

The Dawn of Tomorrow

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Find Sex Bigger Barrier Than Color

Today, despite educational, professional and color obstacles, a growing number of keen Negro women lawyers are confounding male skeptics in many fields. Several like Sadie Alexander of Philadelphia, Sarah Speaks of New York City and Lucia Thomas of Chicago have reputations as excellent trial lawyers. Such women as Edith Sampson of Chicago, Pauli Murray of California, Elsie Austin of Ohio and Georgia Jones Ellis of Chicago have functioned with dignity and efficiency as assistants to state attorney generals and city prosecutors. More and more are planning to follow the lead of Jean Murrel Capers of Cleveland and Sarah Speaks of New York in running for political office.

Justice Jane M. Bolin for eight years has been "Your Honor" to all the neglected children and estranged husbands and wives who ask her aid at New York's Court of Domestic Relations. The late Fiorello LaGuardia made her at 30 the only Negro woman on the U.S. bench. Wellesley-trained, she is the widowed mother of a son, 5; makes \$12,000 annually.

Most colored Portias agree that their sex is a far greater barrier than color to successful law careers. White women outside the profession seemed to have earned male lawyers' disdain for all women in court, because white housewives are notorious in refusing to take tests for jury service. Negro women, however, are quick to accept this duty of citizenship, as was recently demonstrated in St. Louis. Out of 300 women summoned for jury service, two-thirds walked out but virtually all 25 Negro women stayed.

Many white women get a taste of what being colored is like when they take up law, Sadie T. M. Alexander notes. "When I hear white women lawyers complaining about their lot it amuses me," she says. "It is the same problem I have been facing all my life."

Some judges, Edith Sampson insists, usually lean over backward to compensate for lawyers' churlishness. Lucia Thomas recalls Judge Joseph Sabbath's embarrassing gallantry when she first practiced. He stopped the whole prosecution to whisper, "Young lady, you're acquitting yourself very well!" He was heard throughout the whole courtroom.

WINS SCHOLARSHIP

Miss Carol Shrine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Shrine, Chatham won the \$250 Provincial Scholarship. Carol is now in Toronto attending the Normal School there. She has hopes of becoming a public school teacher and in time a high school teacher.

Carol has won in addition to her scholarship, two silver cups for her participation in school sports, one at Central public school, the other at Chatham Collegiate Institute.

Talented Chatham Artist



MISS ARTIS SHRINE

Chatham's talented artist, Miss Artis Shrine, who won the Chaplin four year scholarship, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Shrine. Miss Shrine is attending the Conservatory of Art, Toronto University, where she plans to major in portraiture.

Miss Shrine's drawings appear in Chatham public school in the form of a large wall mural depicting important events in Canadian history. She painted the 800 names for Chatham Collegiate Institute's Honour Roll unveiled during the Remembrance Day ceremony. Artis, along with a fellow artist, decorated the Chatham Public Library with a wall mural.

In 1942 Artis won the Dr. Chase's Dominion Prize of one hundred dollars in portraiture.

In Sarnia she did wall paintings for the Linen and Wool Shop.

Miss Shrine is a member of the Chatham, Kent Artist Association. Four of her paintings appeared at their annual exhibition. Fine decorative pages for a series of books on records of each Chatham enlisted man and woman were painted by her under the auspices of the I.O. D.E. The books will be kept at the Chatham Armouries.

In 1943 Artis made a charcoal sketch of the late Rev. Josiah Henson from an original photograph. The sketch was put into print by the Assumption Historical Research Society of Windsor. Several copies were distributed to colleges, libraries and historical archives of museums in Canada and United States.

Negro Who Could Be Cuban President

Most powerful Negro labor leader in the world is Cuba's dynamic, handsome 36-year-old Lazaro Pena, who easily might be elected president of the biggest island in the West Indies were it not for his race. Head of the interracial 500,000-member CTC (Federation of Cuban Workers), Pena is the strongest man in Cuban politics—revered and loved by the lowly workingmen, reviled and hated by wealthy business interest.

