

The Voice

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

Rev. Melvin L. Shakespeare

Publisher and Editor

Business Address 2225 S Street Phone 5-6491
If No Answer Call 5-7508

Rubie W. Shakespeare Advertising and Business Manager
Lynnwood Parker Associate Editor, U. N. Dorm-B, 2-7651
Charles Goolsby Contributing Editor, U. N. Dorm-B, 2-7651
Roberta Molden Associate Editor 1966 U Street, 2-1407
Mrs. Joe Green Circulation Manager

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BETWEEN THE LINES

Affairs in and about this world are badly muddled to say the least. Whether here at home in the United States or in the uttermost parts of the earth, we are confronted with muddled situations that are depressing in their implications.

Little hapless Palestine is having its baptism of blood. Russia and the United States are still looking threateningly at each other and do not find any basis of rapprochement, not because they cannot, but because they will not. The cold war is proceeding according to plan, evidently, and nobody can tell what a day may bring forth. There can be no doubt that communism must be contained; but whether United States dollars alone will do this remains to be seen. It is greatly to be feared that dollars when divested of moral accompaniments may utterly fail at last to stem the tide of communism.

It remains to be demonstrated that dollars can defeat ideologies. Unless our boasted democracy will set its house in order and make practical its boasted tenets, there are reasons to believe that sooner or later we are going to have a rude awakening. We are at the bat now; but if we strike out, woes will betide the world. Even more badly than they need our dollars the nations of the earth need a major example of great living on the part of some great nation, chiefly our own.

The political situation in this country is badly muddled. Now as in times past the Republicans and Democrats have gone into a huddle on the civil rights legislation. Truman has done his part and made recommendations by which he is standing gallantly, even though the threat of political death is hanging over him like the sword of Damocles. But neither Democrats nor Republicans are dead in earnest about civil rights as they pertain to Negroes in the United States. There seems to be somehow an understanding be-

tween Republicans and Democrats, that the color question is to be let alone, and left drift.

Professional buck-passing, politically speaking, seems to be at its best when the rights and advantages of Negroes are at stake. Things do not look different from other times when congress stalled on the anti-lynch bill until the last moments when a filibuster would complete the dirty work of letting the bill go by default. Unless this picture of matters is again taking shape this writer is badly mistaken. The pattern of evasion in this matter is so clear it can hardly be mistaken.

And so the affairs are muddled as we go muddling along! But whether we are going to muddle through is still another matter. With the northern and southern Democrats and Republicans entering into a compact not to offend each other on the color question, the Negro not only can see but can feel the muddling that is afoot in this country.

We have a plethora of leaders vying in subtle ways for power and for place. For lo these many years Philip Randolph has held a kind of trump card in his "March On Washington" threat. Randolph was proposing thereby to bring about a certain amount of embarrassment of the powers that be before the world where our prestige was based upon our proffers of democracy.

My recent mail brings an announcement that another group is not going to threaten to "march on Washington" but actually are going to march. Are they stealing Philip Randolph's stuff, or should they? It has come about that Negroes are confused in their three-way endeavors to be on the safe side and so they cry, some for Wallace, some for Truman and the "incurable" Negro Republicans for one or more of the Republican candidates. The world, the nation and the race, just muddling along!
—A.N.P.

Robinson's Book Featured and Sold In Grocery Chain

BROOKLYN. (ANP). It could only happen in Brooklyn and to a famous Brooklyn baseball player at that. Dodger Jackie Robinson is having his just-published autobiography Jackie Robinson—My Own Story—sold in 10 Waldbaum grocery stores throughout the borough. Posters and books are prominently displayed in each of the stores and customers are being urged to add Jackie's book to their grocery shopping list. This is the first time a large grocery chain has decided to feature and sell a book.

Until Harvard college was founded in 1636, there was no university in what is now the United States.

Magazine Lauds 5 Negro Authors

NEW YORK — An article in the current issue of Salute magazine lauds the achievements of five Negro writers who, in prestige and sales are among America's most influential authors.

The writers discussed are Willard Motley, Langston Hughes, Frank Yerby, Richard Wright and Ann Petry. With the exception of Wright these writers have turned from purely Negro themes to the main stream of American life.

