

P R E S S R E L E A S E

For Immediate Release

Contact: Greg Durden, Dir. Civil
Rights Office, 305-985-4445

CIVIL RIGHTS OFFICE BEGINS ROSEWOOD COMPENSATION EFFORTS

HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA -- Greg Durden, Chief of the Florida Attorney General's Civil Rights Office, has announced efforts to locate survivors of the 1923 Rosewood massacre in order to determine who will get a share of \$1.5 million in compensation for the racial violence that destroyed the Black community that was once a prosperous settlement in Levy County.

"The Office of Civil Rights is trying to develop a claims process that is as simple as possible, while at the same time ensuring claimants receive just compensation," Durden said. "It is this office's hope that the Rosewood Bill will restore some measure of dignity to the victims of the incident."

African-American families who can demonstrate real and personal property damages resulting from the destruction of Rosewood, or any African-American resident from Rosewood who was living on May 5, 1923, and who was present and affected by the violence that took place at Rosewood, and was evacuated the week of January 1, 1923, may file a claim for compensation with the Office of the Attorney General. All claims must be submitted by December 31, 1994. Failure to comply with the December 31, 1994 deadline shall preclude eligible individuals from receiving compensation.

All claims must be made by mailing your full legal name, social security number, date of birth, current address, and phone number to the attention of: Gregory Durden, Chief of Civil Rights, Office of the Attorney General, 400 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 505 South, Hollywood, Florida 33021. Claimants are advised that proof of eligibility and proof of the extent of their damages will be requested and required at a later date. Final eligibility will be determined by the office of the Attorney General in accordance with Committee Substitute for Florida House Bill 591. Any person or persons who willingly submit a claim that they know to be false or who prepares fraudulent documents in furtherance of their claim in an attempt to defraud will be prosecuted and may be subject to fines and/or a period of imprisonment.

On the first day of 1923, a group of white racists went on violent rampage after they failed to locate a Black man accused of assaulting a white woman. The whites burned virtually every home and business owned by Blacks to the ground in the Black neighborhood located about nine miles from Cedar Key.

At least six Blacks and two white persons were killed.

The claims law passed by the legislature provides for a \$1.5 million fund to pay up to \$150,000 each to survivors of Rosewood and \$500,000 to reimburse families who lost property and \$100,000 a year for college scholarships for Rosewood family descendants and other members of minority groups.

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Persons identified by Arnett Doctor, Chairman of the Rosewood Advisory Committee, who deserve compensation include Minnie Lee Langley, age 80, Arnett Goins, 80, Wilson Hall, 79, and Willie Evans, 86. There are at least four others who survived Rosewood and who are still living.

"Though recognition of the victims of Rosewood and compensation has been a long time coming, the 'Rosewood Family' can now see the light at the end of the tunnel", Durden explained. "We intend to make the resolution of this bill a top priority."

The Office of Civil Rights in the Attorney General's Office assists and coordinates with other agencies the development of programs to effectively process all actions prosecuted under federal or state statutes pertaining to claims of employment discrimination or violations of individual civil rights which will assure that justice is timely achieved both for agencies' employees and claimants.

The Civil Rights Office can bring civil or administrative actions for damages, and for injunctive or other appropriate relief for violation of the rights so secured. Such actions are to be brought in the name of the state and may be brought on behalf of the injured person.

All residents of Florida who believe that they have been a victim of civil rights violations are encouraged to contact the Office of Civil Rights in the Florida Attorney General's Office at 305-985-4445.

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#

Lonnie Carroll Carrier

STATEMENT

SUBJECT: ROSEWOOD MASSACRE 2/6/93

ON OR ABOUT THE ABOVE DATE, I LONNIE (CARROL) CARRIER DO SWEAR THAT THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

ON JAN 1, 1923, IN ROSEWOOD, FL I WITNESS THE UNWARRANTED MURDER, AND DESTRUCTION OF OUR PEACEFUL TOWN.

BECAUSE OF A LIE BY MRS. FANNIE TAYLOR ACCUSING A BLACK MAN OF RAPING HER, THE WHITE POPULATION OF SUMMER AND ALL SURROUNDING COUNTIES CAME DOWN ON OUR PEACEFUL ROSEWOOD COMMUNITY. SARAH AND PHILOMENA HAD ALREADY TOLD US THAT THEY HAD SEEN THE WHITE MAN (MRS. TAYLOR'S LOVER) BEAT HER AND RUN OUT OF THE BACK DOOR. BUT BECAUSE SYLVESTER CARRIER REFUSED TO ALLOW WHITE MEN TO SEARCH THE CARRIER PREMISES, THEY VOWED TO RETURN AND BURN HIM OUT. WHEN THEY RETURNED THEY WANT ARON CARRIER, AND SYLVESTER TO SURRENDER. BUT INSTEAD A BLOOD BATH ENSUED AND COUSIN SCRAPIE CARRIED THE CHILDREN INTO THE WOOD, WHERE WE FINALLY WALKED TO GAINESVILLE. I WAS ALMOST THIRTEEN YEARS OLD WHEN THIS EVENT TOOK PLACE.

Lonnie Carrier X

WITNESS: ARNETT DOCTOR, *Arnett Doctor*
WITNESS: LUGENIA CARROL CARRIER, *Lugenia Carrier*
WITNESS: BENJAMIN WILSON, *Ben Wilson*



From the Desk of...

GUY DAVID ROBINSON
Assistant Attorney General

ROBERT A. BUTTERWORTH
Attorney General
State of Florida

Ernest Blocker

- When you look at Census, Census taker lived in Sumner. By checking the House numbers, you can show that they had to have lived in Rosewood. He said house number 93 to 116 & Blocker fell in there.
- Blocker can also talk about the Robinson. Blocker says they went to Wylly ^{appt} ~~over~~ everything started



From the Desk of...

GUY DAVID ROBINSON
Assistant Attorney General

ROBERT A. BUTTERWORTH
Attorney General
State of Florida

She had very few details

- George claims he knew a guy who had their eye shot out at the Carrier House.
- He claims to have stayed in area for a number of years.
- Living in a company house
- Couldn't find Hancock in the census



From the Desk of...

GUY DAVID ROBINSON
Assistant Attorney General

ROBERT A. BUTTERWORTH
Attorney General
State of Florida

John Stevens FOLE

Walter Davis

- She was correct on Train Report
- Mr. Hancock was in Wylyy ran a Turpentine still
- was taken by Mr. Hancock to Wylyy. went to Otter Creek from there.
- She had 2 sons, George & Claude
- George claims he got his leg buried in Rosewood.
- She said she was in wash house when house caught on fire



From the Desk of...

GUY DAVID ROBINSON
Assistant Attorney General

ROBERT A. BUTTERWORTH
Attorney General
State of Florida

— Renewed Disbursement Committee
Suzanne

Per Conversation w/ Guy Moore 9/21/94

Per Guy - no Barnes
Mary (Johnson) was in Renewed

Frances was Lexie's daughter.
Not John & Annie Bell.

Check w/ Dorothy Hasey for
certification

Perry Quinn's daughter

MIAMI HERALD
4M JUN 2-12-96



JOSE PACHECO SILVA / Herald Staff

Florida's saga of hatred . . .

■ **Like Judgment Day: The Ruin and Redemption of a Town Called Rosewood.** Michael D'Orso. Grosset/Putnam, 373 pages. \$27.50.



MARGARIA FICHTNER
BOOK EDITOR

The trouble began on New Year's Day 1923 when Fannie Taylor threw open the door of her four-room house in Sumner and ran out into the bitter North Florida cold. Taylor, whose husband was at work at the nearby sawmill, was hysterical, her face pulpy with tears and blood. A crowd gathered as rumors flared: A woman attacked! A black escapee from a road gang! Soon, bloodhounds were racing up the gravel railbed toward the nearby black village of Rosewood, their yelps mingling with the staccato shouts of angry whites: "Kill him! Kill the nigger!"

"Children who had just stepped out to play were pulled inside," Michael D'Orso writes in *Like Judgment Day*, his absorbing new account of the incident and its long, painful aftermath. "Doors were locked. Curtains drawn. Those old enough to peek outside saw a parade of white men surging past, some wearing Stetsons, others bareheaded, most brandishing longarms — rifles and shotguns, battered and beaten from years of use. But some of the weapons were new, gleaming, grabbed off store shelves and torn fresh from their wrappers just that morning."

Eight victims

The terror would last a week. When it ended, by rope, gunfire and flames, at least eight people — six innocent blacks, including two women, and two of their white attackers — would be dead. Rosewood, with its 30 homes, three churches, general store, school and Masonic lodge, would be burned and deserted, its surviving residents scattered like seeds on a brisk wind.

In the long, sorry history of race relations in the small towns of the Deep South, a bitter litany of beatings, rapes, lynchings, cross-burnings, Klan marches and wholesale economic and social subjugation, the massacre at Rosewood is particularly galling. A town destroyed, people killed, their survivors robbed of their property and a way of life vanished forever. All of it

hushed up. No one punished. No one even charged. That is not supposed to happen in the United States, but it did. The shame and silence of it would last seven decades.

Then, in the early 1980s, a St. Petersburg Times reporter named Gary Moore stumbled across the story. In 1983, Ed Bradley brought a *60 Minutes* camera crew to the massacre site. A decade later, *The Herald's Tropic* magazine ran an update by Moore. Some of the Rosewood survivors surfaced and began to hold reunions. And Arnett Doctor — a janitorial contractor whose mother had escaped from the house in which her grandmother and uncle were shot to death — launched an obsessive one-man investigation rooted in his gnawing conviction that "These people were owed. . . . Somebody needed to pay."

Finally, in 1994, somebody did.

Compensation package

That spring, the Florida Legislature passed a \$2 million compensation package for Rosewood's survivors and their families. And now, with his no-holds-barred new book, D'Orso, a reporter with *The Virginian-Pilot* in Norfolk, Va., captures the whole saga — from the savvy idealism of the survivors' pro bono lawyer to the political wrangles surrounding the compensation legislation, from the bitterness of Doctor's mother, Philomena, to the nostalgic acceptance of her fellow survivor, Wilson Hall.



"What could I do with anger?" Hall asks D'Orso. "Where could I put it? . . . And my mama explained to me early that I didn't have . . . no one definite to be angry with. . . . So I

just pushed the bad part to the side. Not to where I ever forgot about it, but to where it didn't worry me."

D'Orso strings his narrative out in 35 episodic chapters. Some are profiles of the story's principals; others focus on history, the details of the unfolding compensation case and the predictable squabbles it incited among the survivors and their descendants. South Flo-

ridians will find the chapters on the roles played by former state Rep. Miguel De Grandy and promoter Michael O'McCarthy of regional interest.

Survivor's riveting story

In fact, many passages here are more than merely interesting. The testimony of survivor Minnie Lee Langley (who died in December after D'Orso's book had gone to press) is riveting in its understatement, as is that of Ernest Parham, a white eyewitness to the massacre's first fatal shooting, that of Sam Carter, whom the Sumner mob had suspected of harboring the fugitive escapee. Moreover, D'Orso possesses a good sense of what it was like to grow up poor in North Florida in the 1930s and is blessed with a sharp eye for descriptive detail:

"Route 24 is . . . two lanes of lonely asphalt slicing straight as a razor into thick hardwood hammocks and marshy swampland, past scattered patches of scrub pines and palmettos and bare stretches of briars and weeds, not a soul in sight save for a smattering of tin-roofed shacks and tree-shaded trailers, rickety roadside stands selling smoked mullet, and rotting outdoor tables stacked with sacks of boiled peanuts. "Traffic is sparse."

Occasionally, however, D'Orso sets our teeth on edge. Perhaps more judicious editing would have saved him, and us, from the reference to St. Petersburg's "sweltering South Florida nights," the occasional grammatical gaff (" . . . though he wasn't the type to get as upset as her") and the inapt choice of a dance metaphor to describe relations between poor Southern blacks and whites ("Some partners are clumsy, some are smooth, toes get stepped on. . ."). Most irritating, though, is D'Orso's habit of referring to the Rosewood survivors and their descendants by their first names, an inexplicable, paternalistic liberty he spares the black North Florida legislator Al Lawson and virtually all the Anglo men in the book but also freely extends to a powerhouse white female lawyer, a respected black female historian and a white woman whose family rescued some of Rosewood's blacks.

Such quibbles aside, *Like Judgment Day* does stand as a powerful record of one of the most grievous chapters in Florida's history, and the book's eerie epilogue will make you wonder if the story is really over after all.

S
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Club. Peter Straub.
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IGUEZ

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Rosewood survivors get payments

TALLAHASSEE — (AP) — Elderly survivors of a mob attack that wiped out a black community in 1923 started getting checks Wednesday for \$50,000 each as the state expedited payments under a \$2 million compensation package.

State officials approved early payments for Rosewood massacre survivors who testified this year that they fled as children from a deadly white mob that rampaged through the community near Gainesville.

Payments under a claims bill passed by lawmakers were supposed to start in early 1995, but officials and survivor advocates feared some victims might die without getting a check.

The Legislature awarded \$150,000 each to Minnie Lee Langley, 81, Arnett Goins, 80, Wilson Hall, 79, and Willie Evans, 86, after they proved they were present during the racial violence.

They will get the balance next year.

Arnett Doctor, chairman of the Rosewood Family Advisory Council, presented one of the first checks in Orlando Wednesday to Evans, who is blind and has diabetes.

'I'm so thankful for this check. I didn't ever think we'd ever get anything for it.'

WILLIE EVANS,

Rosewood massacre survivor

"I'm so thankful for this check," Evans said, rubbing the paper in his hand. "I didn't ever think we'd ever get anything for it."

On New Year's Day 1923, a group of whites went on a rampage after an unsuccessful search for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman.

A posse turned into a mob that burned almost every structure in the community of about 120 residents nine miles east of Cedar Key.

At least six blacks and two whites died.

While the massacre was widely reported at the time, it was an overlooked part of Florida history until relatives of survivors

persuaded them to talk about it recent years.

Greg Durden, head of the attorney-general's civil rights office, and assistant attorney general Guy David Robinson sought the expedited partial payments.

"The attorney general deserves an enormous amount of credit," said Steve Hanlon, an attorney for Rosewood's survivors. "They have done a very thorough and very responsible job."

The claims bill provides compensation for people who fled the violence and descendants of black families who lost their property. Survivors with verifiable accounts are eligible for up to \$150,000 each.

Doctor said he is asking the state to expedite payments to four others in their 70s or 80s who did not testify but said they also fled the violence.

State officials estimated up to 10 people would apply as survivors, but about 30 people who applied. The number is being reduced as officials verify their eligibility, Robinson said.

STATE DIGEST

Sun-Sentinel wire services

Rosewood survivors begin getting checks

TALLAHASSEE — Elderly survivors of a mob attack that wiped out a black community in 1923 began receiving checks on Wednesday as the state expedited payments under a \$2 million compensation package.

State officials approved early payments for Rosewood survivors who testified this year that they fled as children from a gang that rampaged through the community near Gainesville.

