam Holloway Bowers Jr., Imperial Wizard of the Imperial Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and now under 10-year federal sentence for the slaying of three civil rights workers in Philadelphia. Collins officers found an M-3 submachine gun in the car driven by Tarrant with Bowers as a passenger.



THOMAS TARRANTS
... Bomb suspect



ROY GUNN
Chief tells of trap



TARRANTS' CAR AT END OF RUNNING GUNBATTLE

View shows smashed rear window. Left is police cruiser in which Patrolman J. M. Hatcher was critically wounded.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Police in Mobile

Knowledges

BY TED PEARSON

Mobile, Ala. (AP) —

It was a quiet day in Mobile, Ala., when a man was taken to the police station.

There was a will as police...

U. S. ...

... charging ...

... who family pleas, prompted the probation decision instead of sending him to prison.

WARRANTS ...

... shotgun charge stemmed from ... arrest when he was driving an ...

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 — BIRMINGHAM NEWS

— BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 7-1-68
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 Editor: John W. Bloomer
 Title: BAPBOMB

Character: 157-352-SF1-112
 or
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 Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

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JUL 2 - 1968
 FBI — BIRMINGHAM

[Signature]

Tarrant was turned over to federal authorities because he had the gun left behind and there was illegal activity in the car. The federal Criminal Tax Unit took Tarrant into federal court which put him on probation.

BUT A FEW MONTHS later, police stopped a car that was being recklessly driven in Collins, Miss. They found Tarrant driving.

His companion in the car was Samuel Holloway Bowers Jr., in 1967, a Ku Klux Klan leader.

Bowers was a white man convicted in 1967, in Meridian, Miss., of the 1964 slaying of three young Negroes.

He was arrested in the death of Negro leader Vernon J. ... Tarrant ... a ... submachine gun.

...

...

...

...

...

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

As bomb plot news

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
Meridian

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

BIRMINGHAM NEWS

BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 7-1-68
Edition: Metro
Author: George Metz
Editor: John W. Bloomer
Title: BAPBOMB

Character: 157-352-5F1-114

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

Being Investigated

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SERIALIZED FILED *B*

JUL 2 - 1968

FBI - BIRMINGHAM

GA

BY GERT

News Staff

MERIDIAN

A self-styled "underground fighter" from Mobile... der heavy guard hospital today after Sunday gun... plot and took... pretty Jackson girl... teacher.

Two other men — one of them a policeman — were... ing shoot out, described by...

... in recent...

Meanwhile... across...

... of the... machine gun... as Mexican... Hatcher... technicians Mate... O. Robert Burton... Hatcher was...

... the bombing... after... Roy... Hatcher was...

THE BATTLE that followed ranged for several miles, ending... Kathy Ainsworth, 28, who... Officers found her... had had... as he... to clear over a...

The... other men on... in the fusillade of shots—some

... of the... machine gun... as Mexican... Hatcher... technicians Mate... O. Robert Burton... Hatcher was...

... was home to investigate the noise.

ALTHOUGH INFORMATION on Mrs. Ainsworth was... said a 22-caliber pistol was found in her... with membership cards in the Americans for... of the White... the Ku Klux Klan.

In Jackson, School Superintendent Kirby Walker expressed shock when a... of her death.

He said she had taught...

... there... exhibited... Walker said...

... public...

Hyde" case... Kathy Ainsworth...

He said her husband reportedly was... with the Mississippi National Guard.

Meanwhile, Chief Gunn gave... leading up to the battle.

OFFICERS... observed...

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

ALWAYS WATCHED Tarrant's not new to police

BY TOM LANKFORD
and TED PEARSON
News staff writers

At 17, when other boys his own age were obsessed with cam shafts and four-barreled carburetors, he openly boasted he could take "rubber bands and a little wire" and convert an M-1 carbine into a fully automatic weapon.

"Damn Jews, I'm going to kill them," he was fond of saying. And among those he said it to were police informants both here and in Mobile, because long before Thomas A. Tarrant III reached adulthood he was already being watched and shadowed by both metropolitan police in Alabama and the FBI.

This is the picture that emerged today of the 22-year-old Mobile man who was gunned down in Meridian early Sunday as he allegedly attempted to dynamite the home of Meridian businessman and Jewish leader Meyer Davidson.

Today, he lies seriously wounded in a Meridian hospital, shot down by police bullets after a suspected bomb plot went awry and as he fled his own wrecked automobile where a girl companion lay dead of rifle shots.

TARRANTS IS charged with attempted murder, the aftermath of a violent battle which took place in the back of a 1965 Buick Wildcat. The charges stem from the shooting of a Meridian officer who is believed to have been

Guilty or innocent, guns and bullets are nothing new to Tarrant's.

He was obsessed with them. He began coming to Birmingham long before his 20th birthday, usually staying at the headquarters of the radical National States Rights Party here out on Bessemer Road. The party has since moved its main operations to Augusta, Ga.

And during his visits here, with word of his rock hard attitudes and his love for guns already commonplace, police shadowed his every move.

Unknown to Tarrant, he was frequently flanked by police informants.

The troubles of both the South and the nation, he frequently claimed, lay in the "Communist-Jewish" conspiracy.

From time to time, he showed up with picket signs in front of Jewish stores in Mobile. He made periodic trips back here between 1963 and 1965, each time his movements carefully observed by local police and, by 1965, the FBI.

In Mobile, his home town, it all began at 17 when he was picked up in a car with Robert (Bob) Smith, leader of the NSRP. Hidden in the auto was a sawed off shotgun, and a bullet was fired, injuring

known to gun pros as a "Bluegrass."

He was charged under federal laws regulating such weapons and pleaded not guilty before Federal Judge Daniel Thomas in Mobile on Oct. 2, 1964.

Tarrant's later changed his plea to guilty and was placed on probation for a period "not exceeding his majority," which means that he was clear on his 21st birthday. So just a few days after the all important birthday, he was found in a car with notorious segregationist leader Sam Bowers of Mississippi. Inside the car was a submachine gun, the same type of weapon allegedly used in Sunday's early-hours shootout at Meridian.

For gun lover Tarrant, the road has led not unexpectedly to deep trouble.

On Sunday, he was charged for attempted murder as he writhed in pain on a hospital bed, badly wounded.

Monday, a grand jury in Hinds County, Miss., indicted him for the \$48,000 armed robbery of a grocery store last May. Armed robbery in Mississippi is a capital offense.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

2 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 7-2-68

Edition: Metro

Author: Lankford & Pearson

Editor: John W. Bloomer

Title: GREEN BOMB

Character:

or Classification: 157-352-SF-1

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

Being Investigated

157-352-SF-115
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SERIALIZED FILED
JUL 3 - 1968
FBI - BIRMINGHAM

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Police push probe in Meridian

BY JACK HARTSFIELD
News staff writer

MERIDIAN, Miss.

Law officers were not saying today whether more arrests are ahead in the night rider attempted bombing of the home of Meyer Davidson, prominent Jewish business leader in Meridian.

Police Chief Roy Gunn, who would not rule out further arrests, guardedly commented that he was hopeful the continuing investigation would turn up new evidence.

Meanwhile, the self-styled "underground fighter," Thomas A. Tarrants III, 22, of Mobile, gunned down Sunday by law officers after one of Mississippi's wildest running gun battles remained in serious condition at Maitly Hersee Hospital. He is under heavy guard.

Across town at Jeff Anderson Memorial Hospital a police patrolman and a bystander, both cut down by submachine gun fire in the chase remained on the critical list.

Patrolman J. M. Hatcher, 31-year-old father of three, was sprayed with machine gun bullets while trying to arrest Tarrants. Navy machinists' mate C. Robert Burton, a bystander, was hit in the yard of his home when he rushed out to see what the commotion was about.

The raging battle on Meridian streets ended in the death of Mrs. Maitly A. Hersee, a 40-year-old widow who was wounded in the attack.

Mrs. Ainsworth, a fifth grade teacher at Duling Elementary School in Jackson, was carrying a .25 caliber pistol in her purse and membership cards in the Americans for Preservation of the White Race and the Ku Klux Klan.

GUNN SAID the episode began in the pre-dawn hours Sunday while 10 officers were staked out at the Davidson residence, one of four locations under surveillance that night.

Officers moved in when they spotted a Buick sedan stop near the house and saw a man get out. Investigators claimed they challenged Tarrants as he tried to place a box of dynamite with a time detonator beside the Davidson home.

