

The Southern Workman Disappears In Depression; Hampton Inst. Landmark

President Howe Commends Editor Fisher

Hampton Institute, Va., August 3—The SOUTHERN WORKMAN, established in 1872 as the official organ of Hampton Institute, ceased publication with the July issue, just of the press, because of a "serious retrenchment program." This was the announcement, by President Howe, released in the final number of the magazine.

Dr. Isaac Fisher, Editor of The SOUTHERN WORKMAN for the last five years, and Publicist on Secretary, was given special commendation by President Howe, whose announcement was as follows:

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READERS OF THE SOUTHERN WORKMAN

Hampton Institute regrets to announce the discontinuance of The SOUTHERN WORKMAN with the edition of July 1939. The action taken is a part of a serious retrenchment program necessitated because of curtailed income for annual operating expenses. The final decision in the matter has been reached only after the most careful consideration.

In making this first official announcement, the Administration of Hampton Institute wishes to pay tribute to those who founded this monthly, and to those who have contributed through the years to the useful services which it has rendered.

Comments by letter and the spoken word bear evidence of the fact that much good has been accomplished by this modest publication. Efforts to acquaint the public with significant achievements of Negro Americans, the

progress of interracial understanding and affairs of Hampton Institute have often sown seeds of value in the hearts of thinking people. We make no claim to fame, because that is not, nor has it ever been, the purpose of this journal. It has been published with the sole purpose of creating a better understanding amongst all men; and, in particular, for the benefit of America's great minority groups. Because of our firsthand knowledge of what these efforts have meant to many people, we make this announcement with greatest reluctance.

Special commendation, respect and gratitude are due and herewith acknowledged to the present Editor, Dr. Isaac Fisher. He has upheld ideals characteristic of The SOUTHERN WORKMAN since its founding in 1872. His tact and guidance as an editor are too well known to all who have enjoyed this journal in recent years to require any comment here. His record is preserved in the written word. The power of his pen will continue to bear fruit, and his faithfulness in carrying out the details of his office will not be forgotten.

BILL ROBINSON, CLARENCE MUSE OBJECT TO BAPTIST ACTION ON WILL ROGER BID



BOTH TELL OF LATE COMEDIAN'S FRIENDSHIP FOR NEGRO AND POINT TO HONEST APOLOGIES FOR 'DARKY' BROADCAST CALL BAPTIST 'FIREBRANDS' 'UNCHRISTIAN'

Chicago, Aug. 3 (ANP)—Delegates to the recent National Baptist Sunday School and BYPU congress in Tulsa were guilty of "un-christian conduct" and being "show offs" when they refused to accept the invitation of the Claremore, Okla., chamber of commerce to visit the Will Rogers memorial because the late comedian once used an objectionable epithet in a broadcast, according to Clarence Muse and Bill "Bo-jangles" Robinson, who were personal friends of Rogers.

Chicago well known actors in statements to the Associated Negro Press told of Rogers' deep friendship for Negroes and cited instances of ways in which he had specifically aided members of the race. They also pointed out the great pains he took to apologize for having used "darky" on the radio program and his sincere regrets at having offended his colored listeners.

Referring to the invitation to visit the memorial, Clarence Muse said:

"A few young intellectual upstarts under the banner of modern ministers, with the race question ever at heart, refused and found themselves headlined the next day in the papers as new Negro champions. "It is not my business to preach Christianity. It is only my business to live it. I recall a vivid letter by C. H. Tobias of the YMCA to Will Rogers in which he said, 'I am an incurable admirer of yours—and had a lingering faith that you would yet say the word that would restore you to the place of affection that you have long held in the hearts of thousands of unknown colored friends. Last Sunday over the networks you did that in a way that touched me deeply. You are now closer to the spirit of Him whose deepest sympathies were with those farthest down.' "Now this is a Christian gentleman forgiving Mr. Rogers, while he lived for a mistake of the tongue and not of the heart. I think M. Tobias expressed the Christian attitude of nearly every Negro in this country that consults the Bible for guidance. The radical group would still admire his genius and criticize only his weak-view of the brotherhood of man. I am trying as you see to find some excuse, beside a vulgar attempt to be noticed for these young ministers making a scandal out of a forgotten incident. I have traveled South, too, but not as a minister. And to my mind, it was a grand gesture, I might say a step forward, when these 'cracklers' as we'll call them, invited the Baptists as their guests. "I knew Will Rogers, too, and I worked side by side with him in pictures and radio. He was a sincere man—a Christian—the kind Mr. Tobias speaks about. On one occasion he flew many miles to appear in a Baptist church, colored, to offer in prayerful tones his apology for the so-called insult. There he stood as humble as a child after I introduced him and asked that he spare further persecution of the soul, because first he was a Baptist and next he loved all mankind. What a small way to get into headlines: new school ministers should have common sense as well as radical ideas. Still, the fundamental principle of the Bible should find a life along the Golden Rule route and I am sure these young fire-brands do not appeal to the liberal minds. "Maybe it is a new technique to hoodwink the young into an over-worked racket of too much religion and a little practice. I sang over the Columbia networks with Admiral Byrd as speaker, the first memorial after his tragic death. My song without accompaniment was 'Swing Low, Sweet Chariot,' a spiritual born of a Christian soul in slavery." Bill Robinson, in his statement, said: "I am not speaking as an 'Uncle Tom' or a 'yes man,' as some of our narrow minded people would think. But I can truthfully say that Will Rogers was a great friend of the colored race. I have worked with him off and on for 20 years, during vaudeville days, and had the pleasure of making a picture with him shortly before he died, during which he aided me considerably of his own volition. His help with my script made my part much bigger than it would have been without it. He also was the making of Stephen Fehit. "In the picture that I appeared, called 'In Old Kentucky' there were many colored people as extras. I know on more than one occasion that Mr. Rogers held up the picture that the extras might benefit with over time pay. He was not a man to boast. But he helped thousands and colored people were among them. "I regret that we have not grown big enough to accept an apology, which is all that one can do where there is a mistake made. I am sure Mr. Rogers meant no

harm whatever, and after all, he is dead and cannot defend himself. We have a lot of highly educated young people, of whom we are proud, in the ministry, as well as other professions, who do not use the Christian judgment, as the Bible really teaches us. God forgave, why do not we? If we are to break down the fence that separates the many races from respecting each other, we must help in a Christian, intelligent and dignified manner. "Will Rogers begged an apology of the colored race. The people of Claremore now invite us to his

memorial. What more can be asked? I think we should accept and recognize the spirit in which it was given, which after all, is most important. I did not get the chance in my youth to get the young man of today can yet. Which is one reason I am paying for the education of four boys and two girls. Common sense and diplomacy have helped me greatly during my 61 years of struggle. "Again I say, Will Rogers was an humane man, and his passing was a great loss to all races. God rest his soul."

"Between the Lines"

(By Dean Gordon B. Hancock for ANP)

IN OUR CORNER

Another championship fight is history, and Joe Louis is still monarch of all he surveys, and his right there is none to dispute. It took him four rounds to put away his fellow Galento, who was not so bad after all. I was mighty glad to see Joe Louis floored. That is good for Joe and good for the game and good for the Negro race. Too many Negroes believe that just because Joe is a Negro, he can beat anybody in the world. This is bad for the Negro, and for race relations.

Just as Schmeling's knock-out proved a blessing to Joe and the game, the knock-down by Galento is going to do worlds of good, and it's going to make Joe a better fighter. Moreover, there is somewhere in this country some white man who is going not only to knock Joe down but who is going to knock him out for keeps. This will also be good for the game and for the Negro race. "Sure things" in sports are the worst things for sports, even though those "sure things" are Negroes—and they are just as bad for the whites. After all, Joe is human, and things human can stand only so much, and then they decline. Joe will decline, but not until he has lifted the boxing profession to one of the highest planes it has known. He will eventually get knocked out or will give way to some white heavyweight.

