EAST ST. LOUIS CITY ON THE EDGE



1961: Decked out in 1860s styles, East St. Louis residents choked Broadway near the old Broadview Hotel in 1961 as part of the city's centennial observance. The hotel building now is used as the local campus of Southern Illinois University.

DSW 135559

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AP

Defrocked evangelist Jimmy Swaggart and his wife, Frances, waving Sunday as he enters his church in Baton Rouge, La.

Panama

From page one

agreement."

Powell attended a 2½-hour session at the White House on Saturday with Reagan, Shultz and other senior advisers. He said on "Face the Nation" that U.S.-Panamanian negotiations were "on hold" but that the administration had proposed a deal.

Powell said: "It's on the table. All the elements have not yet come together; the president has not yet made a decision.

"The president has agreed for the deal to be put on the table, but it has not gone to closure."

Powell said Reagan had yet to decide on the deal because "dropping an indictment of this nature is a very serious matter."

Michael G. Kozak, the State Department's deputy assistant secretary, has spent virtually all of May in Panama trying to work out an agreement. Kozak returned to Washington on Friday and took part in the White House meeting on Saturday.

An administration official who requested anonymity said Friday that U.S. and Panamanian negotiators had tentatively agreed on a deal that calls for Noriega to leave Panama for nine months starting in August and for the United States to drop drug-smuggling indictments against him.

The official said the deal would give Noriega a role in setting up a transition government before leaving and would allow him to return to Panama for holidays and to go back permanently after elections set for May 1989.

Powell said the plan, which has not changed significantly in recent weeks, called for Noriega to step down as commander of the Panamanian Defense Forces and allow free elections in May 1989.

"Over the last several months, we have been able to put together a deal, if you would, a set of negotiations, which would require Gen. Noriega to step down from power. He would then leave the country for a period of time," Powell said.

After Noriega steps down, the United States "would continue to recognize President Delvalle, and Palma would work — we would hope — with President Delvalle and other opposition leaders to form a government of national reconciliation," Powell said.

Powell said the deal's elements "that are on the table would remove him (Noriega) from the political process and he would not be a candidate for election in 1989."

Both Powell and Shultz defended the proposal, saying that the dropping of the indictments against Noriega was a defensible bargaining position because he cannot be extradited so long as he remains in Panama.

The indictments "would be very difficult to follow up on," Powell said.

Shultz said, "We have no ability to extradite him from Panama. So you ask yourself which situation are we better off in — to have Noriega more or less in charge in Panama and us with an indictment that we can't do much about but nevertheless holding on to it, or having Noriega give up power in Panama and leaving Panama, but also having paid that penalty?"

Wheat Is Rationed In Capital Of Sudan

©1988, Reuters News Service

KHARTOUM, Sudan — Wheat rationing has been imposed in Khartoum, the capital, because of a severe shortage of bread, the state-run news agency reported Sunday.

The agency quoted an official source as saying that Khartoum was short of 6,000 to 7,000 bags of wheat flour a day, representing about half its normal bread consumption. Inadequate transportation to bring flour from Port Sudan, the country's only major port, was given as the reason.

Residents said they had been unable to buy bread for several days. People in the northern town of Atbara took to the streets Friday to protest.

