HON. W. F. BLEDSOE,

Re-elected Grand Master, U. B. of F. of Texas.

U. B. F. AND S. M. T. GRAND LODGE MEETS AT VICTORIA

TEXAS, JULY 28—31, 1919, 36TH ANNUAL SESSION — OFFICERS ELECTED — LEGISLATION PERFECTED—PROGRESS MADE OFFICERS FOR ENSUING YEAR.

Staff Correspondence:

Rev. W. F. Bledsoe, Marshall, G. M.
B. F. White, Palestine, D. G. M.
Prof. C. H. McGruder, Victoria, G. Sec'y.
Dr. G. S. Conner, Waco, Asst. G. Sec'y.
Prof. J. W. Jamison, Clarksville, G. Treas.

Trustees.

Pat. H. Dean, Navasota; Wm. Anderson, Smithville; Prof. Grigsby, Willis.

Council.

S. W. Starks, Hempstead; Mack Lock, Fort Worth; E. Z. Williams, Tyler; A. H. Reagor, Mt. Selman; F. E. Lewis, San Antonio.

W. F. BLEDSOE, G. M.
Marshall, Texas.
C. H. McGRUDER, G. S.,
Victoria.

After a year of fraternal tempest and almost scismic disturbance which threatened to engulf the secret orders of the state, to the surprise and gratification of all devotees of organized effort among our people, the call issued for the 1919 meeting of the U. B. F. and S. M. T. and Stormy Perel of Texas Colored Fraternals came on to Victoria.

A record crowd assembled Monday night, July 28, 1919 in Palestine Baptist church of which Rev. B. F. Parks is pastor to hear the opening program of the 36th Annual session of the U. B. F. and S. M. T. of Texas. Prof. C. H. McGruder, Grand Secretary, was master of ceremonies. The program was an all star affair featured by an instrumental selection by Mrs. C. H. McGruder and the very able address of Old Chief, Grand Menter W. F. Bledsoe.

Program.

Music, congregation, invocation, Rev. Harry Swann, music, by Victoria Choral Society. Welcome on behalf of Juveniles, Miss Madie Collier, M. P. Welcome on behalf of Local Temples, Mrs. Delish Herrord, V. P. Response, Dr. J. T. M. Linsey. Music, Victoria Choral Society. Welcome on behalf of Local Lodge, Prof. E. W. D. Lethridge. Response, Hon. S. T. Williamson, Lawyer of Palestine. Instrumental Solo, Mrs. C. H. McGruder. Welcome on behalf of the citizens, Dr. C. A. Whittier. Music presentation of Grand Master.

Special attention was given the remarks of Prof. Lethridge, Attorney Williamson and Judge Perkins, the latter delivered a memorable address on the history of the Afro-American, setting out the difference between citizenship and nationality.

At a late hour, the audience as one person commenced an uproarous call for Grand Master Bledsoe and in return he made response. Among other things he said:

"Like one of old I am glad tonight to be here to speak for myself. I have been accused of high crimes and misdemanors, of planning the destruction of the order. I will go with my accusers into any court or community, to Marshall, my home, if you please, and let them establish, if they can that my course is open to censure.

The authorities at Austin declared that we had too much property and that we could not get a permit to do business in Texas.

They had a program and so had I. They submitted theirs; I submitted mine and when the answer came the permit came also.

There was objection to my course in the running of the order and a white man in authority said that I thought myself as good as a white man and for that reason, he would oppose me—that if the Grand Lodge would select another man, he would treat with it. Then it was that certain Negroes, pimps and peons, under the lead of white men caught me by the heels while this white man held me by the head and undertook by slander to destroy my character and your property. Heaven is not pleasant enough and hell is not hot enough to make me give up to others those things of yours which have been committed to my keeping.

The opposition has had 364 days. This day is mine. They are after me. I am after them. I aint no hard to start a row, but I'm h—l when a row gets started.

Tomorrow we open a U. B. F. Lodge and we are going to conduct it the U. B. F. way. I have carried to court for you and the verdicts which have been rendered were for you."

Tuesday Session.

The hour announced to open was 9 a. m., but an hour after that time the delegates were seen about the hall, the meeting place, discussing the remarkable address of the Grand Master and the outlook of the session.

