

Negro Woman Member State Legislature

Sculptor Wins \$250 Prize in Exhibit of Negro Art

A sculpture in terra cotta of the head of a Negro boy called "Sammy," was unanimously voted by the judges the prize of \$250 in the first nation-wide exhibition of the fine arts productions of Negroes. The exhibit is being held under the sponsorship of the Harmon Foundation in co-operation with the Commission on the Church and Race Relations of the Federal Council of Churches, at International House, 500 Riverside Drive, New York, N. Y.

The artist to receive the prize, which is being given by a well known patron of the arts, is Sargent Johnson, a picture framer of 2777 Park street, Berkeley, Cal.

The judges were Edwin H. Blashfield, mural painter and president of the National Academy of Design; Charles C. Curran, mural painter, secretary of the National Academy of Design; Wayman Adams, portrait painter; Arthur Lee, sculptor, and Karl Illava, sculptor.

"We unanimously give to Sargent Johnson the prize for the best work exhibited, it being the terra cotta head of a boy, called by the artist 'Sammy,'" they said in their decision.

Honorable mentions were given to Albert A. Smith of New York for his drawing, "Place de la Monnaie, Pau, France," O. Richard Reid of New York for his portrait of Charles S. Johnson, and M. Gray Johnson of New York for his oil portrait of Wilson Lamb. Honorable mention was made "only to those to whom we would gladly have given money prizes," says the judges' decision, "had such prize been available."

Eighty-seven art objects, including oil paintings, etchings, drawings, sculpture and various kinds of handwork, are being presented by Negroes from all parts of the country in the exhibition at International House. Although it is an outgrowth of the

Award in Fine Arts of the Harmon Foundation (which is one of a series of seven awards for Negro creative work), the showing includes the work of many who were not entered for this year's award. Conforming to the usual custom the decision of the judges as to the winner of the prize at the exhibition was made without taking into consideration the productions of those which had already received Harmon Awards in Fine Arts. These are given for distinguished achievement in the Fine Arts rather than as competitive prizes.

The success of the Exhibit has been such that the sponsors have decided to hold it again next year. It has attracted considerable attention in both white and colored circles and because of the continued large attendance it has been extended through the evening of January 17. It is open to the public from 11 a. m. to 5 p. m., and from 7:30 to 9:30 p. m. The sponsors hope the exhibit to accomplish three things: to create a wider interest in the work of the Negro artist as a contribution to American culture; to stimulate him to aim for the highest standards of achievement, and to encourage the general public in the purchase of his work with the eventual purpose in view of helping the American Negro to a sounder and more satisfactory economic position in art.

Sargent Johnson is exhibiting, besides the prize winning head, the green porcelain bust of a child, and a terra cotta statuette with gothic tendencies of a meditative maiden which he calls "Pray." Photographs of several of his other works are also being shown. One of these, a Chinese baby done in green porcelain and called "Pearl," received the gold medal for sculpture at an exhibition a short time ago at the San Francisco, Cal., Art Association's exhibition.

CONVICT WHITES IN AN ASSAULT CASE

Assaulters of a Pittsburgh Matron Face Long Sentence in the Pennsylvania Penitentiary

Pittsburgh, Pa.—A jury in the criminal court returned a verdict of guilty against two white men here recently on a charge growing out of a criminal attack upon Mrs. Sara Redd, prominent race matron of this city. The whites, Charles McGill and Russell Dale, are members of two of the city's wealthiest white families. Sentence was set aside pending filing of a motion for a new trial.

Mrs. Redd was accosted by the two white men in an exclusive white residential district. She was taken to a secluded spot, attacked by both men, and left in a hysterical condition. The attack occurred July 17.

WHITES AND NEGROES JOIN TO RAISE \$500,000 FOR A HOSPITAL IN BALTIMORE

Baltimore, Md.—The New Provident Hospital and Free Dispensary campaign for \$175,000 ended brilliantly recently with subscriptions and cash amounting to nearly a half million dollars.

