

The Dawn of Tomorrow

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

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VOICE IN THE SOUTH by ROBERT DURR

Gertrude Schurgast in a feature article in World Order, official organ of the American Bahai Community, writes:

"My best friend is a lady belonging to the colored race. She holds her head up proudly and looks into your eyes. Her brown, unwrinkled face is crowned by beautiful silvery hair. She is one of those rare persons who combines strength of character with kindness.

"The other day I discovered a little picture on her mantle. It was a picture of a white woman in an old-fashioned, high-necked dress. Her hair, which was parted in the middle, was combed straight back and made her look rather severe. This was accentuated by her eyes, the most remarkable eyes I have ever seen, piercing, fearless, betraying an indomitable character.

"Who is that?" I asked her in surprise.

"That was my mother," she answered gently, and seeing my puzzled look, she added: "Her father was a white man, a slave-holder of Scotch-Irish stock. Her mother was a slave, mostly American-Indian blood. In those days slaves had to obey their masters. My grandfather must have loved his little white daughter who had inherited his looks and also his character. She was high-spirited and quick tempered. She was allowed to grow up together with the other children of his family. Nobody was to touch her. Whenever her step mother demanded that she call her stepbrothers 'Master,' she refused, saying that they all had the same father!

"Tell me more about her," I asked. "From early childhood the idea of serfdom must have been unbearable to her," she continued. "She and her mother spent hours and hours in their little cabin making candles, which she later sold. As soon as she had learned to sew, she began to make corsets for the town people. She had a large clientele and soon saved up enough money to buy her mother's and her own freedom. She married a Negro who was a member of the legislature in Alabama. 'My father,' continued my friend 'was sometimes hunted by the Ku Klux Klan, but they never hurt him, as they were afraid of 'The little woman.' Although she was only five feet tall, she soon represented a power in that little town of Livingston, Alabama.

"Even today, when you ask people there about Louisa Dotson, they will remember her. The white farmers especially remember her, for she often went to them demanding that they give better treatment to the poor Negroes whom they employed as sharecroppers. Those landowners always managed to settle the account with these workers in such a way that, at the end of the summer, there were no earnings left, only debts. Louisa Dotson made it her business to change this condition, throughout the years her sole purpose in life was to work for the advancement of her race. All her life she fought oppression and demonstrated to black and white alike, by her own conduct, the pride and dignity of human beings."

OWNER OF TRIBAL ROBE IS GOLD COAST INITIATE

He's never been near the shores of Africa but Otto F. Dannecker, 241 King St., Waterloo, Ont. is a close friend of a tribal ruler in the dark continent. He has permission to participate in any functions of this chief's family in the Gold Coast and he can demand an audience with the governor-general of the British colony.

These privileges are his because he owns a tribal robe, known as a Kente, given to him when he helped two natives of the tribe to help their own country.

Three years ago he assisted in bringing to Canada Seth Bansa, son of the late paramount chief of the Ewe tribe. Four weeks ago he saw another step complete in his foreign aid program. Through his efforts, Seth's fiancée, Agnes Menka, rejoined her future husband, whom she had not seen in four years.

For this assistance he received from Seth's brothers, Bernhard, the tribal garb, which classifies him as a close friend of the ruling head of 80,000 people. Mr. Dannecker's costume is only one of several kinds the tribesmen wear.

Each Kente has embroidered on it many symbols which indicate rank. The Waterloo man's garb is a type worn by members of the aristocracy. The costume, made of Gold Coast cotton, which has been woven and dyed in that country, can be worn at tribal festivals and on great occasions.

To Mr. Dannecker the Kente is a rich reward for the assistance he and his church, St. John's Lutheran, Waterloo, have given them. Through their help, Seth, a third-year student at Waterloo College, and Agnes, who has come to Canada to take a nursing assistant's course, will be able to aid their country.

Seth will complete his course next year. Agnes, who will study in Toronto for three months and then at the Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital for six months, will finish her course about the same time. Before they return home, they plan to be married here. Following their marriage, Seth will teach high school and Agnes plans to be a nursing assistant in their native land.

"Was she still a young woman at the time of the emancipation?" I asked.

"Yes, by then the family had saved enough money to buy a home. It was only a four-room house and much too small for the large family—there were fourteen children—but they had an enormous back yard. That's where my mother built a school house for Negro children. She herself, acted as the teacher.

"How did she manage with all those children? Were they all as dark as you?" "No, have you heard of Mendel's law of heredity? Well, we proved it. Some of us were white. (There is a brother I have never seen. He went to California and passed into the white race.) Some of us were dark, and some had the character traits of both races. But you asked me how she managed. That was not all my mother did. She by and by became well known as a dressmaker. All the prominent people in town used to get their clothes from her."

