

Gift and Release Agreement:

We CURTIS KINNEY Tsgm. and BRENT A. JONES
(Interviewee, print) (Interviewer, print)

do hereby give and grant to Jacksonville State University, all literary and property rights, title, and interest which we may possess to the audio or video recording(s) and transcript(s) of the interview(s) conducted at PHENIX CITY on the date(s) of 1-26-96 for the oral history collection being compiled by the Jacksonville State University Library.

Curtis A. Kinney
(Interviewee's signature)

Address _____

Date 1-26-96

Phone _____

Brent A. Jones
(Interviewer's signature)

Address 6411 Weaver Rd.

Date 1-26-96

Anniston, Ala 36201

Phone 820-7061

Albert Patterson: elected the attorney General of Ala.

1954 may worked 2:20 by 10:00

to clean up the ...

Gift and Release Agreement:

We ALBERT D HOWARD and BRENT A. JONES
(Interviewee, print) (Interviewer, print)

do hereby give and grant to Jacksonville State University, all literary and property rights, title, and interest which we may possess to the audio or video recording(s) and transcript(s) of the interview(s) conducted at PHENIX CITY COURT HOUSE on the date(s) of 1-20-96 for the oral history collection being compiled by the Jacksonville State University Library.

Albert D. Howard
(Interviewee's signature)

Address _____

Date 1-26-96

Phone _____

Brent A. Jones
(Interviewer's signature)

Address 6411 Weaver Rd.

Date 1-26-96

Anniston, Ala 36201

Phone 820-7061

first person reported with in Phenix city was the Newbate
judge Mr. Albert Patterson. Albert Fuller was convicted
it was believed.

THE SOUTH SINCE 1860

HY 442

BRENT A. JONES

**PHENIX CITY, ALABAMA,
MY TOWN**

by

Brent A. Jones

THE PHENIX CITY ASSASSINATION

Tales of vice and violence on the west bank of the Chattahoochee River date as far back as Alabama's Territorial days.

1833: "Sodom," a wild looking village, scattered through the edge of the West bank of the Chattahoochee River across from Columbus, Georgia.

Sodom's name eventually was applied to "Girard." Girard was immediately adjacent to what would become Phenix City, Alabama.

1838: There are newspaper accounts describing wild street shooting, with references to fugitives from Columbus, Georgia, who crossed the river to "whoop it up."

1865: Civil War battle at Girard, April 16.

1883: Brownville was founded. Brownville would later be known as Phenix City.

1916: May 17, twenty-three state agents converged on Girard for what was then called the biggest liquor raid in the south.

As a result of the raid, the city marschall was convicted of accepting bribes from whiskey dealers, the county sheriff was impeached for "willfull neglect of duty," and the mayor and alderman resigned "by popular demand."

1917: Albert Patterson who would later become Alabama Attorney General and Agnes L. Benson were married on July 4, before Patterson left for World War I.

1918: Mr. Curtis A. Kinney, who served on the grand jury investigating the Patterson murder was born.

1920: The infamous Phenix City scandal broke out.

1923: Federal agents raid six establishments in Phenix City.

One disgruntled dealer that had been closed down for violations, later shot a deputy in the street and went unpunished.

1924: Albert Patterson received an A.B. degree from the University of Alabama.

1927: Albert Patterson received a L.L.B. degree from Cumberland University.

1929: Albert Patterson and his family move to Phenix City.

1930: My father, Roy Parker, moves to Phenix City from Ft. Mitchell, Alabama and begins working in a textile factory.

1931: A federal grand jury indicts several city officials and employees for conspiracy to violate the Prohibition Law.

1938: The tragic collapse of a house specializing in the "bug" (lottery) occurs, twenty-four people were killed.

1939: Albert O. Howard, current Russell County Probate Judge is born. Howard was a schoolmate of Albert Patterson's son and a close friend of Arch B. Farrell, County Solicitor at the time of the Patterson assassination. Farrell was indicated for the murder of Mr. Patterson.

1944: Homer D. Cobb began his tenure as mayor of Phenix City. Cobb made a reputation for his fight against organized prostitution. During his tenure this vice was kept under control.

1947: In July, gunmen pumped eight bullets into Hoyt Shepherd's club near Smith Station, Alabama.

Hoyt Shepherd was known as the gambling king-pin of Phenix City.

1949: In February, Hoyt Shepherd was attacked during daylight hours by shots fired into his car by a speeding car.

1952: January 9, the anti-vice leader (Hugh Bentley) home is dynamited.

February 24, the Russell Betterment Association attorneys offices were set fire.

May 7, Hugh Bentley, his son, and Hugh Britton were attacked at the polls.

In the fall, Robert H. Brown (Speaker of the House-Opelika, Alabama) home was nearly destroyed by fire.

1954: Albert Patterson became the democratic nominee for Alabama Attorney General. Patterson had pledged to cleanup Phenix City and to convict locals involved in gambling.

June 18, Albert Patterson was murdered in an alley next to the Coutler Building on Fifth Street in Phenix City.

June 19, General Joseph G. Harper declared Phenix City "off limits" to his troops stationed at nearby Ft. Benning, Georgia.

July 22, Governor Persons declared a state of qualified martial law in Phenix City and Russell County. 100 national guardsmen, led by Adjutant General Walter J. "Crack" Hanna took command of the courthouse and police station, relieving all city and county law enforcement officers of their duties.

In September, national guardsmen supervised new municipal elections.

1955: Phenix City became one of the National Municipal League's "All American Cities."

The story you are about to hear/read is true, the names are true and have not been changed to protect the innocent.

The city, just like any old southern city. However...this city was Phenix City, my town, my home. Childhood part of my life wasn't very pretty, I wasn't born, but I was raised in the heart of the city. "The projects" behind the juke joints, the honky tonks, the bars and clubs. I played along the sidewalks, next to the fence which ran along until the end of the projects.

As kids we knew nothing of what was going on around us, we thought only of playing. In the summer evening we would go to the fence and listen to the music. That music was something, we would listen and one of us kids would start dancing and pretty soon we'd all would be a dancing. Dancing until you hear that familiar voice of your mother calling, and if you didn't go quick and she thought you were around there at the fence, man, would you get a whopping.

The music was coming from the clubs, it was loud...and it was fun to us kids and wild! I must credit my mother for sheltering me from the knowledge of what was really going on in Phenix City in 1951, or in years following the main character of this paper. I was completely unaware of the historical and factual accounts of Phenix City and its story. What impacted on me most was the fact that I was there. I was a part of this music and its lawlessness, this corruption, this blatant disregard for law and order. The blatant disregard for property and finally the blatant disregard for human life.

That was "Southern Style" in Phenix City, Alabama in those days. Blacks stayed in their place in those days. The police ran things on the black side of the fence. Corruption did filter into the black community in ways as running liquor, playing the numbers and gambling. I remember men that lived in the projects, had fast cars and ran bootleg liquor at night

for the white men who ran the honky tonks and bars. I remember, the people within the projects playing the "bug," in the numbers. Playing for two pennies, a nickel and you were sure you would hit if you played a dime. I have limited knowledge as to how its actually played, however, I think it's played by following the stock market numbers from the daily newspaper. Each day the market starts with a posted number and at the end of the day that number has changed so in essence you bet on that closing number. You guess the number you win. That's not all to the "bug," it has different names in other places, the "number," "number running," same game.

