

Riot Breaks Loose After Robeson Sings

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102 McDonald St., Brooklyn, who drove trailer trucks in the Army, was the first to volunteer—and rammed his 45-passenger bus into the side of a shiny, green 29-75 Cadillac owned by a Pittsburgh newspaper reporter. Smith said the yelling by the cops and crowd had confused him.

Another car, driven on Galloway Hill Road, went out of control and ran into a tree in an open lot, impaling two of its six passengers. Louis Deale, 43, the driver, of Greenwich, Conn., and Samuel Gruener, 42, of Stamford, were taken to Peckskill Hospital with cuts on the face.

The crowd later overturned their car.

Hangs on Tree Limb.

Also on the reported casualty list were Trooper Michael Murray of Troop G, Troy, the cop knocked out by the rock; Peckskill Patrollers Eric Goldbart, cut on the arm, and George L. Anderson, hit on the foot with a rock. Gerald Hahn, 29, of Peekskill, a spectator, was struck but not seriously injured by a car.

At least eight cars were overturned, but it was not known whether the occupants were injured.

One spectator cut his wrist badly when he failed to get go of the rock in his hand, and plunged his whole arm through the window of a car. An unidentified Negro in Army uniform was knocked down so he entered the concert area, and got on the check.

The set charged with carrying a concealed weapon was identified as Robert Lenz, Jr., a Peekskill salesman, who said he had served in the Army in this country for a year before obtaining a medical discharge. Lenz told the press:

"I am a 100% American. I fought for my country and will fight again. If the Reds come on here again, we'll take them on again."

D.A. Pleads for Order.

Lenz admitted he had threatened the line of Robesonites, explaining, "I had my eye on a big fat Com-
munist." He invited the men out, Lenz said, but the Robesonites declined the challenge.

By portable loudspeaker, Westchester District Attorney George M. Fanelli appealed to the angry, pelting crowd to disperse, but was ignored. As he talked, a group of Robesonites late-comers entered the barricaded area, and sticks and stones were thrown at them. The aim of the vets or spectators, however, was very bad, and no one was hit.

"Give me a hand," Fanelli vainly pleaded. "I am responsible. You have a good day. Don't wear it."

The D.A., circled by six troopers, was ignored as the Robesonites tried to escape. Besides the stonings, one of their cars was seized by veterans and spectators and rocked back and forth.

Police Halt Hudson Swim

It could be that Natalie Harris, 26, 5 feet 2 and 130 pounds, of 271 North Ave., New Rochelle, had been reading too much about the Channel swim across the English Channel shortly after 12:30 P.M. yesterday.

Natalie, who said her husband is Dr. Sidney L. Harris, a patient at Kingsbridge Veterans Hospital, Bronx, removed her sunny clothing and dove gracefully into the river at 16th St.

Earlier our patrollers Edward Rooney and Murray Werner saw her dive, raced to the 29th St. yacht basin and commanded a motorboat. They spotted the woman halfway across. When they reached her and pulled her into the boat, she was on the verge of exhaustion. Mrs. Harris was taken to Bellevue Hospital for observation.

From 25 Westchester communities, 28 parkway police, 50 deputy sheriffs, 30 members of the sheriff's emergency force and 250 state troopers under the personal command of Capt. John A. Gaffney.

Chaos, Shells Loosed.

After being sworn in as deputies at the county hall eastward at East View—with instructions to be courteous and not use force unless "absolutely necessary"—the special cops were transported to the scene by motor cavalcade. Clinton and several munitions were issued to those who requested it.

Under the elaborate anti-clot arrangements, more than a score of cops were posted at Peckskill Railroad Station, and parking there was prohibited.

In fact, the police arrangements practically stole the show from the veterans and Robesonites. A full-dress command post was set up opposite the concert bowl, about four miles east of Peekskill, for Superintendent Gaffney, Sheriff Fred W. Kerner, District Attorney Fanelli and five assistant DAs.

Double Line of Law.

Several radio cars, a state police mobile radio bureau and field office were at the command post; overhead a police helicopter maintained radio liaison with the Riot Co.

The scene of the concert, wood-green Hollow Brook County Club,



State troopers line roads adjacent to the old Hollow Brook golf links, where Robeson concert was staged.

is an egg-shaped, 12-acre natural bowl, about 600 yards long and 300 yards wide. The main thoroughfare, a Hillside Ave., a two-lane concrete highway, runs along the club's boundary; the only exit is at Red Mill Road and Hillside Ave.

