

Theatricals Music Features

READERS "FIGHT" FOR COPIES OF TOPS

New Magazine Featuring Colored Success Stories Makes Nationwide Hit

From coast to coast, thousands are talking about TOPS, the popular new magazine which tells the dramatic true stories behind the rise of America's most celebrated colored men and women.

From the fields of sport, science, religion, the stage, literature, music, entertainment—from every walk of life—this sensational magazine presents the little known true stories of the best known colored personalities. The result is a unique magazine that glows with human interest, drama and fascinating facts—the first magnificent all-colored publication of its kind.

Of the many letters already received from racial leaders the country over, the opinion is unanimous that TOPS is a wonderful personal tonic. In it, every colored man and woman, however humble, will find living proof that the chances for success are open to whoever has the character to work for it.

"I am much pleased with this magazine," says a noted colored educator, "and believe it will be a great inspiration to thousands fortunate enough to receive copies of the magazine." From a famous racial novelist comes the news that "people are fighting over copies

out this way." A colored poet, beloved by millions of Americans, writes to say that "there is a great need for just such a publication." From a movie actor who took Hollywood by storm, comes the sincere compliment, "I want to be the first to congratulate you." Every mail brings the same kind of tribute.

Illustrated with many intimate photographs never before published, TOPS records the "fame-and-fortune" stories of such personalities as: Dr. G. W. Carver, Father Divine, Duke Ellington, Joe Louis, Maxine Sullivan, Countee Cullen, Walter White, Marian Anderson, Paul Robeson, Bill Robinson, Ethel Waters, Arna Bontemps, E. Simms Campbell and many others. From beginning to end, TOPS is crammed with the heroic tales of modern colored celebrities who made good with all the odds against them. How they wrung fame and wealth out of their struggles, the disappointments they conquered, the triumphs they won, their secrets of success, their personal lives—all these unfold before you in word and picture as you read through TOPS. It is a magazine that will fascinate and inspire your whole family. Copies can be had at your newsstand now.

TWO LOUIES PLAYED 'HOT LICKS' WHILE CHICAGO'S COASTERS MADE MERRY

Chicago, Dec. 9—Louis Armstrong, king of trumpet players, plus Luis Russell and Midge Williams, grand singing personality lent power's rhythmic atmosphere to the frantic search for "Ferdinand the Bull," who was on location at the gay artist and Models ball Friday night, December 2, in the Drake Hotel.

The Gold Coast room, the original set for Artists and Models, was the utmost in modern design for the show that was given by leading theatrical and night club talent extracted from Chicago's historic horizon. Armstrong with his great swing band and Louis Russell shared no breaths in out-playing Ozzie Nelson, a tango band and a string outfit that played Viennese waltzes only. Most everyone at this ball, which is reported to have run into the enormous cost of \$30,000 were costumed. Armstrong and his swinging mates played their bands' neath costumes that ranged from the present time far back into the 18th Century "Great Waltz" attire.

TRANSFORMED FIRST FLOOR

Transformation of all the public rooms on the first floor of the Drake except the Lantern room and the International club took place and were used on that night. After completion early Friday morning, these rooms had been converted into fourteen movie sets.

All of Chicago's younger set from the Northside millionaire class and regular Gold Coast residents were present at this gala affair which proved to be a gigantic scoring event for Luis Russell, his orchestra, Louis Armstrong and Midge Williams, with Sonny Woods supplying ample vocal choruses.

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samo time develop technicians, writers directors and other workers as well as employ the varied talents of the members of our race in all divisions of the motion picture industry.

"There are more than 600 theaters in this country which cater mainly to colored people for support. Statistics show that we can realize a profit of \$60,000 for a picture that costs \$15,000 to make. We think this money should be returned to the pockets of people who spend it for their entertainment."

DUKE ELLINGTON VS. JIMMY LUNCEFORD

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 15—Announcement last week that Duke Ellington and Jimmy Lunceford, bands of a different type would meet here in a battle of music December 26 was perhaps as much a surprise to the leaders of the public. According to information received from both parties, the bands were signed without either knowing or caring to know what was going on.

