

# The Dawn of Tomorrow

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## THE STORY OF CLUB 48

To understand clearly the formation of Club 48, one must have the knowledge of the underlying circumstances behind it.

Early in the summer of 1946, a young Negro, Fitzgerald Alexander was tramping the hot pavements of Toronto because he had just been released from the temporary Civil Service. Although he had two years of university training in political science and economics he had found it difficult to get even a lowly clerical job. He then received a letter from an agent in Jamaica, B.W.I. seeking representation in Canada. To his knowledge there wasn't a Negro importer and exporter in this country. Seeing the opportunity he approached two former school chums Leonard Braithwaite who had just returned from service overseas in the R.C.A.F., and James Braithwaite his cousin who had recently been discharged from the R.C.A.F., and who was at the time taking the Business Administration course at the University of Toronto.

Together, they formed the B. & A. Agencies, and in the face of bitter opposition, secured an office in the heart of the business district of downtown Toronto. Meanwhile, Leonard Braithwaite had also entered the University of Toronto to study Commerce and Finance and Alexander was left to carry on the business of importing, exporting and Manufacturer's Agents alone.

In time B. & A. Agencies grew and was incorporated into Brailex Enterprises Limited. By the summer of 1947 James Braithwaite graduated and was able to apply his training and knowledge to the ever-mounting problems associated with the business.

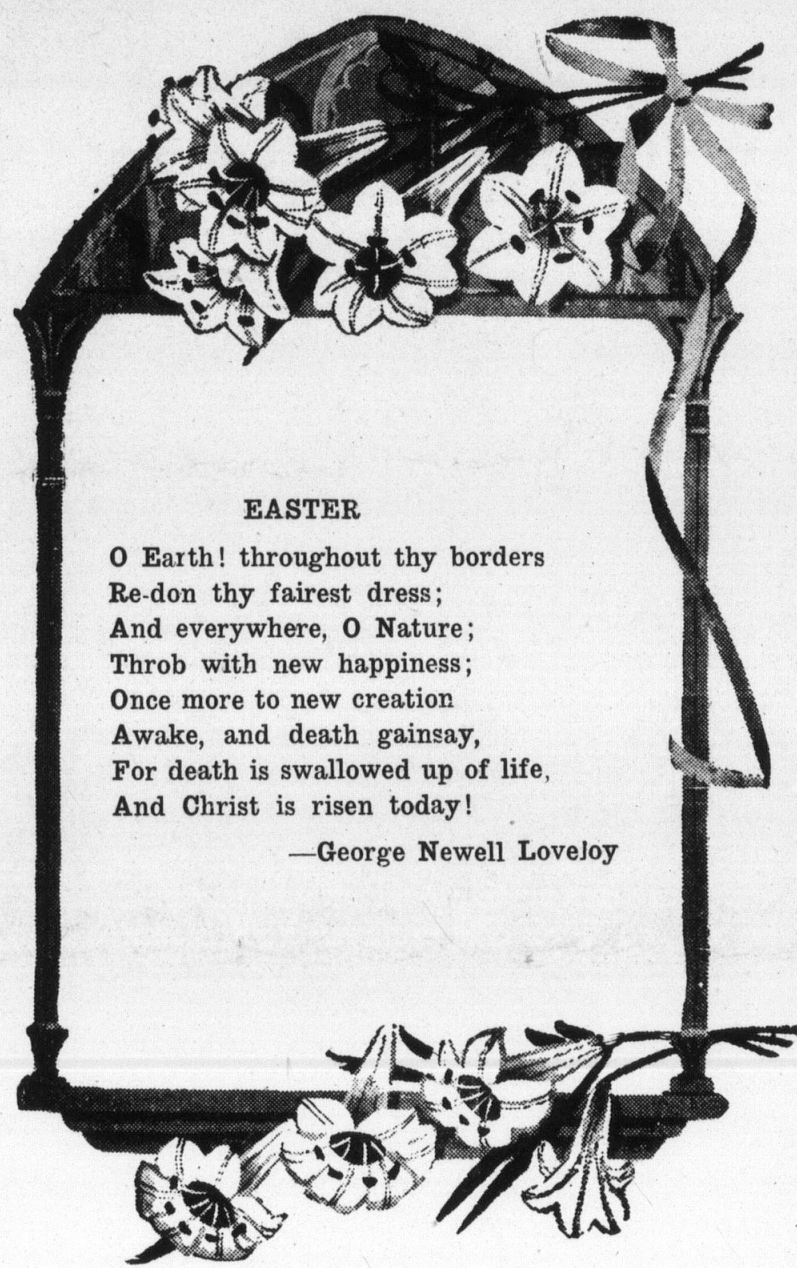
During the latter part of 1947 it had become the custom of the Negro young people to congregate at the office on Saturday afternoons to discuss current events, business in general and to meet their friends. As a result the office was crowded and these three young men saw the need for some club which could awaken the dormant potentialities within the young people and unite them into one strong central body.

