

LINCOLN, NEBR., NEWS NOTES

The death of Leroy Mauldron at the state prison Friday, Dec. 4th, closed his part of a robbery of a grocery store and a murder that took place in Omaha in 1923. Many Omahans will call to memory that Leroy Mauldron was associated with Wesley in this robbery. They robbed Grogan grocery store on Seward St. At the time they robbed the store a customer attempted to slip out, by the name of Deerson, who was promptly shot and killed by Wesley. The two boys were located in a day or two, arrested, tried in the district court, found guilty and sentenced to be electrocuted. But in the meantime Wesley's mother and sister came

to Omaha from Oklahoma, and sought Rev. Burkhardt's help trying to get in a new trial, which the district court refused to consider. Rev. Burkhardt did not allow that to stop his efforts in the interest of the two boys. So he at once advised that Lawyer John Adams, sr., be brought into the case, which was done and the Omaha colored citizens raised a fund to pay the filing expenses of the application to the supreme court, in the interest of a hearing before that body which was granted. At the hearing of the supreme court, Leroy Mauldron's was changed from death to life imprisonment, and Wesley's electrocution was stayed for one year. During this stay Wesley became insane and Rev. Burkhardt asked for Wesley to be brought before the state board of insanity which was granted. Wesley was judged insane and was committed to the Lincoln asylum, where he stayed for just ten days. He called the superintendent of the asylum to his ward and told him he would rather go back to the prison and be electrocuted than remain there among those crazy folks, for if he remained there he would soon be as crazy as they were. Hence there wasn't anything for the superintendent to do but advise the pardon board of what Wesley had said, and he was ordered back to the prison. In a short time he was brought to Omaha and appeared before Judge Fitzgerald. He was recommended to electrocution on Dec. 30, 1927. Rev. Burkhardt, by accident, happened to be in Judge Fitzgerald's court when Wesley was brought in for resentencing and watched the procedure. He heard Wesley thank the Judge for resentencing him to die. Rev. Burkhardt at once resolved that Wesley was sure enough crazy and that he did not intend to let them kill him. At once he began to fight for Wesley to be commuted to life. Just eight days before the date of the electrocution Wesley was commuted to life in prison where he now survives his friend Mauldron. Because of Rev. Burkhardt's close relationship with the Mauldron case, the prison Chaplain invited Rev. Burkhardt, who a few days before Mauldron's death had been out and prayed with him, to associate him in depositing the last earthly remains of Mauldron in a grave among the American Legion veterans the rest of the World War veterans. The funeral services and attendants consisted of three. The chaplain, Thomas Maxwell, Rev. Burkhardt and the man who drove the hearse. No father, no mother, no brother, no sister to shed a tear or bid farewell to that poor boy. I wish you who read this article would resolve in your heart to believe that crime does not pay.

derived. The poem, I think is: "My old man's a white old man And my old mother's black, If ever I cursed my white old man I take my curses back. If ever I cursed my black old mother And wished she were in hell I am sorry for that evil wish And now I wish her well.

My old man died in a fine big house, My ma died in a shack, I wonder where I am gonna die Be'ng neither white or black? "His play has been running in San Francisco for several months and I do not know how long it will be here but the prospects are very encouraging. "He has turned playwright. He is not writing books just at this time. He works for the Esquire and for the American and for the Outdoor—several other smaller magazines. By now he has three plays. One play of his ran in Cleveland last year for 3 weeks. It will soon be on Broadway. They have tried to have Ethel Waters take a part but during this time she has been under contract. "Troubled Hours" was in Cleveland and Newark. "Mulatto" has been booked for the screen in Hollywood. He has another play he finished last year and the RKO manager has already been to New York to see what they are going to do about the play."

Harlem School To Be Enlarged This Year

New York, Dec. 19 (C)—In the Board of Education building program calling for the capital expenditure of \$30,000,000 next year, Harlem's Frederick Douglass Junior high school No. 139, in 140th St. between Seventh and Lenox avenues, is to get an annex at a cost of \$771,000. Overriding in this school is so bad at present that triple sessions are held.

EDITORIALS

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Race prejudice must go. The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man must prevail. These are the only principles which will stand the acid test of good.

All News Copy of Churches and all Organizations must be in our office not later than 5:00 p. m. Monday for current issue. All Advertising Copy or Paid Articles not later than Wednesday noon, preceding date of issue, to insure publication.



Business Week has published an interesting letter showing the business record state by state—comparing the first nine months of 1936 to the same period last year.

Biggest improvement in passenger motor car sales—38 per cent—occurred in the Pacific Coast states, with the Mountain group running a close second with 35 per cent. In commercial car sales, however, the East South Central states were first, up 37 per cent, with second place shared by the East North Central and West South Central States—which each showed an advance of 31 per cent.