Louis Always A Popular Champ

Even the athletes—the professional baseball, football, boxing and basketball greats—owe a certain amount of respect to their followers. A sports writer tells the story of a time when he witnessed Larry Doby, Jackie Robinson, Satchel Paige and another Negro baseball player dining at a restaurant when a young mother brought her starry-eyed son to the table to get autographs. Doby, Robinson and Paige signed willingly but the fourth player—a real hero up to this point to the little boy—kept his head in his plate and completely ignored the child. The action was so rude that Satchel later remonstrated the player with a sharp "What's the matter with you? You aren't the man I used to know."

Joe Louis will probably always be a hero to the multitudes because he was the kind of a champion who did his honest best when it came to the common man. His refusal to become a big shot although an all-time great champion really paid off for Joe as he developed probably the most favorable press of any Negro public figure in history.

SAILOR TO MOVIE STAR — Japanese Problem Film Makes Star of Navy's Danny Williams

The first American GI to win stardom in a Japanese movie is a tall, Alabama-born Negro sailor who won plaudits of Japanese critics in his very first film appearance. Playing the role of an Army sergeant in Yassa Mossa, a social problem movie about Japan's huge crop of occupation babies, Daniel A. Williams is credited with turning in the best dramatic performance in the film which starred some of Japan's top actors and actresses.

Williams (in real life a chaplain's assistant and a very religious man) plays the role of Simon Mueller, a Negro sergeant who falls in love with a prostitute and fathers a child by her. It is his sympathetic handling of what could have been an objectionable role to the Japanese people which won him acclaim.

The movie Yassa Mossa was produced by Japan's leading film company, the Schochiku Studios as a full-budgeted feature that took more than three months to film. Costing more than \$83,000—an enormous budget for a Japanese film—Yassa Mossa featured a carefully chosen cast including Chikage Awashima-san (often called "the Bette Davis of the Orient") and Mayumi Kuratsan, one of Japan's leading stage actresses who made her first screen appearance in this picture.

The movie's title is taken from a popular Japanese novel of the same name. Yassa Mossa is a somewhat slangy Japanese term meaning "a state of confusion."

Brilliant Bishop Speaks 5 Languages, 3 Dialects

An Ascetic-looking man with close-cropped black hair and a clergyman's benign eyes, Bishop Bowers is both a rugged organizer and an ecclesiastical scholar. He wears glasses for reading, plays the organ, and is a first-rate wit. He has a high, almost shrill voice, a slow engaging smile. A stern, uncompromising administrator, he works hard, runs a diocese that is both efficient and spiritual.

The Bishop is brilliantly educated, and speaks five languages fluently—French, German, Italian, Greek and Latin. He also speaks three African dialects—Ga, Twi and Ewe. Even though a Roman Catholic prelate, he has a rare racial patriotism which proved a valuable asset in racial strife-ridden Africa where Bishop Bowers served as a missionary for ten years. The bishop's mother is so fair that she could pass as a white person. But he says, "It's a good thing I was born dark as I am—it broke the color caste system within my own family."

LITTLE PEOPLE

Not long ago singer Lena Horne and her husband held a cocktail party for the press in the exclusive Key Room at the Chez Paree in Chicago where Lena was nightly packing the house with appreciative and demonstrative customers.

Lena was being the gracious hostess, seeing that writers and photographers from the papers had full glasses and that the hors d'oeuvres were going around. She was talking to a magazine editor and a theater critic from one of the Chicago dailies when a short, middle-aged Negro came through the door and paused momentarily, his eyes searching the room for a familiar face.

Quietly excusing herself, Lena left the high-powered journalists and walked across the room to greet the stranger even more warmly than she had greeted the rest of the guests. She talked with him gaily for a while introduced him to her husband and then rounded up a photographer and had her picture taken with him before he left. As he walked out the door, the room buzzed with questions as the guests asked each other who the man was whom Lena had welcomed so warmly.

Not many know to this day that the man was not an out-of-town journalist or an old friend of the family's.

"Oh, him?" Lena said when asked directly. He's the attendant here in the men's washroom."

This incident points up one of the secrets of Lena Horne's success. She has reached the top of the heap but she has not forgotten that it is the thousands of little people—washroom attendants, laborers, clerks, secretaries, high school kids and college students—who make up a large part of her following and who are behind her success.

RECENT SURVEY

A recent survey of Negro churches in the South reveals that more Negro churches are decreasing in membership than are increasing—39.3 per cent are increasing, 11.8 per cent are stationary, and 48.9 per cent are decreasing.

