

Fistfights result from protest march

500 activists protest hanging

United Press International
MONROE, Ga. — Fistfights erupted and hundreds of angry blacks and Ku Klux Klansmen shouted racial insults at each other over a human barrier of state troopers Saturday before 500 civil rights activists marched arm-in-arm into Monroe to protest the hanging death of a black soldier.

Two blacks and two whites were arrested during the march, and police said four handguns and a shotgun were taken from the men, one of whom also was charged with assaulting a police officer. No injuries were reported.

Veteran civil rights leader Ralph Abernathy and Georgia state Rep. Tyrone Brooks led about 500 chanting and singing blacks and whites, arms linked, down Monroe's main street to the tiny courthouse square, where they were greeted by about 1,500 blacks and 500

Klansmen.

About 100 state troopers, some wearing bulletproof vests, kept the groups well separated after a fistfight broke out in the afternoon, but the officers just stood by rigidly as Klansmen loudly chanted "damn niggers" and were answered by blacks trying to shout them with "fired up, we're fired up."

Armed officers also were stationed on roofs of buildings surrounding the square and plainclothes officers roamed the crowd trying to spot potential trouble. No other incidents were reported by nightfall.

The 11-mile march from Social Circle, Ga., to Monroe was called to protest the death of Pvt. Lyn Jackson, whose body was found hanging 20 feet off the ground from a tree in Social Circle. A racially-mixed coroner's jury ruled Tuesday that Jackson had hanged himself. Many blacks believe he was murdered

and are demanding a federal investigation.

The blacks have said they do not necessarily believe race was an issue in Jackson's death, but contend that authorities are treating the case lightly because he is black.

"We're not afraid today, and we're not going to take it anymore," Abernathy, former president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, shouted as the Klan gathering tried to drown him out with chants of "white power, white power."

Abernathy, charging that there were no limbs for Jackson to climb and insisting that he was killed, said he would go to Washington and personally ask President Reagan to call a federal grand jury to investigate the death of Jackson.

One of several fistfights occurred when two blacks tried to enter a business place called

"Monroe Fun and Games" several hours before the marchers arrived.

Whites blocked the doorway, and when the blacks neared, fists started flying. Almost instantly, about 20 highway patrolmen, who were apparently stationed out of sight behind the county courthouse, waded into the throng and broke up the fight.

About 300 marchers began the 11-mile trek from Social Circle at 12:30 p.m., where about 150 Klansmen, their wives and children gave them a loud and

raucous send-off of racial taunts.

Singing "Ain't Nobody Gonna Turn Me 'round," a civil rights movement song, the marchers entered the cotton mill town of Monroe 500 strong,

having picked up people along the way. The crowd in Monroe, too, had grown, so that when the marchers arrived there was a total of about 2,000 blacks and about 500 whites.

Four young whites carried a huge Confederate flag and circled the red brick courthouse.

Hotel room honored for earlier Capitol idea

United Press International
BATON ROUGE — A hotel room that 50 years ago was briefly declared the state Capitol has been located by historians and will receive that official designation at a special anniversary celebration.

"This charming bit of Louisiana history deserves some kind of mention," Gino Starita, manager of the Capitol House Hotel, said. "We will give it the honor it deserves."

Historians determined Room 443 of the structure was the place from which Lt. Gov. Paul Cyr sought to run the state during a feud with Gov. Huey Long in 1932.

The ceremonies Wednesday,

however, will not be held in the room but downstairs in the hotel bar. Starita said Gov. Dave Treen, Lt. Gov. Bobby Freeman, Senate President Michael O'Keefe and other state officials had been invited, along with any history buffs who want to attend.

In late January 1932, Cyr charged that Long had vacated the office of governor by taking the oath of office as a U.S. senator. Cyr had himself sworn in as chief executive.

Long in turn charged Cyr had vacated the office of lieutenant governor and had the president of the Senate, Alvin O. King, sworn in as acting governor. Cyr tried to occupy the governor's

office in the Capitol but Long had it ringed with state police and militia.

As an alternative, Cyr registered at the Heidelberg Hotel — as the Capitol House was then known — and declared it the new seat of government. He called King the head of insurrectionary forces who had seized the office of governor by force.

The result of all this squabbling was that King continued to serve as acting governor for several months until a new one picked by Long — O.K. Allen — was elected.

Cyr was evicted by the Heidelberg management after two days, moved to another hotel and soon went back to his home in Jeanerette.

Parton cancels appearances to have emergency surgery

United Press International
NEW YORK — Singing star Dolly Parton has canceled her appearances for the next four to six weeks because of emergency gynecological surgery, a spokeswoman said Saturday.

The spokeswoman said Parton's physician insisted on "complete rest away from work and other strenuous chores for at least four to six weeks."

The nature of the operation was not disclosed. Parton could not immediately be reached for comment.

The spokeswoman said a further examination will be made later to decide when Parton can resume her professional commitments.

The cancellations include appearances at the Houston Livestock Show, the Holiday Star Theater in Merrillville,

Ind., and the Front Row Theatre in Cleveland. Parton starred in the recent movie hit, "9 to 5".

JAZZERCISE

A New session of Jazzercise will be starting in College Station on February 23. Jazzercise is a unique way of body conditioning using joyful jazz dance movements and swinging music. Each class works through a warm-up period, peak performance, then cool-down. Classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5-5:45 p.m. or 6-6:45 p.m. Registration can be completed by calling instructor, Cindy, at 693-1309, after 5 p.m. please, or students can register in class. Classes are held at the Unitarian Fellowship, 305 Wellborn Rd., and each 4 week session, 2 classes per week, is \$15.

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SUMMER JOBS

INTERVIEWS WITH CAMP OWNERS AND DIRECTORS ON
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