

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

The views expressed in these columns are those of the writer and not necessarily a reflection of the policy of The Voice.—Pub.

BRASS FACTS

A few months ago there appeared in this publication a small column known as Brass Facts by Your Editor. This I gave up because I believed that I did not have the time to give it the proper attention. Since that time I have received mail from various places from many people asking why I did not return in such a column. After some careful consideration I decided to once again come back to you with Brass Facts.

During my absence I was asked many questions on many subjects one very recent, which I shall try to answer in short. While

in an office one day I was asked how I felt about the way the national election went, since that I came out with an editorial so strong for the republicans. Well there is only one way that I can answer this question in short and that there were a lot of people talking republican that voted democrat. However I believe that the G.O.P. must scrap their old Ideas and put before the people a program that is appealing. No longer can they expect to win elections on the old time harping and knocking, but must spring back with hard work and sound facts.

Gov. Folson Names Four to Group To Study Schools

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (ANP). Four Negro educators were placed on the "Committee of 35" appointed by Gov. James E. Folson to study the problem of professional and graduate training for Negro people and recommend a program to bring the educational offerings to Negroes in Alabama in line with the decision of the U. S. supreme court.

Although the composition of the committee includes civic, religious and educational leaders, Negro representation was limited to four educators in the employment of the state. They are Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee institute; Dr. H. Council Trenholm, president of Alabama State college; Dr. J. F. Drake, president of Alabama A. and M. college, and Dr. R. C. Hatch, the state supervisor of Jeannes teachers and executive secretary of the Alabama State Teachers association.

Oakland, Calif., to Vote on FEPC

OAKLAND, Calif. — Oakland city council has voted to submit a municipal FEPC ordinance to the voters in the April primary election. The ordinance would make unlawful employment discrimination by the City of Oakland and persons hereafter acquiring city contracts or franchises.

Dr. J. M. Brewer Named American Folklore Society

TORONTO, Canada. (ANP). Dr. J. Mason Brewer, director of research at Samuel Houston college in Austin, Tex., and the first Negro to become a member of the nine-man research committee of the American Folklore society, chalked up another first during the 60th annual Christmas week meeting of the organization when he was appointed a member of the council of the society.

In addition, Dr. Brewer made his third appearance on the society's program when he delivered an address on "Folklore as a Tool in Inter and Intra-cultural Education." His other appearances were at Yale university and the Palmer House in Chicago during the society's meetings.

The society's council decides policies, elects officers and governs activities of the group. Elevation to councilship is the highest honor the organization can bestow upon its members.

In his address before the society, Dr. Brewer stressed the fact that "we hear much about changes in the geography of the land, but what we need is a change in the geography of the heart." He said that the use of folklore as a tool in intercultural education "is one of the best ways to make all men realize the common humanity."

Author of three collections of American Negro folklore tales,



by JAMES C. OLSON, Superintendent STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For most Nebraska farmers, it's an easy matter to jump in the car and run to town. For the pioneer farmer, it was no easy matter. It was a major problem and one whose solution had to be planned for days in advance.

Indeed, one of the most serious hardships associated with pioneer farming was the difficulty of getting to town. In many cases, towns of any size were far away. At first there were no roads and the settlers had to go across the open prairie, following the line of least resistance, much as the buffalo and the Indian had done before them.

Streams always presented difficulty. There were no bridges and ferries were few and often expensive. Hence, the only solution was fording, unless the season happened to be cold enough so that the traveler could cross on the ice.

The winter season, indeed, was the one most frequently chosen for the infrequent trip to town. The good weather of summer, spring, and fall had to be utilized for farm work or claim improvement. Occasionally, there were spring and fall trips, though, and these often proved most enjoyable, with the women folk making the journey as well as the men.

Travel in winter was not easy, and was beset with many dangers. Probably the most serious was danger from the frequent blizzards which swept across the prairie, catching the traveler miles from home and without adequate shelter. Many who perished in the great blizzard of Jan. 12, 1888 were going to or from town.

In the more unsettled parts of the state, the trip to town and back would take several days. Frequently three or four settlers would make the trip together.

Whenever a settler went to town, it was customary to do errands for the neighbors. This made possible less frequent trips for each individual. In particular, the man who went to town brought back the mail for the entire community.

Though the trip to town was hard, it usually was looked upon as worth the effort. It made possible the exchange of what little money was available for some of the comforts of life and food to vary the somewhat monotonous diet produced at home. More than that, it provided an opportunity variation in the daily routine.

Dr. Brewer has reviewed books in the folklore field for the Journal of American Folklore and the Southern Folklore quarterly.

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'Oberlin's Establishment'

By now you have probably heard many fine things about Oberlin. I know you've heard about Oberlin Music Conservatory. Well, here is how Oberlin College started. In Lane Theological Seminary in Cincinnati, the students started discussing slavery, much to the distaste of some of the southern students in the school. The information was taken to the school's trustees who immediately said that the discussion of slavery in the school was strictly forbidden. Because of this statement, four-fifths of the students withdrew from the school and under leaders like Asa Mahan and John Morgan, established Oberlin College.

There were so many Caucasians with anti-slavery attitudes that it isn't possible to discuss all of them here.

"The more intense the abolition agitation grew, however, the more sectional the movement became. Backward as the institution of slavery seemed, the South became more and more attached to it and would not countenance any attack on it. Not only was the old-time abolitionist in danger there after 1840, but the ordinary observer who suggested moral suasion held his social position by precarious tenure. Cassius M. Clay was driven out of Lexington, Kentucky, by pro-slavery citizens who could not tolerate the anti-slavery sentiments expressed in his *True American*. Upon receiving some copies of the "Emancipator" which he loaned to white friends while in Washington, Dr. Reuben Crandall of New York was arrested and imprisoned on the charge of inciting a riot among the slaves. After waiting trial eight months in jail, he was declared, not guilty. An English traveling book seller was whipped and driven out of

Vets Administration Sets Up FEPC Board In Mississippi

JACKSON, Miss. (ANP). In accordance with President Truman's Executive Order 9980, decreasing fair employment practices in all federal agencies, the Veterans Administration has organized FEPC boards in Mississippi, it was announced here last week.

In the order approved by hospital manager, C. Camp, section five reads: "Employee, who have a grievance resulting from a personnel action in which discrimination is alleged, shall be entitled to make a formal or informal complaint to the division chief not later than 30 days after he learns of the alleged acts.

"If adjustment cannot be made at that level, it will then be referred to the appropriate manager. Whenever the division chief and the manager are unable to obtain proper understanding and adjustment, the complaint will then be referred to the fair employment hearing board for necessary consultation and hearing.

"In the event the complainant is dissatisfied with the action taken by this board, he may appeal his case to the appeals board listed above."

With this setup in action Negro workers have the right to equal chances for promotion and employment with those of whites.

Petersburg, Virginia in 1832 because, not knowing the temper of the South, he dared to say at the time of the Nat Turner insurrection excitement that the blacks as men were entitled to their freedom and should be emancipated. Amos Dresser, a student of Lane Seminary and of Oberlin College, was whipped and expelled from the State of Tennessee because, while selling books in that State, he had a copy of the "Emancipator" wrapped around a Bible left in a Nashville hotel."

"C. G. Woodson, 'The Negro in Our History,' pp. 323-324.

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