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## War On Against The Low Element

### Chamber of Commerce Called Special Meeting

#### And Takes Immediate Steps to Better Conditions In Tulsa.

The Tulsa Star Endorsed and Commended for Its Fight for Decency

At a call meeting of the Tulsa Colored Chamber of Commerce last Tuesday night a number of representative citizens met and declared open war against the underworld in Tulsa, and if the plans of this organization are vigilantly carried out the Colored citizens of this town will have set a pace for the decent people both white and black against vice and immorality.

The call meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was the result of the disgraceful scenes which occurred on North Greenwood last Sunday. The decent people in the East End were so aroused over the vile display of indecent language and cutting and fighting on the most popular street in this end of town that the officers of the Chamber of Commerce were appealed to and the meeting was called.

J. H. Wells, vice-president of the old organization, issued the call in the absence of Mr. Martin who is president. However, Mr. Martin presided at this meeting and tried to persuade those present to elect new officers, but after some discussion the election was postponed till Monday night to give all the business men opportunity to participate in the new organization. After this the object of the meeting was discussed pro and con. That there is a strong sentiment here against the lower element who drift from place to place and the vice dens that cater to them, was evidenced at this meeting, and this sentiment is accompanied with a strong determination to eliminate this public evil. A resolution by Mr. Warren endorsing The Tulsa Star for its stand for decency and a pure social circle, was unanimously adopted and new life given to the cause when Rev. Milton, Mr. Wells and a number of others present took a bold stand in denouncing a number of places on Greenwood, East Archer and Cincinnati streets, where vice and immorality are encouraged. Morgan's restaurant and the rooming house over Williams' Garage on Greenwood, two or three houses on Archer, including the famous "Supple Back" place and one or two houses on Cincinnati are some of the places which will receive immediate attention from a committee on law and order, which was appointed Tuesday night and instructed to take whatever steps necessary to assure the

respectable people of this city more and better protection. The police department, in fact, the entire city and county administration will lend whatever service necessary to rid the town of the indecent gangs of loafers, cut throats and their female consorts who are continually coming in and making it almost intolerable for decent people to live here.

It is the purpose of the Colored Chamber of Commerce to cooperate with the officers and in this way bring relief to the citizens of Tulsa of these nuisances.

The committee on law and order are:  
J. H. Wells.  
Chas. Warren.  
Rev. R. B. Milton.  
C. W. Henry, special officer.

A formal protest against the evil conditions existing in this part of town emanated from Tuesday night's meeting of the Chamber of Commerce which was ordered printed in full, as follows:

"Whereas, the residential part of this city wherein reside the major part of the Negro population, has been and is now infested by a certain lawless element that has respect neither for law nor decency; and

"Whereas, many of these pests or society reside in districts or quarters on one of the main thoroughfares, occupied and controlled by the principal Negro business enterprises; and

"Whereas, persons passing to and fro along this street are often confronted with indecent exposures and forced to listen to obscene and vulgar language calculated to lower the moral and social standard of this community; and

"Whereas, the same conditions that obtain on this principal street are also existing on other nearby streets, especially East Archer,

"Therefore, Resolved, that the Negro Chamber of Commerce here by register an earnest protest against the above stated conditions and solicit the aid of the officers of the law in enforcing the city ordinances to the end that these public nuisances may be abated.

"And we call upon all good citizens to aid and support the officers in the performance of their duties.

"Resolved, further, that we heartily endorse the stand taken by the Tulsa Star for law and decency and as opposed to public vice and corruption."

Before the meeting adjourned, Mr. Gurley offered a motion that a committee of three be appointed to confer with the city park board relative to obtaining City Park accommodations for colored people.

This committee was appointed as follows:  
O. W. Gurley.  
A. J. Smitherman.  
Dr. J. M. Kee

#### White Man Found with Colored woman

Is Cut By Colored Man Who Was Arrested and Confessed—White Man refused to Prosecute

John Rouse, negro, was arrested Sunday by the city authorities, charged with having stabbed James Hamlin, white laborer, at Eleventh and Boulder, last Friday night. Hamlin was seriously wounded and is at a local hospital. He will recover.

Rouse admitted doing the cutting. He said he was visiting Alice Wharton, servant girl for Dr. W. E. Wright, on South Boulder avenue Friday night, when Hamlin appeared on the scene and attacked him. Hamlin threw two bricks at him, he claims, and they clinched. In the fight that followed he cut Hamlin. Then he fled.

Rouse asserted that Hamlin brought the Wharton woman to Tulsa from Mississippi and told the police that the white man had been living with the negress here. He said the couple have a child at Reed Fork, Okla.

Hamlin, at the hospital, still maintains that he did not know his assailant and that he was attacked without warning or provocation. He will not prosecute the man under arrest, the authorities claim.