The Legislature issued \$50,000 checks to Minnie Lee Langley, 81; Arnett Goins, 80; Wilson Hall, 79, and Willie Evans, 86. Each was awarded a total of \$150,000 and will receive the balance in 1995.

A MEASURE OF JUSTICE

For survivors of the Rosewood massacre, it's payback time—72 years late

MORE THAN SEVEN DECADES HAVE passed, and still Robie Mortin sees vividly her idyllic memory of Rosewood, Fla., the thriving, almost entirely black village where she spent the first seven years of her life. "Rosewood was a town where everyone's house was painted," recalls Mortin, who was born Robie Allenetta Robinson 79 years ago. "There were roses everywhere you walked. Lovely. Lovely."

Many Rosewood men, like Robie's father, Nathan Robinson, worked at the Cummer sawmill in nearby Sumner. The women often served as domestics. And all lived in apparent harmony with the whites in the surrounding communities. "Everything around me," Mortin remembers, "was happy."

That illusion was shattered forever in early January 1923, when for a full week it rained hell on Rosewood. Like medieval hordes, an army of white vigilantes, some from as far away as Georgia, savaged the town of about 120 in a frenzy of arson and murder. "They killed everybody they ran across," says Mortin. "They even made my uncle James Carrier dig his own grave with one hand—he'd had a stroke and one side was completely gone—and then they shot him in it."

In the end, at least eight were dead, and Rosewood was reduced to ashes. For 70 years, Florida tried to pretend the town never existed. But last May, in what might fairly be called a delayed reaction, the state legislature passed a bill awarding more than \$2 million in compensation to the nine survivors of the massacre—Robie Mortin among them—and to the descendants of the victims. It marked the first time in U.S. history that a state has compensated citizens for the inadequacy with which it defended them. "Had this been a white community," says Steve Hanlon, the attorney who led a two-year fight for the suit, "the state would have used all its police power. You can't condition police protection on race, which is what happened here."

The Rosewood massacre was sparked by a report of what was then the ultimate breach of racial etiquette. On Jan. 1, 1923, 22-year-old Frances Taylor,

a white Sumner housewife, had burst from her house visibly bruised and screaming that a black man had broken in and assaulted her while her husband was at work at the Cummer mill. But Mortin, recounting eyewitness testimony from her aunt, a laundress who worked for Taylor, tells it a different way: "They saw the man come out. And he was not a black man."

The truth, whatever it may have been, mattered little. The prevailing theory was that Taylor had been attacked by Jesse Hunter, an escaped black convict, who became the focus of an intense search. Led by Sheriff Robert Walker and a pack of bloodhounds, a posse of white men, many of them workers at the sawmill, followed Hunter's scent to Rosewood but failed to find him. It was the following day, Mortin says, that her father heard a vigilante plot

hatched at the mill. "The word was, 'We're going down there and wipe out those niggers in Rosewood,'" she remembers.

A widower, Nathan Robinson had passed off Robie to be raised by her grandmother Polly Carter and her aunt and uncle Katie and Sam Carter. Her two sisters, Sebie and Easter, lived in Chiefland, 40 miles away. But when the violence began to erupt, Robie and Sebie were visiting their father in Rosewood. And as soon as he could—just as the town was exploding in bloodshed—Robinson came home to put them on a train to Chiefland.

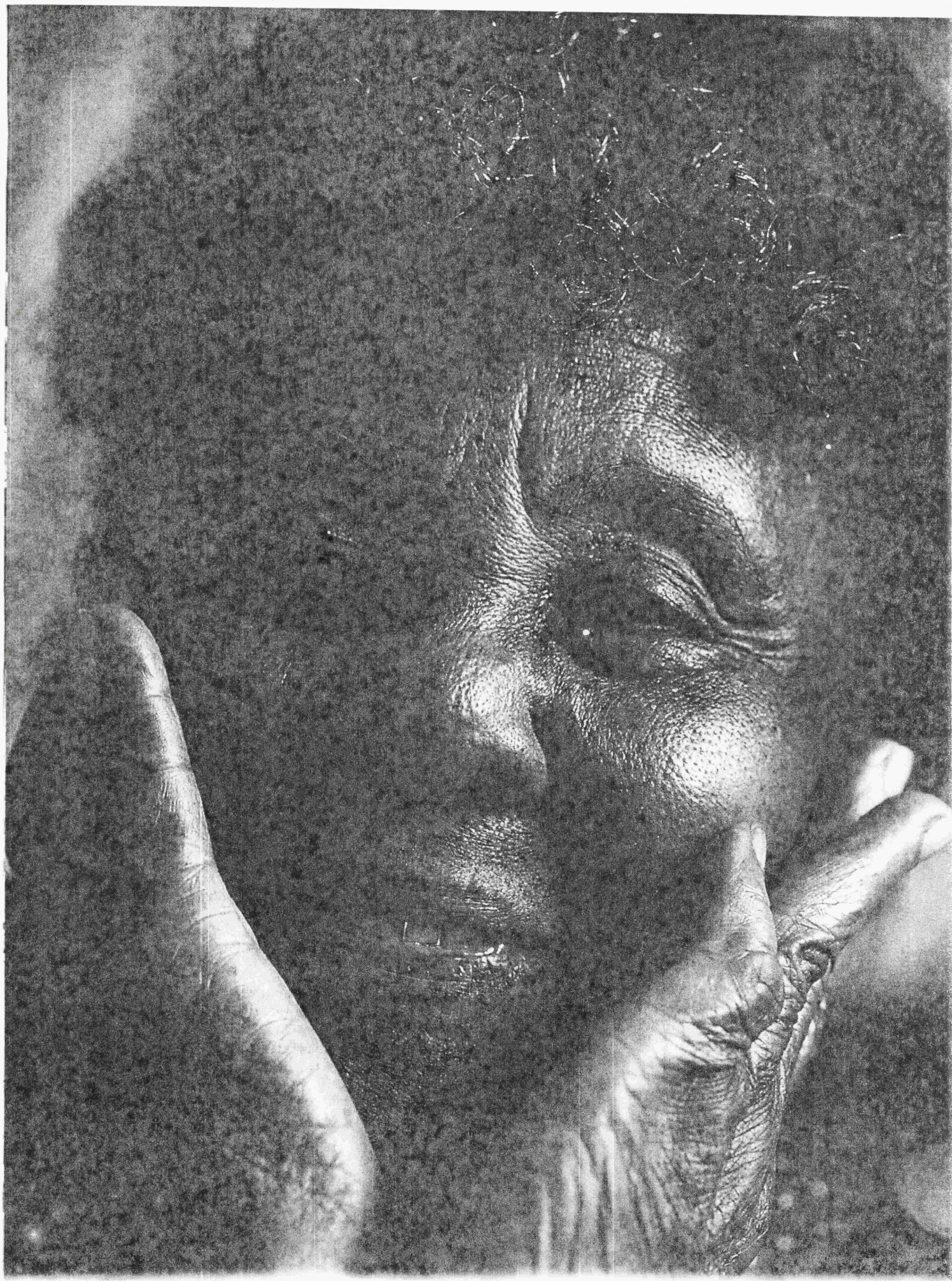
On the way to the depot, her father made a crucial decision: he took an alternate route, skirting the center of town. "If Papa had took us through there, we would've been dead," Mortin says, though she adds, "I wasn't really



FLORIDA STATE ARCHIVES



"How cruel can you be?" asks Robie Mortin (right), recalling the destruction of Rosewood (above). Attorney Steve Hanlon (below right, with colleague Martha Barnett) helped win compensation.





ing law firms, he heard the story of the massacre from a casual acquaintance and took up the case on a pro bono basis. Working closely with him was fellow partner Martha Barnett, 47, who has an unusual link to her clients. Her father was the company physician at a Cummer sawmill in Lacoochee, where many displaced victims worked after the massacre. "My father's name is on many death certificates in our Rosewood file," she says. "I grew up with the children of many survivors."

Once the legal machinery was set in motion, Robie Mortin set about staking her claim, with help from Richard Ryles, 32, a local attorney. Ryles was skeptical of her chances because of some senti-

ment against the bill. Fearing a flood of similar cases out of Florida's turbulent racial history, opponents resisted offering compensation. "I never in my wildest dreams," he says, "believed Mrs. Mortin would see a dime."

She has seen \$50,000 thus far, with the balance—another \$100,000—due this month. "Vera, the lady at the bank, is after me to go shopping," she says. "She said, 'Miz Mortin, do something for yourself.' I can't think of but one thing I want to do. I would like to go to Greece."

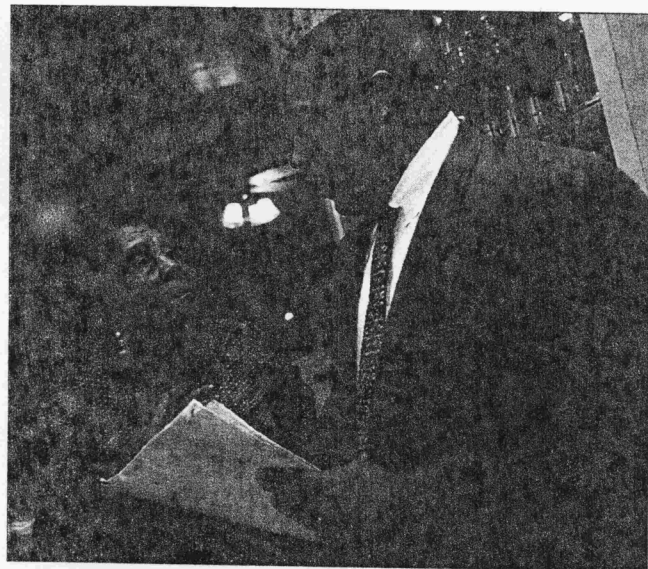
Mortin's other indulgence will be to forsake the weekly paycheck she now earns as a nurse's aide for housebound invalids. "Even if I do anything for my lady [her current patient is an 82-year-

old amputee]," she vows, "I'm going to do it for free." Indeed, Mortin's first act as a woman of means was to volunteer eight hours a week of her time to Connor's Nursery, a community project for babies born to drug-addicted mothers.

Trim and serene, with an easy dignity, Mortin is astonishingly forgiving about her childhood horror. "I knew that something went very wrong in my life because it took a lot away from me," she says. "But I wasn't angry or anything." And yet it is clear that she will always carry Rosewood with her, that it will never leave her. "It was," she says simply, "home."

■ RICHARD JEROME

■ DON SIDER in Riviera Beach



◀ "I am a Rosewood survivor," Mortin told lawyer Richard Ryles (with his client). "Prove it," he said—and she did, by telling her story and reconstructing her family tree.

➤ Mortin celebrates at home with some of her five children and their children and grandchildren.

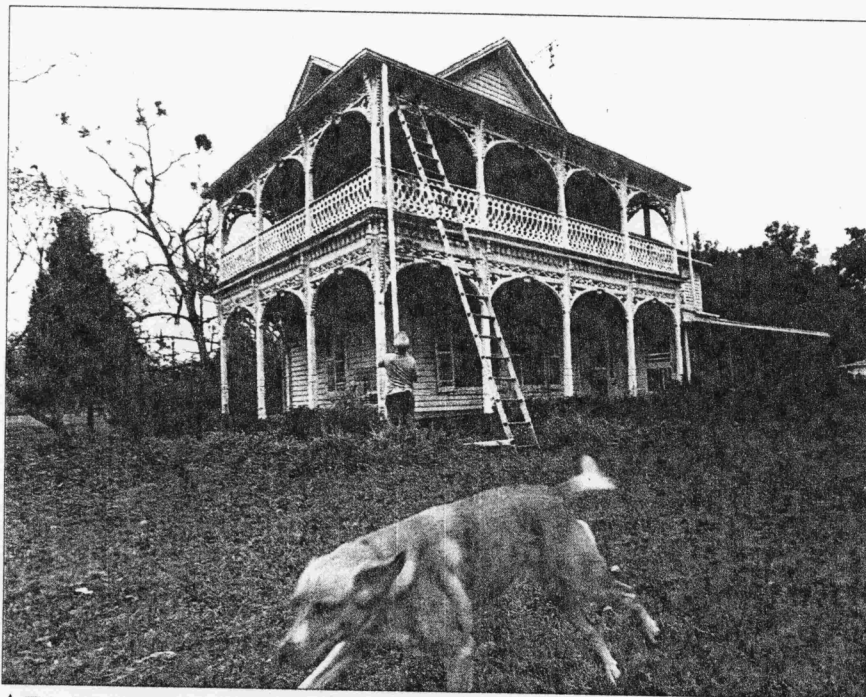
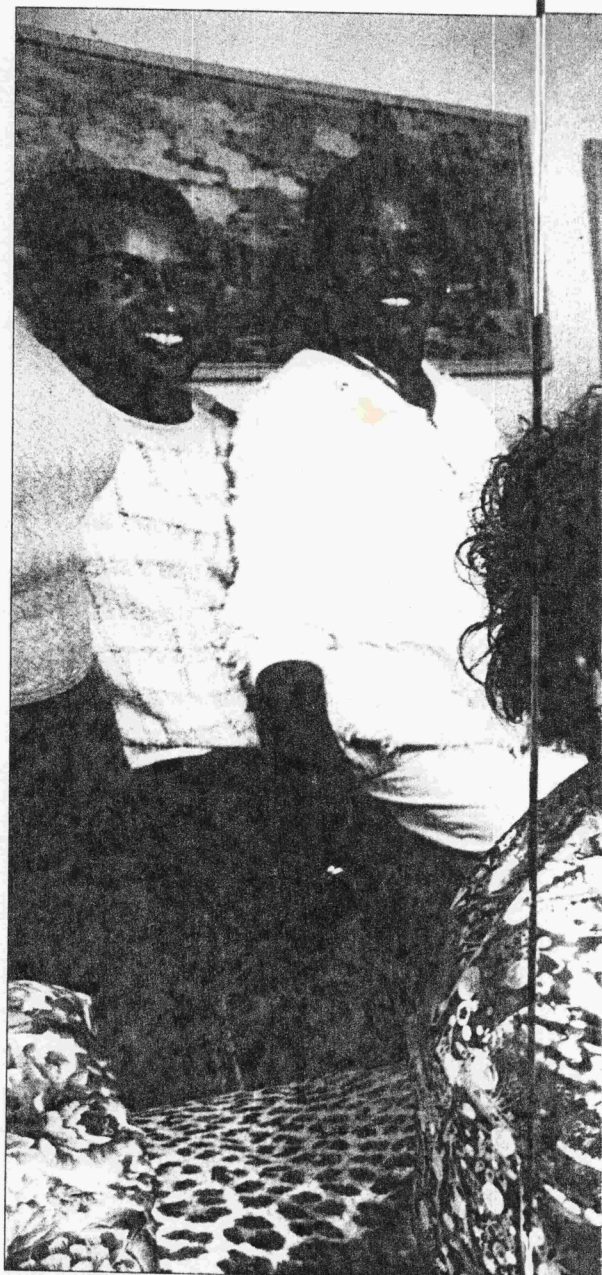
frightened, because he didn't tell us anything."

