

# 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  
 11 No Answer Call 5-7508

**Rubie W. Shakespeare** Advertising and Business Manager  
**Lynwood 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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## Democracy in Lincoln

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applicants seem to find no difficulty in getting teaching berths. In sharp contrast to the public school system, not a single private school in the city will accept Negro pupils.

Of the five hospitals in the city only two will accept Negroes. There are no Negro nurses and no available facilities for training Negro nurses. It was impossible to ascertain how many applications had been made for such training. Negro physicians cannot interne at the University of Nebraska Hospital nor any other in town. It is reported that the Methodist Church Board warned the director of the Bryan Memorial Hospital that the institution was likely to have its funds curtailed if it persisted in barring Negro internes and residents. Nevertheless there are none there.

### Right to Vote

Politically the Lincoln Negroes have no complaint. All who want to vote can do so. There is one colored policeman, a man in charge of a comfort station and some Negroes working in minor positions in most departments. Local Negroes call this "token" employment.

When it comes to the right of residence, the Lincoln Negroes have none to speak about although the recent U. S. Supreme Court decision may make a difference. As it is, they can neither rent nor buy outside a prescribed area. The banks, the building and loan associations and the insurance companies all combine nefariously to maintain the ghetto policy. A proposed housing project for Negroes was killed by real estate interests. Interestingly enough some 80 percent of the colored people own their own homes.

### Interracial Work

It is a hopeful sign that there

is some worthwhile interracial work being done to bring Lincoln close to the ideals of the sainted Emancipator. The Lincoln Council of Church Women is active in trying to broaden employment opportunities for colored people. Working in the same direction is the Social Action Council consisting largely of college people and with which some of the unions are cooperating. The latter group is also campaigning against the barring of Negroes by some restaurants. Its members visited five restaurants in the community and were successful in getting them to change their anti-Negro policies.

### Negro Members

St. Paul's Methodist church, the Catholic church and the University Episcopal church all have Negro members. The Nebraska State Holders Association is a religious interracial group with a colored man on its board. The Holiness, Methodist, Evangelical and other churches in the city have had Negro guest preachers.

Race relations generally are cordial within the set pattern. The Indians in the community identify themselves with the Negroes as has been historically the case almost everywhere in the country. The white people are chiefly of Russian and German extraction, and they compete for lowly jobs with the Negroes. As a result Negro employment in one of the big department stores declined from twenty-six to four in maid jobs.

### Well-Paid Job

In contrast, one of the oddities of life on Lincoln's interracial front is the fact that George Randol, veteran New York actor, who starred in "Anna Lucasta," is director of the Cirlet Theater, a little theater group which has a membership of white people. This is a well-paid job, and perhaps the only one of its kind held by a Negro in the U.S.

## Out of old Nebraska . . .

By James C. Olson  
 Superintendent, State Historical Society  
 One of the earliest inventions ever produced in Nebraska was the "roadometer," a device developed in 1847 by the Mormons under Brigham Young, making their long trek from Winter Quarters (now Florence, a suburb of Omaha) to Utah.

Those pioneer Mormons who struck out from the Missouri in the spring of 1847—Wednesday, April 14th, to be exact—were sure that they were the first of a great throng who would cross the plains and mountains to the valley of the Great Salt Lake. Holding these views (which proved to be absolutely correct), they were exceedingly anxious to provide information as accurate as possible for those who would follow.

Particularly concerned was Elder William Clayton, who as clerk of the company kept a detailed journal on the trip. He believed it especially important to maintain an accurate record of mileage, and out of that belief the roadometer was developed.

At first Elder Clayton contented himself with estimating the distance travelled each day. He found this unsatisfactory, though, because others in the company also estimated distances and almost invariably believed that his estimates were too low.

Being a patient, conscientious, determined man, Elder Clayton decided that he would remove all doubt by an exact calculation. So he measured the circumference of "the nigh hind wheel of one of Brother Kimball's wagons," being the one in which he slept, and calculated the number of revolutions it would make in a mile. He found it to be exactly 360, which, as he wrote in his journal, "somewhat astonished" him.

Having done that, the good Elder proceeded to count every revolution made by Kimball's "nigh hind wheel." Imagine, if you can, marching along, day after weary day, counting the revolutions made by a wagon wheel!

This method silenced Elder Clayton's critics, but it was wearisome almost beyond endurance. Consequently, he kept urging that some member of the company rig up a device that automatically would count the number of revolutions made by the wheel.

