
THE RYE CHRONICLE

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ALMOST BEYOND BELIEF

It is almost beyond belief that in Rye anyone would perpetrate such an outrage as to burn a cross in front of the home of a family because its members have shown sympathy for the Negro race in its fight against segregation. This symbol of the Klu Klux Klan in the south has always stood for everything liberal minded citizens abhor and its introduction to Rye as an indication of animosity toward the attitude of a family that has courageously given its support to the Negro cause is simply incredible.

As to this writing no one knows who placed the cross on the lawn of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Sterling's home. We fervently hope the authorities will run down the culprits and they will be some misguided miscreants from out-of-town for we would hate to have the stigma fall upon any Rye residents.

Mr. and Mrs. Sterling have for years championed the cause of the Negro in his effort to improve his living conditions. Mrs. Sterling has written books, and very good ones, pointing toward the social injustice inflicted upon the colored race. Their son joined the "freedom riders" and spent time in prison in a southern state before his parents paid his fine.

None of us with one ounce of charity in our being can do anything but applaud the forthright position taken by this family. We do not know anyone in Rye who is not opposed to segregation, but we know precious few who will come out and work for the Negro cause as the Sterlings have done.

The burning of this cross in Rye, we feel certain, will gain more sympathy for the Negro and his resolute fight for recognition which should be provided under the laws of the country. It is bad publicity for Rye but it will be helpful to their cause. We all resent narrow, bigoted acts and this cannot do nothing less than stimulate public support.