What her father didn't confide but Robie soon learned was that her beloved uncle Sam had been murdered by the mob. Mortin's grandmother was luckier. With gunfire piercing the cold midnight air, 69-year-old Polly Carter escaped on foot through the woods. Later, hiding under bags of mail, she was driven by a friendly white postman to Chiefland.

For reasons he never divulged, Nathan Robinson didn't leave Roseland with his daughters. "I don't know where my daddy went," Mortin says. "We didn't know whether he was living or dead." He resurfaced two years later,

however, and lived until his death in 1930 with Robie and the rest of the family in Riviera Beach, a predominantly black community on the edge of West Palm Beach where Mortin still resides in a modest rented house.

Twice married and a widow since 1990, Robie Mortin has three daughters and two sons, ranging in age from 64 to 36. All her adult life she has worked, usually in domestic service and often for the moneyed families of Palm Beach. For a dozen years, she was employed by the glamorous Pulitzers, first as a laundress and eventually as supervisor of their mansion. And all the while she observed a family edict set down by



CHUCK FADEL/YIMIANI HERALD

▲ This house, which is all that remains of Rosewood, was a white-owned shop in 1923.

her grandmother: Never speak of the Rosewood massacre. "She felt like maybe if somebody knew where we came from, they might come at us," Mortin says of Polly's directive.

Apparently the state of Florida took its own vow of silence on the Rosewood incident. After some initial press coverage, the massacre disappeared from public consciousness for almost 60 years—until a lengthy 1982 article in the *St. Petersburg Times*, followed the next year by a segment on *60 Minutes*. Still the state showed no interest in rehashing the tragedy.

It took Steve Hanlon to grease the judicial wheels. A 53-year-old partner at Holland & Knight, one of Florida's lead-

'Rosewood' author will be in Lake Helen

□ An exception was made to invite the out-of-state author to the fair because his book's subject is "hot."

By Dianne Cepelon

SENTINEL CORRESPONDENT

LAKE HELEN — For years, no one talked about Rosewood, the small black community on Florida's west coast that was destroyed by racial violence in 1923.

All that has changed since nine survivors of the town and their descendants won claims against the state in 1994 and sold the rights to their story to Warner Bros.

A \$40 million movie titled *Rosewood* is in production under the direction of John Singleton at locations in east Lake County. A book on



D'Orso

Rosewood was released by G.P. Putnam's Sons in New York on Feb. 6.

Michael D'Orso's book, *Like Judgment Day: The Ruin and Redemption of a Town Called Rosewood*, is a Florida story from start to finish.

For that reason, sponsors of the March 2 book fair in Lake Helen invited D'Orso to the show.

The show is limited to Florida authors, but organizer Brenda Hagg said she

invited D'Orso because his subject is "hot" in Florida now.

D'Orso, 42, jokes about his Florida connections. Born in Portsmouth, Va., near the Navy base where his father was a submarine officer, the au-

Please see AUTHOR, K-5

Writer tells story of Rosewood in layers

AUTHOR from K-1

hor said his family moved every two years.

"I lived in Key West a couple of times during my childhood, so I was a Floridian for a while," he said during a telephone interview from his Norfolk home.

A graduate of the College of William and Mary in nearby Williamsburg, D'Orso has been writing features for the *Virginian Pilot* since 1984 and has won numerous awards for them. He also has been nominated for Pulitzer prizes for exceptional writing.

His first book, *Somerset Homecoming*, was co-authored with North Carolina slave historian Dorothy Redford. He credits that book's success with his being accepted by Rosewood family members as "the right man to write their story."

"That [first] book, the exploration of black culture and black lives, was very much along the same lines, and when some of the Rosewood people read it, they liked it," he said.

D'Orso began working on the Rosewood story in April 1994, a few days after the Florida Legislature approved the payments to the survivors and descendants.

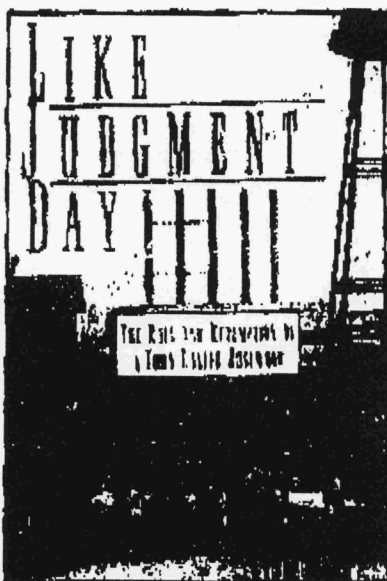
He made several trips to Florida, meeting with survivors, family members, lawyers, legislators, historians and almost anyone he could find who had some connection to the story. He interviewed more than 100 people and carefully documented everything he learned from them in the book. He finished writing the text in late 1995.

D'Orso said he didn't know much about the movie and hadn't seen the script written by Hollywood screenwriter Gregory Poirier.

"From what I've heard, the film covers just the week of the attack on the town," he said. "In my book, that part is literally just the prologue. And then the story begins."

D'Orso said his book is layered with several stories:

"First, there's the account of the attack. Then there's the story of what happened in the ensuing half



Michael D'Orso began working on his book in April 1994.

century to the people who survived and were scattered ... their lives and how they were lived.

"Part three is the story of the coming back together of those scattered families, a very involved and painful process for many of

them. Then, the behind-the-scenes look at their decision to file the claim against the state, followed by the legislative journey the Rosewood family claim took Tallahassee.

"Finally, there is the significantly important story of how everything played out after the bill was passed, not just in terms of families, but of everyone [lawyers, legislators, participants] involved in this."

Initially, D'Orso said, the most important goal in researching the book was to get out and spend time with the survivors.

"These are elderly people nearing the end of their lives as when they die, they take their stories with them ... stories and memories that form the basis of a very scantily documented experience in American history."

D'Orso is scheduled to do copies of his book at the Florida Authors Book Fair from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 2. Later that day, he will participate in a discussion about films at the Caffe de Va in DeLand, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

New book chronicles Rosewood tragedy

By ADAM YEOMANS
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Like most people, Michael D'Orso had never heard of the black town of Rosewood that disappeared in a swirl of racial fury more than 70 years ago.

But as the efforts of a few elderly survivors to get compensation from the state of Florida attracted national attention two years ago, D'Orso knew it was a story he wanted to write.

"There were many incidents like Rosewood all across the country during this time," D'Orso said. "This was the lynching era in America."

The destruction of Rosewood was "the only incident of this scope that received almost no attention in the history books," he said. "For more than half a century, it was as if it never happened."

D'Orso's new book — *Like Judgment Day: The Ruin and Redemption Of A Town Called Rosewood* — details the destruction of Rosewood, why the victims stayed silent for decades, the legislative battle to compensate the survivors, and how the search for justice affected family members and descendants.

The 362-page book, published by Grosset/Putnam, will be released today.

D'Orso, 42, has coauthored four nonfiction books. His most recent, *Rise and Walk*, was with former New York Jets football player Dennis Byrd and was about his recovery from paralysis he suffered while playing.

The Rosewood book is the first D'Orso has written alone. He also is a journalist for The Virginian-Pilot newspaper in Norfolk, Va.

Like Judgment Day begins with events that led to the destruction of the black community that had existed between Gainesville and Cedar Key. All that remains today are road signs along State Road 24.

The violence started New Year's Day when a group of whites searching for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman degenerated into a mob. The whites rampaged through the town of about 120 people, burning homes and churches.

A week later, at least six blacks and two whites were dead and the community was in ashes. Everyone else had fled, forced to start their lives over from scratch.

In researching his book, D'Orso interviewed survivors, descendants, residents in Levy County where Rosewood existed, lawyers, lobbyists, politicians, historians and virtually anyone connected to the issue.

He proceeds chronologically with the stories of survivors and Arnett Doctor, who spearheaded the families' efforts to get compensated by the state, through the legislative battle over the claims bill.

During the violence, Doctor's great-grandmother, Sarah Carrier, was killed in a shootout at her house where family members had barricaded themselves. Also killed were the son of Doctor's great-grandmother and two whites who tried to force their way in.

In 1982, St. Petersburg Times reporter Gary Moore wrote a long story about Rosewood — the first report about the violent episode in almost 60 years. A year later CBS' *60 Minutes* featured several survivors in a segment on the community's demise.

But the community's past sank back into the background for another 10 years. Much of that had to do with Doctor's mother, Philomena, who was adamantly opposed to any family members discussing the community's demise publicly.

"There was a lot of emotional

demise publicly.

"There was a lot of emotional and psychological struggles to get through among themselves," D'Orso said last week.

After Doctor's mother died in 1991, things moved quickly.

In late 1992, two survivors, represented by the Holland and Knight law firm, filed a claims bill with the Legislature seeking compensation. That effort failed but it brought out more survivors.

In 1994, a group of survivors and descendants filed another claims bill.

D'Orso offers a behind-the-scenes look at how lawmakers, lobbyists and lawyers helped shape the precedent-setting legislation that ultimately passed, providing \$2 million for nine survivors and dozens of descendants.

Since D'Orso completed his book, one of the survivors, 82-year-old Minnie Lee Langley, has died. Langley, one of a handful of survivors to testify before the Legislature, survived the shootout at the Carrier house.

Miami Herald
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573

STATE

Payments to massacre victims wind down

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — The state is wrapping up its compensation payments a year after Florida legislators approved \$2 million for survivors and descendants of the Rosewood massacre 72 years ago.

Between 60 and 70 descendants whose families lost property in the black community after a racist mob's rampage will share \$500,000 set aside by legislators, officials said on Monday.

Nine elderly survivors each have received \$150,000 from the state.

Since then, the attorney general's civil rights office has spent months poring over records and checking out hundreds of claims from people who said

their families were driven from Rosewood by several days of violence that started on New Year's Day in 1923.

Officials hope to close out the final part of the compensation plan by the end of the month or early June.

"We probably were dealing with more than 1,000 names in the family trees," said Gregory Durden, chief of the attorney general's civil rights office. "We never anticipated it was going to be this involved."

Rosewood's demise began when a group of whites, frustrated after an unsuccessful search for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman, destroyed almost every building in the community of about 120 people.

Today's survivors were chil-

dren when Rosewood was wiped out. Most kept the memories of violence, gunshots and burning houses to themselves until they began speaking out in the early 1980s.

Descendants verified by the Attorney General's Office will receive from \$145 to \$5,000 each under the property compensation plan, said Guy David Robinson, an assistant attorney general. The claims cover 18 families that lost property in Rosewood after the violence.

Last year, a few survivors recounted their memories of the Rosewood massacre before the state Legislature. Attorneys for the victims said the state owed them financial compensation because authorities failed to protect the families.

Education officials unsure about effects of court ruling

By ARDEN MOORE
Staff Writer

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday let stand a lower court decision that blocks the University of Maryland from granting scholarships based on race in a ruling a lawyer in the case said "marks the beginning of the end" for such programs.

But it is unclear what impact it will have on similar programs offered at Florida's public universities.

"We're reviewing the decision, but there will be no immediate changes in how we operate," state university system spokesman Alan Stonecipher said on Monday. "It would probably take a court case here to get rid of our programs."

An official with the American Council on Education said it was

combat past discrimination.

"We're very disappointed," University of Maryland spokesman Roland King said. "This is an affirmative action program that we believe has been effective in increasing the part of African-Americans at the university. But it is still needed."

The university created the Benjamin Banneker Scholarship Program in the late 1970s to boost black enrollment at its main campus in College Park, Md. It is named after a black scientist who died in 1806.

Daniel J. Podberesky, a Hispanic student, sued the university in 1990 after he was denied a Banneker scholarship.

A federal judge upheld the scholarship program, but last October, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that students who did not qualify because they

to the federal appeals court ruling in the Maryland case.

"It marks the beginning of the end for publicly funded race-based scholarships," Price said.

Florida is among 12 Southern states under a federal court order to desegregate colleges.

As part of Florida's condition to comply, the state university system offers a handful of scholarships for full-time African-American and Hispanic students as recruiting tools.

Florida Atlantic University took it a step further, offering campus-based scholarships for black students since 1984.

"Obviously, we will review our policy and make sure we're in compliance," FAU Provost Rick Osburn said.

FAU's policy was unsuccessfully challenged in 1991 and 1992

Robinson created a "family tree" of 18 families who owned property in Rosewood and went through the painstaking process of identifying descendants. The chart, covering a wall in the attorney general's Hollywood office, contains more than 1,300 names.

To confirm who deserved property compensation, Beisler traveled to Levy County and surrounding areas several times to review records and try to uncover new documents that could confirm their findings.

In one visit, the investigator found records from the 1920s stored in an old school-bus barn. Pages literally crumbled when he tried to turn them. Such documents helped to reduce the number of supposed heirs, because they showed some families did not live in Rosewood.

Search for descendants appears to be over

With the latest investigation, the search for descendants is nearly over.

Within the next week or two, between 60 and 70 descendants will receive a share of the \$500,000 in amounts ranging from \$145 to \$5,000, Durdent said.

Doctor, who heads the Rosewood Family Advisory Committee, has criticized state officials for moving too slowly at times. But he said he now was satisfied with how state officials handled the compensation plan.

"Everybody received something out of this process. Everybody in the family had a chance to experience some sort of gain from this process. No one can say they were not helped from this process," he said. "We didn't get everything we wanted, but we got more than many people expected."

Doctor has his own plans to establish a memorial at the site where the community existed near Cedar Key.

"I'm committed to showing the best light on Rosewood that we can possibly bring to bear," he said. "There was a lot of richness there at that time that's been lost for the most part."

Payments close a Rosewood chapter

The story has been told, and the last payments to survivors and descendants are expected to be made in the next week or two.

By Adam Yeomans
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For survivors and descendants of Rosewood, the gnawing memories of the racist violence that wiped out the tiny black settlement 72 years ago are finally being soothed.

Many will be richer after the state wraps up its \$2-million program to compensate nine Rosewood survivors and several dozen descendants of families who lost property. The last payments are expected to be made in the next week or two.

All have the satisfaction of knowing that what happened to Rosewood is no longer a dark secret for a few survivors who were children when they fled their homes during the first week of January 1923.

'We should be able to move on with our lives'

When family members gather for their summer reunion later this year, they can look ahead, knowing the story has been told.

