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"They Give Their Lives—You Lend Your Money"

Master Negro Engineer Disproves Theory of Prof.; Encourages Young Engineers

(Continued from page 1)
"none of us can tell what we can do until we try. And even then we must keep on trying."

One of Alexander's white classmates, Maurice A. Repass, disagreed with the professor. A varsity half-back also, he had worked with Alexander in the Iowa backfield and he thought they made a pretty good team.

Today, 31 years later, they are still a pretty good team and the contracting firm of Alexander and Repass is one of the most successful in its field. Specializing in bridge, power plant, highway and sewage disposal plant construction the company has completed engineering and construction jobs throughout the country since its founding 28 years ago.

At present, the firm is building a bridge across the Tidal Basin at Washington, D.C. When completed for the District of Columbia's Highway Department at an estimated cost of more than \$1,000,000, this bridge will extend from 15th street

and Independence Avenue and connect with a driveway running along the Potomac. The structure will consist mainly of North Carolina granite and limestone.

Alexander, the senior partner, is supervising the Tidal Basin job which now employs 150 Negro and white mechanics and laborers and represents a capital investment of more than \$100,000 in cash and \$90,000 in heavy machinery. The construction crew, which includes two white stone masons who have worked for the firm for 22 years, will be doubled before the job is completed this summer.

Bridge building is no new field to Alexander and Repass. For years, the firm has done the bulk of such work for the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad. And since 1928, the partners have constructed half of the bridges in their native city of Des Moines, Iowa. Other major contracts have included the erection of a power plant at Columbus, Neb.; the construction of the airport for a civilian program at Tuskegee, Ala.; and the construction of a sewage disposal plant at Grand Rapids, Mich.

The senior partner's greatest personal satisfaction, however, probably came from a job in 1928, in that year, the firm of Alexander and Repass completed a \$1,000,000 contract at the University of

Iowa—and put to rest the last fears of the doubting professor that the color of one's skin must, of necessity, be a handicap to a competent engineer.

