

# THRU THE DARKNESS I See

BY FRED C. WILLIAMS  
ART AWAKENED—In the news this week is the story of 85 year old Bill Taylor, an ex-slave and farm hand now living in the old capitol of the confederacy, Montgomery, Ala. The new South art galleries of that city are displaying drawings by this octogenarian

which according to one critic shows that "his roots of art lie deeply within the great African tradition". The race is truly blessed in having within its group one of their number who still retains his love for his race and is glad and willing to express it in drawings that prove his ancestors possessed an artistic culture that will not die, but is still slumbering in the blood stream of his people. Bill Taylor will leave a heritage that will awaken the present and the future generations of his people and develop this latent artistic ability which under the Whiteman's influence they have long neglected.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?—The ques-

tion just asked, I have put to my race of people. It was prompted by a news item from a California paper which says that Jews double themselves in population every ten years in that state and that they are told not to succumb to fear and pessimism but to continue their creation of new industries and help to expand those already created.

What is true of the Jew as a race can be said of the Negro for just now, he is playing an important part in the development of the Golden State for the Negro must not and cannot decline to accept the challenge thrown to him by the enemies of democracy and freedom.

ROBESON IN A FOG:—What was to have been a triumphal return for Paul Robeson, seems to have met with failure because it is hidden behind a heavy blanket of "pink fog" for Paul Robeson, born in America where freedom of speech is guaranteed has expressed himself too often and too eloquently of his sympathies for Soviet Russia and the Communistic ideals which he imbibed when he left the USA.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES: Much ink has been spilled and a lot of unnecessary apprehension has been developed in this country about the possibility of Black-Americans becoming Communist. There is one thing certain that the black people of this country are looking forward to the day when the Constitution of the United States functions fully in behalf of all minority groups, especially their own. Alabama could have killed any possibility of sympathy for the Communist by giving the Scottsboro boys a fair trial and their freedom; should have encouraged race lawyers to appear in the courts in their behalf and meted fair and full justice but instead, they allowed the ILLD to come in, make a fight and thus use this action as a basis to engender the friendship and sympathy of the race. These United States and especially the southland, should demand that Alabama wash this stain from their escutcheon and free the five remaining victims of the Scottsboro fiasco.

THE SAME OLD GAME:—It was with amusement that I read in the news the following item: The book "RACE RELATIONS", by Dr. Charles S. Johnson, and Dr. W. D. Weatherford of Fisk University, has been selected by the advisory board of Oglethorpe University, white school, for inclusion in the "Crypt of Civilization" which will be closed in May and not opened until the year 8113 A. D.—here was an example of our white bro-

thers system of avoiding the charge of not giving every group an opportunity to show its real worth and intelligence. The book, Race Relations would serve a better purpose if it was placed in every library and become one of the text books of our free educational sys-

tem. Let us hope that by the time the crypt is opened that those in that stage will have enough history at their command to realize how unfair their brethren of the present age were in dealing with us in this present era.



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'Showboat' brought her to Hollywood. And I remember her in Katherine Hepburn's 'Alice Adams' in which she did a female Stepin Fetchit cook. It was one of the funniest scenes in the picture. She still sings and recites in church.  
"It must have been fun the last time she passed through Denver where she started her career as a cook, for they had to call out the Fire and Police departments to hold the crowds back."

### SAYS ONLY FEW NEGROES HAVE EQUALITY IN FRANCE

New York.—Contrary to popular American belief, only a very small section of the French colonial population is permitted to enjoy the status of citizenship, or even permitted the enjoyment of elementary civil liberties, according to George Padmore, specialist in colonial problems, writing in The Crisis magazine for March.

Mr. Padmore points out that most people, and especially American Negroes, have been deceived about racial equality in the French empire, because they have based their judgment on the "very minute" section of French Negroes who are granted equality.

The French have been more clever than the English, he declares, in dealing with their dark colonial populations. Like the English, they educate and train a small group of colored people to help them control the masses of Negro subjects. But whereas the English maintain a color line even against the dark leaders they seem to favor, France embraces this small group and grants it full social equality, including intermarriage.

This policy, with the English and the French, has had the same results, namely, iron-clad control of the masses of the darker colonies; but the French have been able to plant the impression throughout the world that they really believe in equality.

The Padmore article in The Crisis entitled "Subjects and Citizens in French Africa" declares that France, which has the largest empire in Africa, has divided its Negro people into two classifications, citizens and subjects, and that the vast majority—some sixty million, is made up of subjects who have no citizenship rights.

### DIVINE FLEES; "HEAVEN" ABLAZE

Philadelphia, March 6 (ANP)—Father Divine, cult leader, was forced to flee when fire broke out in a local "heaven" last week. The firemen, Philly's colored unit were greeted by Divine with "Peace, brothers". Little damage was done by the blaze, caused by a defective flue.

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Bryce Crawford, County Judge.

Atty Ray L. Williams, Room 1, Tuchman Bldg., at 24th and Lake St.

Notice of Administration  
In the County Court of Douglas County, Nebraska:

In the matter of the estate of Walter T. Davis, deceased.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in said Court alleging that said deceased died leaving no last will and praying for that a hearing will be had on said petition before said court on the 2nd day of March, 1940, and that if they fail to appear at said Court on the said 2nd day of March, 1940, at 9 o'clock A. M., to contest said petition, the Court may grant administration of said estate to W. L. Myers or some other suitable persons and proceed to a settlement thereof.

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