In the Southern states our state and federal government provides 2143 county agricultural agents for whites and only 357 Negro agents, a ratio of 6 to 1.

Out of 1,388 Negro families interviewed in 17 counties, 47.3 per cent had received no pastoral call during the past 12 months.

Of the 570 churches studied, there were 7 churches per county without any hymnals or song books of any kind.

Nearly half of the pastors of the Negro churches, 43.3 per cent have never gone beyond the 8th grade, and 58.2 per cent have never gone above high school. The average is a 9th grader.

The training of a new type of Negro minister is one of the biggest tasks before the American Church today.

Some large city churches are providing a scholarship of \$100 to \$300 each year to help train one new Negro minister.

The Negro Church is not doing so well. In one denomination, the Methodist, the Negro section is growing only one-ninth as fast as the rest of the Church.

During the last fifteen years nearly three million Negroes have migrated to the northern states, but the white churches in the North have done little for their new Negro neighbors.

Young Negroes are going to modern high schools and colleges, but on Sunday in church they often find the same old rousements and rallies. The Negro Church is far behind in the training of its leaders.

The average theological seminary for training white ministers has 208 students. The seventeen Negro seminaries, that provide a similar B.D. course (above college), have a total of 224 students. In other words it takes all seventeen Negro seminaries to provide one adequate student body. The average Negro seminary has only 5 juniors, 4 middlers and 4 seniors or a total of 13 students.

All of our American Negro churches combined need a total of 862 new ministers a year. This year the total B.D. graduates from Negro seminaries was 66, or only seven per cent of the number needed.

Most Negro ministerial students come from poor homes where there is not enough money to pay for a three-year seminary course. Each one needs about \$500 a year for three years. If he had this training he would give an average of 32 fruitful years to the ministry of the church. The Rural Department, Drew Seminary, Madison, N.J., has just completed a study of 21 outstanding Negro pastors to show how much a trained Negro pastor can accomplish. This bulletin is entitled, "Go Down, Moses," and is being sent out for just the cost of printing (40c).

Dawn of Tomorrow

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ADVENTURES IN RACE RELATIONS

Our prejudices often do us a great disservice without our knowing it. Such was the case of a Philadelphia factory worker who found himself saddled with more than a thousand dollar indebtedness because of the protracted illness of his wife.

The only way he saw out of his dilemma was to sell his home, a desperate step he regretted to take. In talking the matter over with a fellow employee, he discovered for the first time that the workers in the plant had a building and loan association.

"Maybe," his friend told him, "they'll lend you the money on your home since you have paid for it."

So immediately he made application for a loan of \$1,500 offering his home as collateral. In time he was duly notified that a decision on his request for a loan would be made as soon as the appraisal committee had an opportunity to look over his property.

One evening about 10 days later, a neighbour noticed a well dressed Negro man standing on the sidewalk

looking over the home of the financially burdened worker.

He had heard rumors that his neighbour was in desperate circumstances and might purchase the house and violate the all-white complexion of the block.

This thought was too horrible to bear. Assuming a friendly attitude he went to his door, watched the Negro for a few minutes, then strolled over to strike up a conversation with him.

"You seem mighty interested in this home," the white man said,

"I am," responded the Negro making a few notations on a pad he carried.

"Well, you know no Negroes live in this block."

"No, I didn't know that," the other replied.

The Negro, a member of the appraisal committee, immediately realized that he had been mistaken for a prospective buyer.

The neighbor disappeared into his home, called his neighbor and informed him that a "nigger" was examining his house with the idea of buying it.

Thus alarmed, the owner opened his door and ordered the Negro to leave the premises.

"Get outa here," he ordered, "this house ain't for sale and even if it was I wouldn't sell it to a nigger."

The Negro smiled instead of becoming angry and walked away.

A few days later, the building loan association informed him that his application for a loan has been turned down. There was no explanation, and he never understood why the association wouldn't accept his home as collateral on a \$1,500 loan.

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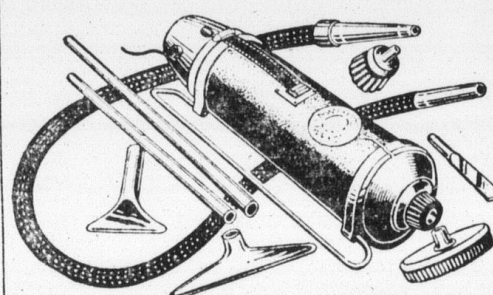
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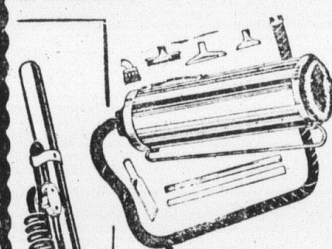
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LONDON NOTES

Mrs. Sarah Smith has been confined in Victoria Hospital but will soon be able to be released.

