



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

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LONDON, CANADA JUNE, 1955

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THE NEGROES IN UPPER CANADA

Excerpts from an Article
By Fred Landon, M.A.

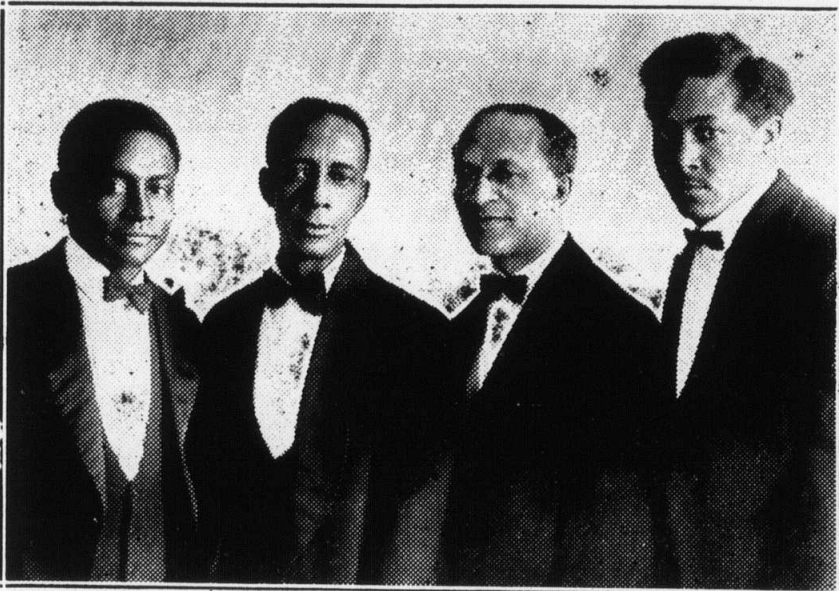
When the government of the United States emancipated the Negro slaves in the seceded states in 1863, there was instituted a Freedmen's Inquiry Commission to consider generally what should be done both with slaves who had been freed by the operations of the war and those who should later become free. The members of this commission were Dr. Samuel G. Howe, Robert Dale Owen and James Mackay. Dr. Howe, soon after his appointment, visited Upper Canada and later made a report to Secretary of War Stanton which presents much information on the condition of the refugees who had entered the British province and were there making their home. His findings were highly favourable to the fugitives and one sentence of the report has been frequently quoted, where, after noting some of the advances made by these people in their new home, he adds: "The refugees earn a living, and gather property; they marry and respect women; they build churches and send their children to schools; they improve in manners and morals—not because they were picked men, but simply because they are free men."

Dr. Howe was deeply impressed with this idea that it was freedom which improved the Negro. In Canada he found the black man facing severe hardships in many cases. The climate was harsh as compared with the South, sometimes there was difficulty in making a livelihood, and there was occasional prejudice. On the other hand, there was justice and opportunity and, above all, freedom. In the preface to his report Dr. Howe says: "When everybody is asking what shall be done with the Negroes and many are afraid that they cannot take care of themselves if left alone—an account of the manner in which twenty thousand of them are taking care of themselves in Canada will be interesting, even if it be imperfect, and contain superfluous speculations."

Dr. Howe's estimate of the number of Negro refugees in Canada was between 15,000 and 20,000. This is but one of many estimates and it is rather difficult to arrive at any definite figure.

The twenty eighth annual report of the American Anti-Slavery Society (N.Y., 1861), refers to "the thousand refugees" in Toronto and quotes from the Philadelphia "Friends' Review" an account of the visit of Joseph Morris, an Ohio Quaker, to Chatham, where he found 2,000 coloured people, one third of the whole population of the place. Their homes, he thought compared favourably with those of the whites and there were no cases of extreme destitution. He visited the Buxton colony which presented an impression very agreeable and encouraging and "he never saw any people more willing to rely on their own resources." Shrewsbury, on Lake Erie, was also

THE LONDON ELITE QUARTETTE First Negro Quartette to sing Over CFPL, LONDON—1931



Left to right — J. Lucas, J. F. Jenkins, F. Ball, Paul Lewis

1956 — 1955

The 99th Annual Conference of the British Methodist Episcopal Church of Canada will open its sessions at Beth Emmanuel Church, London, Canada on Tuesday, June 28th and will continue to July 4th, 1955 under the leadership of Rev. I. H. Edwards of Windsor, Ont.

The General Superintendent, Rev. F. O. Stewart, of St. Catharines will be unable to attend due to illness.

Minister of the entertaining church is Rev. Geo. Boyce.

visited, and here the colored people "manifested a spirit of independence in respect to obtaining the means of living and educating their children."

The presence of the Negro refugees in Canada does not seem to have attracted any special attention until late in the forties. The Negro created no special problem for the government or for the local authorities. His status in Canada differed in no material respect from that of any other citizen. He had to work or starve, therefore he worked. If he transgressed the laws of the land he was punished, though there does not seem to have been any unusual amount of Crime among the Negroes. The black man had the same civil rights as the white man, he exercised the franchise and could participate in politics.

Negro refugees were found enrolled in the Canadian militia from an early date. There were coloured men on the Canadian side in the War of 1812 and during the troubles of 1838 they were much in evidence. Sir Francis Bond Head speaks of their promptness in answering the call to arms, while the Rev. J. W. Loguen says that he was in command of a black company in 1838. Rev. Josiah Henson, the founder of the Dawn colony, was on active service during 1838 and did garrison duty at Amherstburg for several months. He was present when the schooner Ann affair took place in January, 1838. "The coloured men," he says,

AN ODE TO LONDON ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

Ah! swiftly moves the steady hand of time
No matter what the work or where the clime
By mankind chosen for the life long tasks

Which economic law of each one asks
And all along the speed-way we call life,
Where weakling trampled fall 'mid surging strife

Bright resting places greet us as we pause
To bask with ego in the throng's applause,

No bright spot can man e'er hope to find
Than that prepared by those who stayed behind
To gaily deck the old home town again

In welcome to the boys, now stalwart men.
So here we gather free from business care,
To smile with joy at good friends everywhere

And boast again in reminiscent mirth
That London is the best old town on earth.

As one by one we greet the old pals here
With hearty clasp and jovial words of cheer,
We realize that men from out this town

On every side the globe have won renown.
What greater honor can a city claim
Than that she turns out men who climb to fame?

So though they call you London in the Woods
We know full well that you've turned out the goods.

Now as we mingle gaily in this scene
Bright mottled as it is with nature's

"were willing to defend the government that had given them a home when they had fled from slavery."

LONDONER ACHIEVED NATIONAL FAME IN "GREEN PASTURES"

Some time around the year London became a city, there slipped into the little South-western Ontario centre—perhaps singly, perhaps together—two poor but happy persons. Here they were married.

For them London was the end of the trail, which had begun in the slave plantations of the Southern United States. Freedom at a terminus of "The Underground Railway" was theirs.

October 29, 1934, the son of this humble colored couple was to receive the highest honors London could offer—the freedom of the city. Richard B. Harrison "De Lawd" of Marc Connelly's prize winning Pulitzer play "Green Pastures" had returned in triumph to his native city. On hand to greet him was the mayor of the city and some of the boys with whom Dick Harrison had played baseball in the days of his youth—on those days when he wasn't busy peddling papers in order to help the family finances or from a gallery seat watching the actors perform in the theatres of his day.

