

The Voice

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

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EDITORIALS

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Handsome Showcase of Colored And White Americans at Play Highlighted '48 Sports Season

By Alvin Moses.

NEW YORK. (ANP). So often we refer to King Sports as the great leveler. We invite suggestions that tend to show any field (excepting religion, possibly) that comes even remotely close to challenging this statement. When a colored boy plays for the first time in a southern football bowl, as it happened last year, I admit that is front-page news. Yes, played alongside heretofore intolerant sons of fathers who shed their blood because they believed continued human slavery was as right as it is to worship God. The breaking down of baseball's "dark-ages" policy that barred upstanding and talented Negro lads, reflects a fight that includes Negro and white members of the fourth estate.

Wendell Smith, of the Chicago Herald American, Joe Trimble, N. Y. Daily News, Sam Lacey, Dan Parker, N. Y. Daily Mirror, Joe Bostic, Bill Sullivan, publicity director of the Boston National League baseball club; Dan Burley, Bill Corum, N. Y. Evening Journal; Ric Roberts, Pat Lynch, United Press Service; Alvin White, Lewis Burton, N. Y. Journal staff; Rollo Wilson, Joe Sheehan, Kings Feature syndicate; Arthur Daley, N. Y. Times and... your humble reporter who has fought unremittingly since early youth on issues that call for "speaking out" where self-respect, fair play and full-mature manhood are on deck.

Now Comes Dividend Time

Glance back at rampaging Sandy Saddler, a 22-year-old throwback to a boxing immortal named George Dixon of Nova Scotia. Saddler went 30,000 miles in two years to gain a reputation while trying to get featherweight champ Willie Pep in the ring. The "Thin Champ" battered Pep to the canvas and captured his world's featherweight title on Oct. 29, 1948. Magnificent Harrison Dillard spearheaded the U. S. A.'s London Olympic gains, sprinting as did Eddie Tolan, Jess Owens and Ralph Metcalfe in other world games of yesteryear.

Sgt. Mal Whitfield, a super-Woodruff; Barney (hard-luck) Ewell, Steele, the peerless broad-jumper, lively Alice Coachman Olympic wonder-girl; Stewart, one of the most promising tennis players on the American scene; Joe (with-you-always) Louis, Ezzard Charles, Ray Robinson, Kid (The Hawk) Gavilan, Ike Williams, Jersey Joe Walcott, Smuggy Hersey, Marion Motley, Tom (Hop-along) Casey, Buddy (whizzbang) Young Michigan university's ailing Gene Derricote, a master footballer; Illinois' Paul Patterson, Yale's colorful Levi Jackson, Dan Bankhead, Roy Campanella, Larry Doby, "Satch" Paige, Sammy Jethroe,

Golfer Ted Rhodes, Donald Newcombe, Ulysses (crazy-legs) Curtis, Bill Willis, an all-time Ohio State guard who became all-AAC (All America Football conference) guard for the second time, playing with Paul Brown's Cleveland squad; Bob Dorssey, Ohio State's fast defensive left end who became the first colored student to be elected to Tau Beta Pi, national honorary mechanical-engineering fraternity.

Donald Newcombe, with a Branch Rickey \$500,000 price label on him, was considered worth at least \$150,000 by a prominent National league executive. The 24-year-old ex-Newark Eagle star may move up to the majors along with Bankhead and Sammy Jethroe ere next April rolls along.

Boid Buie, one-armed basketball wonder of the Kansas City stars, Gene Burton, J. C. Williams, Michigan U. guards; "Deacon" Dan Towler, Washington and Jefferson grid marvel; Lucius Easter, whose home run with bases loaded rolled up a 14 to 1 victory for the Homestead Grays in the fourth game of the "Negro Baseball World series;" Jackie Robinson's radio debut on Nov. 15 made sport history we thought.

Chairman Howard and Alva Tabor, University of Nevada gridmen, against whom Tulsa U. refused to play. Men everywhere, who realize that sports have been a vital factor in building for better understanding and interracial harmony, flayed the policy since such incidents have been used as a sort of backdrop for anti-American propaganda; the Falcon Soccer Club, Dr. Reginald Weir's break-thru into the American tennis setup; the rise over physical handicaps of Chuck Fonville, finest shotputter (world record holder) in American track and field history; Footballers George Taliaferro, Indiana; Glen Pullens, Minnesota; Calvin Vernon and Bob Teague, Wisconsin; Jim Holland, Northwestern; "Howie" Thomas, Lincoln U.; Jimmy Robinson, Pittsburgh; Wally Triplett and Denny Hoggard, Penn State; Syracuse's Berne Custis; Jim Clark, Ohio State, Bucky Hatchett, Harvey Grimsely and Billy Pryor, Rutgers, Howard University's Gordon... Then there was 16-year-old Mae Faggs, Bayside H. S., L. I., spriner, who came within a

hairsbreadth margin of licking the great Stella Walsh in the 220 yard dash in the women's championships at Grand Rapids last July.

Staid and honored Harvard university, on Nov. 23, announced it had elected Howie Houston, 22, the 1949 football captain, and Frank Jones, 20, student football manager. Jones is the first Negro ever to be named to that post.

Cleveland Indians brought up two of the most promising colored baseball stars; N. Y. Yankees stated they (at long last) were definitely in the field for Negro diamond artists.

In his 1948 N. Y. debut, "Goose" Tatum, colorful basketball and baseball wizard of Abe Saperstein's "Harlem Globetrotters," tallied 22 points against the Philly Spahs at N. Y.'s 69th Regiment Armory last November.