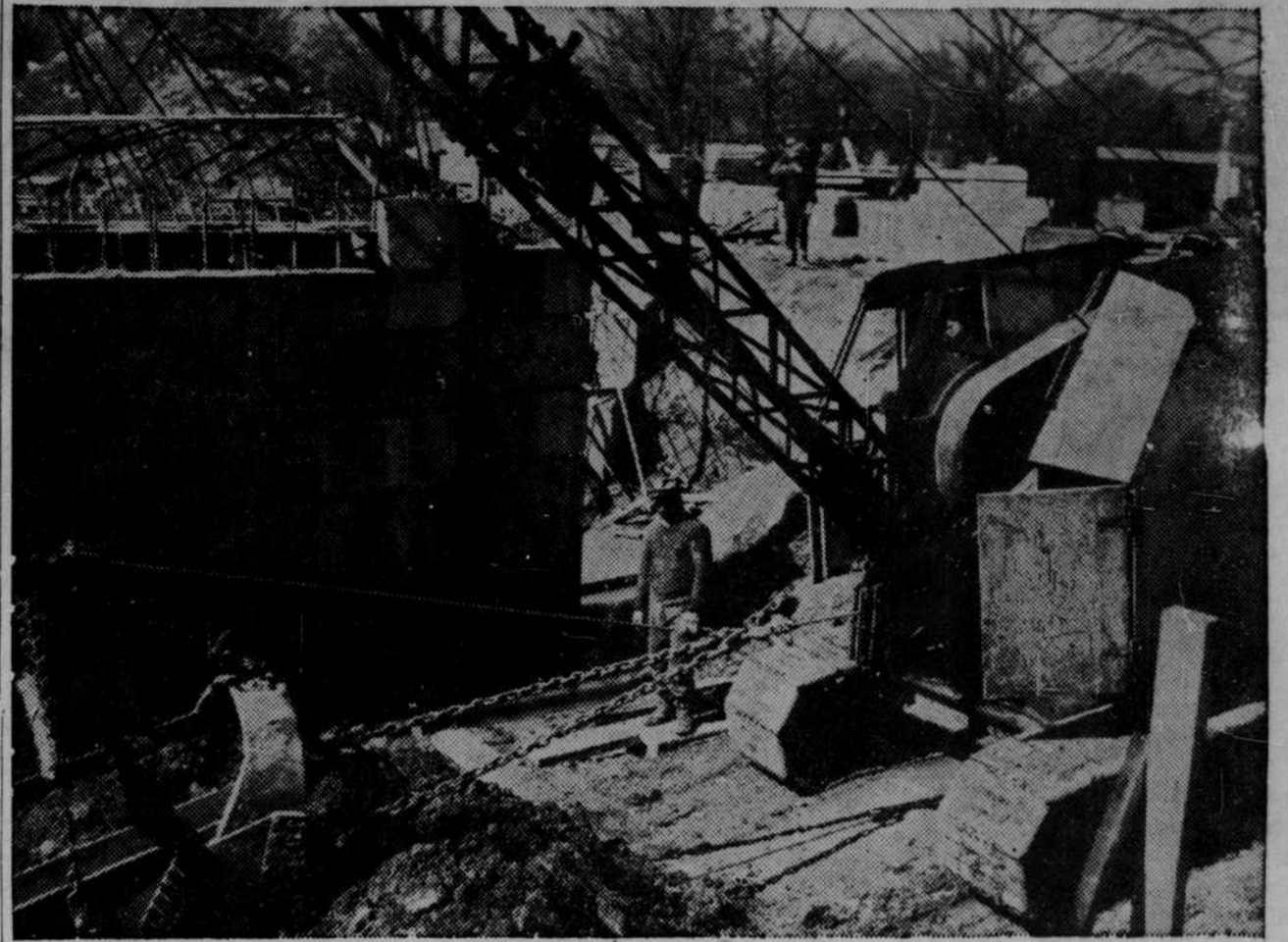
Although the firm has made no bank loans for more than five years, Alexander believes that credit rating is of utmost importance in his field. So firmly does he believe this that once, during the dark days of the depression, he drew \$75,000 from his personal savings account and invested it in the business so that the firm could complete a contract on schedule.

Since the death of his only son, Alexander has made a hobby of encouraging other young Negroes to enter engineering and technical professions. He receives more than a hundred letters annually from Negro students in engineering schools seeking advice about their careers and job possibilities. He answers each of these letters personally, usually with some word of encouragement or advice drawn from his own long experience.

And when one of the youths seems discouraged, he remembers his old engineering professor and repeats the same words he used in 1912:

"None of us can tell what we can do until we try. And even then we must keep on trying."

Erecting New Tidal Basin Bridge in Washington, D. C.



More than \$90,000 worth of heavy machinery is being used by the firm of Alexander and Repass in the construction of a million-dollar bridge across the Tidal Basin in Washington, D. C. Some of this machinery is shown above. The Des Moines, Iowa, firm has done the bulk of the bridge building work for the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad for a number of years.

OFFICIAL OWI PHOTO BY ROGER SMITH

THE FARM BLOC GOES A-GUNNING AGAIN FOR FARM SECURITY

(Continued from Page 1)

man Clarence Cannon, Democrat, Missouri, and Everett Dirksen, Republican, Illinois. A motion to salvage Farm Security was voted down 20 to 8, virtually without debate.

Why all this rumpus over the Farm Security administration?

Perhaps a little background material will be helpful. The AFSC of Farm Security—the agency that has done so much in the past eight years to help disadvantaged Negro and white farmers—can be summarized as a common-sense attempt on the part of the federal government to raise the level of life in rural America from the bottom up.

For many years there was a lot of big talk in agricultural circles about crop improvement and soil conservation. There have been devices for boosting and stabilizing prices of farm products. Country life associations have operated eloquently in terms of human values. Recognizing the fact that an improved agriculture for America—black as well as white—must involve all the factors that affect the millions of families living on American farms, FSA came into being in 1937 to build a sounder, healthier, and more satisfactory rural life through a complete program that centers around all these aspects of family living.