Richard B. Harrison climbed to fame first in 1930, a few months after the poignant and beautiful Green Pastures had opened in Broadway. At 68, he was described at the time as "The centre figure in what in many respects is the most remarkable drama ever produced on the North American stage. . . . Both actor and play are unusual. Harrison had never appeared in a theatrical presentation.

Yet, the native Londoner won instantaneous success, in his portrayal of the Messiah as the Negro slaves pictured Him and longed to see Him appear in the days of their tribulations. He won universal praise from the critics, this in spite of the fact

green,
We feel the thrill which only can be known

By growing boys, who, feeling quite alone,
Go back to mother's knee and by God's plan

Are giving help which only mothers can,
For as we come in answer to your call
We know you've been a mother to us all.

But as the sounds of joy are rising high,
A deeper reverent feeling seems to cry

For silence, till we pay the homage due
This glorious shrine as to fond memory's view
We call again the hardships bravely met

By pioneers that they might firmly set
Foundations here, on which there stands today
The city of our birth in grand array

on her 100th birthday.

here had been much adverse criticism about the presentation before it was offered. The Theatre Guild had turned down the chance to present "Green Pastures." Eminent performers had rejected the role of "De Lawd."

Twice Harrison was offered the role before he finally accepted. First, he said he didn't have the time, or as he an actor. The Harlem friend who had originally sent him to Connelly persisted in his efforts and Harrison paid a second trip to the producer's office. The man who for years had made his living as a lecturer and speaker on dramatic art to Negro schools and colleges accepted. Even he was surprised by his success, but as Prof. Fred Landon, the Londoner who has written so much on the Negro settlements in Western Ontario was to say in 1939 Free Press article:

"Richard B. Harrison . . . will probably stand out in the days ahead as one of the great actors produced by his race."

Mr. Harrison, fourth child in a large family, left London about 1880. His first job he recalled on his 1934 visit was in a Windsor area distillery where "he was chambermaid to a herd of cattle."

It was an unidentified newspaperman in that Detroit of the late '80's who was directly responsible for "De Lawd's" ultimate success. Like many another newspaperman, this Detroit lackey, gave theatre passes instead of tips to young Harrison, persuaded him to study drama. One of the books which the young Negro was handed was Shakespeare's Richard III, a work in which he showed the deepest of interest. By his middle 20's he was launched on his profession as lecturer and dramatic reader; he visited out-of-way places in the south, the west, "talking on the dramatic art, or the great artists of his race."

Yet, he still maintained his boyhood interest in the stage. He watched the great actors and great actresses of the day perform. This career continued until the late 1920's when chance took him to New York and a friend advised him to see Connelly about this play "Green Pastures."

"De Lawd's" return to London for the presentation of "Green Pastures" at the Grand was a triumph. He was greeted at the railway station by Mayor Wenige and three members of the "old gang" who had played ball here in the days of the championship Tecumseh's—William Nolan, Frank Smith and Ed Saunders. Mayor George Wenige was on hand to extend a civic welcome.

"It was a return to the city where he was born and where he left 54 years ago. His visit to the scenes of his youth was touching and Mr. Harrison was visibly affected by the warmth of the welcome."

Mr. Harrison died soon after his visit here.

Dawn of Tomorrow

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The Dawn of Tomorrow Publishing Co.

EDITORIAL

At this time we are happy to be among the many to help in our small way celebrate the 100 Anniversary of the City of London by adding our contribution as a minority group of people. Today in the City of London we have nurses on staff and doctors in training; we have school teachers in other cities born and educated in London; elocutionists, artists, social service workers, ministers, gas station attendants, civic workers, policemen, beauticians, city clerks, government workers, secretaries, motor mechanics, electricians, Community Family Club, Canadian League for the Advancement of Colored People, baseball players, and a goodly number of athletes; also our newspaper. These are our contributions toward making London a city to be proud to live in. We also have Boy Scouts and Leaders, Girl Guides and Leaders, Brownies, representatives in the Armed Services: Wrens, Wacs, Soldiers, Airmen and Electronics.

OUR ADVERTISEMENTS

The Dawn of Tomorrow is calling your attention to the various advertisements or news of businessmen, appearing upon its pages, and wishes to remind you that many of these items were contracted for long before the genial printer set his forme, or the sprightly linotype operator whisked his nimble digits across the keys to assist in giving birth to a paper devoted to the interests of the Darker Races.

Our advertisers recognize the fact that we are a progressive race, and ready to support an enterprise similar to that which has proved a boon to all races and languages, since the caveman gave birth to the first news

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Try their service. Get acquainted with them. Then consider; that profits for these firms means employment for our people, means prosperity for our Race.

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When patronizing our advertisers mention The Dawn of Tomorrow. It will assure you intelligent service, give us a boost, and encourage the businessman.

LONDON NOTES

Milton—At her late residence, 127 Sackville St., on Tuesday, June 21, 1955, Laura, beloved wife of the late Clarence Milton and dear mother of Kenneth Milton, Melvin Howard, and Mrs. Phyllis Duncan, in her 73rd year. Private funeral service in the Evans funeral home, 648 Hamilton Rd., on Thursday, June 23. Interment was in Woodland Cemetery.

The services under the leadership of the Teenagers at Bethemmanuel Church on Fathers' Day, June 19th, Master Jerry Anderson, in the chair. Scripture was read by Tom Anderson; prayer by Tom Clinton; piano selection by Patricia Turner. Guest speaker was Mrs. F. Howson, "A Tribute to Our Fathers." Rev. Geo. Boyce, on Sunday, June 12th, the Pastor, Teenagers and friends attended the service at Woodstock Church. Mr. Fred Smith was in charge.

We are pleased to hear Mrs. Gladys Coursey is well on the way to recovery and will soon be back to

work again.

Mrs. Bessie Fountaine is progressing nicely at her home and wishes to thank those who have so kindly remembered her.

Mrs. Mary Phoenix is able to be about after her illness in hospital.

The Kellys were pleased to have as their guest Mrs. Kate Slaughter from Hamilton and Mrs. J. Clark from Detroit, Mich., for a few days.

The Community Family Club held a strawberry festival on the church grounds Tuesday evening, June 21 which was a success although the evening was cool. They wish to thank those who helped make it a success.

Mrs. Mabel Twiss, mother of the late Frank Howson is spending a few days at his home, the guest of Mrs. Howson and son Barry.