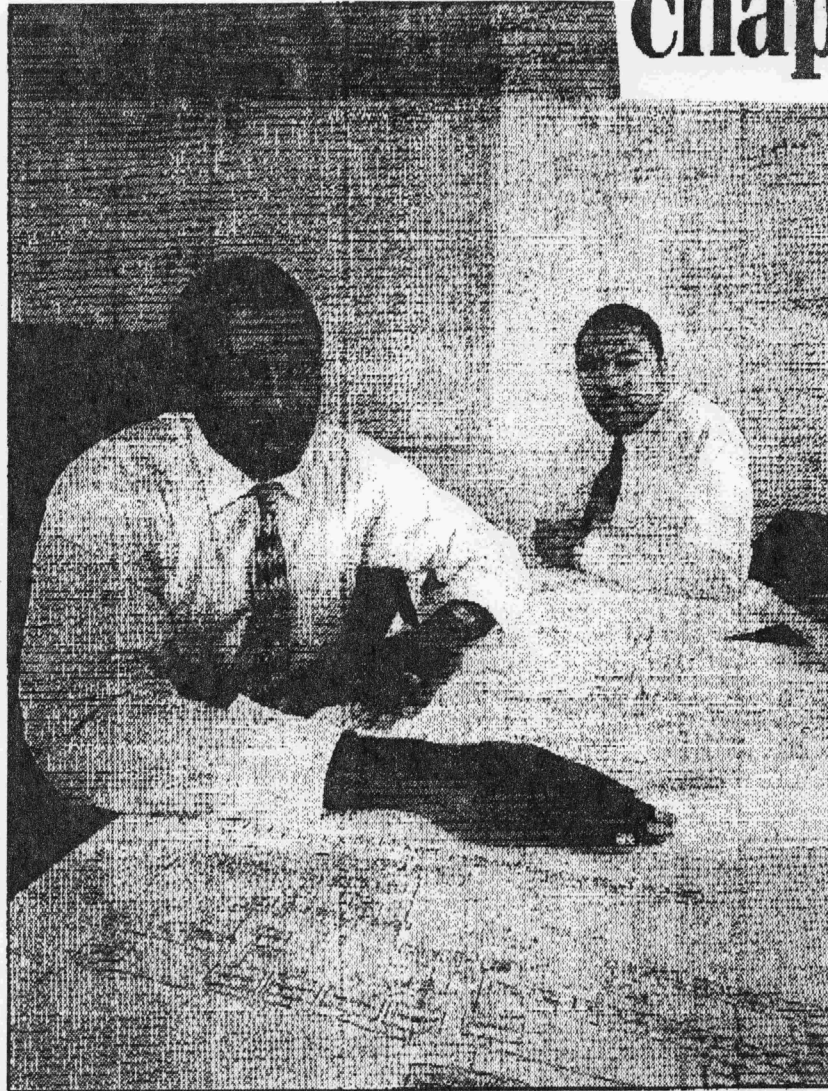
"It should be behind us by that time. We should be able to move on with our lives," said Arnett Doctor, whose great-grandmother was killed by members of a white mob that burned almost every building and drove families from their homes in the community east of Cedar Key.

Even with the payments, the saga of Rosewood is far from over.

In the works are a book, a motion-picture deal and a permanent memorial where the hamlet once existed.

The violence began on New Year's Day and escalated when a group of whites, angry after a fruitless search for a black man accused of attacking a white woman, rampaged through the community of about 120 people. At least six blacks and two whites died.

In 1982, Gary Moore, then a reporter for the St. Petersburg Times, wrote about Rosewood,



DANIEL PORTNOY/The Associated Press

Gregory Durden, left, chief of the attorney general's civil-rights office, and Assistant Attorney General Guy David Robinson sit with their Rosewood family tree.

sparking interest that smoldered over the next decade. It finally ignited when elderly survivors, one by one, began speaking out about the incident, which had faded from public memory.

State lawmakers passed a precedent-setting compensation plan in 1994. They agreed that government authorities had failed to maintain law and order and protect Rosewood's residents.

As a result, nine elderly survivors received \$150,000 apiece from the state.

But it has taken months for the attorney general's office to sort through hundreds of claims from people who say their families lost property. The Legislature approved \$500,000 to be paid to the

Rosewood survivors and descendants.

"I've handled a lot of different cases in my life. I have never had as difficult a time as Rosewood or one as rewarding either," said Gregory Durden, chief of the attorney general's civil-rights office.

To determine who had legitimate claims to the money, assistant Attorney General Guy David Robinson and investigator Frank Beisler conducted their own investigation.

It followed in-depth probes by Moore and then a group of university researchers, as well a review by the attorney general's office, which originally represented the state in opposing the claims bill last year.

Tallahassee
Democrat
5/28/95

FINALLY, COMPENSATION

Mia Donald



Associated Press

ROSEWOOD SURVIVOR PAID: Altamese Wripus embraces her uncle, Willie Evans, in Orlando after he received a check for \$50,000.

Lawmaker pushes bill memorializing massacre

By LORI ROZSA
Herald Staff Writer

A Miami legislator is gathering support in Tallahassee this week for a bill that would memorialize the Rosewood massacre and compensate the two remaining victims of the racist assault 70 years ago.

But State Rep. Miguel DeGrandy, R-Miami, has met with two stumbling blocks: He missed the Jan. 1 deadline to file a claims bill, and some fellow legislators are questioning whether enough information exists to justify passing such a bill.

Rosewood was a small but thriving North Florida town, built and inhabited mostly by black homesteaders, when the Ku Klux Klan rode through on Jan. 1, 1923. They went on a three-day rampage allegedly triggered by the rape of a white woman by a black man.

The town, near Cedar Key, was burned to the ground. Estimates of the dead vary, from a dozen to 150. Lee Ruth Davis, 77, of Miami, and Minnie Langley, 88, believe they are the only Rosewood residents left. The Miami law firm of Holland and Knight is representing the two, trying to get them compensation for properties their families lost.

DeGrandy said he can probably get the deadline waived. He said no dollar figure has been set yet for the compensation or memorial. But he's confident the claims bill will pass.

"The more I learned about it, the more I became outraged," DeGrandy said. "No matter how painful this piece of Florida history is, it needs to be memorial-

ized."

A claims bill is filed when somebody believes the state has erred in its "moral responsibility" to protect citizens. DeGrandy said Cary Hardee, Florida governor at the time, failed to stop the massacre even after he'd been told a posse was being formed to storm the town.

"The state basically turned its back on the plight of the citizens in that small town," DeGrandy said.

The Rosewood massacre is rarely mentioned in history books. But DeGrandy said enough anecdotal information and press clippings from the time period exist to document it.

"We don't need to spend a lot of time researching it," he said.

State Rep. Cynthia Chestnut, D-Gainesville, isn't so sure. She said the state would need to do its own research. She also wants to hear a dollar figure before she will commit her support.

"I have no idea of the cost, of what the bill would entail," said Chestnut, whose home town is the biggest city near Rosewood. "A claims bill takes money from the general revenue fund. That's money for education, health and everything else. You have to have good supporting data to get that money."

Ruth Davis, recently released from the hospital after a four-month illness, said she's willing to go to Tallahassee to persuade legislators to pass the bill.

"I suffered a whole lot and lost a lot of my family," Davis said Tuesday. "I'm able to talk about it now, after so many years. I'll tell them all I know, and I hope they do something about it."

Sun Sentinel

DIGEST

Sun-Sentinel wire services

State is seeking Rosewood survivors

TALLAHASSEE — The state will begin advertising on Wednesday for survivors of the 1923 Rosewood massacre to help determine who gets a share of \$1.5 million in compensation for the racial violence that destroyed the black settlement.

"We want to have an open process. We want to have a fair process," said Greg Durden, chief of the Florida attorney general's civil rights office, which is handling the application process.

4 early Rosewood payments OKd

TALLAHASSEE — (AP) — A handful of elderly survivors who fled racial violence that destroyed the black community of Rosewood 71 years ago will receive expedited payments from the state, officials said Thursday.

Four survivors named in a claims bill passed this year will receive \$50,000 apiece in the next few days, or about one-third of the total approved by state lawmakers.

The bill says Minnie Lee Langley, 81; Arnett Goins, 80; Wilson Hall, 79; and Willie Evans, 86, should receive \$150,000 each because their testimony proved they were present when Rosewood was wiped out.

Supporters of the survivors have been urging a faster payout because they fear beneficiaries could die before the official deadline at the end of the year for paying them under the

\$2 million compensation plan.

The comptroller's office, which handles payments in claims bills, agreed to the partial payments Thursday after the attorney general's office and legislative officials said it didn't violate the law.

"In the next couple of days, we will issue the checks," said Terry McElroy, spokesman for Comptroller Gerald Lewis.

The deadline for applying for compensation is Dec. 31.

Matt Herald

Sum Sentinel

State to give Rosewood survivors early payments

The Associated Press

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On New Year's Day 1923, a group of whites went on a rampage after an unsuccessful search

for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman. A posse turned into a mob that burned down almost every house and building in the community of about 120 residents.

At least six blacks and two whites died.

State lawmakers passed the compensation plan after determining that law enforcement authorities did not end the violence at Rosewood despite reports that it was out of control.

& STATE



AP

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enforcement agencies have gone through in preparation for any violence. Deputy Chief Charlie Wright, who has planned World Cup security, also has insisted on sensitivity training, especially regarding Dutch fans.

Wright said fans of the other four teams — Mexico, Ireland, Morocco and Belgium — are more restrained with officers, but all have a custom illegal in Central Florida: They are used to walking around with alcoholic drinks.

Wright said police will show restraint but that any drinkers who cause trouble will be charged with violating the open-container ordinances in addition to any other crimes they commit.

Florida looks for claimants

By ADAM YEOMANS
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — The state will begin advertising Wednesday for survivors of the 1923 Rosewood massacre to help determine who gets a share of \$1.5-million in compensation for the racial violence that destroyed the black settlement.

"We want to have an open process. We want to have a fair process," said Greg Durden, chief of the Florida attorney general's civil rights office, which is handling the application process.

Durden said he plans to put legal notices in newspapers in Florida but does not plan to advertise outside the state.

The deadline to apply for compensation is Dec. 31. At least eight survivors have been identified, including four who were named as deserving payment in the historic compensation bill passed by the Legislature this spring and signed by Gov. Lawton Chiles.

On New Year's Day 1923, a group of whites went on a rampage after an unsuccessful search for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman. They burned virtually every house and building in the community of approximately 120 residents about 9 miles east of Cedar Key. At least six blacks and whites were killed.

The claims law established a \$1.5-million fund to pay up to \$150,000 each to survivors who prove they lived in Rosewood at the time and fled.

It also provides \$500,000 to reimburse families who lost property and \$100,000 a year for college scholarships for Rosewood family descendants and other members of minority groups.

The law says those seeking payments must provide "reasonable proof of eligibility."

The Attorney General's Office is creating the process to verify survivors.

Durden said he is reviewing documents and testimony from legislative hearings, has one lawyer working full-time on the compensation law and will form a committee to review the applications.

Anyone who applies for compensation will be required to show proof of eligibility and the extent of damages later, Durden said.

The law says Minnie Lee Langley, 80, Arnett Goins, 80, Wilson Hall, 79, and Willie Evans, 86, deserve \$150,000 apiece because their testimony during hearings proved they fled Rosewood.

Dolphin census-takers to storm

State nears completion of pay for victims of Rosewood riots

What happened 72 years ago is no longer a dark secret for survivors who fled their homes in the wake of racial violence.

By ADAM YEOMANS
Associated Press Writer

TALLAHASSEE — For survivors and descendants of Rosewood, the gnawing memories of the racist violence that wiped out the tiny black settlement 72 years ago are finally being soothed.

Many will be richer after the state wraps up its \$2 million program to compensate nine Rosewood survivors and several dozen descendants of families who lost property. The last payments are expected to be made in the next week or two.

All have the satisfaction of knowing that what happened to Rosewood is no longer a dark secret for a few survivors who were children when they fled their homes during the first week of January 1923.

When family members gather for their summer reunion later this year, they can look ahead knowing the story has been told.

"It should be behind us by that time. We should be able to move on with our lives," said Arnett Doctor, whose great-grandmother was killed by members of a white mob that burned almost every building and drove families from their homes in the community east of Cedar Key.

Even with the payments, the saga of Rosewood is far from over.

In the works are a book, a motion picture deal and a permanent memorial where the hamlet once existed.

The violence began on New Year's Day when a group of whites, angry after a fruitless search for a black man accused of attacking a white woman, rampaged through the community of about 120 people. At least six blacks and two whites died.

In 1982, Gary Moore, then a reporter for

the St. Petersburg Times, wrote about Rosewood, sparking interest that smoldered over the next decade until it ignited. Elderly survivors, one by one, began speaking out about the incident that had faded from public memory.

State lawmakers passed a precedent-setting compensation plan in 1994. They agreed government authorities had failed to maintain law and order and protect Rosewood's residents.

As a result, nine elderly survivors received \$150,000 apiece from the state.

But it has taken months for the attorney general's office to sort through hundreds of claims from people who say their families lost property. The Legislature approved \$500,000 to be paid to the Rosewood survivors and descendants.

"I've handled a lot of different cases in my life. I have never had as difficult a time as Rosewood or one as rewarding either," said Gregory Durden, chief of the attorney general's civil rights office.

The search for descendants is now over.

Within the next week or two, between 60 and 70 descendants will receive a share of the \$500,000 in amounts ranging from \$145 to \$5,000, Durden said.

Doctor, who heads the Rosewood Family Advisory Committee, has criticized state officials for moving too slowly at times. But he said he now was satisfied with how state officials handled the compensation plan.

"Everybody received something out of this process. Everybody in the family had a chance to experience some sort of gain from this process. No one can say they were not helped from this process," he said. "We didn't get everything we wanted, but we got more than many people expected."

With the state's role just about over, Rosewood takes on a new dimension.

Greg Galloway, an entertainment lawyer in Orlando who represents the Rosewood families in the film deal, said he believed Rosewood offered a compelling tale.

"The state pays damages for a race-based



Associated Press Photo

Gregory Durden, left, of the attorney general's civil rights office, and Guy David Robinson, assistant attorney general, pose among genealogies.

hate crime. That's never happened in this country," he said. "It's an opportunity for filmgoers to see what Rosewood was — a relatively prosperous black community in the South."

A prominent Hollywood producer plans to make the film, but the movie maker doesn't want details of the project released at this time, said Galloway.

In Norfolk, Va., author Mike D'Orso is wrapping up a book with the working title, "And God Was All Around Us: The Story of the Rosewood Massacre." He said he expected it to be released in early 1996.

Doctor has his own plans to establish a memorial at the site where the community existed about nine miles east of Cedar Key along State Road 24.

Said Doctor: "I'm committed to showing the best light on Rosewood that we can possibly bring to bear."

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Attorneys made for 1923 rampage

■ Checks are in the mail for the last Rosewood massacre victims.

By ADAM YEOMANS
Associated Press

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St. Pete
Times
3/28/95

Attorney Gregory Durden, left, and Guy David Robinson, assistant attorney general, traced Rosewood families.

AP

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It followed in-depth probes by Moore and then a group of university researchers as well a review by the attorney general's office, which originally represented the state in opposing the claims bill last year.

Robinson created a "family tree" of 18 families who owned property in Rosewood and went

through the painstaking process of identifying descendants. The chart covering a wall in the attorney general's Hollywood office contains more than 1,300 names.

To confirm who deserved property compensation, Beisler traveled to Levy County and surrounding areas several times to review records and try to uncover new documents that could confirm their findings.

In one visit, the investigator found records from the 1920s stored in an old school-bus barn. Pages literally crumbled when he tried to turn them. Such documents helped to reduce the number of supposed heirs because they showed some families did not live in Rosewood.

