

# The STREET

and thereabouts

by LAWRENCE P. LEWIS

## OUR GUEST Column

Edited by Verna P. Harris

By Harold J. Gibbons  
Director, St. Louis Joint Council  
United Retail, Wholesale and De-  
partment Store Employees of  
America, CIO.

Did someone say Jim Crow?

Certainly, it was no one in the St. Louis Joint Council, United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees of America, CIO. For from the very first, the Joint Council has refused to compromise. Naturally, there was a racial problem—St. Louis is a borderline city where segregation is in order in most industries and activities but where, unlike the South, the Negro has no definite status. We firmly believed we had to meet the problem head-on—with no quibbling and no compromise. We insisted on fair employment practices in contracts and fair handling of grievances in the shops. The rule of "no compromise, no quibbling" has won the day.

Our union leader reduced the policy to simple terms when he told a shop meeting: "My President says no-discrimination is right; my priest says no-discrimination is right; my union says no-discrimination is right—and what's right goes around here." The outright Negro-phobes quickly realized that they were under union rules and if they didn't like it they were out of luck. Negroes and whites played on the same softball team. On the newspaper, discrimination went by the board. The Labor Co-op Theater broke the color line for the first time of any little theater movement in St. Louis by casting Negroes and white players from the rank and file of the union on the same bill.

Then came the Health Center. The companies and the union both recognized the need for a comprehensive health and sick care program for the workers. But what about Negroes? There were some doubting Thomases among the white workers, and the Negroes went about in unvoiced apprehension that here was one project to which they would not be admitted on an equal basis.

The medical staff was employed in complete understanding that Negro members and white workers were to receive exactly the same treatment. There is no segregation in the waiting room and Negroes and whites wait their turns in order, without reference to color. When a Labor Health Institute doctor answers a home call or a hospital call, he doesn't check first to see whether or not the patient is Negro or white—he's there.

Negroes and whites alike receive the full benefit of the complete diagnosis and treatment—the same general practitioners and specialists give their service.

The Labor Health Institute is financed by the employers who pay an amount equal to three-and-one-half per cent of the workers' wages for the health program. The money paid into the health program is not a deduction from wages or a substitute for wages, but rather an added benefit. And the union rule for no-discrimination follows through.

A Negro doctor is on the Labor Health Institute staff—not to treat Negroes nor as a concession to policy—but because he fills the qualifications necessary. As a qualified physician, chosen not only for his skill and knowledge but for his understanding of problems besetting working people, he treats white and Negro workers alike and has free consultative privileges with his white colleagues. No one has protested our Negro nurse, who does her work efficiently on the same basis of pay and working conditions as the white nurses.

The Labor Health Institute members are aware that segregation must not exist if our Health Institute is to retain its true democratic spirit, and that good health cannot be limited if our community is to grow stronger. Founded as it was on good will and cooperation, the LHI is one of our greatest achievements, and we fervently hope it marks the beginning of better health for all Americans—regardless of race, color, or creed.

One of the first principles of the Labor Health Institute has proven even more valuable to Negroes than to white workers—the principle of health care to prevent illness. Because of the lower salaries paid in the past to Negro workers and the enforced low living standards, Negroes frequently live in an atmosphere of more health hazards. Immunizations, vaccinations, and the educational program in proper eating and healthy living are of special value to Negroes—because previously such a program has been virtually closed to them. The physical examination which detects the first symptoms of illness is doubly valuable—because in many instances, Negroes haven't known where to go or whom to see.

The Labor Health Institute is set up on a principle of democratic con-

REGISTER AND VOTE. There are many amongst us who generally wait until it is too late to register, and then are unable to vote. All the time we really meant to register, but somehow time slipped by and we found ourselves not able to vote for the candidate of our choice. We of the minority that are given this privilege must use our voting power to express our views. DON'T FORGET, Register and Vote!

