

Calvin's Digest

By Floyd J. Calvin

(Only column in the Negro Press listed by Editor and Publisher)

Younger Generation

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, Federal NYA official stationed in Washington, on a visit to her school in Florida, observes:

"On Tuesday, Students' Interracial Day was observed. It was thrilling to see those white students from the University of Florida, Rollins University, with the students from Edwards Waters college of Jacksonville, the Florida Normal college of St. Augustine and Bethune-Cookman, meeting together for a day of conference and of getting acquainted. It was thrilling to see them on the campus chatting together, eating in our dining room and discussing peace and justice at home and abroad. With young people like these facing together such problems, we feel that we are making an advancement that we have long dreamed of but just beginning to realize."

This is a splendid statement on the growth of tolerance in the beautiful state of Florida. How unfortunate that at a similar meet at Gammon Theological Seminary of Atlanta, at about the same time was mirrored by a white woman with hate in her heart slapping President Willis J. King because he refused to allow her to take pictures of such a gathering so peaceful and cordial. It was known that this woman wanted the pictures to stir up trouble, for she has even slandered the President's wife because that lady's friendly attitude toward all people, including Negroes.

We are sorry for President King's embarrassing experience, but must commend him on the dignified way in which he handled the situation. Those in the forefront of the movement toward larger freedom for our group must expect the unresolvable to happen, and must remain calm when all around may be shaky and impetuous.

"Finer Womanhood"

The recent national celebration of "Finer Womanhood Week" by the national Zeta Phi Beta sorority focuses attention on the splendid aims and ideals of the modern young womanhood of the group. The fine example of the unselfish devotion of energies to an ideal, set by the late Mary B. Talbert, and the splendid example of inspirational work now being done by Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, are not being lost on the rising women of the race. The fact that week is set aside to stress the development of finer womanhood is proof that we still see something far more important than material gains and benefits, for which to strive. We see better lives and better living, and an ever improved status, as ends to be sought. These ends are never attained in full for there is always room for improvement, but the fact that Zeta Phi Beta strives for that which may be attained but is never complete, is worthy of the highest commendation.

C. C. C. Anniversary

The Civilian Conservation Corps is celebrating its fifth anniversary. When President Roosevelt went into office the young men of

the country were in a bad way, suffering from idleness, lack of income, and inability to go to school or college. With the coming of the CCC as one of the emergency projects, immediately thousands of young men found a constructive way to occupy their time, as well as gainful employment which aided their dependent families and themselves. This experiment has cost quite a sum of money, but we believe the general good has been best served by its creation.

We note with some disappointment that an order has gone through to cut the number of camps, and we note with approval the fight being waged to restore these camps. We think these camps are needed, for conditions are about as bad now as they were when the emergency called forth the creation. We believe the camps should be restored.

It is good to be able to say that the CCC has, on the whole, been fair to Negroes. A ratio of ten per cent of the whole has been fairly well maintained in both the number of Negroes enrolled and the number of camps given over to Negroes. Negroes have been given an active part in the administration of the project, including officers in various units, and officials on the headquarters staff.

All in all, we are proud of the CCC.

Travel Industry

Travel is now a five billion dollar industry, according to Glover and Cornell in the "Development of American Industries." Negroes get very little from any general industry, except as laborers or consumers, but in life insurance we are going forward, and now in a variety of other fields, including travel, we are beginning to venture forth. In this connection we note the announcement of the tenth tour of Europe by Mr. Adolph Hodge, of 1949 74th street, Brooklyn, N. Y., who after walking to California in the early twenties, decided he would like to continue to see the world, and has since been to Japan, Norway, Russia, and nearly all of the countries of the Old World, taking parties with him each time. The business has grown to where Mr. Hodge's annual tour, sailing early in July and returning in from 50 to 60 days, is looked forward to as a regular summer event. A teacher by profession, Mr. Hodge cater to teachers, social workers, business men, and others of travel persuasion, and always reports a good trip by all. He reports a goodly group already enrolled for a tour of Germany and other mid-European countries this year, and has personal assurances from Chancellor Hitler that all will be well for Mr. Hodge and his friends in the Third Reich.

Big Investor



John W. Roxborough, co-manager of Joe Louis, heavyweight champion of the world, has recently become associated in a very substantial way with the Chicago Burr Oak Cemetery association which is completing one of the finest all-Negro burial grounds in the country. At the recent annual meeting of the stockholders and directors, Mr. Roxborough was elected to the company's Board of Directors for the ensuing official year, together with B. J. Broxton, real estate owner who was also elected vice-president, and Dr. Edward W. Beasley, prominent physician and surgeon. Other members of the board are J. Turner Wall, W. Ellis Stewart, Harry H. Pace, J. G. Ish, Jr., T. M. Mann, M. O. Rousfield, Earl B. Dickerson, and T. K. Gibson. Mr. Roxborough has been a prominent business man of Detroit, Mich., for a number of years, and Chicagoans welcome his entry into the business life of the Windy City. (ANP)

Tenn. Communists

Bar Jimcrow, So Office Is Raided

(CNA)—Six persons, including two white workers, were arrested this week in a raid by city detectives on the Communist Party's state office in this city. Formal charges against the six were "loitering and vagrancy," but no one here doubts that the real reason of the raid was police objection to the presence of men of both races in the office on the basis of complete equality and fraternization.

