

# The Voice

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

"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

Hubie W. Shakespeare..... Advertising and Business Manager  
 Rev. J. B. Brooks..... Promotion Manager  
 Dorothy Greene..... Office Secretary  
 Mrs. Joe Greene..... Circulation Manager

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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.

## The Voice Salutes The Lincoln Urban League

The Voice takes great pride in paying tribute to the Lincoln Urban League which is rendering an invaluable service in crystalizing interracial relationship in the city of Lincoln.

The Urban League, a Red Feather service of our country, is an important architect of our future—helping to build finer, safer, more attractive communities for the good of everybody. The solution, primarily is economic. When Negroes and other minority groups are employed on the basis of their ability and qualifications without discrimination, most of the other "race problems" will be solved.

The executive secretary, Clyde W. Malone, his staff, and board of directors are to be commended

for the gains they have made in bringing about a closer fellowship among men and women of good will who are well informed and able to co-operate and assist in seeking greater opportunities for people of color with ability and qualifications.

The job is far from being completed. Only a beginning has been made. The League must continue to work to obtain its objectives, among which is to raise the community's standard of living so that the total community will benefit.

Our Salute to the League this week is with the hope that it can continue to alert an increasing number of people that an underprivileged minority is a liability to the community.

## Salesmen Making Most of VOICE'S Sub Campaign

The VOICE's sensational subscription campaign is getting well under way now with response very good locally and in outlying parts of the state and even from farflung former Nebraskans over the country. In the next few weeks I want to acquaint you with some of the fine people that are working in the drive.

Frank W. Hale, 2137 R Street, is working for scholarship money. Hale attended Oakwood, and Union colleges and gained his B.A. degree in speech and political science at the University of Nebraska last January. At present he is in the Graduate college working toward a masters degree in the same fields. To finance his further education, Mr. Hale is selling subscriptions to THE VOICE. Mr. Hale is perhaps best known as being the director of the Hub of Harmony quartet so popular in Lincoln and Nebraska towns.

Cecil Whitebear, 2255 S Street, is another energetic young man who is joining the sales drive. Many Lincolnites will remember him as one of the coaches of the Lincoln Urban League basketball team this past season (the team made the city semi-finals, los-

ing by one point). Whitebear is a former University of Nebraska employee and most recently has worked as a census taker. Now that census taking is over for him, and he has no other job prospect, handsome and personable Mr. Whitebear will be selling subscriptions on a commission basis.

For the membership at Quinn Chapel church, we have made a slight alteration in awards to fit their needs. They are seeking 2,000 subscriptions for which THE VOICE will award them a Hammond electric organ from the Schmoller and Mueller Piano Co. in lieu of a 1950 Ford from O'Shea Rogers. The Laymen's League is sponsoring the drive by its church members.

If your church, club, or lodge would like to work for any of the valuable and useful premiums offered, please contact Rev. Melvin L. Shakespeare, 2225 S Street, Lincoln, Neb., or phone 5-6491.



by JAMES C. OLSON, Superintendent  
 STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

One of America's important historic houses is Arbor Lodge, the home of J. Sterling Morton, just west of Nebraska City on U.S. highways 73-75, and now the principal attraction at Arbor Lodge State Park. Because of its beauty and historic significance, Arbor Lodge will always be important to Nebraskans. Around Arbor Day—April 22—the home of the man in whose fertile brain the holiday originated takes on a special meaning. Aside from its association with Arbor Day and many historic personages, Arbor Lodge is significant because it represents the best in western homemaking.

The present magnificent mansion had its beginning in 1855, when J. Sterling Morton—then a boy of 23—bought a claim west of Nebraska City on which he built a small frame house. It would seem unprepossessing to the modern eye, but in its day it occupied an important place on the Nebraska horizon. There was not a single frame house between it and the Rocky Mountains.

From the very beginning, young Morton expended a great deal of energy and considerable sums of money on the improvement of his home. In the early years money was not plentiful and the expenses of a household of four growing boys were at times quite burdensome. Yet on the flyleaf of Morton's diary for 1866 (now in the Morton collection, housed in Love Memorial Library at the University of Nebraska), we find a note to the effect that in 11 years since staking out his claim he had spent more than \$7,000 in cash for improvements.

On the grounds surrounding the house trees were planted each year. The fine grove whose sheltering branches invite picnickers to Arbor Lodge State Park is a result of this practice of annual tree planting, begun in 1855.

Perhaps the most marked improvement came in 1879, as the Mortons prepared to celebrate their silver wedding anniversary. In anticipation of that event, a new apple orchard was set out, and the country house, which had been added to room by room as the need arose, was transformed into a country mansion, replete with the wide verandas and glin-

gerbread so characteristic of the period after the Civil war.

When the work was completed, J. Sterling Morton wrote to his sister with evident pride: "The house contains now including halls and closets &c between 25 and 30 rooms and is 64-42 feet and is paid for and unmortgaged."

The mansion was enlarged and completely altered in appearance twice after 1879. . . . Through it all, though, the original structure was retained, and may be observed when visiting the Lodge today.

The story of Arbor Lodge bears witness to the fact that the man who developed it put into eloquent practice one of his favorite declarations: "Love of home is primary patriotism."

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