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2420 GRANT ST

"Largest Accredited Negro Newspaper West of Chicago and North of KC."

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Our 18th Year—No. 18

New Mayor Makes Statement

The assuming of public office regardless of how minor or how great, is an important undertaking. Each and every such public official should recognize that he is not all-wise nor all-powerful.

The office of City Commissioner is the most important public office of the city, and whether our city is going to progress to a point of one of the great commercial centers of the Middle West, is to a great extent, determined by our City Council.

In our opinion, a good public official is one who recognizes not only the limitations of man, but more especially his own limitations. No one man could possibly be possessed of full knowledge of any and all matters pertaining to the various departments of the city, nor even to one department thereof. We must surround ourselves with competent assistants and continuously seek information from the best sources available.

We thank all of the voters of Omaha for their confidence expressed by the election, and humbly enter upon our responsibilities.

Our literature and our talks previous to the election were not just "campaign talk" and propaganda. We were sincere.

We propose to develop a firm policy of law enforcement in the Police Department, but at the same time to use common sense in that enforcement. We will endeavor to see that all city employees are paid a wage comparable to the wage paid by industry in this locality. It is our plan to inaugurate a program which will compensate our policemen in a sufficient amount in keeping with the increased standards of living and make it unnecessary for them to be dependent upon the public for any portion of their support or income. We shall insist on courteous treatment of the part of all city officers and employees.

It is our duty to see that our policemen extend every courtesy to non-residents, as well as residents, the details of which we will not go into at this time.

Before any definite action is taken on improvements for our city, they should be well thought out. The very best of scientific information assembled and a study made, not with just the present in mind but anticipating the needs in the years to come. This includes public improvements, parks, recreation, sewers, streets, boulevards, health, airport and airports, transportation, and financing, as well as every other activity. A site should be arranged for, forthwith, to be used for a new auditorium. This location should be close to the business center where transportation facilities are ample and where sufficient area for parking can be arranged. We have such a location in mind.

A building should be erected wherein there would be a machine shop, a garage, and a receiving department where all city purchases and equipment, including the trucks and the cars of the city, would be housed (excepting the equipment that is being used by the Police Department and the Fire Department, but that equipment would all be repaired, checked regularly, and under the jurisdiction of that shop).

Statistics show that the cost of providing sufficient recreation for minors is much less than the prosecution and the care of criminals.

No department in your city is more important. The passage of the ordinance providing for recreation proves the people of our city agree. The activities thereof should be carefully planned, all of the ideas adopted insofar as of the ideas and thoughts along that line fill be solicited, and all of the best ideas adopted insofar as possible. In this regard, we expect to call upon the clergy, church workers and educators quite heavily.

By action of our national and state governments the sale of liquor was legalized. The City Council will endeavor to administer the law to the point where such business will be operated according to law without fear or favor. We will not tolerate to any degree the violation of any of the laws, such as dealing with minors or otherwise conducting the business in an obnoxious manner.

No doubt the public is waiting for some definite statement with reference to the Power controversy. Your City Commissioners, notwithstanding that some may believe, will take no action until all questions are very carefully weighed and decided so that the interests of the people of Omaha are definitely known and protected. Regardless of the unfavorable publicity and ill-feeling developed in this controversy in the past, it is the intent and purpose of the present Commissioners to work harmoniously on this undertaking and at all times for the best interests of the city of Omaha.

Your City Commission will

operate as a Board of Directors, and while each department will be headed by a Commissioner, that Commissioner will seek and receive the counsel and advice of the other Commissioners.

Returning veterans should have priority on all city jobs. The offices and employees of the city should be used in gathering data and plans for utilizing and giving employment to our men and women returning from the Armed Forces.

We accept our charge humbly and wish to assure the people of Omaha that we are going to endeavor to render the very best service that is humanly possible. We solicit constructive criticism and assure you that it will be accepted in good grace.

I sincerely pledge to each of you City Commissioners my whole-hearted support and hope for a progressive and efficient administration. I am sure that we will all work to that end.

PLAIN TALK

By Julius J. Adams

Editor's Note: Mr. Julius Adams, associate editor of N. Y. Amsterdam News, is the guest editor for this week on a very timely subject.

