

Birmingham Post-Herald

Birmingham, Alabama • Thu, Sep 19, 1963

Page 26

Racial Cost:

Children Pay Price So Far...

BY LILLIAN FOSCUE

The city's children thus far have paid the heaviest price of all for the city's racial problems. The score, to date, stands six dead, two seriously injured, and two in jail, charged with murder.

Of immediate concern to society are two white teen-agers, Michael Lee Farley, 16, of 1126 Skyline-dr., and Larry Joe Sims, 16, of 1224 Forestdale-blvd., charged with the pistol slaying of a 15-year-old Negro boy, Virgil Ware of Sandusky.

The two boys, who are known as good boys and good students, had been to a school segregation rally in Midfield Sunday afternoon. They stopped by the National States Rights Party headquarters. Two days before, one had bought a pistol for \$15—an illegal sale—from another boy.

They said they had heard of Negroes throwing rocks in the vicinity of Docens-rd and Sandusky Tower-dr.

The two white boys on a motor scooter approached two Negro boys on a bicycle. Fearful of a rock he thought he saw in the hand of one of the Negro boys, the hand of Larry Sims tightened on the loaded weapon.

The Ware boy was struck twice by two bullets in the jaw and chest. Not a word passed among the four.

At Carraway Methodist Hospital, Dennis Robertson, 16, still struggles for life after he was hit by a brick thrown Sunday by a Negro. After he fell from his motorbike, Dennis was dragged half a block.

A student at Glenn High School, Dennis is the oldest of four children. On week-ends he worked at Farmers Market to earn money for the family's support. His father, Ralph Robertson, has been home only a short time after spending 13 months in a veterans' hospital.

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NEXT PAGE

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Page 26

And at University Hospital 10-year-old Sarah Collins, whose sister, Addie Mae lost her life in the city's most recent bombing, may lose her eye sight from the same disaster.

Glass splintered by the force of the dynamite explosion at Sixteenth Street Baptist Church cut Sarah's eyes. Doctors said the full extent of the eye damage is still not certain.

Four of the dead children were Negro girls killed in the bomb blast Sunday.

None of these children had been participants in any of the city's racial demonstrations.

Carole Rosamond Robertson, 14, was the daughter of school teacher parents, leaders in the community and active in civic affairs. Her grandmother, Mrs. John H. Anderson Sr., is serving the city as a member of the Community Affairs Committee, particularly trying to work out school problems.

Cynthia Wesley, 14, was a member of the Intermediate Sunday school class, the Youth Choir and the Youth Usher Board. She attended Ullman High School and was a good student. Her father, Claude Wesley, is a school principal and her mother teaches school. Both are considered good citizens.

Carol Denise McNair was the only child of teacher parents. Her father, Christopher McNair, also is a commercial photographer. Twelve years old, she was in the seventh grade at Center School, a leader among the children and a student of promise.

Addie Mae Collins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Collins was the seventh of eight living children. She was in the eighth grade at Brunetta C. Hill School and a faithful member of her Sunday school class and the youth choir.

Also victim of the city's racial struggle were Johnnie Robinson, 18, of 622 28th-st. n, Negro youth who ran when police ordered him to stop and was fatally shot by police.

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