

GROWING,  
THANK YOU!

# THE MONITOR

A NATIONAL WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF COLORED AMERICANS.

THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor

LIFTING,  
LIFT, TOO!

\$2.00 a Year. 5c a Copy

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, JUNE 10, 1920

Vol. V. No. 49 (Whole No. 258)

## WHEN OMAHA CAME TO DENVER

Prof. Dan Desdunes' Brass Band of Omaha Thru Its Ten Thousand Music Lovers of Denver at the Civic Center Amphitheater.

On Wednesday evening (May 26) at 5 o'clock, the Omaha Brass Band of the Chamber of Commerce of Omaha blew into Denver, headed by Prof. Dan Desdunes' famous band of Omaha, and paraded up Sixteenth street from the depot. When the Negro band marched into Sixteenth street, followed by the Omaha Boosters, the people in the stores and the storekeepers rushed to the sidewalk to see and hear that wonderful band that was playing such thrilling music as they had never heard before in Denver. The pedestrians on the street, the shoppers forgot all about home and dinner and stopped. Some followed along up the street to get a little more of that music. Many expressions of surprise and satisfaction were heard all along the line of march.

On the corner of Sixteenth and Curtis streets, the busiest corner in the city, quite a large crowd jammed and blocked the sidewalks, and some young girl, in giving expression to her delight, remarked, "Oh ain't nature grand?"

The Omaha Boosters are homeward bound from their tour of the West, and if they made the same impression in every city and town that they visited that they made in Denver by this great Negro band, Omaha is certainly well advertised.

The climax of the Omaha Boosters' visit came at 7:30 p. m. Wednesday at the civic center amphitheater when Prof. Dan Desdunes and his band gave an open-air concert, which was heard by 10,000 Denverites of all races, young and old. Unfortunately, it was somewhat chilly for this time of year, but the thousands who were there were made warm, and instead of being chilled were thrilled by the sweet and excellent music of this Negro band of Omaha.

Mr. Jeff Smith, the cornet soloist, was encored three times in appreciation of his masterful work with the cornet. Mr. Levy Broomfield, who sang a solo, accompanied by the band, was also encored several times. The band and Professor Desdunes were roundly cheered and applauded after each selection.

The daily papers mentioned this band as being a jazz band. Yes, it is, and then some. Their classical selections were above the average and have never been surpassed by any band in Denver or that ever came to Denver. Their jazz music is unequalled; they have the tune, the spirit, the swing and everything that spells music.

We take off our hats to Omaha and congratulate her upon having such a musical genius and band director as Prof. Dan Desdunes. Come again, boys, any old time.—The Colorado Statesman.

## SOUTH DISAPPOINTED. NEGROES NOT RETURNING

(By Associated Negro Press.)  
Rochester, N. Y., June 10.—The Armstrong association through its industrial secretary, A. L. Manning, has just issued a statement on the "Migrant Negro" which outlines the causes for the migration of the Negroes from the south to the north. Mr. Manning says that the most disappointing thing to the south is the failure of the migrants to return to the former homes. It was confidently predicted that one winter in the north would be sufficient to discourage them and that they would be writing and telegraphing for tickets for home. But, instead the recreants found themselves jobs, places to eat and sleep and then began to fit himself into the new order of things. In the earlier period of migration the newcomers were of the poorer, uneducated and the more or less irresponsible class. Since then, however, the better educated and more thrifty members have been coming and the situation has consequently improved.

## BOY CHAMPION SPELLER

(By Associated Negro Press.)  
Atlanta, Ga., June 10.—Raymond Lamar was returned the winner of the Atlanta Journal silver cup awarded to the best speller in the colored public schools. About sixty boys and girls competed in the contest which lasted for one hour and twenty minutes. The test was held in the auditorium.



A. Gerald Edwards, son of Dr. and Mrs. A. G. Edwards, 2409 Erskine street, graduate of the college preparatory course, University of Omaha. He is the first colored person to graduate from this institution. He will enter the dental department of Northwestern university, Chicago, Ill.