The man, officers claim, dropped the dynamite and officers fired as he fled to the waiting car. Police pursued, firing at the auto and finally rammed it 15 blocks away.

Investigators said Tarrants jumped from the car spraying machinegun bullets, injuring the bystander and officer Hatcher, before lawmen cut him down with their own fire while he was trying to climb over a fence.

Chief Gunn said documents recovered from Tarrants' possession spoke of a so-called "Communist-Jew" conspiracy and that Tarrants had gone "underground" as a guerrilla fighter.

THE POLICE chief said that Mrs. Ainsworth's husband, who was attending summer camp at Camp Shelby, knew she was a member of the Americans for Preservation of the White Race, a militant segregationist group.

W. T. Pickel, president of APWR's Jackson chapter described Mrs. Ainsworth as "a wonderful Christian patriot and said those who know her would be shocked she should not have died in vain."

Pickel's earlier statement said Mrs. Ainsworth was expecting her first child in six months.

"Not agreeing with the socialism being promoted in our public schools, she tried to teach her students true Americanism and firm Christian beliefs," Pickel continued.

A native of Miami, she moved to Mississippi and graduated from Mississippi College at nearby Clinton. Police said she had been affiliated with the APWR and three different Ku Klux Klan groups and was a frequent speaker at segregationist meetings.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 7-2-68
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Author: Jack Hartsfield
Editor: John W. Bloomer
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JUL 3 - 1968
FBI-BIRMINGHAM

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

The Bombers

President Johnson's action in assigning Secret Service agents to all presidential candidates paid off in Sacramento the other night when the agents and California police routed from Gov. Ronald Reagan's residence two kids armed with Molotov cocktails.

The malicious intent of the two boys was frustrated by the guards and because their "bombs" didn't go off.

It is possible these youngsters, caught up in the violence which has been preached and practiced by so many recently, thought they simply were embarked on a prank. More likely they meant real harm to the governor and his family.

In any case, the use of homemade firebombs to avenge, or protest, or simply to make trouble has become murderously commonplace.

It doesn't matter whether the bombs are aimed at the governor of California, the Yugoslav chancery in Washington, the headquarters of an anti-war outfit in New York, a labor

leader's home in Louisiana, the house of a Negro merchant in Mississippi, or at a church in Birmingham. The motive is criminal and the results often lethal.

Four little girls died in the bombing of the church here. The Negro merchant in Mississippi also was killed. In the other, more recent, incidents, nobody was hurt, but that was sheer good fortune and no credit to the bomb-throwers.

By no stretch of imagination can any of this come under the head of free speech or airing grievances. It is plain viciousness.

All the weapons controls in the world won't curb this type of crime. The bombs are easily made—a wild-eyed, radical paper in New York several months ago published a diagram of how to do it with a beer bottle and a little gasoline.

There is only one other answer: Tough, aggressive police work and the severest possible penalties, not only for tossing one of these things, but for making or possessing one.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

14 BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 7-12-68

Edition:

Author: editorial
Editor: Duard LeGrand
Title: BAPBOMB

Character:

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Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

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JUL 12 1968

FBI—BIRMINGHAM
[Signature]

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Girl bomb victims to be remembered

Five years ago Sunday, four children died in the bombing of Sixteenth Street Baptist church.

Now, Birmingham ministers, have been invited to participate in a memorial service Sunday in observance of the fifth anniversary of the tragedy.

Rev. John Porter, pastor of Sixth Avenue Baptist Church, said the memorial service was his "own bag," and that he was seeking as an individual to organize the service.

Rev. Mr. Porter also called on Mayor George Seibels and the Birmingham City Council to proclaim Sept. 15 as "A Day of Remembrance" for Birmingham.

Though plans are not complete, Rev. Mr. Porter said the service would probably be held in Kelly Ingram Park, across from the church.

THEN, PARTICIPANTS will lay wreaths on the steps of the church, at City Hall, and at the graves of the four girls killed in the bombing.

Though Rev. Mr. Porter did not ask official endorsement from the ministers, he did not ask official endorsement from the ministers, he did express hope that the memorial service would be "interfaith and interracial."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

10 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 9-10-68

Edition: Metro

Author:

Editor: John W. Bloomer

Title: BAPBOMB

Character:

or

Classification: 157-352

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

Investigator:

157-352-SFI-118

B B

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Negroes Get City Permit For Parade

Mayor George Seibels Thursday issued a permit to Negro leaders to parade Sunday in memory of the deaths of four Negro girls killed in a church bombing on Sept. 15, 1963.

The permit, issued to the Rev. John T. Porter of the Sixth Avenue Baptist Church, says the parade will begin at the 16th Street Baptist Church, scene of the bombing, at 4 p.m. Sunday, and end at City Hall.

Parade marshal will be Clarence Woods.

According to Porter, the reasons for the "Day of Remembrance" are:

"To remind ourselves of the tragedy of Sept. 15, which grew out of a deep racial prejudice that permeated our city and still exists in our community.

"To call to the attention of law enforcement officials the fact that no arrests or indictments have been handed down for the dastardly act.

"To call forth a spirit of rededication to the great task of reconciliation which still remains between men of all races."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

2 THE BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 9-13-68
Edition: Final
Author:
Editor: Duard LeGrand
Title: BAPBOMB

Character:
or 157-352-SFI

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Submitting Office: BH

Being Investigated

157-352-SFI-119

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED B	FILED B
SEP 13 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

[Signature]

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Five Years

Five years ago, on Sept. 15, 1963, four Negro girls died in an explosion which rocked the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

That was a Sunday morning, too; the little girls were attending Sunday school.

It's not pleasant to recall that terrible day. But it is impossible not to. Birmingham did not murder those children, as some charged. Neither did Birmingham die in the blast, as some predicted.

But something did die, and something else was born; and that is why it is possible now, five years later, for Birmingham to see a bright future for all, black and white, against the backdrop of its darkest day.

What died with four children for whose murderers the search must never cease was the idea that communication between whites and blacks, between citizens and government, between all segments of the community was impossible in Birmingham, and therefore not worth trying to establish; and the notion that Birmingham could go along in its old ways and some day everything would be all right.

What was born was a new appreciation of the value of a human life and

the importance of its being lived in dignity and in hope; what was born was a new determination by black and white Birminghamians that there would be a new day in this city.

Obviously all prejudice, all resentment was not erased. Obviously all of our problems have not yet been solved. But there has been progress—how great, one only needs to think back across those five years to see.

All of Birmingham can remember and mourn four children this day, as painful as the memory may be. But the city can do so from a vantage point which many—even among our own citizens—thought impossible to attain; it can do so in confidence that the journey which has brought us this far is not by any means ended, and that our direction is true and our momentum steady.

We cannot be complacent—not ever complacent. But we can be thankful that God in His wisdom and mercy has shown us the way this far, God will be with us as we move on, if we invite Him to sit not only in our churches but in our schools and our business offices and our conferences and our daily lives, to remind us that we are, each of us, our brother's brother.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FOUR YEARS

the importance of its being lived in dignity and in hope; what was born was a new determination by black and white Birminghamians that there would be a new day in this city.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-14 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS
Birmingham, Alabama

Date: 9-15-68
Edition: Metro
Author:
Editor: JAMES E. JACOBSON
Title: BAPBOMB

Character: BM
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM
 Being Investigated

157-352-SF1-120
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED **B** FILED **B**
SEP 15 1968
FBI - BIRMINGHAM

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Memorial parade held for 4 girls

An estimated 700 marchers paraded from Sixteenth Street Baptist Church to City Hall here Sunday in memory of four children killed in the 1963 bombing of the church.

Memorial services for the four girls were held on the City Hall front steps with white and Negro ministers participating.

Rev. John Porter, minister of Sixth Avenue Baptist Church was parade marshal, and one of the principal speakers at the memorial.

Clarence Woods, local anti-poverty official, headed the memorial service which lasted almost an hour. Principle speaker was Chris "Mac"

McNair, father of Denise McNair, one of the girls killed in the bombing.

"McNAIR TOLD marchers that as long as the myuderers responsible for the 1963 bombing roamed the streets, no one's children are safe.

"What safer place could a father find to take his little girl and expect her to be safe, than to his church?" asked McNair.

Rev. Calvin W. Woods, minister of East End Baptist Church, told the group that next week — "We're going to see the FBI and the chief of police, and even the governor and say: 'We want action!'"

