

THE VOICE



Volume 2, Number 51

Lincoln 3, Nebraska

Thursday, September 16, 1948

Lincoln Staff Member Named To Staff Nebraska U Experiment Station Here

First Negro Employed Full Time In Long History of University

By CHARLES GOOLSBY

Mrs. Maude Stiles Coggs, 1952 "U" Street, become possibly the first Negro ever employed full-time as a staff member of the University of Nebraska, when on August 16, she was appointed research assistant in the animal nutrition department of the University of Nebraska Experiment Station in Lincoln. Mrs. Coggs' appointment marks a most significant milestone in the advancement of the race in our state and a most heartening demonstration of democracy by the university.

A native of Little Rock, Ark., Mrs. Coggs received her B.Sc. degree in home economics at Tuskegee Institute in 1945. Later that year she entered the Graduate College at the U. of N. and earned her M.Sc. degree in Foods and Nutrition in 1947. During the past year the attractive co-ed matron has pursued additional studies and worked as a graduate assistant in the foods and nutrition laboratories on the Ag college campus. The experiment station conducts a great deal of research of benefit to Nebraska and American agriculture. At present Mrs. Coggs says she is working on a bacterial essay for identifying vitamin B-12 (animal protein factor).

In addition to being an excellent scholar, Mrs. Coggs is a gracious homemaker. Her husband, Granville Coggs, is also a native Little Rockian. A veteran flier, he is an honor student in pre-med science at the university.

Popular with her associates, Mrs. Coggs is a member of Phi Upsilon Omicron, home economics honorary; Alpha Kappa Mu, national honorary society and Delta Epsilon chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. At Mt. Zion church where she is a member, she is editor of the church bulletin and sings in the choir.

7 Roped Into 'Slavery' Deal By Contractor

MUNCIE, Ind. (ANP). Seven men, four of whom are ex-servicemen, filed suit here last week against Sebastian B. Albergo, white contractor for the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad, charging that he roped them into a modern "slavery" deal in a railroad labor gang, on a promise to pay them \$11 a day for road-bed construction work.

According to the men, they signed up with the Lewis Burton employment agency in Chicago on Aug. 14 for the job. They said they were promised \$1.10 an hour or \$11 a day, with "free shipping" to the place of work. Albergo, the contractor, herded 24 men into a truck, "like cattle so that we could not sit down," and took them to Peru, Ind., where they put in a day's work.

Part of the group was then taken by train to Losantville, midway between Muncie and Richmond, where they worked in conditions "resembling a Nazi concentration camp."

According to the men, they



MRS. MAUDE COGGS.

Lott Garey Convention in Columbus

COLUMBUS, O. (ANP)—More than 1,200 delegates from 19 states, the District of Columbia and three foreign nations attended the 51st annual session of the Lott Garey Foreign Mission Convention of America in Columbus at the Shiloh Baptist church last week.

The group approved a \$100,000 building program in Liberia to be started at once and an overall \$340,000 building program.

A grand total of \$162,069.21 was contributed to the convention from all sources during the past year. Of this, \$89,598.12 came from public contributions. The Woman's auxiliary contributed \$10,000. First Calvary Baptist church of Norfolk, Va., led the churches in contributions with \$3,002. The organization has no liabilities, and has assets of \$72,577.06.

never knew what time it was when they started to work in the morning nor when they quit in the evening. Living quarters was a railroad car without bathing facilities. Toilets were hastily and crudely constructed affairs outside. All supplies were furnished by the contractor at double the market price, and they were forbidden to seek recreation in nearby towns.

At a recent mass meeting, attended by representatives of the NAACP, Whately Community council, Business and Professional Men's club and several churches, Atty. Clarence L. Benaduman, associate of Golden, declared "This is a clear violation of the 13th and 14th amendments of the constitution. It is a case of involuntary servitude."

NAACP Will Launch Fall Membership Bid

October 1st, the city chapter of the NAACP will hold its Fall dinner meeting and membership drive. The local branch, which has been encouraging citizens to register for the coming elections, will render the additional service of a mass meeting at which the views of all the active political parties will be aired. This promises to be a unique occasion and a type seldom encountered by voters, according to the Rev. Robert Moody, Branch President. Tickets are now on sale by members of the NAACP and all are invited to attend the meeting. Meantime, don't forget, there are only a few more days to register.

Postal Clerks Want Trials In Loyalty Cases

MIAMI (ANP). Old Jim Crow took the beating of his life here last week at the 25th convention of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks, and succumbed when he observed three Negro delegates being accorded every privilege extended to the 1,500 other members attending the conclave.

And to cap the climax (poor old Jim won't know until the ants bring him the news), that the convention went on record in their approval of anti-lynch legislation and civil rights for all Americans.

The three Negroes who saw Democracy at work at the Miami convention were all from Washington, D. C., and were members of NFPOC, Local No. 148. They are Ernest C. Frazier, delegate and organizer; William J. Claytor, delegate and president, and Royal R. Robinson, delegate from financial secretary.