Meetings of 25 Negro organizations in 17 states were attended in 1947 by the National Foundation's Director of Interracial Activities to advise groups and individuals of services available from the organization and how to obtain them.

Wage Ceiling Raised for G.I. Trainees

Nebraska World War II veterans engaged in Veterans Administration education and training programs who are eligible for increased subsistence benefits under the new federal "ceiling" law, will receive the higher pay rates for the first time in July allowances which are payable August 1, the VA said today.

Ashley Westmoreland, manager of the Lincoln VA regional office, urged veterans not to write or contact the VA about the new law, because the higher rates will be paid automatically to G.I. Bill trainees whose existing records with VA contain the information needed. When additional information is needed, the VA will send the veteran a form requesting the necessary data.

The VA official said all increases will be retroactive to April 1 if eligible veteran-trainees return their completed forms prior to next September 1.

The new ceiling law, signed by President Truman May 4, increases benefits to GI Bill trainees by raising pay ceilings, establishing new criteria for computing income for productive labor, and increasing subsistence allowances for part-time school training and for combination school and job-training programs, including institutional on-the-farm training. Increased benefits also are provided for disabled veterans taking combination types of training under Public Law 16.

Ceiling provisions of the new law provide that earned income plus government subsistence pay shall not exceed \$210 a month for a trainee-veteran without dependents; \$270 for a veterans with one dependent, and \$290 for a veteran with more than one dependent. Previous ceilings were \$175 for a veteran without dependents, and \$200 for a veteran with one or more dependents.

Westmoreland emphasized that the new higher monthly ceilings on earned income plus government subsistence will not increase VA pay allowances to all of the more than 5,000 veterans in Nebraska now taking on-the-job training. In the case of job training only, he said, the new law does not change the maximum subsistence payable by VA of \$65 a month to a veteran without dependents, and \$90 to a veteran with one or more dependents. This means, he added, that the new ceilings will not benefit the many job trainees who already receive the maximum allowance, nor still others who are training for jobs that never will pay as much as the ceiling limits.

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Out of Old Nebraska

By James C. Olson

Superintendent, State Historical Society

One of the best illustrations of the pluck and resourcefulness of the pioneers is the story of the steam wagon.

The discovery of gold in the mountains brought with it a tremendous demand for goods from the east. Prior to the coming of the railroad this demand could be satisfied only by means of heavily loaded wagons drawn slowly overland by unwilling oxen. This was not satisfactory and the people longed for a railroad. The railroad, however, was slow in coming.

Then one summer morning in 1862 a solution to the problem suddenly appeared when the steamer, "West Wind" unloaded a "prairie motor" at Nebraska City. The owner, Gen. J. R. Brown of Minnesota, claimed that it would haul ten tons of freight across the ungraded prairie at the rate of five miles an hour.

The steam was propelled by four wood-burning engines whose fuel consumption was a cord of wood per hour. An engineer, fireman and pilot were required to operate the machine. It could carry only enough fuel for a four hour run.

The steam wagon was fairly successful on its trial run. It ran through a freshly plowed garden going up Kearney Heights and was almost stopped, but once through, it forded table creek and ran easily over the unbroken sod.

When the steam wagon pulled out of Nebraska City on its maiden trip to Denver it was dragging three heavy wagons each loaded with 5,000 pounds of freight. Everything was going smoothly when a few miles out a crank shaft broke and the trip had to be abandoned. The owner had to go all the way back to New York in order to get repairs.

The steam wagon never moved again under its own power. Sometime in the late '60s it was dragged to the farm of J. Sterling Morton and about a decade later was sold for junk. It looked like a good idea though, and you can't blame those pioneer Nebraskans for trying.

At Carnegie Hall



As Carnegie "Pops" artist, June McMechen, brilliant young lyric soprano, sang again the immortal melodies from "Porgy and Bess" to a New York audience when she appeared Wednesday evening, May 19, at Carnegie Hall. Singing with Miss McMechen was James Young, star of the Broadway hit "Call Me Mister." The Carnegie "Pops" symphony orchestra was conducted by Richard Korn.

Miss McMechen has filled a series of radio and concert engagements since her outstandingly successful New York debut last summer at Lewisohn Stadium on the Gershwin evening of music when she sang with Todd Duncan. New York critics praised her highly, acclaiming her a "find" and a "discovery."

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