If other vices, came into the black community I am unaware of, because segregation seperated whites from blacks and that little fence drew the line. Black people had no business on the lite streets at night in Phenix City. My father would say, "you pretty much stayed away from those people and they stayed away from you." "You see Black people didn't have nothing, and they knew you didn't have nothing, so they wouldn't mess with you."

My father tells the story this way. "I knew of Patterson, back in 53..54, I knew Patterson before then, in fact I knew him in 39, that's when I moved to Phenix City. You see he was a lawyer then; here in Phenix City that's the way I knew him. A friend of mine use to work with him, a girl named Johnnie Mae Walden.

"Phenix City was rough as pig iron then, that was before it got to be "sin city," that's the reason why Patterson got killed, it had a few people, the Davis', and the Godwin's, I can't call them all, they were "gangsters." They were running the city, you hear tell of "bug" houses, slot machines and all that, prostitution."

"What happened, Patterson won for the Attorney General for the state of Alabama with the promises that he was going to cleanup Phenix City. Those gangsters didn't want him to cleanup Phenix City, they wanted to hold on to it. But after he won the nomination, they saw he was going to do it, then they killed him, after they killed him the governor sent the National guards, the National guard clean up Phenix City."

"I was a textile worker back then, I work there 29 years 7 months. Things use to be kind of rough around here, they would put you in jail for nothing, the gangsters just completely took over the town, the local law what was supposed to be the law had no more authority as I did."

"They lived here in Phenix City, just took over Phenix City." Did they have money? "Sure they had money, that's what they were doing, making money." And they owned everything around here, everything they wanted they bought it or took it, they not only killed Patterson, they killed other people too.

The Patterson murder is a cumulation of vice, violence, and the forces which perpetuate corruption and lawlessness against the force on one man, Albert Patterson.

There are tales of vice and violence on the west bank of the Chattahoochee River dating as far back as Alabama's territorial days. Phenix City, Alabama was settled by "disreputable white men, indians and runaway negroes" who opened a grocery and gambling house, and kept up a almost daily...blood betting.¹ A reporter quoting a 1838 newspaper account, described wild street shooting, with references to fugitives from Columbus, Georgia who crossed the Chattahoochee River to "whoop it up."²

The first attempt to end the vice throughout the city came in 1916. On May 17, twenty-three state agents converged on Phenix City for what was then called the "biggest liquor raid ever held in the south."³ As a result of the raid, the city marshal was convicted of accepting bribes from whiskey dealers, the county sheriff was impeached for "willfull neglect of duty," and the mayor and alderman resigned by popular demand."⁴

Many other attempts were made to curb the vice and violence in Phenix City, however, the corruption that existed was much more widespread than expected. Several city officials and employees including the chief of police, his assistant, and a former police lieutenant were found guilty of conspiracy to violate the prohibition law and indicted for these crimes. In 1922, the impeached sheriff was re-elected to office, and the area again became a city ruled by vice.

In the 30's John "Hoyt" Shepherd, a former cotton mill worker from Georgia, who later gained a reputation as the gambling "kingpin" of Phenix city, along with his partner, James "Jimmy" Matthews, C.O. "Head" Revel, Clyde Yarborough, Godwin Davis, Sr., and others built what was perceived as the vice empire of the forties and early fifties.⁵ Some citizens of Phenix City believe Hoyt Shepherd and his associates were able to plant the seed of a vice empire because city administration at that time had become "liberal" in order to pull the community out of debts incurred during the depression. Phenix City's brand of "liberalism" was demonstrated in its attitude toward liquor and gambling laws in the thirties.

By the 1950's, gambling and vice in Phenix City was a millor dollar empire; many locals by gambling enabled the million dollar empire to thrive. My father, Roy Parker, shared that he knew of men working at the local

textile mill, that would after receiving their weekly paycheck, loose the entire check at honky tonk and gambling houses.

The legacy of gambling in Phenix City, occurred during my childhood. During the heydays of notorious wickedness, I lived very near the honky tonk and gambling houses along fourteenth street in Phenix City. The events preceeding and following the assissination of Albert Patterson and the eventual cleanup of corruption in the city, affected my life because of the how close I lived to where it all happened.

The assassination of Albert Patterson, in the opinion of most citizens of Phenix City was the result of retaliation of desperate hoodlums who's aim was to prevent the promise of Mr. Patterson, the newly elected Alabama Attorney General, to eliminate and clean-up any vestige of organized crime in Phenix City. According to my father, "Patterson was gon to clean-up the place and they knew it, so they stopped him." Ironically the individuals involved in the city's "organzied crime" that Patterson wanted to clean up were city officials. Individuals associated with the Patterson assassination were Chief Deputy Sheriffe, Albert Fuller, Circuit Solicitor, Arch Ferrell and Alabama Attorney General, Silas Garrett. Albert Fuller was convicted and sentenced to life in prison for the murder of Albert Patterson. Sid Garrett admitted himself to a mental hospital in Galveston, Texas, he was never convicted on murder charges becasue of legal maneuvering by his and state attorneys. Arch Ferrell was acquitted of murder charges.

My mother use to tell us, whenever we were little, she would take us walking on Sunday's over to Columbus, and window shop. Columbus, is Columbus, Georgia, across the Chattahoochee River from Phenix City. This particular day was the day Patterson was shot. She and us kids was very near the location. When I asked her, did you see it? What did you do? My

mother said, "you would do as any other black would do, you'd get out of the area as fast as you could."

My mother would say "me having three kids and in that mess, that was white folks business, serious business, and I didn't want to get caught up in it."

The story goes on, "it wasn't as tough for the black men as it was with white peoples, simply because black people didn't try to operate these things as bad as the white people.

Immediately following the initial investigation into the killing, Governor Pearson sent in national guards to enforce law, to crack the crime. Enter into the story, General "Crack" Hanna.

General Walter "Crack" Hanna (adjutant general of Alabama), acquired the nickname because his ability as a marksman with a rifle around the state, Hanna was born in Birmingham in 1901, served in the military becoming a General with campaigns in World War II and the Korean Conflict.

After retiring from the Army, Alabama Governor Persons appointed Hanna adjutant general of Alabama national guards. A military man, hard and fast.

Questions concerning the true guilt of all the people involved in the murder continues to circulate in Phenix City. There seems to be an unspoken fear associated with inquiring about the murder of Albert Patterson. When interviewing Curtis A. Kinney, who served on the grand jury for the Patterson murder, preferred "not to speak on the trial, you see I served on the grand jury." Although Mr. Kinney did not discuss the trial, he did discuss Albert Patterson's death. From the library, Mr. Kinney showed me where Patterson died. The courthouse, jail, library and the building Albert

Patterson's law office and where he was murdered are situated in a two block area.

The Phenix City story has less of an impact now for today's generations than it did in the 50's. Many of the people who was directly or indirectly involved is either too old, moved on or dead. On February 6, 1996, my father passed away at Cobb Memorial Hospital in Phenix City, thus closing another insight into the story of the wickedest city in America. Once the national guards replaced the city officials and got rid of the crime and vice which had a hold on the entire city, Phenix City went on to become a fine city, an all-American city in 1955. My father and others saw this transformation and tried long enough to pass on the knowledge of "sin city". But in many ways the Phenix City story touched a lot of peoples all over the state of Alabama.