The story, according to insiders, runs as follows. Each year Jimmy Lunceford plays this ball with some other band sliced in. This year, a Broadway band, white was slated to play opposite Jimmy, but because of previous bookings, or something else, was forced to withdraw.

Settles on Duke
Thus with the time fast approaching and the necessity of getting out the billing, the management started searching for another orchestra. No one knew if Duke would be available for that date or not, but it so happens he was, so the contracts were signed.

The dance committee knowing the spot it was in, was willing to go the limit to get Duke, so the almost prohibitive price proved no barriers. They had to have a good "name" band, and Duke offered that, so the Duke was signed.

Whether either Lunceford or Duke would have accepted the date as a battle, no one knows, Jimmy says he didn't and does not care, while Duke, out of the city, has made no comment.

Says It's On
There was a rumor earlier in the week that Duke would ask cancellation of the engagement for reasons unknown, but the management of the hall, scouts that idea. "We have signed Duke and we accepted his terms, not he ours, so the engagement stands."

DUKE ELLINGTON SIGNED TO LEAD COLORED REVUE

New York City—Duke Ellington and his orchestra have been signed to headline an all-colored revue at the Brooklyn Strand Theatre for an entire week beginning tomorrow (Friday).

Ellington who is rated among the kingpins of modern American music will return to this city early Friday morning from a Hindlerland tour which has covered several of the large cities throughout the East and West. In most cases Ellington, who is still a great favorite among both colored and white dance and theatre-goers throughout the country, added another successful tour to a list that has been steadily growing for more than ten years.

The great composer-maestro's pending engagement at the Strand Brooklyn's top-flight vaudeville theatre is the first for a big house adopted a straight vaude-picture policy early this season. His fling there is to be followed by several others, making the city of churches another outlet for colored talent of all varieties.

While in New York, Ellington will confer with several well-known producers in an endeavor to get his opera of the Negro for its 1939 debut on Broadway. Should the pending negotiations go through, several of the best known stars of the race will be offered featured roles with star billing.

Patronize Our Advertisers

Nation To Hear Broadcast of Negro Contributions To American Life Sunday

JULES BLEDSOE TO SING

"Americans All—Immigrants All" programs sponsored by U. S. Office of Education Aim to Increase Interracial Understanding

The stirring story of how millions of racial and immigrant groups helped in the founding of American civilization is now being dramatized in a series of exciting Sunday afternoon radio programs titled "Americans All—Immigrants All." Sponsored by the U. S. Office of Education, Department of Interior, with the cooperation of the Service Bureau for Intercultural Education, 106 Waverly Pl., New York, next Sunday's (Dec. 18th) broadcast will be on the "The Negro in the United States" and will dramatize the epic role of the Negro in American social, cultural and economic life.

Jules Bledsoe to Sing

Jules Bledsoe, eminent American-born Negro baritone who was the first to introduce Jerome Kern's "Ole Man River," and gained wide acclaim on the European and American concert stage, will sing to the nationwide audience.

Beginning with the entry of Negro slaves one year before the landing of the Pilgrims, Sunday's broadcast will trace the role of the American Negro in the exploitation and colonization of the continent, his share in the War for Independence, the Civil and World Wars, his profound love for music, as well as contributions in literature and art. This sweeping resume of Negro participation in American life will mention among other outstanding leaders, the brilliant career of James Weldon Johnson and the amazing discoveries of George Washington Carver.

Nationwide Audience

The broadcast will be carried over 79 stations of Columbia Broadcasting System and will reach an estimated audience of 6,500,000 listeners throughout the nation. Listen in Sunday afternoon (2 P. M. EST; 1 P. M. MT; 11 A. M. PT.) to the stirring drama of the American Negro.

Readers of the Omaha Guide, are also urged to tune in not only to next Sunday's program, but to those which dramatize the work of other cultural groups. For according to sociologist, only through this means of broadened education can one learn to appreciate the role of a neighbor group in American life.

MARIAN ANDERSON SOARS TO GREAT HEIGHTS AT CARNEGIE HALL

New York, Dec. 15 (By Carl R. Diton for ANP)—With an artistry that surely must be nearing its peak Marian Anderson, who now and rightfully enjoys an enviable international reputation as a celebrated singer, appeared before her customary throng at her annual first Carnegie concert Tuesday night in a remarkable artistic program for English, Italian and German and French opulence.