Compliments

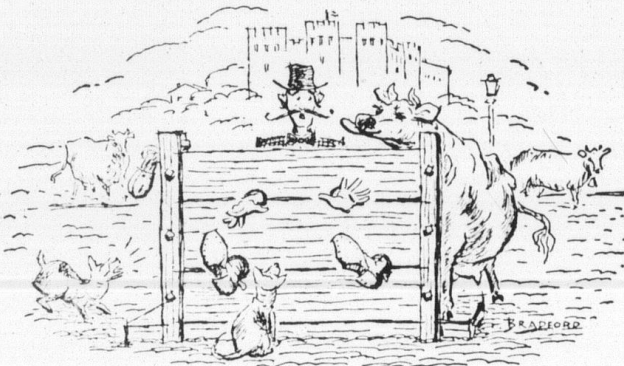
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Centennial Year MEMORIES

THE YEAR OF



The Three Hundred

ANY PLACE in London was five minutes' walk from any other place in 1832, the year in which the original of this picture was painted. The village had a population of three hundred—for part of the year. In the summer of 1832, an epidemic of Asiatic cholera drove most of the population into flight to the countryside. They all came back, however—and two thousand visitors with them—to attend the public execution of Henry Sovereign, convicted of the murder of his wife and six children. Wellington Street was the eastern boundary of the village in 1832, Queens Avenue and Carling Street formed the northern limits, while the Thames River framed the village to the south and west. One block from the stocks, which stood in front of the court-house, you could lean on Farmer John Kent's snake fence. If you accidentally leaned too hard and let out some of his cows and pigs, it wouldn't really matter, for cattle were allowed to roam the streets "without let or hindrance", being free commoners of the Village of London, along with the three hundred human inhabitants. London, in 1832, had two bridges, two general stores, several taverns and one policeman—High Constable Henry Groves, who administered the stocks and the whipping post.

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HELP BEAUTIFY YOUR CITY . . .

By making an extra effort during the Centennial Celebrations you can help keep our streets free of papers and garbage. Your City Works Department will be striving to maintain London's reputation for clean streets . . . your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

DECORATE YOUR HOMES AND ALL BUSINESS PREMISES WITH FLAGS AND FLOWERS

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INVITE YOUR OUT-OF-TOWN FRIENDS . . .

A simple postcard or note, to your friends, can bring many visitors to London — ensuring the success of our Centennial.

WRITE TO FORMER LONDONERS . . .

Centennial Week will be old-home-week to former Londoners. Invite them to meet their old friends during the big event!

PLAN TO ATTEND THE CENTENNIAL EVENTS . . .

Something will be happening every minute of every day, during Centennial Week. Plan to take in as many events as possible . . . big parades . . . concerts . . . special events . . . a hundred and one interesting and entertaining features you will not want to miss! Detailed information may be had by applying to City Hall.

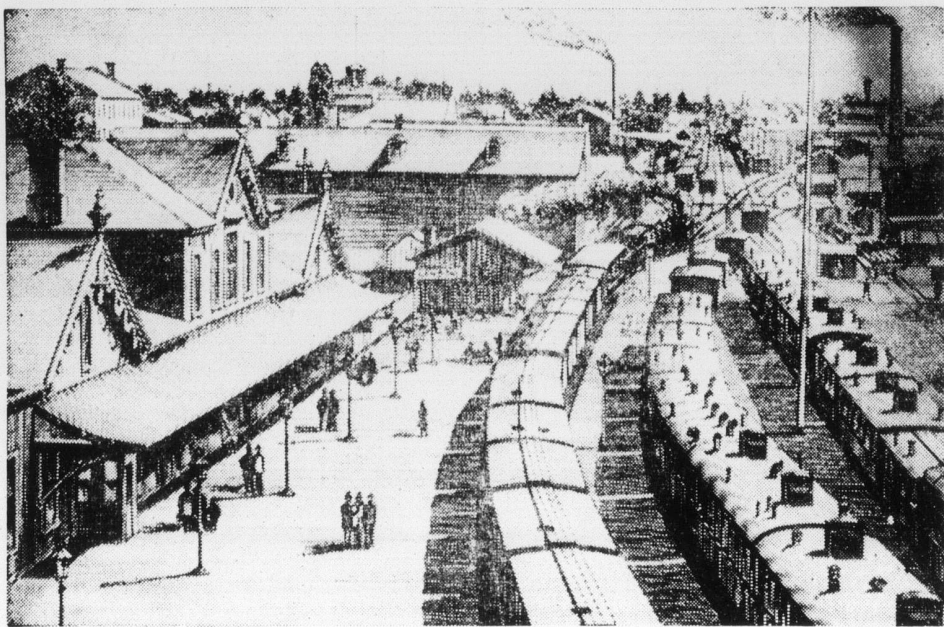


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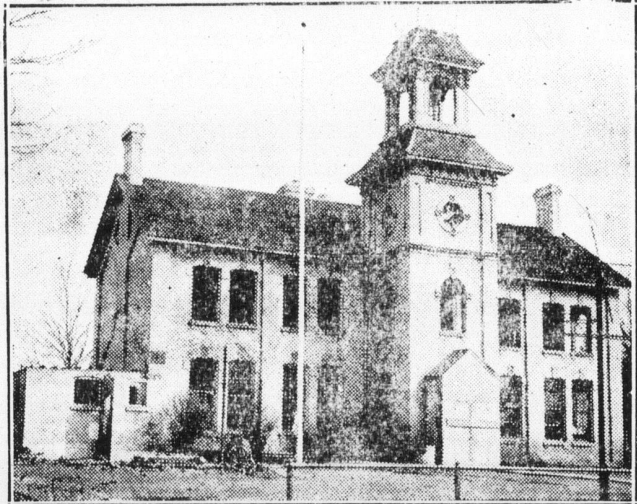
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THE ARKANSAS TRAVELER

Studying on a Fellowship this former Choir Singer Found Success in Europe.

When Georgia Laster began singing in the choir of a Seventh Day Adventist Church in a sleepy town in Arkansas she never dreamed it would lead to a trip to Europe and a career. But it did. A member of the church advised the girl to take up voice culture. Georgia got that chance later when the family moved to California. There at the University of Southern California, she earned a bachelor of music degree. Meanwhile she studied with private teachers. Her ability brought a Marian Anderson scholarship and later, a John Hay Whitney Foundation award. On the latter, Georgia went to Vienna for advanced study. Her teachers were the well known Erik Werba and Mimi Freisler. By mid-summer, Georgia was ready. Her concert won lavish praise. But Georgia felt she had to convince New York. Returning to the states, she received a Walter W. Naumberg award that paid for a Town Hall concert. New York heard and liked her. Although the devout girl from Arkansas has traveled quite a way, she still has a long road ahead.