The latter part of June our community will lose one of its outstanding families. When Mrs. Grace Bradford and her nine-year-old son, Gaines Taylor Bradford, emigrate for Houston, Texas, to join her husband, who already has the position of Executive Secretary of the Hester Settlement House, all on our Street will regret their leaving.

Mrs. Grace Bradford has been employed at the Urban League for eight years. She has always been active in social activities, making friends with the young and the old, and always carrying a smile for the many she meets daily.

"Mrs. Bradford, how do you feel about your leaving Omaha and your many friends?" I asked.

"First I want you to know that I regret it deeply, leaving the many people in Omaha that have made my life pleasant. Of course, I have always liked the South, was born in Memphis, Tenn., and attended Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia. I later taught school in Birmingham. I am eager to go to Houston because it will be like a new life, making new friends, and surely more opportunity. I have always enjoyed my work here in Omaha, but when advancement carries one to another city or community, a person must go. I feel sure I will like it in Houston," she said.

It is hard to think of the Urban League without thinking of Mrs. Bradford. Somehow it is difficult to imagine our community losing this outstanding family. I know I speak for many when I say, "we regret your going, but we wish you all the success and happiness in this world."

Mrs. Bradford has become a part of our youngsters' lives, some grown now and married. Mrs. Bradford may leave the Urban League and Omaha, but for those thousands who have known her for the past eight years, when they think of the Urban League they cannot but think of Mrs. Grace Bradford.

"May I help you please," said the charming young lady.

The starting of the conversation at the 9 Center, 2522 North 24th Street, and I enjoyed talking to the young talented manager of the 9 Center Variety Store. Any small household or personal article you can think of, they seem to have.

I found out that her name was Mrs. Mae Simpson and another girl by the name of Miss Mastalonia Pruitt also was employed there. I found out also that Mrs. Simpson was the manager.

"I see you were in the Army. You should know my husband, he was a Lt. in the Army. He hasn't been home long," she said.

"I see you don't understand the army I said, 'The only Lts. I know are the ones that bossed me around for almost three years'."

"You like your work here," I asked.

"Yes, I enjoy it very much. You know the store is owned by a veteran. Business has been pretty good and more people are trading with us every day," she answered.

Although the store was nicely stocked with merchandise, I could tell by looking at this polite and business-like young lady that there was another reason why business was getting better.

In 1919, a gentleman came to Omaha to further his career in medicine. Dr. Herbert Wiggins came to Omaha from a Bruton, Alabama. It is useless for me to mention his many accomplishments because every person in Omaha who has come in contact with him already knows of them.

Dr. Wiggins received his Medical Degree from the University of Michigan, and then began practicing in the state of New Jersey. From there he went to Bruton, Alabama, and then with a group of other professional men, he came to Omaha. How fortunate our community is to have such a man among us.

As many as three generations have been treated by Dr. Wiggins. Just recently Dr. Wiggins delivered a child of a couple, both of whom he helped to bring into this world. Kindness, understanding, and patience, have made him a worthy doctor and friend to thousands.

I talked with Mrs. Alice Harris, Dr. Wiggins' secretary, and during our conversation, a gentleman came in asking Mrs. Harris if she was Mrs. Herbert Wiggins. She smiled saying, "No, Sir." When the gentleman had left, Mrs. Harris came over to me and said, "That is the nicest compliment I have ever had. To be as charming and graceful, considerate and as understanding, as Mrs. Herbert Wiggins, is almost an impossibility for any of us."

It is our Street's sincere wish that Dr. Herbert Wiggins continues for many, many years to be even more successful. He has the gratitude and friendship of so many, and I am sure that even Dr. Wiggins does not know the number.

The American Legion at 24th and Parker are now sponsoring an Amateur Boxing Club. Mr. Dixon and Mr. Hawkins are the trainers of the young men, and from what I saw the other night they are doing a bang-up job. Fight fans will be glad to know that more matches will be held in the near future.