Albert L. Patterson for example was once a teacher here at Jacksonville State when this university was named Jacksonville teacher college. John Patterson the son of Albert Patterson went on to become the Governor of Alabama in a campaign that he defeated ten other candidates including George Wallace. The Phenix City story also reached as far as Hollywood, in 1955, "The Phenix City Story" was released as a movie, a highly fictionalized movie about

the account of Albert Patterson's campaign for the office of attorney general and John Patterson's crusade to avenge his father's murder. In 1986 he was appointed to the Alabama court of criminal appeals. When Albert Patterson was murdered I was three (3) years old, too young to understand the significance of the murder or the extent of crime and violence that was part of Phenix City. I heard what I believed as stories about Phenix City for years never giving much thought to the actual facts of the matter. In 1966, my family moved away from Phenix City but every summer when I was out of school, I would return to Phenix City. I still had relatives there and every now and then the story would come up again.

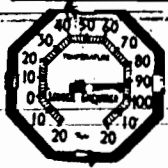
The facts of the story wasn't revealed until I was given the assignment of interviewing a person of the south and give a historical account of the life in and of the south. In my search I have found how much this story has affected not only my personal life but also the life of my mother, father, sister, brother and so many other people of Phoenix City and other parts of Alabama and the south in general.

Yes the music coming from the other side of the fence was something else, it was wild. I often wondered who was playing the music, it took a long time to find out, now I know.

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2. Sid Thomas, "Rackets Engulf a City," Columbus Enquirer, July 12, 1954.
3. Thomas, Enquirer, July 13, 1954.
4. Ibid.
5. Thomas, Enquirer, July 19, 1954. These men were "credited" as "kingpins" in all material on the topic.

POST PLACES ALL P



The Weather

Partly cloudy and warm this afternoon and tonight with warmer temperatures tomorrow; low tonight, 64 degrees.

Noon Temperature

COLUMBUS



PUBLISHED IN THE SOUTH'S MOST PROGRESSIVE

VOL. 69 NO. 47

WRBL AM 1420—FM 93.3—TV Channel 4

COLUMBUS, GA., SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 1954.

CHANGES DIM FOR Q

Attorney Felt Odds Heavily Against Him

BY JIM GREEN

Albert L. Patterson, Democratic nominee for Alabama attorney general who won his race on an anti-crime platform, was assassinated last night in Phenix City just a day after he said he knew he had "only a 100-to-one chance of being sworn in . . ."

The 58-year-old attorney made the statement Thursday night in a talk before the Men's Club of the Phenix City First Methodist Church.

A few days earlier, he told Howard Pennington, president of the Russell County Citizens' Association, "They've put in for me. There's nothing you can do about it. But if they do get me, don't let them get away with it."

Wouldn't Take Pistol

Hugh Bentley, an RBA director whose home was dynamited Jan. 9, 1952, while his family was asleep inside, said last night that he had offered Patterson a pistol for his protection but that he had refused, saying:

"If they kill me, it will be from ambush, probably as I drive in my yard at home or from behind some bush. I wouldn't have any way to defend myself and I don't see any necessity of carrying a pistol."

Patterson, attorney for the anti-vice RBA since its inception in 1951, apparently was sitting in his car, parked in an alley at the side of the Coulter Building, which houses his offices, when his assassin pumped at least two bullets into him.

Bullet Hole Found

A bullet hole was found in the glass of the front door on the right



CROWD CONGREGATES IN EARLY-MORNING HOUR TO VIEW SCENE OF PATTERSON'S Shooting Occurred In Alley Next To Coulter Building On Fifth Avenue Where Patterson

2nd Driveway Co

1 FOR QUICK ARREST



1 HOUR TO VIEW SCENE OF PATTERSON ASSASSINATION
or Building On Fifth Avenue Where Patterson Had Offices

Ledger Photo by Morris Morris

Primary Seen to Name Replacement for Patterson

caused by the Phenix
assassination last night of
Patterson, who was Demo-
cratic for attorney gener-
al, can be filled either
by primary or by vote of
Democratic Executive



Action Taken On Request

All of Phenix City this afternoon was placed off limits to military personnel by Maj. Gen. Joseph H. Harper. The action came at the request of Alabama Gov. Gordon Persons.

Gen. Harper stated:

"In response to a request received this morning from Governor Persons of Alabama, the city of Phenix City has been placed off limits to all Fort Benning personnel immediately. For those who are bona fide residents of Phenix City an exception will be made to permit them to pass through in a direct route to their homes. Ft. Benning personnel residing in Phenix City are directed to remain in the immediate vicinity of their residences except while enroute to and from Ft. Benning.

"This announcement has the effect of a military

BY RAY JENKINS

Hopes for an early arrest of the A. L. Patterson assassin were dim this morning as state and county investigators were unable to come up with any substantial clues or identification.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Albert Fuller said early today only one witness has been questioned in connection with the gangland-style killing of Alabama's attorney general last night.

He said the witness, a cook at a nearby cafe, told of seeing a man dressed in a tan suit and hat fleeing from the murder scene just after four or five shots were fired. The only other clue found this morning was a footprint some 60 yards from the spot where Patterson was shot to death. Fuller said a plaster of Paris cast will be made on the footprint for further investigation.

Meanwhile, Assistant State Toxicologist W. L. Sowell, who completed an autopsy on Patterson's body about 4:20 a.m., refused to divulge any information. "You'll have to see the solicitor," he told reporters. The solicitor, Arch B. Ferrell, had no further comment this morning.

Present at the autopsy were Ferrell, Sheriff H. Ralph Mathews Jr.,

(See Other Stories Pictures,
Page 7, 8, 9)

and several state investigators. Reporters were not permitted to watch

An unconfirmed rumor, which cropped up last night said that slot machines were removed from bridge cafes within 15 minutes after the slaying. The joints, which have had practically wide-open gambling for the past few weeks, were still going strong at (See INVESTIGATION, Page 8)

Solon Found Shot in Head

—WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Lester C. Hunt (D-Wyo) was found shot in the head in his Senate office today.

At Casualty Hospital, to which he was taken, his condition was reported "serious if not critical." Dr. George W. Calver, the physician to Congress, authorized a statement that Hunt was found wounded and removed to the hospital. An office aide found him

Attorney Felt Odds Heavily Against Him

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Patterson, attorney for the anti-vice RBA since its inception in 1951, apparently was sitting in his car, parked in an alley at the side of the Coulter Building, which houses his offices, when his assassin pumped at least two bullets into him.

Bullet Hole Found

A bullet hole was found in the glass of the front door on the right side. His walking cane, closely identified with Patterson in every day life, was on the rear floor board.

He was shot twice in the mouth at close range. Powder burns were found on his upper lip and nose. The weapon, believed to have been a revolver since no empty shells were found (an automatic would have ejected the shells), was thought to have been a .25 or .32 caliber.

One bullet flattened against his lower front teeth and another one passed into the roof of his mouth. A doctor who made a preliminary examination said he believed this was the slug that caused death.

