

# "Between the Lines"

(By Dean Gordon B. Hancock for ANP)

### The Great Scramble

The Greece of the days of Pericles was called by some "the Glory Land," for seers and soothsayers while philosophers walked the streets in regiments. It remains for the historians of the future to give fitting designation to this our day, when graduates by thousands are faring forth to try their fortunes in a restless and uncertain world. Opportunity was never brighter and chances for dismal failure never more overwhelming. The "glory land" is literally swarming with graduates whose hopes are soon to take a terrible tumble.

Just a few years ago, I too was facing the world with a sheepskin in hand and resolved to reform and rearrange things in this world. After 30 years of arduous toil and ceaseless trying, I cannot see one den: I have made upon the world; but the world has made many dents on me. This will be the sad story of the majority of those so gleefully facing the world from the eminence of the graduation platform of 1939. In a very short time the work of denting will begin and it is safe to say, that the dents the world makes will far outnumber and outweigh the dents the current bumper crop of graduates makes. Of one thing the current graduate may be certain, and that is, he faces a terrible scramble—scramble for bread.

With Negroes, as perhaps no white, our graduates have against them not only the handicap of a complicated social and economic order, but the further handicap of color. The most must be made of this and "James Crowe A. B." will lend an immediate helping hand. Believe it or not, James Crowe holds out the most immediate hope for the Negro graduate. If he serves at all, it will be in some segregated capacity dominated by Mr. Crow. The scramble is no, and it rages with greatest severity around the school room of the Jim Crowe school. The better prepared Negroes are crowding down the Negroes on the lower levels. One of the major tragedies of the generation of this forcing of men and women into the classroom who have neither the temperament nor aptitude for teaching. The Negro child is the loser!

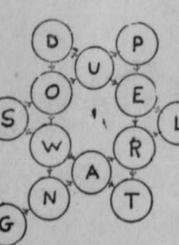
Great is the scramble and while we are loath to admit it segregation relieves the scramble instead of accentuating it. Frankly speaking, do Negroes want less segregation or more of it? By segregation we live and move and have our economic being, and when we decay it, are we sincere or are we just "putting on" to be popular. To blot out segregation without blotting out prejudice would prove the Negro's ruin. The root of our trouble is prejudice and not segregation. Segregation is a matter of law, but prejudice is a matter of culture, and is more deeply imbedded in the life of the nation. Supreme court decisions may affect segregation, but it does not reach the seat of trouble—prejudice—which is a thing of the heart and not of the head.

What Marian Anderson is doing is reaching the heart of America; what the supreme court does from time to time reaches the head only. Herein lies the limitations of things legal as they pertain to race relations. It is good to address our efforts to allaying symptoms, but it is well to keep in mind that the trouble lies deeper. Nobody would advise letting the head of the typhoid victim ache without remedy, but nobody would advise giving all attention to the aching head and none to sanitation. Our major attack is on the Jim Crow system but to abolish this system without abolishing prejudice would overwhelm the Negro. The overthrow of the segregation system without the overthrow of prejudice would increase the scramble instead of relieving it.

The previous question, then before the graduate of 1939 is not how to abolish jim-crowism, but how to abolish race prejudice. By all means, let's have jim-crowism until and when prejudice is banished from the hearts of men. The danger is that all our efforts will be centered on banishing jim-crowism system and none on banishing prejudice. The mere banishment of the jim-crow system would

not mean the Negro's salvation unless prejudice, too, was banished. There is only one deadly threat to prejudice, and that is fine character. Against a fine character prejudice withers like frost before the rising sun. Only some bodies can relieve the scramble and unfortunately a college degree does not change one from a Nobody to a Somebody. Only Somebodies can reduce prejudice and thus relieve the scramble—the great scramble!

SEND IN TO THE NEWS



### FOURTEEN NEGRO WOMEN AWARDED WORLDS FAIR MEDALS

New York, July 19—(CNA) Ethel Watters, outstanding stage notable, Gwendolyn Bennett, nationally known poet and artist supervisor of the WPA Harlem Community Art Center, and Dorothy Feight, residence director of the Emma Rason House, 137th St. Branch of the YWCA, and leader of the progressive youth movement, were among 14 distinguished Negro women of this city who this week were awarded Special World's Fair medals for outstanding performances in their respective fields. Ceremonies were held in the National Advisory Committee Building at the World's Fair.

Other recipients of the honors were Regina Andrews, noted library supervisor; Gertrude Ayers, nationally known educator; Ann Wiggins Brown, singer; Thelma Berlack-Booser, reporter and feature writer on the New York Amsterdam News; Temple Burge, social service worker; Eunice Hunt-Carter, lawyer on the city's legal staff; May E. Chinn, physician; Jessie Fausett Harris, novelist; Sarah Spencer Washington, manufacturer of cosmetics; Augusta Savage, widely known sculptress; Phillipa Schuyler, child musical prodigy.

The awards, made for the first time this year, were distributed by Judge Jeanette Brill, member of the National Advisory Committee for the World's Fair.