Rouse is now in the county jail but no charges have yet been filed against him. The county authorities may take the initiative and force Hamlin to prosecute the negro.—Tulsa World, 7-15.

The same old story over again. Nowhere is a white man who refuses to prosecute the Colored man who cut him in a fight about a Colored woman, and they talk of forcing a prosecution. All the facts in the case show that the white man was intimate with the Colored woman, otherwise he would not have been found at the servant room where she was.

Perhaps the Colored man had no legal right to be there, but far less, under the laws of this state, had he white man.

If what the white man says is true, why should he refuse to prosecute the Colored man?

And if what the Colored man says is true why not prosecute the white man?

The hypocrisy of some white men is enough to make his Satanic highness of Pluto frown in disgust.

As Hamlin was doubtless cut about this Colored woman with whom he had been living and the

decent people, white or black have no sympathy to waste on him. Had the circumstances been reversed and Rouse had been overtaken by Hamlin with a white woman there would probably have been talk of lynching, especially by our worthy contemporaries. We insist a prosecution of all parties concerned or no prosecution at all.

#### Colored Woman Insulted

In Down Town Store

Few people in Tulsa are aware that the infernal seed of race prejudice or white "damphoodry" is to be found in some of the so-called leading stores in this city, but such is true.

Last Monday, a prominent colored woman, wife of a deputy sheriff, went into the store of Hunt and Kiddick with a little girl intending to purchase shoes for herself and the little girl, her niece. The salesman who waited on her seated her on a stool near the front door and proceeded to fit shoes on the little girl.

Later a white woman came in and took a seat beside the colored woman. The white woman seemed perfectly at ease and unafraid of contamination or any other bad effects from having sat beside a colored woman.

The salesman who came to wait on her, however, evidently felt different. Addressing the salesman waiting on the Colored woman, he said as one with the authority: "When these people come in, don't you ever seat them in front again. Take them to the rear."

The colored woman flushed and snarling with righteous indignity under the sting of this cowardly outrage, coolly bid the salesman to remove the shoes from the little girl's feet and in true lady-like fashion, departed from the store after saying all she wanted to say to the salesman who was so rude and impudently toward her.

Editor's Note—There is no reason for Colored people patronizing such places as this. There are many number of places in this city where you can spend your money without being insulted. If it is necessary for you to do your shopping down town, go where you know you are welcome. To make sure that you make no mistake look over the advertisements in this paper. You are always safe when you do your trading with those who advertise for it.

#### BELL BOY RELEASED, WAS CHARGED WITH LARCENY

The first case on docket in the criminal court here at this term was that of the State of Oklahoma vs. Albert Wright for grand larceny. Wright in November, 1912, was a bell boy at the Tul-

Hotel, and while so employed was called to a guest's room to take a suit of clothes to be pressed. A \$350.00 diamond ring had been left in the pockets of the suit according to the owner of the clothes, but when the bell boy searched it in the presence of the tailors in the basement, the pockets were empty. The boy was taken to the room and searched and while searching him the ring was found on the floor where it had probably fell when the suit was handed the bell boy.

However, the boy was prosecuted. Lawyer Martin represented him and though the case was opposed by both county and assistant county attorneys the boy was acquitted and is now enjoying his liberty.

#### THE SAND SPRINGS PICNIC—COLORED PEOPLE MADE TO FEEL UNWELCOME

The Sunday School picnic given by Dr. Bridgewater at the Sand Springs Park Monday was an affair mingled with both joy and regret by the Colored people who visited the "Dreamland of Amusement" that day. The Sand Springs Park is certainly a dream. It has many things to attract and hold the attention of the people and in many respects is equal to some of the famous parks in the larger cities of the country. But, following the general custom of the white people in this part of the vineyard, this "dream" was made to be only a "dream" for black Americans, and to carefully remind those of color who might forget or develop into a somnambulist and pass into this happy amusement resort, a large sign usually hangs in a conspicuous place which, when read by a black man, does not appear at all like fiction. The sign reads something like this:

NEGROES NOT ALLOWED IN THE PARK.  
However, it is said that through the efforts of Dr. Bridgewater (Continued on Page Eight)

#### Jury Acquits Sadie Johnson

The County Attorney Disgusted Would Dismiss Jury

"Not guilty" was the verdict returned by the jury in the case of Sadie Johnson who was on trial here this week for murder. It was charged that she killed a roadhouse which she was herself conducting two years ago.

County attorney was so disgusted over the verdict that he dismissed the jury and recommended the dismissal of other murder cases.

During the trial the woman's daughter accosted deputy sheriff Barney Cleaver and warned him that she was going to the Lord in prayer and ask Him to rain down shower after shower of eternal wrath and damnation upon his head and in his path for his part in securing evidence against her mother. Mr. Cleaver

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