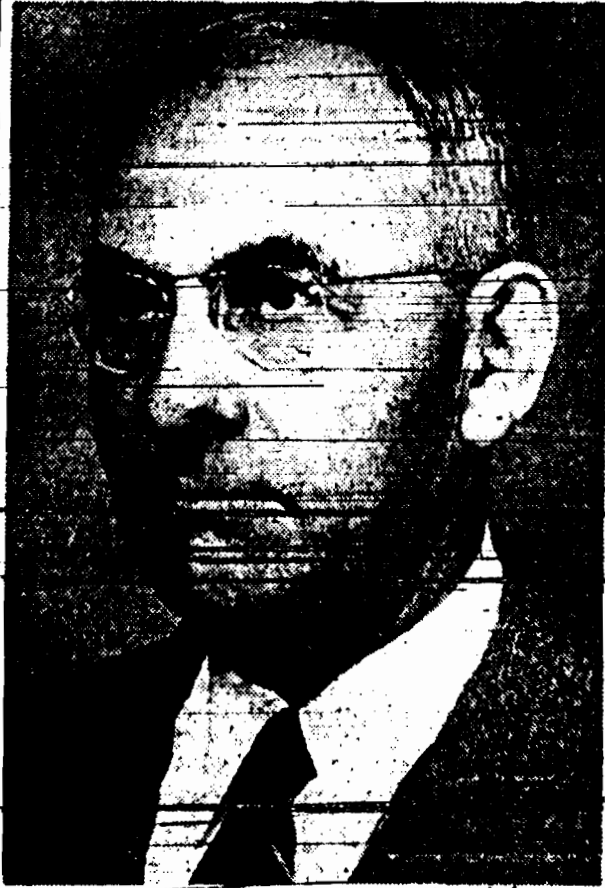
Lid of Secrecy

One source said four or five bullets entered Patterson's body but this could not be determined as a lid of secrecy was clamped down following an autopsy by Alabama's assistant toxicologist W. L. Sowell.

The shooting occurred about 3 p.m. next to the Fifth Avenue office building. After being mortally wounded, Patterson staggered about 25 feet to the sidewalk and laid down in front of Seymour's Ladies Ready-to-Wear shop. Witnesses, who found him lying face-down, emphasized that he did not fall but sank down to the pavement. They said he evidently tried (Please See SLAYING, Page 8)



CROWD CONGREGATES IN EARLY-MORNING HOUR TO VIEW SCENE OF PATTERSON'S Shooting Occurred In Alley Next To Coulter Building On Fifth Avenue Where Patterson



ALBERT L. PATTERSON

2nd Primary Seer Replacement for

Vacancy caused by the Phenix City assassination last night of A. L. Patterson, who was Democratic nominee for attorney general of Alabama, can be filled either by another primary or by vote of the State Democratic Executive Committee.

Ben F. Ray of Birmingham, chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee, said this morning that he believes "the people" will want another primary election because of the "ramifications" of Patterson's death.

"It's tragic," Ray said of the shooting of Patterson.

"Sore For Years"

"That Phenix City business ought to be cleaned out," Ray told THE Ledger. "It's been a sore for 40 years."

"I think this is the time to do it," he added.

Ray emphasized that he was not speaking for the Executive Committee, which, he pointed out, will decide how to fill the vacancy caused by the assassination of Patterson.

He said he will not push for an early meeting of the Committee, noting that Alabama Democrats have until 30 days prior to the November general election to certify a new candidate for attorney general.



Today's
Birthdays



OPEN HOUSE, A PREMONITION ... A. L. Patterson made a statement during this picture, snapped at an open house honoring his victory, which indicated he suspected he might be assassinated. While the photographer was snapping the picture, Patterson commented: "This week, they shoot at me with cameras; next week, they'll shoot at me with bullets." Others shown here are, left to right, Charlie Gunter, Noel Baker, Gordon Pennington, Patterson, the Rev. R. K. Jones, and Hugh Bentley, supporters from the area.

Slaying

(Continued from Page 1)

to say something but could not be understood.

Phenix City police received their first call on the shooting at 9:09 p.m. Patterson was pronounced dead on arrival at Cobb Memorial Hospital at 9:30 p.m.

Toxicologist Sowell arrived at the hospital about 2:15 a.m. today with Russell County Solicitor Asch, Forell and the autopsy got under way about 2:30 a.m.

Ross L. Gibson, a cook at Smitly's Grill on Fifth Avenue, told Russell County Chief Deputy Sheriff Albert Fuller he was starting to get into a car at the opposite end of the alley from where Patterson's car was parked when he heard four or five shots.

Saw Man Running

He said he saw a man run from the alley between the Elite Cafe and the Seymour shop in front of which the victim was found.

Gibson told police it was a white man and he was wearing a light brown suit and had on a light colored hat. He told Deputy Fuller the man was about five feet, eight inches tall and appeared to weigh about 150 to 160 pounds.

Phenix City police under Chief Pal M. Daniel and Russell County Sheriff H. Ralph Mathews and his deputies were assisted in their investigation last night by Alabama highway patrolmen and at least one agent of the Alabama Bureau of Investigation.

John Patterson, son and law partner of the attorney general-elect, said that his father had been to Montgomery yesterday and was in the habit of stopping by his office to open his mail before going home.

The son said last night was the first time in three months that he had not met his father at his office.

At the emergency room of the hospital last night, Associated Press Reporter Rex Thomas said he saw Patterson about 2 p.m. or 3 p.m. yesterday at a disbarment hearing in the courthouse at Montgomery.

The reporter said Patterson evidently had no interest in the hearing other than that of a spectator

because he didn't remain there for the entire session.

"Sure Wish I Knew"

When told that his father apparently had tried to talk but couldn't be understood as he lay in a pool of blood on the sidewalk, John Patterson replied: "I sure wish I knew what he was trying to say."

The smiling, gray-haired, tearful wife of the man who won the state attorney general nomination in a run-off election June 1, was driven to the hospital until her son, Maurice Patterson of Columbus, came in, walked up to her, put an arm around her and wept.

John Patterson, a former Army major, said grimly:

"I want him, real bad."

Mrs. Patterson told Chief Daniel at the hospital shortly after the body was brought in:

"You know as well as I they didn't want him to be attorney general."

Later, a man tried to comfort John Patterson by telling him that "the people of Alabama are behind you" to which he replied simply:

"It's too late now."

The victim's law-partner son said in quiet determined tones:

"I feel that the reasons behind this are that he was fighting organized crime in the state of Alabama and particularly in Phenix City and that myself, the citizens and the organization behind him will continue the fight against organized crime more relentlessly than ever."

Common Knowledge

At the Patterson home, 1302 Pine Circle, a spokesman said Patterson had not received "any threats out of the ordinary" but that "it's common knowledge that several men have threatened to kill him."

In the bitter run-off race for attorney general June 1, Patterson had pledged to clean out gambling and lawlessness in Phenix City. Both he and Gadsden Attorney, Lee Porter his opponent in the run-off, claimed the other had the support of Phenix City's lawlessness element.

Said RBA President Pennington last night:

"This should certainly indicate to the people of Alabama that Pat-

erson was not backed by the criminal element."

The Patterson-Porter race is the subject of a vote fraud investigation in Birmingham, where Porter's total was given 600 additional votes when recapitulation sheets were changed. The official result was changed again to the original total just this week.

Patterson's margin over Porter was only 854 votes after the 600-vote correction in the Jefferson County, Birmingham, total.

Patterson charged during the recent campaign that Phenix City mobsters had raised a large sum to defeat him. His office here was burned two years ago and the fire marshal said the blaze was set deliberately.

Patterson had been nominated to succeed Attorney General Si Garrett, who actively supported Porter in the run-off.

Investigation

(Continued from Page 1)

at p.m. and some were still open at dawn.

Another report which failed to materialize said that a group of citizens were attempting to form a "vigilante" committee of a thousand men to police the city.