The program includes soil conservation, improved farming methods, home production of subsistence, better housing and medical care, education and encouragement of cooperative living and is now a fully-mobilized production agency helping Uncle Sam keep his food arsenal filled to satisfy our fighting men, our allies and our civilian workers on the home front.

Some idea of how well the 464,941 families on the Farm Security program (this includes some 62,000 Negroes) did their job last year can be gained from a brief recital of their production record.

In spite of the fact these families comprise only 7.6 per cent of the 6,097,000 farm operators in the nation, yet they increased their milk output by 1,419,000,000 (billion) pounds. This is more than a third of the nation's total milk supply for 1942 and represents a 20 per cent increase of FSA farmers' output over their 1941 production, compared with a 3 per cent increase by all farmers.

Farm Security borrowers increased supplies of other war-needed crops from 20 percent to 106 percent over 1941 production. In terms of national increases, they accounted for 27 percent of the total increase in dry beans, 10 percent of the total increase in eggs, chickens and peanuts and 9 percent of the pork increase.

Out of the hundreds of thousands of farmers, that Farm Security has helped, some have been handcuffed by poor lands; some have not known how to use their land; some have been swamped in the attempt to compete single-handed and with poor equipment, with the big commercial farms.

New York, N. Y.—The prize of a \$25.00 war bond monthly is being offered by The Crisis magazine beginning in June, for the best letter from Negroes in the armed services. In addition to the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Marines and the WAACS, members of the Army Nurse Corps, the Red Cross staffs and the Merchant Marine are eligible to compete. The Crisis states that it wishes to receive all types of opinions from colored people in the war, good, bad or indifferent.

Real names will not be published if the authors desire them with held, but real names must be signed for the information of the magazine. Letters should be addressed to The Crisis, 69th Fifth Avenue New York, N. Y.

\$25 War Bond Prize for Letters From Soldiers

Ark. State College Elects New Pres.

Pine Bluff, Ark., April 22 (ANP)—Lawrence A. Davis, dean of Arkansas State college here, was elected president April 14 when the board of trustees met in a special session to choose the successor to the late Dr. J. B. Watson.

The president elect is a native of Arkansas and a graduate of the college. He became a member of the faculty in 1937 and since that time has served as teacher, registrar, assistant to the president and dean of the school. Since the death of Dr. Watson, he has served as chairman of the administrative committee which has been in

charge of affairs of the college. The student body staged a great parade of jubilation which did not end until the new president had spoken to them.

Many of these small farmers—particularly in the south—have been forced into the treadmill of cash cropping, usually single cropping—to the detriment of the land and people. Others have been caught in the tenacles of the debt machine and whose living is dictated by the "furnish merchant."

To bring some order out of this picture of rural chaos, FSA approached the situation from three sides:

1. As a credit problem, through loans;
2. As an educational problem, through guidance and supervision and
3. As a problem of physical need, through arrangements for medical care and decent housing.