The N. Y. Knickerbockers, pro basketball club, were shopping for a Negro star (Don Barksdale or Nat (Sweetwater) Clifton with a \$15,000 price tag hung around the necks of both these "greats" ... In 16 exhibitions during which he again faced Billy Conn, Joe Louis proved there is only one "woodchopper" despite 14 and 16 ounce pillows on his fists. Ezzard Charles, the best 175-pounder in the game was a "Jack the giant killer" against Joe Baksi whom he TKO'd in December... Charles did not impress me as a title threat to the still reigning Louis.

Kid Gavilan was a honey in all bouts as was Ike Williams and Sandy Sadler... Ray Robinson pulled out of the Steve Belloise scrap when spar mate Tiger Wade hung a golf-ball injury on his sixth and seventh ribs.

Gene Derricote, Michigan U., star was first Negro to be chosen for "East-West" gridiron classic. ... Tunnell, former Iowa ace, starred with N. Y. Giants football team... Southern university won over San Francisco in a keenly played "interracial" football game.

Life in 1948

Continued from Page 1. to Kansas City where the Church sat in its quadrennial session, Nebraska U students staged a demonstration in protest of the parking regulations and conditions. Albert Bowen and Betty Rose Huston were named "Duke and Duchess" and the U. S. Supreme Court declared that restrictive covenants were "not in accord with U. S. policy."

June brought its usual good weather. Peaches Wintons gave her perennial recital. President Truman visited the state, marched with his old outfit in Omaha and shook hands with Eddie Dunn, then mayor of Boys Town. Of course there were a flock of graduations and A. Philip Randolph was planning his march on Washington. Obbie Brown became head of the Wiley Chemistry department and candidates for various political offices began tossing their hats into the rings. Louis beat Wolcott by a close shave. SAC announced the beginning of its drive for FEPC in Nebraska and Schuyler published his story on Life in Lincoln.

Came August and I left for my "vacation" along with Associate Editor Parker and while we were away, Bryan Memorial Hospital announced that it would accept Negro applicants for training. The World Council of Churches met in Amsterdam and among other things condemned racism as un-

Christian. Rev. T. T. McWilliams, Sr. was named Chairman of the Midwest District of the Church of Christ (Holiness). Jane Molden received a scholarship to Princeton U. for advanced study in social work and the Voice Scholarship for nurse training was announced. In South Carolina 30,000 Negroes cast their ballots in a primary election for the first time since reconstruction days. Rev. Shakespeare, Voice entrepreneur sampled life on the sunny shores of California.

September came—hot and dusty. Mrs. Maude Coggs became first Negro employed full time by the University of Nebraska as she worked at research to solve vital problems for Nebraska's farmers. Miss Jane Mae was still working with the Smithsonian Institute team on ancient remains of prehistoric Nebraska Indians. Of course school started. This was also the month that Count Folke Bernadotte was killed and Dr. Bunche ascended as chief mediator in the Palestine war.

In October the Great Lakes Training Station, the Navy's biggest, dropped its racial bias. By this time the political battles were getting pretty hot. Biggest opponents: Truman vs. Dewey vs. Wallace. The Voice celebrated its second anniversary.

In November, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey all reported successful operations of their Fair Employment statutes. Elections saw a good, strong, Republican victory in Nebraska with the Democrats taking the national tilt. George Randol starred in "Emporer Jones" at the Circler Theater with Elbert Starks as the voodoo king. Duffy scored for UCLA when the Westerners downed the Huskers in a hard fought game (—all the way). Phi Psi Fraternity caused a ripple in the news over the initiation of Thomas Gibbs at Amherst College. Religionist took a couple of swats at racism during religion in Life Week. California courts invalidates its ban on interracial marriages. The Christian Rural Overseas Program loaded up tons of food for hungry nations of the world (from 44 states to 43 countries). Lincoln Church Women declared themselves as favoring

FEPC. Dr. Adams of Omaha became first Negro senator in the Unicameral in a decade.

Well that's the stuff that has made our lives during the past twelfth month—and what does it show? There is a definite trend in events toward a "liberalizing" of the "American" way to make it more of a "Democratic" way (no reference to parties here). As cited by Madison Jones in April, it is part of a world movement that has found expression in a half dozen little wars over the globe—San Domingo vs. Br. Honduras, Israeli vs. the Arabs, a revival of the Indonesian Republican movement, the Pakistan—Hindustan disagreements and the Costa Rican wars have all been attempts by the oppressed to shake off the enslaving terms of one-sided government. In this respect, we in America can be thankful that an ever increasing number of enlightened people will bring a realization to a majority of its citizens that the present plight of minority groups is inconsistent with the great moral principals to which our country subscribes. It is good that here a revolution is not necessary. With ever-increasing numbers of people becoming free to vote, we may look confidently forward to the time when not race but ability will be the standards by which society will judge its members. And what gives that hope?

In Nebraska, even as you read this, drafts for a code of fair employment is being made. Back in Washington, President Truman's program of Civil Rights will get back into the Congress and with its passage, much of the anti-American propaganda in other parts of the world will be invalidated and with such an enlightened approach to human problems Joe Stalin's boys will have to 'fold their tents like the Arabs and quietly steal away.'

We look forward to a 1949 filled with hope and a promise that will enable America to become greater than ever, for it will aid its citizens, all of them, to contribute to society the very best of their creative and productive capacities.

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