With the latest investigation, the search is now over.

Within the next week or two, between 60 and 70 descendants will receive a share of the \$500,000 in amounts ranging from \$145 to \$5,000, Durden said.

Doctor, who heads the Rosewood Family Advisory Committee, has criticized state officials for moving too slowly at times. But he said he now was satisfied with how state officials handled the compensation plan.

Jacksonville
Times-Union
5/30/95

Memories of Rosewood violence finally being eased

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — For survivors and descendants of Rosewood, the gnawing memories of the racist violence that wiped out the tiny black settlement 72 years ago are finally being soothed.

Many will be richer after the state wraps up its \$2 million program to compensate nine Rosewood survivors and several dozen descendants of families who lost property. The last payments are expected to be made in the next week or two.

All have the satisfaction of knowing that what happened to Rosewood is no longer a dark secret for a few survivors who were children when they fled their homes during the first week of January 1923.

When family members gather for their summer reunion later this year, they can look ahead knowing the story has been told.

"It should be behind us by that time. We should be able to move on with our lives," said Arnett Doctor, whose great-grandmother was killed by members of a white mob that burned almost every building and drove families from their homes in the community east of Cedar Key.

Even with the payments, the saga of Rosewood is far from over.

In the works are a book, a motion picture deal and a permanent memorial where the hamlet once existed.

The violence began on New Year's Day

when a group of whites, angry after a fruitless search for a black man accused of attacking a white woman, rampaged through the community of about 120 people. At least six blacks and two whites died.

In 1982, Gary Moore, then a reporter for the St. Petersburg Times, wrote about Rosewood, sparking interest that smoldered over the next decade until it ignited. Elderly survivors, one by one, began speaking out about the incident that had faded from public memory.

State lawmakers passed a precedent-setting compensation plan in 1994. They agreed government authorities had failed to maintain law and order and protect

Rosewood's residents.

As a result, nine elderly survivors received \$150,000 apiece from the state.

But it has taken months for the Attorney General's Office to sort through hundreds of claims from people who say their families lost property. The Legislature approved \$500,000 to be paid to the Rosewood survivors and descendants.

"I've handled a lot of different cases in my life. I have never had as difficult time as Rosewood or one as rewarding as this," said Gregory Durden, chief of the attorney general's civil rights office.

To determine who had legitimate claims

(See DESCENDANTS, Page B-5)

Descendants to share final \$500,000

(From Page B-1)

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Within the next week or two, between 60 and 70 descendants will receive a share of the \$500,000 in amounts ranging from \$145 to \$5,000, Durden said.

Doctor, who heads the Rosewood Family Advisory Committee, has criticized state officials for moving too slowly at times. But he said he now was satisfied with how state officials handled the compensation plan.

"Everybody received something out of this process. Everybody in the family had a chance to experience some sort of gain from this process. No one can say they were not helped from this process," he said. "We didn't get everything we wanted, but we got more than many people expected."

With the state's role just about over, Rosewood takes on a new dimension.

Greg Galloway, an entertainment lawyer in Orlando who represents the Rosewood families in the film deal, said he believed Rosewood offered a compelling tale that would

translate easily to the big screen.

"The state pays damages for a race-based hate crime. That's never happened in this country," he said. "It's an opportunity for filmgoers to see what Rosewood was — a relatively prosperous black community in the South."

A prominent Hollywood producer plans to make the film, but the movie maker doesn't want details of the project released at this time, Galloway said.

In Norfolk, Va., author Mike D'Orso is wrapping up a book with the working title *And God Was All Around Us: The Story of the Rosewood Massacre*. He said he expected it to be released in early 1996.

D'Orso has collaborated on and written several non-fiction books.

Doctor has his own plans to establish a memorial at the site where the community existed about 9 miles east of Cedar Key along Florida 24. Today, only road signs mark the spot.

"I'm committed to showing the best light on Rosewood that we can possibly bring to bear," he said. "There was a lot of richness there at that time that's been lost for the most part."

Rosewood families try to bury past

ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Orlando
Sentinel

5/27/95

Fax Transmittal Cover Sheet

To: Jill , - Attorney General's Civil Rights

From: MOON Magazine

Fax Number: (904) 378-6644

Date: Wed, Jun 7, 1995 • 10:23 AM

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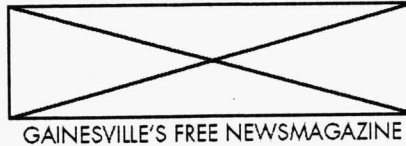
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6-7-95

GDR -

Per your instruction I told
Ms. Podolsky you will ^{try}
contact her Monday
of next week or soon
there after.

I also told her the fee
will most likely exceed \$10, -
JK.



**Office of Attorney General
Attn. Jill
4000 Hollywood Blvd. Suite 505 South
Hollywood, Florida 33021**

Dear Jill,

In accordance with Florida Statutes Chapter 119.01, 119.07 and 119.02, I am requesting all public documents pertaining to the payment of state funds to the survivors of the Rosewood massacre as per the legislature's decision of 1994.

If the cost is above \$10, please notify me at the number listed below.

**Moon Magazine
Amy Podolsky
14 East University, Suite 206
Gainesville, FL 32601**

Thank you for your time,

**Amy Podolsky
(904) 377-5374**

Folks line up to be extras in movie about Rosewood

The Associated Press

LEESBURG — State employment offices in Central Florida are offering a shot at Hollywood, signing up extras for a new John Singleton movie *Rosewood*.

The movie, which recounts the story of the black town of Rosewood razed in 1923 by an angry white mob, will be filmed in areas of Lake County, north of Orlando, next month.

All day Friday, job applicants, hoping to snare one of the 2,000 spots as extras, poured into the Florida employment service office in Leesburg and in offices in Sumter, Volusia, Seminole and Orange Counties.

"It has been slow here all week until today," said Joanne Staehler, who works in the Lees-

burg job service office. "Virtually everyone has been coming in about the movie."

That included Staehler, who said she was filling out an application when she wasn't busy.

Rosewood, once located southwest of Gainesville, was torn apart by angry whites from nearby Sumner who were looking for a suspect after a white woman reported being assaulted by a black man. When they couldn't find him, they burned Rosewood to the ground.

The incident left at least six blacks and two whites dead.

The Warner Bros. movie is being directed by Singleton, whose credits include *Boyz N the Hood*, *Poetic Justice* and *Higher Learning*.

Boy kills himself with 'toy' gun

The Associated Press

TAMPA — A 5-year-old boy who apparently thought he was playing with a toy gun shot himself to death at his great-grandmother's home, police said.

Eric Manuel Payne and another youngster were visiting his great-grandmother, Lillie Mae Jackson-Stokes, when they found a .25-caliber handgun in a back bedroom Friday afternoon, police Lt. Rick Duran said.

The children were playing with the gun when it went off, striking Eric in the left side of his head, officer Jimmy Wester said.

Emergency workers tried unsuccessfully to revive the child before taking him to Tampa General Hospital where he was pronounced dead, Duran said.

The shooting was ruled accidental, but authorities were investigating.

Miami Herald
1-31-96
5B

Rosewood producers vow to be faithful to history

Associated Press

LAKE MARY — Producers say they will be true to history in filming the movie *Rosewood*, depicting racist riots in the west Florida community of that name in 1923.

Six blacks and two whites were killed in the violence that came after a black man was accused of assaulting a white woman.

"It's a very important film, a film with a lot of historical and emotional relevance to it," director John Singleton said. "I was deeply moved by the accounts of

what happened to [the survivors] as children."

Singleton, producer Jon Peters and actors Jon Voight and Ving Rhames, who co-star in the film, held a news conference Monday night.

Filming began Monday in rural northeast Lake County between Orlando and Daytona Beach, where two towns have been built as sets representing the black town of Rosewood and the white mill town of Sumner.

Peters said two members of the Ku Klux Klan stopped by the

rural site about a month ago. He called it a brief and peaceful visit, but added that it had led to heightened security and closing of the movie set to visitors, including the media.

In 1994, the state decided to award black Rosewood survivors and their descendants \$2.1 million in compensation, attracting national interest in the story. Peters said he heard the story in a newscast and realized its appeal

as a movie.

The film will cover events over three to four days and may be released this fall.

Peters has produced 62 films, including *Rain Man* and *Batman*.

Singleton's debut film, *Boyz n the Hood*, brought him critical acclaim and the distinction of being the first black director nominated for an Academy Award.

public review at the meeting.

For information regarding accommodations pursuant to the 1990, please contact Mr. Design Section, Metropolitan Department, 111 N.W. Center, Miami, FL 33128.

Special accommodation (7) days prior to the C. submit written statement in addition to, oral statement can mail them to Mr. B. All written statements become part of the Cor

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Lottery Results

OBITUARY

Minnie Langley, led fight for massacre restitution

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Minnie Lee Langley, one of the oldest survivors of the 1923 Rosewood massacre and a leader in winning restitution for the destruction of the black settlement by a white mob, died Saturday.

Miss Langley, 82, of Jacksonville, underwent surgery for cancer last week, said her granddaughter, Frankie Russell.

Miss Langley was one of nine elderly Rosewood survivors who each received \$150,000 earlier this year after the Florida Legislature approved a \$2 million compensation plan in 1994.

Officials are reviewing the names of more than 100 descendants who may also receive shares of the money.

The state acknowledged it failed to protect the families who

fled from a white mob that wiped out Rosewood.

The black community of about 350 was near Cedar Key, on the Gulf Coast 100 miles north of Tampa. Today all that remains is a small road sign and one house six miles east of Cedar Key.

Miss Langley was there during the rampage, fleeing her aunt's home as a 9-year-old and hiding in nearby woods.

And she was present in May 1994 when Gov. Lawton Chiles signed into law a plan to compensate survivors, lifting what he described as a "shadow of shame" over the state.

"I never lost my faith," Miss Langley said at the signing ceremony. "It's been a long way to go."

"This is a great loss for us," Arnett Doctor, a spokesman for the Rosewood survivors and their

families, said Sunday. "It's devastating especially to me and my family."

Doctor was a distant cousin to Miss Langley.

Miss Langley and her cousin, Ruth Davis of Miami, initially asked legislators for compensation and a memorial for Rosewood victims in 1993. After a study, a compensation bill was passed near the end of the 1994 legislative session.

Miss Langley offered vivid testimony about the violence that erupted on New Year's Day 1923 as a group of whites went on a fruitless search for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman. At least six blacks and two whites were killed and the mob destroyed almost every home and building in the ensuing several days.

Research traces the origins of the art of Europe back to Africa

African art is at the root of modern Western art, according to a University of Florida researcher.

"From 1907 through the 1960s, so much of Western art was based on either expressionism, cubism or surrealism and all of these made use of African art," said UF art history professor Robin Poynor.

The major shift began when artists such as Picasso, Matisse and Derain started buying African art objects from curio shops in Paris and German Expressionists began collecting such pieces in Berlin and Munich, he said.

To many Africans, art is more than pleasing to the eye; to them it is a way to please the spirits they cannot see, Poynor also says.

In African beliefs, said art history professor Robin Poynor, art is a way to communicate with a spirit world that is interwoven with the lives of people.

In his new book, "African Art at the Harn Museum," published by University Press of Florida, Poynor selects 92 art objects in a traveling art exhibition and explains their ties to spirit communication.

Such objects were shunned by art museums until the 1950s. African art was largely relegated to natural history or anthropological museums, except for a few galleries in Europe and the United States that occasionally exhibited African objects alongside modern art, Poynor said.

But, he said, "Art allows spirits

depend on humans — to feed them and provide them with companionship — and they, in turn, provide certain material blessings by pulling strings in the spirit world to help humans."

A piece of art may represent a person's gift to a particular spirit, such as an altar decoration, or it may serve as a representation of the spirit itself, as with a sculptured figure or masquerade, Poynor said.

Carved skulls of sacrificed animals, such as antelopes, cows and rams, are often displayed over altars at which they were sacrificed, he said.

"Possibly these heads are reminders to ancestral spirits that the descendants are still thinking of them and reminding them that they have made sacrifices in their honor to sustain them in the spirit world," he explained.

At the beginning of the 20th Century, African art was considered "primitive art" that was somehow grotesque or inferior to European art but today scholars recognize it as a major contributor in the history of world art, he said.

The first art museum dedicated entirely to African and Oceanic art was the Museum of Primitive Art in New York, founded by Nelson Rockefeller. Today, many major museums have such collections, he said.

European art created prior to the 19 Century is similar to the African art in its emphasis upon function, for it was not until the 19 Century in Europe that the idea of art for art's sake was born, said Poynor.

"Nearly all of (European) medieval art depict saints or Jesus and are used as altar — pieces or some other church decoration," he said.

Among the spiritual beings reflected in African art that are featured in Poynor's book are little carved figures called "ibeji," the Yoruba word for "twin." The Yoruba people treat twins in a ritualistic way because they are considered to be spiritual beings. Twins are often born prematurely, with low birth weights, resulting in high mortality rates, Poynor said.

The Yoruba believe the souls of twins are connected and the spirit of the dead twin will try to lure the spirit of the living twin into the spirit world, so people often make a small wooden sculpture to represent the deceased twin and do everything for it that is done for the living twin, including taking it to market, bathing it and singing to it, he said.

The collection of African art assembled at the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art in Gainesville has been touring selected Southern cities. — UF Feature



Seated female figure from the Ivory Coast.

Payments wind down in Rosewood tragedy

By ADAM YEOMANS
The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — A year after Florida lawmakers agreed to repay survivors and descendants of the Rosewood massacre 72 years ago, the state is preparing to wrap up its efforts.

Between 60 and 70 descendants of families that lost property in the Black community after a racist mob's murderous rampage will share \$500,000 set aside by the Legislature, officials said.

Nine elderly survivors have already received \$150,000 apiece from the state at the beginning of the year. Since then, the attorney general's civil rights office has spent months poring over records and checking out hundreds of claims from people who said their families were driven from Rosewood by several days of violence that started on New Year's Day 1923.

"We probably were dealing with more than 1,000 names in the family trees," said Gregory Durden, chief of the attorney general's civil rights office. "We never anticipated it was going to be this involved."

Rosewood's demise began when a group of Whites frustrated after an unsuccessful search for a Black man accused of assaulting a White woman destroyed almost every building in the community of about 120 people.

Descendants verified by the

attorney general's office will receive anywhere from \$145 to \$5,000 each under the property compensation plan, said Guy David Robinson, an assistant attorney general. The claims cover 18 families who lost property in Rosewood after the violence.

Arnett Doctor, 52, who has represented the Rosewood families in the legislative proceedings and compensation program, said he doesn't yet know how much he or the others will receive. He is the great-grandson of Sarah Carrier, who was killed during the violence.

"There is a wide range of reactions to the length of time it has taken," he said. "Some people are, quite frankly, a little upset. Others are a little skeptical. I am cautiously optimistic the attorney general will expedite it and do that which is right."

Today's survivors were children when Rosewood was wiped out. Most kept the memories of violence, gunshots and burning houses to themselves — until they began speaking out in the early 1980s.

