

COHEN IS CLEARED

AWARDS OFFERED TO STIMULATE CREATIVE WORK

Harmon Foundation Fixes Fund For Distinguished Service in Various Fields of Activity

SERVICE COVERS LARGE AREA

Seven Awards are Open to Negroes and One to Either White or Colored Contestants for Honors

Washington, D. C.—To give recognition and stimulus to creative work the Harmon Foundation on behalf of William E. Harmon has provided \$4,000 annually for awards for distinguished achievement. There are seven first awards of \$400 offered annually to Negroes who have made distinguished achievements in various fields of endeavor, and one award to any person, white or colored, for outstanding achievement in race relations. Announcement was made Dec. 23 by George E. Haynes, secretary of the Commission on Race Relations of the Federal Council of Churches, to which has been committed the executive direction of the awards.

Seven awards are open to all Negroes of American residence of both sexes; the eighth award to the person white or colored "who has made the greatest contribution toward improving the relations between white and Negro people in America." There is also a gold medal for the first award in each of the seven divisions and a second award of \$100 and a bronze medal; the eighth award will carry with it \$500 in money and a gold medal.

The classes of awards are to be as follows: Literature, music, fine arts, industry including business, science including invention, education, religion, and the award for improvement of race relations between the white and Negro peoples in America.

The purpose of the "William E. Harmon Awards for Distinguished Achievement" is "to give recognition to persons who have made some worth-while achievement who have not yet received such recognition." Awards are to be made January 1st, which is the date Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, and will apply to work done or completed during the twelve months ending June 1st, preceding.

There will be five judges for each award. Three of the five judges will be persons recognized as outstanding in their articular fields. At least one will be a Negro. The two other judges will represent the Harmon Foundation and the Commission on Race Relations of the Federal Council of Churches. The decision of the judges will be final and neither the Commission on the Church and Race Relations nor the Harmon Foundation will be in any way responsible for expenses or losses to candidates in connection with any award.

The first award—in literature—includes poetry, short story, essay, book, newspaper editorials, or a play of two or more acts.

Painting, sculpture and allied subjects are included under fine arts.

The award in industry includes creative achievements in agricultural, manufacturing or mechanical pursuits or trade and commercial enterprises. In science any of the physical, biological or social sciences, or inventions of proven utility or promise may be presented.

Education includes achievements in the field of educational organization, content, method of practice or educational publicity.

The award in religion is for achievements in religious organizations, religious education, social service in connection with recognized religious agencies or any outstanding contribution to personal religion or theology.

The eighth award concerning race relations will be given without distinction of color.

No award will be made except for some achievement of an outstanding character that is a distinct contribution within its given field. As these awards are to be given for achievements of national significance and interest, in case there are no entries in any class having this outstanding character, no award will be given.

Applications and recommendations for this year (1926) may be filed on and after January 1st and must be filed not later than June 1,

N. A. A. C. P. PASSES \$30,000 MARK NEEDED TO MEET GARLAND OFFER

New York, Dec. 23—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue, today announced that in a period of seven weeks, beginning October 30, it had raised the \$50,000 fund set as an objective, obtaining in contributions more than \$30,000 required to meet the Garland Fund's offer of \$15,000 and, together with the \$5,000 given outright by the Garland Fund, completing the \$50,000 total. The amount sent to the National Office to date is \$30,470.81.

The N. A. A. C. P. with contributions still pouring in has advanced its goal from \$50,000 to \$65,000 and hopes to go to the Garland Fund with \$50,000 instead of \$30,000 raised mainly by colored people of the United States, independent of the Fund's contribution.

The decision to carry on the campaign was reached when it was learned that a second trial in the Sweet case would be necessary, thus practically doubling the original cost of the case.

In announcing the attainment of the goal thus far, James Weldon Johnson, secretary of the N. A. A. C. P. said: "We were confident that colored Americans would rally to their own cause being fought in the courts of the land by the National Association. They have rallied magnificently. In less than eight weeks, the colored people of the country have justified the faith of those, like Clarence Darrow and Arthur Garfield Hays fighting in their behalf. The N. A. A. C. P. in view of the fact that the second trial of the Sweet case will just about double the cost of it, has announced an advance in its goal from a \$50,000 Legal Defense Fund to \$65,000. We are confident that this objective will be reached with flying colors. Our friends must not forget that in the same week, the first week in January, which sees the opening of the second Sweet trial in Detroit, the N. A. A. C. P. legal forces will be marshalled in Washington before the United States Supreme Court to contest the issue of residential segregation by white property owners' agreements, and in addition, we shall soon argue before the Supreme Court the issue of disfranchisement of Negroes through the Southern "white primary" laws. So no matter how large our fund, there will be crying need of it and more.