The Middle Atlantic commonwealths led by far in heavy construction, with an improvement of 121 per cent. Second was the East South Central group, advancing 81 per cent.

Biggest gain in electric power output, 21 per cent, occurred in the South Atlantic group, with the Mountain group, second up 19 per cent.

Farm income gained most in New England, 23 per cent, with the Mountain states, West North Central and East North Central States, all showing a 16 per cent jump.

Value of checks drawn—one of the most accurate of business barometers—increased 19 per cent in the Pacific states, the largest gain. Second with 18 per cent were the East North Central states.

THE PRESIDENT AND PEACE

As baffling and complex as are all the epochal internal problems facing the nation in this era of great social flux, they could be reduced in one swift moment to secondary importance. Should the powder keg of war explode in Europe all else save America's attitude for the duration of that war would fade into comparative insignificance.

True, we have heard much of the powder keg, and it's never gone off. But unless all the major prophets are wrong, war will strike within four years, while Roosevelt is still in the White House.

There is much talk that the President, with his new and overwhelming mandate of confidence, will be a strong force for peace in the world. Dictators, they say, are pushing around the leaders of the two other big democracies, France and England, because the dictators have their people solidly behind them. There is talk of a Roosevelt move taking the form of an international conference to check the armaments race, and to pledge the boycotting of any aggressor in war.

It will be for the President to judge how far America should and wants to go in international co-operation. But if war breaks, his task of keeping us out of it will be the biggest job any man ever faced.

In the early morning a father was struggling to get some heat from the kitchen stove. Exasperated by the balky fire, he said "I'll wake it up!" and seized a can of kerosene.

Then the sleeping giant did awake. In the explosion and fire that followed, the entire family of six were killed.

Fire accidents are particularly prevalent at this cold season. People become impatient, try to quicken a fire with kerosene or still worse, gasoline. Needless to say, this is a practice that is never safe.

Fatal accidents from dry cleaning with gasoline, benzine or other inflammable liquids are also apt to occur. Housewives who have been attempting their own dry cleaning with these dangerous fluids in their backyards are forced to go inside by the cold weather. Here an explosive mixture of gasoline fumes and air is quickly formed in the confined space and only a tiny flame or spark is required to cause an explosion and fire.

Ten thousand persons lose their lives in fires annually, and an equal number are seriously injured. The property loss from fire averages about \$200,000,000 each year.

For the good of all, take every precaution to avoid fire and its painful and disastrous consequences.



Clarence Johnstone, internationally famous variety singer, who with his former partner Turner Layton, has been the rage in the European entertainment field for the past decade. They entertained the former King Edward VI!

when he was the Prince of Wales, frequently and perhaps had closer contact with him than any other person of color. The note is a command from St. James Palace for their appearance.

King's Colored Friend Describes Monarch's Democratic Habits

Chicago, Dec. 24 (ANP)—Clarence Johnstone, silver haired singer who, as a member of the international famous team of Layton and Johnstone, rose to become one of the highest salaried and most sought after entertainers of the group, sat in the Associated Negro Press offices here Tuesday and related intimate experiences during his association with the former King Edward, VIII, who abdicated from the throne of England. Mr. Johnstone and his partner had perhaps enjoyed closer contact with the king when he was Prince of Wales than any other person of color. An ardent admirer of the now Duke of Windsor, Mr. Johnstone praised the former monarch as a high-minded, fun-loving, generous and lovable.

"I am sincerely grieved at the misfortune which has befallen the king," said Mr. Johnstone. "My long residence in England has given me a profound appreciation for the dignity and tradition which attaches to the British Sovereignty and while I know that the burdens of kingship must have been onerous, still I would have preferred to see him remain on the throne."

Mr. Johnstone is residing in Chicago temporarily while he is rehearsing with his new partner, J. C. Elliot. Johnston and Layton dissolved partnership nearly a year ago after twelve years of startling success on the continent during which they played frequently before royalty, and their annual income rose as high as a half a million dollars a year. Johnstone then sent to America for Jules Bledsoe with whom he appeared for a brief six months. Still seeking the ideal partner, he returned to America to look for Elliot, with whom he had formerly worked. Cables had failed to reveal Elliot's whereabouts, but Johnstone finally found him in Chicago where he had come after he returned from Europe some time ago. The duo expect to embark for England after polishing up their routine and doing some concert and variety engagements in America.