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

2 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 9-16-68

Edition: Metro

Author:

Editor: John W. Bloomer

Title: BAPBOMB

Character:

or

157-352-1

Classification:

Submitting Office: BH

 Being Investigated

157-352-SF-121

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

SEP 17 1968
FBI - BIRMINGHAM

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Bomb Victim's Father Pleads For Action

BY CLAUDE DUNCAN

The father of one of four Negro girls killed in the bombing of The Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham five years ago pleaded Sunday for the bomber's capture.

"As long as you let the guilty run free," Chris McNair told about 700 people gathered at City Hall after a three-block march from Sixteenth Street Baptist Church,

"your child is no safer than mine was."

Mrs. McNair placed a four-foot cross of white mums at the door of City Hall. A march leader, Clarence Woods, said the cross was put there "because this is where the guilt lies."

Eleven-year-old Denise McNair and 14-year-olds Carol Robertson, Cynthia Wesley and Addie Mae Collins were killed Sunday, Sept. 15, 1963,

when a bomb blast ripped through the church basement where they were in Sunday School.

Two Negroes were killed by police in the afternoon of racial disturbances that followed the bombing, and 23 were arrested. Gov. George C. Wallace sent 300 state troopers to Birmingham, at the request of Mayor Albert Boutwell, and offered a \$500 reward.

City, state and federal investigative agencies have sought clues to the bombing, but no arrests have been made.

Speakers at Sunday's memorial march condemned the lack of arrests.

"If I had been told on that day five years ago that it would take three weeks or a month to solve this hideous crime I would have said the person who told me did not know what he was talking

about," McNair said in his short, emotional speech.

Another speaker, the Rev. John Thomas Porter of Sixth Avenue Baptist Church, said a delegation would go next week to police, FBI and the governor, to ask for a step-up in the investigation.

The marchers, mostly Negro, walked silently four abreast from the church to City Hall.

One of the speakers was the

Rev. Charles S. Sullivan, who has taken leave of absence as a John Carroll High School teacher in what he called a "symbolic protest against the outdated attitudes" of Birmingham-Mobile Diocese Archbishop Thomas J. Toole.

The Rev. Sullivan apologized to the marchers for what he said was the church's apparent unconcern for civil rights in Alabama.

The Rev. Calvin Woods told the crowd progress had been made in racial relations in Birmingham since the chaotic Summer of 1963.

"We've come a long way," he said, "but we still have a long way to go."

He called for better employment opportunity for the city's Negroes and asked that the city hire more Negro policemen.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

5 THE BIRMINGHAM POST
HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 9-16-68

Edition: Final

Author: Claude Duncan

Editor: Duard LeGrand

Title: BAPBOMB

Character:

or 157-352-SF-128

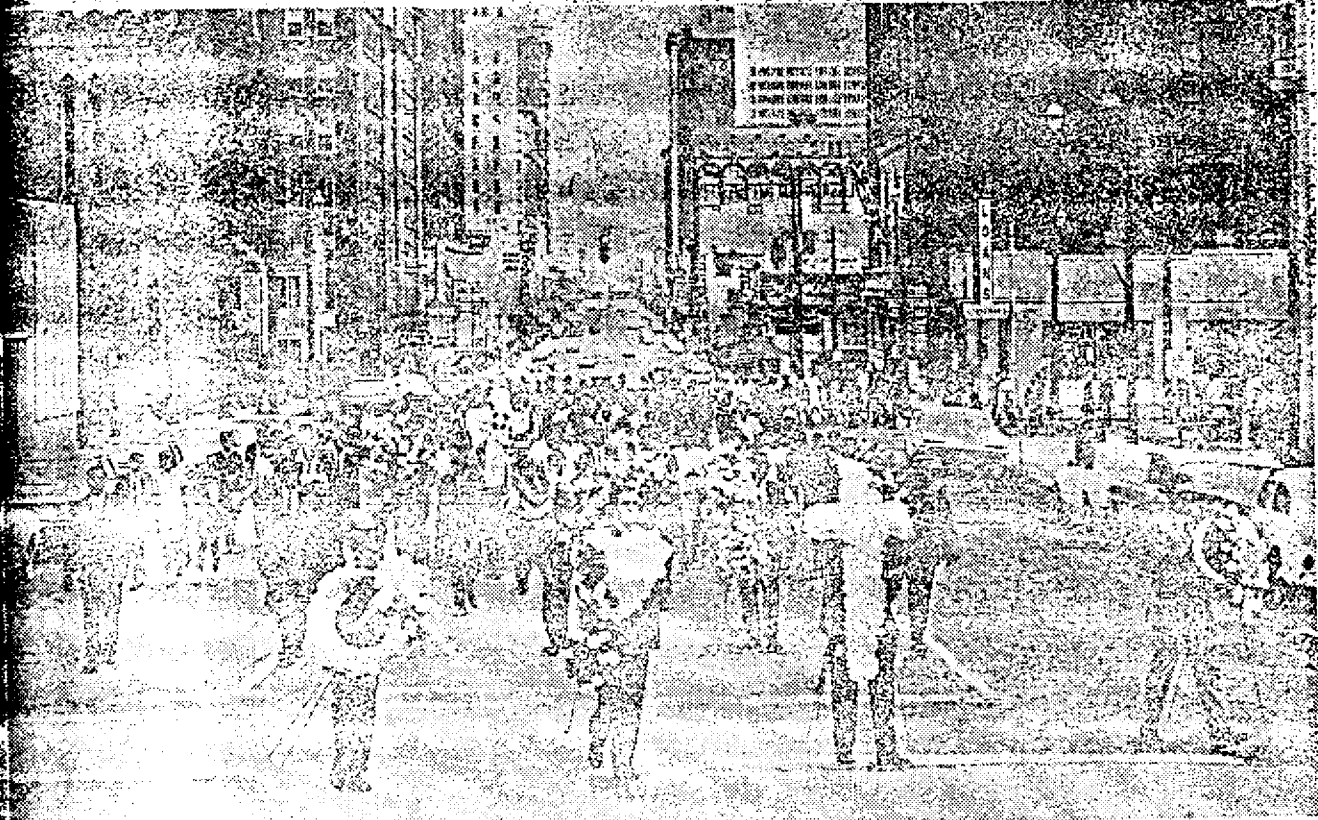
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Submitting Office: BH

 Being Investigated

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SERIALIZED	B	FILED	B
SEP 17 1968			
FBI-BIRMINGHAM			

In Memory Of Four Young Girls



MEMORIAL MARCH — About 700 people marched in silence Sunday from Sixteenth-Street Baptist Church to Birmingham City Hall, marking the fifth anniversary of the death of four young girls

killed when the church was bombed Sunday morning, Sept. 15, 1963. (Story, Page 5). (Post-Herald staff photo by Joe Chapman).



McNAIR

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Memorial

Five years ago Sunday four irreplaceable little girls were killed in an explosion at a church a few blocks from City Hall.

On the fifth anniversary of the tragedy more than 600 persons met at the church then marched to Woodrow Wilson Park to hold a service in front of City Hall.

A principal theme of the service was a call for law and order.

In the vocabularies of some candidates for office the words law and order recently have grown bigger and louder. Regardless of disclaimers by the candidates their listeners understand very well that the words as now used mean something altogether different from their dictionary definitions, something ugly, something violent, something threatening to a large segment of our people. They do not ring true.

On Sunday they rang true indeed. Used by mostly Negro speakers to a mostly Negro audience gathered to honor four Negro girls they were a reminder that of all the American communities, the Negro community has suffered longest and cruelest from a lack of law and order in our total society.

Of all Americans the black American always has been least secure in his person and in his property. No other American has a bigger stake in the establishment and preservation of law and order.

The most recent report on American crime by the Federal Bureau of Investigation shows that of all the persons murdered in this country last year 53 per cent of the victims were Negroes. Making up something like

12 per cent of the population, the Negro is five times as likely as the white to be murdered.

When a Negro speaker calls for law and order in the community and hears his call seconded by a majority of his audience there is nothing vague in the use of the words. He is asking for protection against those who would destroy him and his children. He also is asking that justice be done in the name of those who have been destroyed.

In the five years since the bomb went off at Sixteenth Street Baptist Church there has been no arrest for the quadruple murder although local, state and federal officers have been supposed to be investigating.

Admittedly it is more difficult to uncover the criminal whose deed destroys much of the evidence than it is to charge with auto theft the person caught driving somebody else's car. But our peace officers are paid to tackle and accomplish the hard jobs along with the easy.

The father who lost his only child in the bombing points out that the guilty have been brought to justice for similar outrages elsewhere. He is entitled to an answer when he asks why there has been no action here.