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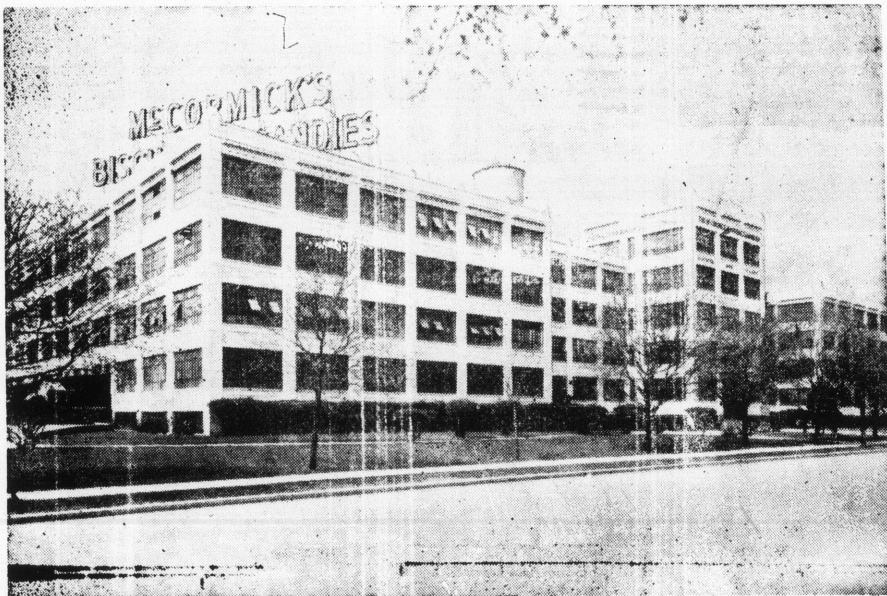
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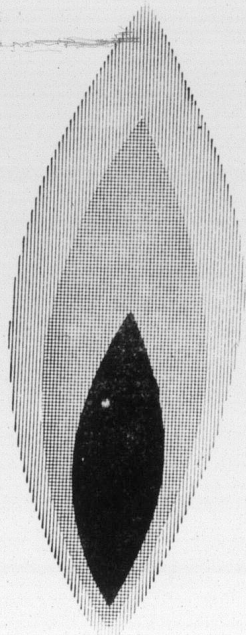
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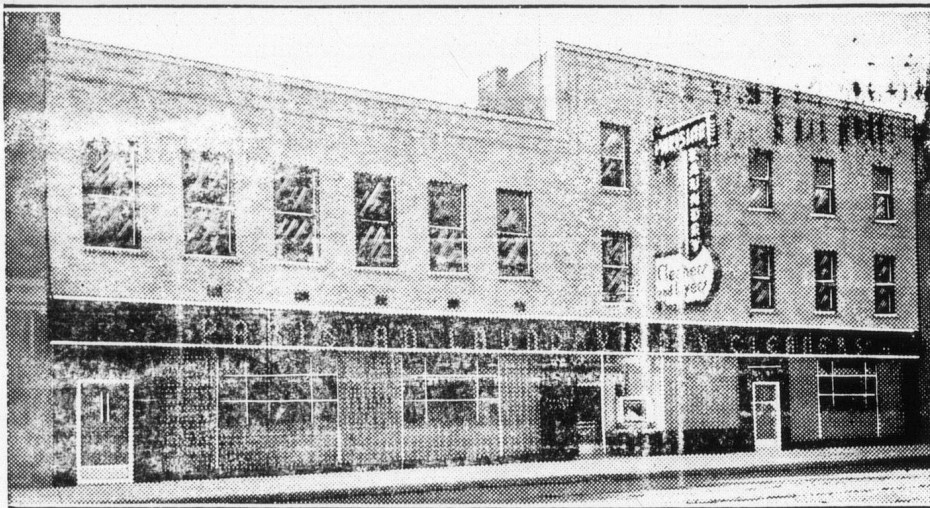
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MAGAZINE URGES NEGROES TO MAKE USE OF ECONOMIC STRENGTH TO WIN FREEDOM

Chicago — Ebony, in its July issue urges Negroes to awaken and make use of their economical strength in their eternal struggle for equal rights. "He has money to buy fine homes, big cars and enjoy vacations in foreign lands, and then has enough left for riotous living. It's high time that he stop those dollars from singing and make them talk," Ebony says.

The magazine points out that the Negro's most significant victories have been won in the courts, that good lawyers cost money and that the Negro's voice is only as strong in the courts "as his money is long."

"With money, his most potent weapon, he can purchase the freedom not given him by Abe Lincoln and the Fourteenth Amendment."

As an example of what the race can do, the magazine cites the newly created Regional Council of Negro Leadership in the South, which established a special bank fund to help militant Negroes, whose credit is being stifled by Southern whites. To date more than \$250,000 has been deposited with the Council and money is still coming in.

As for aiding other than Negro drives the magazine says: "There are national appeals that the Negro cannot afford to ignore. The March of Dimes, Red Cross, Damon Runyon Cancer and local Community funds, for example, are groups who serve all races. The Negro should be as vocal in helping these organizations in their financial appeals as he is in protesting when he is discriminated against by them."

When it comes to fighting on the local front Ebony suggests that instead of crying about dirty stores and unfair prices in his vicinity, the offenders should be boycotted.

"The time has come for the Negro to back up his good intentions with his purse!"

LONDON

We are pleased kins' wife and b doing fine and exercise.

Guests at the Mrs. Richard W month were Mrs. from Rochester, ler, Buffalo, N.Y. ickson and father Mr. Clifford Miller from Ham Mrs. L. Miller from All reported a lo

Mrs. Jack Lan sister, Mrs. Win.

Mr. and Mrs. sons, Roger and New York City their sister and Mrs. Thomas their stay in the with friends and and Chatham.

Mrs. Geraldine children from T guests of their pa A. Movley.

Miss Geraldin Readsville, N. C with her mother, son.

Mrs. Charles M at the Y.W.C.A. daughter, Rosema received a number The evening was dancing and all happy returns.

On Thursday Mrs. T. Johnston teenagers in hon Joseph Jr. and New York City.

We are sorry t Ross is ill in the her a speedy rec

TORONTO

Mr. and Mrs. J to Windsor and D friends and relat

Mr. Russell Ru in a government tawa was in the visiting his fath quite ill in St. M

Mrs. Crowley had three strokes pital also.

Mr. Jim Danie membered to his

The B.M.E. Ch choir at the An London, Ont., S der the leaders Trotman.

BRAN

Mrs. F. Jones fined in the hospi at home with h hours. We wish ery.

42ND AN

In April, 1913, ed as a parcel Ont., Drug Stor the retail drug That means 42 around to mark

To celebrate Pharmacy are c tion on practica by a modern d

LONDON NOTES

We are pleased to hear Don Jan-kins' wife and baby, also Marion are doing fine and are able to be up for exercise.

Guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wagner during the month were Mrs. G. Berry and son from Rochester, N.Y., Mrs. B. Miller, Buffalo, N.Y.; Mr. and Mrs. ickson and father from Detroit, Mich. Mr. Clifford Miller and Mrs. Mabel Miller from Hamilton and Mr. and Mrs. L. Miller from Brantford, Ont. All reported a lovely holiday.

Mrs. Jack Lankin is visiting her sister, Mrs. Wm. Barry.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gross and sons, Roger and Joseph, Jr. from New York City were the guests of their sister and brother-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Johnson during their stay in the city. They visited with friends and relatives in Guelph and Chatham.

Mrs. Geraldine Bradshaw and children from Toronto were the guests of their parents Mr. and Mrs. A. Movley.

Miss Geraldine Proxler from Readsville, N. Carolina, is visiting with her mother, Mrs. Sadie Robinson.

Mrs. Charles Marshall entertained at the Y.W.C.A. in honour of her daughter, Rosemary's birthday. She received a number of beautiful gifts. The evening was spent in games and dancing and all wished her many happy returns.

On Thursday evening, June 23, Mrs. T. Johnston entertained the teenagers in honour of her nephew, Joseph Jr. and Roger Gross from New York City.

We are sorry to hear Miss Muriel Ross is ill in the hospital and wish her a speedy recovery.

TORONTO NOTES

Mr. and Mrs. J. Davis paid a visit to Windsor and Detroit visiting some friends and relatives.

Mr. Russell Rudd who is working in a government laboratory in Ottawa was in the city for a few days visiting his father who has been quite ill in St. Michael's hospital.

Mrs. Crowley is quite ill having had three strokes. She is in the hospital also.

Mr. Jim Daniels wishes to be remembered to his many friends.

The B.M.E. Choir will be the guest choir at the Annual Conference in London, Ont., Sunday, July 1st under the leadership of Mrs. Grace Trotman.