When the history of racial achievement and interracial goodwill in the United States during the four decades of the 20th Century is written, no little of the credit for its success will have to go to the American Negro Theatre (ANT), that once unknown group of men and women who not only brought a new dignity to the Negro actor and actress, but have established a new tradition on Broadway, theatrical center of the world.

The theatre, for centuries, has been the instrument by which patterns have been set, and ways of life charted and maintained. It is as true today as it was in Shakespeare's time, for only recently the Board of Motion Picture Censors of Memphis, Tennessee, banned the picture "Brewster's Millions," claiming that the play presented too much racial mixture. Obviously, this brazen action was intended to prevent the spread of any knowledge that might disturb the status quo of Negro-white relations in the South.

If the officials of Memphis were simply preventing the people of their own city from seeing "Brewster's Millions," with Eddie (Rochester) Anderson, it would not be a particularly serious matter. The real evil is that the attitude of Memphis and the entire South controls the policy of the motion picture and theatrical industry, a policy which stereotypes the Negro as an underling and a buffoon. And since the producers cannot film one picture for the north and another for the south, the more liberal people above the Mason and Dixon Line are denied the opportunity to enjoy the matchless talent of scores of Negro stars. It was, therefore, evident that some other outlet would have to be created to balance the current biased condition.

The place the ANT and its Director, Abe Hill, occupy will continue to occupy in the future in offsetting the bigoted policy acquiesced in by the amusement industry to appease the south, cannot be overestimated. For while Broadway has not been too seriously hampered by the southern attitude, the fact that so many plays are written with an eye to Hollywood means that playwrights are cautious not to inject into their stories anything they feel might offend the deep and backward parts written into plays for Negroes are usually put there to provide fun and laughter, and while individual actors and actresses have achieved some prominence, the prestige of the race has suffered immeasurably.

ANT's ambition is to develop Negro actors and actresses to play straight roles in original standard plays and to present established plays with Negro casts. In doing this, ANT could accomplish much in the delineation of the role of the Negro in the United States.

The first really successful effort in presenting Negroes in an original



V-E DAY ON OKINAWA—San Francisco, Calif.—US Marine Corps Photo (Soundphoto)—This Marine observed V-E Day on Okinawa by having his clothing blown from his back by a Jap mortar shell. Shocked and hurt but still on his feet, he helped toward the rear by a companion on the line.

play was when ANT presented Mr. Hill's story about a Harlem debutante, titled "Striver's Row" in 1940. This is the play that really produced Fred O'Neal, the laboratory technician, who has become one of Broadway's most distinguished actors, having first gained attention when he played the father in John Golden's "Three Is A Family" in April, 1944, and went on to achieve national fame in the principal supporting role in the smash hit, "Anna Lucasta," now on Broadway.

Alice Childress, housewife and mother, also emerged from "Striver's Row" with laurels, and scored heavily in "Three Is A Family" and has swept on to Broadway with "Anna Lucasta," where she was runner-up to O'Neal who won the Charles Derwent cash prize of five hundred dollars for his excellent characterization of "Frank" in "Anna Lucasta," which a committee on judges declared to be the best male acting job in a non-featured role on Broadway during the 1944-45 season.

Helen Martin, who played Bigger Thomas' sister in Richard Wright's "Native Son," is a product of ANT. A few others are, Virgil Richardson, a teacher, who supplanted Canada Lee in "The Big White Fog"; Clare Leyba, dancer, now an understudy in "Anna Lucasta"; Sadie Brown, federal worker, who had a prominent part in Owen Dodson's "Garden Of Time"; and handsome William Greaves, engineering student, who played a featured role in "Garden Of Time" and is being seriously considered for the leading role in Mr. Hill's adaptation of the novel "Walk Hard," soon to be produced on Broadway.

Perhaps ANT's most illustrious, to say the least, best known product, is Hilda Simms, pretty and youthful star whose portrayal of Anna in "Anna Lucasta" has been characterized as one of the finest performances on the Main Stem in many seasons.