Reports on how many bullets struck Patterson were conflicting. Albert Fuller, who attended the autopsy, said one slug was lodged in his brain, another in the left side, and another fractured Patterson's left arm.

A spokesman for Colonial Flagger Home, at first said five slugs were found in the body, but said later Attorney General Si Garrett called them and advised them to release no information. Garrett supported Patterson's opponent, Lee Porter, in the attorney general's race.

Twelve State Patrol cars were dispatched to Phenix City shortly after the shooting, about 9 p.m., but some of them left early this morning. Four patrolmen were observed asleep in a patrol car behind the Courthouse this morning.

PATTERSON INSPECTS ARSON DAMAGE Law Office Violated on Feb. 24, 1952



PETER EDSON

McCarthy Blocks

Harmful Thrusts

WASHINGTON (NEA) — Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy's demand that Sen. Stuart Symington step down from the special committee investigating the Cohn-Schine antics with the Army is merely the latest in a long line of headline-grabbing tactics.

The junior senator from Wisconsin has now tangled with every member of the committee except Sen. Everett M. Dirksen of Illinois, who wants the hearings ended.

One of the things Senator McCarthy does best is employ diversions to wreck the proceedings. Let a train of thought get started highbailing, headed in a direction

Solon

(Continued from Page 1)

shortly after served in the Army in World War I as a lieutenant. He now is a major in the Reserve Corps. After postgraduate study at Northwestern University he resumed dental practice.

Hunt entered politics in 1932, serving in the Wyoming State House of Representatives. He was Wyoming Secretary of State from 1934 to 1942, when he was elected governor. He was re-elected governor in 1946 and served as chairman of the Governors' Conference in 1948.

He served as president of both the Wyoming State Dental Society and the State Board of Dental Examiners, in a period 1924 to 1928.

Hunt is a member of the Senate Armed Services and commerce committees and of the special senate small business committee.

that is going to do the McCarthy cause no good and McCarthy almost sure to switch it off on sidetrack or sensationally flag down.

The result is that the special committee under Sen. Karl Mundt now has before it a dozen or more major unsubstantiated charge threats not carried out and general confusion. It has swelled its committee record and strung it almost endlessly.

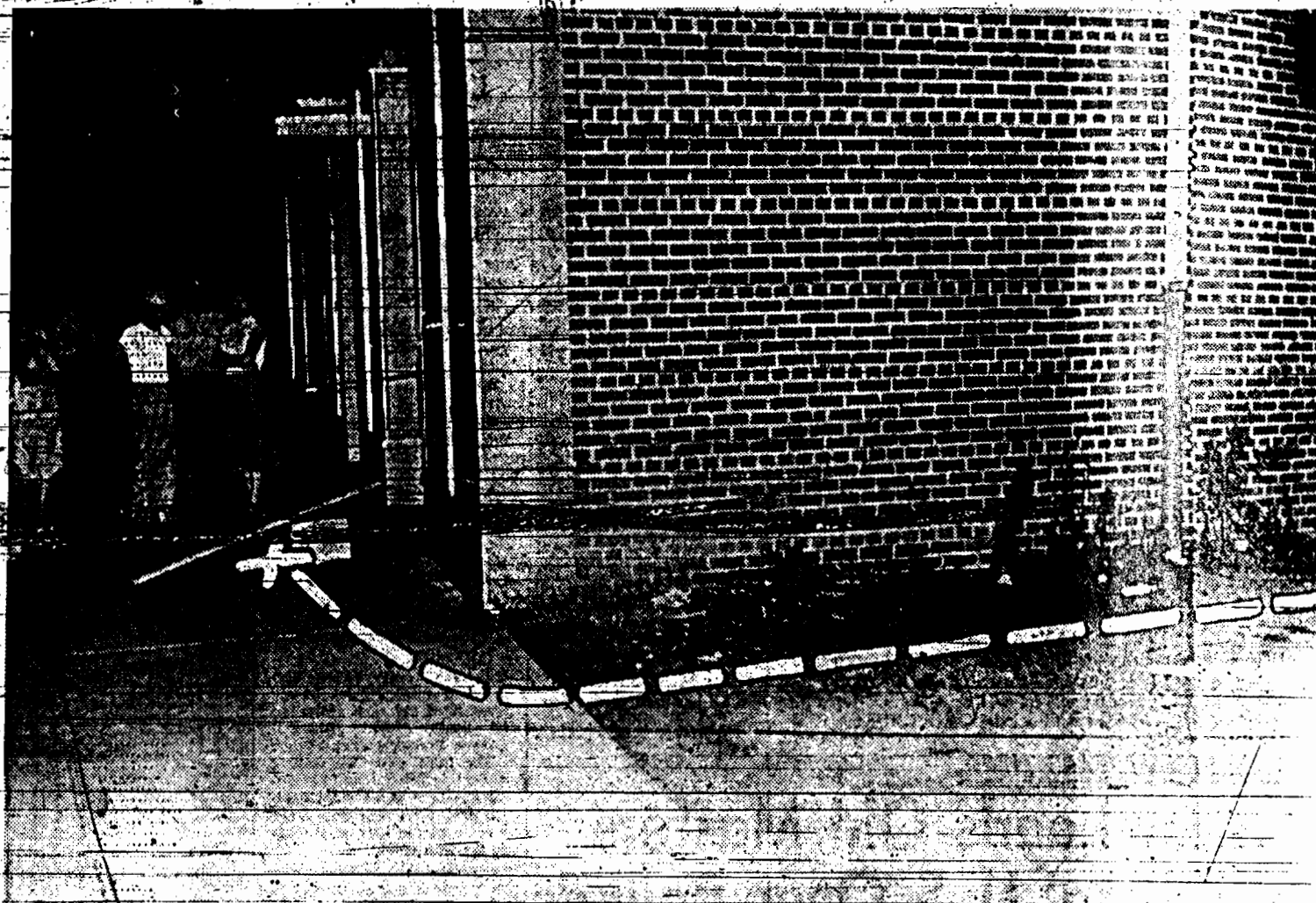
The first move of this kind came on the day the hearings opened when Senator McCarthy charge the whole case was a plot cooked up under the direction of Assistant Defense Secretary Struve Hense. To muddy it up further, the senator charged that Mr. Hensel has possibly violated the law in selling ship supplies to the government during the war, while he was Undersecretary of the Navy.

The committee handled that on by dropping the charges against Mr. Hensel and dismissing him as a principal in the investigation. Senator McCarthy let him go, but he was able to use this side issue effectively as a means to dismiss his own man, Francis Carr.

In an effort to discredit the testimony of Maj.-Gen. Miles Reber on the high-pressure by Roy Cohn to get Dave Schine an Army commission, Senator McCarthy tried to bring in inference that the general's brother, Samuel Reber, had been forced to resign from the State Department as a security risk.

The incident of the now-famous fake 24-page letter from FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, on substitution at Fort Monmouth, N. J.