The office has been occupied by Ted S. Wellman, Communist Party district organizer for several months. Wellman was one of the two whites arrested on a charge of "loitering and vagrancy." Wellman and W. A. Humphrey, 54, a white WPA worker, were released on \$1,000 bond each.

The four other victims of the police raid were freed on \$250 bond each. They are: Charles Lane, 18, Emerson McGuire, 19, Charles Carey, 37, and Rena Carey 37.

Wellman charges that the arrests were merely a "smoke screen" to cover an attack on progressive forces in the city, and to hamper the party's program of uniting all progressives, Negro and white, in the fight for democracy in the South. An immediate appeal was planned.

SOUTH AFRICAN MINERS CAUGHT BY 'QUAKE'

Johannesburg, South Africa, April 16 (CNA)—A rockfall in the crown gold mine as a result of an earth tremor trapped scores of native miners today.

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WORDS WITHOUT MUSIC

By LOUIS REID
Music Features & Photo Syndicate

"SWEET LEI ANI," Harry Owens' song which Bing Crosby first popularized in the film "Waikiki Wedding," captured first place in the balloting of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as the best song written for a film during 1937. It topped by a comfortable margin, it is said, such other meritorious tunes as Warren and Dubin's "Remember Me," Cole Porter's "Rosalie," and "That Old Feeling," by Louis Reid and Sammy Fain.



Louis Reid
Lev Brown and Sammy Fain.

There are 2,270 different lullabies or cradle songs, regularly published and copyrighted in ASCAP's files. Nearly one-quarter of them bear the title of "Berceuse." . . . Again, showing how often composers have the same idea, there are 496 compositions entitled "Barcarolle." And this list does not include 106 different arrangements which have been made of Offenbach's famous work of this name. . . . Fifteen different lyrics have been published to the music of the Neapolitan serenade, "O Sole Mio." Even the music of Wagner's "Evening Star" has been published under six different titles.



James Weldon Johnson
A.S.C.A.P.

Those Sentimental Ballads

Sentimental ballads of home and mother and smiling-through-the-heartbreak continue to find a big public. Witness the recent popularity of "There's a Gold Mine in the Sky," "On the Sunny Side of the Rockies," and "When the Organ Played O Promise Me." This type of song stems, of course, to the late Charles K. Harris and his "After the Ball," which was a tremendous hit for more than a generation. Harris who had unusual talent for this style of number, followed up his great hit with other successful ballads which, along with "After the Ball" are occasionally revived—"Hello Central, Give He Heaven," "Always in the Way," "Break the News to Mother," and "Somewhere the Sun Is Shining."

The old ragtime tunes that flourished when Theodore the First sat upon the White House throne are seldom heard today. The jazz pianists and maestros of the present sniff at the "Maple Leaf Rag," at one time the craze of the land. Even such a tune as Kerry Mills' "Whirling Dervish," once shouted in every cross-roads of America, rests in dusty oblivion.

About the only definitely ragtime

air that is still heard is Irving Berlin's "Alexander's Ragtime Band." But then, this tune is the epic of ragtime.

One Enduring Ragtime Air

A lifetime has passed since it first crashed upon the pianos of the old cabarets of the country. It swept across the nation with the force of a cyclone. Feature writers interpreted prominent citizens on the perils of ragtime and Berlin was considered everything from a menace to a genius.

With ragtime now spelled as jazz and swing, Berlin confines his activities chiefly to blue skies and melodies that linger on, leaving the hot stuff to others. Yet, when the call is clear and persistent, he, too, can turn out torrid jazz as he demonstrated in "Heat Wave."

The roof gardens and road houses are coming to life, and the dance tune-men are scrambling for position. There's one thing sure in these uncertain times. Dance music was never better. The competition is severe and it is keeping the composers, as well as the band leaders, on their toes. It is doubtful, however, dance music brings people to their toes in the parlors. People use it as background for bridge and conversation.

No song in the last six months had a quicker rise—or a quicker fall—than "Bei Mir Bist Du Schoen."

The Curse of Repetition

Repetition is still the curse of music broadcasting. The public endures repetition in hearing doses, orchestras playing the same tunes hour after hour, night after night. And yet, the music publishers are largely responsible for the overplugging. They have believed that concentrated airing of a new song over a period of a month or more to an audience of 50,000,000 would bring a rushing torrent of gold to their sheet music counters. They did not reckon upon the effect of the constant airing.

No listener can endure a persistent dinging of a ditty. He quickly becomes fed up—fed up in most cases in less than a month. Even the complex strains of the classic composers cannot stand nightly repetition. Even a Debussy or a Richard Strauss cannot hold up under it. And if they can't, what chance has a simple Hollywood ballad?

"We Serve"



HON. S. W. WALKER

President of the Pilgrim Health and Life Insurance company of Augusta, Ga., in a formal statement to the public, officially announcing the fortieth anniversary celebration of the company, climax of which comes on May 2, says: "It is because of our anxiety to serve our day and age, as well as we possibly can, that we call attention during this year to the fact that we have served for forty years. By pausing to pay homage to the men and women who aided so valiantly in the building of our company we may be able to persuade a larger number of our people to become conscious of their duty to support race enterprise wherever they can, thus building a more nearly complete racial self-respect." Pilgrim assets rose from \$439,908 in 1933 to \$758,309 in 1937. It owns only \$40,000 in real estate, but \$662,094 in stocks and bonds, market value on December 31, last. Capital fully paid is \$100,000, and surplus to policy holders, \$125,556. (Calvin Photo)

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