

THE OMAHA GUIDE

JUSTICE AND EQUALITY ALL THE NEWS WHILE IT IS NEWS NEW TO THE LINE

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WORKERS URGED TO APPLY FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE JOBS
 New York—Colored workmen were urged by the NAACP to apply for jobs at all plants which are manufacturing products for the national defense program, and report at once if they are refused jobs. The national office of the NAACP, here at 69th Fifth Avenue will forward all such complaints immediately to the national defense council.

LARGEST ACCREDITED NEGRO NEWSPAPER WEST OF CHICAGO AND NORTH OF KANSAS CITY

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ANNOUNCES WEDDING DATE



MISS DOROTHY SCOTT
 Miss Dorothy Scott, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Scott and grand-daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Scott of Omaha, has chosen September 29th, for the date of her marriage to William A. Glenn of Hope, Arkansas. It

was announced at a formal dinner party give at the home of her aunt, Susie Yancy, 2871 Maple Street, Omaha, Saturday evening, July 20th. Guests were: Misses Velma Rose, Mary Ellen Dickerson, Charlene Lewis, Johnnie Gordon, Lorene Lewis, Irene Harrold, and Mesdames Margaret Wright, Lucille Young, Mabel Lee, Aletha Dixon, Mabel Goldston, Mabel Glenn and Geraldine Harris.
 Miss Scott is a graduate of Central High school, Omaha, where she majored in stenographic work. She was secretary in the Nebraska State Legislative, 1937 Session, later she became Recording Secretary for the Protective Order of Dining Car Waiters, Local No. 465, the position she now holds. Her fiancee attended the University of Nebraska where he affiliated with the Alpha Phi Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, studied at the university of Minnesota, and is now working toward his Ph. B. J. Degree in Journalism and Public speaking at Creighton university in Omaha.

RED CAPS SUE LINES FOR FIVE MILLION DOLLARS

DENTISTS NAME DR. FEREBEE CHAIRMAN DEFENSE COMMITTEE



Washington, July 25 (ANP)—Appointment of a national defense committee was announced by Dr. C. Thurston Ferebee, Howard, Houston, president, National Dental association. This committee will aid in listing the national colored dentists who can qualify for military service and will cooperate with the American Dental association, war and navy departments, United States Public Health service and the recently created President's National Defense council.

Dr. C. Thurston Ferebee, Washington, was selected Chairman of the national defense committee of the NDA, and also president of the Robert T. Freeman Dental society, D. C. and 1st lieutenant, dental corps, army reserve. Dr. Ferebee says that the 2,000 Negro dentists in this country, both members and non-members of the association, soon will receive forms requesting detailed, confidential information about their professional qualifications and military experience. When the forms are completed and the data filed it will be made available to the federal government. This defense committee will not only aid the national defense council and the war departments in the selection of men fit for military service but it will, in the event of an emergency render every possible aid to dentists who enter the military services as well as those who will, for one reason or another, remain at home.
 Assisting Dr. Ferebee in compiling this survey are the following members of the committee: Dr. J. C. Brazier, Washington, D. C.; Dr. R. E. Beamon, Cincinnati; Dr. H. C. Edwards, Washington; Dr. A. S. Hunter, Durham; Dr. R. A. Dixon, Washington; Dr. Q. L. Toler, Greenville, Miss.; and Dr. M. R. Dean, Washington. Any dentist

Chicago, July 25 (CNA) Gaining impetus from preliminary decisions, the legal staff of the United Transport Service Employees of America has entered the final stages for the next push in the union's proceedings against several railroads.
 Proceedings, in which the stakes include a possible settlement of \$5,000,000 or more for 75 per cent of the nation's red caps, has become the largest recovery suit under the Wage and Hour Law and the largest suit ever filed by an American labor organization.
 Composed of several prominent Negro and white attorneys, the nine-man emergency legal staff of the UTSEA is headed by Leon M. Despres of Chicago and George C. Hayes of Washington.

Previous decisions have been handed down in the U. S. courts at Chicago and Dallas, Texas. The Chicago court has ruled that a representative suit can be filed in behalf of employes in conformity with Section 16 (b) of the Fair Labor Standards Act, and that the employes have the right to designate representatives to file in their behalf. The Dallas court ruled that tips do not constitute wages.
 The court ordered the payment of back wages, and recently denied a motion of the railroad company for a new trial.
 Recently a dual AF of L "splitter" organization of red caps in Philadelphia, headed by A. C. McQuee, an expelled vice president of the UTSEA, filed an independent suit. The court set this case aside in order that the legal way may be cleared for the larger and more representative suit of the UTSEA.

HEAD NEGRO REPORTERS CHARGE BIAS IN PRESS SEATINGS AT DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

SEEKS ELK LEADERSHIP



D. Lethia C. Fleming, Cleveland, Ohio, prominent member of The Grand Temple of Elks, and one of the most widely known women in the country, is said to be the leading candidate for Grand Daughter Ruler of The Elks.
 The Grand Temple meets in St. Louis next month.