Survivors received \$1.5 million, while the balance was earmarked for families that lost property.

Today, the only reminders of the community are small roadside signs on either side of State Road 24 between Gainesville and Cedar Key.



(A weekly digest of the news about race relations in America compiled from dispatches by The Associated Press.)

Arkansas

■ **LITTLE ROCK** — Henri Smothers has one year left in the Jaycees and she plans to make the most of it. She was elected May 20 as president of the Arkansas Jaycees — the first woman and first Black to hold the office.

California

■ **SANTA ANA** — A cafeteria brawl between White and Black students at a suburban high school two weeks ago was being investigated as a hate crime, the Orange County Sheriff's Department said. A Black student got a small cut under his right eye when he was hit by a soda can in the fight at Aliso Niguel High School.

Colorado

■ **DENVER** — One in four companies enrolled in the city's non-White contracting program since the mid-1980s stands on its own today without help from the government, according to the Rocky Mountain News. Thirty-one of 34

"chocolate cupcake" by a White male sergeant during a roll call, the suit alleges.

Massachusetts

■ **BOSTON** — A long-time leader of the Ku Klux Klan in Pennsylvania was sentenced to 25 months in prison for interfering in an investigation of neo-Nazi skinheads in the Brockton area. Roy Frankhauser, 55, of Reading, PA, is the head of the Pale Riders faction of the KKK, according to U.S. Attorney Donald Stern. U.S. District Court Judge Patti Saris, in imposing the sentence on Thursday, ordered Frankhauser to serve three years of supervised release upon his release from prison. He also was fined \$1,000.

Mississippi

■ **PASCAGOULA** — Two adults and a teen-ager were held for allegedly burning a cross in the yard of a house in the Helena community of Jackson County. Police said the three were arrested May 21 after lawmen found a chainsaw, camera and landscaping timbers at a home in Helena where one of the suspects was visiting. Police charged William Morris Joiner, 21, and Keith Allen Franklin, 24, both

Powell won't rule out a political bid

DALLAS (AP) — Gen. Colin Powell, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, says he may consider politics after he's finished writing his memoirs.

"At the moment I'm really just trying to finish my memoirs. After those memoirs are done, then I will make some choices about my future. I want to do something that's in service to the nation. Whether it's an appointed office or charitable work or educational work, I don't know. Perhaps it will be in politics," Powell said May 22 in response to an audience question after he addressed the annual convention of the Video Software Dealers Association.

He said he had set politics aside while in the military, adding, "But now that I'm no longer a soldier I'm developing a political philosophy and trying to see what I feel about politics. At the moment I don't have a passion for politics, I don't feel a calling for politics."

"I'm not ruling it out. The only thing I can say is that I'm going to do something that will be in service to the country to try to help make this an even greater country than it is now. Just keep watching; I'll be out there somewhere," he said.

During his speech, Powell talked about the Persian Gulf war, his adjustment to retirement and recent changes in military strategy to adapt to the changing world.



COLIN POWELL

middle of the day. I'm kind of appalled at the way in which we are taking demented people and using them for voyeuristic entertainment," Powell said.

"I don't blame producers as much as I blame ourselves for looking at this and tolerating it. I think we have to speak out a little bit more."

Hotline tracks militia groups

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — A new report by the Southern Poverty Law Center on the spread of militias includes a telephone "hotline" created to track the groups nationwide.

The report released late last month says at least 224 private

MLK commission is to be disbanded

ATLANTA, GA (AP) — Eleven years after being created to promote a national holiday to honor the slain civil-rights leader, the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday Commission will be disbanded, saving taxpayers up to \$300,000 a year.

The 40-member commission made the decision last Tuesday and will phase out its operations by September, next year, said member Richard Kimberly.

"The feeling is that, at a time of budget crunches, this will ultimately turn over more federal dollars to the federal government," Kimberly said.

The move, however, comes just four months after King's widow, Coretta Scott King, asked the federal agency to stop using King's image to promote the holiday. She also played a key role in the push to abolish the commission.

The resolution was introduced by the commission's operations committee, headed by Mrs. King. Dexter King, her son and head of the King Center, also is a committee member.

In January, Mrs. King sent a memo to the commission, which received \$300,000 from Congress in 1994, asking it not to use King's image or likeness until next year, because it could hamper the King Center's fund-raising efforts. She said corporate donors often mis-



MARTIN LUTHER KING Jr.: Birth date now a national holiday

There are at least 35 state and local commissions nationwide.

Federal records show that the national commission's fund-raising efforts are modest; it raised \$34,163 in contributions in 1993.

Congress established the commission in 1984 to encourage the observance of King's birth date, which became a national holiday in 1986. Last year, President Clinton signed into law an act that authorized the commission through April 1999.

Others on the commission include U.S. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, entertainer Stevie Wonder and U.S. Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C.

faxed from . . .

State of Florida

Office of the Attorney General

904-487-1963

TO: Greg Durden

FROM: Tom Hillstrom

DATE: 2/14/96

TIME: 13:18:36

3 Pages

FYI, the attached was placed into Lotus Notes today, per the AG.

Congratulations to you, Guy and Frank....

Office of the Attorney General
STAFF FORUM



AUTHOR: Tom Hillstrom

SUBJECT: New Book Profiles Our Work In Rosewood Case

MESSAGE:

A new book by a major New York publisher profiles in detail the work of several AG staffers in the Rosewood case in carrying out our dual roles: performing our duty of providing professional advocacy for the State during the 1994 claims bill process and administering the dispersal of some \$2 million to claimants following legislative action.

Entitled *Like Judgment Day*, the work by Virginia writer Michael D'Orso chronicles the claims bill filed on behalf of former residents of the village of Rosewood in Levy County who told of losing their homes and land as a result of racially motivated mob violence more than 70 years earlier. The bill also sought compensation for the descendants of former Rosewood residents, some of whom lost their lives.

The author describes how Jim Peters of our Civil Litigation section had only 10 days to prepare when given the assignment of providing advocacy at a hearing before a legislative special master. The author details the professionalism with which Jim provided representation, prompting even opposing counsel to state: "Now here's a *real* lawyer."

Throughout the process, the author relates, Jim demonstrated great deference and courtesy to the claimants, most of whom were very elderly, even paying a courtesy call on them at their hotel, and at the same time provided the type of vigorous representation he had previously demonstrated in such complex cases as the Costello prison litigation.

In one instance, the book states, Jim rushed to Levy county for a video affidavit with an elderly potential witness. A notary public was needed. Jim criss-crossed the rural county searching for one, finally locating one at a phosphate mine. The problem was, however, she had just left work. Jim, who once raced sports cars, "asked what kind of car she was driving, which direction she'd gone, then he shot back on to Route 19, raced south, spotted the woman's car up ahead, pulled alongside and waved her over," the book states. Ten minutes later the video camera was rolling.

Once the claims legislation was signed into law, the awesome task of administering it fell to our Office of Civil Rights, under the direction of Greg Durden. The assignment: locate as many eligible citizens as possible, verify all claims and disperse the approximately \$2 million. This meant identifying members of two groups: individuals still living who had been residents of Rosewood in 1923 and descendants of those who had lost their land there at that time.

The author chronicles the extraordinary efforts by the unit to meet these objectives, detailing in particular the work of Assistant Attorney General Guy David Robinson and Investigator Frank Beisler. The book includes brief personal profiles of each, including Guy's background as a running back at the University of Alabama and Frank's background as a Marine, police SWAT training officer and son of a professional hockey player. The book notes the enormous demands placed on Greg and members of the unit merely to assemble and read the huge paper files in the case. Calls from potential claimants – and news media – came literally from around the world, including Japan, France, Australia and England.

"Durden's office would up mailing out more than 400 applications to possible property claimants,"

the author writes. "Follow-up correspondence with each of them began filling the drawers and shelves of Robinson's office, hundreds of letters and documents mailed back from dozens of families, any piece of paper anyone could find that might boost their connection to Rosewood. Robinson and Beisler began drawing family-trees. When the limbs outgrew their desks, they began taping them up on the wall. It wasn't long before the wall was covered, floor to ceiling, plastered with paper, more than 1,300 names...."

The 373-page hardcover book is published by G.P. Putnam's Sons (ISBN 0-399-14147-2). It retails for \$27.50.



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P R E S S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Greg Durden, Chief,
Office of Civil Rights, Attorney
General's Office, 305-985-4445 or
Lucius Gantt, All World Consultants,
904-222-3475

CIVIL RIGHTS OFFICE BEGINS ROSEWOOD COMPENSATION EFFORTS

HOLLYWOOD, Florida--Greg Durden, Chief of the Florida Attorney General's Civil Rights Office, has announced efforts to locate survivors of the 1923 Rosewood massacre in order to determine who will get a share of \$2 million in compensation for the racial violence that destroyed the Black community that was once a prosperous settlement in Levy County.

"The Office of Civil Rights is trying to develop a claims process that is as simple as possible, while at the same time ensuring claimants receive just compensation," Durden, an African-American attorney said. "It is this office's hope that the Rosewood Bill will restore some measure of dignity to the victims of the incident."

African-American families who can demonstrate real and personal property damages resulting from the destruction of Rosewood, or any African-American resident from Rosewood who was living on May 5, 1994, and who was present and affected by the violence that took place at Rosewood, and was evacuated the week of January 1, 1923, may file a claim for compensation with the Office of the Attorney General. All claims must be submitted by December 31, 1994. Failure to comply with the December 31, 1994 deadline shall preclude eligible individuals from receiving compensation.

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Rosewood 2-2-2-2

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Persons identified by CS/HB 591 who deserve compensation include Minnie Lee Langley, age 80, Arnett Goins, 80, Wilson Hall, 79, and Willie Evans, 86. There may be at least seven others who survived Rosewood and who are still living.

"Though recognition of the victims of Rosewood and compensation has been a long time coming, the 'Rosewood Family' can now see the light at the end of the tunnel", Durden explained. "We intend to make the resolution of this bill a top priority."

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All residents of Florida who believe that they have been a victim of civil rights violations are encouraged to contact the Office of Civil Rights in the Florida Attorney General's Office.

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Office of Civil Rights, Attorney
General's Office, 305-985-4445 or
Lucius Gantt, All World Consultants,
904-222-3475

CIVIL RIGHTS OFFICE BEGINS ROSEWOOD COMPENSATION EFFORTS

HOLLYWOOD, Florida--Greg Durden, Chief of the Florida Attorney General's Civil Rights Office, has announced efforts to locate survivors of the 1923 Rosewood massacre in order to determine who will get a share of \$2 million in compensation for the racial violence that destroyed the Black community that was once a prosperous settlement in Levy County.

"The Office of Civil Rights is trying to develop a claims process that is as simple as possible, while at the same time ensuring claimants receive just compensation," Durden, an African-American attorney said. "It is this office's hope that the Rosewood Bill will restore some measure of dignity to the victims of the incident."

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Persons identified by CS/HB 591 who deserve compensation include Minnie Lee Langley, age 80, Arnett Goins, 80, Wilson Hall, 79, and Willie Evans, 86. There may be at least seven others who survived Rosewood and who are still living.

"Though recognition of the victims of Rosewood and compensation has been a long time coming, the 'Rosewood Family' can now see the light at the end of the tunnel", Durden explained, "We intend to make the resolution of this bill a top priority."

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State begins verification of Rosewood survivors

By ADAM YEOMANS
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — The legislative battle over Rosewood is finished, but the work is just beginning to determine whether those who say they fled a white mob that destroyed the black settlement 71 years ago actually lived there.

At least eight survivors have been identified, including four who were named as deserving of payments in the unprecedented \$2.1-million compensation bill that took effect last week.

An undetermined number of others are expected to apply for compensation.

The Attorney General's Office, which defended the state during legislative hearings into the Rosewood massacre, was given the job of putting together the process to verify the survivors who are eligible for payments.

The state wants to ensure only those with legitimate claims receive the money, but officials want to move as quickly as possible. Many of the survivors are in their 80s and some have health problems.

"We're going to make this issue a top priority," said Greg Durden, chief of the attorney general's civil rights office, which is handling the compensation.

On New Year's Day 1923, white people went on a rampage after an unsuccessful search for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman. A posse turned into a mob that burned virtually every house and building in the community of about 120 residents.

The law establishes a \$1.5-million fund to pay up to \$150,000 apiece to people who prove they lived in Rosewood in January 1923 and fled the violence that left at least six black people and two white people dead.

It also provides \$500,000 to reimburse residents whose families lost property during the violence and \$100,000 a year for college scholarships for Rosewood family descendants and other

members of minority groups.

The law says those seeking payments must provide "reasonable proof of eligibility."

It says Minnie Lee Langley, 80, Arnett Goins, 80, Wilson Hall, 79, and Willie Evans, 86, should receive \$150,000 each because their testimony during the legisla-

tive hearings proved they were present when Rosewood was wiped out.

Durden said he plans to release a notice for prospective applicants in June. The deadline to apply for compensation is Dec. 31, 1994.

He said he is reviewing documents and testimony.

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FLORIDA

BROWARD

■ Boy's art going to Mars

FORT LAUDERDALE — A 12-year-old boy's imagination bought his art a ticket to Mars.

A drawing by sixth-grader Carlitos Cruz was accepted to ride later this year on an unmanned Russian space mission to the red planet, where it will be left in a time capsule along with other works chosen in an international contest.

The artworks will be put on a CD-ROM computer disk and left on Mars for future space explorers. Carlitos' drawing is waiting for you at Nutri/System. But it won't be waiting long. Come in today. **1-800-321-THIN®**

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able to care for children. HRS officials have described Charles and Mary as loving parents and said foster parents have reference over strangers in options. With proper care, a child would not face any health problems from the adoption.

Hired Charles and Mary to set up wills and appoint a guardian willing to take charge of the child if they should die or become too ill to care for her. Charles' parents and Mary's sisters volunteered.

Dental information

Workers have said laws regarding confidentiality of dental records precluded disclosure from disclosing the condition to the judge.

Attorney deleted the information from papers she presented to the judge, describing Charles as healthy nonsmoker.

Later said HRS should inform the judge in a session. The HRS policy cases has since changed, workers are required to disclose either prospective adoptive parents have AIDS or any criminal illness, Towey

not just about AIDS," he said. "This is about a child. If these people are national, it should be a case about the best permanent home

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00 tapestry stripped room wall and stolen exclusive Breakers hotel each has been found a tiny suitcase and to a locker at a New

y, FBI agents found century tapestry that Sept. 22 from

budget cuts will affect programs from drug treatment centers to emergency housing assistance.

Rosewood massacre survivors to collect on the rest of compensation from state

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — The state of Florida is ready to send checks to nine survivors of the racial violence that destroyed the black community of Rosewood almost 72 years ago.

The elderly survivors, who drove their families from the community near Gainesville, have received \$50,000 each from the state and will get another \$100,000 apiece in January, officials said Wednesday.

"We're winding it down," said Guy David Robinson, an assistant attorney general handling the compensation plan.

Last spring, lawmakers passed a \$2 million compensation plan, including \$150,000 each for anyone who could prove they fled the violence.

