

### ELKS CLOSE 39TH ANNUAL CONVENTION IN BLAZE OF GLORY

J. Finley Wilson Re-elected Grand Exalted Ruler, Starts 17th Year As Head of Order, Mrs. M. Johnson Again Chosen Grand Daughter Ruler.—Over 200,000 View Colorful, Three Hour Parade—Governor Nice Welcomes Elk Herd.

Baltimore, Sept. 8, (By T. W. Anderson for ANP)—With traditional pomp and pageantry and oratorical acclaim, high-lighted by welcome addresses by Maryland's Governor Nice and Baltimore's Mayor Jackson, colored by a spectacular, three hour parade through jam-packed streets, of cheering spectators and featured by the re-election for his 17th consecutive year, of J. Finley Wilson as Grand Exalted Ruler, the 39th annual conclave, IBOE of W. ended in a blaze of glory here last Saturday night. Fourteen special trains and 300 buses brought the delegates here from all sections of the country.

Mrs. Abbie M. Johnson was also re-elected grand daughter ruler

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and the entire grand lodges cabinet of G.E.R. Wilson was again returned to office despite the rumor-opposition of Roy S. Bond, grand esteemed loyal knight, by Joseph James, Jr., of Daytona Beach, Fla.

The Tuesday street parade, most spectacular since 1927, was the highlight of the greatest convention in Elk history, and one of the most harmonious.

50 BANDS, 300 MARCHING AND DRILL UNITS

Over 200,000 Baltimoreans and spectators from all parts of the country lined the streets, and witnessed a parade which took some six hours to pass a given point. Some 50 bands, over 300 marching and drill units kept the throng in one cheer after another, as the year's most brilliant fraternal display was launched. Brilliantly plumed drum majors, gaudily dressed and beautiful girls; briskly stepping juniors boys and girls; nattily attired bands units, helmeted legionnaires, high stepping policemen; swift riding motorcycle patrols; daintily stepping horseback units; hot swing bands, and a final touch being added by the loveliest of Negro Womanhood, encased on huge floats, gave a grand touch of color, as the Antlered Herds marched "for Finley" and old Baltimore, which for 20 years had not seen the Elks.

Welcoming the Grand Lodge to the State of Maryland Governor Nice told of having appointed for the first time in history, Negro policemen in his state, and told his audience that he did it "not to gain the affection of the Negroes of Maryland, but because I felt that it was the best way to detect crime among the Negro

## PERSONALITIES IN MUSIC

EDGAR LESLIE, A. S. C. A. P.  
Songwriters Have No Textbooks



By Daniel I. McNamara

THE songwriter uses no textbooks except the unwritten volumes of experience. He doesn't dash off his lyrics in inspired moments. Struggle and sweat with meter and rhyme . . . perspiration, not inspiration . . . make for successful songwriting. Believe this on the authority of no less a personage of the songwriting fraternity than Edgar Leslie, for thirty years one of the most successful of his profession, and for many years a leading member of the Board of Directors of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

Leslie had written one of the great hits of recent years, "Among My Souvenirs" was written in London to the music of "Horatio Nichols," the composer being in reality a leading English music publisher, Lawrence Wright. Leslie has written songs with Walter Donaldson, Jimmy Monaco and many others. Recently he teamed with an old friend, Joseph Burke, popular song composer. Six times in two years their creations have led the country in popularity. "In a Little Gypsy Tea Room," "On Treasure Island," "A Little Bit Independent," "Moon Over Miami," "Robins and Roses" and "It Looks Like Rain in Cherry Blossom Lane" reveal the magic touch of this gifted pair. "At a Perfume Counter" is one of their latest.

Leslie has evolved a practical philosophy of songwriting. He believes the songwriter must address himself to youth, that the song must carry a simple and direct message. It should be easy to sing, and he points out that popular songs must compete with the movies . . . that they must paint an attractive word picture. Leslie is a thoroughgoing New Yorker. His grandparents lived in Seventy-first Street when it was known as Bloomingdale Road, and they used to spend their summers at a cottage in Chelsea (Twenty-third Street). Happily married twenty-one years, he now lives in a midtown hotel; usually retires early.