Of this, \$164,495.46 was reported by race workers under George A. Watty, general chairman.

The white workers, under Dr. J. M. T. Finney, made a report of \$149,007.90, with a total of 759 subscriptions.

GIRL INSURES EYE FOR \$1,000

Los Angeles, Cal.—Mrs. Marie Ront has taken out an insurance policy on her eyes representing the first time a similar policy has been issued to a Negro girl. Serious injury of her highly prized orb will bring a payment of \$1,000. Mrs. Ront is young, pretty and well known, and is proprietor of a doll hospital.

EDITORIAL

The commutation of the sentence of Sol Wesley from death to life imprisonment will, we believe, meet with general approval. Popular approbation of the action of the board of pardons is attributable to several causes, chief of which are the lapse of time between the commission of the crime and the date set for the execution of the criminal; and the revulsion of feeling, justified by a righteously humane sentiment, against the execution of an insane person.

Wesley, it will be recalled, and a companion in crime by the name of Muldew, were convicted of murder in the first degree five years ago, for the shooting and killing of a bystander in holding up a grocery store. Both were sentenced to be executed. Subsequently the supreme court reduced Muldew's sentence to life imprisonment and reaffirmed the death penalty in the case of Wesley. Before the date set for Wesley's execution, he was declared insane and the death penalty suspended. Recently, being declared sane, a date was fixed for carrying out the original sentence. Those close to Wesley, including Warden Fenton of the penitentiary; the prison chaplain, the Rev. Mr. Maxwell, and if, we are not mistaken, several physicians, claimed that he was still insane, or of a "very low mentality." This led to a vigorous protest against Wesley's execution, from prominent people of both races, a protest in which The Monitor joined. Several agencies were active in requesting a commutation of sentence, among these being the Omaha and Lincoln branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Colored Ministerial Alliance of Omaha. The chief credit, however, in our opinion, should go to the Rev. O. J. Burkhardt, who, although backed by the organizations named, has worked unremittingly for nearly five years to have the sentence commuted. The important fact is that by the commutation of the penalty to life imprisonment the great commonwealth of Nebraska will be freed from the stain of executing an insane man.

The ends of justice will be conserved and the public protected, which is the chief consideration in the punishment and incarceration of criminals, by life imprisonment, provided that it is imprisonment for life. The trouble is that life imprisonment rarely means this. Increasing crime, which is becoming a terrible menace to society in the United States, is due very largely to inadequate punishment for crime by the carrying out of sentences imposed by the courts.

If punishment is to be a deterrent for crime then the United States must adopt the methods employed by England and other European countries in dealing with crime. There must be fair, speedy and just trials of the accused and prompt execution of the sentence.

If Wesley be a mental defective as those who have examined him claim he is, then the commutation of his sentence is a justifiable act of mercy and as such is to be commended; but we express the hope that no weak sentimentality in the lapse of years will become operative to liberate him. He should be confined for life in protection to society.

Sixteen Persons Get Harmon Awards

New York, N. Y. (By the Associated Negro Press).—Four thousand dollars in money accompanied by gold and bronze medals were awarded sixteen men and women in recognition of their creative work by the Harmon Foundation. The awards were announced last Monday and gave recognition for achievements of national significance in literature, fine arts, business, including industry, education, music, science and religious service. Two awards were made in each field, a first of \$400 and a gold medal and a second of \$100 with a bronze medal. They are to be presented in the home towns of recipients in public gatherings on Lincoln's birthday, February 12.

First award in science went to James A. Parson, jr. In describing his work and those of the others who received honor the committee said: "James A. Parson, jr., 27, chief chemist and metallurgist of the Duriron company of Dayton, Ohio, was given the first award in science for special research in aluminum bronze, his discoveries on corrosion testing and his development in duriron. Through the interest of his present employer in whose family his father served as butler, he was able to attend and graduate from the Rensselaer Polytechnic institute of Troy, New York, where he specialized in electro chemistry and electro metallurgy. He has developed a research staff of five or six Negro experts employed by the Duriron company. There was no second award.