Finally, on May 17, the roadometer was completed and attached to the wagon. It was an ingenious device consisting of cogwheels made of wood which not only counted the wheel's revolutions but registered the distance travelled. It must have been with a great sense of relief that Clayton wrote in his journal, "We are now prepared to tell accurately the distance we travel from day to day which will supersede the idea of guessing, and be a satisfaction not only to this camp, but to all who hereafter travel this way."

## Sorrell

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and fundamental American principles—the right to full and equal political participation; the right to equal opportunity of employment; the right of security of person, and the right of equal treatment in the service and defense of our nation."

Jean Kennedy of Norfolk, alternate for Mr. Ritchie, cast a negative vote at Mr. Ritchie's request. No one pays any attention to Mr. Ritchie anymore because he has become a Jackal unequal in Nebraska's democratic history.

## Sports Scope

### Olympic Team Sails

The U.S. Olympic team sailed for London last Friday, but experts seem agreed that it is not the best team we could have sent. The Olympic committee, at its two-day meet, made no allowance for two of America's thinclads having an off-day. Charles Fonville, who has consistently won the shotput this past year, was out-tossed for his berth by a mere 58 ft. toss. Fonville was suffering from a shoulder injury. The other disappointment of the meets was Harrison Dillard's failure to place in the hurdles. Dillard quit the race after knocking over four hurdles to suffer his first loss after 82 wins in a row. However, he did win a berth for the sprints along with Mel Patton and Barney Ewell.

### 9 of 11-Woman Team Negroes

PROVIDENCE, R. I. (ANP). Three records were overshadowed in the course of the women's Olympic tryouts and Negro competitors gained 9 of the 11 places on the squad selected to represent the U.S. in the Olympic games in England.

Selected for the squad were: Audrey Patterson, Tennessee State College, who won the 200 meter dash and placed second in the 100 meter dash, and Mable Walker of Tuskegee, 1936 Olympic competitor, winner of the 50 meter dash at Milwaukee last week, and winner of the 100 meter. She won with a tremendous driving effort then was so overcome with happiness that she broke down and cried in the middle of the track.

Others taking berths for the games were Nell Jackson, Tuskegee; Bernice Robinson, Chicago; Theresa Manuel, Tuskegee; Alice Coachman, Albany State College, Ga.; Emma Read, Tennessee State; Lillian Young, Chicago; Mae Faggs, Police Athletic League, NYC, and two matrons who were outstanding in the Milwaukee meet, Frances Kaszubski, Cleveland, and Dorothy Dodson, Mundelein, Ill.

Alice Coachman drew the attention of every spectator in the gathering darkness as she surpassed the American high jump record and was about to attempt the Olympic record, but decided not to try when officials had to light matches in order to set the bar.

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## Rev. Goolsby, Former Lincoln Churchman, Visits City

Rev. Lewis S. Goolsby, former presiding elder of the AME Church in this area, was in town on business Wednesday. The former Lincoln pastor, before returning to his ministry in Missouri, visited his son, Charles, U. of N. senior and a number of friends. He recounted how, when attending the General conference at Kansas City in May, he received several votes for the episcopal office, although he was not an active candidate for that post there.

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## Independents Have Win and Loss, Blackbirds Flatten RR Men's Lassies

By Virginia Botts.

Hello again, sports fans. This week finds us with more games than usual. The RR Men's Social club girls team and the Independents both met plenty of opposition last Friday. The girls played the Blackbirds on the North diamond. There were some good hits in the game, but our girls lost. Delores Bowen was in the pitcher's box and Emma White wore the mask behind the plate.

Hazel Wilson is a swift little left fielder. That girl sure makes some good catches. Third base is held down by Betty Wilson, who can really scoop them off the ground. She really hustles that third base. On first Roma Henderson makes some plays like Holcomb. She catches everything that is within reach and is a hard hitter too. Next week we'll talk

about some of the other girls on the team.

The Independents won over the Freadrich Bros. squad, 13 to 7. This was a good game with the score the same as for the first game between these two teams.

On Thursday, however, the odds were against our boys. They lost their game to Reinhardt's. Just a streak of bad luck, but they will be right back Tuesday, fighting. Let's wish them better luck this time.

Dick Holcomb, first sacker, has been down with the asthma this week and the railroad got Johnnie Vaughn. These two regulars were really missed. Thursday (tonight) there will be an exhibition game between the Independents and the Goodyear nine. Let's all go out and cheer for the team. Good luck boys! That's all for this week, see you at the diamond.