BRANTFORD

Mrs. F. Jones who has been confined in the hospital was able to be at home with her family for a few hours. We wish her a speedy recovery.

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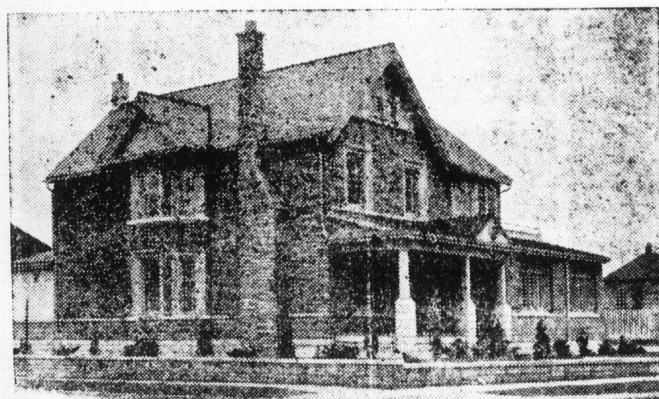
ALLAN F. ATKINSON



J. LORNE CRINKLAW

manag of the Evans Funeral Service Home at 648 Hamilton Road. Mr. Atkinson has been associated with the Evans firm for the past 21 years, is a licensed mortician and has been 24 years in this profession,

has been associated with Evans Funeral Service for the past 16 years. He is manager of Evans modern Funeral Home at Richmond and Central. Mr. Crinklaw has been a licensed mortician since 1932.



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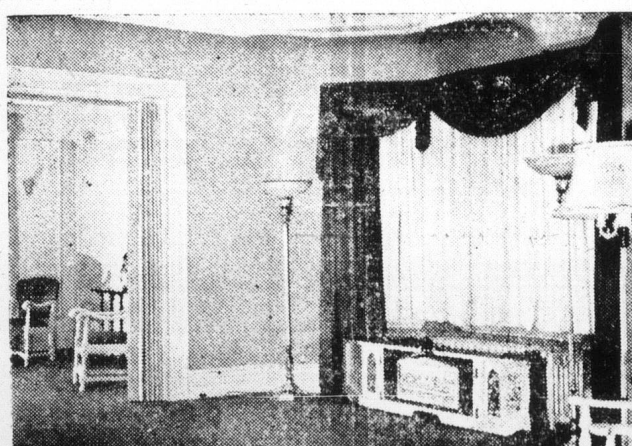
has been built through service and the competent attention to any details and problems that may arise.

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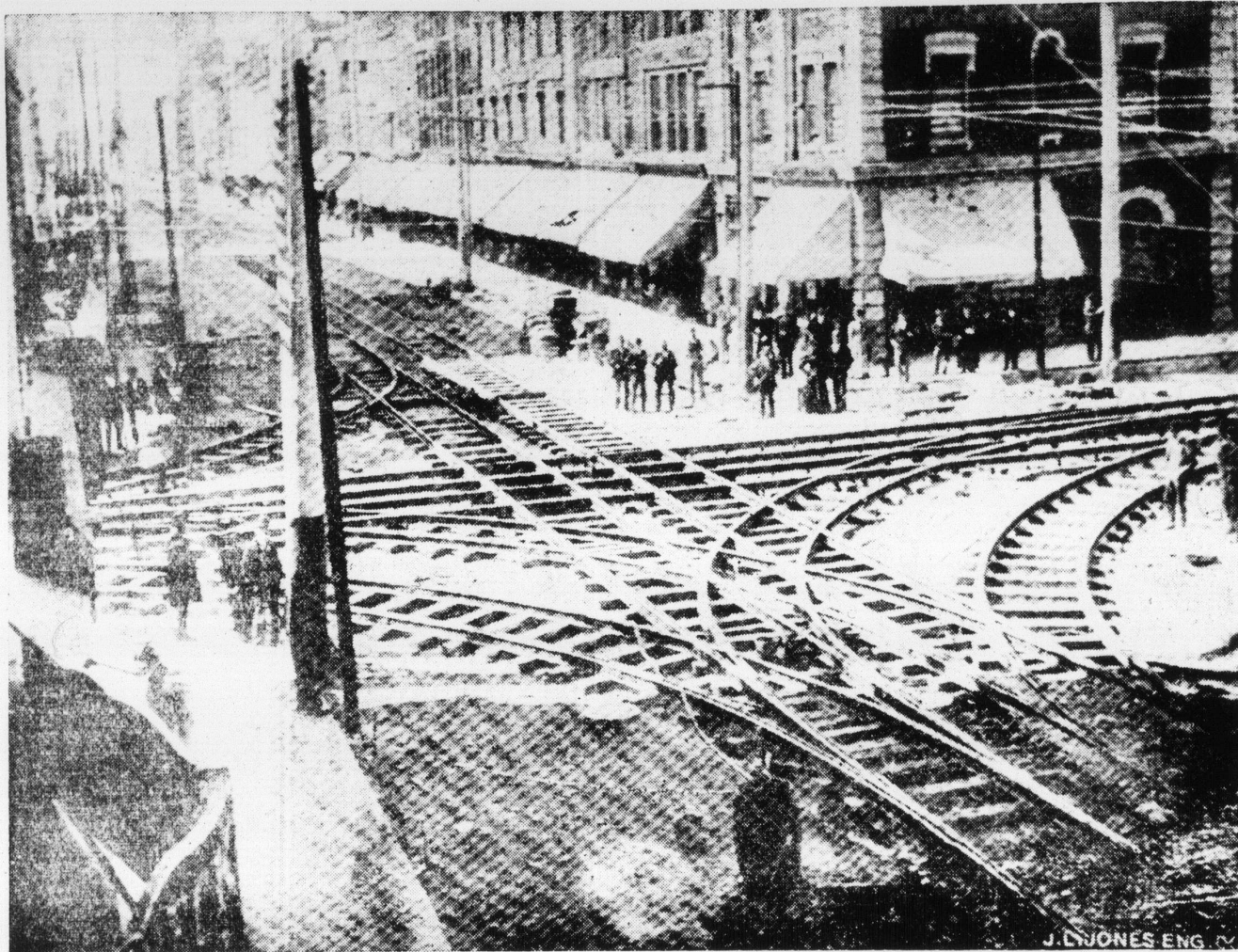
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REV. THOMAS

GETS HIS CHURCH

Lost November, the Reformed Church got the first Negro pastor in its 328 years of existence. That happened when young Reverend James Joshua Thomas, born in South Carolina but raised in Jamaica, B. W.I., was officially installed as pastor of the 105 year old Mott Haven Reformed Church in the Bronx, New York. The Rev. Thomas' congregation, 80 per cent white, is of a denomination that originated in the Netherlands during the great Reformation of 1500, and brought here by Dutch Settlers of New Amsterdam in 1628. At present few Negroes are members of the denomination, but these days, more are joining.

For Rev. Thomas, a white congregation is not a new experience. Be-

fore coming to Mott Haven Reformed Church, he was assistant pastor at the Reformed Church of Astoria, L.I. In both instances the reason for his appointment was the changing racial characteristics of the neighborhoods.

At Mott Haven, many members were lost when their homes were demolished to make way for a huge housing project. When that was completed, the residents were racially mixed.