When I first asked them about the boxing matches, I thought for the minute they were going to ask me to box one of the boys, so I blurted out, "I'm a fight fan, but if you have any of those youngsters that are not over ten years old, and don't weigh over eighty pounds, then I will box for a round or two."

There is more excitement in store for the many who love amateur boxing or sports of any kind. We'll leave that to the Board of Directors are elected by the membership, and the membership is made up of rank-and-file who are covered by their Union contract for the LHI. Everyone is responsible to the Board which is, in turn, directly responsible back to the people.

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## Galloway To Seek Equal Benefits for War Veterans

I believe that every voter should have an opportunity to know and understand the policies advocated by a Candidate. Having dealt, for 43 years, with the many social and economical problems confronting the citizens of the 5th District, I have not only become conscious of what we have, but of what we Have Not, and What we Need.

I want the voters to know that if I am elected to the office of State Senator from the Fifth District, it will be the voters' wish and the voters' desire that I shall carry out to the best of my ability.

Once a laborer, but now a businessman, I understand both the principles of labor and business. Twenty years in the newspaper business have given me astounding information of social and economic conditions. All of these years have been spent in the Fifth District. It is the Fifth District that I am seeking to represent, and it chosen by the Citizens of the Fifth District to represent them, it will be their views and their desires of GOOD GOVERNMENT that I shall carry out.

You and I know that it is not necessary in a country like ours, the richest in the World, that people willing to work and able to work, cannot find suitable employment. You and I know the great responsibility we all have to the Many Veterans of this war, who are now without homes, without employment. We must seek to relieve the Fifth District of these and other conditions which are detrimental to the Community Welfare.

I ask for your vote because I believe myself capable of carrying out the wishes of the majority of the people of the Fifth District. If elected, I will be a candidate chosen by the people; and it is THE PEOPLE I WILL REPRESENT as State Senator.

C. C. GALLOWAY,  
Candidate for State Senator,  
5th District.

## MEMORIAL PARK DEED GIVEN TO CITY



As the City of Omaha accepts the deed to World War II Memorial Park... Mayor Leeman (seated) receives the document from Robert H. Storz. Looking on—left to right—are Russell J. Hopley, Frank P. Fogarty, and Commissioners Jensen, Weaver, Dolan, Towl and Trustin.—World-Herald Photo. Story at left.

The deed to World War II Memorial Park was formally transferred to the City in a ceremony at the City Hall Wednesday May 29th.

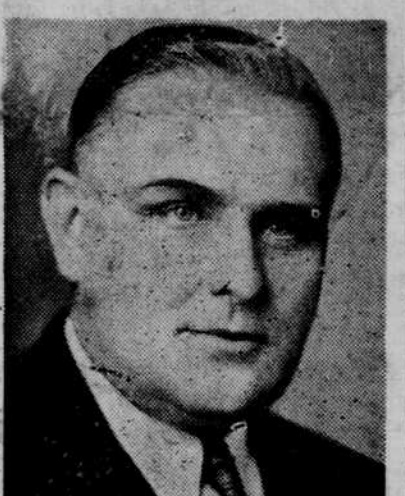
Robert H. Storz, Park Assn. President presented the Deed to Mayor Leeman at a meeting of the City Council.

Resolutions accepting the deed and appointing an advisory committee were offered by Park Commissioner Towl, and approved by the City Council.

Omaha schools at a special meeting of the Omaha School Board Tuesday night May 28th.

Dr. Burke succeeds Dr. H. M. Cornin who left in March to become superintendent of schools in Washington, D. C.

## Dr. H. A. Burke, New Supt. of Omaha Schools



Dr. Harry Axel Burke... will be here July 1.

DR. HARRY AXEL BURKE, former Superintendent of Schools at Kearney and Gothenburg, Nebraska, and now Superintendent at Great Falls, Montana, was elected to supervise

stems from his college days, according to the Headlines and Pictures interview. "A small group of us used to sit up and conspire in the library about what we'd do to the Southern states when we got out," Marshall says of those college days.