### SOUTHERN WORKMAN SUSPENDS PUBLICATION

Hampton, Va. (C)—Due to retrenchment. The Southern Workman, 67 year old monthly magazine published by Hampton Institute, suspended publication with the July issue, it is announced by President Arthur Howe of Hampton. Prof. Isaac Fisher, first colorful editor of the publication, wrote his farewell editorial in the July number.

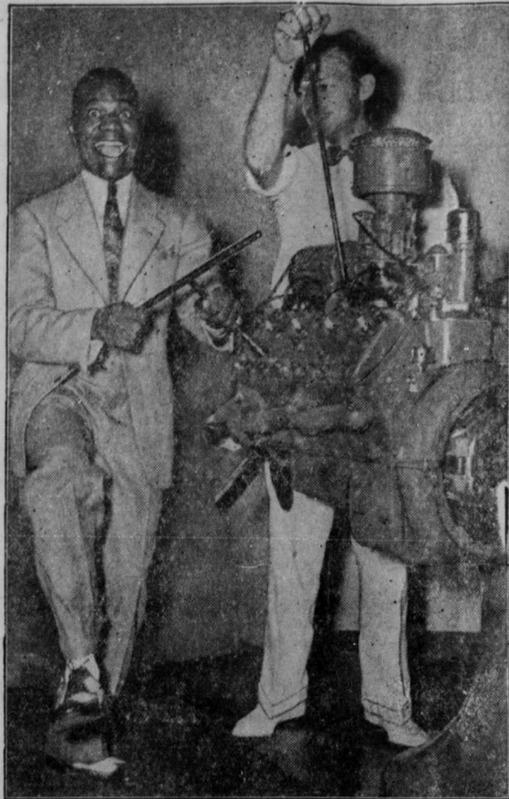
### PETE WEBSTER, MATCHLESS IN HIS BRILLIANCE OF ARTISTRY & EXECUTION

By Robert A. Flynn

Pete Webster as Mr. Mason, president of the "La-Tex-Okla. Oil Company" in "Midnight Shadow," a product of Morris-Brown College, Atlanta, Georgia, is today the greatest scoop among Negro actors. He stands easily in the same bracket with such prominent movie celebrities as Taylor, Montgomery, Flynn and Crosby, in poise, brilliance of execution and interpretation. When he steps on to the set, he does not act but rather embodies the warmth and natural of human sentiment. He is a straight-line character, no quirks but just what it takes. He does not simply play parts, he feels them. He is the talk of Hollywood and from the moment he is seen in "Midnight Shadow" he is certain to be acclaimed the outstanding Negro actor of the screen.

Pete Webster is a thriller for looks—all the fair damsels will go wild about him. A good mixer, amiable, romantic, sunny of nature, adventurous, he stands on top of the movie world, matchless in his brilliance of artistry.

### Both Just Built For Rhythmic Speed



BILL ROBINSON, who just can't quit dancing, visited the Ford Exposition at the New York World's Fair, danced right up to this Ford V-8 engine, and tapped out the rhythm of the pistons. "Two of a kind," remarked the famed stepper, meaning himself and the engine built for power and speed. It was Bill Robinson's time out from "The Hot Mikado," in the Fair's amusement zone. The man who started shuffling as a barefoot boy in Richmond, Virginia, fifty-four years ago, is the current rage of the World's Fair Midway. He'd no sooner appeared in the Ford Exposition's main hall than fans surrounded him. He liked this Ford V-8 engine with its exhaust passages, crankcase and flywheel housing made all in one piece to reduce the number of joints where engine-trouble might develop, and he was keeping time with it before you could pronounce his name.

### COLORED FIREMEN, BRAKEMEN FIGHT FOR SOUTH'S JOBS

Jackson, Tenn., July 19 (ANP) Colored railway workers especially firemen and brakemen, through their organizations—the International Association of Railway Employees and the International Association of Colored Trainmen and Locomotive Firemen—this week pressed their fight to retain seniority rights and to stop the replacement of colored workers by whites.

Activity among the colored trainmen was given added impetus following a conference of leaders with officials of NAACP during the recent NAACP annual conference in Richmond, Va. Present at that meeting were L. R. Moley, representative IARE; J. A. Reynolds, and Richard Birkes of the colored trainmen's association; Thurgood Marshall, Leon A. Ransom and James M. Nabrit, Jr., of NAACP legal staff and Charles Houston and Joseph Waddy, counsel for the colored trainmen's association.

The conferees discussed the present status of colored workers on the railroads of the South, particular attention being given to the case of Ed. Teague, veteran fireman of the G. M. & N. Railroad who was displaced in the switching service.

Moley, employees' representative and IARE general organizer told the group that the Interstate Commerce Commission has before it an order that all coal burning engines over a certain tonnage over the minimum. He said the only engines which will be hand-fired in 1943 will be yard engines and switch engines. He also said that under a secret contract between the railroads and the Brotherhood (white), regarding mechanically stoked engines, the white firemen stoked preference on regular runs.

Attorney Houston expressed the opinion that when seniority rights prevail, a senior fireman has a property right in his job as against a junior fireman and that anyone who violated that right was liable. Further in the Teague case, the Railroad and the Brotherhood were in conspiracy to destroy Teague's rights under the seniority rule.

