

NEAR LYNCH VICTIM PROVED TO BE AN INNOCENT MAN

White and Colored Citizens of Okmulgee Work Together to Improve Civic Conditions

(From Tulsa World—Oct. 17)

Okmulgee, Oct. 16—Okmulgee has found a new antidote for the terror of mob law and race rioting which hover threateningly over scores of communities in the south west, whose population includes both black and white races. The new antidote to this scourge of the southwest and the south is civic pride and the golden rule. When criminal assaults upon five young women, presumably committed by negroes, fanned the flames of race prejudice and antipathy to a white heat which threatened to scar Okmulgee with horror of a race war a demonstration of civic pride and an application of the Golden Rule hanging a negro who was later proved to be entirely innocent, and turned the energies and activities of the would-be lynchers into a city "clean-up" campaign, which if carried out along the lines now proposed will remove from Okmulgee the dens of vice and crime which breed race riots and other evils that destroy the soul of cities and men.

Five young women criminally attacked on the streets of Okmulgee within a period of three weeks ending October 8, when a particularly bold and atrocious assault was made on a young woman at the door of her home. Bloodhounds brought from another city followed a trail from the scene of the assault to the home of Judy Atchison, a negro barber, and other clues gathered in the case pointed rather conclusively to the guilt of Atchison, who was arrested as a suspect. Atchison's arrest was followed immediately by the gathering of a mob with the avowed intention of lynching the negro, although he had not yet been taken before any of the assault victims for possible identification. The gathering of the mob aroused the negro residents of the city, who began to arm themselves and the situation became extremely threatening.

Determined to save Okmulgee from the bold of a lynching bee and a possible race war, a self-appointed group of citizens co-operated with the sheriff in spiriting the Negro suspect out of the city and then turned their attention to preventing a battle between the whites and Colored, which threatened to break out at any moment. The mob when it found its plans to lynch the Negro thwarted by the removal of the prisoner from the city, vented its rage by setting fire to and destroying the suspected Negro's home and threatening to do the same to every Negro home in the city.

After many hours of tense excitement a mass meeting of citizens of the city was held, at which direct appeals to the civic pride of the men of Okmulgee was made and speakers pointed out that lax enforcement of the law and the careless attitude of citizens toward civic matters was in part the cause of recent events. The men who were seeking to take the law into their own hands in a spirit of vengeance and race hatred were urged to take

part in enforcing the law in a spirit of justice and civic duty.

This mass meeting was held on Sunday afternoon, October 10, and before it adjourned a committee of three of the leading citizens of the city was unanimously appointed with full power to act in devising ways and means of bringing about better law enforcement in the city, and seeing to it that justice was done to all under the law and not meted out by a mob. This committee was instructed to draw up a plan for carrying out its program and to report to another mass meeting of citizens on Tuesday, October 12th.

Before the second mass meeting was held it was definitely determined that the Negro suspect, who had narrowly escaped lynching and whose home was burned, was entirely innocent of the charge against him. The first act of the second mass meeting was to raise a cash fund of \$500 to reimburse the Negro for the household goods destroyed in the fire, the contribution to this fund being made in amounts ranging from \$10 to 25 cents.

The report of the committee and then read and unanimously adopted it calls for reorganization of the Okmulgee police force, greater co-operation between the police and the sheriff's force; the appointment of 25 special deputy sheriffs, selected from the business men of the city and whose identity will not be known to the police; an immediate improvement in street lighting throughout the city; a strenuous and continued campaign to rid the city of illegal liquor selling and gambling joints; the purchase of bloodhounds to be used by the officers in trailing criminals, and pitiless publicity for all men and women arrested as vagrants, gamblers and hangers-on around questionable resorts.

The report of the committee and its plans for the future were unanimously approved by the meeting, and the committee was continued in power with practically every resident of the city, both white and black, pledged assistance in every way possible in maintaining law and order. According to the members of the special committee there is every prospect that the perpetrators of the recent assaults will be apprehended and punished.

Thanks to its citizenship, Okmulgee today is directing its efforts and energies toward making the city a cleaner and a better place, in which men of all races may dwell in peace instead of forcing the horror, odium and civic decline that invariably are the fruits of mob law and race rioting.

The members of the special law enforcement committee are Fred M. Carter, an attorney; John H. Rebold an oil operator and newspaper owner and former fair price commissioner of Oklahoma; and O. K. Peck, former mayor of Okmulgee and a life insurance solicitor. Rev. John Granger, rector of an Episcopal church, was chairman of the two mass meetings at which the regeneration of the lynch law advocated was effected.