## LILLIAN SMITH SEES NEW G.A., DESPITE TALMADGE

Although Eugene Talmadge is running for governor of Georgia, Lillian Smith believes Georgia has changed recently. In a special analysis of the Georgia political situation or HEADLINES AND PICTURES, Miss Smith says: "Today, Gene Talmadge is running for governor of Georgia. He is still talking the same old insane talk. Gene has not changed...but the world has changed. And Georgia has changed. I shall hold that this is true even if Talmadge is elected our next governor..."

Miss Smith points out the gains made in Georgia recently. "Down in Valdosta, they let the Negroes vote. They voted quiet and with dignity. Over in Brunswick, near the coast, the Negroes voted in large numbers; large enough numbers to upset the old machine and put in a new roster of county officials. Up in Augusta, a town run by the Cracker Party for years, the Negroes voted and the Crackers tumbled out head over heels. It all happened good-naturally."

The famed author of "Strange Fruit" does not discount the pulling power Talmadge has with the rural underprivileged white voter. "No one can talk their language better than Gene Talmadge. It's so quiet that when the Law had made it easy for them to be moral, they were lightened to have one more facial sin off their conscience. Sometimes the writers coughed their relief in the half-sneering language, sometimes much face-saving was used but their profound relief was obvious."

Miss Smith stated: "White Georgians were relieved when the Supreme Court of the United States made the decision that Negroes could vote in the 'white' primary. They were glad that the Law had made it easy for them to be moral. They were lightened to have one more facial sin off their conscience. Sometimes the writers coughed their relief in the half-sneering language, sometimes much face-saving was used but their profound relief was obvious."

## MARSHALL ONCE A CURIOSITY IN OKLAHOMA

Springarn award winner Thurgood Marshall revealed in an interview with Headlines and Pictures that five years ago in Hugo, Oklahoma, when he tried a case there schools were dismissed so that everyone could see a Negro lawyer. The bailiff told Marshall "By Gaud, you're the first Negro lawyer I ever did see." Tension was high and Marshall moved around every night for safety. By the time the case was tried, however, the bailiff was good friend, some of the townspeople were NAACP members, and the judge was subscribing to the Black Dispatch.

Born in Baltimore, Marshall was not allowed to enroll in the University of Maryland because he was a Negro. Lears later he had the pleasure of filing a suit against the University to cause the school to admit a Negro. The suit was successful and there's been a Negro in their ever since," added Marshall.

His interest in civil rights cases



AUTOMOTIVE GOLDEN JUBILEE PARTICIPANTS

The Marvin Dupree Choir, pictured MANY NEGRO GROUPS PARTICIPATING IN AUTO GOLDEN JUBILEE

## DETROIT, MICHIGAN—Civic spirited organizations among the various racial and nationality groups in the Detroit area are playing prominent roles in the various events of the Automotive Golden Jubilee.

Running from May 29 to June 9, the celebration commemorates the 1st runnings of automobiles in Detroit in 1896 and the first raising of the American flag over the city, then just an outpost of civilization in the old Northwest in 1796.

Numbered among the Negro participants in "Song of Our City" and the Jubilee Community Rally, just two of the events on the 12 day program, are the Apollo Players, the Marvin Dupree Choir and the Robert Nolan choir. "Song of Our City," the most spectacular musical ever to be presented in Detroit, features a cast of over 500 and more than 1,000 singers and dancers. The Jubilee Community Rally, to be held at Briggs Stadium on Sunday, June 9, will hear Trygve Lie, Secretary-General of the United Nations who will come to Detroit for the significant occasion.

Dorothy Maynor and Lauritz Melchior, two of the most eminent concert stars of the day, will sing at the Rally, augmented by a chorus of 3,000—the largest choral group ever assembled in Michigan.