However, when some Negro tenants sought a church, the Mott Haven Reformed was close by. So they began dropping in and sending their children to Sunday School. Church leaders saw the problem and met it face to face, honestly.

Appealing to the Board of Domestic Missions, which helps churches with all kinds of problems, the dea-

cons asked for advice and help. The answer came in the person of the Rev. M. Thomas. The Board of Domestic Missions knew what he had done in Astoria and they felt he could do as good a job in the Bronx. Rev. Thomas came to Mott Haven as a "Stated Supply Pastor" on a one year basis. The job was a touchy one. But the old members of Dutch ancestry gave Rev. Thomas a cordial welcome, pitched in and worked right along with him. Soon, new and darker faces began showing up at the church in larger numbers. Mott Haven took on a new life. Rev. Thomas was fulfilling his task. In fact, he did so well that when his year was up, the deacons, elders, consistory and congregation unanimously joined in asking the young man to remain as their permanent minister.

Young Rev. Thomas has a full program at his church. Usually his day begins at nine when he goes to the church office for mail. Since he has no secretary, Rev. Thomas takes care of his correspondence, which averages about a dozen letters a day.

Afternoons, he makes pastoral visits among his members, especially the sick and shut-ins. This leaves evenings free for church meetings—and there is one nearly every night except Saturday. That's the day he is in school at Columbia University where he is working on a doctorate in Administration. Ordinarily during the week, Rev. Thomas gets home around 10:30 dog tired, but happy that he is succeeding doing his difficult job.

Sundays, his sermon, which was written Thursday evening and polished off Friday, is the main interest. However, Rev. Thomas gets a break between one and five. At five, youth groups have their meetings and it is very important that the young minister attend these to advise and encourage the younger folk. Once a week, on Wednesday nights, Rev. Thomas looks in on their midweek affair in the community centre, where basketball, bowling, dancing, ping pong and other games are popular. This feature is

highly interesting to Rev. Thomas and he is building his organization arounds these bright youngsters.

He's not alone in his work. His very capable assistant is his wife, Winnel. In the church, she belongs to the choir, is secretary to the Ladies Aid Society and a teacher in the Release Times School (Dutch Reform for Sunday School.) They have

two children, Ralph 6 and Joy 4, who fill the home furnished by the Church, with their play.

A graduate of Lincoln U in Pennsylvania and Drew Seminary at Madison, N.J., Rev. Thomas has a wide circle of former schoolmates and friends, all of whom are watching, wishing and praying for his success in the interracial effort.

J. L. WHITEFORD

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Steve's Radio Cabs O'Meara's grandfather in early days. Paid



JACK O'MEARA, in cab

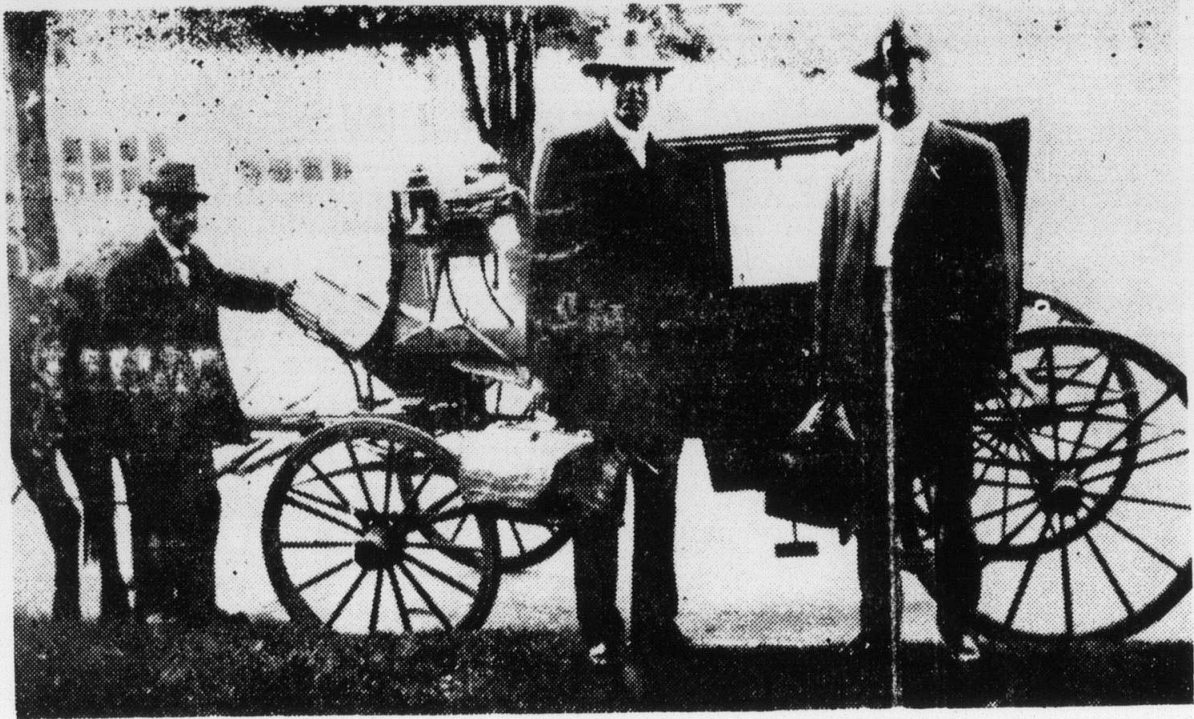
New Ce

Since London's old — Steve's Radio Cabs their new quarters Richmond streets there are few people who have seen and romance of t than Steve O'Meara have driven passed don's streets since ney to modern, s cab.

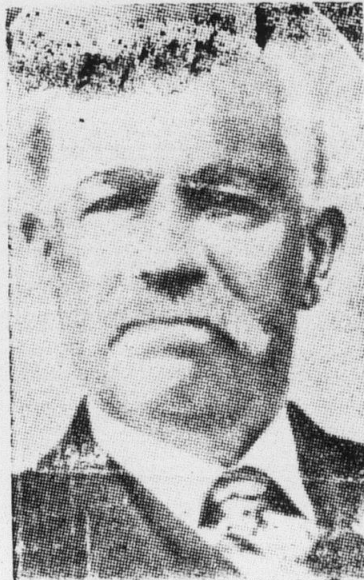
Steve O'Meara, and father had prominent families tradition all by l was only 14. A of 1917 vintage wa he had. There ar

S

NEW



Steve's Radio Cabs have grown out of the hackney service which Steve O'Meara's grandfather started in London in 1878. Above is a hack used in early days. Paddy O'Meara, Steve's father, is shown by the horses



GREAT-GRANDFATHER O'MEARA
one-time London Alderman and
hack driver



STEVE O'MEARA, Proprietor of
Steve's Radio Cabs



JACK O'MEARA, fourth generation
in cab service



STEVE O'MEARA, JR.

goes back 73 years. Old Steve O'Meara, the great-grandfather of the youngest O'Meara, plied his trade about the pioneer streets with a team of horses and a carriage. He was a leading citizen of London and for many years was an alderman. In 1910 the alderman retired and turned the hack over to his son, Paddy.

Both Old Steve and Paddy died in 1917, and a trade which had become synonymous with the Forest City fell abruptly into the hands of 14-year-old Steve. It all happened too soon. The motor car was coming in, and Steve was not old enough to drive it.

