

# This Week in History

## JULY 8

1914- William Clarence Eckstine is born in Pittsburgh, Pa. Getting his musical start as a singer with Earl "fatha" Hines and with his own bop big band that will include Art Blakey, Gene Ammons, and others, Eckstine will settle on a career as a solo singer, where he will achieve widespread admiration.

1943- Faye Wattleton is born in Saint Louis, Mo. She will become the president of Planned Parent Federation of America in 1978 and be known for almost 14 years as an outspoken champion of women's reproductive rights. She will leave Planned Parent Federation in 1992 to develop her own talk show devoted to discussions of women's issues.

1966- John H. Johnson wins the Spingarn medal for his "contributions to the enhancement of the Negro's self-image" through his publications including *Negro Digest*, *Ebony*, and *Jet* magazines, and books such as *Before the Mayflower*, written by historian Lerone Bennett, Jr.

## JULY 9

1901- Jester Hairston is born in Homestead, Pa. Although known for his roles in Television's *Amos 'n' Andy* and *Amen*, Hairston will excel as a musician, first with the Eva Jessye Choir and later as assistant conductor of the Hall Johnson Choir. He will also arrange choral music for more than 40 film soundtracks.

1936- June Jordan is born in Harlem. She will become a poet and author of books for children and young adults and will be nominated for the National Book Award in 1972 for *His Own Where*.

1955- E. Frederick Morrow is appointed an administrative aide to president Dwight D. Eisenhower. He is the first African-American to hold an executive position on a White House staff.

1971- Clergyman and activist Leon H. Sullivan is awarded the NAACP's Spingarn Medal for his achievements in transmitting "the social gospel into economic progress for his people."

## JULY 10

1875- Mary McLeod Bethune is born in Mayesville, S.C. She will become a noted educator and founder of Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute in Daytona Beach, FL., in 1904 (now Bethune-Cookman College). In 1935, she will also found the National Council of Negro Women.

1893- Dr. Daniel Hale Williams performs the world's first open-heart surgery at Provident Hospital in Chicago, Ill., when he sutures the pericardium of a stabbing victim.

1941- Ferdinand "Jelly Roll" Morton dies in Los Angeles, California. The innovative piano soloist, composer, and arranger claimed to have invented jazz and made a series of recordings for the Library of Congress that immortalized his style. Fifty years after his death, playwright George C. Wolfe presents a well-regarded play on Morton's life, *Jelly's Last Jam*.

1966- Martin Luther King, Jr. begins a Chicago campaign for fair housing. It is his first foray into a northern city for desegregation activities.

## JULY 11

1905- Niagara Movement meetings begin in Buffalo, N.Y. Started by 29 black intellectuals including W.E.B. Du Bois, the Niagara Movement will renounce Booker T. Washington's accommodation policies set forth in his famed "Atlanta Compromise" speech ten years earlier. The Niagara Movement's manifesto is, in the words of Du Bois, "We want full manhood suffrage and we want it now.... We are men! We want to be treated as men. And we shall win." The movement will be a forerunner for the NAACP.

1915- Mifflin Wistar Gibbs, a multitalented lawyer, politician, and entrepreneur, dies in Little Rock, Ark. Active in the Underground Railroad, he worked with Frederick Douglas and after success as a clothing retailer, became the publisher and editor of *Mirror of the Times*, the first African-American newspaper in California. The first African-American elected a municipal judge, Gibbs was also active in Republican politics, serving as a delegate to national conventions and as U.S. consul to Madagascar.

1958- Daisy Bates and the Little Rock Nine, African-American youths who desegregated Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., receive the Spingarn medal for "heroism and pioneering roles in holding the basic ideals of American democracy in the face of continuing harrassment and constant

(See History, Page 14)

# Reconstructing

(Continued from Page 1)  
this but it's very sad."

Once the shootings began, it took just 17 minutes before he struck again.

This time it was fatal.

The scene was a tranquil tree-lined street in north suburban Skokie, where Ricky Byrdson, a 43-year-old former Northwestern University basketball coach, had been walking with his son and daughter, about a block from their home.

Police say at least seven shots were fired at Byrdson; he was hit once in the back and died in surgery hours later. His children were not hurt.

The final shots that evening came at 9:20 p.m. in the northern suburb of Northbrook, about 15 miles from where the men were attacked outside the synagogue. This time, police say, an Asian-American couple honked their car horn at a slow-moving light blue Taurus in front of them.

