



Howard Gets Checks at Tabernacle Baptist!

Do He, Others Use Church Funds as Their Personal Piggybanks?



Robert Littlejohn (forefront) attending a program at the Greenwood Cultural Center last year. (Photo/Tulsa World)

Robert Littlejohn

Geologist Used His Profession To Search for Black History

By W. ORLANDO PIERCE
Special to the Chronicle

TULSA—Robert Littlejohn, the longtime geologist with the Amoco Oil Co., who used his profession as something of a vantage point from which he launched numerous Black history research projects, died on March 25. He was 75.

It was said that Mr.

Littlejohn's interest in things historical was spawned from listening to the stories one of his aunts told when he was a youngster.

"Aunt Atlanta," Mr. Littlejohn once recalled, swore like a sailor and she smoked a pipe, but he didn't mind.

Her salty talk and her smoking a pipe added color and extra dimensions to her storytelling, Mr. Littlejohn was said to have once

pointed out.

He said he came to notice that "Aunt Atlanta's" history storytelling didn't always agree with the standard history-book versions of events he read while attending school.

And that's when Mr. Littlejohn's lifelong love of history got its start, he often told friends, and he also developed at that time a passionate desire to set the record straight, particularly regarding the history of Blacks.

That passion led Mr. Littlejohn to become what some have called an authority on the Black experience in Oklahoma.

Robert Littlejohn was born in Tulsa on Feb. 24, 1936, to J. B. and Maple Littlejohn.

He was one of 11 children.

Mr. Littlejohn graduated in 1954 from Booker T. Washington High School and then graduated in 1958 from Langston University, having majored in agricultural science.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army and served two years before receiving an honorable discharge.

Mr. Littlejohn worked 20 years as a geologist for Amoco Oil before his retirement, and owned Kerogen Prep during his career.

Kerogen Prep did tests for oil exploration companies.

After his retirement, Mr. Littlejohn worked for the Schusterman Foundation, and worked there until his death.

A former North Tulsa Historical Society president and amateur historian, Mr. Littlejohn became best known for his efforts to dig up and document Tulsa and Oklahoma Black history.

So that, he spent decades scouring archives, libraries and courthouses throughout the state exploring the subject, while tracing his own African, Creek Indian and European ancestry.

Mr. Littlejohn was also a recognized authority on the 1921

\$400/Month Is Drawn By A Deacon

By ALBERT J. LINDSEY
Executive Editor

T.C. William Howard, who once served as chairman of the deacon board of the congregation, has for years been drawing checks of substantial sums from the Tabernacle Baptist Church, the *Black Chronicle* has learned.

Mr. Howard has been getting \$400 checks each month even though he is not on the church's paid staff.

Mr. Howard wrote out the checks he received as one of three officers authorized to sign as payors of checks dispensed by the church.

Thus, Mr. Howard became both the payee and a payor for checks he received each month.

Each of the monthly checks written to "T.C. Howard" as payee, were also signed by "T.C. William Howard" as one of three payors.

The checks (photo static copies of which were acquired by the *Black Chronicle*) had in their memo space the words, "mission allotment."

The copies of checks, which the *Black Chronicle* acquired, are for the years, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Rev. Darryl Hairston began to serve as pastor in Jan. 2009.

Those facts come to light at a time when Mr. Howard, who still serves as a deacon at Tabernacle Baptist, has helped lead protests and disruptive demonstrations at one of the city's oldest congregations.

Some of those disruptive activities have evolved as Rev. Hairston appears to be moving toward uncovering why Tabernacle Baptist has been facing a fiscal crisis.

Rev. Hairston, who, members said, was elected by the congregation to become pastor in Jan. 2009 by a 69-31 percent margin over another candidate, was not told of the church's financial situation before he arrived.

But, since he has discovered them, Rev. Hairston has announced that audits would be conducted, and has, otherwise, worked to shore up Tabernacle Baptist's fiscal woes.