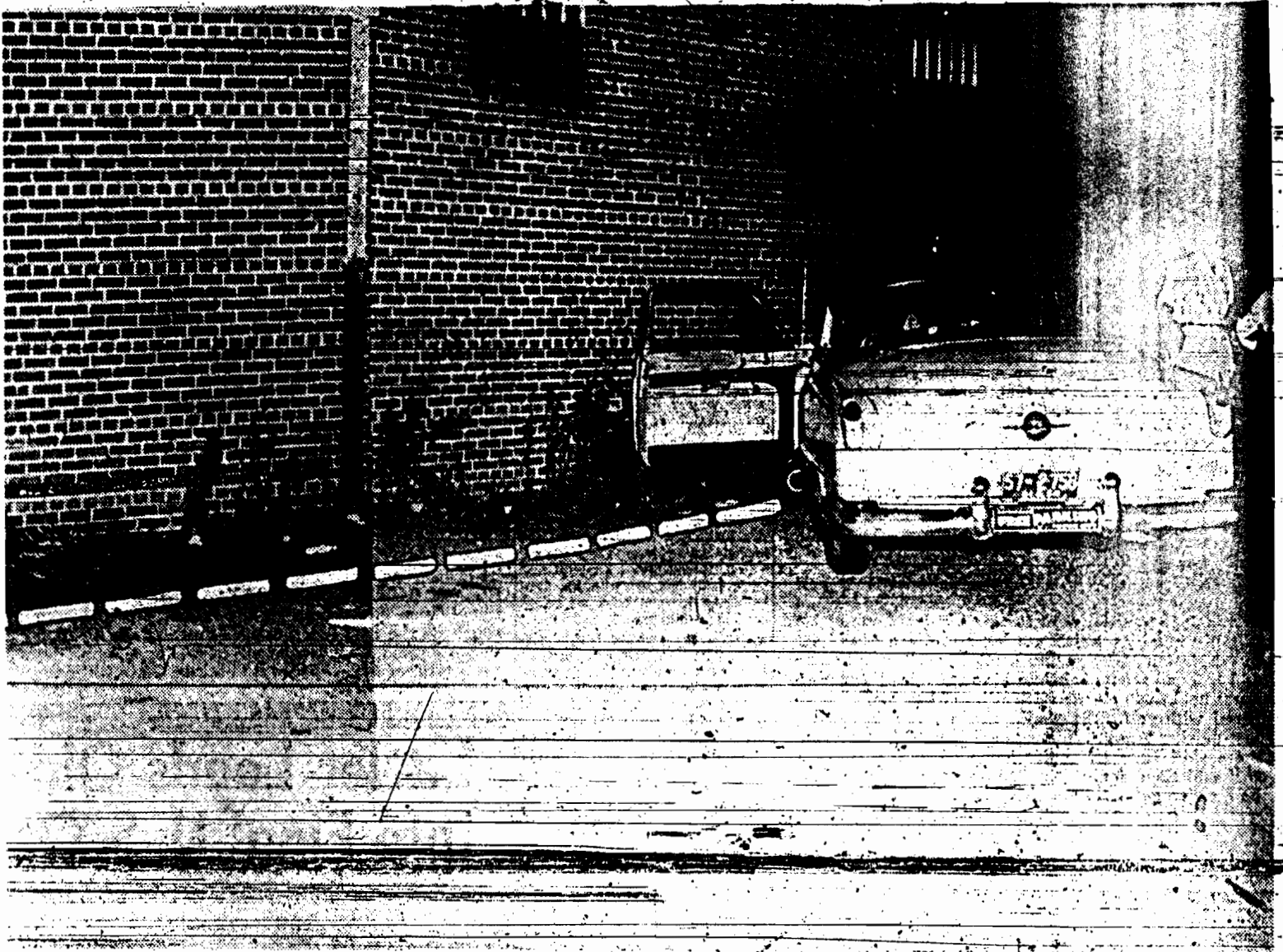
Patterson Killer Believed Seen



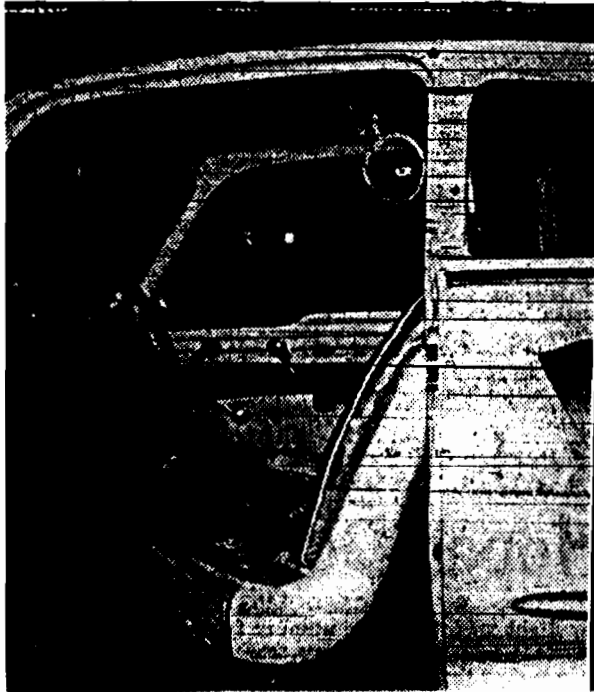
BROKEN LINE SHOWS WHERE PATTERSON WALKED FROM AUTO TO SIDEWALK ALTHOUGH MORTALLY WOUNDED
Democratic Nominee For Attorney General Struggled From Car, Parked At Right, And Walked About 25 Feet To



Believed Seen, Footprint Is Found



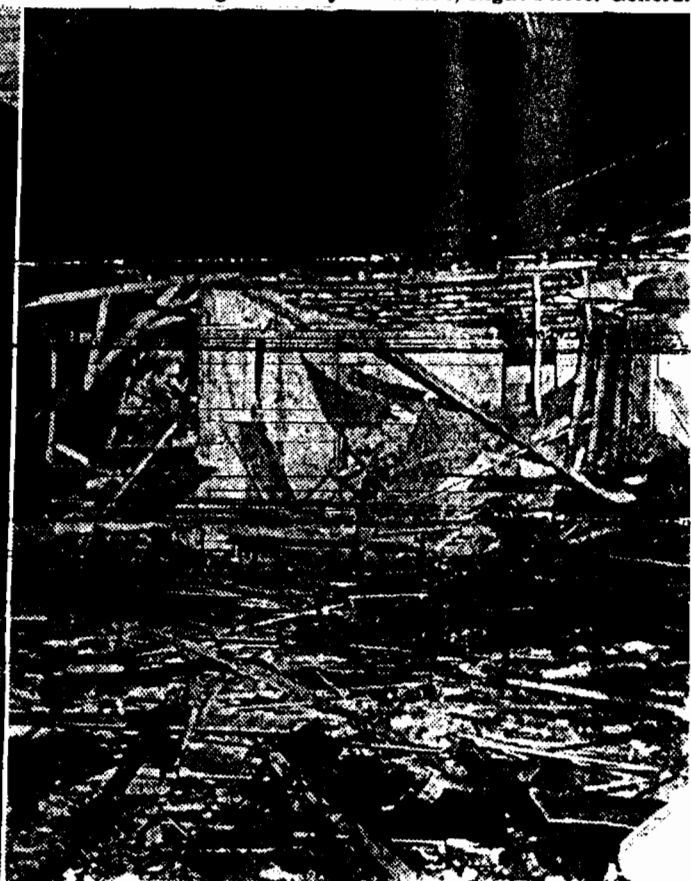
AUTO TO SIDEWALK ALTHOUGH MORTALLY WOUNDED BY TWO BULLETS IN HEAD FROM ASSASSIN'S PISTOL
 on Car, Parked At Right, And Walked About 25 Feet To Sidewalk In Front Of Seymour's Dress Shop Before He Died.