Every parent can understand him when he declares that so long as those who destroyed the four children five years ago remain free, no children in the community are safe.

And every citizen should appreciate that when the father calls for law and order he is calling for the real thing—unbiased enforcement of equal law and an order firmly based on justice for every citizen.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

17 THE BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 9-17-68

Edition: Final

Author:

Editor: Duard LeGrand

Title: BAPBOMB

Character:

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Submitting Office: BH

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SEP 17 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

5 years after blast, the search goes on

BY PEGGY ROBERSON
News staff writer

The bomber or bombers who struck at Sixteenth Street Baptist Church five years ago, killing four little girls, can never be prosecuted on the bombing charge itself.

The statute of limitations on that federal charge, and on most of the other possible charges which might have resulted from the crime, expired Sunday with the fifth anniversary of that horror-filled day.

BUT THERE is no statute of limitations on federal crimes punishable by death, or on the state charge of murder with universal malice — the intention of killing anyone who happens by.

If the FBI can prove the explosives were transported across state lines by someone who knew they were to be used to destroy anything or intimidate anyone, they might have a case, because that particular federal crime is punishable by death.

The investigation goes on. And the FBI agents believe that, sooner or later, they can fix the blame on someone.

RALPH J. MILES, special agent in charge of the Birmingham office, said several suspects are never far out of sight of the FBI.

Birmingham Police Chief Jamie Moore receives information from the federal agents' investigations, and his own detectives run down every lead.

Records and reports on the investigations fill drawer after drawer in FBI headquarters and in the office of U. S. Atty. Macon Weaver.

Weaver assigned Asst. U. S. Atty. J. Richmond Pearson to the task of sifting through all the reports — one more time — when Pearson was appointed to the office this year.

"The investigators have turned up several people capable of doing this crime," Pearson said. "They have found evidence of meetings and conferences between people in this area who could hate this much."

MILES BELIEVES the agents are dedicated to finding the missing links needed to make a case. He says bits of information are still gleaned here and there, often in investigations of other race-related crimes, and are care-

fully added to the collection stored in the files and in the minds of the agents pursuing the killers.

"Most of the agents have children themselves," Miles added. "They work hard on any ordinary investigation — like a bank robbery — but this church bombing falls into a different category. They take a very personal interest in solving it."

"I can't imagine our ever closing this case until this thing is solved," he emphasized. "Sometimes it seems when no public announcements are made, nothing is going on. But that's not true."

"I would like the public to know the bombings are still under investigation, on a daily basis, by the FBI, as they have been since the bombings took place.

"At no time in the interim has the investigation ever ceased."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

5 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 9-17-68
Edition: Metro
Author: Peggy Roberson
Editor: John W. Bloomer
Title: BAPBOMB

Character:
or 157-352-SF1

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Submitting Office: FH

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SEP 18 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	



"THE INVESTIGATION HAS NEVER CEASED"

Pearson read all the records

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

DA views deathbed confession

Could reopen 1957 unsolved murder

By Frank Sikora
News staff writer

MONTGOMERY — At the Civil Rights Memorial here Wednesday, someone placed a single white rose in the thin sheet of shimmering water.

The rose rested next to the name of Willie Edwards, one of the more than 30 people who died in the civil rights movement in the South during the 1950s and '60s.

The unsolved 1957 murder of Edwards, 25, an obscure truck driver with a wife and three children, returned to the forefront with the revelation that a former Ku Klux Klansman reportedly made a deathbed confession to his wife about the case.

Now, the Montgomery County district attorney's office says the case could be reopened if new evidence is found.

Bill Mayer, chief deputy of the Montgomery County District Attorney's office, on Wednesday said the office is reviewing the case but has not launched a new investigation.

"At this point all we know is what we've read in the newspapers," he said. "However, if we get some more information, then it could be that we would look at reopening it."

Edwards was stopped by several white men on the night of Jan. 23, 1957, and ordered at gunpoint to jump from the Tyler Goodwyn bridge into the Alabama River.

His body was found three months later in Lowndes County.

The widow of a former Klan member last week

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS
BIRMINGHAM, AL.

Date: 9/2/93

Edition: THURSDAY

Title: "DA VIEWS DEATHBED CONFESSION"

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: BH

Indexing:

INDEX

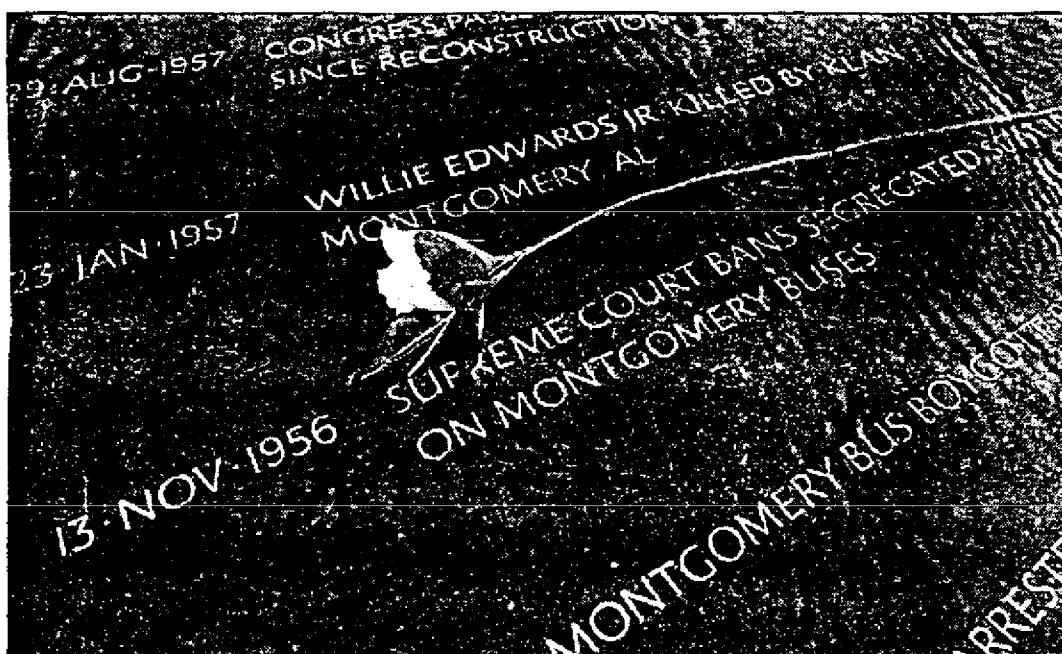


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SEARCHED	INDEXED
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SEP 10 1993	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

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AP PHOTO

Rose adorns Civil Rights Memorial space dedicated to Willie Edwards.

said her husband confessed to leading six other men in the *nightrider* murder.

Henry Alexander, 61, died in December 1992, several weeks after allegedly making the statement to his wife, Diane Alexander.

She also said her husband was an FBI informant.

Mayer said it is not clear whether Alexander named other people in the abduction.

"There would be legal questions as to the admissibility in court," he said, "and we would likely have to have a judicial inquiry on the issue. This is a little different from a person telling police something from the deathbed."

Morris Dees, director of the Southern Poverty Law Center and representing Edwards' survivors, has asked the FBI to furnish all documents pertaining to Alexander's role in the civil rights movement, that began in Montgomery when blacks boycotted segregated buses in late 1955.

The Supreme Court in December 1956 upheld a lower court ruling handed down by federal judges Frank M. Johnson Jr. and Richard Rives, declaring segregation unconstitutional.

Removing racial barriers on the buses set off a wave of bombings and sniping incidents, including the bombing of the home of boycott leader the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dees said he has been told Alexander may have been involved in bombing King's home.

Edwards, who took no part in the protest, apparently was picked at random by Klan members angry about the desegregation orders.

In 1976, a man named Raymond Britt told investigators that he and several other men took part in the incident, and Attorney General Bill Baxley obtained indictments against them.

Alexander was one of four men indicted on a murder charge.

But Montgomery Circuit Judge Frank Embry dismissed the indictments because they did not specify a cause of death. Baxley did not seek new indictments.

He later said the FBI told him Alexander had been an informant in the 1950s, and asked that he be given "consideration."

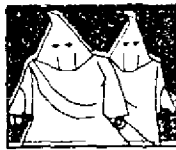
Another man who had been indicted in 1976, William Kyle "Sonny" Livingston, a Montgomery bail bondsman now age 55, said Wednesday he was told in 1969 that Alexander was an FBI informant.