Mrs. Dorothy Milton is also confined in Victoria Hospital with severe stomach trouble.

Mrs. Mary Phoenix has been admitted to Victoria Hospital with diabetes.

Mr. Frank Howson has been on the sick list for quite some time but is showing improvement.

On Nov. 16 the Progressive Club will hold their bazaar at Bethanuel Church.

Mrs. Myrtle Fields from Detroit, Mich. and her sister, Mrs. E. Wiffen and nieces Dorothy and Ethel Hunt motored to the city to be at their brother George's bedside, also his sister, Mrs. J. Hunt from Toronto.

Mr. W. Hackett, from Detroit, Mich was the guest in the city for a few hours visiting with his mother, Mrs. Emma Hackett.

Mrs. Elmer Walls and baby son from Windsor, are visiting with their aunt, Mrs. M. Harris.

LOUIS CHANGES MIND AGAIN
Former heavyweight champ Joe Louis confirmed today that he is married to 23-year-old Greta Starks, a Detroit model. He at first denied the report.

The old Bomber claimed he said he was married only in order to obtain a ticket for his wife to the fight. Later he told reporters he was married in Hamilton, Ont. The marriage came as a complete surprise even to his most intimate friends.

In Detroit, Mrs. Carmen Murphy, who runs a modeling school, said the romance blossomed at the world premier of the movie, "The Joe Louis Story", in Detroit last month.

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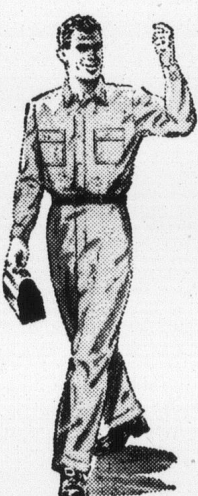
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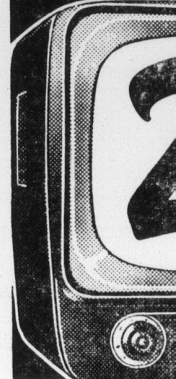
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LONDON NOTES

The services at Bethemanuel Church on Sunday, Nov. 8th were well attended. Deaconess S. Johnson conducted the morning service and Sunday School. At evening service Rev. I. H. Edwards, former pastor now pastor at the sister Church in Windsor spoke on the "Christians Must." Worship for God, workers for God, witness for God. Mr. C. J. Moore, guest entertainer in the city sang several spirituals. The Junior Choir under the leadership of Mrs. F. Howson sang, Onward Christian Soldiers and The Fight Is On. The children range from 10 years of age up. They are to be commended for their effort to help create interest in the church.

To Mr. and Mrs. O. Chase a baby boy. Both mother and son are reported doing nicely.

To Mr. and Mrs. R. Moxley, a daughter. Both reported fine.

To Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, a daughter. Both reported doing nicely.

Mr. Geo. Anderson underwent a serious operation recently at Victoria Hospital and is reported doing nicely.

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**Queen's Tour
 Her Diff**

Although constitutionally no longer rule they arduous job. Reign passive performance world-girdling voyage Elizabeth and her consort Edinburgh, is a striking illustration of this.

For six months they sent from their family constantly be on the continuously on parade will have to maintain the British Crown and win approval as war man beings.

Few commoners embrace a career, so much, or one who publicity is so mercurial. It is incumbent throughout the Commonwealth all they can to light on the young Queen.

It is something of a role that she should arch over such a vast nations. The flexibility of which she symbol has been articulated during the

But the position strongly-based if it personal qualities monarch and her successor.

Canadians were familiar with the acquaintance monarch before she throne. Now other Commonwealth will illegals.

HIRE FIRST NEGRO

NEW YORK (IN) — Elmer A. Carter, State Commission on Transportation announced, Pennsylvania Railroad the first Negro brakeman.

The reversal in the previous employment direct result of a decision between the omission road, Carter said.

Carter, who negated, said the first Charles Morris of future applicants have an opportunity to be hired after a specific

DETROIT REPORT BRING FREED

DETROIT, Nov. 28—year-old Negro nine years ago to stepped to freedom.

Willie Calloway, the hold-up slayer, 1944, of Mrs. Victor.

His case came Detroit Free Press. Cormick, who investigated weeks and public interest was mission for a new member 6.

Recorder Judge fifth today granted petition to dismiss the way, a model prisoner a small Western city where a job for him.