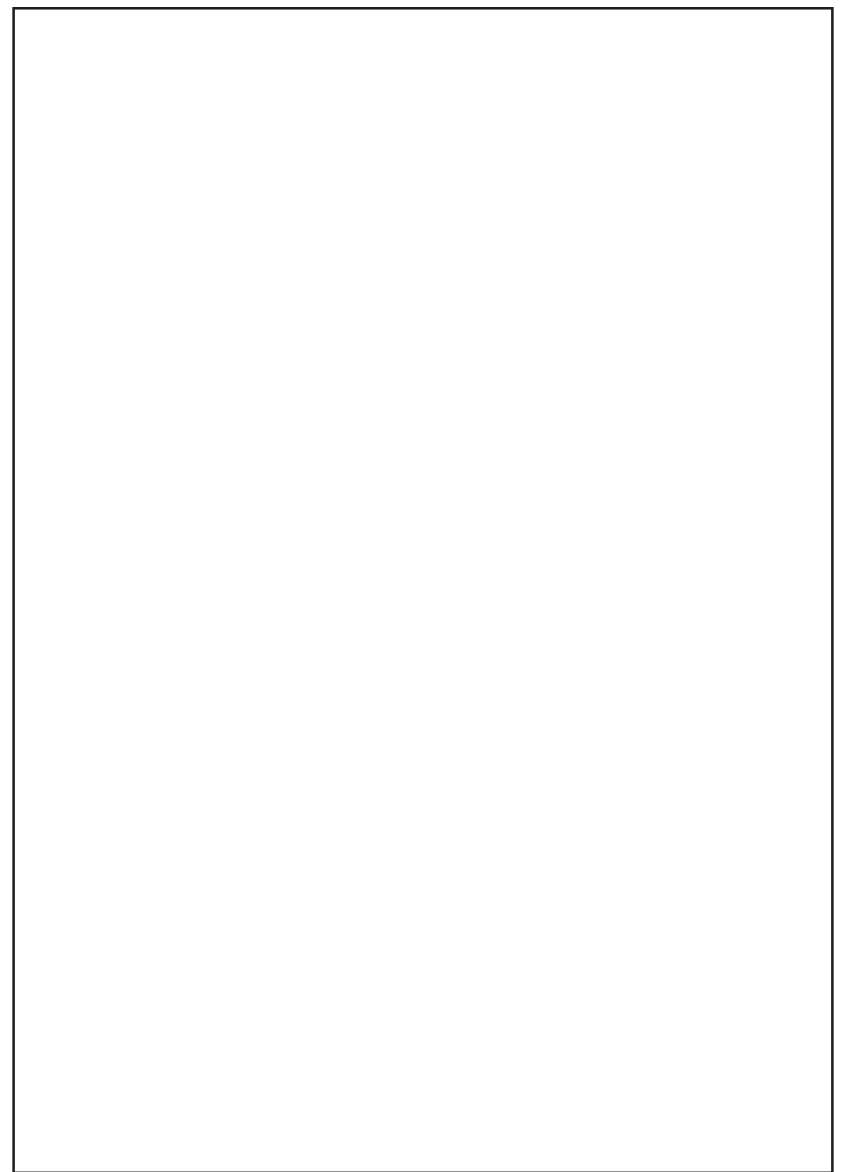
Some members have said that only when he began to sponsor audits and other similar assessments of the church's finances did the pastor begin to face the upheavals led by Mr. Howard and others.

"Once the audits began," a member said to the *Black Chronicle*, "that's when all the trouble started."

Since then, there have been confrontational business meetings (after which, in one case, two members filed what turned out to be false police reports alleging that



T.C. Howard



Copies of some of the checks issued to T.C. William Howard over a multi-year period. The checks written to him as the payee bear his signature as a payor for the church.

they had been accosted by Rev. Hairston). deacon to break into the church offices, according to church

After that, at least two attempts were made by another

(continued on page A7)

Dr. Charles E. Biscoe

Retired Ophthalmologist Dead In Atlanta on Feb. 23 at Age 64

By JOHN W. SIMMS
Special to the Chronicle

ATLANTA—Dr. Charles E. "Chuck" Biscoe, a retired ophthalmologist and a native of Oklahoma City, died on Feb. 23.