"It didn't mean anything to me," he said. "I was never in the Klan. But I've been persecuted over this (Edwards) case for years. I was only 18 when that happened, and I wasn't there. I hung around with some people who were in the Klan, but I wasn't a member."

Britt later recanted and said Livingston was not present when Edwards was forced to jump from the bridge.

Willie Edwards' abduction death still haunts state

Revelations may force review of 1957 killing and later probe



MONTGOMERY — They called him "Mookie," a name that seemed to fit his small stature —

5-feet-6, 150 pounds.

But today, the shadow of Willie Edwards, 24, continues to haunt Alabama, a state which was a stronghold of Ku Klux Klan activity.

Edwards, who was black, died the night of Jan. 23, 1957, when a group of white men abducted him and forced him to jump from the Tyler Goodwyn Bridge in Montgomery, according to indictments and statements given in the case.

Additional details about Edwards' death have emerged since Diane Alexander, the wife of Klan member Henry Alexander, revealed two weeks ago that her husband confessed to the deed as he lay near death last December.

She also said her husband had worked for the FBI as an informant.

Alexander's first wife, Edna, who was married to him when the Edwards incident took place, had given investigators a statement in 1976 implicating her husband in the murder.

"Edna was one of my informants on Klan activity," said Jack Shows, a former Montgomery detective and later chief investigator for then-Attorney General Bill Baxley.

Shows said Edna Alexander talked to him in early 1976 and mentioned a missing Winn-Dixie truck driver.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS
BIRMINGHAM, AL.

Date: 9/7/93
Edition: TUESDAY

Title: "WILLIE EDWARDS' ABDUCTION DEATH STILL HAUNTS STATE"

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: BH

Indexing:

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JR

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 10 1993	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

JR

He said that was the first he had heard of it.

She also, like Diane Alexander, said that Alexander had been an FBI informant.

Morris Dees of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery is representing Edwards' survivors and has asked the FBI to open its files on Alexander.

"The family wants to know how much the FBI knew about him (Alexander) and if he was working for them when this happened," Dees said.

Dees said Alexander also was indicted, but never tried, for a number of bombings in Montgomery during the civil rights movement. He said it raises questions whether the FBI was "running interference" for him.

Shows, who was a Montgomery detective in 1957, said he stayed in close contact with FBI agents during the turbulent '50s and '60s.

"I don't believe they would have put anyone up to do something violent," he said. "Most of the FBI agents who were here in those days have retired or have died."

Spencer Robb, the agent in charge of the Montgomery office, has retired and moved out of the state.

In her statement to Shows in 1976, Edna Alexander said her husband and three others came to the house that night in 1957 and bragged about the event.

"They came back, they were laughing and were saying something about a Negro man making a pass at a white woman, and I heard one of them say he will never make a pass at another white women . . . I asked them, 'Did ya'all harm that man?' and they said, 'No, he just jumped off the river bridge.'"

One man named in the statement, Raymond Britt, agreed to testify for the state when Baxley obtained indictments against them. Britt gave a chilling account of the night Edwards was forced to jump to his death.

In his statement, Britt said Alexander was driving and they were looking for a black man who drove a Winn-Dixie truck and had made a suggestive statement to a white woman.

Britt said they saw a truck parked along Lower Wetumpka Road and a

black man was inside, apparently reading the log book by the dome light. He said the men got out of the car and approached the truck with guns drawn and told the driver to get out.

He was forced into the car and they began riding. He denied talking to a white woman.

Britt said in the statement:

"The driver was very frightened and pleaded with us not to harm him. The driver was sobbing and begging for his life. As we approached the bridge, (Blank) and Alexander told him that we were going to throw him in the river if he didn't tell us the truth. I also told the driver that we were going to throw him in the river."

They stopped on the bridge and ordered Edwards out, slapping him and shoving him about. Then one of them

pointed a gun at Edwards and told him to "hit the water."

Britt said Edwards climbed onto the railing and jumped off. "I remember that he screamed on the way down to the water," the statement said. Two fishermen found the remains of Edwards in Lowndes County three months after the incident.

The Alabama River had been in flood stage, and the body was caught on some low-hanging tree limbs. Edwards' drivers license was still in the clothing.

That night had been his first to drive for Winn-Dixie; he was called in as a substitute for the regular driver, also black, who made the run to Sylacauga.

In 1976, Alexander, Britt, Sonny Kyle Livingston and J.D. York were indicted on murder charges by Baxley, but a state judge said the indictment did not cite a cause of death, and dismissed them.

It was then that the FBI told Baxley that Alexander had worked for the agency and asked for consideration.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS
BIRMINGHAM, AL.

Date: 9/9/93
Edition: THURSDAY

Title: "FBI'S ROLE IN '57 DEATH
TO BE PROBED"

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: BH

Indexing:

X
RT

FBI's role in '57 death to be probed

Widows of black victim and Klansman meet

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To FBIHQ

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SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED *ml* FILED *ml*
SEP 10 1993
- BIRMINGHAM
JL/RT

FBI Director Louis Freeh plans to order a review of the agency's actions in the failed prosecution of Ku Klux Klan members who in 1957 forced a black man to jump to his death from a bridge in Montgomery.

The statement, which Montgomery civil rights lawyer Morris Dees characterizes as "carefully worded," originally was made to NBC News in a segment on Wednesday night's *Now* newsmagazine program.

That show united Diane Alexander of Montgomery, whose dying Klansman husband confessed his role in the 1957 death of Willie Edwards, and Sarah Salter of Buffalo, N.Y., who was Edwards' pregnant wife when he died. The women, sitting together in a studio with host Katie Couric, were in tears after watching a segment on their husbands.

Mrs. Salter said she was relieved to know, after 36 years of wondering, what happened to her husband. Mrs. Alexander said she was nervous about meeting Mrs. Salter, "but it felt good."

The women's lives were linked after Mrs. Alexander recently wrote Mrs. Salter to describe what her husband, Henry Alexander, said happened to Edwards. He confessed that he and others picked Edwards at random, accused him of talking to a white woman, took him to a bridge over the Alabama River and told him to "hit the water." Edwards jumped. His body was found three months later.

In 1976, Alexander and three oth-

ers were indicted on murder charges in the case, but charges were dropped. Officially, the case was dropped because the indictment didn't mention a specific cause of death.

On behalf of Mrs. Salter and her three children, Dees has asked Freeh to release all documents pertaining to Alexander.

"Director Freeh has ordered an inquiry into whether or not anyone in the FBI attempted to intervene" in the Alexander case, FBI spokesman Mike Kortan told *The Birmingham News* Wednesday night.

"The FBI will respond as promptly as possible to Willie Edwards' family for information on the case," Kortan said.

Mrs. Salter said she believed at first that her husband may have simply taken off for California, "because he always wanted to go there." After his body was found, she realized he'd been killed, she said.

"But I learned the truth, and I just don't know what to say, or what to do, but I'm so glad that it's over and it's off my mind now and I know that he's resting, but it is hard," Mrs. Salter told Ms. Couric.

She said she felt sorry for Henry Alexander.

"I really think that living with so much guilt on your mind is the hardest thing in this world to do, but in the end, he had to tell somebody so they could tell me," Mrs. Salter said.

Mrs. Alexander said she admired Mrs. Salter. "She picked up the pieces and went on," Mrs. Alexander said. Mrs. Alexander said she

slept better now that she has shared her husband's secret.

Mrs. Alexander told Ms. Couric that her hometown newspaper was writing about "all the money I'm supposed to be getting for telling my story." The *Montgomery Advertiser* reported Wednesday that television shows and movie producers would be willing to pay Mrs. Alexander thousands to talk to interview her or receive rights to film her story.

"It wasn't my story, it was Henry's story, and I have not received a dime from anybody," Mrs. Alexander said.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Alexander admitted church bombing, brother says

From Staff and Press Reports

MONTGOMERY — The brother of a former Klu Klux Klansman implicated in a 1957 racial slaying, said his brother also had claimed he participated in the 1963 bombing of a Birmingham church that took the lives of four black girls.

Sonny Alexander told a Montgomery television station yesterday that his brother, Henry Alexander, had claimed he took part

in the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church on Sept. 15, 1963.

Alexander said his brother, a former Klansman who died of lung cancer last year, also confessed to the killing of a black man in Elba in the mid-1950s. "They put him in a barrel and rolled him down a hill," Alexander told WSFA-TV. "They drove nails in the barrel and he was dead when they went to let him out at the bottom of the hill."

