

### **ALERT CIVIL DEFENSE, INTEGRATION**



Sitting behind TV set, tornado victim escaped when wall blew away.

#### By LARRY STILL

For St. Louisans who remembered the tornado which blasted the Negro area back in 1927, last week's 110-mile an hour, predawn twister appeared to be Death making a return call. Dancing through the same midtown section like a hedge-hopping jet bomber, the roaring black funnel left 21 dead (18 Negroes), 320 injured and 2,800 homeless (approximately 98 per cent Ne-



Recalling 1927 blast, Mrs. Jane Willis (c.), with Mr. and Mrs. Harold P. Caldwell, tells Red Cross worker how home was hit.

# SAVE LIVES IN KILLER TORNADO





John Whorley (l.) recovers at City Hospital after losing wife, son. At Homer Phillips Mrs. Inez Hunter (r.) says husband saved her.

groes) in three minutes. Said one victim: "It sounded like a thousand freight trains coming right through our living room."

That the tragedy did not equal the 78 killed, 1,500 injured and 4,000 left homeless three decades previously, may be traced to the city's wartime-type Civil Defense preparations, and peacetime integration. But while officials pondered the life-saving effects of Civil Defense, survivors were firm in their praise of integrated hospitals and Red Cross activity.

Denying earlier reports that the Negro-operated Homer G. Phillips was overloaded during the crisis, Supt. Virgil McKnight emphasized: "We turned away nobody. We could have handled more patients." One fortunate reason: the recent integration of Negro psychiatric patients left Homer G. Phillips a complete ward available for the emergency.

Among the patients, Mrs. Inez Hunter told how a visit



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#### NATIONAL REPORT

Ask Truman To Help Settle Page Boy Squabble Ex-President Harry S. Truman was asked to use his influence to settle the controversy which bars 14-year-old Chicago high school sophomore James A. Johnson from serving as the first Negro page in the House of Representatives.

The ex-President, recognized as the Democratic Party's elder statesman, was approached by Party leaders after key House chieftains refused to consider the boy's case. Meanwhile, young Johnson enrolled in Washington's Western High School and made plans to "sit it out" until lawmakers settle the issue.

Both Chicago Rep. Barratt O'Hara, 76, who is sponsoring Johnson, and California's Rep. James Roosevelt vowed to continue the fight to land an appointment for Johnson. However, they have been receiving little support. In fact, Rep. Francis E. Walter (D., Pa.), chairman of the Patronage Committee, admitted he had no intention of making room in the page boy school for Johnson.

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