Besides the command post, eight subposts were strong through the area, and the cops, in all kinds of local uniforms, were put in double lines on both sides of Hillside Ave. for a half mile on either side of the entrance to the concert bowl.

At Oregon Corners, where the vets massed, there were many troopers; a mile west, at Hillside and Locust Aves., 25 more doubled traffic.

Cops Stop 300 Bats.

The veterans—some in wartime uniforms, some wearing their organizations' overseas caps, still others in the blue American Legion uniform—seemed to gather more slowly than the music lovers.

Before 11 A. M., about 2,000 persons had assembled in the concert area, and sometime later, the Robesonites strung a defense line, two deep, all around the bowl, about 50 feet back from the road.

Cops were all over the area, but not inside the bowl, predictably tidyng up the scene. They removed several piles of small stones and a number of wooden clubs near the concert scene. When a group of concert-goers showed up with 300 baseball bats, the police hastily stopped them.

"We've got 2,000 people here," one of the newsmen said deadpan, "and we're going to play ball."

Surrender Clubs.

However, a man wearing the uniform of an infantry second lieutenant, who was identified as Leon Staggs, international vice president of the CIO Fur & Lea-

ther Workers Union, promised to surrender the sporting equipment.

At 1:20 P. M., the first unit of the veterans' parade, led by Major W. C. Palmer, marshal, stepped off from Hillside Ave. and Red Mill Road, followed eight minutes later by the second section, which left Oregon Corners, paced by the Peekskill VFW Drums & Bugle Corps. There was a small delay as the still-prudent troopers removed the belts from the empty rifles of the color guard, promising to return them later.

Two on a Horse.

With four bands blaring, the vets passed the concert entrance shortly after 1:30 P. M., and all had passed, without incident, at 1:50 o'clock.

"Come on—fall in," the marchers shouted to some 1,000 spectators.

"This is an AMERICAN parade."

Many of them did so, including six veterans stationed at West Point. In the march were trucks, a horse with two riders carrying an American flag hanging from its bridle, and many placards. One was carried by "Teamsters Local 47, CIO," a Peekskill union, and others advised: "Keep the Reds in Russia" and "Stop the Commies in the U.S.A." Overhead, a monoplane towed a streamer reading "God Bless America."

Some of the paraders jeered and hooted at the impulsive Robesonites. The group within the concert bowl remained orderly, shifting their hats to the flag but singing back at the vets—among other songs, "Solidarity Forever."

Cops Repel Vets.

In the warmup period preceding the late afternoon disorders, at least three men were held but, according to police, not arrested. A young spectator in civilian clothes, who thrust his fist through

the open window of car entering the concert grounds, was released after he promised to leave the area.

Police said he came from Shrub Oak, N. Y., hometown of William Beebe, 24, who was seriously wounded in the previous rioting at Lakeland Acres.

About 2:30 P. M., some 20 veterans smashed through police lines about 50 yards north of the Red Mill Road entrance. The cops were forced back, but within two minutes, raising their clubs to form a barrier, they repulsed the invaders.

By now, there were more than 15,000 spectators—mostly men—in the bowl, and still more were arriving by buses and private cars.

Their ranks swelled to about 3,500, the vets marched back again, 1,000 feet past the concert entrance, and then split into three lines which marched back and forth in front of the entrance. Inside the bowl area, Robesonites stood three feet apart and watched.

Robeson Outshines Noise.

The concert got under way on time at 2 P. M. with the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner" by Sylvia Kahn, her voice carrying through the loudspeaker to the crowds outside. Invocation by the Rev. John Darr of New York followed, and shortly after 3 P. M., Robeson himself suddenly appeared on the scene. It was believed he had come through a side or back way.

There was plenty of noise on Hillside Ave., but Robeson's full, strong baritone carried over the demonstration as he sang "Go Down, Moses," "Song of the Warsaw Ghetto," "Old Man River" and several other songs.

Except for a few flowers words in praise of the master of ceremonies, left-wing novelist Howard Fast, Robeson confined himself to music. Afterward, he stepped from the small platform to sit in a shiny new auto, guarded by commissioners who circled the car, elbow-to-elbow.

D.A. Asks Quiet.

Largest Civil Land Plane Makes Debut