Chicago—Charging that they were being discriminated against by being given seats in the first balcony instead of the elaborate press box here, reporters for a half dozen Negro newspapers protested to National Chairman James A. Farley, Sunday on the eve of the Democratic convention.
 Badges marked "General Press" with admission tickets, for unreserved seats in the balcony were distributed to all of the Negro reporters of Democratic headquarters over the week end.
 The situation was brought to Mr. Farley's attention Sunday after he had addressed a Negro mass meeting at the Eighth Illinois armory. Visibly disturbed by the situation, after the reporters pointed out that Negro reporters were given equal accommodations in the press box at the GOP convention in Philadelphia, Mr. Farley promised to confer with Charles Michelson, Democratic Publicity Director, within a half hour.
 The indignant reporters did not wait for the conferences, however. Going straight to Michelson's office in the Stevens Hotel, they informed him of their protest to Farley and demanded immediate redress.
 The publicity Director disclaimed responsibility for the situation although the badges had been issued through his office. He declared that a press committee composed of representatives of the daily press, had completed the arrangements, leaving out a number of small white dailies and weeklies.
 When the Negro reporters remained insistent, however, Mr. Michelson provided them with new credentials which would permit them to go anywhere in the convention stadium. He also provided credentials for three Negro photographers. The new credentials still will not extend the facilities of the press box to the Negro representatives, however.

Chicago—A known opposition of Negro voters in the North and West to candidates from the Deep South for Vice President of the United States on the Democratic ticket may have been a factor in the refusal to nominate Speaker Bankhead of Alabama, Senator James Byrnes of South Carolina, or Congressman Sam Rayburn, of Texas it became known here in connection with the federal anti-lynching bill. Bankhead has been no friend of Negroes. Rayburn has no special record on the Negro but he comes from a state whose record is bad.

SIDELIGHTS OF THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

Chicago, July 25 (By Roscoe Dunjee for ANP)—More than 25 Negro delegates sat on the floor of the Chicago stadium this year.

When the committee named by the National Colored Democratic association appeared before the Resolutions committee at the Blackstone hotel they received an ovation. The entire committee arose and cheered following the presentation by Earl Dickerson. Senator Pepper followed the committee into the hall and said he approved all of the program suggested regarding civil rights.

Cotton Ed Smith did not take a walk this year. Perhaps it was because he liked the prayer offered by Bishop Reverdy Ransom better than the invoking ability of Marshall Shepard.

And by the way Marshall Shepard made a big mistake at the stadium. He thought he was seating himself with the Pennsylvania (Continued on page 3)

WENDELL WILLKIE ON VACATION CONFERS ON COLORED PEOPLES PROBLEMS

Washington, D. C.—Continuing a round of interviews with important individuals of all races, creeds and professions, Wendell L. Willkie, Republican nominee for President of the United States, at Colorado Springs, Wednesday July 17, received the Reverend G. W. Reed, a Bishop with Headquarters in the West, and J. Finley Wilson, Grand Exalted Ruler of the Negro Elks of the United States who discussed problems confronting the Colored people of the United States, particularly discriminatory treatment.
 Another visitor came away declaring: only a man of Mr. Willkie courage and understanding can cope successfully with the financial problems that demand solution in his country.—He has all the qualities and qualifications for a great President in a time of a great emergency.

PRINCIPAL IN EQUAL PAY FIGHT GETS NEW CONTRACT

Norfolk, Va., July 25 (ANP)—Melvin O. Alston, whose fight for equal salaries for Negro and white teachers against the Norfolk school board brought victory on an appeal to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals in Asheville, N. C., recently has been offered a new teaching contract for 1940-41, it was announced here last week. This move is seen as a sign of weakening by the board, although indications have been made that it will appeal the decision to the U. S. Supreme court, because Miss Aline Black, who sued the board in a similar case in 1939, was dropped from her post for her action.

EXPECT 2,000 MERCHANTS FOR FALL MARKET WEEK

Two thousand merchants from half a dozen surrounding states are expected to be in Omaha for Merchants Fall Market Week which opens August 19, Chairman Jerry D. Alexander of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce committee in charge, said today.

With approximately 50 Omaha wholesaling, jobbing and manufacturing houses playing host to the visitors, three big nights of entertainment are planned, Alexander said.

Peony Park's beautiful outdoor Royal Grove will be the setting for an elaborate Style Show on Tuesday evening, August 20. Framed in an arc of colored lights beautiful girls will model the latest Fall and Winter styles. An additional feature of the evening will be an up to the minute floor show. Visiting merchants will dance in the breeze swept grove to strains of a nationally known band following the style revue. Peony's Parks pool will also be open for those who care to swim before or after the program.