On New Year's Day 1923, a group of whites went on a rampage after an unsuccessful search for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman. A mob burned almost every home and building in the community of about 120 people nine miles east of Cedar Key.

At least six blacks and two

Albany, N.Y., FBI agent Michael O'Brien said.

"It was crunched up pretty good," O'Brien said.

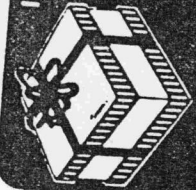
Neither the FBI nor Palm Beach police would release any more details. Nobody has been arrested, and it looks as if nobody will get the \$15,000 reward offered by the hotel. "The reward was

and law enforcement for undocumented immigrants. But agency officials said the cuts were in place more than a week ago, before the judge's decision was

money for undocumented immigrants "squeezes the care for our other children."

The cuts will come from \$1.3 billion that the department has

Florida's programs for helping battered and sexually abused children, moving drug offenders from jail to treatment or job training, and providing housing assistance for families could be sharply reduced or abolished.



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**NOTICE OF SOLICITATION
NOMINATIONS TO THE
ACQUISITION SELECTION
COMMITTEE**

The Environmentally Endangered Lands Program the Metro-Dade Office of the County Manager nominations for committee appointments to **Acquisition Selection Committee**. Preference to candidates who have a record of service in or civic affairs in Dade County. For more information regarding qualifications and timetable of application call (305) 375-3614. Send two (2) typewritten cover letter stating reason for nomination, brief letters of recommendations to

Last spring, lawmakers passed a \$2 million compensation plan, including \$150,000 each for anyone who could prove they fled the violence.

whites died.

The state received 21 applications from people who claimed to be survivors, but only nine have proved they lived in Rosewood during the violence, said Robinson, who is handling the payment plan with Greg Durden, chief of the attorney general's civil rights office.

The deadline for applying for compensation is Dec. 31.

The Legislature awarded compensation to Minnie Lee Langley, 81; Arnett Goins, 80; Wilson Hall, 79; and Willie Evans, who turns 87 on Christmas Day, after they testified at hearings and proved they were present during the racial violence.

Five others proved to state officials that they were driven from the community along with their families. They include Mary Hall Daniels, 75; Robie

Martin, 79; Dorothy Goins Hosey, who turns 76 New Year's Day; Lonnie Carrier Carrol, who turns 84 Christmas Day; and Margie Hall Johnson, who turns 86 on Friday.

Martin was the only survivor who wasn't known to officials after the legislation passed. She said she learned about the compensation after reading about it in a newspaper.

She was 8 years old at the time of the violence and remembered her father loading the family on a train to escape the mob. The whites burned her family's home and lynched her uncle. It was two years before she was reunited with her father.

"It renews my faith in my government," Martin said at a news conference earlier this month when she accepted her first \$50,000 check.

en \$75,000 tapestry found in N.Y. bus station locker

more than 20 feet off the floor was removed from an intricate system of pulleys and wires. When it was taken down for cleaning last year, three men had to carry it.

It's a special rug, woven in the 1770s by Flemish artists as part of a series of 13 tapestries designed by artist

the tapestry, but The Breakers is pleased to have it back.

"Right now, there's a bare wall where it was," Carlson said. "We're looking forward to returning it home."

Sunday, July 2, 1995

Rosewood descendants want money

State says lineage check caused payment delay

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Lengthy delays in compensating the descendants of the Rosewood massacre are starting to fray the nerves of some family members.

Attorney General Bob Butterworth was enlisted last week to help referee a squabble over payments to descendants of families who lost property after a racist mob wiped out the black community near Gainesville more than 72 years ago.

The attorney general's office is trying to wrap up a program to reimburse descendants up to \$500,000. The money is part of a \$2 million package approved more than a year ago by legislators for survivors and descendants.

Rosewood was destroyed in January 1923 when a group of whites, angry after an unsuccessful search for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman, destroyed almost every building in the community of about 120 people. At least six blacks and two whites died.

On Friday, representatives of descendants issued a news release that accused the attorney general's office of dragging its feet in approving payments. It also accused the state of planning to pay less than half of the \$500,000 to descendants.

Gregory Durden, the chief of the attorney general's civil rights office, said the investigation into family lineages to ensure applicants are eligible for compensation has been in depth and complex.

Durden had hoped to conclude the process, which included checking out more than 1,000 individuals, by early June. But the number of potential descendants increased.



From the Desk of...

GUY DAVID ROBINSON
Assistant Attorney General

ROBERT A. BUTTERWORTH
Attorney General
State of Florida

MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES

With no dates and/or
newspaper names

June 9-15, 1994



Arnett Goins, President Rosewood Advisory Committee address Florida Black Caucus, Gov. Chiles and Lt. Gov. Buddy McKay at Rosewood Bill Signing Ceremony at the Old Capitol.

State Civil Rights Office Begins Rosewood Compensation Efforts

HOLLYWOOD — Greg Durden, Chief of the Florida Attorney General's Civil Rights Office, has announced efforts to locate survivors of the 1923 Rosewood massacre in order to determine who will get a share of \$2 million in compensation for the racial violence that destroyed the Black community that was once a prosperous settlement in Levy County.

"The Office of Civil Rights is trying to develop a claims process that is as simple as possible, while at the same time ensuring claimants receive just compensation," Durden, an African-American attorney, said. "It is this office's hope that the Rosewood Bill will restore some measure of dignity to the victims of the incident."

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"Though recognition of the victims of Rosewood and compensation has been a long time coming, the 'Rosewood family' can now see the light at the end of the tunnel," Durden explained. "We intend to make the resolution of this bill a top priority."

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Florida

N E W S

Lawmakers In Gear For Hot Political Health Care Plan Debate

TALLAHASSEE (AP) — The Washington because Medicaid is a the fee caps.
state Senate is still split 20-20 joint federal-state program and The House, with its large
Democratic and Florida has to kick in only 45 cents Democratic majority, passed a ver-



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LAKE BUENA VISTA — 9:15 p.m. at Epcot's America Gardens Theatre. The guest-artist lineup includes: June 25-26, Della Reese; July 1-3, Maynard Ferguson; July 9-10, to be determined; July 16-17, Rosemary Clooney; July 23-24, Mercer Ellington; July 30-31, Billy Taylor; Aug. 6-7, Joe Williams; Aug. 13-14, Lionel Hampton.
Guest-artist shows with the 18-member band will be at 8 p.m. and Salute to the Duke," at Walt Disney World Epcot.

Around the South

Compensated Rosewood survivors leave past behind

Story of racist violence to be book, film

By Adam Yeomans
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tallahassee — For survivors and descendants of Rosewood, the gnawing memories of racist violence that wiped out the tiny black settlement 72 years ago are finally being soothed.

Many are a little richer now that Florida has wrapped up its \$2 million program to compensate nine Rosewood survivors and several dozen descendants of families who lost property.

They have the satisfaction of knowing what happened to Rosewood is no longer a dark secret for a few survivors who were children when they fled their homes in January 1923.

When family members gather for their summer reunion later this year, they can look ahead knowing the story has been told.

"It should be behind us by that time. We should be able to move on with our lives," said Arnett Doctor, whose great-grandmother was killed by members of a white mob that burned almost every building and

drove families from their homes in the community east of Cedar Key.

But, even with the payments, the saga of Rosewood is far from over. In the works are a book, a motion picture deal and a permanent memorial.

The violence began on New Year's Day when whites, angry after a fruitless search for a black man accused of attacking a white woman, rampaged through the community of about 120 people. At least six blacks and two whites died.

In 1982, Gary Moore, then a reporter for the St. Petersburg Times, wrote about Rosewood, sparking interest that smoldered over the next decade until it ignited. Elderly survivors, one by one, began speaking out about the incident.

State lawmakers passed a precedent-setting compensation plan in 1994. They agreed government authorities had failed to maintain law and order and protect Rosewood's residents.

As a result, nine elderly survivors received \$150,000 apiece from the state.

But it took months for the attorney general's office to sort through hundreds of claims from people who say their families lost property. The Legislature approved \$500,000 to be paid to the survivors and descendants.

"I've handled a lot of different cases in my life. I have never had as difficult a time as Rosewood or one as rewarding either," said Gregory Durden, chief of the attorney general's civil rights office.

To determine who had legitimate claims, assistant Attorney General Guy David Robinson and investigator Frank Beisler conducted their own investigation.

Robinson created a "family tree" of 18 families who owned property in Rosewood and went through the painstaking process of identifying descendants. The chart covering a wall in the attorney general's Hollywood office contains more than 1,300 names.

Investigator Beisler found Levy County records from the 1920s stored in an old school bus barn. Pages crumbled when he turned them.

Between 60 and 70 descendants received shares of the \$500,000 in amounts ranging from \$145 to \$5,000, Durden said.

With the state's role over, Rosewood takes on a new dimension.

Greg Galloway, an entertainment lawyer in Orlando who represents the Rosewood families in the film deal, said he believed Rosewood offered a compelling tale that would translate easily to the big screen.

"The state pays damages for a race-based hate crime. That's never happened in this country," he said. "It's an opportunity for filmgoers to see what Rosewood was — a relatively prosperous black community in the South."

A prominent Hollywood producer plans to make the film, but the movie maker doesn't want details of the project released at this time, said Galloway.

In Norfolk, Va., author Mike D'Orso is wrapping up a book to be published in early 1996 with the working title, "And God Was All Around Us: The Story of the Rosewood Massacre."

Doctor has plans to establish a memorial at the site where the community existed.

"I'm committed to showing the best light on Rosewood that we can possibly bring to bear," he said.



Associated Press

Painstaking research: Attorney Gregory Durden (left) and Guy David Robinson, assistant attorney general, with family trees of Rosewood families.

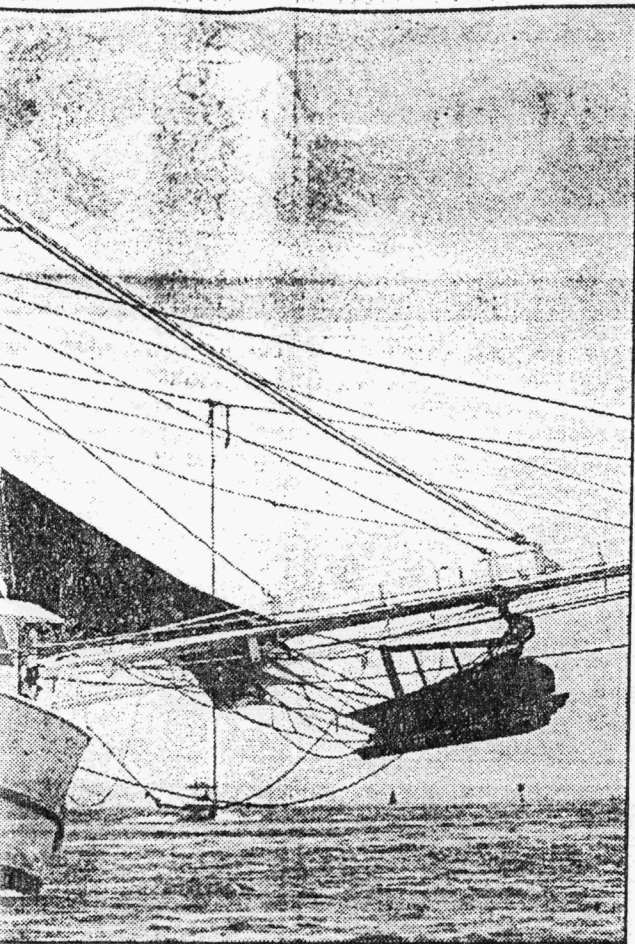
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She said the firm had not decided how much to chip in, but when the casino gambling issue came up four years ago, Disney put up \$50,000, said John Sowinski, spokesman for No Casinos.

Randy Lewis, spokesman for Limited Casinos, the organization promoting passage of the referendum, disagrees with Disney.

"That is kind of interesting coming from a county that is getting severely beaten by an area primarily known for gaming," Lewis said. "Right now, Las Vegas has surpassed Orlando in almost every area," Lewis said.

Las Vegas has more hotel rooms at a lower average cost than Orlando, Lewis said. "Orlando and every other city in the state needs to face reality," Lewis said. "Gaming cities are now America's hottest vacation destinations, and Florida must compete."

Lewis said tourism is down in Orlando and other Florida cities because of crime, the economy and a "been-there, done-that" attitude among potential visitors.

ttle recommended

State moves to rush payments for aging Rosewood survivors

TALLAHASSEE — (AP) — The Florida attorney general's office said Wednesday it wants to expedite payments to several elderly survivors of the racial violence that wiped out the black community of Rosewood 71 years ago.

Advocates for Rosewood's survivors have been urging a fast payout because they fear beneficiaries of a \$2 million compensation plan might die if they have to wait for the official deadline at the end of the year.

"I just don't see this happening fast enough," said Arnett Doctor, chairman of the Rosewood Family Advisory Committee. "What we are afraid of, they might very well pass on without receiving the benefit of the legislation that the governor signed."

Guy David Robinson, an assistant attorney general working on the claims process, said the office is seeking immediate partial payments of \$50,000 to each of four elderly survivors named in the claims bill. They would get the rest of the money later.

The bill says Minnie Lee Langley, 81; Arnett Goins, 80; Wilson Hall, 79; and Willie Evans, 86, should receive \$150,000 apiece because their testimony proved they were present when Rosewood was wiped out.

"That's been a concern from the beginning," Robinson said. "These people are up in age. We would like for them to enjoy the benefit of the legislation."

The attorney general's office is responsible for verifying applicants seeking payments under the claims bill, while the comptroller's office issues the checks. The official deadline for applicants is Dec. 31, 1994.

Officials in both agencies are working out the details of the expedited payments. Robinson said the attorney general's office hoped to have the money

released by the month's end.

"We're moving toward getting that accomplished," he said. "At this point, it appears things are going along smoothly."

Lee Ruth Davis, an elderly survivor who first sought compensation in 1993, died before state lawmakers passed the claims bill earlier this year.

On New Year's Day 1923, a group of whites went on a rampage after an unsuccessful search for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman. A posse turned into a mob that burned down virtually every house and building in the community of about 120 residents nine miles east of Cedar Key.

At least six blacks and two whites died.

The Legislature passed the compensation plan after a majority of lawmakers decided law-enforcement authorities failed to stop the violence at Rosewood despite reports that it was out of control.

A feature film about the Rosewood massacre is in the works, but details of the project are being negotiated, said Greg Galloway, an attorney working on the deal for the survivors and descendants.

The claims bill created two ways to provide payments — one for people who fled the violence and another for descendants of black families who lost their property.

The largest amount of money allocates \$1.5 million for survivors who fled with their families. Survivors whose account is verified are eligible for up to \$150,000 each.

A smaller part of the compensation provides \$500,000 to reimburse residents whose families lost homes and land. About 20 to 25 families lived in the community in 1923.

Water tax rate unlikely to change

Residents in a 16-county area in South Florida will not see a tax-rate increase from South Florida's water managers under a budget they have tentatively approved.