"It seems that a very few guys in the Klan did most of the dirty deeds and Alexander was one of them," said Morris Dees, director of the Southern Poverty Law Center, a group that monitors and opposes the Klan.

"We always knew that (convicted bomber Robert) Chambliss didn't bomb the Sixteenth Street Church alone," he added. "So it just seems logical that Alexander was another rat in that pack."

Sonny Alexander says his brother also admitted to being part of a group that killed Willie Edwards Jr. in 1957, but he says he doubts his brother confessed to the killing on his deathbed. Henry Alexander's widow, Diane Alexander, has claimed her husband confessed to the killing before he died.

But Sonny Alexander said his brother was only part of the group that forced Edwards to jump off a bridge. He said another man

was responsible for the actual killing.

"I don't believe he made a deathbed confession at all," said Sonny Alexander, who said he granted the interview to clear his family's name of the Edwards slaying.

Mrs. Alexander wrote to Edwards' family telling them of her husband's deathbed confession. Edwards' widow, Sarah Salter of Buffalo, N.Y., appeared with Mrs. Alexander on a national TV program Wednesday.

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To FBIHQ

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD
BIRMINGHAM, AL.

Date: 9/10/93
Edition: FRIDAY

Title: "ALEXANDER ADMITTED
CHURCH BOMBING, BROTHER
SAYS"

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: BH

Indexing.

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SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 10 1993	
JW/AT	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Klansman tied to church bombing

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS
BIRMINGHAM, AL.

Date: 9/10/93
Edition: FRIDAY

Title: "KLANSMAN TIED TO CHURCH BOMBING"

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: BH

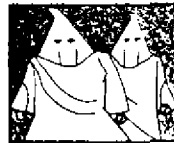
Indexing:



FBI officials from Washington will be in Montgomery next week to begin inquiry into the ever-widening case of a Ku Klux Klansman whose brother has implicated him in the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church 30 years ago.

Henry Alexander, 61, who died in December, has been linked by family members and court records to two racial murders, several bombings and a sniping incident. He has also been identified as an FBI informant.

It began when his common-law wife, Diane Alexander, told Montgomery television station WSFA that her terminally ill husband confessed in December that he had taken part in



the death of a black truck driver, Willie Edwards, 24, in 1957.

Edwards was forced at gunpoint to jump from a bridge into the Alabama

River. His body was found three months later.

In a new twist, an older brother, identified by WSFA as "Sonny" Alexander, said Henry Alexander told him of other incidents, including:

■ Being "involved" in the bombing of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham on Sept. 15, 1963, which killed four black girls.

■ The torture murder of a black man in Coffee County in the 1950s; in that case, the victim was placed in a barrel in which nails were driven, then rolled down a hill.

Efforts to reach "Sonny" Alexander were

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unsuccessful.

Bob Eddy, lead investigator for then-Attorney General Bill Baxley's probe into the Birmingham church bombing in 1977, said Alexander was not a prominent suspect in the case.

"I know of nothing that connects him with the church bombing," he said. "There were a lot of names and a lot of people questioned. But I'm not really surprised by anything a Klan member might say."

In October 1988, Gary A. Tucker, a terminally ill patient at the VA Hospital in Tuscaloosa, told FBI agents that he had bombed the Birmingham church and named an accomplice. But an inquiry by state and federal agents indicated the claim was full of contradictions and impossibilities. Tucker died in January 1989.

Morris Dees, founder and chief trial counsel

for the Southern Poverty Law Center, who is representing Edwards' survivors, said he wants to know at what point Alexander became an FBI informant. Dees said he was contacted by FBI officials in Washington, who want to talk to him when they come to Montgomery next week.

Dees said Alexander might have been involved in the Jan. 30, 1956, bombing of the home of Martin Luther King Jr., who had emerged as the leader of the Montgomery bus boycott.

Dees said there were also four Montgomery churches and two homes bombed on the night of Jan. 10, 1957, and a Klansman who was arrested gave a statement that Alexander was involved.

"All this was before Willie Edwards was killed," he said.

Alexander also was arrested and indicted on a charge of placing a bomb at King's home that did not detonate, as well as shooting a pistol into an integrated bus and wounding a pregnant black woman. But he was never convicted.

"We're looking into the allegation about the barrel killing," Dees said. "But I think it is also interesting about the claim that Alexander was involved in the Birmingham church bombing."

In 1976 Alexander and three other men were indicted as a result of Baxley's investigation on murder charges in Edwards' death.

The indictments were brought after Alexander's first wife, Edna, told of hearing her husband and other men bragging about making the truck driver jump into the river.

One of the indicted men, Raymond Britt, also gave a statement about the incident, saying Alexander led the expedition.

The cases were thrown out by a state judge, Frank Embry of Pell City, who said the cause of death was not cited.

Baxley said recently he was told at that time by the FBI that Alexander had been an informant for the agency and said he was asked to show "consideration."

At the time, Baxley had launched his investigation into the Birmingham church bombing case, and was leaning heavily on FBI documents and assistance to prepare the case, which resulted in a Klansman, Robert Chambliss of Birmingham, going to prison for murder.

Both of Alexanders' wives said he was an FBI informant, but the FBI has neither confirmed nor denied that Alexander worked for the agency.

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Explosion was followed by sound of breaking glass

By Frank Sikora
News staff writer

He was sitting at a table, listening to someone reading the Scriptures when suddenly the chandelier crashed on the table.

Almost at the same split second, there was a boom followed by glass shattering.

James S. Goodson recalls that someone said:

"What happened?"

And someone else replied:

"A bomb."

Goodson, now 73, a retired school principal, was in the men's Sunday School class that morning of Sept. 15, 1963, when the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church was bombed.

The historic church, a gathering place for civil rights rallies in the spring when Martin Luther King Jr. led marches, had been the target of threats in the past. But on that morning the threat blew into a deadly reality.

"I remember after we got up from

the table that everyone was trying to get out," Goodson said. "We went to the back door and I remember seeing the steps had been blown into a level position and I knew we couldn't get out that way." Then, he said, he and the other men, and some other adults and children who were in the main part of the church, began hurrying out the front door.

"There were people everywhere and police," he said. "That's what surprised me. I kept wondering how had the police got there so fast. They already had a rope thrown about the place."

It was then that he became aware that there were probably fatalities.

Four girls died in the blast, and about 20 other people were injured.

"My car was badly damaged," Goodson said. "I had parked in on the 16th Street side, right where the bomb had been placed."

The spot of the bomb was determined to be against or just under some concrete steps leading to a back door.

"I had walked right over it when I had arrived at about 9:30 or so," he said.

Ella Demand, one of the Sunday School teachers, had suffered a bad cut and Goodson remembers somehow getting the car to run.

"I was dragging a bumper and had to wire the door shut, but I got her to the hospital," he said.

He was there when two of the girls were brought in, sheets covering them.

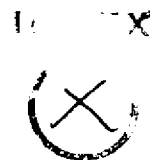
"The doctor would raise it and say, 'DOA.'"

In 1977, Alabama Atty. Gen. Bill Baxley, who had been looking into the bombing for several years, got a murder conviction against a Ku Klux Klan member, Robert Chambliss, then 73.

Although the bombing caused some members to leave the church, Goodson still belongs.

It did bring a change in Birmingham, he said.

"White people who had been almost afraid to speak to me before would talk to me and say something like, 'I'm sorry about what happened at the church.' But it was such a terrible price."



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NEWS STAFF PHOTO, FRANK SIKORA

Goodson now lives in the Birmingham area once known as 'Dynamite Hill.' He was in the men's Sunday school class when the bomb exploded.

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From 1940-63, city had 33 racially-motivated bombings

The bombing of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church was the worst in a string of Birmingham bombings that occurred during the civil rights movement, as white extremists tried to halt black appeals for equality.

The home of attorney Arthur

Shores was bombed three times as was Bethel Baptist Church. In one of the Bethel bombings, Dec. 14, 1962, two infants in nearby houses were injured by flying glass. About 10 children were in the church rehearsing for a Christmas play when it detonated; none were hurt.

There were 33 racially motivated bombings that occurred in the city in the period 1940 to 1963.

As a result of information gained by the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing investigation, Alabama Atty. Gen. Bill Baxley was able to bring Georgia white supremacist J.B. Stoner to trial. He was convicted of bombing the Bethel Baptist Church in 1958. Other bombings, all unsolved, included:

■ The A.G. Gaston Motel in May 1963.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

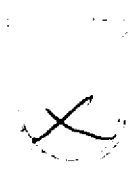
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■ The home of A.D. King, the brother of Martin Luther King Jr.