From the day of registration until the adjournment of the convention, the three Negro members, according to their own statements, had never experienced before such showing of brotherly affiliation.

Mr. Claytor said, "I never expected to find this kind of democratic treatment in Miami." It was equally puzzling to Frazier and Robinson that they should come south to see democracy at work, and in the city where they hoped least to find it.

Resolutions pertaining to the civil rights of all Americans were introduced and approved by the several committees and without hesitation.

George Ernewein, N. Y. State Federation, read a resolution, the tenets of which follows:

1. Enactment of a federal anti-lynching law; 2. Enactment of a federal anti-poll tax law; 3. Enactment of a fair employment practice law; 4. Statutory prohibition of federal grants to any

National Urban League Meets In Richmond; Cites Jobs, Goals

World Churches Reject Racism

AMSTERDAM, Holland. (ANP). Led by a group of active American delegates as well as colored delegates from other nations, the World Council of Churches meeting here for the past two weeks passed a resolution denouncing segregation and racial discrimination.

This meeting, the first in which churches of the Protestant faith ever met in a single body, met Saturday here Aug. 22-Sept. 4.

Race relations and the color issue were given major concern by the council in two of its four study sections. Negro church leaders from the United States, and others, fought what they felt to be a subtle but determined effort by certain European churchmen (especially the English and German) to ignore the race problem.

Dr. E. P. Murchison, editor of the Christian Index, official organ of the C. M. E. church, led the fight for a race relations resolution. He succeeded in getting the Council to amend its report on race relations to adopt a stronger, more definite and direct pronouncement against segregation. The amended resolution of the council read:

"The church knows that it must call society away from the racial prejudices and from the practices of discrimination and segregation as denials of justice and human dignity. Therefore we recommend that the churches take steps to eliminate these from the Christian community because they contradict all that the church believes about God's love for all His children."

Besides the work of Dr. Murchison, the efforts of Dr. W. H. Jernagin, Baptist; Dr. Julian Smith, CME; Bishop W. J. Walls, AME Zion; Bishop J. A. Hamlett, CME; Bishop D. Ward Nichols, AME; Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, Baptist, and Dr. J. Bracy, Baptist, all helped bring on the passage of a strong resolution.

Through speeches and committee work, these American Negro leaders, along with delegates from India, China, Africa and other colored groups of the world helped the council to see that a strong statement against discrimination was needed rather than a toned down one.

These hundreds of church leaders from every part of the world all expressed hopes that the voice of the World Council will be an effective one in eliminating race prejudices all over the world.

public or private agency permitting discrimination on race, color or creed; 5. Legislative bans on discrimination and segregation in the armed forces, transportation, hotels, restaurants and theaters; 6. Full trial rights for federal employees whose loyalty has been challenged with a clear and public announcement of loyalty standards.

The convention adjourned naming Cleveland, Ohio as the site of the 1949 meeting.

Negro Community Disorganized Says League Director

By ALVIN E. WHITE

RICHMOND. (ANP). The old "Capital of the Confederacy" put on its best front last week to entertain and educate the delegates of the National Urban League annual conference, Sept. 6 to 10.

Meeting in the south for the first time in many years, the Urban League carried a direct challenge to the area where its work is most needed, stressing as the conference theme "Race Relations, the Essential Spark of Liberalism."

Registrations at the conference headquarters, Virginia Union University, showed a representative group of liberal minded persons of both races.

Lloyd K. Garrison, president of the National Urban League, was chairman for the opening mass meeting held at historic Ebenezer Baptist church.

Arnold Walker, president of the executive secretaries' council and executive secretary of the Cleveland Urban League, discussed the organization with emphasis on programming services and professional leadership. He listed the important jobs the national office was doing: fact-finding, program development, establishment and improvement of standards, co-ordination and facilitating inter-local relationship, education and public relations and the enlistment of adequate public support and participation.

The Negro community, discussed by Nelson Jackson, director, National Urban League Southern Field division, was described as a disorganized entity because of many factors.

"Economic restrictions are prevalent beginning with higher rents," he said, "greater food costs, lower wage scales and dead end jobs. Schools are similar to cast-off clothing for use of the Negro as he takes over at the bottom rung of the socio-economic ladder. Health services are inadequate, distant or out of financial reach.

"Frustration and mental upset, while not measureable, are present as a direct result of discriminatory practices leveled at residents of Negro communities."

Mr. Nelson said the treatment of several of these problems is the Urban League responsibility, especially improving the living and working conditions of Negroes which include the use of community organization processes to provide better jobs, better housing, more adequate health services, vocational opportunities and welfare needs.

"We also seek to make communities better living places for all citizens by working dynamically for racial peace," he concluded, "we work therefore in disorganized communities because if they were organized and functioning, there would be no need for the Urban League program."

Mr. Clyde W. Malone, executive secretary of the Lincoln Urban League attended the meeting to represent the local organization.