"Laura Wheeler Waring, a teacher of art at Cheyney State Normal school, Cheyney, Pa., was accorded the first award in fine arts for a group of paintings. Special mention was made of the portrait of an old Negro woman entitled 'Anna Washington Derry.' J. W. Hardwick, 36, of Indianapolis, Ind., received the second award in fine arts for a group of portrait studies. A special award consisting of a gold medal was given William Edouard Scott, 43, of Chicago, Ill.

"One of the \$400 and gold medal awards in music was granted to R. Nathaniel Dett, 45, musical director of Hampton Institute, Va., for his vocal and instrumental compositions. The recipient of the other award of \$400 and gold medal was Clarence C. White, 47, director of music, West Virginia Collegiate institute, Institute, W. Va., for his work as a violinist and a composer. J. Harold Brown, Indianapolis, Ind., was given honorable mention in music.

"The first award in religion was accorded William N. DeBerry, 57, pastor of St. John's Congregational church, Springfield, Mass., in recognition of his development of a model Negro church as an outstanding example of what the church may mean in group and community service. The Rt. Rev. E. Jones, 52, bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, New Orleans, La., was given the second award for his work in organizing and furthering an educational, social, and religious center and conspicuous work as a religious editor. Honorable mention was made of Dr. J. W. E. Bowen, Atlanta, Ga., and Bishop A. L. Gaines, Baltimore, Md.

"In education, John W. Davis, 39, president of West Virginia Collegiate institute, Institute, W. Va., received the first award for his success in building up a land grant college from a secondary school to an institution acknowledged as having college standing. One of its features is its full Negro faculty. It is the first institution of its kind to be accepted as a member of North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. The second award in education goes to Benjamin Brawley, 45, professor in Shaw university, Raleigh, N. C., for his work as a teacher of English, his publications on Negro life and on English literature. Honorable mention was made of Thomas M. Campbell and Clinton J. Calloway, both of Tuskegee institute, Dr. J. W. E. Bowen, Atlanta, and Mrs. Althea Edmiston, Nashville, Tenn., mission-

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RACE WOMAN SITS IN WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

Mrs. E. Howard Harper Fills the Vacancy Created by Death of Her Husband in Third Term

Welch, W. Va.—When the House of Delegates is called to order, Mrs. E. Howard Harper, prominent West Virginia Race woman, will occupy a chair among the members. It will mark the first time that a colored American woman has filled an office in a state legislature.

Mrs. Harper was recommended by the Republican executive committee to Governor Gore for appointment as a member of the House of Delegates to fill the vacancy created by the recent death of her husband, Hon. E. Harper. Governor Gore supported the recommendation, as required by a state law.

Mr. Harper was one of the most popular members of the West Virginia House of Delegates. He was serving his third term as legislator.

WHITE MAN SUES FOR TEN THOUSAND; CALLED A NEGRO

It's worth \$10,000 for any white man in Alabama to be colored. Yes, sir, strange as it may seem, it's true just the same. This fact was established Friday when Alex De Fleron of Mobile, Alabama, sued the R. L. Polk Co., of Norfolk, Virginia, publishers of the Mobile City directory, for \$10,000 because he was erroneously designated as "colored." Whether or not the designation resulted from the compiler of the directory having seen De Fleron coming out of the Negro section after the shades of night had fallen or whether he mistook one of those synthetic "colonels" of the south, which is abbreviated just the same as the southern white folks abbreviate the word colored, viz., "col." to mean colored instead of colonel, is not known, but De Fleron thinks the designation is worth \$10,000 to him and is asking the courts to help him collect it.