Let us go on with increased energy until there is money enough not alone to fight these three major cases involving the Negro's citizenship rights, but also to serve notice on the country that the Negro is at all times prepared to defend his rights in the courts of the land."

The N. A. A. C. P. announced that during the month of December many gifts to the Fund had been received from foreign countries, one of them coming from H. O. Tanner, foremost painter of his race, now living in Paris, who sent \$25. Other foreign contributions include the following: L. A. Amposah, Edinburgh, Scotland, 1 pound 12 shillings (about \$7); H. T. Jason, Corozal, Porto Rico, \$5; E. E. Skeel, Pau, Basses Pyrenees, France, \$25; T. E. Greer, \$5 and S. R. Maples, \$10, both of Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands; M. R. Suydam, Avignon, France, \$5; W. O. Ware & Friend, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, \$5; John N. Lightbourn, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, \$2; Jacob McCallister, Limay, Bataan, Philippine Islands, \$5; Esteban, Cuba, \$2.

Beyond the \$30,000 mark the N. A. A. C. P. was expecting an additional \$2,000 shortly. The second \$1,000 promised by Julius Rosenwald of Chicago is now due and the following telegram announcing \$1,000 check in the mail was received from Los Angeles, California:

"Check and report from the Los Angeles Branch for \$1,000 in today's mail. Congratulation on your splendid work. Carry on the fight. Los Angeles is with you."
(Signed) DR. H. C. HUDSON

Joseph B. LaCour, head of the advertising department of the *Kansas City Call*, accompanied by Robert A. Greene, formerly of *The Monitor*, but now also of the *Call*, motored over to Omaha to spend Christmas with Mr. LaCour's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph LaCour, 2421 Maple street. They left for Kansas City Sunday morning.

1926, with Dr. George E. Haynes at the offices of the Federal Council of Churches, 105 East Twenty-second street, New York City.

All written matter or other material submitted with an application must have sufficient postage for delivery or must be prepaid by express. No manuscript will be returned or other material submitted will be returned unless full postage or express charges are enclosed.

Further detailed information will be available from the same address or from literature available at many schools, colleges, churches and similar places.

Court Absolves Colored Comptroller From all Blame as Result of Testimony Given by Member of Ring

New Orleans—Walter Cohen, United States Collector of Customs of the Port of New Orleans has been absolved of the sensational charge of conspiracy to violate the Volstead Act brought against him and 33 others, whites, last August. United States District Court Judge N. I. Grubb, presiding at the trial, Saturday directed the jury hearing the case to deliver a verdict freeing Cohen.

Accuse White Officer

Instruction for the acquittal of Cohen followed a startling development in the case when two of eight white defendants being tried, Alonza Patterson, and Arthur Battistella pleaded guilty and barring the operations of the rum ring from the stand impli-

cated Henry De Deaux acting surveyor of customs, as the ring leader of the band.

Directed Smugglers

Patterson and Battistella swore that De Deaux had invested \$25,000 in the smuggling syndicate. Patterson, who had been previously convicted of bribing prohibition officers testified that De Deaux directed the patrolling of the revenue cutters so that liquor belonging to the ring could be brought inside the 12-mile zone and landed in New Orleans without danger of confiscation.

Cleared Cohen

As a result of the testimony Cohen, who had been charged with complicity in directing the patrol boats to other sections when a "syndicate" shipment was due to arrive, was absolved of blame and the court directed a verdict of acquittal.

De Deaux immediately was placed

under arrest by department of justice agents and furnished \$10,000 bond on a liquor conspiracy charge.

Four Plead Guilty

After the sensational confessions of Patterson and Battistella, Fred Jeanfreau, Robert Spar and Albert Morris changed their pleas to guilty and threw themselves on the mercy of the court.

Cohen's Second Victory

The acquittal of Cohen was the second significant victory of the distinguished colored citizen. The first triumph came when attempts to prove that he was an alien, and that it was unconstitutional for him to remain in the office were overturned. Both President Harding and Coolidge upheld his right to the office.

