

16 LAWTON MORNING

Plans For March Continue Despite Safety Warnings

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Plans for a 100-mile protest march on a Lawton amusement park continued Wednesday despite advice from state Safety Commissioner Bob Lester the march "would not be in the best interests of public safety."

The march is scheduled to begin at 6 p. m. Thursday in protest against the privately owned park's refusal to admit Negroes.

State Sen. E. Melvin Porter and Mrs. Clara Luper met with Lester to discuss safety precautions on the march, from the state Capitol in Oklahoma City to Doe Doe Park in Lawton. Mrs. Luper is adviser to the youth council of the Oklahoma City chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Porter is a former president of the Oklahoma City chapter.

Lester outlined requirements of the state's uniform traffic code and said a member of the patrol will give a detailed explanation at the capitol at 5:30 p. m. "to give the (marchers) every chance to avoid injury to themselves or to users of the highways."

He said one patrol car will move ahead of the marchers and a second would follow in the interest of safety. Two men will ride in each car, he said.



Marilyn Luper prepares for march with dozens of flashlights, water cans, tents and sleeping gear

Gear Assembled

Dog to Lead Rights March

By John Bennett

The Bible, the American flag and a dog named Trudy will lead the civil rights march to Lawton from Oklahoma City Thursday night.

The march, sponsored by the youth council of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, aims at breaking alleged racial barriers at Doe Doe Park in Lawton.

Thursday, NAACP members assembled support gear for the 90-mile march. They worked to 3 a. m. Thursday collecting gear and organizing march plans.

Marilyn Luper, state youth council vice-president, said Negro delegations from Langston, Tulsa, Enid and Poteau were expected to join the march before it leaves the state capitol steps at 6 p. m. Thursday.

Mrs. Clara Luper, youth council adviser, will carry the Bible. Tentative plans call for State Sen. E. Melvin Porter to carry a small American flag.

Picket Carried

Trudy, a 3-year-old Pekinese, will be up front

Trudy has been named the NAACP "Freedom Dog." She will wear a picket sign.

Marilyn Luper said "a great portion" of the marchers will leave the main body Friday morning to return to classes and jobs. She said they will rejoin the caravan Friday night.

Marshals Ready

With one exception, she said, the NAACP has agreed to prohibit marchers below the age of 13. Calvin Davis, 7, is the only exception.

She said youth council members have been instructed to "be silent" during most of the march.

"We are drilled in the non-violent method," she said, "and we'll have 10 marshals to keep order."

Before the group marches double-file from the capitol, they will hold a five-minute Memorial service for Willie Cole. Cole, 23, was killed in action in Viet Nam last week and is being memorialized by the march.

Charges Faced

Mrs. Luper, Porter and attorney Archibald Hill appeared in Lawton municipal court Thursday morning to answer charges against 12 persons arrested last Saturday while demonstrating against Doe-Doe Park.

With them was Cecil Williams, state adviser to the NAACP.

Mrs. Luper expressed concern at Lawton that the trials might delay preparations for the march. She and Porter are expected to check the march route again Thursday.