

Fear Grips Birmingham; Terror Reign Spreading: Mobs, Night Raids Upset Dixie City

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(Special to The Courier)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.— Alike in every respect to Hitler's Nazi inquisition against Jews in war-time Germany, Birmingham's wave of terror flared anew on the wings of four blazing incidents which came with staccato rapidity to strike fear into the hearts of local residents. Killings, beatings, night raids by hooded mobs, all were part of the bestial orgy of shame.

1. A "sheriff's lynching of a Negro preacher"—the Rev. C. L. Butler, 53, ardent United Mine Workers union man—caused coal

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—END JOB CROW IN ARMED FORCES—

Mobs Upset Birmingham

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miners in five TCI mines to go on strike, and gave police officers a record of having killed one Negro every ten days. He was the seventh in seventy days to be struck down by police bullets.

2. Wearing the hooded robes of the Ku Klux Klan, a masked mob surged into a Girl Scout camp, where two white instructors on the national Girl Scout camp were training Negro Girl Scout leaders, and gave the two twenty-four hours to "get out" of Alabama. It was the second Klan demonstration in ten days, and each involved white women.

3. Four white men posing as Tarrant City policemen went to the home of Henry Howard in Tarrant City last week, took him out and beat him so severely that he is still confined to a hospital. Tarrant City is a local suburb. Howard is an active NAACP worker.

4. Local NAACP officials reported that a police officer "grabbed, shoved" Mrs. Minnie O'Neal, case worker for the Travelers' Aid Society, at the Birmingham Greyhound Bus Station, June 7.

The slain man, the Rev. Mr. Butler, was a retired Baptist minister, who worked in the Edgewater Coal mine. He was the father of thirteen children, the oldest over 30 years old.

THE USUAL VERDICT

He was killed when four officers—two sheriff's deputies and two mine company officers—alleged that he drew a gun on them when they were investigating a complaint that he had been "molesting a young Edgewater girl." Coroner J. T. McCollum returned a verdict of "justifiable homicide." The shooting occurred around 6 A. M.

Girl Scout officials closed a camp, where some twenty Negro girls were receiving instructions in "leadership training," after the raid by the hooded mob on Thursday night. Agents of the FBI immediately began a probe into the affair. The two white girls were Misses Katrine

Nickel of Birmingham, and Elizabeth Ijams of Knoxville, Tenn. There were no Negro girls qualified to give the courses, Girl Scout officials said.

MINERS IN PROTEST

Coal miners at five mines—Edgewater, Docena, Wylam, Short Creek and Concord—protesting the slaying, went on strike from Wednesday through Saturday. Funeral services were held for the Rev. Mr. Butler on Sunday.

Local citizens are tense as police authorities are "investigating" the affairs. The local NAACP branch is putting its efforts behind the fight to bring the perpetrators to justice, but officials feel that little justice can be expected since local police are notoriously indifferent to protecting Negro citizens, and the reign of terror continues unabated.