

THINGS THEATRICAL

(FOR ANP)
By Franklyn Frank

The Congo Goes Around and Round and The News Is Fused Out Here

Chicago, Jan.—All last week Dave's Cafe was up in the air over the removal from the floor show by Child Labor Law officials of Kenneth and Leroy, the two kid dancers. This duo, both under 12, had been dancing for a year, apparently meeting full requirements of this statute. Belief was expressed that rival spots wanted to get his attraction out of circulation.

Chorus gals at one of the better known clubs were told by the producer to cut down on roofers as cops who cut their way through the heavy-smoke to the muggle users might sprinkle a few \$200 fines around. But instead of taking this as useful information for their own good, the chorines get angry with the impressario.

Marguerite Wilkins, who will wed Jimmy White on her birthday, Feb. 24, won't quit show business until next August. She and Jimmy are to dance in Atlantic City this summer. It took only a few glances from Marguerite's big brown eyes to make Jimmy ditch Nadine Douglas, his dancing partner and whom he told this column last fall he would marry after New Year's.

Jimmy explains the switch by saying "Nadine and I couldn't agree on some things." Marguerite will quit the theatrical profess to manage an undertaking parlor in Pennsylvania—not because she dislikes show business but because there's not enough money in the game.

Doc Huggins, The Distinguished

If there is ever a selection made of distinguished appearing men of Aframerica, Doc Huggins, owner of the Cafe De Paris and one of the mighty few septa night club proprietors in Chicago's Congo, will be well up in the running. Doc's place is, incidentally, the home of the Monkey Club, latest Southside organization that is making a bid for Sunday night popularity. Among stars who have appeared on the Monkey Club program are Chilton and Thomas, Duke Ellington, Ivy Anderson—with more coming up.

Within The Whirl

Believe it or not, but "Tan-ya" Bruce professes symphonic music to jazz for the execution of her amazing contortions—Duke Ellington, who with his band opened in Kansas City, Thursday, said he wanted to set Davis's poem from Black Man's Verse, entitled "Lynched," to music—Fletcher Henderson succeeds Earl Hines at the Grand Terrace, Saturday night—Eddie Cole, with his brother, Nat, at the piano, takes over orchestral duties at the Panama this week.

Earl "Grardown" Morris has found himself an Operator 25 to help out. This column and the Defender may sue him as we are supposed to be the only people with undercover men—Operator 22, to be exact; who wears a derby—Incidentally, there is a war to the finish on dirt digging between Morris, Dan "Backdoor" Burly, Jimmy "Monkey Club" Centry and Al "Wagon" Monroe. Each has sworn not to yield as long as there's a keyhole left.

Ernestine Shell is back at the Arcadia, replacing Zella Smith who trekked to a white spot. Ernestine, one of the McClain Sisters, was in Denver a few months ago while her sister

Lemus Concedes Fight To Railway Company Union

New York, Jan. 25—(ANP) "Look like the Railway Company," said Renzi B. Lemus, grand president of the Brotherhood of Dining Car Employees, when asked here last week by the Associated Negro Press who would be winner of the secret-ballot election now being conducted by the National Mediation Board among dining car cooks and waiters on the Pennsylvania Railroad. The brotherhood holds the contract, and has been challenged by Local No. 370 of the AF of L. The AF of L formally called on the Mediation Board to take jurisdiction, as provided in the Railway Labor Act amended, last July, and the secret-ballot is the result.

The Pennsylvania has never conceded the duty of Congress to enact a railroad labor law in virtue of which the employee's representatives could be absolutely free of managerial influence, according to Mr. Lemus, and whenever it does the railway company always seeks to impose some plan whereby its preference can prevail, he said.

The contract now covering the PRR cooks and waiters was negotiated by Mr. Lemus in 1921, provides the highest cooks wages of the entire dining car industry, rules that left little to be desired but never could be enforced "because the management insisted on its company union plan predominating and was abetted by the local representatives working in service who resented taking appeals to the higher officials on which occasions they could not be conspicuous," Mr. Lemus said.

