

The Dawn of Tomorrow

THE NATIONAL NEGRO WEEKLY
DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE DARKER RACES

VOL. IV—NO. 35.

LONDON, CANADA JULY, 1949

Price 5 Cents

Few Knew What Future Would Bring

Few of the Negro leaders of today knew in their twenties while they were at college or working at menial jobs what their future jobs would be. Still fewer realized in their youth that they were destined for greatness. For the most part they followed the formula so aptly put by Shakespeare: "Some are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them."

Marked for high achievement early in life were talented people like Hazel Scott, who as a child prodigy played the piano in public at the age of 3; Paul Robeson, who seems to have been successful at everything he did whether it was playing football, acting or singing; E. Simms Campbell, who sold his first drawing of a turkey when 11 and won a national high school cartoon prize in his teens; Alain Locke, who graduated from Harvard with Phi Beta Kappa honors at 21.

Others were drifting about aimlessly in their twenties, undecided and unsure about the future. Urban League head Lester Granger went through Dartmouth "romantically planless as to my future career." He recalls: "I pushed aside thoughts of law in favor of some hoped-for foreign office post with a New York bank. No one explained to me that American banks had a color bar as unyielding and as brutally applied as Jim Crow rules on southern trains."

Virgin Islands Governor William Hastie thought about being a civil engineer but went through Amherst mainly concerned with "obtaining a first class liberal college education."

Fisk University head Dr. Charles S. Johnson had not "defined clearly what career I wanted to follow" while in college, got his first lessons in sociology listening to Negro barbers and white customers while working as a porter. NAACP secretary Walter White left a good-paying job in an insurance office to become an NAACP investigator following his participation in an Atlanta campaign for Negro schools.

Bill Robinson, top tap dancer, at 23 was already a veteran in vaudeville. He was dancing in a Richmond show when 7, formed a dancing team at 17.

A. Philip Randolph, AFL porters union head, was studying Shakespeare while working as a waiter when 10. He wanted to be an actor.

J. Rosamond Johnson, noted musician and composer, was touring nation in vaudeville at 23. His mother gave him early musical training.

John A. Gregg, presiding AME bishop, graduated from a Kansas high school at 20 after working his way through as janitor.

W. C. Handy, foremost blues composer was teaching music at Alabama A. & M. at 24. His parents wanted him to be a minister.

C. C. Spaulding, head of biggest Negro insurance firm, was dishwasher and grocery clerk in his twenties.

Local Choir's Work Highly Acclaimed

FRONT PAGE — if a .a.taHarr
The Gospel Choir have brought high honors upon themselves and their church when they participated in the afternoon and evening program of the last session of the B.M.E. Conference held at Brantford.

Among the many numbers rendered: "My Lord and I" was especially appealing to all. Organist, Mrs. H. Brooks and conductor, Mr. James Brooks had worked jointly on arranging this selection. Other numbers sung by the choir were: "If I Could Just Make It In," "Yes God Is Real, I Can't Make the Journey by Myself", and a solo by James Brooks "Sweeter as the Years Go By". A duet by Mr. Mallott and Mrs. Berry.

ADA SPUER FISHER BEGINS LAW CLASSES AT OKLA. U.

NORMAN, Okla., June 23 — The legal education of Mrs. Ada Lois Spuer Fisher began at long last this week when the young woman was finally admitted to the University of Oklahoma law school after a 3½-year fight waged by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The case, instituted early in 1946 and carried to the United States Supreme Court by NAACP attorneys, was headed for the highest court again when the State of Oklahoma ordered the University to admit Mrs. Fisher this week.

At the present time, Mrs. Fisher is attending classes at the law school separated from white students by a rail. Her fellow students have threatened to remove the rail and reportedly have taken an affirmative vote on such action.

As she started to classes, the attractive young law student expressed her appreciation to her "many friends" who assisted her in the 42-month fight to gain admission to the law school and stated, "I expect to spend the rest of my life demonstrating to the State of Oklahoma that a mistake was made in attempting to prevent me from getting a legal education at the state university."

NAACP ASKS REOPENING OF GUAM MURDER TRIAL

NEW YORK — The legal department of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People today requested of President Truman and the Air Force Adjutant General a reopening of the trial of Pvt. Calvin and Herman Dennis and Robert Wesley Burns, convicted of murdering Ruth Farnsworth on the island of Guam.

The telegram sent by the NAACP stated that parents and relatives of the convicted men had requested the Association to intervene on their behalf. It further stated that after studying numerous reports concerning the conduct of the trial, the NAACP felt that justice could best be served if NAACP attorneys were offered an opportunity to intervene upon a review of the case by Air Force authorities.

Dedicate New Gym



ATLANTA — At dedication ceremonies for new gymnasium named after him at Morris Brown College here, Joe Louis is presented with a Lord Elgin watch by W. A. Fountain, Jr., president.

A GUARD OF THE SEPULCHER

I was a Roman soldier in my prime
Now age is on me and the yoke of time.

I saw your risen Christ, for I am he
Who reached the hyssop to Him on the tree;

And I am one of the two who watched beside

The sepulchre of Him we crucified.
The sepulchre of Him we crucified.

All that last night I watched with sleepless eyes;
Great stars arose and decreed across the skies.

