

Notables Throng Church For Abbott's Funeral

By HAZEL L. GRIGGS

CHICAGO.—(ANP)—In a church filled with notables from every walk of life, funeral services were held Monday for Robert Sengstacke Abbott, pioneer Chicago journalist, who for 35 years guided the columns of the world's best known Negro newspaper, the Chicago Defender. No Chicago church would have been large enough to hold the crowds which sought entrance. Relatives chose one of the churches he loved best, the Metropolitan Community church in the heart of Chicago's great southside. It was packed to capacity and crowds thronged the street outside.

Eulogies for the powerful personality of the editor, whose dream carried the Defender from a small sheet for which he was printer, publisher, editor and newsboy to a vigorous paper with nearly a quarter million circulation throughout the land, were climaxed with a fitting and impressive tribute by Edward J. Kelly, mayor of Chicago. Mayor Kelley praised the humility and great racial love Mr. Abbott had for his people. He said:

PRaised AS FRIEnd

"As Ed Kelly today, I want to say I am honored to have a last say for my personal and dear friend, Robert S. Abbott. He was a great American citizen, one whom people of the entire world might take lessons from. I was first stirred by his very real love and concern for his people. May his spirit live on in the hearts of those whose rights he championed."

Lucius Harper, managing editor of the Defender, who worked with Mr. Abbott since the paper's infancy, told of the early beginnings

Was Native Of Savannah, Georgia

and struggles endured by his chief. Graduating from Hampton, Mr. Abbott came to Chicago where he began his paper amidst the peers of fellow citizens, he said. From those struggles he emerged victorious though battle-scarred, continued Mr. Harper, and ever contended for social justice, political rights and equality for his race. "He exploded the theory that Negroes will not support a Negro-owned institution," Mr. Harper concluded.

Others paying tribute to Mr. Abbott were James B. Gashin, prominent attorney, Patrick B. Prescott, candidate for congress; Dr. Charles S. Thompson, the Rev. Preston Bradley, dynamic white minister; Mrs. Frances Smith, Northern District Federation of Colored Women; Albert Windlass, chairman of the Bahai movement in Chicago of which Mr. Abbott was a member, and Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, represented by W. Ellis Stewart and Theophilus Mann.

"SENT FROM GOD"

The brief sermon of the Rev. Archibald Carey, whose father the late Bishop Carey was for many years a friend and neighbor of Mr. Abbott, fittingly finished the impressive ceremonies describing the late editor as "a man sent from

God to show the world what to do with handicaps." He said:

"Born underprivileged, reared in poverty with prejudice for his daily companion Robert S. Abbott virtually lifted himself by his bootstraps to overcome more masterfully than any man of his generation the handicaps of life."

Quoting Rudyard Kipling's "If" youthful Rev. Carey compared the poem to a history of Abbott's life, and praised the life which was spent in working for equality of the Negro race.

Besides Mayor Kelly, George W.

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Arthur, Arthur W. Mitchell, Anthony Overton, Robert R. Jackson, Oscar DePriest, Ernest Kroutgon, Earl B. Dickerson, Richard Jones, Dan Gaines, Benjamin Grant and Edgar Brown were among the honorary pallbearers.

The \$1,000 steel casket was surrounded by a profusion of floral offerings which transformed the altar into a veritable flower garden and spread to the farthest corners of the church. Notable among these offerings were: the empty chair, composed of lilies and red roses, sent by the Jones brothers, southside merchants; the widow's heart of carnations and purple orchids, a bleeding cross, from nephew John Sengstacke; and a broken wheel of pink and white carnations given by the Royal Coterie of Snakes, prominent Chicago club.
