

NEGRO ORGANIST ARSONIST VICTIM

A PRE-DAWN ARSONIST invaded the \$50,000 Los Angeles suburb home of entertainer Quinin Williams recently and caused damage estimated at \$10,000. Williams, 35, is well-known in Las Vegas. The popular organist-pianist was a featured attraction at Ruben's Supper Club last winter and spring.

Seven persons, including a 14-month-old baby, escaped unharmed as flames roared through a lower level "family room" and up a narrow stairway into the main part of the luxurious home in the View Park section of Baldwin Hills.

Williams and his wife, Leola, a social worker for the Los Angeles county board of public assistance, alerted their son, Joseph, 21, who was asleep in a bedroom adjacent to where the fire started, after being awakened by their daughter, Mrs. Sylvia McLinn, who discovered the fire.

Mrs. McLinn, a recent bride, said she heard someone prowling around the downstairs patio and was met by a tongue of flame leaping up the stairway from the lower level when she investigated the noise.

After being aroused by Mrs. McLinn, the Williams went down an outside stairway and rescued their son by breaking a window in his room. Others assisted from the burning structure were another daughter, Mrs. Bernard Parks, her husband, and their infant child.

The Williams have lived in the predominantly white hillside community for about a year and a half. They said there had been no trouble prior to the fire.

However, their next-door neighbor, the Rev. Henry Grant, pastor of Grant AME Church, told them he had received three or four threatening phone calls from anonymous persons in recent months warning, "You're not wanted here."

Damage to the Williams home included destruction of carpeting, draperies, antiques, expensive art objects, a piano and hundreds of irreplaceable personal items.

Sheriff's deputies and county fire officials began an immediate investigation of various clues uncovered at the scene.



ARSON VICTIMS--Entertainer Quinin Williams and his wife, Leola, stare in bitter sadness at damage to their Southern California home caused by arsonist. Los Angeles Eagle photographer took picture from stairway up which flames soared after starting in lower level room of \$50,000 hillside residence. Loss amounted to \$10,000 and many irreplaceable personal items. (See story left)

(LEAGUE, from page 1)
Las Vegas Township Constable and possible additional candidates for the State Assembly from District No. 2.

Candidates can arrange for interviews with the league's executive committee on weekday nights according to league officials.

Two Assembly candidates made strong appeals for Voters League support at last Friday's meeting. Austin Bowler said he felt state legislation is necessary to implement the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 and pledged himself to work for such legislation because "I feel that the Negro is entitled to the same rights I want for myself." Joe Julian called attention to the fact that he had received league endorsement in two previous campaigns and was ready to work for the best interests of the colored community if elected. Both are Democrats.

Ralph Denton, already endorsed by the league for Nevada's lone seat in the United States House of Representatives, attended last week's meeting and thanked the league for its support. Questioned about his previous contacts with a person not necessarily representative of Negro leadership in the community, Denton said he had been misinformed and misled, but was now thoroughly familiar with the true situation and would act accordingly.

AFTER CALLING the meeting to order, league president Charles Kellar spelled out the "ground rules" for selection of candidates for endorsement as follows:

1. A candidate not only must be qualified,

but "able to win" while taking a strong stand for civil rights.

2. A candidate's "past performances" in regard to minority rights and representation should be seriously considered, but in view of the changed climate in the country's socio-political atmosphere, any sincere "change of heart" should be carefully noted and properly weighed.

3. A candidate must show evidence of adequate financial backing and a well-organized campaign designed to win.

In regard to the latter point, league endorsee coordinator Jim Anderson suggested that it would be advisable for the league to make certain through proper investigation that no endorsee was beholden to persons or forces detrimental to the best interests of the Negro community through the acceptance of campaign funds.

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