The contralto has grown amazingly in vocal stature. Finished phrasing that was only in occasional evidence but a few years ago now premeates an entire program.

The opening recitative and aria—Purcell's "When I Am Laid in Earth," with its heavy demand upon breath control, was superbly sung, although we wished the basso ostinato of the accompaniment had been a little stronger. Then followed Vercacini's "Pastoral," delivered with a quality of delicacy hardly capable of other than a soprano. And then Carissimi's "A Bruno Vestiti."

Miss Anderson further exhibited her art in a Bach group: "Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, gagen," "Du Bist Bei iMr," and "Zu Reinen Wasser." In the first of these the piano ac-

companied was enhanced with an aboe obligato played by Engelbert Brenner. In the last of these, Mr. Erenner, whose playing was most artistic, performed on the aboe d' amore, a softer member of the aboe family and one better contrasted in the matter of timbre with Miss Anderson's rich and velvety organ.

Then followed a Schubert group, "An Den Mond," "Der Doppelgänger" (here was a memorable interpretation.) "Auf dem Wasser zu Singen," and "Gruppe aus dem Tartarus."

Granville Bantock's "Evening Song" and "The Simurgh" combined with her accompanist's "Deserted Street" (offered on the previous tour) and Ravel's exquisite

"Vocalise" about displayed everything capable of the human voice.

"Sinner, please Doan Let His Harves Pass," and "De Gospel Train" by H. T. Burleigh, "Tramping" by Edward Boatner, and "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel" by Laurence Brown made up the spiritual list.

Her customary and inimitable encores, Schubert's "Ave Maria," included two Finnish folk-songs by her accompanist, "Dere's No Hidin' Place Down Here," "Comin' Thru the Rye" and "Cuckoo."

Kosti Vehanen's accompaniments were of his usual standard. Miss Anderson returns to Carnegie Jan. sixth.

MASSACHUSETTS SOLON FILES BILL PROHIBITING RACE SLANDER

Boston, Dec. 16 (ANP)—Declaring that Massachusetts' citizens should clean house at home before condemning persecution of minority groups, State Senator Thomas M. Burke, prominent Bostonian, last Tuesday filed a bill prohibit the slandering or libeling of any race.

The bill would also bar writings and pictures intended to impeach the "Honesty of Patriotism of any race."

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To the Customers of the Nebraska Power Company

A FRANK STATEMENT OF OUR POSITION

There has been anxiety expressed concerning the future of electric service in Omaha. It is apparent, however, that it is the general sentiment that no change is desired, and that the Nebraska Power Company should continue to serve the people of this city.

Naturally we are complimented by this general endorsement of our Company's policies. It is proof to us that the public is appreciative of good, courteous electric service, at ever decreasing prices.

We have been doing business with the people of Omaha for many years. We desire to assure them that we want to continue serving them as we have in the past.

Hasty conclusions, and most assuredly hasty action, may defeat the very aim desired, and for that reason we wish to present to the people of Omaha, these facts:

1. The property of the Nebraska Power Company is not for sale. Its owners have no desire to sell—despite all rumors to the contrary.
2. Neither the Company nor its majority stockholder has ever had, and does not now have, any offer for the purchase of its property.
3. The Company and its majority stockholder promised the city, in writing, last June, that if either should get an offer to purchase, no sale would be made, until 90 days' notice has been given the city of an intention to consider such offer.
4. At the request of the Mayor, because a question has been raised as to whether our promises were legally binding, we and our majority stockholder have executed a contract. I am confident the City Attorney will agree that this contract completely and legally binds us to our promise.
5. The City Attorney, however, has stated that he cannot advise the city council that the 90 days notice period given in our promise, and now confirmed by contract, is sufficient to protect the city against the sale of our property to a public power district, and that this provision should be revised.
6. Under the contract we signed, it was our opinion that the property of the Company could not be sold against the wishes of the people of Omaha. However, if a solution satisfactory to the City Attorney can be worked out, I assure the people of Omaha that it will be done.

J. E. Davidson
J. E. DAVIDSON, President
NEBRASKA POWER COMPANY