

New Jersey Klan Takes Tough Line

By Larry Jackson

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TRENTON, N.J., March 16. —The Ku Klux Klan apparently is undergoing a resurgence in central New Jersey, and Klan members predict that more militant activities—“including tar and feathering”—will begin soon.

The Klansmen, who spoke out after a wave of cross-burnings in suburban Mercer County, said their activities will include violence “if people don’t wake up.”

One of the Klansmen, who agreed to an interview providing they would not be identified, said the group doesn’t intend to run afoul of the law “because we’ll be receiving more cooperation from the police than people realize.

“The cops will look the other way,” he replied when asked to elaborate. “They’ll be glad to.”

He also contended that more than half of the police force in a coastal city slated for Klan activity “are friendly to the Klan.”

“Splinter Groups”

The Klansmen contend there are six Klaverns made up of more than 1,000 members in New Jersey. Not all members condone violence, he said. “We have secret splinter groups working within the Klaverns,” said one. “Not even all the people in those groups know who the other members are.”

The Klansmen said they felt the only hope America has in restoring law and order may rest in the Klan presenting “a united front.” They chided their counterparts in other states for not being aggressive enough.

“The time for diplomacy is over,” one said.

The Klansmen said Hightstown, a small Trenton-area community, was chosen for at least nine cross-burnings earlier this year to give the Klan impetus to become a statewide organization.

The Klansmen said they used Hightstown Police Chief Lawrence Archer’s about-face on the use of police dogs in the town’s black community as an excuse to begin burning crosses “as a warning to the community that there are people around who care about law and order.”

Black Protest

Archer had ordered K-9 dogs withdrawn from patrols after Hightstown blacks protested.

Police patrols in the mile-square borough were increased after the burnings and “it really bothered people,” one Klansman said. “It’s easier to beat the hell out of someone on the street than it is to burn crosses in the center of town.”

Three men have been charged with five of the Hightstown burnings, a misdemeanor. Paul Woldanski of Robbinsville, Louis Martz of Hamilton and George Hupfl of West Amwell are free on \$5,000 bail.