

January 18, 1964

**Suicide Pilot Rams
Classroom Building**

SHAWNEE, Okla. (BP)--No student was injured when a suicide pilot rammed his light plane into a classroom building at Oklahoma Baptist University here.

The pilot, Robert E. Lawson, 44, of Inola, Okla. 35 minutes earlier had radioed a warning for OBU to evacuate its administration building because he was going to hit it. Lawson announced via radio, "I am going to build a monument."

School officials evacuated Thurmond Hall, the present administration building, but did not interrupt classes in nearby Shawnee Hall, where final semester examinations were in progress.

However, Shawnee Hall was the administration building when Lawson attended OBU in the late 1930's and he crashed his plane into a third-floor classroom. The classroom was one not being used at that hour.

Scores of students, perhaps as many as 200, were in the building at the time. Tests scheduled for 1 o'clock were well underway at the time of the impact, 1:15 P.M.

Lawson, once a patient in a mental hospital, buzzed Shawnee for more than an hour before the final run. He delivered his radio warning 35 minutes before the crash to the manager of the Shawnee airport, who had taught him to fly. Lawson had rented the plane at Tulsa earlier in the day.

Police tried unsuccessfully to bring the plane down with gunfire. The airport manager tried to talk the pilot out of his plan.

Lawson's 20-year-old son is a student at OBU and stood about 100 yards away at the time of the crash.

The crash knocked a hole in the side of the building and set fire to the classroom which was heavily damaged by smoke and flames. Damage was confined mainly to the one room, but classes will be held in another building until structural damage is checked. A \$10,000 speech laboratory next door to the classroom hit was practically undamaged.

In his last radio warning Lawson said, "I'll give you five minutes and then I'm going in." He did as he said.

Authorities were not immediately sure of the motive behind Lawson's act.

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Bookkeeper Retires

(1-18-64)

COLUMBIA, S. C. (BP)--Miss Merle Sherer, who is retiring after 40 years of service with the South Carolina Baptist Convention, was honored by the convention's general board here. She has been serving the board as bookkeeper. During her work with state Baptist funds, she has kept books on \$51.3 million.

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Arkansas Theft Third
Among State Offices

By the Baptist Press

The Baptist Building in Little Rock, Ark., has become the third office of state Baptist conventions to be burglarized in recent times.

Burglars broke into the Arkansas Baptist State Convention office on a weekend and took cash between \$100 and \$200, and a radio.

The burglars had turned face down on the desk of an executive the Scripture motto which reads, "As long as he sought the Lord, God made him prosper." The reference is found in II Chron. 26:5.

The radio was taken from that particular office.

Previous victims of thievery have been Baptist state offices in Columbia, S. C., and Jefferson City, Mo.

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Atlantic City Reception
To Honor Courts Redford

(1-18-64)

ATLANTA (BP)--A Home Mission Board reception in Atlantic City, following the evening session of the Southern Baptist Convention May 20, will honor Courts Redford of Atlanta and missionaries of the agency.

Redford, executive secretary, has announced his retirement effective in December of this year. This will be his last Convention as head of the home mission force of more than 2,000.

L. O. Griffith of Atlanta, director of the division of education and promotion, said, "The reception will be held in the Atlantic City auditorium, and the Home Mission Board extends an invitation to everyone to attend."

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Counterspy Author
Speaks at Howard Payne

(1-18-64)

BROWNWOOD, Tex. (BP)--Three "distinguished speakers" have accepted invitations to speak during the annual Democracy-in-Action week at Howard Payne College (Baptist) here, April 6-10.

They are Herbert Philbrick, author of "I Led Three Lives for The F. B. I."; John Haggai, Baptist evangelist; and Ferenc Nagy, former Prime Minister of Hungary.

Haggai was pastor of Ninth and O Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., before entering full-time evangelism.

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Name President's Assistant

(1-18-64)

SHAWNEE, Okla. (BP)--Evans T. Moseley, 52, has been appointed assistant to the president of Oklahoma Baptist University here. Moseley has been pastor of the First Baptist Church in Ponca City, Okla., for 10 years. James R. Scales, president, said Moseley's newly created position will include working with the 1,348 Baptist churches in the state, counseling ministerial students, and assisting in the university's services to churches.

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Brooks Hays Accepts
Rutgers Post

WASHINGTON (BP)--Brooks Hays, prominent Baptist layman serving as special assistant to the President, has accepted a post as professor at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

Hays, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, joined the White House staff during the Kennedy administration as special assistant in federal-state relations.

He will become Arthur Vanderbilt professor in the Eagleton Institute of Politics on the Rutgers campus. He will conduct a series of lectures on contemporary problems of government, from March 2 of this year till January 1965. Hays will continue to serve as consultant to the White House.

In a White House press release President Johnson said he was delighted Hays would have opportunity to "share with students his lifetime experiences as a Christian in public service." The release said the president indicated pleasure Hays' service to the government would not be lost during this period.

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1964 Convention Offers
Period For Questions

(1-18-64)

By the Baptist Press

"What's Your Question?", a new feature "for dialogue between the messengers and the various executive heads of the Convention's agencies," will be a part of the order of business (agenda) for the 1964 Southern Baptist Convention.

It will meet in Atlantic City, N. J., May 19-22.