That is how Club 48 was born.

Objects of the Club:

1. To provide entertainment of all sorts for all its members.
2. To provide a feeling of goodwill among all peoples.
3. To carry on activities designed to assist the welfare of its members. Such activities may include emergency funds and employment assistance.
4. To establish connections, or relationship with other groups or organizations interested in the welfare of the Negro community.
5. To acquire a clubhouse from which activities could be successfully executed, and to act as a clearing house for information on activities of other Negro groups throughout Canada.

Membership in this Club is open



### EASTER

O Earth! throughout thy borders  
Re-don thy fairest dress;  
And everywhere, O Nature;  
Throb with new happiness;  
Once more to new creation  
Awake, and death gainsay,  
For death is swallowed up of life,  
And Christ is risen today!

—George Newell Lovejoy

to all Negroes, aged 18 years and over. The club plans to expand to the bigger centres in Canada and the U.S.A. in the future.

The first officers of the club are: James Braithwaite, President, Berry Clarke, vice president, a progressive minded young man of Toronto; Fitzgerald Alexander, secretary treasurer, and Leonard Braithwaite, chairman of the public relations committee.

To date the club has met with unqualified success, and hopes to continue doing so. Now that you have the knowledge of Club 48, you can understand the reason for such a medium. Your friendship and cooperation is invited.

We wish to announce that our club will hold its Easter Frolic on Monday, March 29th at Forester's Hall, 22 College Street, using Cy McLean and his outstanding orchestra. Dancing from 8:30 till midnight.

(Editor's note—These boys are some of our most outstanding talent. We ask you to give them your full support in making Club 48 a success.

### CHOIR TO PRESENT CANTATA

The B.M.E. Choir under the leadership of Mr. Fred Ball will present an Easter Cantata on Easter Sunday. Mr. Ball is well known for his talent in arranging voices for various programs.

On Easter Sunday a sunrise breakfast will be given by Mr. Ball.

### BRITISH STUDENTS PROTEST

#### EXCLUSION OF ADA SIPUEL

New York, N.Y., March — Mrs. Ada Sipuel Fisher's fight to gain admittance to the University of Oklahoma Law School has enlisted the support of the British National Union of Students which has officially protested to the American Embassy in London according to information The Union, representing 50,000 students of the universities and colleges of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, has forwarded to Mrs. Fisher a copy of their letter of protest to the American Embassy. The letter, signed by W. Bonnet Rust, president of the student union, expressed the organization's "strong feeling" against the exclusion of Mrs. Fisher.

### COP BLINDS CHAUFFEUR

#### FEDERAL PROBE SOUGHT

New York, N.Y., March — The United States Department of Justice has been asked by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to investigate the charges that a Rock Island, Illinois, police officer struck a Negro truck driver with a black-jack, permanently blinding him in one eye. The truck driver, James Simpson, had been arrested and charged with negligent driving on November 2 last following a collision.

Simpson alleges he was attacked in his cell by police officer James Swift, who beat him across the head with a black-jack and struck him in the left eye. As a result of this he lost his sight in that eye.

## Community Centre Project Approved

Plans for a community centre for Ward Three were approved in principle last night by a cross-section meeting at Trafalgar School of men and women representing churches and various organizations throughout the ward.