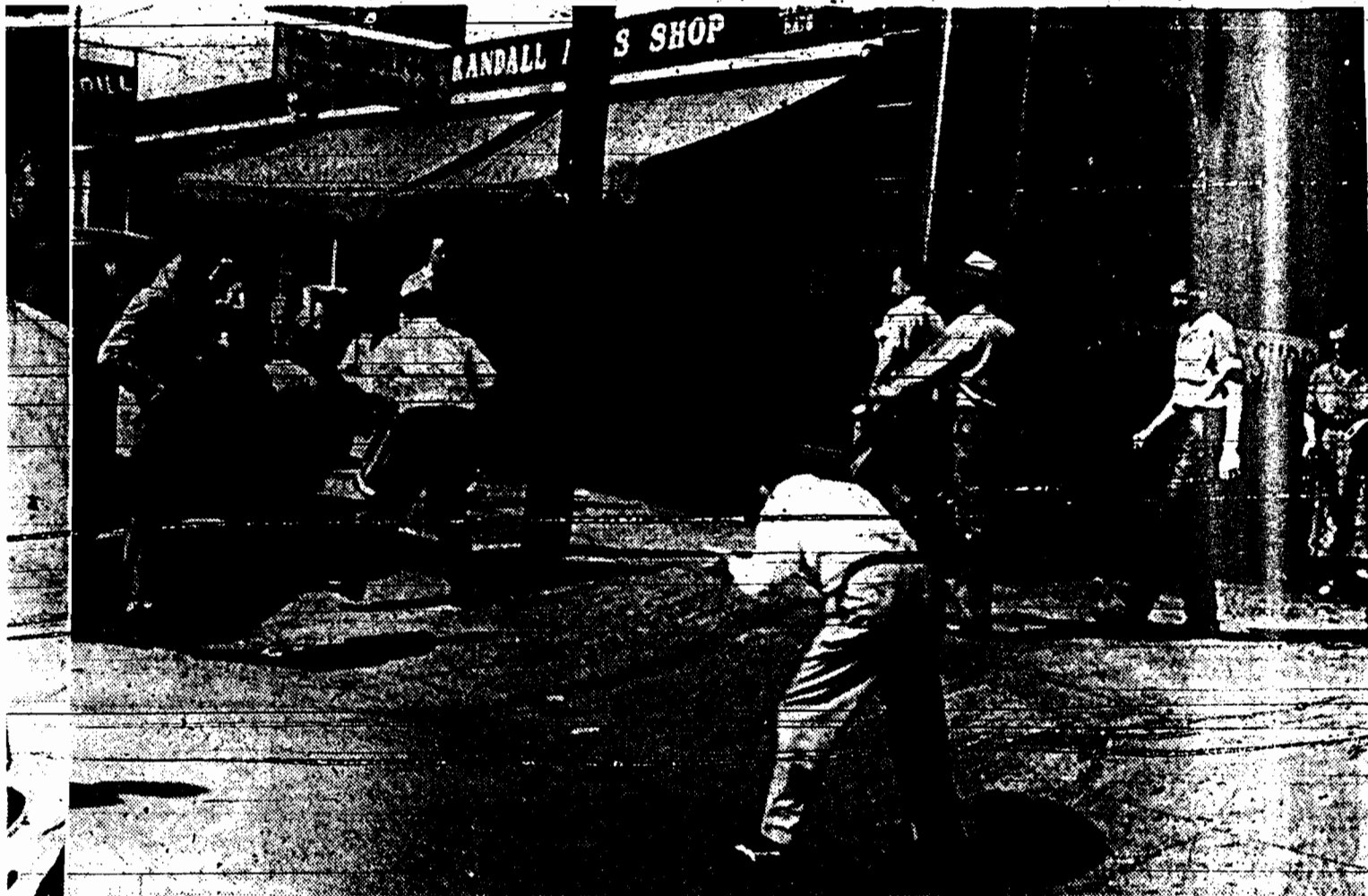
Bombing and Street Fights Mark Phoenix Political



VIOLENCE ERUPTED AGAINST PATTERSON'S RBA ON MAY 7, 1952, AS HOODLUMS ATTACKED ASSOCIAT
Left Photo: Hugh Bentley, His Son Hughbo, Hugh Britton, Show Marks of Violence After Being Beaten by Hoodlums; Right Photo: General



Mark Phoenix Political Scene in Recent Years



MAY 7, 1952, AS HOODLUMS ATTACKED ASSOCIATION LEADERS DURING ELECTION OUTSIDE BOX FIVE. Left Photo: Patterson After Being Beaten by Hoodlums; Right Photo: General View of Fight Scene, Only a Few Yards From Spot Where Patterson Shot to Death.



PATTERSON'S AUTOMOBILE, DESERTED ALLEY SEARCHED BY POLICE OFFICERS FOR CLUES TO SLAYING OF ALABAMA ATTORNEY GENERAL-NOMINEE and Deputy Sheriff Arton Smith at Spot Where Attorney Found. (Center) Arrow Points To Bullet Hole in Window and (Right) Officers Look For Spent Bullet in Alley

Slaying Tops Long List of Phenix City Violence

Sheriff Offers \$500 Reward In Assassination

Phenix City, Ala. (AP)—Phenix City Sheriff H. Ralph Matthews, Jr., today personally offered a \$500 reward for information leading to the capture of A. L. Patterson's assassin.

The sheriff's reward was added to a \$100 reward offered by a caller, who preferred to remain anonymous, last night.

The caller hoped that his contact and information would lead to the assassin's capture.

Matthews said he would place a special bank account.

Garrett Vote Change

On this date the state committee certified the results of the election to the State Democratic Committee last week, the Porter figure was listed as 22,660.

The county committee announced Wednesday that the Porter total had been fraudulently changed and requested that the state committee reduce his total by the 400 votes.

The grand jury was believed to be near the end of its investigation.

Among witnesses it called today were L. A. (Gale) Thompson, chairman of the Jefferson County Board of Registrars, and clerk of the County Democratic Committee, and William C. Brinson, county committee secretary.

County Chairman Lamar Reid has been before the jury at least a half dozen times during the past week.

Robert H. Brown of Opelika, speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives, was the victim of apparent arson in the fall of 1932.

Police Chief Floyd Mann of Opelika said that the burning of Brown's home was connected with the bombing of Bentley's office.

Police Chief Floyd Mann of Opelika said that the burning of Brown's home was connected with the bombing of Bentley's office.

Brown had been employed in July of 1932 by five RBA directors to file impeachment charges against Russell County Sheriff H. Ralph Matthews, Jr.

On Oct. 23, Brown's Opelika home was heavily destroyed by a \$12,000 fire, and the Lee County legislator and his wife were almost trapped in the 1 a.m. blaze.

Investigators said an inflammable material was poured on the front porch of the six-room frame house.

Police Chief Floyd Mann of Opelika said that the burning of Brown's home was connected with the bombing of Bentley's office.

"I believe if we solve either one of these cases," said Mann, "we will find the key to all three. They all seem to fall into a pattern."

On June 15, 1933, the Alabama Supreme Court cleared Matthews of the impeachment charges of willful neglect of duty.

Not all Phenix City violence has been directed at anti-vice crusaders.

Hoyt Shepherd, alleged one-time Phenix City gambling czar, and prominent Russell County political figure, has been the target of several ambushes.