With unity of effort as one of its major keynotes, the Automotive Golden Jubilee is looked upon throughout the nation as a signal that Detroit and

## WAR DEPT. ALLOTS VOLUNTEER QUOTA

Omaha, Nebr., May 23—To replace officers with long service and who are eligible for separation, and to maintain a capable officered interim Army, the War Department has allotted quotas for 6400 volunteers to return to active duty.

Volunteers are sought from the ranks of the National Guard and Reserve Officers of Army Air Forces, Army Ground Forces and Army Service Forces, this policy will remain in effect until the Army attains a permanent post-war status.

Accepted applicants will be placed on extended active duty in grade not higher than that grade held prior to inclusion for general service, and remaining on active duty until July 1, 1947, or longer. An efficiency index of forty or better is required for field grade volunteers, and 35 or better for company grades.

Previous service in the AGF is required of AGF officers, or an AGF type unit, and must have attained their 37th birthday. Company grade volunteers will be accepted by AGF, but field grade officers may volunteer for duty in company grade, if they have an efficiency index of 35 or better. Consideration will be given to preferences for overseas assignment indicated by AGF officers.

Officers accepted will be subject to overseas assignment and downward grade readjustment in the same manner as other officers, but will not be down graded below that grade held December 7, 1941. Permanent National Guard or Reserve Corps grade will not be affected by reduction in AUS grade. Various branches of the service included in the total allotment are the Engineers, QM, SC, TC, Ordn., Chaplains, CWS, BF, MAC, AGD, CIC, MC, DC, JAG, CMP, Hospital Dietitians in the MC and SC, Finance Department and Veterinary Corps. The AAF allotment is for non-pilot technician technician specialists.

WAC officers and hospital dieticians, although not eligible for Reserve Corps, are eligible for recall to duty. Officers wishing to volunteer are directed to apply in writing to the Adjutant General, War Dept., Washing-

## REV. C. C. REYNOLDS RETURNS TO CLAIR METHODIST CHURCH

By appointment of Bishop E. W. Kelly, Rev. C. C. Reynolds will begin his sixth year as pastor of Clair Methodist Church, this coming Sunday morning, June 2nd. Reynolds and his delegation returned from their annual conference held in Denver last week, Monday morning, reporting it to be the greatest held in many years. A large increase was reported from the churches in conversions and members added to the church, also in benevolent giving. Those who attended from Clair Church were Mrs. Louise Wiley; Tenola Gray; Versie Bailey; Clarence Reynolds Jr. and Rev. C. C. Reynolds. Echoes from the conference will be given at the Sunday morning service by those who attended. Rev. Reynolds will deliver the sermons both Sunday morning and night. Holy Communion will be given. The Rev. G. D. Hancock remains District Supt. of our Topeka District which includes Clair Church.

## OMAHA EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF COMMITTEE BEGINS SAVING DRIVE

An intensive effort to make Omaha people conscious of the conditions among the starving people overseas is

## THE NEGRO IN WORLD WAR II; 92nd SUSTAINED 5,752 CASUALTIES

Almost 700,000 Negroes were serving in the US Army at the end of World War II, and 165,397 more were in the Navy, according to the 1946 Encyclopedia Britannica Book of the Year. Nearly 8,000 were Army officers, 50 held officers' commissions in the Navy and 60 women were enlisted in the WAVES, says the Book of the Year.

Included in the year book's report on outstanding Negro combat records are the achievements of the 92nd division in the Pacific which "earned over all creditable service and combat records, with numerous instances of unit and individual citations". The 92nd division sustained 5,752 casualties and received a total of 12,096 awards, the publication points out.

Author of the Book of the Year article on American Negroes, Alain LeRoy Locke, professor of Philosophy at Howard University, says, "In the last stages of the European campaign, especially in the 1st and 7th armies, combat integration of white and Negro troops was successfully tried."