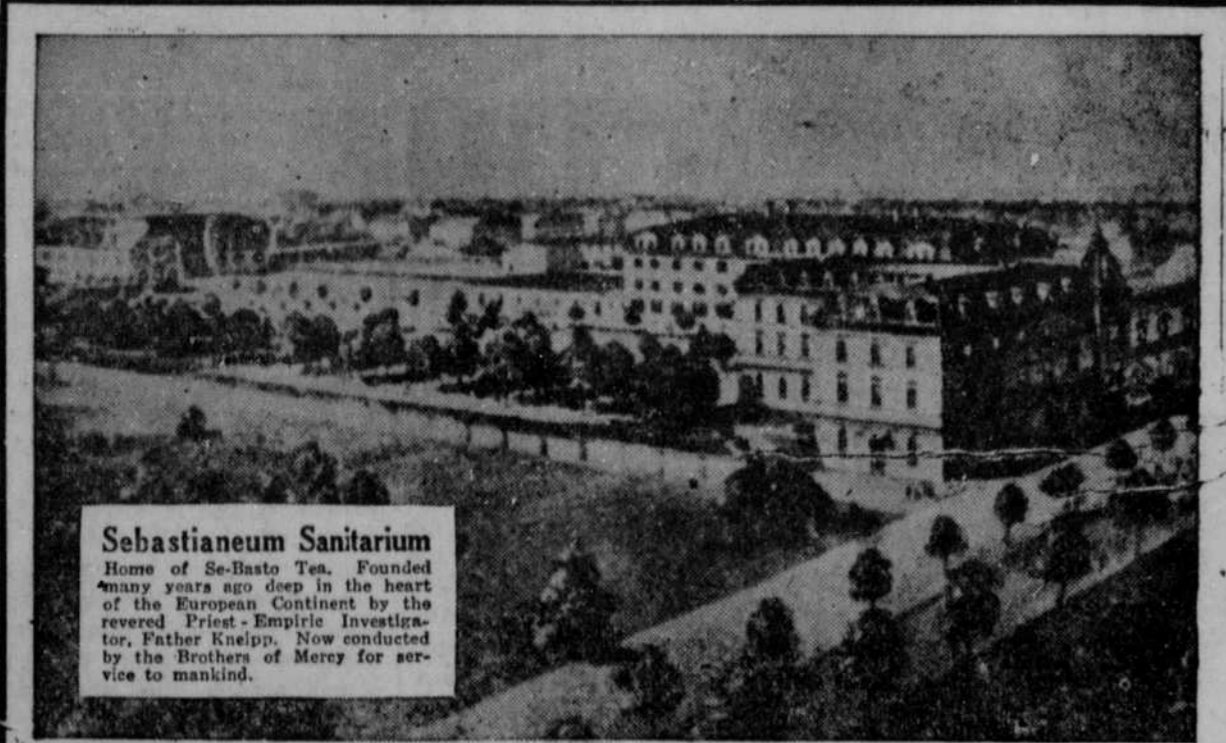
The Negro race and the sporting world as well as the world of race relations will be forever in the debt of this young Negro from the cotton fields of Alabama. When we are admiring and idolizing Joe Louis, let us not forget those three Negroes who have made Joe Louis possible: Black, Black and Roxborough are common sense brokers, the like of which this world has not known. Joe in the fights without Blackburn "in the corner," perhaps would not be so hot. But with Blackburn in the corner, he becomes a "tan terror." If, as the historians say, the battle of Waterloo was won on the athletic fields of Eton, then the Louis-Galento fight was won in Louis' corner where Jack Blackburn was presiding. When Louis ran into one of Galento's deadly lefts, things looked bad for a while, and we could sympathize with the fellow who dropped dead after Louis had been floored; but canny Old Jeck soon had Joe straight

again, and experts declare that the finest ring strategy ever shown was manifest when Joe elected to stay away from Tony until his wits could once again be gathered. He did not grow desperate after he was struck, he took his time and how wise was the counsel history now knows.

The fight was won in Joe's corner by the skill of Jack Blackburn coupled with the trip-hammer fists of Joe. It is true there is need of strength in the ring, but there must be strategy "in the corner." I often think that not enough is made of these three colored men who handle Joe. At commencement time, thousands of young graduates strut across the platforms of our colleges with flowing robes and gowns to receive their degrees. As a matter of fact, the deafening applause which rings in their ears is inspiring. But a sober second thought recalls those mothers and fathers who have suffered to make that graduation day possible, and it is rather they who should be receiving the plaudits of the multitudes.

Too often we forget the man out of sight. Behind every hero is some hero-maker. Some years ago, I stood on the pier in Liverpool and waited for a liner from this country to come in. Slowly she moved nearer and nearer, but I noticed that the engines were not working, but nearer she came. Methought that the wind was driving it in, but the wind was blowing at right angles, but on she came. Again I thought the tide was bearing the liner in, but the tide I later noticed was moving out, but on the liner came into the harbor. When the ship was close enough, I found a little tug boat I could not see until the ship was almost in harbor was bringing the great liner in. A little tug boat.

The fathers and mothers who sacrifice and suffer are doing tug-boat duty to get their children into harbor of graduation, but oftentimes they are not seen at all. Joe comes into the harbor of fame and fortune, but we must not forget the athletic fields of Eton, then the Louis-Galento fight was won in Louis' corner where Jack Blackburn was presiding. When Louis ran into one of Galento's deadly lefts, things looked bad for a while, and we could sympathize with the fellow who dropped dead after Louis had been floored; but canny Old Jeck soon had Joe straight



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