TEXAS FARMERS' PRODUCTION COMMITTEE MEETS IN ORIENTATION PROGRAM

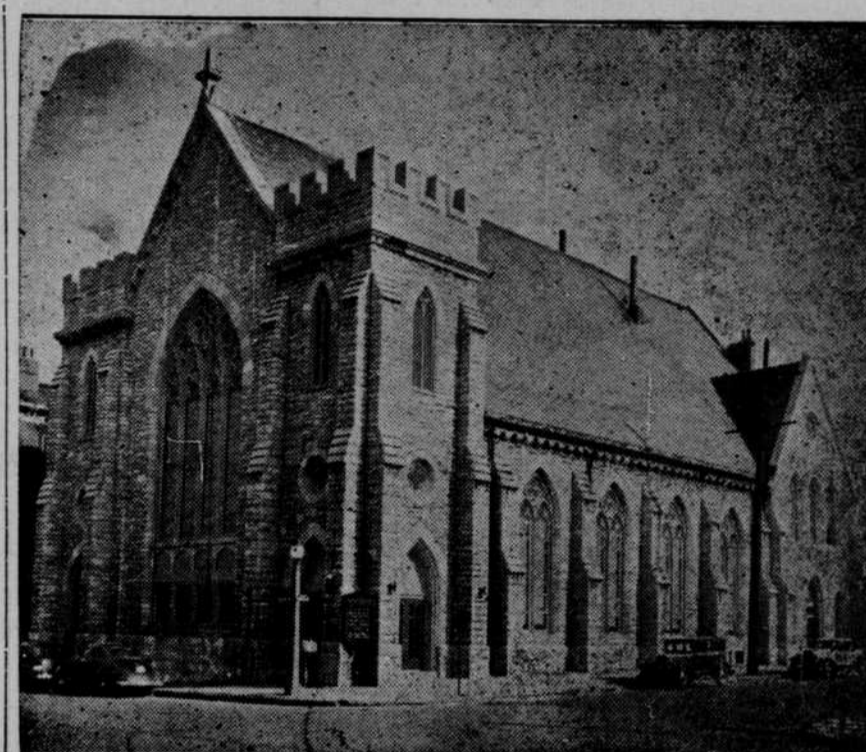
Prairie View, Texas, April 22 (ANP)—The six members of the Texas Negro Farmers' War Production committee, under the sponsorship of the Texas USDA war board, met in an orientation program at Prairie View state college, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The conference convened to acquaint the committee members with the program, provisions and services of all agricultural agencies serving Texas Negro farmers.

The group was selected because of their contributions to agricultural production. The orientation discussions were introduced by representatives from the Texas USDA war board, agricultural adjustment agency, extension service, farm security administration, soil conservation service, farm credit administration, vocational education and rural war production agencies. Each representative indicated for the committee the means by which Texas Negro farmers can help realize the food and food goals of the war effort.

One of the chief purposes of the committee is to distribute general information to Negro farmers on the availability of the services offered by governmental agricultural agencies and emphasize the importance of such information in the war production program.

Use The Omaha Guide As A Medium of Advertising

BECOMES DEBT FREE



Central Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo., pictured above, became debt free last Sunday when the \$5,000 mortgage was burned by the newly installed pastor, the Rev. T. E. Huntley, just six months after he took over. Special services, including a victory march, featured the occasion. (ANP Photo)

BURNS \$5,000 MORTGAGE SIX MONTHS AFTER BECOMING PASTOR OF ST. LOUIS CHURCH

ST. LOUIS, April 22 (ANP)—Six months after becoming pastor of Central Baptist church, the Rev. T. E. Huntley was able Sunday to preside at ceremonies during which the church's \$5,000 mortgage was burned.

The day's program began with an inspirational worship led by the Sunday School and featuring a victory march headed by the girls' drum and bugle corps of the Tom Powell American Legion Post. Saul E. Boud acted as marshal. After the corps came Rev. and Mrs. Huntley, Dr. Marshall A. Talley, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist church, Indianapolis; the official boards, choir and general membership. They marched around a city block typifying the march around the walls of Jericho.

In the morning services which followed, Rev. Huntley introduced Dr. Talley as the man who inspired and guided him in preparation for the ministry. The Indianapolis pastor, before delivering his address, read a congratulatory message from Dr. A. Clayton Powell Sr., pastor emeritus of Abyssinian Baptist church in N. Y.

During the course of the services it was disclosed that during the time Rev. Huntley had been pastor church receipts had totaled nearly \$18,000. The burning of mortgages on the church and parish house followed.

In the afternoon a fellowship and consecration service sponsored jointly by the Interdenominational Ministerial alliance of Metropolitan St. Louis and the church was conducted. Dr. Clark Walker Cummings, executive secretary of the church federation, delivered

the consecration address. Representatives of the ministry congratulated the pastor with the laying on of hands and with fitting ceremony. The membership next pled by the pastor pledging their loyalty.

Following the close of the general BTU service in the evening, the Junior Harrison players dramatized the story of the Resurrection and pantomimed the song, 'The Holy City.'

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