## SORRELL WINS IN CONVENTION RACE

Prominent and Highly Esteemed Plaquemine Elected Delegate at Large to Republican National Convention—Choice Considered Excellent One.

## CLEAN-HANDED AND TRUSTWORTHY MAN

PLAQUEMINE, La., June 10.—At the republican state convention held in Alexandria, Eli W. Sorrell, of Plaquemine, was elected one of the delegates at large to the national convention to be held at Chicago in June. While this was not altogether unexpected, since it was known the erstwhile Lily White faction of the party had settled upon him as a delegate, it was, nevertheless, an honor worthily bestowed since there is probably not a more clean-handed and trustworthy colored man in the state than Eli Sorrell, whose reputation as a good citizen in this parish could well be envied by many white men. In years gone by Sorrell held several good positions of honor and trust under the federal government, and was at one time vice president of the board of trustees of Southern university. The board consists of four colored and eight white men. Sorrell was appointed twice by Governor Blanchard and since by Governors Sanders and Hall.

## JOHN S. DURHAM WILLS \$150,000 TO HIS WIDOW

Philadelphia, June 10.—The will of John S. Durham, the first colored man to be graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and a Philadelphian by birth, was admitted to probate recently by Register Sheehan. Mr. Durham left an estate valued at \$150,000 to his widow, Constance McKenzie Durham. He died in London October 16, 1919. Dr. Durham was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Science at the university in 1886, and later entered the diplomatic service. He was consul to San Domingo in 1890, and later was made United States minister to Hayti by President Harrison.

## LAYING FOOD SHORTAGE ON BLACK GOAT

(By Associated Negro Press.)  
Boston, Mass., June 10.—Refusal of Negroes to return to the farms in the south is said to be a large contributing factor to the threatening food shortage now impending in all sections of the country. A movement is to start here that will be used as one of the means to induce the south to change its attitude toward its Negro population. It is hoped that will be an effective means to forestall the threatened "famine."

## INVADING EXCLUSIVE RESIDENCE SECTION

(By Associated Negro Press.)  
New York, N. Y., June 10.—The Gold Realty company have sold a five story modern apartment to Garner & Taylor, who intend to rent to colored tenants. This is the first invasion of one of New York's exclusive sections by colored people, and the white residents are said to be very indignant over the matter.

## UNWILING TO BECOME OPULENT

Dallas, Texas, June 10.—Robert Swan, a bell boy in a local hotel, recently refused a 50-cent tip when he returned \$1,400 to a man who left the wallet on a writing desk of the lobby.

## MILLER SPEAKS AT COMMENCEMENT

Virginia Theological Seminary and College Has Most Impressive Graduation Exercises in History of Institution.

## PROMINENT TEACHER GIVES PRACTICAL ADVICE

(Special to The Monitor by Charles Stewart.)

Lynchburg, Va., June 1.—At the commencement exercises of the Virginia Theological Seminary and college, this afternoon Dean Kelly Miller of Howard university, discussed "Manhood," giving some good practical advice to the young people, pointing them the road to the goal through training of the mind.

It was the largest commencement in the history of the institution, and people were here from all parts of the state, and a large number from other states. One of the features was the unveiling of a monument erected in honor of the first president of the institution, Gregory Willis Hayes. This was done by the alumni association. Dr. A. A. Galvin, chairman of the trustee board, delivered an address introducing the first theological graduate, Dr. W. T. Hall, of Philadelphia, Pa., a successful pastor and an intimate friend of Dr. Hayes for over 25 years.

The Rev. Dr. S. T. Eldridge of Petersburg, delivered the baccalaureate sermon Sunday, May 30, using as his theme "Building for God." He declared that in this world man's duty was to build character, not alone for time, but for eternity.