Rich Cubans insist he is the real ruler of the island republic, the guiding hand behind liberal President Ramon Grau San Martin. They point to the 30 per cent wage increases won by Cuban labor under Pena's guidance since Dr. Grau took office. Unionists admit that the outstanding personal integrity of Pena, his amazing ability as an executive, his persuasive power as a public speaker have welded labor into the best organized political force in the country. When white elite quip that Dr. Grau has to "clear it with Pena" Laborites express gratification that the Capitol listens to their leader.

Author Wenzell Brown in a new book on the Caribbean, *Angry Men—Laughing Men*, writes: "Pena is a consummate politician and were it not for his race might readily become Cuba's next President."

Pena rose to the top of the Cuban labor movement from a job in a Havana cigar factory. His bricklayer father died when he was ten and Pena had to quit public school to go to work and help support his mother and younger brothers. He worked his way up to foreman.

It was the illness of one of the workers, the lector, that started him on his way to leadership. All Cuban cigar factories have readers or lecturers who relieve the deadly monotony of cigar-making by reading newspapers, magazines and books to the workers for six half-hour periods a day. The lector is elected and paid—10 to 25 cents a week each worker—by his listeners.

The day the lector did not show up, Lazaro pinch hit for him and discovered a deep hunger for the printed word. His reading on economics got him in trouble. When he was only 15, he was fired for his agitation about working conditions. He made the rounds of the many tobacco "slave mills" in Havana and was thrown out of most of them. Finally he went into business himself and in the traditional fashion of the trade mounted a seat in the glass window of his shop rolling thousands of cigars to support his mother and five brothers.

But his mind was not on the cigars. It was on social problems and together with other workers, he organized nightly discussions of labor and politics. The group he organized fought against the dictatorship of Gerardo Machado, secretly distributing pamphlets and painting slogans on walls at night. His mother worried about him, ventured one day to express her fear to him. "Mo-

Deplores Racial Discrimination

WINDSOR —(CP)— Racial discrimination and lack of equal opportunity for the Negro in the United States were assailed recently by Rev. Archibald J. Carey, of Chicago, principal speaker at the observance here of Emancipation Day in the British Empire.

Thousands of Negroes poured across from the United States for the two-day celebration which features a host of entertainment by Negro talent and the selection of Miss International Sepia in a beauty contest.

Rev. Mr. Carey, pastor of the largest Negro church in the U.S., the Woodlawn, of Chicago, declared the Negro in America is not yet completely emancipated.

He cited several cases of discrimination and told how a network had refused to carry a program discussing the place of Negroes in the war because there were several southern outlets.

The truth could not be put on the air, Rev. Mr. Carey asserted. He said one program that had been approached and asked to air the discussion was the University of Chicago round table.

"It is a tragic commentary on our democracy that the Negro-American has done so much for the nation and still has a second class citizenship," he said.

He recalled that a Spanish Negro was with Columbus when he discovered America; that Dr. George Washington Carver, the great Negro scientist of Tuskegee Institute, had been nominated in an agricultural magazine as "the man of the year," and the great part played by his race in the Second World War.

ther, this is a fight that few have the courage to carry on," he answered. "Help me by not complaining of its dangers." Later she let the tobacco workmen use her house as their headquarters.

He led many strikes and soon became top man in the city's Central Labor Syndicate. When in 1939 the first national labor congress was called, Pena became the secretary-general of the new-born CTC.

Like most Latin American labor leaders, Pena has been accused of being a Communist. He does not deny the charge but rather insists that his primary interests are Cuba and the Cuban workers rather than the international situation. Cuba's wealthy whites seem to fear his color more than his communism. Collier's correspondent Frank Gervasi recently wrote: "If Pena molds labor into a political party, he might some day be president of Cuba. The possibility scares the aristocratic meringue of Cuba's social and racial pie nearly out of its pleasure-added wits."