■ The firebombing of the home of A.G. Gaston.

■ A "shrapnel" bomb that was discharged along Center Street on Sept. 25, 1963. A smaller charge went off, followed 15 minutes later by the larger explosive that shot out nails and clutch plates. No one was hurt. It was the last bombing of that era.

Whites, too, who had tried to bring about racial harmony, faced threats in those times.

Sid Smyer III was 10 in 1963 and has vivid memories of that trying year.

His grandfather, Sid Smyer, was president of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and was one of the white leaders who had met with President Kennedy and with civil

rights groups to try to bring racial harmony to the city.

Said the younger Smyer: "I think one of the focal points of my growing up was the night we were awakened after midnight, and still in our pajamas, went to my grandfather's house where people had come and thrown bricks through his windows because they hated that he was a peacemaker, that he was part of a group that had done something."

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'Still crying behind the altar'

The voices of four slain girls demand their killers be brought to justice, civil rights leaders say, 30 years after the bombing of their church.

By **Frank Sikora**
News staff writer

It happened at 10:22 a.m. on that balmy Sept. 15 in 1963, a Sunday that will be burned in Birmingham's memory for as long as the city stands.

A bomb exploded at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, tearing away the lives of four black girls: Addie Mae Collins, 14; Denise McNair, 11; Carole Robertson, 14; and Cynthia Wesley, 14.

The four were in the women's lounge on the lower floor when the bomb detonated.

Now, 30 years have gone by, and the church pauses to remember those who died — and wonder once again if new information could surface to bring more suspects to face murder charges.

The FBI launched a massive

investigation in 1963 but made no arrests.

Then in 1977, Alabama Attorney General Bill Baxley obtained an indictment against Robert Chambliss, 73, a Klan member since the 1920s with a reputation for violence. In November of that year, a jury returned a guilty verdict against Chambliss.

Investigators said Chambliss, who died in prison in 1985, did not act alone and likely was aided by three or four other Klan members — perhaps more — as the bomb was set sometime during the predawn hours of Sept. 15.

Late last week, the specter of the bombing surfaced again when a brother of a Montgomery Klan member said the Klansman admitted to being "involved" in the act.

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"Sonny" Alexander said his brother Henry Alexander, 61, who died of lung cancer in December, told him he was involved in the Birmingham church bombing and other violent acts, including the murder of Montgomery truck driver Willie Edwards and an unknown black man in Elba.

Edwards was abducted and made to jump from a bridge into the Alabama River.

The Elba man was placed in a barrel that was spiked with nails; the barrel was rolled down a hill. The man died, the brother said.

Henry Alexander has been identified as an FBI informant.

The latest revelations about Alexander have brought new calls for a reopening of the church-bombing case as well as a look at the Montgomery and Elba cases.

The Rev. Abraham Woods, president of the Birmingham Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said that even though 30 years have passed, the horror of the bombing demands the case be reopened.

"I think what Baxley did was good and commendable," he said, "but it was just the tip of the iceberg. The blood of those little girls is still crying behind the altar. 'How long? How long?' As long as this case is not completely solved and there are perpetrators of this horrendous act at large, Alabama is going to have a black eye.

"When I first heard about the deathbed confessions in Montgomery, I became hopeful that some revelation will be made about the church, and justice can take its course and seek to prosecute."

Dees promises probe

Morris Dees, founder and chief trial counsel of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, who is representing the Edwards family, said there should be another investigation of the church bombing.

"I think there is enough smoke out there that you need to look for fire," he said.

Dees said earlier probes into the church bombing revealed a possible Montgomery link.

"It would seem logical to me for the Klan to get people out of Birmingham who would not be as easy to track," he said. "Alexander had plenty of experience. There were four churches bombed in Montgomery, and a Klansman made a statement that Alexander was involved."

Dees said he is also curious about the tie between Alexander and another FBI informant, Gary Thomas Rowe, who lived in Jefferson County during the 1960s.

"We know that Gary Thomas Rowe was a friend of Alexander's," he said.

Rowe, who was active in a Birmingham KKK unit, was riding in a car with three other men in 1965 when shots were fired that killed a white civil rights activist, Viola Liuzzo of Detroit. He became the chief witness in a federal court case in which the other three men were convicted of violating Mrs. Liuzzo's civil rights.

After serving prison terms, two of the Klansmen said that Rowe had fired shots at the woman. In 1978, a Lowndes County grand jury returned a murder indictment against him, but U.S. District Judge Robert Varner dismissed the charge, saying too much time had elapsed.

Rowe saw Chambliss

Dees said he once took a statement from Rowe about KKK violence and asked him about the Saturday night before the bombing of Sixteenth Street Baptist. He said Rowe told him he was riding around the streets of Birmingham and saw Chambliss and other Klansmen riding about.

"That seems odd to me that Rowe would just happen to be out riding around that night," he said.

The original FBI investigation, which included Birmingham police reports, revealed that the night of Sept. 14, 1963, was active in the downtown part of the city.

There was a KKK motorcade through the streets, which required a police presence. Later, around midnight, a caller said a bomb had been placed at a downtown motel. Police were dispatched to the site.

It was later determined by state investigators that the activity was a diversionary tactic to draw police patrols from Sixteenth Street Baptist.

Bob Eddy, the lead investigator in Birmingham for Baxley, said he believes the probe was centered on the right people.

"I thought the case was solved, although there were others involved," he said. "We had the names of other suspects. But we didn't have the strong evidence we needed to go after them."

He said Alexander's name was not prominently mentioned in the Birmingham case.

Eddy said he feels that one day some of those who took part may come forth to clear their consciences.

"I think it's going to take a deathbed confession or a real change of heart by these individuals," he said.

Conspiracy assumed

Jefferson County Circuit Judge Art Hanes Jr., who defended Chambliss, said it was always clear that more than one person was involved.

"I've never heard of this Alexander fellow," he said. "But I suppose anything is possible. During the trial, Chambliss had always maintained he was innocent, but with every passing day, I personally believe he was guilty."

In Washington, D.C., John Kundts, supervisory special agent in the FBI's press office, said the agency has not prepared a response to last week's allegations about the Birmingham church.

There are no federal laws pertaining to murder except on federal properties, and civil rights statutes expire after five years in most cases.

In earlier statements, the new FBI Director Louis J. Freeh ordered the agency to inquire into the Edwards case "as to whether anyone in the FBI attempted to intervene on behalf of a suspect in a state murder case in Alabama in the 1970s."

Freeh also said that the agency will respond to requests from the Edwards family about the case.

Kundts said the agency is responding in part because of reports in the press.

Alexander is not the first dying man who claimed a part in the bombing of the Birmingham church. In 1988 Gary A. Tucker, a Walker County truck driver, told FBI agents he had been the bomber, and named an alleged cohort. But the agency said his story was fabricated and full of inconsistencies.

Jack Shows, who headed Baxley's investigative unit in Montgomery, said bombing cases are difficult to prove, and cases that are old are more so.

"A lot of the people responsible are probably dead," he said, "and so are some witnesses."

Eddy added, "You have to remember that 25 or 30 years ago we didn't have the forensic expertise we now have. I found the big problem is that after so many years, people can't remember some details. They remember something taking place, but they can't remember when. Memories are blunted by time."



NEWS FILE PHOTO

Firefighters search rubble in basement of church.



NEWS FILE PHOTO

Sept. 15, 1963: Stunned churchgoers learn the extent of their tragedy.



NEWS FILE PH

This plaque in church basement honors memory of four slain girls.



NEWS FILE PHOTOS

Robert Chambliss, the only man brought to trial in the bombing, shown in 1963, left, and 1983.

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Working toward justice

By **Mike Harper**

I was a 16-year-old returning to Birmingham from a weekend at a church camp on the Sunday afternoon of Sept. 15, 1963.

I have vivid memories of hearing on the radio the news of the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

Now, in my 46th year, that event continues to stand as a major turning point in my life and, in a real sense, the beginning of my adulthood.

I was a senior at West End High School that fall. The city was in turmoil and my school, along with Graymont and Ramsay, became the first three in the Birmingham school system to become desegregated.

Much has changed since that tumultuous time 30 years ago. In many ways our city is more whole, more just, and more complete because of the growing, if grudging, acceptance of our racial diversity. Needless to say, however, racial justice is still a distant goal for us.

Ours is a beautiful city, graced with talented and skillful

residents. In our early days we became known as "The Magic City" because of our industrial promise and quick growth.