He was 64.

Dr. Belinda Marks Biscoe, the physician's former wife, confirmed his death earlier this week. She said he died of cancer.

Dr. Biscoe, an assistant vice president at the University of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City, Biscoe Eye Associates, for much of his career.

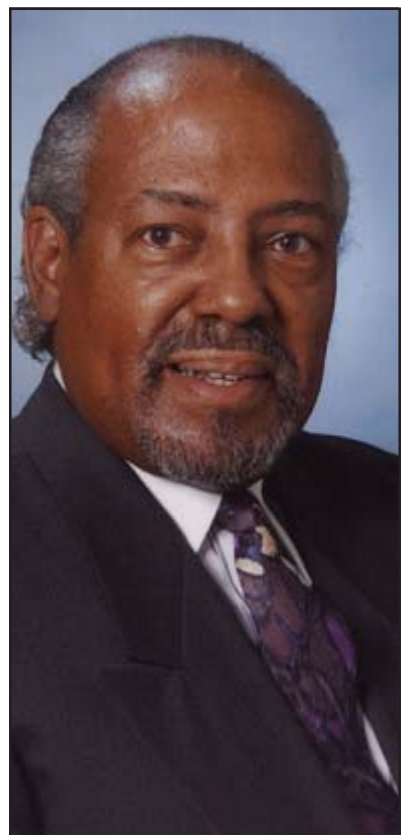
He moved to Baltimore, Md., and established a private practice there, all the while working at the Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Charles Edward Biscoe was born on Feb. 14, 1947, in Oklahoma City to Dr. Byron and Alice Strother Biscoe, the son of a dentist and a housewife.

In 1965, he graduated from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Oklahoma City, and went on to graduate in 1969 from Oklahoma State University, having been a pre-medicine and zoology major.

While attending college, Mr. Biscoe sang in a professional rhythm & blues band, a family statement said, and Dr. Biscoe went on to become a private pilot and owned an airplane.

(continued on page A7)



Dr. Charles E. Biscoe

He graduated from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn., and then completed a residency in ophthalmology at the G.W. Hubbard Hospital of Meharry College before opening his private practice.

It was while he attended medical school that Dr. Biscoe met the woman who was to become his first wife, Belinda P. Marks, then a student at the time at Fisk University.

(continued on page A7)



Man Jailed After Standoff With Cops

Passerby Finds Another on Ground; He's in Critical Condition

By THOMAS E. SEWARD
Special to the Chronicle

An argument at an Oklahoma City apartment complex left a man in critical condition and another was involved in a standoff with police.

Marcus Dequane Petty, 27, was arrested on a complaint of shooting with intent to kill.

Police were called to the Park Place Apartment Complex, 215 NE 28th St., at about noon on Thursday after a passerby found a man lying on the ground.

Policemen found evidence that shots had been fired on the fourth floor of the complex.

A suspect who police believed was armed was identified, and the standoff began.

Police contacted the man by cellular phone at about 4 p.m., and, after about an hour, were able to get him to surrender in a breezeway at the complex, Capt. Patrick Stewart said.

The 28-year-old man who was found lying on the ground was taken to the University of Oklahoma Medical Center in critical condition.

His name has not been released.

Capt. Stewart said police



Marcus D. Petty

believe the man either jumped or fell from the fourth floor.

"The truth of the matter is we don't know if it was self-defense," Capt. Stewart said.

"We don't know who was in the right.

"As the investigation moves forward we will flesh out what happened."

During the standoff, a police tactical team was called in and residents were kept from entering the complex.

Those inside the apartments were asked to stay inside.

The public school district kept students who lived at the complex at their respective schools until parents could pick them up, Tierney Tinnin, the spokesman for the Oklahoma City Public School System, said.

Park Place resident Jada Carter, 28, said she didn't know either man involved, but said she didn't know either man involved.

She did say she had heard

(continued on page A7)

(continued on page A7)