However, London was blessed at the time with a particularly bene-

volent and considerate chief constable named Robert Birrell. He thought Steve was a good lad and although he was a few weeks short of his 15th birthday, the chief gave him special permission to drive his father's cab. A \$5 bill presented at the police station in those days was all that was required for a cab license.

They were good days. Cabs were a luxury then. It used to take five minutes to get a call because the houses were not numbered and the customer would have to explain where he was. Steve remembers it was not unusual to receive cab orders a week in advance, so that he would be sure to be there, particu-

larly if it was for a funeral or a wedding. People now wait until they are ready to go home and then call for a cab which arrives a few minutes later.

It seems a long time since Steve started driving, dressed in knickerbockers. But he remembers his old customers, Bishop Williams and Bishop Fallon, Sir Harry Lauder, Sir Adam Beck, and good old London names like Gibbons, Little, Anderson and Westcott. Many of the old families still patronize Steve's Radio Cabs, and sometimes they may be surprised to have the cab knock at their door almost as soon as the call has been made. With Radio it is possible to intercept a taxi as it goes by the customer's house.

New Central Location For 73-Year-Old Firm

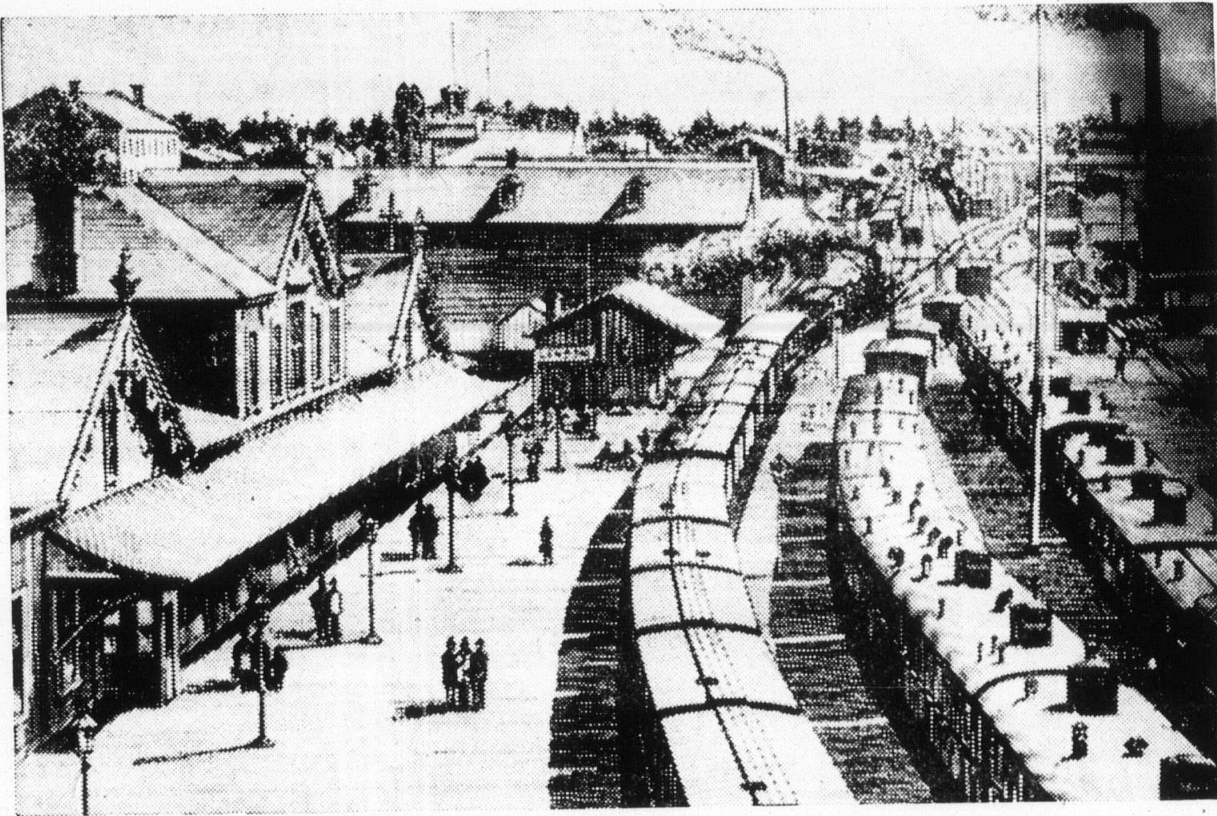
Since London's oldest taxi service—Steve's Radio Cabs—moved into their new quarters at Albert and Richmond streets the proprietor has been doing a lot of reminiscing. And there are few people in London today who have seen more excitement and romance of the taxi business than Steve O'Meara. The O'Mearas have driven passengers over London's streets since 1878, from hackney to modern, streamlined motor cabs.

Steve O'Meara, whose grandfather and father had driven the city's prominent families, took over the tradition all by himself when he was only 14. A Ford touring car of 1917 vintage was the only vehicle he had. There are 22 drivers driv-

ing O'Meara's 16 new taxis these days, and two of these alert chauffeurs are Jack and Steve O'Meara, Jr., the fourth generation.

Steve himself is of the old cab school. In the service his firm provides there is still something of that old courtesy and willingness which characterized early cabbies. He believes in clean cabs that pull up smartly to the patron's door, in drivers who get out to open the doors. Since radio was installed two years ago, Steve has experimented with speed and efficiency, and the new location in central downtown was a result of this new system's development.

The story of Steve's Radio Cabs



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WHO STOLE JOE LOU

Between the year received \$50 for a Kracken in Chicago 1950 loss to Ezzarc netted him \$102,840 mer heavyweight a grand-slam total the ring. Today, n mains of that stag

What happened

The complete a becomes known, i in a shocking scan investigation of o sport that has so fa cape public or pol

A big slice of J can be accounted f instance, was gobb agers. But that s nestegg of well o bucks.

Joe, the softest the big time, got chunk all by hir the first profession ed, for fighting C went to pay back \$ received while on back in 1934 when for that year were

But in 1935, wh fists chalked up 12 14 wins for a \$ really opened up t

He bought two a brick ten-room mother, another f ters, Emmareil an a third sister, Vur ard University.

Joe gave five-h resses who served he was definitely t collections were story is told about now manager of approached the ch

"I'm getting up old-timer in the flat busted and on thing'll be appreci

Without hesitat "Sure, sure — five hundred."

He started to v then turned back

"By the way," is the guy?"

Of the vast am can be accounted represents by far item. Joe marr Chicago secretary

For Marva it n getting hitched t counting such gift ment buildings v on her, she was age of the champ

But none of th ing Joe's habit c \$150 suits at a ti million bucks Jo government grab

Where did the This is where

Sports writers out of the cham ness ventures. C about Joe the B

ways good for close to Joe still strange investme best kind of com

What's more, closer look at t juggling that w scenes of the fo vestments:

\$50,000 lost s team.

\$40,000 down Rhum Bookie C

\$30,000 up in Punch, Inc.

\$100,000 an a his partner was Robinson.

A kid just g school would ha look at the w

WHO STOLE JOE LOUIS' MILLIONS?

Between the years when Joe Louis received \$50 for anesthetizing Jack Kracken in Chicago in 1934, and his 1950 loss to Ezzard Charles, which netted him \$102,840, the world's former heavyweight champion earned a grand-slam total of \$4,292,162 in the ring. Today, not a thin dime remains of that staggering amount.