Tonight thirty-six received diplomas from the various departments of the college, and the address was delivered by Dr. Kelly Miller, dean of Howard university. Among other things, he said:

"The institution of slavery placed all manly virtues in the possession of the white race and suppressed the Negro below the plane of noble instincts and qualities. It was perfectly logical under this conception that the black man should be exploited for the honor and glory of his white lord and master but under the new democratic conception every man is supposed to develop and exercise his best powers within him for the ennoblement of his own nature. Man is the greatest thing in the world. He is the crowning effort of creative energy. All of the forces of the universe ultimate in him. The lowest man in the world is worth more than all the world besides man. The chief aim of education is to emphasize on the recipient the potentiality, the dignity, even the divinity of manhood.

"If through the process of education we can inculcate this idea into the minds of the Negro youth, our problem will be on the way to solution. All freedom first exists in the state of mind. Fred Douglass was liberated the moment he read the Columbia Orator, which inspired in him freedom of mind. The removing of the shackles from his body was only an incident."

## ROLAND HAYES IN ENGLAND

(By Associated Negro Press.)  
London, England, June 10.—Roland W. Hayes, the noted Negro tenor, arrived here last Saturday from the United States. Mr. Hayes has outlined a concert tour of the British Isles, France, Belgium, Italy, Spain and portions of Africa. He expects to make an extensive study of the origin of Negro music while in Africa. He will be absent from America about two years.

## WINS IN ARMY ESSAY CONTEST

Atlanta, Ga., June 10.—To a young colored girl here, Mildred Adele Barfield, 13 years old, a pupil of the Yonge street school, goes the honor of representing the Atlanta district in the United States army essay contest for papers on the subject, "What Are the Benefits of an Enlistment in the United States Army?" Mildred also gets a big silver cup, awarded by the war department, as a prize to each district winner, and the cash prize of \$25 offered by the Atlanta Kiwanis club.

## NORFOLK CITIZENS FORM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Norfolk, Va., June 10.—Industrial and commercial activities have greatly increased in the city and business men are now endeavoring to organize a Chamber of Commerce. Plans for the organization were discussed at a mass meeting held under the auspices of the Norfolk Business Men's League.

## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT DROWNS

Victor Williams, Assistant Scout Commander and Choir Boy at St. Philip the Deacon, Succumbs to Cramp and Drowns at Carter Lake.

VICTOR Williams, 18-year-old high school student, was the first victim of drowning this year. He and three other boys went swimming in Carter Lake near the auto speedway Monday and Victor, who was taken suddenly with cramps, sank in eight feet of water and was drowned. His body was recovered Tuesday and taken to the Jones & Reed undertaking parlor.

The lad was well beloved by all who knew him and while in the city was under the guardianship of Mr. South of South & Thompson's cafe. He was assistant scout commander and choir boy at the Church of St. Philip the Deacon. His relatives in Kansas City, Mo., were notified.

## SEEIN' THINGS AT NIGHT IN ALEXANDRIA, VA.

Well, well, Alexandria, Va., spent one sleepless night—all because they had tried to lynch a colored prisoner. They compelled the humble and compliant jailer and sheriff to allow them to search the jail. They did not find the Negro; he had been taken away. And then some one phoned from Washington that a mob of two hundred Negroes were planning to cross the Potomac and pay Alexandria a visit. Alexandria immediately lost its nerves. To go after one Negro handcuffed and jailed was to be a picnic. But the idea of two hundred Negroes unhandcuffed and armed, was panic. There was the greatest excitement. All the town was stirred. Soldiers were sent for—soldiers can always be had when the white mob gets into distress. Every sort of weapon was displayed, from a pick-axe to a machine gun. The streets resounded with the tramp of arms and autos bristled with artillery. Alexandria kept sleepless eyes turned on the bridge-heads of the Potomac, and jumped every time a leaf rustled or a meteor flashed.