THE MONEY PIT

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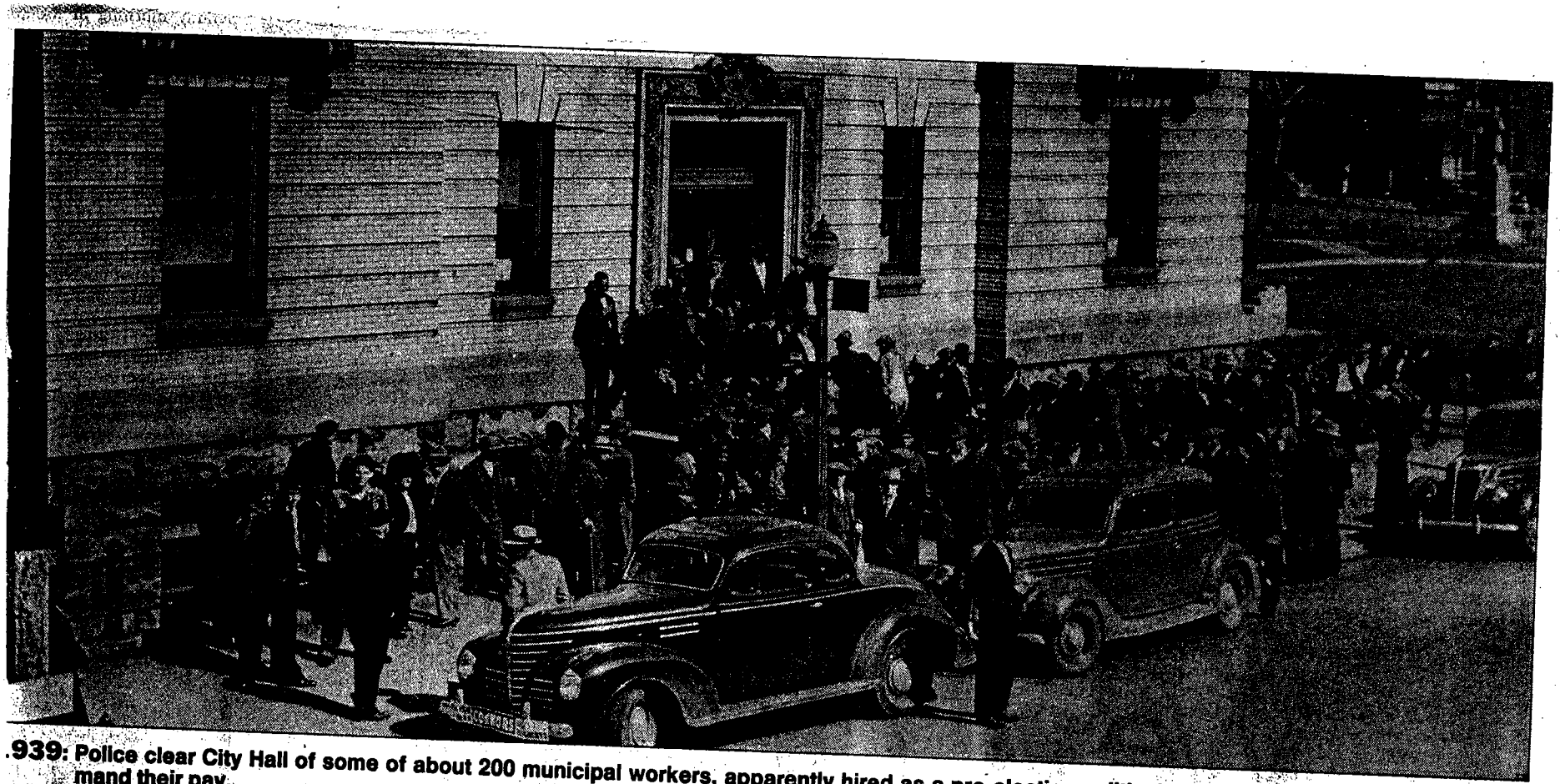

.939: Police clear City Hall of some of about 200 municipal workers, apparently hired as a pre-election political tactic, after they showed up to demand their pay.

DSW 135561

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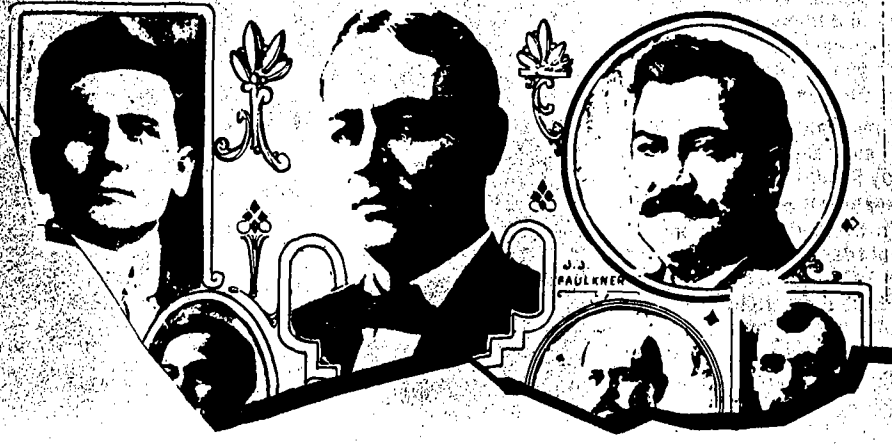
EAST ST. LOUIS CITY ON THE EDGE