Four shots were fired, but no one was injured.

On Saturday, Chicago police began piecing together the shootings with ballistic reports.

Police said the shooter had .22-caliber and .380-caliber semiautomatics; they said at least 32 bullets and shells were recovered, but perhaps as many as 50 shots were fired — all within one hour.

By Saturday, mourners were coming to the Byrdson home; a makeshift memorial of flowers, cards and teddy bears was forming at the shooting scene.

By then, the gunman had moved on.

On Saturday, there were more ominous reports of a man in a blue Taurus taking aim at black men walking down the street.

This time, the scene was 175 miles south of Chicago, in the state capital, Springfield.

Three black men reported being shot at in two separate instances. One was hit in the buttocks; the others weren't injured.

Less than two hours later, 35 miles away, a black minister in Decatur was shot in the arm and the hip, and investigators believe it was the same gunman.

Shortly before midnight, another 50 miles away, a gunman pulled up to six Asian-American men standing or a corner near the University of Illinois campus and fired three or four shots,

*"I'm glad it's over, I don't know what caused this but it's very sad."*

— Sheriff Gerald L. Benjamin

according to police. A 22-year-old graduate student of Taiwanese descent was hit in the leg.

The gunman moved on again — this time, apparently, crossing state lines.

It was a steamy July Fourth and the minister of the Korean United Methodist Church was preparing for Sunday Sabbath services in Bloomington, Ind.

"I heard bang, bang, bang, bang," Byungchill Hahn recalled with tear-filled eyes. "I thought it was a firecracker with the Fourth of July."

It was not.

The minister ran out to find Won-Joon Yoon, a 26-year-old doctoral student in economics, collapsing on the sidewalk.

By then, authorities knew the name of their suspect.

It was Benjamin Nathaniel Smith, a young man who had been a member of the World Church of the Creator, a white

supremacist organization in Illinois.

Smith — who sometimes liked to use the first name "August" because he thought Benjamin sounded too Jewish — attended the prestigious New Trier High School. His father and mother — a doctor and a real estate agent — now live in Northfield in a home with a tennis court and swimming pool.

Smith had a troubled past: While attending the University of Illinois, records show he was reprimanded for pot possession; he also put up racist posters and allegedly was peeping into windows and carrying weapons.

Police said he distributed white supremacist leaflets around the school, Chicago's North Shore, where his family lives, and Indiana University in Bloomington, which he attended as a criminal justice major after leaving Illinois.

In fact, he had tucked fliers on car windshields on

Bloomington last year.

The date?

The Fourth of July.

It was late Sunday, the end of a weekend of terror.

A minivan had been carjacked at a truckstop in southern Illinois, police said, by a man who resembled Smith.

A deputy spotted the vehicle. Soon, the chase was on.

Smith shot himself three times, the last two while struggling with deputies after he crashed into a small building.

The questions of how and why this happened have just begun, but others already see a message in this tragedy.

Harlan Loeb, Midwest counsel for the Anti-Defamation League, which has monitored Smith for more than a year, said this incident demonstrates the power of a hateful message.

"His rhetoric was fairly inflammatory, but until this episode, it was substantially rhetoric," he said.

"What it tells you is the consequences of words can be fairly significant, the consequences of hate ... can be very, very destructive."

# GREAT PRICES ON ALL BRANDS

<p><b>Marlboro International</b></p> <p>From <b>\$17<sup>50</sup></b> per carton</p>	<p><b>Smokin' Joes/ Lewiston</b></p> <p><b>\$12<sup>35</sup></b> per carton</p>
<p><b>USA</b></p> <p>From <b>\$12<sup>85</sup></b> per carton</p>	<p><b>Camel International</b></p> <p>From <b>\$17<sup>50</sup></b> per carton</p>

**PRICES INCLUDE TAX**

WE ACCEPT MASTERCARD, VISA AND DISCOVER.  
SHIPMENTS ARRIVING DAILY. RAIN CHECKS GIVEN.  
Prices subject to change.

**366-1101**

**DOWNTOWN SHOP**  
1225 North Main Street  
Hours: Monday - Saturday 7 am to 8 pm,  
Sunday 8 am to 7 pm, Drive-thru 9 am to 6 pm Daily

**SNOW MOUNTAIN SHOP**  
US 95 North at the Snow Mountain Exit  
Hours: 7 am to 8 pm Daily