The dialogue period will last for 25 minutes and will be on the Thursday afternoon schedule, according to C. W. Farrar, Landrum, S. C., chairman of the Convention's Committee on Order of Business.

Theme of the 1964 Convention is "For Liberty and Light," identical with the theme of the six-year Baptist Jubilee Advance which will climax in a Jubilee Celebration in Atlantic City immediately following the SBC session.

Another innovation on the 1964 agenda is scheduling the address of the Convention president and the Convention Sermon at the same meeting period--on Tuesday night, at the opening period, May 19.

K. Owen White of Houston will deliver his presidential address at 7:40 P.M. Fifteen minutes of special music will provide the interlude between White's address and the Convention Sermon to be preached this year by Enoch C. Brown, pastor, Shandon Baptist Church, Columbia, S. C.

Other major addresses will be delivered by:

--Robert E. Naylor, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. His address on theological education will follow the reports of six SBC seminaries on Wednesday morning.

--Rep. Eugene Siler, R., Ky., and a Baptist layman. His topic Wednesday afternoon will be "Christian Training--A Deterrent to Crime."

--Owen Cooper, Yazoo City, Miss. Cooper, a layman, heads a chemical corporation there. His topic: "Personal Witnessing--Our Lord's Command." It will be delivered Wednesday night following the Home Mission Board report.

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--Maj. Gen. Robert P. Taylor, a Southern Baptist who is chief of chaplains, United States Air Force, Washington. His address will be coupled to the report of the chaplains' commission of the Home Mission Board on Thursday morning.

--J. D. Grey, pastor, First Baptist Church, New Orleans and former SBC president. Coming Thursday afternoon, it is titled, "Hitherto . . . Henceforth," and follows the Historical Commission report.

--Evangelist Billy Graham, who'll close the Convention with a sermon at 11 o'clock Friday morning.

The messengers will have Friday afternoon free, then join the start of the Baptist Jubilee Celebration in the same auditorium Friday night, May 22. This celebration, whose program has already been distributed, winds up Sunday.

The Foreign Mission Board will have its presentation Thursday night.

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South Carolina History

(1-18-64)

COLUMBIA, S. C. (BP)--The manuscript for the history of Southern Baptist work in South Carolina has been completed. The book, it is hoped, will be ready before November when the South Carolina Baptist Convention holds its next annual meeting.

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3 Appointed
For Home Missions

(1-18-64)

ATLANTA (BP)--The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention appointed three missionaries to serve in language and pioneer missions in Texas and Michigan.

The appointments make a total of 2,255 missionaries now serving under this agency.

James W. Hatley, a native of Maynard, Ark., has been commissioned to language work in San Antonio, Tex. He and Mrs. Hatley will attend the newly formed Spanish language instruction classes in San Antonio.

He is a graduate of Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, Ark.; William Jewell College (Baptist), Liberty, Mo.; and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo. He has held pastorates in Missouri.

Mrs. Hatley is a native of Hornerville, Mo. She studied nursing at City Hospital, St. Louis, and attended Southern Baptist College.

Vernon Clinton Wickliffe, a native of Arkansas, was appointed as an area missionary in Royal Oak, Mich. He was educated at Central College, North Little Rock, Ark.; Ouachita Baptist College, Arkadelphia, Ark.; and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif. Previous experience includes serving as a student pastor in Arkansas and as pastor in Vallejo, Calif., and Flint, Mich.

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Crusade Cancelled
By Panama Riots

(1-18-64)

BALBOA, Canal Zone (BP)--The evangelistic crusade scheduled for Feb. 9-22 by churches and missions affiliated with Southern Baptist work in the Republic of Panama has been cancelled.

The revivals would have used 40 pastors, 20 who speak Spanish, from churches in the United States.

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Cancellation came after rioting flared into armed conflict between United States forces and Panamanians in which 23 persons were killed and hundreds wounded.

An incident involving the flying of the United States and Panamanian flags inflamed the conflict.

L. D. Wood of Balboa, superintendent of Panama work for The Home Mission Board of the SBC, announced the cancellation of the crusade and gave these additional reports:

Clifford Mathews, pastor of the Cocoli Baptist Church in the Zone, was in Panama City when the rioting started. His car was severely damaged and he sustained bruises.

Missionaries who are natives of the United States have been brought into the Canal Zone by the military. The move was primarily to safeguard property, since mobs were destroying anything connected with United States personnel.

Only Mrs. Jack Roddy and her three children in Almirante near the Costa Rican border were unable to reach the Zone. Roddy himself was in the Zone at the time of the rioting.

However, Wood said personnel of the United Fruit Co., which has vast holdings in the Almirante area, promised to get her and the children to safety if trouble developed.

With the W. C. Parkers at Santa Clara were her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Averit of Alabama. They were flown into the Zone by the U. S. Army with the Parkers.

Despite the difficulty, Mr. and Mrs. James Solomon of Panama City, Fla., left New Orleans for the Canal Zone Jan. 13. He will be pastor of the Margarita Baptist Church near Cristobol in the Zone.

Joel Prickett, of Oklahoma, appointed to serve in the Bocas del Toro Province, was asked by Wood to delay his travel plans until the situation is further clarified.

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WATCH FOR THE (BP) CREDIT LINE