Now, why was Alexandria so tolerant of the white mob and so afraid of the mere suggestion of a Negro mob? The nervous state of these white people at the prospect of a Negro mob much smaller than their own, ought to cause them to reflect on what must be the condition of the helpless colored folk when white mobs are holding the streets and every black face is for the time outlawed. The colored people have no soldiers to help them. This white mob had outraged the state and ravished civilization by taking possession of the jail and upsetting law. But this same state, which had just been outraged, immediately rushed soldiers to the aid of these men when the mere imaginary ghost of a Negro counter-mob filled the air.

But the mob got at least one night's dose of its own medicine. It suffered one whole night of "preparedness" and of real "watchful waiting" and wakeful watching. The Negroes did not come. They had never planned to come. So far in the history of the United States Negroes have only mobbed and rioted on the defensive. As a group they always observe the law, except when they are forced back through despair to the more primary law of self-defense.

"The wicked flecth when no man pursueth." Yes, and although the wicked flee when no man pursues, Alexandria proves that they can make much better time when they at least think that somebody is about to pursue.

## WILLIAM PICKENS.

New York City.

## GRADUATES OF CENTRAL HIGH

Among the graduates of Central High who will be given their diplomas at the city auditorium Saturday night are Sabert Hanger, Ruth Jones and Dorothy Elizabeth Williams. The Misses Jones and Williams have made excellent records during their entire four year course, the latter having been on the honor roll successively for the last two years. Miss Jones has not yet decided what she will do. Miss Williams will enter the Nebraska state university at Lincoln in the autumn. Mr. Hanger has not yet fully decided upon his career.

## GERMAN SCIENCE HAMPERED

Berlin, June 10.—The depreciation of the mark has dealt a stunning blow to German science, according to a statement by Emil Abderhalden, food expert and professor of physiology at the University of Halle.



Miss Rae Lee Middleton, Who leaves Friday to represent The Kaffir Chemical Laboratories in Oklahoma and Texas.

## DUBOIS PLAYERS PLEASE LARGE AUDIENCE

Local Dramatic Club Presents "Testing Fire" and Wins Well Deserved Commendation—Entire Cast Does Excellent Work.

Brandeis theatre was filled with a record attendance last Thursday night when the DuBois Players, a local dramatic organization, presented a melodrama, entitled "Testing Fire," under the direction of Andrew T. Reed and the management of Mrs. James G. Jewell for the benefit of St. John's A. M. E. church. The acting was excellent, and the play was well staged. So well was each character adapted to the impersonation and so proficiently did each act his part that it is difficult to single out any member of the cast as a star.

The scene is laid in France, during the late war, and the prologue opens at the cottage of John Renaud, a soldier, near the firing line; scene second of which being the camp of a regiment behind the lines. The play proper, which comprises four acts, centers around the Chateau de Aubeterre and the Hotel D'Aubeterre.

The star role, that of John Renaud, was taken by John Otis Wood, and was artistically done; Madeline Renaud, his wife, and Adrienne, their little daughter, were impersonated by Mrs. Cecelia W. Jewell and Miss Ruth Washington, who took their respective parts with excellent taste and poise. Miss Washington in her role as a child of eight years deserves especial mention. John R. Lemme as Duge D'Aubeterre was made for this part. He took it well, and was ably supported by Mrs. Fannie Russell, who impersonated the haughty Duchesse D'Aubeterre. Mrs. Pearl Alexander, as Adrienne, age 20, looked and acted the part to perfection. As Count de Morny, the villain, Andrew T. Reed was at his best and divided honors with the star. Cecil Alexander, as Dennis O'Rourke the Irish valet, was fine. Corinne Thomas made a good Valentine de Morny and Jesse L. Peoples, as Viscount de Langley; Eva Peoples as college matron; Edward Turner, as Captain Wolfe and Gerald Edwards, in the dual parts of Joseph a servant, and sergeant of the guard, all sustained their parts well. It was an excellent and well-balanced cast. No better amateur acting has ever been seen in this city. It would have done credit to professionals.

