

# THE VOICE

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

**Melvin L. Shakespeare**

Publisher and Editor

Business Address 2225 S Street Box 2023 2-4085  
If No Answer Call 5-7596

Rubie W. Shakespeare Advertising and Business Manager  
Dorothy Green Office Secretary  
Mrs. Joe Green 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.

## Army Integration Has Long Way to Go

By Claude A. Barnett

CHICAGO — (ANP)—Although various recent reports given to the press by such persons as Mrs. Anna Rosenberg, an assistant secretary of defense, say that integration of Negro and white troops in the army have progressed a long way, there is much evidence to the contrary in various camps in the United States.

Last week while President Harry S. Truman was reporting to 25,000 Negroes in front of the offices of ANP that he sees army jimcrow fading away, ANP received in its hands evidence of gross discrimination against Negro soldiers in Fort Sill, Okla.

It appears that outside the United States, overseas commands are beginning slowly to carry out the President's orders in regard to equal opportunity for all men in the armed forces.

Within the United States, however, it seems that much needs to be done before the army can begin to brag about integration here.

Individual Negro newspapers have criticized the administrations of various camps within continental U.S.A., and so have soldiers. The GI's who suffer from this bias, however, dare not com-

plain too openly. According to reports from Fort Sill, here is a basic list of nine evils making life miserable for Negro soldiers stationed there:

**SCHOOLS**—Schools are run on new modern school, but only white children may attend. White children ride to school in army buses provided by the post driven by men on the government payroll. Colored youngsters have to go to school in Lawton, Okla. in a 1948 Dodge bus furnished by the state of Oklahoma and driven by a boy, 19 years old.

**NCO CLUBS**—The post has two clubs for non-commissioned officers, but No. 1 is for white NCO's and No. 2 for Negroes. White occasionally visit No. 2, but Negroes cannot become members of No. 1.

**INTEGRATION OF UNITS**—There is very little integration at Fort Sill. There is some token integration of Negro enlisted men in lower grades in certain standard units, but that is all. The attitude here appears to be that (according to a statement accredited to a high ranking white officer) Negroes cannot compare to white soldiers and there really seemed (Continued on Page 3, Col. 2)

## Christmas Cotillion to Honor Mrs. Roosevelt to Be in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (ANP)—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, often called the world's "First Lady," will be presented the Diamond Cross of Malta, by the Philadelphia Cotillion Society at its fourth annual Cotillion, according to Eugene Wayman Jones, executive director.

Cotillion officials are planning for 10,000 people at the affair Dec. 30, to be held at Convention Hall.

The Cotillion also will include the fantasy, "The Golden Flamé," and formal presentation of over 100 young people.

Famed band leader Count Basie and his orchestra will furnish music. Two other dance bands and a symphony orchestra are planned to accompany the spectacle.

The Philadelphia Cotillion Society, a non-profit cultural organi-

zation, this year plans to found and maintain a Heritage House. This Heritage House will symbolize the strength and greatness of the Negro through the ages, and will be open to all who visit Philadelphia. The various sections of the planned Heritage House will include murals, and, other works of art, including literature to show the advancement of the Negro.

Among the charities of the non-profit Cotillion Society are the NAACP, Fellowship House, music and ballet scholarships, as well as other cultural and civic organizations.



by **JAMES C. OLSON**, Superintendent STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

An exhibit that attracts a great deal of attention in the State Historical Society's museum in the capitol — particularly at this time of year — is that showing the Lillie corn husker, an improvement upon the husking peg, invented in 1890 by W. F. Lillie of Rockford, Neb.

As agriculture moved out to the prairies of the Middle West, and large fields of corn replaced the small patches grown by farmers in the eastern states, the problem of adapting harvest methods to the needs of quantity production became a pressing one. On old eastern farms, with from three to five acres devoted to corn production, the corn was cut and shocked in advance of frost and later husked and thrown on the floor in the corn crib. In Nebraska from an early date most of the corn was husked in the field after it had matured.

To the pioneer farmer, husking corn with cracked, bleeding hands was an unpleasant and seemingly never-ending task in the late fall and winter months. Nebraska farmers quickly adopted such devices as were made available to help ease that task.

The first invention used to help lighten the burden of husking corn was the husking peg, a small, round piece of hard wood sharpened at one end, some six inches in length, held in the hollow of the right hand, and kept in place by a loop of buckskin or other soft leather. The sharpened end of the peg was thrust into the husks at the tip end of the ear, enabling the operator to husk the ear quickly and efficiently.

W. F. Lillie invented his husker as a means of helping out his father-in-law who had lost his right thumb at the second joint and could no longer husk corn. Mr. Lillie cut a peg out of an old scoop and his father-in-law found that with its use he could husk corn as well as ever. Lillie realized the value of the device and experimented with a variety of hooks, of different shapes and sizes, all cut from old shovels. He patented his device in 1893.

Mr. Lillie was a man of very limited means. He found it difficult, therefore, to develop and

## Negro Knoxville Schools Cop All Honors in Fire Prevention Contest

By Dr. O. B. Taylor

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—(ANP)—Negro school took top honors in all three categories of the 1952 fire prevention contest, sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, collaborating with the bureau of fire prevention, on a city-wide basis.

The schools, which received bronze plaques, are:

Cansler elementary, Mrs. Edna Murdock-Le Flore, principal; Beardsley junior high, Monroe Senter, principal, and Austin senior high, O. T. Hogue, principal. J. W. Carroll, chief of the casualty division of the JCC, presented the plaques to the schools. H. N. Witt, chief of the city bureau of fire prevention, said during ceremonies at Cansler school, "I am proud that these boys and girls are learning so early in life how to prevent fire hazards."

merchandize his invention. He traveled widely through Nebraska, Kansas, Illinois and Iowa giving demonstrations. The device caught on, but Mr. Lillie lost control of it, and though his device — or modifications of it — sold well he did not reap much financial reward.

Nevertheless, as late as 1921 a Nebraska hardware firm which had placed its first order for Lillie huskers in 1893 was reported to be still handling them and selling ten times as many as of husking pegs.

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