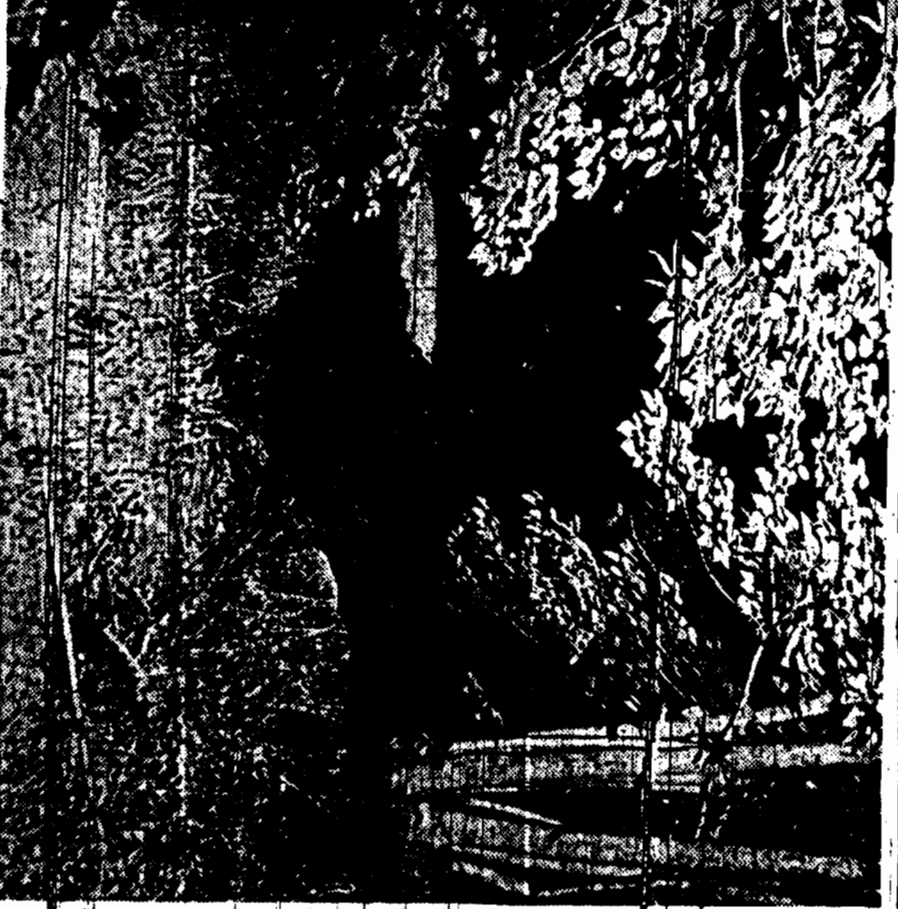
In July of 1947, gunmen pumped eight bullets into Shepherd's club coupe near Smith's Saloon. Three of the shots hit Shepherd, seriously wounding him.

In February of 1949, Shepherd was ambushed in broad daylight within 200 yards of Phenix City's Five Points, when occupants of a speeding car bearing a Georgia tag fired a-burst of shots into Shepherd's slow-moving automobile.

Shepherd effected a jump in the road with causing the shot to miss its mark.

"I don't see how in the hell he missed me," Shepherd said.

Around Christmas of 1949, protesters were chased from Shepherd's yard by watchdogs.



BUSHES NEAR PATTERSON OFFICE THOUGHT ESCAPE PATH Blackness Swallowed Man Seen Leaving Alley (In Background)

In November of 1946, Shepherd and political figure. His brother, Grady N. (Snooks) Shepherd, admitted shooting Leebern, a Columbus liquor dealer born in self-defense. "Snooks" det trial.

was acquitted the following spring on grounds of self-defense. Patterson was among those Shepherd's attorney's during the murder trial.

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ander City, Ala., not far from New Site, where her husband was born and spent his early years.
"We didn't meet until we were both grown. He lived not far away, but distances meant more in those days." Albert Patterson and Agnes Louise Benson were married on July 14, 1917, shortly before he left for Europe with the Infantry, to fight in World War I. During that war, he was shot in the hip, an injury which left him with a permanent limp. The French government awarded him the Croix de Guerre.
All during their married life, Mrs. Patterson was "Skeet" to her husband. She was "Skeet" to their children, too, and to other members of the family.
The Patterson's eldest child, a daughter, Maxine, died in childhood. The next child, John, was born while Patterson was teaching school, before he decided to return to college and entered the University of Alabama.
Was Once Teacher
Patterson's first college years had been at Jacksonville State Teachers College, then came World War I, several years as a teacher and high school principal, then back to college for a degree.
He received his A.B. degree in 1924 from Alabama, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. The next year he entered law school at Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tenn., and received his L.L.B. in 1927.
During the next two years, said Mrs. Patterson, he practiced first in Opelika, then in Alexander City. In 1929, the Pattersons moved to Phenix City.
Maurice Woodrow, 25, the second son, was born in Alexander City. Like his father he is a graduate of the University of Alabama, and now is with Sears-Roebuck in the Columbus store.
Samuel Brewer, 23, the third son also a graduate of Alabama, is with Kinnett Dairies in Columbus; and Jackson Benson (Jack), 15, will be a junior at Central High next year.
The three older sons are all married. John and the late Maxine have two children, Albert L. Patterson, III, four and a half; and Barbara, one year.
One of Patterson's four sisters, Mrs. F. B. Saltsman of LaGrange,

Alabama Must Avenge Murder of Patterson

(Continued from Page 1)

not prepared to entertain for one moment any theory that the murder was anything other than an atrocity perpetrated by organized evil. Mr. Patterson from recent evidences knew that his life was in danger. He had told another crime crusader that "They've put in for me." He had told an organization before which he spoke that he had but one chance of a hundred of ever being sworn in as Attorney General.

And the atmosphere for assassination palpably was there. Evidence introduced in the State Democratic subcommittee investigating alleged fraud in the primary of May 4 bear out that an open, cynical sort of lawlessness has prevailed. He audacity of organized gamblers operating openly under the nose, or before the eyes, of legally constituted law enforcement representatives has been a smelly and ominous omen of murder. Prostitution, petty racketeering, lottery operations—which were so recently condemned by the Russell County Baptist Association—are the stench heralding slayings.

The good people of Phenix City—the overwhelming majority of whom are honest, Godfearing and hardworking—may have no confidence in their local authorities. This has been demonstrated. If they cannot clean up open slot machines and open dice tables, and if no more than one half of the things are true that have come before the primary fraud committee and have been deplored by ministers, the local authorities are recipients of a misplaced trust. They are incompetent, or worse. How can they be depended upon now that an elected representative of all of the people of Alabama has been blown down by pistol fire?

Vigilante law is deplorable. But even more deplorable is the necessity for it. There will be a necessity unless the State acts. Martial law is deplorable. It has been suggested. We favor martial law in this situation, but this is not enough. Let martial law be declared and then let the State move in with all of the power at its command not only to investigate the cruel murder of Albert L. Patterson but to find out why, with no equivocation permitted, the legally constituted local authorities have allowed the atmosphere for murder to be built up. A thorough housecleaning is in order. There should be some resignations, offered in shame and remorse. But they must not be expected. Let the State now move in. This murder is a crime against the State, and it is the atmosphere in which it was committed.

told how her brother grew up on a farm near New Site, one of seven children of Delona and Mary Sorrell Patterson.

His mother, now 88, lives with another daughter, Mrs. W. R. Hamby, in Dadeville.