Interspersed with the play were musical numbers by the Harmony and Excelsior quartets; Roscoe Miller; a violin solo by Maceo Williams, and a solo by Iena Mays-Curry, all of which were artistic and pleasing.

## WELL REPRESENTED IN CITY GOVERNMENT

(By Associated Negro Press.)  
Cleveland, Ohio., June 10.—A recent canvass of the colored men and women holding lucrative positions in the city government reveals that the race is drawing about \$350,000 annually in salaries from the city. Dr. J. T. Suggs, Alexander Taylor and Thomas W. Fleming are among the prominent men who are holding places of trust and honor.

## PROVIDING NEW SCHOOL.

(By Associated Negro Press.)  
Rock Hill, S. C., June 10.—A new school building is being erected for Negro children in this city. The structure will be ready for use by the opening term of 1920-21. The schools are now being conducted in the churches of this district.

Some stones of life should not only be screened, they should be covered.

## INDIAN CLAIMS RICH OIL MAN'S ESTATE

William Cowan Lowery, Who Was Generally Considered a Negro But Who is of Indian and White Parentage, Claims to Be the Son of Late President of Standard Oil Company of Indiana.

## ALLEGES CAN PROVE CLAIM TO SHARE OF \$3,000,000

NEELEYVILLE, Mo., June 10.—William Cowan Lowery, who says he is the son of the late William F. Cowan, president of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana, by Cowan's common law marriage with a full-blooded Indian woman from the Choctaw and Creek tribes, affirms he is certain he can prove his claim to a share, at least of Cowan's \$3,000,000 estate.

Lowery lives in the Negro district of Neelyville, and with his dark complexion and straight black hair has been regarded as a Negro since he came here a year ago.

According to Lowery's story, Cowan met his mother—who was traveling with a tent show in Illinois—forty-two years ago, and they lived together as man and wife for several years. His mother is now dead.

"I met my father twice," he said, "the first time right after my mother's death, when I went to see him because she told me to. I told him about my mother and he gave me \$500. In 1916 I went to Chicago to see him and told him I wanted to buy a farm. He asked me how much I would need and I told him about \$6,000. He finally gave me \$4,675 and told me to go down to Neelyville, saying I might strike oil. At the same time he said to me, 'I will make provision for you in my will.'"

Until his mother told him, just before she died, he says, he was ignorant of his father's identity. Lowery married a Negro woman, who died in Neelyville on November 13 last. They had two sons, one of whom, Abraham, was killed in France.

## LOUISIANA FARMER BECOMES MILLIONAIRE

Colored Planter Has Several Large Producing Oil Wells on His Land From Which He Will Receive Princely Royalties—Charles Jackson Becomes Rich Overnight.

## SOME OTHERS ARE EQUALLY FORTUNATE

SHREVEPORT, La., June 10.—Charley Jackson is a millionaire. His little farm, located in 24-21-8, in Claiborne parish, now has many producing wells on it, some of them being among the largest producers in the Homer field.

Two of the wells were drilled by George Baird, each having a production of approximately 5,000 barrels, and the Louisiana Oil & Refining Corporation, the Arkansas, Natural Gas company and others have some of the best producers that have been drilled in the shallow sand in the Homer field. Still others are being drilled, and no dry holes have yet resulted on Jackson's land.

This is only one instance of the sudden transposition of a Negro from the class of a poor farmer to a millionaire oil man. Two others can be mentioned in connection with the development of the wonderful field in Claiborne parish. One of these is William Chatman, who is drawing a good fat check each month from royalties for oil produced on his land, and William Hardy, another Negro, upon whose land the rest Oil company has four wells, which it is reported were recently sold for \$1,500,000.

## BUREAU REPORTS 15,342 SETS OF TWINS BORN

Washington, June 10.—The census bureau furnishes the interesting information that 15,342 sets of twins and 147 sets of triplets were born in the United States in 1918.

## Monitor Phone

Douglas

3224