WHOLESALE GRAFT INDICTMENTS IN E. ST. LOUIS

Ex-Mayor Lambert and His Cabinet, Accused of Defrauding City

Ex-Mayor of East St. Louis, His Cabinet and Other Officials Among 28 Indicted in Graft Investigation



EMBEZZLEMENT OF $50,000 CHARGED TO E. FRED GERO

Ex-Comptroller Also Alle... Conspired With Oth... Loot City

DETECTIVE ... IS N...

1913: News of graft indictments against the former mayor and 14 East St. Louis city council members dominated this Post-Dispatch front page, but it wouldn't be the last time city officials got into trouble.

DSM 135562

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Odell Mitchell Jr./Post-Dispatch

The vacant shell of the Obear-Nester Glass Co., closed for almost a decade, is one of a variety of deteriorating industrial skeletons that haunt East St. Louis as reminders of the days of plentiful jobs.

DSW 135563

STLCOPCB4035542

1917 Riot: One Of Bloodiest Racial Conflicts In U.S.

By Patrick E. Gauen
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

It is ironic that a large number of whites today are afraid to enter East St. Louis for fear of violence by blacks.

In 1917, it was gangs of whites that terrorized the blacks, killing at least 39 outright, forcing thousands to flee, and causing those blacks with jobs in East St. Louis to return only under special precautions.

Nearly forgotten now, the riot of July 2, 1917, was one of the bloodiest racial conflicts in U.S. history. The toll of dead was reported as at least 47, eight of them white.

Its roots were clear to a congressional investigating committee, which found that East St. Louis was a simmering pot that finally boiled over.

The committee put heavy blame on the absentee owners of industries for using blacks from the South to hold down wages and to break strikes and displace white union members.

The committee concurrently blamed rampant corruption in the city government for cultivating an atmosphere of racial hatred and for its failure to protect residents when trouble broke out.

The congressional report estimated that 10,000 to 12,000 blacks arrived in East St. Louis in 1917, in part to accept jobs as strike breakers for the Aluminum Ore Co. A later researcher estimated the influx of blacks that year at 2,400.

Employers in a variety of industries, loyal only to profit and not to the welfare of the town, found that the blacks would work more cheaply than whites. As a result, a growing legion of white families went hungry as blacks displaced their breadwinners.

Nor was it cozy for the blacks, whose numbers overwhelmed the once abundant employment opportunities. Those fortunate enough to get work often found themselves earning less than in jobs left behind in the South.

The congressional report, issued July 15, 1918, said, "White men walked the streets in idleness, their families suffering for food and warmth and clothes, while their places as laborers were taken by strange Negroes who were compelled to live in hovels and who were used to keep down wages."

The report cited 800 major crimes in less than a year preceding the riot, most of them committed by blacks. The town was wide open with vices, protected for a price by municipal officials.

Before the riot were flare-ups of tempers, with isolated beatings of blacks. In May, police detectives Samuel Coppedge and Frank Wadley prevented a mob of whites from burning the homes of some blacks.

It was against this backdrop that a Ford automobile drove through a black neighborhood the night of July 1, its occupants firing guns indiscriminately.

Although no one was injured, a black crowd assembled at the signal of tolling church bells in the night. A police car arrived, and the group opened fire on it, killing Coppedge and Wadley.

Whether the intent was to kill police officers was never determined. Apologists for the blacks suggest that because the police car was a Ford like the one from which shots had been fired earlier, the angry residents might not have realized the difference.