He follows deep-sea fishing and golf, and enjoys sea voyages. His favorite outdoor sport—as a spectator—is polo. In the writing of songs he goes into the more mundane memories and experiences of his life. Into things more in touch with America as it is to the great mass. And he writes to please them.

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people. Certainly Negro policemen would be much better to correct the criminal traits of their own people than white policemen." Gov. Nice told his audience that he favored equalization of salaries of school teachers in his state, as well as elsewhere, "for," said he, "Negro teachers have to meet the same requirements of education before they are allowed to teach, and that being so, why shouldn't they draw the same salaries?" "When I go back into office this unfair and unconstitutional law shall be wiped off the books," he stated as the crowds cheered and gave him an ovation.

### THE GRAND TALKS

Addressing the Grand Lodge, and making his annual report, Mr. Wilson gave a list of new lodges set up since the last session at Cleveland, had gave a naccounting of his office, expenses, etc., and reported a decided increase in the wealth, and size of the Grand Lodge. Five mortgages were burned prior to the present grand lodge during the month of August. These mortgages totaled the cash sum of \$100,000.

Following the report of the Grand Exalted Ruler, Dr. Hudson J. Oliver, of New York took the floor, and motioned that the rules be suspended, and that the Grand Secretary, James E. Kelly, be authorized to cast one ballot for the reelection of Mr. Wilson as Grand Exalted Ruler. Amidst a pandemonious display, and with a tremendous ovation, Mr. Wilson was once again swept into the office he has filled since 1922. Dr. Oliver's motion was seconded by Hobson J. Reynolds, exalted ruler of Chris Perry Lodge, of Philadelphia, and a member of the Pennsylvania legislature.

Shortly after this a delegation of ladies, representing the Grand Temple and headed by the just-relected Grand Daughter Ruler, Mrs. Abbie M. Johnson, of Philadelphia, presented Mr. Wilson with new cold gold collar. The gift was presented by Miss Ella G. Berry, past grand daughter ruler.

### NEW YORK TO CHERBOURG' FRANCE

BY WILLIAM PICKENS (for ANP)

"THE QUEEN MARY" is a huge institution, like a great city square packed with, say 3,500 people. Od just imagine the Empire State Building being pushed over the ocean at the rate of 35 miles an hour.

The ship had just finished a record run from Cherbourg to New York in 3 days and 21 hours, and as I write we are about to do the West-East record of all time in 4 days and an hour of two. We are now not more than 3 hours from Cherbourg, having passed early in the afternoon the Scilly Islands and the Southernmost part of the island of Great Britain.

The trip has been easy, pleasant and uneventful, so far. The weather has been fine. There was some rain the third day and some heavy, dewy fog on Saturday.

There are a few colored passengers: President and Mrs. Sanford, of Langston university, of Oklahoma; one of their teachers; a professor of Institute, W. Va. college, leader of their party; a Huntington teacher; and a Baltimore teacher. Miss Tillman, the Langston tea-

cher sang beautifully in our concert Saturday night. She and the black man who served on the program seem to have been the stars from all comments.

There is also another Negro passenger on his way he says, to Egypt and Palestine. His profession I do not know, but from the crowd who came to see him off, he is master of some church or some "club".

From the ship's library I picked up "Joan of Ark" her life story by Milton Waldman, as interesting a thing as I have ever read.

Before I left New York the Medical Bureau aiding Spanish Government with medical supplies asked me to go to Spain. I shall go, if they get the permit from the state department and cab it to me. If only I had time, I would go to Egypt this trip, but that must be done in the future; if possible, I must soon visit Africa in its most interesting parts. Life is so short and there is so much to do.

Today many of us attended services of the English church in the great auditorium in the middle of this ship. It is really a great auditorium. The captain led us through the prayers and chants, and the others incantations. Ceremonially "civilized man" is far from the "savage," but not essentially.

Quite a number of times I've been to France, but I may see more of it this time—more than "Paris."

