

THE VOICE

A NEGRO WEEKLY

"Dedicated to the promotion of the cultural, social and spiritual life of a great people"

Rev. Melvin L. Shakespeare
Publisher and Owner

2225 S Street Phone 5-6491
If no answer call 5-7508

Rubie W. Shakespeare
Advertising & Business Manager

Mrs. Joe Green
Circulation Mgr.

Dorothy Green
Reporter

Lynnwood Parker
Special Writer

Member of the Assoc. Negro Press

Subscription rate \$2.00 per year
10c per copy

THE FUTURE IS YOURS

What are you doing about it?

John L. Wilson—Architect, New York City was an anxious host when the United Nations moved in: neither its housing situation nor the disposition of some of its citizens were exactly beaming in welcome to its peace guests. But the City was determined and its desire to offer UN its best, selected the "World of Tomorrow" Building in Flushing Meadow Park, and graciously lent its architect, John L. Wilson to coordinate the work of the private firms who won the rebuilding bid.

This special assignment was only one of several Mr. Wilson has in the course of his work as architect with New York City's Department of Parks. Another, which recent visitors to New York will remember, is the newly completed "Harlem Meer" at the 110th end of Central Park. The work, started by WPA was taken over by the city, and completion and design of both the building and the lake fell to Mr. Wilson. Another of his assignments is the Vanderbilt Gates and fence marking the beautiful, formal Conservatory Gardens entrance at 104th and 105th streets on 5th Avenue. The buildings and gardens of the Bronx Zoo ("The Greatest Zoo in the World") and Bronx Botanical Gardens are his special charges.

John L. Wilson was fourteen years old, living in Birmingham, Alabama, when he decided to become an architect.

"I remember very well," he says, "a Negro architect named Rayfield who was building a CME church in Birmingham. He used to come around with blue-prints under his arms and I was fascinated—"

"I liked to draw—I liked mathematics—and these were two important points in my favor.

"From the moment I decided to become an architect, it was never out of my mind. I began reading everything I could find in

Campus News



by Jeanne
Malone

Juanita Hanger and Jeanne Malone had the honor of being nominated for membership to two of the governing student bodies of the university. Miss Hanger has been nominated for sophomore membership to the AWS board, which regulates the activities of coeds living in organized houses on the campus. The duties of the Coed Counselor board to which Miss Malone was nominated are to acquaint freshmen and new students with the university. These girls may not be elected to these responsible offices, but their mere nomination is a step toward true democracy on the university campus.

Although you might guess it by her name Miss Robbie Powell is one of the new coeds on the campus this semester. Four years ago, Robbie, her parents, Rev. and Mrs. R. H. Powell and her sister Freddie, moved to Lincoln from St. Joseph, Missouri. Since then Robbie has attended school from eighth grade through high school. To illustrate some of her mental ability, Miss Powell graduated from high school in only two and one half years and merited membership to the National Honor Society.

Robbie is enrolled in teachers college and is majoring in history and French, both of which she plans to teach. For later in her future she plans marriage.

the libraries. My father's work as a Methodist minister took us to New Orleans, Louisiana, where I finished high school and college at New Orleans University. There were no architectural courses to take—but there were mathematics courses, and I kept up with my drawing. The librarians there saved for me every book they could find on the subject. I was so obsessed with my ambition that everybody in the community knew John L. Wilson was going to be an architect one day.

"I taught mathematics for a year at Philander Smith College in Arkansas when I finished college, and after that year, with money saved, I came to New York and entered Columbia University School of Architecture. After two years my money gave out and I had to leave school for two

and a half years. I worked at all kinds of jobs, mainly as draftsman in architectural offices until I had enough money to finish studying for my degree."

"One of the most encouraging signs I see now," he observes, "is the readiness with which architectural firms will take trained, efficient, creative minds—without regard to race. But a youngster going into the field must remember

an architect must be both an artist and a business man

he must be able to draw, and he must know mathematics

he must know the building trades

he must have patience and tact

he must be well trained

he must work hard."

Many others in other parts of the country have also succeeded in this field as well as in New York.

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