The killings lighted the fuse for an orgy of violence the next day. White mobs tore through black neighborhoods, maiming and killing black women and children as well as men. Beatings, shootings and hangings ranged from Piggott Avenue to St. Clair Avenue and from Second Street to 10th.

No logic explained who would be attacked: A black St. Louis family blundered into the melee while returning home from a fishing trip. The mob killed a 14-year-old boy and his father and scalped the mother.

Homes of blacks were set afire by whites who waited outside with guns and shot the occupants as they fled.

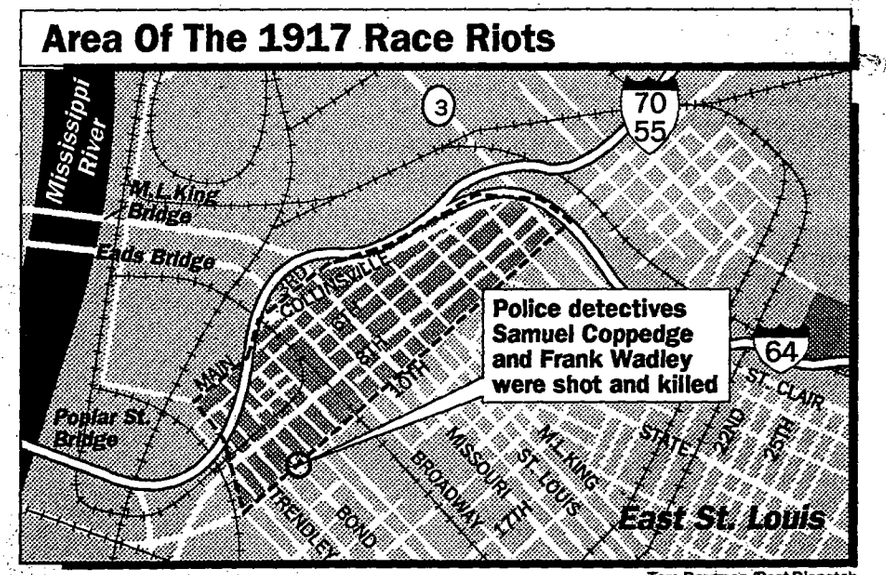
No accurate count was made of the blacks who were killed. Some were buried unofficially, some dumped in a creek, some cremated in their burning homes. Officials believed the toll surely was higher than reported.

State figures show 244 buildings and 44 rail cars destroyed by fire in the city that day; a congressional report said 312 houses were destroyed. Damage was estimated at up to $500,000. Estimates of injuries ranged to 750 at the time but were put at about 100 by a scholar years later.

The mob even burned down the Broadway Opera House, a major entertainment center, because blacks were believed to be hiding inside. Nothing was found afterward to indicate that any were hiding there.

About 300 National Guardsmen arrived fairly early in the riot, but in some documented instances they turned against the blacks, as did many of the police officers.

The congressional report said, "Scenes of horror that would have shocked a savage were viewed with placid unconcern by hundreds, whose hearts knew no pity and who seemed to revel in the feast of blood and cruelty."



Tom Borgman/Post-Dispatch

Blacks fled the city by the thousands, many never to return. Others returned to jobs but only with great caution. The report explained, "The fright of the (black) laborers went to such an extent — and it was fully justified by existing conditions — that special means of transportation had to be provided for them back and forth between St. Louis and East St. Louis in order to get them to work at all."

As a measure of the exodus, school enrollment of blacks, which had been 2,064 in 1917, dropped to 928 at the start of the 1917-18 year. The late Elliott M. Rudwick of the sociology faculty at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville estimated in his book "Race Riot at East St. Louis" that almost 4,000 blacks left town in a short period after the riots.

Although more than 100 people were arrested, only 21 went to the penitentiary for their crimes: nine whites and 12 blacks. Four of the whites and 11 of the blacks were convicted of murder. In addition, 14 people served short jail terms, and 27 paid small fines on assorted charges.

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