Members of the South Florida Water Management District

Almost \$10 of that would go to Everglades restoration, and residents would see the amount designated under "Everglades construction project." Although the restoration tax is not new, this is the first year the water district will be required to list it sepa-

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Dept.	Phone #	
Fax #	Fax #	

Florida looks for claimants

By ADAM YEOMANS
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — The state will begin advertising Wednesday for survivors of the 1923 Rosewood massacre to help determine who gets a share of \$1.5-million in compensation for the racial violence that destroyed the black settlement.

"We want to have an open process. We want to have a fair process," said Greg Durden, chief of the Florida attorney general's civil rights office, which is handling the application process.

Durden said he plans to put legal notices in newspapers in Florida but does not plan to advertise outside the state.

The deadline to apply for compensation is Dec. 31. At least eight survivors have been identified, including four who were named as deserving payment in the historic compensation bill passed by the Legislature this spring and signed by Gov. Lawton Chiles.

On New Year's Day 1923, a group of whites went on a rampage after an unsuccessful search for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman. They burned virtually every house and building in the community of approximately 120 residents about 9 miles east of Cedar Key. At least six blacks and whites were killed.

The claims law established a \$1.5-million fund to pay up to \$150,000 each to survivors who prove they lived in Rosewood at the time and fled.

It also provides \$500,000 to reimburse families who lost property and \$100,000 a year for college scholarships for Rosewood family descendants and other members of minority groups.

The law says those seeking payments must provide "reasonable proof of eligibility."

The Attorney General's Office is creating the process to verify survivors.

Durden said he is reviewing documents and testimony from legislative hearings, has one lawyer working full-time on the compensation law and will form a committee to review the applications.

Anyone who applies for compensation will be required to show proof of eligibility and the extent of damages later, Durden said.

The law says Minnie Lee Langley, 80, Arnett Goins, 80, Wilson Hall, 79, and Willie Evans, 86, deserve \$150,000 apiece because their testimony during hearings proved they fled Rosewood.

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TIMES ■ TUESDAY, MAY 31, 1994

State Of Florida To Award Each Rosewood Massacre Survivor \$100,000 More

The state of Florida is planning to send more money to the nine survivors of the racial violence that destroyed the Black community of Rosewood almost 72 years ago.

The survivors, all senior citizens, already have received \$50,000 each from the state (JET, Oct. 10, 1994).

They will get an additional \$100,000 apiece in January, officials there recently announced. The survivors were merely children when a White mob drove their families from the small community near Gainesville.

"We're winding it down," said Guy David Robinson, an assistant attorney general handling the \$2 million compensation plan passed by legislators last spring.

The checks are a result of the vio-

lence and humiliation that Blacks in the community suffered on New Year's Day 1923 when a group of Whites went on a rampage after an unsuccessful search for a Black man accused of assaulting a White woman.

A mob burned just about every home in the community, killing at least six Blacks.

The state received 21 applications from people who said they were Rosewood survivors, but only nine had proof, Robinson said. The deadline for applying for compensation was Dec. 31.

Robinson noted that he had charted about 25 families with a total of more than 400 people, but not all have proven their families owned property in Rosewood.

JET Magazine
1/16/95

THE STATE

Florida begins work to verify Rosewood kin

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — The legislative battle over Rosewood is finished, but the work is just beginning to determine whether those who say they fled a white mob that destroyed the black settlement 71 years ago actually lived there.

At least eight survivors have been identified, including four who were named as deserving of payments in the unprecedented \$2.1 million compensation bill that took effect last week.

An undetermined number of others are expected to apply for compensation.

The attorney general's office, which defended the state during legislative hearings into the Rosewood massacre, was given the job of putting together the process to verify the survivors who are eligible for payments.

The state wants to ensure only those with legitimate claims receive the money, but officials want to move quickly. Many of the survivors are in their 80s, and some have health problems.

"We're going to make this issue a top priority," said Greg Durden, chief of the attorney general's civil rights office, which is handling the compensation.

On New Year's Day 1923, white people went on a rampage after an unsuccessful search for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman. A posse burned down virtually every house and building in the community of about 120 residents.

The law establishes a \$1.5 million fund to pay up to \$150,000 apiece to people who prove they lived in Rosewood in January 1923 and fled the violence that

left at least six black and two white people dead.

It also provides \$500,000 to reimburse residents whose families lost property during the violence and \$100,000 a year for college scholarships for Rosewood family descendants and other members of minority groups.

Greg Durden / Guy Robinson

4B TIMES ■ THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1994

THE STATE

Rosewood survivors get first payments

By ADAM YEOMANS
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Elderly survivors of a mob attack that wiped out a black community in 1923 started getting checks Wednesday for \$50,000 each as the state expedited payments under a \$2-million compensation package.

State officials approved early payments for Rosewood massacre survivors who testified this year that they fled as children from a deadly white mob that rampaged through the community near Gainesville.

Payments under a claims bill passed by lawmakers were supposed to start in early 1995, but officials and survivor advocates feared some victims might die without getting a check.

The Legislature awarded \$150,000 each to Minnie Lee Langley, 81; Arnett Goins, 80; Wilson Hall, 79; and Willie Evans, 86, after they proved they were present during the racial violence. They will get the

balance next year.

Greg Durden, head of the attorney general's civil rights office, and Assistant Attorney General Guy David Robinson sought the expedited partial payments.

"The attorney general deserves an enormous amount of credit," said Steve Hanlon, an attorney for Rosewood's survivors. "They have done a very thorough and very responsible job."

Arnett Doctor, chairman of the Rosewood Family Advisory Council, presented one of the first checks Wednesday in Orlando to Evans, who is blind and has diabetes.

"I'm so thankful for this check," Evans said, rubbing the paper in his hand. "I didn't ever think we'd ever get anything for it."

On New Year's Day 1923, a group of whites went on a rampage after an unsuccessful search for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman. A posse turned into a mob that burned almost every structure

in the community of about 120 residents nine miles east of Cedar Key.

At least six black people and two white people died.

While the massacre was widely reported at the time, it was an overlooked part of Florida history until relatives of survivors persuaded them to talk about it in recent years.

The claims bill provides compensation for people who fled the violence and descendants of black families who lost their property. Survivors with verifiable accounts are eligible for up to \$150,000 each.

Doctor said he is asking the state to expedite payments to four others in their 70s or 80s who did not testify but said they also fled the violence.

State officials estimated up to 10 people would apply as survivors. About 30 people applied, but that number is being reduced as officials verify their eligibility, Robinson said.

Hundreds expected to make claims in massacre

■ The state Attorney General's Office is putting together a process to determine who is eligible for compensation in the Rosewood massacre.

By ADAM YEOMANS
Times Staff Writer

TALLAHASSEE — More than 300 people who claim kinship to residents who fled the black settlement of Rosewood more than 71 years ago are expected to seek financial compensation from the state, officials said.

State officials also are looking at whether to expedite payments to a handful of elderly survivors who escaped the racial violence that destroyed the community. The survivors are awaiting \$150,000 apiece approved earlier this year in an unprecedented \$2-million claims bill.

The Florida Attorney General's Office, which defended the state during hearings into the Rosewood massacre, is responsible for putting together a process

to determine who is eligible for compensation.

"We want the process to be as fair as possible," said Guy David Robinson, an assistant attorney general working on the claims process. "We want anybody who feels they have legitimate claims to have the opportunity to file that claim."

The legislation established two ways to provide payments — one for people who actually fled the violence and another for descendants of black families who lost their property.

On New Year's Day 1923, a group of whites went on a rampage after an unsuccessful search for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman. A posse turned into a mob that burned down virtually every house and building in the community of about 120 residents nine miles east of Cedar Key.

At least six blacks and two whites died.

State lawmakers passed the claims bill after they were convinced law enforcement authorities failed to stop the violence at Rosewood despite reports the violence was out of control.

The largest pot of money provides \$1.5-million to compensate survivors who fled with their families. About eight to 10 known survivors are expected to

apply for \$150,000 each, including four who testified in the Legislature and were named specifically in the legislation.

The smaller part of the compensation provides \$500,000 to reimburse residents whose families lost homes and land during the violence. About 20 to 25 families lived in the community in 1923.

At this point, between 300 and 400 people are expected to seek compensation for lost property but the state has not yet established a process to verify whether the applicants are legitimate heirs.

The legislation authorizes payments of \$20,000 to families. If property is worth more than that today, the attorney general can settle those claims with payments of up to \$100,000.

The deadline for survivors and descendants to apply for compensation is Dec. 31, 1994.

Arnett Doctor, who heads the Rosewood Family Advisory Committee, is urging the state to make at least partial payments to four elderly survivors named in the legislation immediately.

"Their health is fragile and it is highly questionable as to whether or not they'll be around in December," Doctor said. "It would be a major tragedy if they were

not. There has to be something the state of Florida can do."

Lee Ruth Davis, an elderly survivor who first sought compensation in 1993, died before the claims bill passed this year.

Robinson said the attorney general's office was looking if it was possible to expedite payments to the survivors.

The claims bill says Minnie Lee Langley, 81; Arnett Goins, 80; Wilson Hall, 79; and Willie Evans, 86, should receive \$150,000 each because their testimony proved they were present when Rosewood was wiped out.

At least four others who did not testify said they also fled the violence.

Dorothy Hosey and Mary Hall, both in their 70s, have said they learned about Rosewood from their parents and older siblings. The others are Margie Hall Johnson — the sister of Wilson Hall and Mary Hall — and Lonnie Carroll. Both are in their 80s.

"If there's a way to get these folks some percentage payment before the deadline, then we're all for it," Robinson said.

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THE STATE

Rosewood survivors say state broke promise

By CORY LANCASTER
The Orlando Sentinel

DAYTONA BEACH — Survivors of the 1923 Rosewood massacre, honored on Saturday at a Bethune-Cookman College ceremony, are complaining that state officials partially reneged on a promise to provide \$100,000 in scholarships to their descendants.

State legislators approved more than \$2 million in compensation this spring for the racial violence that destroyed the small black town in Levy County on New Year's Day 1923.

A white mob went on a rampage, burning homes and buildings, after an unsuccessful search for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman. Six blacks and two whites were killed.

Four of eight known Rosewood survivors were given certificates of appreciation during commencement at Bethune-Cookman on Saturday. The certificates honor the survivors "for perseverance of God-given human rights" and their commitment "to endure until the victory was won."

The claims law provides \$1.5 million for survivors, \$500,000 to reimburse families who lost property and \$100,000 annually for scholarships for their descendants and other minorities.

Arnett Doctor, head of the Rosewood Family Advisory Committee, said that only \$60,000 was set aside for scholarships this year.

"I'm really dissatisfied and very upset about the educational scholarship fund," he said. "For them to say we're going to allocate \$60,000 [this year] is going directly against what was legally

approved by the state Legislature."

Doctor said survivors were told the state would give 25 scholarships for \$4,000 each. Rosewood descendants would get first crack at them, and leftovers would go to minority students.

State officials said the survivors misunderstood the law. The provision calls for 25 scholarships for up to \$4,000 to cover tuition and fees at state universities, community colleges and vocational-technical schools.

Tuition and fees at those schools are no more than \$2,300 a year, meaning \$60,000 will pay

for 25 students, legislative analyst Jacquelynne Maxey said in Tallahassee.

Legislators failed to provide money for the scholarships this spring.

The Department of Education came up with \$60,000 for the 1994-'95 academic year from a surplus in another financial aid fund, state officials said.

"We're not taking any money away. We only really needed \$60,000," said state Rep. Al Lawson, D-Tallahassee. "The staff made an error in that we didn't need \$100,000 for 25 scholarships. It just slipped through."

GLOBAL

Rosewood survivors receive first payments from Legislature

Adam Yeomans

LAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Several survivors of racial violence that destroyed black community 71 years ago started receiving checks for \$50,000 apiece as state expedited payments of a \$2 million claims bill.

State officials OK'd early payments for four Rosewood massacre survivors who testified this year that they fled as children from a white mob that rampaged through the community near Gainesville in January 1923.

Payments under a claims bill passed by the Legislature were supposed to start in early 1995, but officials and survivor advocates feared some elderly survivors might die without getting any money.

The Legislature awarded \$150,000 each to Minnie Lee Langley, 81, Arnett Goins, 80, Wilson Hall, 79, and Willie Evans, 86, after they proved they were present during the racial violence. They will get the balance next year.

Greg Durden, head of the attorney general's civil rights office, and assistant attorney general Guy David Robinson sought the expedited partial payments.

"The attorney general deserves an enormous amount of credit," said Steve Hanlon, an attorney for Rosewood's survivors. "They have done a very thorough and very responsible job."

Arnett Doctor, chairman of the Rosewood Family Advisory Council, presented one of the first checks Wednesday in Orlando to Evans, who is blind and has diabetes.

Massacre victims begin collecting on \$2 million claims bill

"I'm so thankful for this check," Evans said, rubbing the paper in his hand. "I didn't ever think we'd ever get anything for it."

On New Year's Day 1923, a group of whites went on a rampage after an unsuccessful search for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman. A posse turned into a mob that burned almost every structure in the community of about 120 residents nine miles east of Cedar Key. At least six blacks and two whites died.

The claims bill provides compensation for people who fled the violence and descendants of black families who lost their property.

ROSEWOOD MASSACRE

State begins process to compensate the victims

*Those who feel they
deserve payment have
until Dec. 31 to file a
claim.*

By Adam Yeomans
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The state will begin advertising Wednesday for survivors of the 1923 Rosewood massacre to help determine who gets a share of \$1.5 million in compensation for the racial violence that destroyed the black settlement.

"We want to have an open process. We want to have a fair process," said Greg Durden, chief of the Florida attorney general's civil-rights office, which is handling the application process.

Durden said he plans to put legal notices in newspapers in Florida but does not plan to advertise outside the state.

The deadline to apply for compensation is Dec. 31.

At least eight survivors have been identified, including four who were named as deserving payment in the historic compensation bill passed by the Legislature this spring and signed by Gov. Lawton Chiles.

On New Year's Day 1923, a group of whites went on a rampage after an unsuccessful search for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman. The whites burned virtually every house and building in the community of 120 residents nine miles east of Cedar Key.

At least six black and two white people were killed.

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It also provides \$500,000 to reimburse families who lost property and \$100,000 a year for college scholarships for Rosewood family descendants and other members of minority groups.

The law says those seeking payments must provide "reasonable proof of eligibility."

The Attorney General's Office, which represented the state during legislative hearings into the racial violence, is creating the process to verify survivors.

Durden said he is reviewing documents and testimony from legislative hearings, has one state lawyer working full-time on the compensation law and plans to form a committee to review the applications.

Anyone who applies for compensation will be required to show proof of eligibility and the extent of their damages at a later date, Durden said.

The law says Minnie Lee Langley, 80, Arnett Goins, 80, Wilson Hall, 79, and Willie Evans, 86, deserve \$150,000 apiece because their testimony during legislative hearings proved they fled Rosewood.

At least four others who did not testify also escaped the violence, said Arnett Doctor, chairman of the Rosewood Family Advisory Committee.