In more recent days a number of us have sought to help Birmingham be known for a different kind of magic.

The Metropolitan Area Justice Interfaith Committee, or MAJIC, was formed earlier this year as an interfaith and biracial committee of religious leaders and lay people committed to strengthening our community, especially in the areas of racial and economic justice.

We initially came together at the time of the heightened community tensions caused by the federal investigation of Mayor Richard Arrington, the Los Angeles riots after the Rodney King case, and the Skinhead murder of a homeless man in our community.

Many will remember the real sense of dread and uncertainty in the air during the unfolding of those events.

We wanted then, as we seek now, to enable people of faith with a common commitment to justice to have not only a place to stand in crisis, but an ongoing vehicle for reflecting on and working in the area of justice. The hope is to do that before another crisis arises.

Our initial gathering was a worship service at the downtown First Presbyterian Church in early May. Our theme was "Remembering Our Past and Claiming Our Future." We

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shared in an interfaith worship service of prayer, promise, and reconciliation. We sought to lift up and affirm the various "healing promises" that we share in our many faith traditions.

In response to that event, more than 100 groups and individuals have joined MAJIC and committed themselves to pursuing a more just community for all.

Our membership is varied. It includes representatives from the United Methodist Church, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Roman Catholic Church, Greater Birmingham Ministries, Temple Emanu-El, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the United Church of Christ, Clergy That Care, the NAACP, the Southern Baptist Convention, the Southern Organizing Committee, the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Unitarian Church, the National Baptist Convention, and the Episcopal Church. Our hope is that many other groups will be added, along with interested individuals.

In the meantime, we are seeking to be faithful to the call of justice and to live out that faithfulness in the

city we love, a city endowed with much rich symbolism in the crucial areas of human relationships and social justice.

MAJIC wants to provide an ongoing forum for the responsible discussion of community issues that have an impact on the diverse communities of Birmingham. And we want to promote active, reliable ways for concerned groups and individuals to respond.

My personal hope for the future is that we have no more days like that tragic Sept. 15 of long ago.

One way to ensure that reality is to

strengthen and broaden and deepen the work of MAJIC in the days ahead.

Won't you join us?



NEWS FILE PHOTO

The damage 30 years ago at Sixteenth Street Baptist.

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BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD
BIRMINGHAM, AL.

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Edition: WEDNESDAY

Pastor: Church doesn't want to reopen case

By William C. Singleton III

Post-Herald Reporter

Birmingham civil rights leader Rev. Abraham Woods says justice demands that the bombers of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church be brought to trial.

But the church's current pastor, Rev. Christopher Hamlin, says the church has little interest in reopening the case, which netted the conviction of one Ku Klux Klansman but is believed to have involved several other people.

Hamlin said that many members of his congregation are not interested in another investigation which would force them to relive the events of that terrible night.

The church in downtown Birmingham observes the 30th anniversary of the Sept. 15, 1963, bombing that killed four young girls on the heels of recent revelations linking another Klansman to the bombing.

The brother of Klansman Henry Alexander, who died in December, said Alexander admitted involvement in several racially motivated crimes, including the bombing of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

Alexander's wife said he also admitted participating in the death of black truck driver Willie Edwards, who was forced to jump off a bridge into the Alabama River in 1957.

The only conviction in the church bombing came in 1977, when a jury found Klansman Robert Chambliss guilty of murder. Chambliss died in prison in 1985.

But then-Attorney General Bill Baxley had difficulty obtaining FBI information to build cases against others who may have been involved in the fatal bombing.

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Baxley did not return calls to his office.

FBI agents were scheduled to arrive in Montgomery yesterday to investigate Alexander's connection to Edward's death.

Many doubt Alexander's confession. Jack Shows, an investigator for Baxley during the bombing probe, said the state investigated Alexander's possible part in the bombing but found nothing linking him to the scene.

Morris Dees, founder of Southern Poverty Law Center, is also skeptical.

"We know that Henry Alexander was indicted for bombing black churches in Montgomery," Dees said. "I think that he's confused about which church bombing."

Dees, however, wants to know Alexander's involvement with the FBI. He believes that the agency's network of informants could have thwarted the Birmingham church bombing case.

Dees said Baxley told him that the FBI discouraged him from pursuing Alexander because he was one of their top informants.

"If he (Alexander) was a paid informant with the FBI and they were aware of all these (crimes he committed), I want to know," he said.

A FBI representative in Washington said the bureau does not comment on pending cases.

Bringing additional conspirators in the church bombing to justice may not accomplish anything after 30 years, Hamlin said.

"If there's anyone else who shared in the bombing of Sixteenth Street, they're up in age and I don't know what it would do other than to say, yes, we know these people were involved," Hamlin said.

Bombing observances

Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, at 1530 Sixth Avenue North, has organized a slate of events commemorating the Sept. 15, 1963, church bombing that killed four black girls. The observance started Sunday. These are the remaining events scheduled this week:

■ **Wednesday** — 7:30 a.m., Interfaith Prayer Breakfast at Sixteenth Street Baptist, sponsored by Community Affairs Committee of Operation New Birmingham; 10:15-10:22 a.m., church bells around the city will ring; 10:22 a.m., moment of silence in remembrance of Addie Collins, Denise McNair, Coreie Robertson and Cynthia Wesley; noon, brown bag series (storytelling) at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute; 7 p.m., discussion on "The Economic Perspective for the Twentieth Century"

■ **Thursday** — noon, brown bag series at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute; 7 p.m., Interfaith Unity Memorial and Community Worship with guest speaker William Gray III, executive director of the United Negro College Fund. Magic City Boys Choir also to be featured; Academy of Fine Arts Inc. is co-sponsoring the event

■ **Friday** — noon, brown bag series, "A Historical Reflection of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church"; 7 p.m., youth night and town meeting.

■ **Saturday** — noon to 6 p.m., Family Day at Kelly Ingram Park

Source: Sixteenth Street Baptist Church

Woods, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Birmingham chapter, has a different view.

"This case will not be resolved until those other participants are brought to the bar of justice," he said. "It bothers me that there has not been a concerted effort to do that. The name of Alabama needs to be cleared."

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Remembrance

City marks 30th anniversary of church bombing

By William C. Singleton III
Post-Herald Reporter

Birmingham leaders paused yesterday to remember the four girls killed in a racially motivated bombing at Sixteenth Street Baptist Church 30 years ago.

Blacks and whites, politicians and voters met at the downtown church at 1530 Sixth Ave. North for an interfaith unity service and breakfast. Gov. Jim Folsom and other politicians and community leaders attended. Birmingham-area civil rights leader Abraham Woods challenged the state to reopen the case and bring to the "bar of justice" those involved in the crime.

Ku Klux Klansman Robert Chambliss was convicted in 1977 of murder in the church bombing that killed Addie Mae Collins, Carolie Robertson, Cynthia Wesley, all 14, and Denise McNair, 11. Several other people are believed to have been involved in the bombing. Chambliss died in prison in 1985.

Rev. Christopher Hamlin, Sixteenth

Street's current pastor, said members of the church have no desire to reopen the case.

Woods said, however, that "maybe the rest of you are ready to push it under the rug. "But I'm not ready to do that."

He challenged Folsom to back such a push. Afterwards, Folsom, who was applauded for removing the Confederate flag from atop the state Capitol, said he favored reopening the case. But Folsom also said the decision is up to Attorney General Jimmy Evans.

Church bells tolled around the city at 10:22 a.m., the time of the church explosion.

Officials recalled the bombing and how it reshaped the way Birmingham residents viewed racial discrimination.

Birmingham City Councilman Eddie Blankenship pointed to the renovation of Kelly Ingram Park, which features symbols of the civil rights era, and the new Birmingham Civil Rights Institute as tes-

taments to the importance of remembering the city's past.

Folsom said the state needs to cast off those negative images and move forward to building understanding between all Alabamians.

Rodney Max, a representative of the Coalition Against Hate Crimes, said the hatred that led to the killing of the four girls still exists. He pointed to the April 18, 1992, slaying of a homeless black man by white skinheads.

"We all must play a role in defeating this menace of hate," he said.

Lawton Higgs, co-chairman for the Metro Area Justice Interfaith Committee, a group committed to racial reconciliation among clergy, said he was once blind and deaf to the hurt caused by the bombing. "I did not see the pain, I did not hear the cry," he said. But the minister who seeks to start an integrated church downtown said, "God has used the suffering of this city to open my eyes. ... God has used the suffering of this city to open the eyes of many."

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