It's cold today: I have on a winter suit and will use a winter overcoat when I go out, this 14th day of August. No use for mohair and Palm Beach clothes here. It was a bit warmish as we crossed the Gulf streams. When you come to Europe, north of the Mediterranean countries, bring real clothes.

# Calvin's Digest

By FLOYD J. CALVIN

(Listed by EDITOR AND PUBLISHER)

### Presidential Politics

We recall quite vividly that one of the arguments advanced by some Negroes against the candidacy of Governor Roosevelt of New York for the President was that while the candidate himself might be all right, it would be the same old Democratic party which he might lead to victory and once he got in office, his hands would be tied by the conservative members of the party. This meant that if Roosevelt became President, he would not be able to carry out a progressive program because of the obstructionists in his own party, and it meant also that his liberality toward the Negro citizen would likewise be curtailed.

What a different story today! President Roosevelt has shown that he does not lack the courage, nor the initiative to launch a program which requires the making over of his own party. He has purposely gone out and asked the voters in the Democratic primaries to defeat certain obstructionists within his own ranks, and has asked that men be sent to Washington as members of the Congress who are more broad, more liberal and more progressive in their views. What more could we want in a party leader or a President at this time?

### Three Crowns

The New York Herald Tribune has facetiously asked in an editorial what has become of the theory of Nordic Supremacy since Henry Armstrong captured his third world boxing title? This third crown—all three are featherweight welterweight, and lightweight—makes Henry master of all men between 124 and 145 pounds.

While we are no boxing enthusiast, we view the sport as too debasing—we are proud of Henry conquests' since by his fistic prowess he has made boxing history. Never before has one man held so many titles. Henry won his laurels with the unstinted approval of the highest sports authori-

ties and fight critics. This makes his achievement rebound to the credit of the whole Negro group.

While the Negro press has been telling its readers al along that it is indispensable to racial progress and should, therefore, receive more support, the recent Jake Powell incident serves to illustrate just how powerful and how important is this medium a mould-group and puglic sentiment. Jake Powell, a Yankee ballplayer made a prejudice remark about the race over the radio. The white could not and did not take up the issue because (they were thankful to say) it did not originate with them. So the Negro press was the only agency to take up the cudgels in behalf of the group. Just how well this agency did the job of protest was proved by Jake Powell himself visiting Negro newspaper offices and signing an abjectly apologetic statement beseeching colored folks to "forgive." Our own view is that there are some things you might forget but cannot forgive. Jake Powell's remark is one.

Incidentally, Negroes now see quite clearly just what their press can do for them. In this case, neither politics, nor the Church, nor the interracialists could help. Through no other agency but the press could such pressure have been brought to bear with such salutary results for the whole group. Stand by your newspapers!

### Recession Profits

While most people are talking of their losses, it is encouraging to note that one Negro enterprise, N. C. Mutual Life, had income of over a million dollars in the first half year, and that it had \$125,000 left in profits after all expenses were paid. The profit item represents nearly \$1,000 per day for each working day of the period covered. It is a rare thing, indeed to find a Negro business that is making a net profit of \$1,000 per

day after all expenses are paid, especially a business that employs a small army of people in the promotion of such conservative items as health, education and thrift.

Another Durham organization, the Mechanics and Farmers Bank, also in the million dollar bracket, has shown gains in resources of \$45,000 during the last ten years. In 1937 this bank's resources were around \$800,000. Today, after seven years of depression, the resources are \$1,250,000.

### BISHOP GREGG FLIES TO CONFERENCE

Chicago, Sept. 8 (ANP)—Bishop J. A. Gregg of the AME church arrived here by United Airlines plane enroute to his conference in Ontario, Canada. On the day the conference was scheduled to open the Bishop had been forced to delay his arrival in order that he might attend the funeral of Rev. R. H. Hackley, pastor of St. Paul, Des Moines, Iowa, one of the well known ministers of the church and a friend of many years. In order to arrive for the second day of the conference he was forced to take his first plane ride. The Bishop reported the experience as delightful, being particularly enthusiastic over a view of the sunset above the clouds, a sight which he says he will never forget.

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