

10 Members of Splinter Klan Charged With Rally Slaying

By Jack Bass

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SUMTER, S.C., Sept. 17—In the wake of the killing of a man at a Ku Klux Klan rally near here Sunday night, Grand Dragon Robert E. Scoggin was arrested today. He and nine other members of a splinter Klan group organized by Scoggin were charged with conspiracy to commit robbery and accessory after the fact of murder.

The arrest developed from a clash near here Sunday night between Scoggin's Klan organization, the Invisible Empire of the Ku Klux Klan, realm of South Carolina, and the rival United Klans of America.

Scoggins lost his position as UKA Grand Dragon in the state while serving a federal prison sentence for contempt of Congress. The Imperial Wizard of the UKA is Robert

Shelton of Alabama, who also served a contempt sentence. Scoggin became embroiled in a struggle for Klan leadership in South Carolina after his release from prison in January. He was succeeded as Grand Dragon by Harry Gilliam, a neighbor in Spartanburg.

Willie L. Odom, 50, who operated a small grocery store here, was shot and killed Sunday night while leaving the Klan rally.

Sumter County Sheriff I. Byrd Parnell said it was the first time there had been any trouble with the Klan in the county in the 18 years since he became sheriff.

In addition to Scoggin, others charged in the warrants were Glenn Cook, James Howard Kniphfer and Raymond Scott of Aiken, Charles L. Murphy of Enoree, Walter Elrod of Williamston, Preston

Cox and Joe Turner of Florence, G. E. Pritchard of Laurens and Carl N. Wildes of Andrews.

By late today Scoggin, Kniphfer, Cox, Turner, Wildes, Murphy and Elrod had been arrested.

According to Sheriff Parnell, who attended the Sunday night rally at the Sumter raceway, members of the host Klan's security guard attempted to take away a tape recorder from Walter B. (Red) Brown of Sumter, a member of the rival UKA, and shooting broke out.

The warrants charged that the Klansmen beat Brown around the face and body attacked Odom's car, allowed the escape of Odom's assailant by refusing to reveal his name, and that they left the scene against the order of the sheriff.