Mr. Johnstone related how he and Layton had first met the prince. Sir Thomas Lipton, Lord and Lady Mountbatten, and The Right Honorable Mr. and Mrs. Norton who had heard the performance in Florida, had all insisted that they invade the continent. They sailed aboard the Orbita and while still in mid-ocean, were offered an engagement at the Quadrant club, then one of the smaller but most exclusive entertainment spots in London. It was the sort of establishments which was scarcely larger than a drawing room, but where champagne brought \$10 a bottle, and through whose portals only the aristocratic were supposed to enter.

The Prince's appreciation of their art continued to manifest itself, and when he was going abroad on his renowned world tour a few years ago, he happened to mention in Johnstone's hearing the name of his favorite air. Johnstone and Layton had a special gramophone record of it made. The day before his Royal Highness' departure, Johnstone went to present it. The Prince received him, and the singer, bowing low, offered his gift. The Prince held out his hand, but some how the celluloid disc slipped.

"People talk about a thing smashing into a thousand pieces, but believe me that record broke into a

Father Divine Angels Finally Talk

New York, Dec. 24 (C)—Angels of Father Divine have finally talked, revealing much amazing information about "God's" cash income. For months the Supreme Court has been trying to find out why Father Divine can't pay a \$6,000 judgment secured against him in a bus accident. Father has always pleaded he is innocent about money matter, although a book has been written about his riding in a Rolls-Royce, and he has started New York with the purchase of a string of farms up-state, and riding around in his own private plane.

Now two ex-angels, Verinda Brown, and the second still bearing her "heavenly" name—"Humility and Consolation"—who told William Lesselbaum, attorney in the bus case, under oath, that Divine has a tremendous income—estimated at \$500 a week. Humility and Consolation, who said she was a cashier in one of the branch heavens at 203 W. 139th street, the one to which swanky Strivers Row residents strenuously objected—that she took in money from the dining room and also rent from the rooming houses. She said that each night she went to Father's office with the day's receipts in cash and turned all over to him. About forty cashiers made such reports from the various branch heavens and all reports from the various branches were reported separately, no two being allowed in Father's presence at the same time.

The cashier said her day's receipts were from \$25 to \$30, with an increase on Sundays.

Calvin To Name Arkansas School

Little Rock, Ark., Dec. 18 (C)—Prof. R. C. Childress of the Department of Education has announced receipt of a letter from C. C. Sampson, secretary of the local school board at Clow, Ark., advising the board has unanimously voted to permit Floyd J. Calvin of New York City to name the new school which was built with the aid of the PWA. The school was formally opened on Oct. 16th, with educators from throughout the state being present, among them Prof. Childress and Mrs. Anna M. P. Strong of the State Department of Education. Prof. R. D. Johnson is principal. The school is located at the home of Mr. Calvin, head of a news service in New York, and Joseph E. Calvin, his father, is a member of the board and was largely responsible for securing funds with which to erect the building.

million," Johnstone said as he described the incident.

Johnstone rushed in mad haste to his partner. "What'll we do?" he demanded. "Can't have the Prince disappointed."

"Make another," said Turner Layton.

"Another?" gasped Johnstone. "But the Prince sails tomorrow morning, and it's late afternoon now."

"Can't help that," drawled Layton.

The phonograph company was telephoned, directors, managers, underlings; all were cajoled, threatened, pleaded with. And by keeping the works open until dawn—when Mr. Johnstone travelled to the ship—the new record was taken, in perfect condition, to the prince.

Hughes' Mother Made Speech About Son

Kansas City, Kas., Dec. 24 (C)—Mrs. C. Langston Hughes of Cleveland, O., mother of Langston Hughes, poet, playwright, novelist and dramatist, addressed spoke to students of Western university last week speaking mainly about the life work of her distinguished son.

Mrs. Hughes said in part: "Then we come to Langston Hughes and you have all possibly read some of his history. I am going to tell you something of the recent things he has done. He went to Russia with twenty-one colored people from New York and was supposed to have a new picture. They were asked to stay and were cared for by the government of Russia. He went to Kasha Pasha. While there he had to have a guard because they had never had another American in that part of the country. He wrote a history of the lives of the people there and from that book he received a fellowship and was supposed to go to Spain to write and of course we know of the confusion on there. At the same time I was ill. Many thought he had been killed and sometimes headlines of the paper came out, Langston Hughes—Probably killed in Spain. From the Wilhelm Fellowship he wrote the 'High Baldwin' and that will appear in 1937."

"You know of 'Mulatto.' He has been the only Negro to have a drama to run for one year on Broadway and from the poem that he wrote at nineteen, the play was



"Buckwheat" Thomas, famous moving picture star of "Our Gang" comedies sends regards to his thousands of admirers in conjunction with The Associated Negro Press.

"Buckwheat" and A. N. P. wish all of you the Happiest of Christmas Holidays and a Bright and Prosperous New Year.