Attorney Nabrit said that the Brotherhood, as bargaining agent, could not use its position to destroy the minority that such action was not representation but misrepresentation, fraudulent and an action in bad faith.

All present at the Richmond conference were agreed that this secret contract (between the rail-

### SECOND QUARTER DUE NOW

Lincoln, Neb., July 27—Employers subject to the Nebraska Unemployment Compensation law are reminded today that contributions on payrolls for the second quarter of 1939 are now due and payable.

Contributions should be paid on or before Monday, July 31. Otherwise, delinquent penalties will be assessed. Many employers have already made their contributions. His facilities the work of the state job insurance division and protects these employers from incurring interest penalties provided by the law for delinquent contributors.

Contribution from employers are deposited with the State Treasurer and then forwarded to Nebraska's account in the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund. Withdrawals from the fund may be made under the law only for the purpose of paying out-of-work benefits to qualified unemployed workers. All administrative expenses of the State Unemployment Compensation division are met by grants from the federal government.

At the close of June, 1939, the reserve fund of the Nebraska Unemployment Compensation division amounted to \$8,287,565. Nebraska paid out 100,489 benefit checks for unemployment compensation totaling \$862,729 in the six-months' period from January 1, 1939, when benefit payments started, until June 30, 1939. A survey indicated that the bulk of the money paid out in benefits returned to trade channels in the state and was spent for food, clothing, rent and other necessities.

### BUNNY WRIGHT IN LONDON, ON WAY TO SOUTH AFRICA

London July 26 (C)—The surprise of the season is that R. R. (Bunny) Wright III sailed on the Queen Mary on July 5 with his father, Bishop R. R. Wright, for South Africa. The Wrights, father and son, accompanied by Miss Grace Ware, nurse, arrived in London on July 10.

### PUSH DRIVE TO REMOVE COLOR BAN IN UNIONS

Chicago July 19 (Howard Lawrence for CNA)—Renewed efforts to remove the color ban, which excludes Negroes from membership in a number of American Federation of Labor Unions will be made shortly. Ishmael P. Flory secretary-treasurer of the Joint Council of Dining Car Employees AFL, said this week.

The new move grew out of a conference of 22 AFL and CIO Negro labor leaders to oppose a bill now pending in the Illinois Legislature, and known as the Jenkins House Bill 373, as a harmful method of fighting against Jim Crowism in labor unions.

The Jenkins Bill would outlaw unions discriminating against Negroes, but would open the way for employer interference in the internal affairs of the unions, the

conference declared. Declaring that "the problem of the Negro worker" is a "problem that must be solved by the labor movement—and soon," the conference instructed its chairman, Milton P. Webster, to appoint a committee of five to meet with leaders of the Illinois State Federation of Labor. Webster is first international vice-president of the International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

The conference characterized the Jenkins Bill as a smokescreen to attack trade unions. "The Jenkins Bill is a product of the employer's interests. The racial question is only a smokescreen."

### Safe Guards Against Discrimination In Work Relief Published

Washington, July 26 (C)—The WPA has published Public Resolution No. 24 in Congress making appropriations for work relief, on pages 14 and 15 of which it is clearly stated that discrimination because of race, religion or political affiliation, and on account of race, creed or color, carries a penalty.

### 2 TUSKEGEE MEN ATTEND WASHINGTON MEETING

Washington, July 26 (C)—T. M. Campbell Field supervisor, Negro Extension Service, and A. L. Holsey, Field officer AAA, both with headquarters at Tuskegee Institute attended a conference of state officials of the AAA from 48 states on Wednesday, July 12.

New York, July 19 (C)—C. W. Rice, editor and publisher of the Negro Labor News, Houston, Tex., only Negro labor newspaper in the U. S., spent last week end in New York, seeing the World's Fair and looking over Harlem, Mr. Rice stopped at the Harlem YMCA.

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### Faculty Honors Dr McCrorey of Johnson Smith U.

Charlotte, N. C. (By E. L. Hercules, Calvin Service) A highlight of the recent commencement exercises at Johnson C. Smith University was the presentation of a silver loving cup to President H. L. McCrorey by members of the faculty, through their representative, Dr. Robert L. Douglass during the early days of the institution's existence.

In glowing terms, Dr. Douglass, professor of Mathematics, paid tribute to the work the exemplary head of one of the country's foremost centers of higher learning for Negroes, and called attention to the recognition accorded the veteran administrator by the 151st general assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. for his 44 years of distinguished service in the field of Christian education. Dr. Douglass made the presentation in behalf of his fellow workers of Johnson C. Smith U. as a symbol of their heartfelt appreciation of his devoted and faithful service as Teacher, Dean, President and Friend. After accepting the magnificent gift, President McCrorey made announcement of the Trustees' decision to commence work on the new girls dormitory, to be named in honor of Mr. James B. Duke, well known benefactor of the institution. Led by officials of the Trustee Board, members of the faculty, graduates and alumni the huge gathering proceeded at the close of the program to the site of the new dormitory, and with appropriate ceremony, ground was broken by Dr. Geo. C. Fisher, President of the Trustee Board.