Mrs. C. E. Howson, president of the Family Community Club which originally broached the plan, was named chairman of a committee which, along with six members of the London Labor Council, will discuss the scheme with City Council March 30.

### Details in Abeyance

Cost of the projected centre, and the form it will take were left to a later date for discussion.

The representative meeting of the Ward Three residents decided to go ahead with the plan after hearing the views of public library, school, church and labor leaders. All agreed unanimously that a Ward Three community centre of some kind was essential.

Morley Smith, vice president of the London Labor Council, before whom the plan for the centre was laid last week, said City Council had invited six members of his organization to discuss it March 30.

On the heels of residents' protests that other organizations and agencies should have a voice in the meeting with council, the committee, headed by Mrs. Howson and including representatives of all organizations at the meeting, was appointed.

### Seek Civic Approval

It will join with the Labor Council appointees in seeking aldermanic approval of the scheme, and discussing a grant of land in an as yet undecided location from the city.

Although it had been originally suggested that the community centre might be located at Ash and Sycamore streets, delegates decided to leave open the question of location until council's views had been obtained.

R. B. Crouch, librarian at the public library, said the library was "keenly interested" in the proposed centre but suggested that it was premature to discuss incorporation of an East End branch of the library in the centre.

He pointed out that the question of location would have to be settled before any decision could be made on combining the library and community centre.

### Trafalgar School?

He recalled that five or six years ago the Board of Education "almost gave Ward Three Trafalgar School for use as a community centre. He speculated whether the board might now consider the idea of extending the school to provide facilities for a community centre.

Reviewing the steps leading to the meeting, Mrs. Howson said that the Family Community Club had drawn a plan for a cement block building 96 by 54 feet, with a basement and ground floor, costing about \$25,000. She stressed that her group's plan

## Appeal For Funds To Defend Family

New York, N.Y., March — An urgent appeal for funds for the legal defense of Mrs. Rosa Lee Ingram, widowed mother of 12 children, and her two young sons, now under sentence of death in Americus, Ga., went out this week to the 1600 branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and to other friends of the Association.

Calling the Ingram case "one of the most shocking miscarriages of justice in the 39 years the NAACP has existed," Walter White, secretary, urged the branches to arrange mass meetings and send speakers to churches, trade unions and other organizations in a concerted campaign to raise funds for the Ingrams and other legal defense work of the Association.

The death sentences imposed on Mrs. Ingram, an impoverished share cropper, and her sons, originated in an argument last November with a neighboring white farmer, John Ed Stratford. Mrs. Ingram's pigs had rooted under the fence dividing Stratford's land from the farm on which she worked. Armed with a rifle, Stratford set out to shoot the animals. He encountered Mrs. Ingram and struck her with the butt of the firearm, inflicting a deep and bloody wound. She was struggling with him to prevent him from shooting her when two of her sons, Sammie Lee 14, and Wallace 17, rushed to her aid. Sammie Lee used the hammer with which he was repairing the fence to strike the white assailant and save his mother's life. The blow was fatal.

Mrs. Ingram and her sons were arrested and held without bail of trial for three months. In a one-day trial on February 3, with only court-appointed counsel to defend them, the mother and two sons were convicted and sentenced to death.

NAACP lawyers are seeking a new trial for the Ingrams. A stay of execution, originally set for February 27, has been granted

was only a proposal, subject to any change the community wished.

Mr. Smith in endorsing the plan for a community centre, said he believed it would be a big factor in cutting down juvenile delinquency in the district. He said that now Ward Three boys and girls had no recreational facilities.

It's strange, but there seem to be 10 girls to every boy on the streets in the east end," he said. "They need some place to go at nights."

Said Mrs. Lucy Cole: "It's just about time we woke up in Ward Three and did something for the children."

J. B. Marriage, a teacher at Chesley Avenue School, saw in the centre the chance for boys and girls of the district to have basketball and gymnasium facilities not now available anywhere in the ward. Similar views were expressed by F. Egan of Aberdeen School.