

The Voice

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

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

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Business Address 2225 S Street
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 Publisher and Editor
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 Member of the Associated Negro Press and Nebraska Press Association
 Entered as Second Class Matter June 9, 1947, at the Post Office at Lincoln, Nebraska under the Act of March 3, 1879.
 1 year subscription \$7.50 Single copy 10c
 Out of State 1 Year Subscription \$2.50—Single Copy 10c



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



by JAMES C. OLSON, Superintendent
 STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

One of the great bottlenecks on the overland trail was the Kanesville crossing between the present cities of Omaha and Council Bluffs.

Kanesville, forerunner of Council Bluffs, was developed by the Mormons into an important outfitting center for Utah-bound emigrants. In addition, the early 1850's saw Kanesville increasing in importance as a jumping-off place for California-bound gold seekers. As a result, the facilities at the little village often were crowded beyond capacity.

Especially the ferries. The Mormons had a ferry up the river, at the site of old Winter Quarters (now Florence), and another one operated down river at the Council Bluffs Agency (now Bellevue). There was no good landing directly across from Kanesville (now Omaha), and while ferries of a sort were available there, they gave very poor service.

The situation can best be described by those who had to put up with it. E. W. Conyers, who was at Kanesville in May, 1852, wrote:

"Some one of our camp makes daily trips to the different ferry-landings to see what chance there will be for us to cross the Missouri River and resume our trip across the continent. They report that there are but two small scows that are now ferrying. Two wagons make a load for either scow, and they are propelled by two men using oars, and they charge \$4 per wagon, and we swim our cattle. Only think of it! Two small scows to transfer this great emigration across the Missouri River... The current is very swift in the river and accidents happen every day to one or the other scows..."

John T. Kern, at Kanesville about the same time, wrote: "Their way of ferrying here is very poor indeed. Their boats are old-fashioned flats. It was, or is a dangerous undertaking for any one to cross in these boats. One man was drowned and several more barely escaped with their lives. The current being very

Thomas Accepts Appointment As Member on President's Committee

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Julius A. Everett L. Hollis, Atomic Energy Commission; and John D. Small, Industrial Relations of the National Urban League, has accepted

Department of Defense. In establishing the Contract Compliance Committee, President Truman declared that government contracts for almost ten years had included a clause requiring contractors not to practice discrimination in employment because of race, creed, color or national origin. Compliance with this requirement, he said "had not been secured by any system of uniform regulation, or inspection, common to all the contractors and their employees". It will be the function of the Compliance Committee to see that all government procurement agencies give the same attention to the anti-discrimination provisions of government contracts that they now give to other contract requirements.

The Committee was established by Executive Order 10308 issued by President Truman last December 3rd but was not appointed until January 10th when Dwight R. G. Palmer, chairman of the General Cable Corporation, was appointed chairman of the group. Other public members of the Committee are: James B. Carey, secretary-treasurer, CIO; Dowdal H. Davis, general manager, "Kansas City Call"; Irving M. Engel, chairman, Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee; Oliver W. Hill, Richmond, Virginia, attorney; George Meaney, secretary-treasurer, American Federation of Labor. Committee members representing government procurement agencies are: Russell Forbes, Defense Materials Procurement Agency; Michael J. Galvin, Under Secretary of Labor;

strong, it requires great care in being safe."

Whenever possible, steamboats stopping at Kanesville on their way up the river, were pressed into service as ferry boats.

It is not surprising that before long some enterprising citizens devised a means of improving the ferry service. That occurred in 1853 when the Council Bluffs and Nebraska Ferry Company was organized. The company procured a new steam ferry boat, the *General Marion*, and soon cornered most of the ferry business across the Missouri at Council Bluffs (as Kanesville was renamed that year).

United Nations News

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. (ANP) — A sum of \$300,000 has been set aside by the Belgian Government for the construction of a naval base in the Lower Belgian Congo. With the addition of \$100,000 remaining from last year's budget for the same purpose, the new appropriation brings the total sum, available in 1952 to \$400,000.

The special budget for 1952 of UN Trust Territory Ruanda-Urundi provides for credits totaling \$1,366,540 which will be used to finance the following project:

- (1) Final repairs, Nynabarongo Roadway, \$30,000; (2) Completion of Astrida-Shangugu Road, \$190,080; (3) maintenance and repair of road equipment, \$60,000; (4) asphaltting Uvira intersections, \$180,360; (5) housing for Europeans (whites) in Usumbura, \$619,040.

- (6) construction costs of Usumbura telephone and telegraph serv, \$15,100; (7) asphaltting and sidewalk construction in Usumbura, \$129,100; (8) electricity and water supply for Astrida and Kigali, \$22,960; and (9) equipment purchases for geological and hydrological research, \$76,900.

In the 15-month period ending March 31, 1952, 65 counties received technical assistance from the United Nations, according to a secretariat report to the current session of the UN economic and social council. The report describes last year's work in the field of technical assistance as "round two" — when government requests were mainly for aid in carrying out project recommended by earlier missions.

African countries which have received UN technical assistance administration has commented that currently the main problem has been finding properly qualified experts who were willing to take an assignment. Last year, he asserted, requests were few since

Achievement Mirror of the World

What happened to the series of arrests in the Ku Klux Klan flogging cases in southeastern North Carolina's notorious Horry County, that came to light earlier in the year?

Answer No. 1 came last week from the Columbus County trial in Whiteville...

Answer No 2 has come out of the trial held this week in Wilmington, in Federal Court before Judge Don Gilliam...

Answer No. 3 will come in the disposition of four other Ku Klux Klan flogging cases in which men have already been arrested. These will be tried in North Carolina courts...

All this adds up to a first-rate North Carolina and federal government effort to deal with a vicious crime wave. It is highly encouraging. Back of it is the deplorable fact (as printed) that in this one county of Columbus some 1,500 suckers were induced to join the Ku Klux Klan...

Yet there is now strong hope that the back of this lawlessness and violence is broken. There are signs that the reign of terror has ended. There is evidence that the air is cleaner, that men and women are unafraid, that even the dupes who paid up and paraded in search of some outlet for their emotions know (as some of them have testified) that this is essentially a violent outfit which feeds upon its own violence. This is an achievement of which North Carolina is entitled to feel proud. —Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

governments were not fully aware of the program.

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