"I recently secured compliance with all terms of our contract with the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, after dragging it through the National Mediation Board and the National Adjustment Board for a year," Mr. Lemus continued; "but I won it—even made them pay a crew for getting up twice at 2 A.M. to feed Duke Ellington's band after payment had been denied the crew on demand. That couldn't be done on the Pennsylvania because last June we went in for what the management always demands, a system board of adjustment made up of three officers of the company and three cooks, waiters, and the very chef-cook I put on that board

helped increase the population—Geary Johnson, the truckin' omeece, is due back at work this week after being forced to lay out six days because of an auto accident—Louise Beavers was a night club visitor all last week.

At one of the mazda marts, the chorus girls drawing \$15 weekly get more in their pay check than the assistant manager—Jimmy Smith is now at the Panama. His Stepphone is temporarily in the discard—Len Reed has found a spot for his band. He is doing Sunday night stands at the Regal—Warren "Pork Chops" Patterson, the 200 pound boy hooper, will be at Dave's another five weeks.

Assorted Shorts

Sally Tilers, the movie star has introduced the "Addis Ababa Choker" out yonder in Hollywood. This necklace is four inches wide, of heavy silver mesh, and studded with coral and turquoise stones. A bracelet, of African war mace motif, fashioned of Onyx, Turquoise studs and heavy gold, is also worn by Sally to keep up the good old Ethiopian mode in jewelry.

demand an employee for general chairman instead of Lemus."

According to Mr. Lemus the chief representatives under the system plan is the general chairman, appointed by the president of the brotherhood local, who makes all appeals in bi-monthly meetings with the General Superintendent of Dining Car Service. Mr. Lemus held the position for one meeting, on last July 2nd. At that time he secured return of the 240-hour month for certain employees who had been systematically deprived of it, got a rule providing a minimum of 4-hours pay for any employee held away from home station a calendar day and forced restoring of a normal kitchen crew complement on a crack train, in spite of bitter opposition by the superintendent. Nevertheless, he was forced to resign as general chairman for lack of due moral support and from last August up to now his successor a composite pantryman-3rd cook, has not made the first adjustment.

As Mr. Lemus sees it the men would lose should the brotherhood win the election for the excellent reason that the group now in control on the Pennsylvania, is as always, the "company union crowd" who will see to it that one's elected president who would always name an employee general chairman, and it is axiomatic of labor unions that a representative cannot also be an employee and a successful representative. That is why members pay dues and assessments in unions—to have competent representatives absolutely free of employer connections.

On the contrary, Mr. Lemus notes; "the record of the Pennsylvania in bitterly and successfully opposing AF of L unions is an open book, and in the event of Local 370's success it is wholly likely that they'll windup in the graveyard of no contract disputes—the Mediation Board, like Mr. A. Phillip Randolph's Pullman Porter's union, which also won a secret ballot election but can't budge in doing the main thing, getting a contract for porters and maids from Pullman; for the Mediation Board can determine disputes on representation but cannot make two persons or two groups enter into contract, and 370 has no contract for dining car men on the Pennsylvania." Now the railroad company is tossing the coin, and for the cooks and waiters it is "heads we win, tails you lose," the dining car union chieftain concluded.

A. F. Of L. Is Asked To Support Constitutional Amendment Dealing Human Rights

New York, Jan. 25—In a telegram to William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, meeting in Miami, Fla., the AF of L was asked today to support a constitutional amendment providing for the safeguard of human rights and liberties. The telegram was sent by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The association's telegram stated that it had seen in the press that the executive council of the American Federation of Labor had decided to ask an amendment to the federal constitution giving congress the power to enact legislation establishing minimum wages and maximum hours of work.

The association's telegram stated that the lynching of Joseph Shoemaker, a white labor organizer, in Tampa last month, proved that wages and hours of labor mean little or nothing unless fundamental human liberties and the right to

live free from mob terrorism are likewise established.

President John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers was asked by the NAACP to have his organization support such an amendment and other labor groups, including the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, and the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, were likewise asked to support the amendment.

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Tears and Heartache



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