

South Carolina Sheriff Calls On Klansmen To Disband: Fight On Hooded ...

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Fight On Hooded Order Continues

Officer Vows KKK In Horry County Will Not Survive

CONWAY, S. C.—Continuing his relentless fight on the Ku Klux Klan, Sheriff C. E. Sasser Friday called on the hooded order to disband.

In a 17-minute address over Radio Station WLAT, the sheriff deplored the "unfavorable publicity" which he said the Klan has brought Horry county.

SASSER'S SPEECH was delivered as feeling in the county, beset by a series of nightriding incidents for the last year and a half, mounted on the Klan issue.

The sheriff mentioned the latest "incident" in his radio speech. He referred to the visit of about 25 masked Klansmen to the Cane Branch Baptist Church last week.

Six of his deputies, tipped that the Klan would visit the church during revival services, arrested 14 men after they had paraded through the church. They charged them with violating the state's anti-mask law, a Klan-aimed measure passed by the last legislature.

BUT THE KLAN countered they had been invited to the church and thus had not violated the law by wearing masks on public property. Some church authorities, including the Rev. C. N. Tyler, agreed with them. Warrants were sworn out against the deputies for interfering with the demonstration.

In his radio speech Sheriff Sasser said "many mis-informed good citizens" had at one time belonged to the Klan, but he added, "as soon as the Klan was found out for its actual worth," its members began striking their names from the rolls and the Klan lowered its membership requirements to only a \$10 membership fee."

HE REFERRED TO a 1950 nightriding incident at Myrtle Beach during which a Conway policeman, wearing the Klan's robes, was shot and killed.

Sasser said the county's Negroes have "no Northern element" among them and they had agreed to certain segregation practices. He described the Negroes as "a friendly race."

Sasser termed the arrest of his deputies after the church incident last week as "a counter move by the KKK to weaken the state's cases."

BEFORE CLOSING, he quoted a Horry soldier in Korea who encouraged him to maintain his fight against the Klan and read a letter from the Rev. C. A. Edwards, pastor of the Swansea Baptist Church. Edwards also commended his fight and criticized Tyler, who had conducted the Cane Branch revival for supporting the Klan.

"With God's help and yours," Sasser concluded, "The Ku Klux Klan won't survive."