The world was all too still for mortal rest,

For pitiless thoughts were busy in my breast.

The night was long, so long, it seemed at last

I had grown old and a long life had passed.

Far off the hills of Moab, touched with light

Were swimming in the halo of the night.

I saw Jerusalem all wrapped in cloud
Stretched like a dead thing, folded in a shroud.

Once in the pauses of our whispered talk

I heard a something on the garden walk,

Perhaps it was a crisp leaf, lightly stirred—

Perhaps the dream note of a waking bird.

Then Suddenly an angel burning white,

Came down with earthquake in the breaking light,

And rolled the great stone from the sepulchre

Mixing the morning with a scent of myrrh

And lo, the dead had risen with the day;

The man of mystery had gone His way.

Years have I wandered, carrying my shame;

Now let the tooth of time eat out my name.

—Selected

Cocoa Industry in Precarious Shape

Two centuries ago chocolate was banned in the court of France's prodigal Louis XIV because it was too expensive (\$3 a pound). Before long— if present price trends and cocoa tree disease continues—Americans will have to clamp down a similar curb on their chocolate budget. The British, who netted a neat profit of more than \$25,000,000 on their cocoa operations during the five war years, are standing pat on prices. They claim they are setting the money aside to guarantee a stable price for cocoa farmers during slump years if and when they come. And America's candy bill—of which chocolate is the biggest part—is still topping a billion dollars.

All indications are that while world demand for the tasty tidbits will continue high, the supply is going to go down. Some experts even talk of cocoa tree extinction in another 20 years. Only a few tropical places in the world are adaptable to the growing of the crop and in many of these areas the dread swollen shoot disease is killing off one out of every ten trees. The disease has cut God Coast cocoa production by 100,000 tons in ten years and is spreading swiftly while British biologists look vainly for some remedy. Brazil and Trinidad, once top cocoa producers in the world, were almost pushed off the cocoa map by tree disease. Tropical America until 1900 produced 80 per cent of the world's supply of cocoa.

Another threat to the livelihood of the three million British West Africans (average annual income \$52) now engaged in the cocoa industry is the U.S. determination to break the John Bull monopoly. First step has been the planting of more than a million cocoa trees in Liberia by the U.S.-financed Liberia Company. Other cocoa-planting projects are also under way in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

America which was 50 years behind Europe in opening its first chocolate factory (Walter Baker & Co. at Dorchester, Mass. in 1780) today has unchallenged world supremacy not only in making chocolate but also in eating it. However, although Negroes grow most of the world's supply, manufacture is virtually a lily-white occupation. The world's biggest plant at Hershey, Pa. has only a handful of Negroes among its 3,000 employees and these mostly in menial jobs. And the Hershey Industrial School, set up by the founder Milton Hershey and caring for 1,200 orphan boys, admits only "normal white orphan boys."

A smile is contagious, but the health department doesn't object. Be proficient—you can spell profit from the same letters.

Aim high, but don't stop shooting just because you missed the first few shots.

B.M.E. MEETING HERE NEXT YEAR

BRANTFORD, July 5 — Rev. J. T. Dawson, Toronto, general superintendent British Methodist Episcopal Church of Canada, today announced appointments to charges for the coming year.

Eleven men were re-appointed to charges they served last year.

G. Donaldson, London, a ministerial candidate, was appointed to fill a vacancy in Owen Sound circuit, and Clarence Johnson, London was appointed assistant to Rev. I. H. Edwards at London.

Mrs. Gladys Shreve, Windsor, was installed as president of the Sunday School convention and Young People's Societies.

Other officers are: Miss Y. M. Jackson, Windsor, vice-president; Miss Audrey Johnson, Windsor, recording secretary; Miss Wilma Hunt, Toronto, corresponding secretary, and Rev. T. H. Dougherty, Fort Erie, treasurer.

Announcement was made following the closing day of the annual session, that the 94th annual conference will be held next year at London, Ont. and the 23rd general conference at Toronto in September, of 1950.

NAACP BRINGS JUSTICE AGAIN

WASHINGTON — The United States Supreme Court recently handed down a 6-3 decision reversing the conviction of Robert Austin Watts of Indianapolis for murder, after an appeal from this conviction was argued before the high court by Special Counsel Thurgood Marshall and Assistant Special Counsel Franklin H. Williams of the N.A.A. C.P.

In announcing the reversal of the Watts conviction, Justice Felix Frankfurter asserted that there is "torture of mind as well as body" and pointed out that Watts had been subjected to continued grueling questioning and had been denied a preliminary hearing until days had elapsed.

"In holding that the Due Process Clause bars police procedure which violates the basic notions of our accusatorial mode of prosecuting crime and vitiates a conviction based on the fruits of such procedure," the majority opinion declared, "we apply the Due Process clause to its historic function of assuring appropriate procedure before liberty is curtailed or life is taken . . . The history of criminal law proves overwhelmingly that brutal methods of law enforcement are essentially self-defeating, whatever may be their effect in a particular case."

Mr. Justice Douglas in a special concurring opinion stressed the illegality of the practice of holding prisoners without arraignment for the sole purpose of extorting confessions from them.

Birds will not fly out of sight of the ground when there is a thick fog.