What happened to it?

The complete answer, if it ever becomes known, is sure to result in a shocking scandal and a possible investigation of one phase of the sport that has so far managed to escape public or police notice.

A big slice of Joe Louis' income can be accounted for. Half of it, for instance, was gobbled up by his managers. But that still leaves a little nestegg of well over two million bucks.

Joe, the softest touch ever to hit the big time, got rid of a sizeable chunk all by himself. Practically the first professional money he earned, for fighting Charley Massera, went to pay back \$270 his family had received while on relief. This was back in 1934 when his total earnings for that year were less than \$5,000.

But in 1935, when his thundering fists chalked up 12 knockouts out of 14 wins for a \$429,655 gross, Joe really opened up the purse strings.

He bought two houses in Detroit, a brick ten-room dwelling for his mother, another for two of his sisters, Emmarell and Susie. Joe put a third sister, Vunies, through Howard University.

Joe gave five-buck tips to waitresses who served him breakfast and he was definitely the guy to see when collections were being made. The story is told about the time Al Weill, now manager of Rocky Marciano, approached the champ.

"I'm getting up a fund for a real old-timer in the racket Joe. He's flat busted and on his last legs. Anything'll be appreciated," Al said.

Without hesitation, Joe answered: "Sure, sure — put me down for five hundred."

He started to walk away, stopped, then turned back to Weill.

"By the way," Joe added, "who is the guy?"

Of the vast amount of money that can be accounted for, Marva Trotter represents by far the biggest single item. Joe married Marva, then a Chicago secretary, in 1935.

For Marva it must have been like getting hitched to an oil well. Not counting such gifts as cars and apartment buildings which Joe showered on her, she was cut in on a percentage of the champ's total earnings.

But none of the above — including Joe's habit of buying a hundred \$150 suits at a time—adds up to the million bucks Joe had left after the government grabbed its end.

Where did the rest of it go?

This is where the Joe Louis story begins to get real dirty.

Sports writers got many a laugh out of the champ's ill-starred business ventures. On dull days, a piece about Joe the Businessman was always good for a yak. But those close to Joe still don't think that his strange investments constituted the best kind of comedy material.

What's more, they would like a closer look at the curious financial juggling that went on behind the scenes of the following specific investments:

\$50,000 lost sponsoring a softball team.

\$40,000 down the drain in the Rhum Bookie Cafe in Chicago.

\$30,000 up in fizz in Joe Louis Punch, Inc.

\$100,000 in a beer business where his partner was ex-ring great Ray Robinson.

A kid just getting out of grade school would have taken a good, hard look at the way those businesses

were run," a close friend of Joe recently said.

The friend then added the following significant statement: "It's hard to believe, from the way those firms were allowed to collapse, that there wasn't an actual plot to wreck them in order to keep Joe broke!"

It may sound ridiculous, on the face of it, but some people might have been interested in keeping Joe broke. One can recall how Mike

Jacobs, who became a millionaire managing the Brown Bomber, encouraged Joe in his free spending. While in the Army Joe continued to dole out typical thousand-dollar gratuities.

"There's plenty more where that came from!" Joe was always told.

To say that someone dipped his grubby hands into Joe's pockets and stole close to a million dollars, would not be altogether accurate. But there are other forms of stealing.

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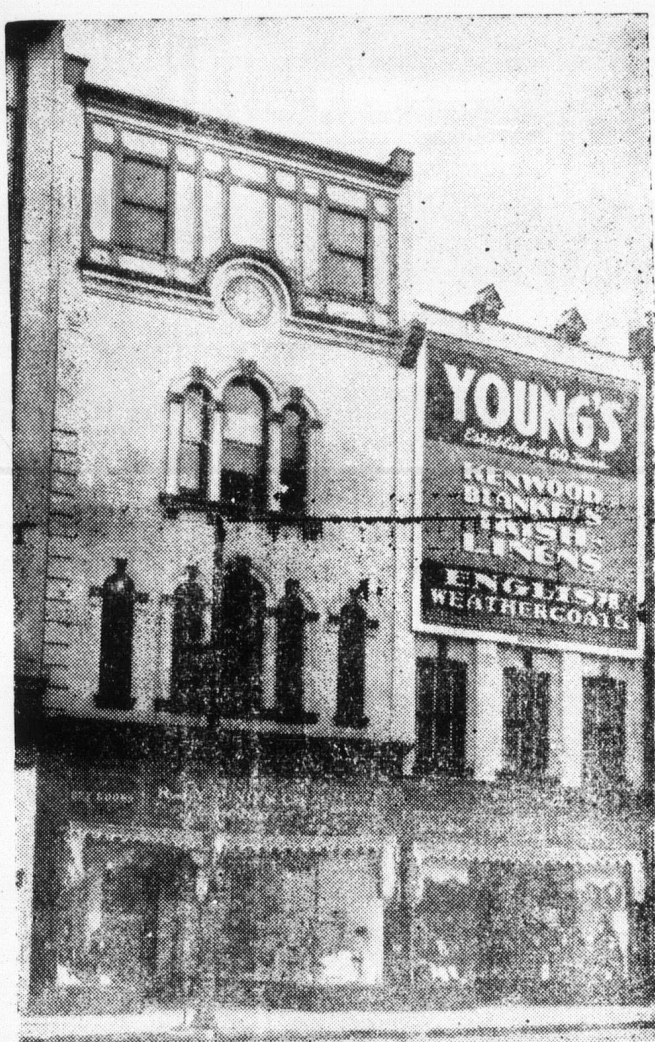
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AFRICA'S LEADERS SEEK POLITICAL FREEDOM

If Africa's economic and social awakening have been surprising, its political development has been startling. And to one man, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, the West Africans owe their awakening.

Dr. Nkrumah, American Educated at my old Alma Mater, Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, is the first African to head a British area. He is Prime Minister, head of the government.

At the moment, Dr. Nkrumah is guiding his country on a direct and swift path to final and complete independence which should occur within the next two years.

To complete this monumental task, he must continue to prod the British government, train his countrymen for the tasks ahead and reconcile political matters within his own country.

To the people of the Gold Coast Nkrumah is symbolic of "freedom." His Convention People's Party remembers the dreary days their leader spent in prison four years ago, charged with treason.

From a prison cell to head a government in four years is an achievement. And when that government revolutionized the old form bringing victory without bloodshed, it amounted to a miracle. In 1954, The World Veterans' Federation awarded Dr. Nkrumah its Peace Award.

Now, with a planned program of progress, leadership that has the attention of the world, the Gold Coast of Dr. Nkrumah will shortly take its place in the world family of nations. After all, Africa is not entirely a black continent. There's much light.

THE WAYFARER

By Beatrice Wright

When I came north from Georgia,
I held my head real high,
And looked a man right in the face,
And never dropped my eye,
I was free, I was free, I was free.

When first I saw a street car
Without some sign for "race"
And people riding on it
Could sit down any place.
Lord- I rode, and I rode, and I rode

I went to the theatre
And sat downstairs, I did,
With all the other people,
And just took off my lid.
Lord! I laughed, and I laughed, and
I laughed.

I went to Church one Sunday,
Forgetting about race;
But soon I was directed
To a colored church some place.
Lord! I thought and I thought, and
I thought.

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