SEGREGATION "FROM THE CHRISTIAN STANDPOINT"

(For the Associated Negro Press)
By William Pickens

"Can white people be Christian,—like Christ?"—Many sane colored people have asked us that question. Often we have replied: "Yes,—and we have known some that were meek in justice, like Jesus, and mighty in mercy, like Christ."—For even one case is a complete answer to such a question: ONE is a demonstration of fact and a prophecy of possibility.

But our faith has steadily grown less firm in the long-coated, high-salaried religion that fills most of the great white church. We, too, often find such pastors dominated by the spirit of the refined mob which is their particular flock: if they have a rich congregation, they are subservient to wealth; if they have a Klan congregation, they toady to intolerance. In Indianapolis, Indiana, for example, we found some of the white pastors joining (not leading) their beloved "flock" in the low business of racial segregation movements. The segregationists of that city publish a weekly paper, "The Spectator," which they boast of giving free to six thousand homes. In a December issue occurs a leading article of news and comment on the "White People's Protective League, which had met on the preceding Saturday night "at the usual place, the M. E. Church." And this meeting had been addressed by two other pastors (of North Avenue Christian and Capitol Avenue Methodist Churches), who made "rousing addresses in favor of keeping this part of Indianapolis white. They did not explain how, after feeding their flocks in a white world, they proposed to arrange for their eternal comfort in a white heaven.—And the article went on:

"While each approaching the matter from a strictly Christian standpoint, each maintained that it was the duty of every white person in the district to resist the confiscation of his home and property rights by Negro invasion."

Do you get that language of the hypocrite ("Christian standpoint") coupled right up with that lingo of the mob ("resist," "confiscation," "invasion")? Isn't that fine for the followers of "the meek and lowly Jesus?" And listen further how they spoke to the mob spirit: "Quick, decisive action.....is necessary;" white people will "lose millions in property values," unless they "take the matter in hand without delay;" "the sooner the city is districted for white and black the better it will be for all. Legislation is not necessary for such restricting," etc.—That is, the 1917 decision of the Supreme Court makes "legislation" non-effective, and so the mob power of the Lord's "white" lambs is to be invoked.

These and such white pastors have fallen further from Christ than Satan fell from Heaven when he landed in Hell. Are white Christian leaders going to make league with the devil of race prejudice and all the demon brood that it entails? Colored people everywhere are noticing the fact that the best and most willing defender they could find in the white race against mob persecution and official injustice in Detroit, is a non-Christian, Clarence Darrow, a man who snaps his finger at creeds of words and accepts only creeds of deeds. The "Garland Fund," which also is not controlled by orthodox white Christians, gave the first and most substantial aid from the white world to the defense of these cases. And nobody doubts that if Robert G. Ingersoll were alive today he would at least be Darrow's colleague in defense of these persecuted colored citizens.

Most colored people reach the conclusion that only the non-Christian, or at least the unorthodox, of the white race can do justice to black people? White Protestant churches have largely fallen under suspicion of being Klux hot-beds. If the Negro's suspicion is permitted to grow, ere long he will have no confidence in any praying white man; when the white preacher offers him heaven from the one hand, he will suspect that he holds hell in the other. We have sometimes made the white audience laugh, and perhaps think, when we remarked that our experience with the alliance of the church with race prejudice has produced in us such a state of mind that when we sit down on one end of a seat in a street car or other common carrier, and a sneering white bigot gets up off the other end because we sit down, we involuntarily ask ourselves this question: "Wonder

MISSISSIPPI MOB LYNCHES YOUTH FREED BY COURT

Unmasked Mob Takes Lindley Coleman From Sheriff at Prison Door and Riddles His Body With Bullets

WOMEN DENOUNCE MURDER

Special Session of Grand Jury Called and Several Men Are Arrested; Charged With Conspiracy to Murder

Clarksdale, Miss.—(Bulletin). Denounced by Coahoma County League of Women Voters as "high-handed murder," the lynching of Lindley Coleman, Negro, was made the subject of investigation by a grand jury, Dec. 23. Four men, one of them a planter, were arrested on charges of conspiracy to murder and warrants were sworn out for four other persons.

Judge W. A. Alcorn, before whom the Negro was tried, called a special session of the grand jury, and when it assembled he exacted a pledge from the jurors that indictments would be returned against any person found involved, regardless of his standing in the community.