Lyle DeMoss of Radio Station WOW will be featured entertainer in a Fun night "Quiz-Fest", Wednesday evening in Hotel Fontenelle. DeMoss will match wits with the visitors with a array of attractive gifts as rewards for quick thinking. Dancing will follow later in the evening.
 Thursday's Gift Night and Grand

Ball at the Omaha Field Club will feature distribution of several thousand dollars worth of gifts to the visiting merchants and their families. An added attraction will be a demonstration by the Omaha Fire Department's Rescue Squad. Dancing will also be included on the evening's schedule.
 Market Week firms are preparing a giant "open house" program for the benefit of their guests and a number of special exhibits, displays and entertainments are already being added to the week's program. The latest styles and merchandise will be available and merchants will have an opportunity to preview stocks which will be in demand during the Fall and Winter seasons.
 Sponsors of Market Week include: Anderson-Moschel Mercantile Co., Beebe & Runyan Furniture Co., Bemis Bag Co., Bordy's Garment Co., Carpenter Paper Co., John Deere Plow Co., Eggers O'Flyng Co., Falstaff Brewing Co., Fontenelle Hotel, Gate City Hat Co., Independent Biscuit Co., K-B Printing Co., Don Lee Furniture Co., Loose-Wiles Biscuit Co., McKesson Robbins, Inc., R. A. Marr Grocery Co., Omaha Crockery Co., Orchard & Wilhelm Co., Paxton & Gallagher Co., Paxton Hotel, Supercraft Garment Co., Tootle-Campbell Dry Goods Co., Trimble Brothers, Wm. Walker & Co., and Wright & Wilhelm Co.

HISTORY OF DAN DESDUNES BAND; 2 GREAT DIRECTORS

DAN DESDUNES



BY W. M. (CAP) LEWIS
 2927 North 28th St., Omaha, Nebraska
 The Band known as the Desdunes Band was organized in 1887. By W. M. Lewis and J. N. Thomas, retired Detective Sarg., and was known as the Omaha Military Band. This Band was directed by Mr. Thomas a very accomplished musician. Mr. Thomas and I were seeking the best talent we could find. In 1904 the Gidons Minstrels came to Omaha and were showing at the old Trackodard Theatre on 14th and Harney Sts., Mr. Thomas and I went to see a man by the name of Dan Desdunes that was showing with that company. The Omaha Military Band at that time had become to be known all over the country, under the direction of Mr. Thomas. We engaged Mr. Desdunes to come to Omaha,

which he did after giving his ten days notice to the manager of the show. Mr. Thomas and I rented an apartment in the present Dr. Hawkins Building for Mr. Desdunes and when he returned to Omaha he was all ready to go to house keeping. House furnished, rent paid for three months. We then organized the Desdunes Orchestra. All of the dancing and social functions were played at that time by white orchestras. Namely Dimmicks Orchestra, Olson and Franks Clark Orchestra, but when Desdunes got going there was no more work for the white orchestras to do for our group. We also cut in on their group playing.
 Desdunes sent for some of his musicians to come to Omaha. Such musicians as Prof. George Bryant the present director of the Desdunes band and a man by the name of Sidney Carter. After several years in Omaha Mr. Bryant west and continued in the Minstrel business until the latter part of the twenties. After which he went into a theatre with an orchestra and had charge of Burlesque and vaudeville acts.
 Between 1904 and 1907 the Omaha Military Band became the first regiment band of the military department of the Knights of Pythias. Mr. J. N. Thomas was commissioned Col. of that department and resigned from the band as Director and I. W. M. Lewis was commissioned Captain and Desdunes was commissioned First Lieutenant and band master. The band became famous overnight. The band went to the K of P convention of K. C., Mo., in 1911 and won the second prize after competing

with such bands as the Eighth Reg. Band of Chicago with Bill Barry directing. The St. Louis Band under the direction of Wade Hammond now with the Ninth Calvary band and W. M. Jackson of the 115th Reg. Band of Topeka Kansas and the Second Reg. Band of K. C. Mo., under the direction of W. M. Meiford.

The Press and the general opinion was the Omaha Band should have had first prize. Desdunes became the talk of the country. He was 25 years ahead of the times. He introduced a piece of music which rearranged known as the Missouri Maze. That set the convention hall on during the contest. Over 15,000 people were in attendance.

I then went after big jobs, such as the Nebraska State Fair, Ak-Sar-Ben Parades, Trade Extension Trips of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce. We have played the Nebraska State Fair from 1915 to 1937, the Trade trip from 1920 to 1946.
 Desdunes died in 1929, then Frank Perkins became director of the band to 1930. Then another great bandmaster came to town.
 The return of Prof. George Bryant. These two great bandmasters, Dan Desdunes and George Bryant, the present bandmaster in my estimation were on par. Desdunes, the modern, Bryant, the more sincere and classic.

I was commissioned Captain in uniform department of the Knights of Pythias, THAT'S WHY I'M KNOWN AS "CAP".