

WILLIAM B. HUIE, 76, SOUTHERN AUTHOR

Several Works Chronicled Era of Civil Rights Movement

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HARTSELLE, Ala., Nov. 22 — William Bradford Huie, who wrote a series of books about the South of the civil rights era as well as "The Execution of Private Slovik," whose setting was World War II, died Saturday, apparently of a heart attack, at his office in Guntersville. He was 76 years old.

Mr. Huie was a newspaperman in Birmingham; editor of *The American Mercury*, a literary magazine, and a chronicler of the violence and trauma in the South of the 1960's.

Through his books and articles, Mr. Huie became known as the archfoe of Gov. George C. Wallace, then one of the nation's staunchest segregationists. Mr. Wallace, reached at the Governor's mansion in Montgomery Saturday night, said he hoped Mr. Huie, whom he called "a writer of note to some people," had not suffered.

Of Southern Violence

Mr. Huie gathered material for "The Klansman" in his native Alabama, and the work, like many of his books, was later made into a film. In Tennessee he gathered evidence for "He Slew the Dream," the story of James Earl Ray, who assassinated the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis in 1968.

Mr. Huie went into Mississippi to gather information for "Three Lives for Mississippi," about the murders of three young people who went to the state to help end segregation.

Two novels, "The Revolt of Mamie Stover" and "The Americanization of Emily," were international best sellers.

Mr. Huie completed "The Execution of Private Slovik" after extensive research of Army records that were denied to him for many years. Slovik, the only American soldier to suffer military capital punishment for desertion in this century, was shot on Jan. 31, 1945. The book, published in 1954 was made into a television movie.

Often a Target Himself

An early Huie work was "Mud on the Stars," an account of a Tennessee family forced by a new Federal project, the Tennessee Valley Authority, to vacate a homestead.

In the 1960's Mr. Huie was often the target of harassment, including cross-burnings on the lawn of his home here. He later built a thick brick wall, for protection, he said.

Mr. Huie had residences here, in



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William Bradford Huie

Guntersville and in Scottsboro. He is survived by his wife, the former Martha Hunt, his mother, Lois Brindley Huie of Falkville, a brother, Norman Jack Huie of San Clemente, Calif., and a sister, Wilda Huie Mitchell of Atlanta.