Clarksdale, Miss.—The good spirit of Christmas time and the peace of Sabbath morning were forgotten in the town of Clarksdale, Miss., and brutality and lawlessness reigned while a frenzied mob of white men lynched a colored youth, who a jury had just a few hours before acquitted of a charge of killing Grover C. Nicholas, a plantation store manager, October 15 last.

Little Action Against Mob

The stir created by the murder was passed almost as quickly as the crime was committed. No efforts were made by authorities to apprehend the mobsters. The Governor sent a weak message expressing his regrets, but made no suggestion that he would act. The only definite signs of efforts to bring the criminals to justice were shown by the County League of Women Voters of Coahoma County.

Stopped At Jail Door

The victim of the mob was Lindsey Coleman. He was just one of five colored citizens held in connection with the slaying of the store manager. Meager description of the lynching of Coleman state that a band of unmasked white men forcibly took him from Sheriff S. W. Glass, within the shadow of the prison from which he was being released after a jury had declared him innocent. With little ceremony, the whites took Coleman to the back of the jail and riddled his body with bullets.

Sheriff Silent

An attempt to get some information that might lead to the arrest of the members of the mob was treated as a thing out of the question. Sheriff Glass turned aside all questions relating to the affair, by declaring he didn't "care to get into print." He declined to comment upon the lynching of Coleman. He would not say whether any arrests had been made, and steadfastly declined to say whether he recognized any member of the mob.

Governor Comments

"It is with the greatest regret that I learned of the tragedy at Clarksdale," Governor Whitfield said when advised of the lynching of Coleman after he had been found not guilty of the murder of Grover C. Nicholas.

"I know nothing of the facts that led up to it," he said. The Negro evidently had had a trial in court according to law, and it is to be very much reprehended that a few people should have so far forgotten the highest interest of the state as to commit so horrible a crime.

"I have received no official advice in regard to the matter and, of course, had no opportunity to prevent its commission."

Miss Alice Thompson of 2913 1/2 Lake street and Sherman Ward were quietly married Christmas Eve by Rev. T. W. Kidd, pastor of Bethel A. M. E. church and left immediately for Chicago where they will make their future home.

whose Sunday School he's superintendent of!"

If racial segregation, with its consequent misunderstanding, suspicion, hate, and war, is for white pastors the "Christian standpoint," then in the name of the Devil, we would like to ask, where in the devil will the Devil "stand?"

Oliver Willis Killed By Boiler Explosion

Omaha friends were shocked to receive the sad news of the death of Oliver E. Willis, 2712 Maple street, Monday night 7 leaving Mr. William Lewis, a warm personal friend with him, themselves expecting to return later in the evening. They had hardly more than reached home when they were advised of his death.

Oliver Willis who was 38 years of age, was born in Atchison, Kans., and had been a resident of Omaha for the past 15 years. Thirteen years ago he was married to Clara Smith. He was ambitious and industrious and was buying a home at 2712 Maple street where the family has resided for the past ten years. He was devoted to his family which consists of five lovely children, four girls and a boy, Edrose being 11 and the youngest, 6 months. For fourteen years he had been employed by C. M. Wilhelm, holding his position with the McArdle people also. He was a member of the Dan Desdunes band. Oliver was of a sunny, friendly disposition and was well liked by all who knew him.

He is survived by his widow and five children, five sisters, Mrs. Kenner, Mrs.

J. E. Brown, of Omaha; Mrs. Jeanette Carter and Mrs. Austin Serrant of Chicago; and Mrs. Kathryn Brown of Atchison, Kans.; one brother, Ralph, of Atchison, and other relatives.

The funeral was held Thursday afternoon from the Episcopal Church of St. Philip the Deacon, the Rev. John Albert Williams, officiating. Interment was in Forest Lawn cemetery.

JUDGE ALBERT E. GEORGE TO SPEAK HERE NEXT WEEK

The citizens of Omaha are to have the privilege of hearing Judge Albert E. George of Chicago, who two years ago was elected to the municipal bench of the great Illinois metropolis by a large majority. Judge George will deliver an address at St. John's A. M. E. church next Friday night at 8 o'clock under the auspices of the Negro Business and Professional Men's Club. An active committee has the arrangements in charge and every effort is being made to give Judge George, who has the reputation of being an excellent speaker, a large and representative audience.

The Monitor

Wishes You

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Very Happy

New Year