At 10:38 o'clock the gavel fell calling the 36th Annual session together, after some remarks the chair appointed the following:

Credentials, S. A. Downey, Jessie Washington, J. R. Grigsby, Ed Giffin, Oscar W. Davis, A. M. Pearson, Mr. Hodge.

While the reports were being worked out, Hon. W. E. King, of Dallas was called on and addressed the the Grand Lodge.

Hon. W. F. Bledsoe, the Grand Master, delivered his annual message and was re-elected by acclimation.

After the election of the Grand Master the body adpourned to go to dinner. All the tactics known to good natured filibustering were brought up into the play by the leaders of the Emergency Convention but all to no avail. The insurgents found out too late that the fish who gets the bate also gets the hook. The resolution citing the leaders of the rump covention to appear before the Grand Council for trial had prevailed and the guns of the evening were spiked, at least for the time being.

Afternoon

After a needed recess the Grand Lodge returned to the hall immediately, the District Deputy Starks reported; likewise Secretary C. H. McGruder, and J. M. Jamison. These reports were adopted and the officers who made their reports. Bro. Starks was elected.

After the above work was done, the Grand Lodge adjourned to meet at the M. E. Church where the Memorial Service was held and the annual sermon delivered by Rev. Whitfield. The occasion proved the usual drawing cord and we all left in a reflective state of mind.

Wednesday Morning.

The Grand Lodge met as usual, but one hour was spent having Brother Jordan strike our beauties. The Grand Master made an able address, called on the brotherhood to stand on higher ground.

He referred to the sermon of Rev. Whitfield as most commendable.

Wednesday

Opening up in the usual way, and after devotion Prof. Jesse Washington took the floor and made a splendid address on the posibility of the school at Seguin. The Trustee Board and the Grand Council Board reported and the reports were adopted. The Board members were elected.

Committees

Committee on Grand Offices' Address:

W. M Tears, J. T. Lindsey, J. W. Lindsey, J. W. Harris, Dr. T. T. McKiney, W. H. Whiter, C. A. Dudley; Wm. Jackson, of Enis, Tom Beatty, Jerry Morrison, A. D. Sheffield.

Supervision of Law

B. F. Parks, Esq.; S. T. Williams, Esq., P. A. Perkins, J. R. Grigsby, P. H. Dean, C. W. Greece, C. A. Phillips, H. Grover, Ed Griffin, B. F. White, W. L. Davis, E. W. Walker, R. A. Monica, S. M. Bruce, E. W. D. Lethridge, S. W. Franklin, E. D. Pierson, Oscar Davis, S. S. Smith, R. L. Baxter, H. W. Long were appointed.

Womens Section

As the result of an agitation to increase the representation of Women a delegation of Women a delegation of members of the Temple was admitted to the hall at 4:00 p. m. to present their memorial. Mrs. E. Glover of San Antonio was Chairman, Mrs. Lillian Gilmore of Houston read the memorial and the presentation of the flowers was made in a beautiful speech by Mrs. Lena Carter of Dallas. Grand Master W. F. Bledsoe made response. The incident closed in a most pleasant manner.

The following ladies were present: Mrs. Mary F. Spencer, Mrs. Melissia Thomas, Mrs. N. B. Mimms, Mrs. Cora Anderson, E. L. Daniels and Cherry Coates.

The Temple question was placed in the hands of the Grand Master.

At 5:30 the U. B. F. Grand Officers and the local Lodge, accompanied by a few of the soldier boys, who were under the command of Lieuten-Nealy marched through the principle streets of the city. The Victoria Rose-bud Band furnished excellent music for the occasion.

Wednesday night at the Palestine

(Continued on page 12.)

NOTICE!

The Northwestern Baptist District Association will meet with the New Jerusalem Baptist church, Greenville, Texas. The week embracing the 5th Sunday in August, 1919. The Laymen on Tuesday, M. D. inst. Wednesday, Women Home Mission Society Thursday and the Association will be called to order Thursday morning at 9:30. Take notice and come prepared to do business. Dr. E. E. Strong, who is the pastor will make it pleasant for us. Collect your Association dues now, as it is less than 60 days until we meet.

Praying God's blessings upon you.
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B. J. BROWN, Mod.

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