

THE MONITOR

A Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of the Eight Thousand Colored People in Omaha and Vicinity, and to the Good of the Community

The Rev. JOHN ALBERT WILSON, Editor

State Historical Society

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From Fair Nebraska to Sunny Tennessee

Incidents of the Trip and Impressions Received by Editor on First Visit to Southland.

GROWTH OF SOLVENT SAVINGS

Shows Confidence in Promoters and Management. Something About Its Officers and Employees.

The Solvent Savings and Trust Company is just about ten years old. It opened for business, as we have already said, June 18, 1906. It goes without saying that such a venture as this took a great deal of faith and courage of a high order. Not only did it call for faith and courage upon the part of the founders and promoters of the bank but also upon the part of the depositors.

People Cautious of Small Banks.

The people with ability to make large deposits would, very naturally, be exceedingly cautious about placing them in young and untried institutions officered and operated by men of limited banking experience. They would prefer to entrust, and ordinary business prudence would dictate that they should, entrust their money to older, stronger and proven substantial and well-established banking institutions. Business prudence would suggest this even though it might be shown that large and heavily capitalized banks sometimes fail from various causes.

Then, too, people with small savings would also naturally be anxious to place them where they had reason to believe they would be safest. Ordinarily, of course, that would be in the larger and older banks or trust companies. Then there is always a large class, among all people, who must be taught how and encouraged to save and whose confidence in savings banks is to be won. These facts, we take it, confront any financial institution like a bank.

Race Bank Handicapped.

A bank founded and run by Colored Americans, whose business and commercial life is necessarily in its infancy, starts off under a tremendous handicap. Can you not see that it does? And do you not also see that it takes faith and courage and confidence in one's self and one's people to launch a business enterprise of this kind? When you think about this the full significance of banks as factors in our racial evolution will become increasingly more apparent. It takes sublime faith and courage to start and successfully conduct a bank depending upon the patronage of our people.

Solvent Justifies Faith of Founders. That the deposits of the Solvent Savings Bank and Trust Company have in ten years risen well up toward the \$200,000.00 mark, is, of itself, an eloquent tribute to the men who are



SIX OF THE CONTESTANTS FOR FREE TRIP TO CHICAGO, DENVER OR ST. LOUIS FOR THE BENEFIT OF NEGRO WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

From left to right: Miss Pearl Ray, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Ray, of 2865 Miami St., quite a Sunday School worker and one of the leading soprano singers of St. John's A. M. E. choir. Miss Ruth Jeltz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Jeltz, an accomplished pianist, and a maid at Burgess-Nash in the drapery department. Frances Shaw, granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Brooks, seamstress at Lord Lister Hospital. Olga Henderson, daughter of Mrs. Susie Henderson. Her father was the first Negro fire captain of Omaha. Ozelia Dunning, granddaughter of Martha Jackson, freshman of Central High School, listed on the honor roll with 3 A's. Oletha Russell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Russell, stenographer for Western Realty Co. The three other contestants do not appear in this picture. They are Madelaine Roberts, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Roberts, a junior in Central High, and one of the soprano singers in St. Philip's choir. Blanche Lawson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Lawson, a graduate of Central High, sophomore of Central High.

back of it. It shows that their faith and courage have been justified. It shows that they have won and kept the confidence of the people. And what is true of this bank is also true of its competitor, the Fraternal Savings and Trust Company, which is located at 358 Beale avenue, and of which we hope to tell you in a later article.

The Officers and Employees

We wish we might introduce you to the officers and employees of both these banks. You would be impressed with their keen, alert business-like manner and courteousness, factors which always count for much in any successful business, professional or other enterprise. Personality is a tremendous factor in success. And a pleasing personality can and should be cultivated. One of the chief assets in a pleasing personality is good manners. The people of this bank have good manners and courtesy.

Mr. Sanford, the president, is a successful and large contractor in early middle life. Mr. Hayes, the first vice president, we should judge to be a little younger. He is a successful undertaker. E. W. Irving, the second vice president, is a young man, we should say in his early thirties. He

is a physician. One noteworthy fact about the bank is that its officers and its employees are young men, with one exception, and the exception is a young woman, Mrs. Fannie E. Martin, who is the assistant bookkeeper. We shall not be so presumptuous as to try to guess her age. Mr. Bert M. Roddy is the cashier. He is a young man of pleasing address and apparently thoroughly understands his business. Mr. A. P. Bentley, the assistant cashier, is also an alert and pleasant young man. The same is true of M. J. B. Woods, Jr., the bookkeeper, and Mr. Sherman G. King, the manager of the Christmas Savings Department. We do not recall having met Mr. Thomas Wade, who is the collector.

Seven Employees.

With the president, these persons named make seven employees of this bank. As it grows and enlarges it will of necessity give employment to other young men and women of the race. Can you not see not only the wisdom, but the imperative necessity of supporting and building up race institutions? If we are to have employment besides that of janitors, porters, waiters and bootblacks—all honorable

Doctor Washington's Last Magazine Article

Sets Forth Some Illuminating Facts Showing Praise-Worthy Progress of Colored Americans.

ADVANCE DESPITE OPPOSITION

Has Reduced Illiteracy; Increased Wealth In Farm and City Property.

A few days before he died Booker T. Washington wrote to the editor of the Forum magazine suggesting the printing of an article dealing with "the definite, indisputable facts relating to the Negro's progress as a race." He inclosed what he called a rough outline of such an article, which, of course, was never completed. What he wrote is presented in its unfinished state in a recent issue of the magazine:

Reduces Illiteracy.

First he presented striking figures to show Negro progress toward literacy. On emerging from slavery, he wrote, the Negro was not more than

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