

"Living Legend Of Goodness" Mrs. Minnie Harris, 86, Dies

Minnie Harris was buried in Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens in London recently. She died at the age of 86.

Mrs. Harris was not rich or famous in any worldly sense. Yet she had these attributes in her own way. She had faced and overcome problems most of us will never see.

Around the homes of the rich, the elite, and the ordinary London people, Mrs.

Harris was not just another colored housekeeper. She was a friend. She worked with the same families for years. She survived on her pay and a veteran's allowance from her only son who was killed in the First World War.

Despite her meagre income, Mrs. Harris managed to raise 17 children besides her own two, and became a living leg-

end of goodness around her home at 11 Maitland St.

A friend of long standing described Mrs. Harris as "the finest character I have ever come in contact with" and as a person who had a wonderful philosophy of life.

Every one of the 17 children who grew up at the Harris residence managed to return periodically to visit her.

Mrs. Harris and her hus-

band, Robert, moved to London in 1905 from the southern United States. They started a small store at their residence and when her husband died in 1926, Mrs. Harris started to work out.

She first took in eight nephews and nieces when their mother died in childbirth, including the infant; then four orphans from the Groat family, the youngest being three months old; another child from a family named Prior; and then added four homeless neighborhood children to her brood.

Mrs. Harris raised the children and worked until about 20 years ago. She has since lived with her daughter, who is now 70, in Detroit. and then at a St. Thomas nursing home.

Funeral Recalls Jazz Era

WINDSOR (CP) — With a funeral parade and service reminiscent of the hey-day of the New Orleans jazz era, Walter L. Perry was buried here.

Mr. Perry, 68, had for 35 years been a vital force in the Negro community of Windsor with his organization annually of the international-

al Emancipation Day ceremonies.

Mr. Perry, who died in hospital from post-operative complications after being admitted with hepatitis, was known to thousands of Negroes from southwestern Ontario and the United States as Mr. Emancipation for his success with the annual festival which marks

the freeing of slaves in the British Empire and the U.S.

The funeral procession from First Baptist Church to Grove Cemetery was led by majorettes and the IGA Marching Band of Harrow.

On the way to the graveside, the band played such slow hymns as "Nearer, My God To Thee" and after the casket was lowered in the true New Orleans tradition, the band struck up with "When the Saints Go Marching In" and W. C. Handy's famous "The Birth of the Blues."

Among those present at the service were External Affairs Minister Paul Martin, a Windsor resident, and Mayor John Wheelton.

Mr. Perry is survived by his wife, Helen; a stepson, Robert J. Parsons of Owosso, Mich., and a stepdaughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Wheeler of Detroit.



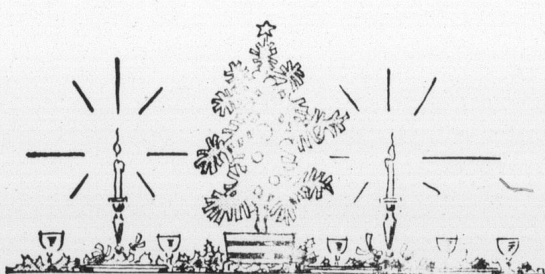
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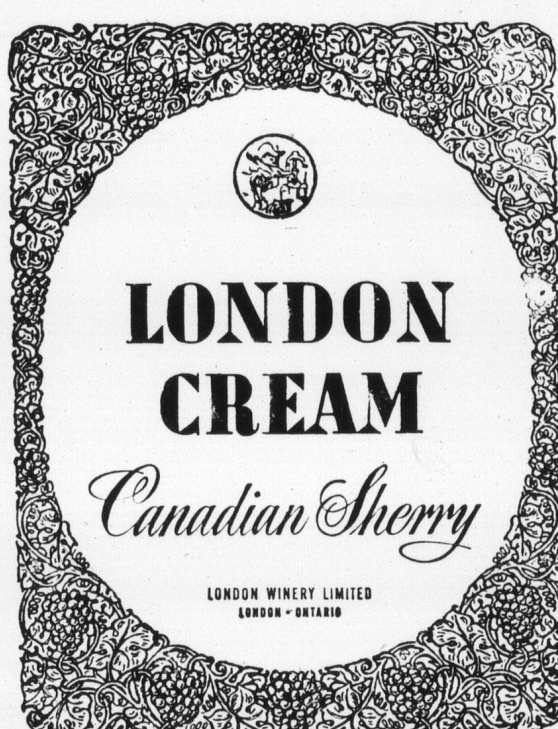


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VOL. 42

**Belafonte
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