READ THE TULSA STAR

Muscogee Mutterings

Dr. and Mrs. L. M. Banks are selling out preparatory to their removal to the city of Chicago, where they propose to live in the future. Muskogee can ill afford to lose two such useful citizens a thee two. No one has done so much for charity for the colored people of this community as Mrs. Banks. The night has never been too cold nor the person too low for her to help. As a church worker she has been surpassed by none. With it all there has been a modesty in her service for the welfare of others, which others have done much less than she could well imitate. Our loss will indeed be Chicago's gain. They will not be strangers in the "windy city" as it was the Doctor's former home.

Rev. T. M. Green, an energetic and eloquent pastor of Ward's Chapel A. M. E. church, is around collecting Dollar money and getting ready to attend general conference which is to convene October 4th.

Mrs. J. R. Stewart has her sister and family from Memphis as her guest.

Dr. and Mrs. Wilson and mother, Mrs. Granville, have returned to the city after a pleasant sojourn at Detroit, Mich.

The Douglass School won first prizes for the graded schools. This is the third time in three years that this school has won the prize. The Manual Training High School won a number of first and second prizes.

The exhibits of the Colored schools of the city ought to be highly commended as they attracted wide attention.

The Flipper-Key-Davis University place herself in the forefront of fame by winning a number of first and second prizes at the fair.

One of the interesting events of the recent State Fair was the fact that three booths were conducted by a number of our club women.

Many of our people made a fine showing at the Fair with their hand-made cars.

Miss O. E. White of Boley and Mr. King of Kingfisher were among the out of town visitors at the Fair.

Miss Christine Diggs of Sedalia, Mo., has been elected to the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mrs. Ethel Giddings at Douglas School.

Attorney C. J. Jones on account of his increased business interests has moved to Washington, D. C., where it is said he has bought a lovely home and opened up offices in an eleven story building.

Mr. Richard Barrett, the widely known baritone singer of St. Louis, Mo., is making a tour of Oklahoma and is meeting with success everywhere. He has made a number of tours over the North with concert companies and just now is working in the interest of a Race enterprise which contemplates building a \$100,000 vaudeville house in St. Louis.

WANTED

Financial assistance in our effort to establish a Kindergarten for the many children who are idling upon the streets.

Mrs. W. H. LILLY of 307 1/2 North Elgin has charge of the work at the 2nd Baptist Church.

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MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA

PUBLICATION NOTICE

12611

First Published in the Tulsa Star October 16, 1920.

State of Oklahoma,
County of Tulsa, SS—

In the District Court of Tulsa
County, State of Oklahoma,

Rena Clark Shaw Plaintiff

vs.
Drew A. Shaw Defendant

Affidavit of Mailing

E. I. Saddler, being duly sworn deposes and says: that on the 15th day of October, 1920, he enclosed in an envelope a true, full and complete copy of the petition in the above entitled cause, with all endorsements thereon, together with a copy of the publication notice thereto attached and addressed the same to Drew A. Shaw at Nacacoches, Texas, the same being his last known place of residence and placed thereon full paid postage and sealed said envelope, and deposited the same in the United States Post Office at Tulsa, Oklahoma, the same being the nearest post office to the District Court of Tulsa County, Okla. Further affidavit saith not.

E. I. SADDLER.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 15th day of October, 1920.

JOHN D. PORTER Clerk of Court
W. ROUSE, Deputy.

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State of Oklahoma
County of Tulsa, SS—

In the District Court of Tulsa
County, State of Oklahoma,

Rena Clark Shaw Plaintiff

vs.
Drew A. Shaw Defendant

State of Oklahoma v. Drew A. Shaw: Take notice, that you have been sued in the above named court for abandonment, by plaintiff and non-support, praying for an absolute separation, and you the said defendant must answer the petition of plaintiff filed herein on or before the 27th day of November 1920 or said petition will be taken as true and judgment for plaintiff will be rendered accordingly.—Dated this 15th day of October 1920.
JNO. D. PORTER, Court Clerk,
E. I. SADDLER, Atty. for Plaintiff
GERALD F. O'BRIEN, Dep. Court Clerk.

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Idabel has recently installed a modern sewerage system. A fine \$150,000 Courthouse was completed in August and a Government building and ice plant are to be erected soon. Among the Colored people there are four churches, a fine school, a picture, theatre store and a \$40,000 gin, the hotel above occupying the central place.

The conditions of this proposition are as follows: Rent \$75.00 (1st three months in advance); each following in advance.

5 YEAR LEASE, \$3,000—payable in advance.

SALE, \$9,500—\$1,500 cash. Balance on terms to suit purchaser. A Sale is preferable.

It is guaranteed that this building cannot be duplicated anywhere for less than \$15,000.

Any one wishing to consider this proposition will see Prof. A. M. Salome at Booker Washington High School or 841 North Bullett St., Tulsa, Okla.

There are six other rent houses for sale on same and adjoining blocks. See Prof. Salome.

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