Locke's article reveals that 2,600 Negro volunteers were involved in dangerous engagements during the Battle of the Bulge, the siege of Bastogne and the rapid advance across the Rhine as far as Nuernberg. At the Bastogne siege, the Britannica Book of the Year reports, Capt. Charles I. Thomas of Detroit, Michigan, received the Distinguished Service Cross and the 614th tank destroyer battalion won a special unit citation.

Thirty-two Negro units received the Amphibious Award, according to the year book. Locke also points out that the 99th pursuit squadron and the 332 fighter squadron, with a record of 261 enemy planes, received seven Distinguished Flying Crosses, as well as many other individual awards and unit citations.

Col. B. J. Davis, Jr., who commanded the Negro air force units in Italy, was presented with a merit award and was assigned to command the new 477th composite group at Godman Field, Kentucky, according to the new article.

Locke states in his report, "The official consensus about the Negro's war efficiency was favorable, and Negro Army re-enlistments, at 18 per cent far exceeded both Army and population quotas."

## FORMAL OPENING OF CORBY PLAYGROUND, MONDAY, JUNE 3

The formal opening of the beautiful Corby St. Playground that was presented to the neighborhood by the Goodfellows Fund of the World Herald and the City Park Dept., will be held Monday, June 3rd at 6:30 p. m. Program: 6:30 to 7 p. m. concert conducted by George Bryant, 7 p. m. introduction of Chairman Atty. Arthur W. Mitchell, 7:05 p. m. introduction of the Hon. Charles Leeman, Mayor of Omaha, 7:15 introduction of the Hon. Roy Towl, Park Commissioner of Omaha, 7:25 introduction of Mr. W. E. Christensen, editor of the Omaha World Herald, 7:35 response by Willis W. Gray representing the Negro group, 7:45 presentation of flag by Veterans of Foreign Post No. 1364 of children's playground. Cutting of ribbon by Mayor Leeman officially opening the Corby St. Playground, Band Concert.

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ATTY. ARTHUR W. MITCHELL



Former Congressman FORT VALLEY SPEAKER (ANP PHOTO)—As a climax to its 50th Anniversary Celebration, Atty. Arthur W. Mitchell of Petersburg, Va., a member of congress from 1934 to 1942, will deliver the commencement

## BASIL O'CONNOR NEW TUSKEGEE CHAIRMAN



Basil O'Connor

Basil O'Connor, newly elected chairman of Tuskegee Institute's trustee board is also chairman, The American Red Cross and president of the national Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. Law Partner of the late President F. D. Roosevelt, he is expected to be an asset in furthering Negro education.

The election last month of Basil O'Connor as chairman of the board of trustees of Tuskegee institute recalls the remarkable record of inspiring and capable leadership which Tuskegee has enjoyed. The best blood and brains of the white north and south has always joined hands with those of the black south to support Tuskegee, symbol as it is of the rise and possibilities of a race.

In Booker T. Washington, Robert R. Moton and now Frederick D. Patterson, the institution has had its immediate helm, three unusual figures; Booker T. Washington, the founder, the statesman; Robert R. Moton, the builder, a disciple of interracial friendship; and now the youthful Patterson who has carried on with adaptation to fit changing times, the tradition laid down by his distinguished predecessors.

Basil O'Connor, in becoming head of the board which responsible for the financing and overall policies of Tuskegee, likewise follows a brilliant roster of figures. Among those who have served as chairman are Dr. William Jay Schefflin, famed New York civic leader and humanitarian; William H. Baldwin Jr., the great industrialist; Seth Low, former mayor of the City of New York and William C. Wilcox. Associated with them have been such stalwart personalities as Theodore Roosevelt, Julius Rosenwald and Robert C. Ogden.

Mr. O'Connor, is one of the best known counselors in New York City. He specializes in corporate law but through expert organization of his time is able to handle two momentous jobs of Red Cross and Infantile paralysis. A native of Taunton, Mass., a graduate of Dartmouth college, through which he helped to defray his own expenses and of Harvard Law school, Mr. O'Connor's rise to the top of the New York bar was rapid.