APPOINTS NEGRO DEPUTY AS THE COUNTY CLERK

Louisville, Ky.—Among the many political appointments already announced is that of C. L. Grundy, a young man who under the former administration of Republicans, served as engineer in the Number 8 engine company. Mr. Grundy has been appointed to a place in the county clerk's office as deputy county clerk. Messrs. Page Hemphill and W. B. Wood, former detectives, have been restored to their places, also three probation officers in the juvenile court, two bath house attendants, one police woman, and a number of men in the custodian's department of the city hall and the street cleaning department. It is expected that a number of very important positions will be named in the city health department.

KIP'S SISTER WILL SUE FOR A DIVORCE

New York, N. Y.—The New York American Monday says Mrs. Julien St. Charles Chaqueneau, daughter of Philip Rhinelander, and sister of Leonard Kip Rhinelander, is planning a suit for a divorce.

Her husband at the time of the wedding six years ago was known as John St. Charles Shackno, but upon locating in Paris with his bride, he changed his name to Chaqueneau. His wife is now at the home of her father here.

CAPITAL CITY STUDENTS GAIN COVETED HONORS

Washington, D. C.—Francis Syphax, a graduate of the Dunbar High school, class of 1922, has been appointed literary editor of the Sed, annual student publication of Boston University's School of Education, while Robert Weaver, of the class of 1925, was a member of the Harvard debating team which recently defeated Wesleyan.

WESLEY'S SENTENCE COMMUTED TO LIFE IN STATE PRISON

State Board of Pardons Stipulates That Omaha Negro Shall Remain in Penitentiary For Life

Lincoln, Neb.—Sol Wesley, who for more than five years has faced death in the electric chair, now faces life—life in the state penitentiary.

The state board of pardons Saturday commuted Wesley's death sentence to life imprisonment.

Clemency was granted Wesley, who shot and killed Deerson during the holdup of an Omaha grocery store in 1923, because he was found to be mentally incompetent. Three state physicians told the board that their examinations had convinced them Wesley is a feeble-minded person with the mental capacity of a 6-year-old child.

No Parole
In the order granting the commutation the board recommends "that no further pardon, commutation or parole ever be granted him."

The decision to grant the commutation was reached by the board in less than two hours after the hearing held at the penitentiary.

"In granting this application," the board says, "we are doing so because the record is overwhelmingly in favor of the commutation. There are no protests."

Had Hunch
Wesley, though he has been sudden and unwilling to talk for several years, must have had a hunch Saturday afternoon that he was on the verge of escaping the chair.

He seemed even anxious to answer all questions put to him by members of the board. And once a broad grin spread over his dark countenance. At all other times 1/4 however, except when directly questioned, he sat stooped far over, nervously clasping and unclasping his hands. His face was expressionless, but his blinking eyes roved continually about the room.

Governor Quizzes
In response to questions put to him by Attorney General Spillman, Wesley said he had been born in Oklahoma and that he had reached about the third grade in school.

Answering questions regarding his life in Omaha, he told the board that he had worked in several packing houses, receiving \$2 a day, and later worked several months washing dishes on a dining car.

Governor McMullen asked him if he had quit the dining car job or had been "fired." At that Sol grinned profusely and answered, "I quit."

Justice Goss Speaks
Supreme Justice Goss told the board that in his opinion too much time had elapsed since Wesley was first sentenced.

"It is now nearly five years since the crime was committed," he said, "and I believe it would leave a bad taste in the mouths of the people of the state to convict him now."

"If the law was such that the execution could be carried out within one year perhaps after the sentence, I believe it would have the effect of deterring others from committing crimes," he said.

Mental Condition
Judge Goss pointed out that Wesley's attorney had not brought out any evidence to indicate the mental condition of Wesley at the time of the trial. He expressed the opinion that if such evidence had been presented at the trial, a death sentence would not have been recommended by the jury.

He also expressed the opinion that the supreme court would have commuted the sentence if Wesley's mental condition had been brought to its attention.

He said he had learned, though not authoritatively, that two of Wesley's sisters, his father, and his grandfather had been insane or feeble-minded.

"Every day is a holiday for the man who likes his work."