



Literary Column

Last night 'twas snow and cold
 Moon beams the creek enfold
 There sat in one old oak
 An owl whose hoot awoke
 Sad Echos 'round about.
 Then quiet did reign without.
 When dawn came gliding in,
 Our world to Alaska, akin!
 The frost that clung to all—
 The fence, the grass, the wall.
 Ice crystals so well adorn—
 The rose, the hedge, the thorn.
 A transform'd earth in the night
 We smiled on the lovely sight—
 And gave—
 Our thanks to HIM above,
 For, beauty, for grace, for love.

—Florence Killinger

Dark Merit



by
 Kathrynne
 Favors

Slavery

During the eighteenth century, the church was an inviting field for Negroes. As we studied last week, the Methodists and the Baptists gave the Negro a better chance. They could present the Bible to the Negro in a simple and interesting manner. This was entirely necessary because with the lack of education to such a great extent, the Negroes were not too easy, in many cases, to catch on. After the Revolutionary War, however, many of the "poor whites" became slaveholders and were not so sympathetic towards the Negroes. Soon the churches began to restrict the membership to a few Negroes at a time. Then as the "poor whites" gained more power the Negroes were restricted to certain pews, to a certain section, or to an entirely different building. Perhaps this was the start of our racial discrimination in the church today.

The Negroes hated to give up their freedom in the church after they had it for such a long time. One Negro ran away and his

master said, "He was raised in a family of religious persons commonly called Methodists and has lived with them for years past on terms of complete equality, the refusal to continue him on these terms gave him offense and he, therefore, absconded. He had been accustomed to instruct and exhort his fellow creatures of all colors in matters of religious duty." Many preachers ran away to new communities. In the North these free Negroes asserted themselves. Richard Allen became the founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He said, "I soon saw a large field open in seeking and instructing my African brethren who have been a long forgotten people, and few of them attended public worship." He started a prayer meeting in Philadelphia and he soon had forty-two members. At first he planned to have a separate church for his race, but the Negroes and "whites" dissuaded him. His preaching attracted so many Negroes, however, that the "whites" soon desired to separate from the Negroes. They became so earnest in this attempt that they disturbed Richard Allen and two others by pulling them from their knees when they were in an attitude of prayer. This was the beginning of the Free African Society, organized by Richard Allen and Absalom Jones.

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The Sports Front With Smoky



By Howard
 "Smoky"
 Molden

RICK ROBERTS

"Jackie the Great"

You get a line on Jackie Robinson's great gifts when you remember that he fielded a phenomenal .985 at a new position for him, second base, in 1946.

To baseball experts, this is very significant because it means he is one of the "cleanest" fielders of baseball history; a fact made eloquent by noting that no Hall of Fame second baseman—Collins, Hornsby, Lajoie, Frisch, Evers—have ever equaled it in any league major or minor. Only the very best efforts, Melilo's .993 for the Red Sox in 1934, and Bishop's .986 for the A's in 1932, excel Jackie's. Look in vain for any more, although Gehring did twice equal this figure of .985 for Detroit, in 1935 and 1937.

This combined with Jackie's hitting and base running, could mean but one thing: he's at least the greatest all-round athlete of this generation. Too big for bias, too terrific for prejudice—he's Jackie the great.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

HERMAN HILL

Real All-America Teams

By the signing of one or more Negro players to nearly every team in the league, for the coming season, the All-America Professional Football Conference is proving itself to be "All-American" in every respect.

The star-studded list of sepia grid greats includes Buddy Young and Archie Harris, New York Yankees; Marion Motley, Horace Gillom and Bill Willis, Cleveland Browns; John Brown, Los Angeles Dons; Bernie Jefferson, Chicago Rockets; Bill Bass, Baltimore Colts, among others.

Pigskin interest should be at fever heat.

Never before in history have so many of our boys been afforded such a democratic opportunity to make good in pay for major league football.

The All-America Conference is to be sincerely congratulated.

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Thank you!

Ann Watson Smitherman