"Anna Lucasta" as is well known, is not a play about a Negro family, and could be performed by actors and actresses of any race or color. In the current production, the Negro players are allowed the full range of emotions, which they prove are the exclusive property of no one group. The wayward Anna, her faithful mother or her incestuous father might be members of a family drawn from any land or from any station of our society. It is a human drama, and thanks to ANT, an all-Negro cast has been allowed to prove it can breathe life into characters to evoke pity and pathos as well as it can make people laugh. It

should be noted that ANT discovered "Anna Lucasta," and presented it in Harlem at the 135th Street Library theatre, before it was produced on Broadway where it won the distinction of being the most important native American drama in 20 years.

In presenting the Golden Play, "Three Is A Family" last year, ANT set a precedent, for in doing so, a Negro cast stepped into the shoes of a white cast to produce with marvelous success a play that had been written about a middle class white American family.

The significant feature, which made the event even more remarkable is that fact that the Negro cast presented the play in the same theatre on a night the regular cast was off. The members of the white cast saw the show, and by their own statements, the Negroes turned in a great performance, and in some roles the ANT players did a much better job than the whites.

Director Hill, perhaps, will now know for many years the full effect of his handiwork. This rangy, bespectacled, Lincoln University trained playwright, regards his work with singular modesty. Asked what his personal aspirations are, Mr. Hill smilingly admits he would like to spend his time writing and directing plays. Whether he eventually emerges as an established American playwright may be answered when Broadway sees his play "Walk Hard." But regardless of what happens to "Walk Hard," Mr. Hill has already firmly fixed his name in the theatrical firmament; his contribution to the cultural development of his race is solid and beyond dispute.

But for the present, Mr. Hill's fondest ambition is to see established in Harlem a suitable theatre where plays, concerts, recitals and other events may be held. To this end, ANT has initiated a campaign to raise three hundred thousand dollars, the amount the sponsor believes is necessary to accomplish the undertaking.

Mr. Hill sees in the development of such an institution in the Harlem community, a program that will have salutary effect on the cultural life of every other community. He regards such an institution as being capable of providing a wholesome center to lure people outside Harlem to our community for some purpose other than to secure "local color" for a magazine article or a book; or simply to see just how a Negro behaves in his "native environment," or out of sheer curiosity. What is being done in New York can and should be done in other cities.

The accomplishments of ANT

have not gone without recognition, although for a long time its activities and struggles remained unknown because of an almost total blackout due to a lack of first class publicity. Part of this was due to the modesty of the group, which preferred not to "keep too much noise" until it "had really arrived."

In paying tribute to ANT, this year the Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature, which annually honors 12 individuals or groups for the most outstanding performance in the promotion of interracial harmony, included ANT on its list.

Riverdale Children's Association committee will give a similar award to the group this month at which time Technical Sergeant Joe Louis also will receive a Riverdale award.

Last year the General Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation made a grant of \$9,500 for the Theatre's 1945-1946 season to help continue the development of what has been called the best experimental theatre in New York and environs.

Dillard University of New Orleans cited ANT as being the protagonist of the Negro Theatre Movement, and the history of the group was brilliantly dramatized over Radio Station WMCA last December.

So outstanding has been the contribution of ANT to the theatre that Longman Green Publishing House has arranged to publish an anthology of ANT plays this summer, which, when complete will bring another first to the group, since there is no record of such a project ever before having been either contemplated or finished.

Throughout its existence ANT has produced seven plays, two of which have been sold to Broadway, "Anna Lucasta" and "Walk Hard."

Now in rehearsal is "Henri Christophe" which ANT plans to present soon. And this should place another star in the Company's golden crown of theatrical achievement.

The Children's COLUMN

(BY JOAN McCaw)

SYMPATHY FOR:
CHARLES DICKERSON, SR.

"JUNE"
June is the month of spring, When all the robins love to sing. It is the month when school is out, And all the children run about. Spring very seldom has a storm But it is sometimes very warm. June is the month of happy cheer, And sometimes the month of a happy year.
Valaria Joan McCaw, Editor.

"THE CIRCUS"
The circus is in town, With many a clown. The lions and tigers are there. The trapeze people are in the air, All the people are sitting tight, Waiting for the show with all their might.
Gee I like the circus so, But even better I like the show.
Valaria Joan McCaw, Editor.

VICTORY SWEETHEARTS
The Victory Sweethearts entertained the servicemen from Fairmont and Kearney, Nebr., camps, Saturday, May 24, 1945, at the home of Elizabeth Slupman and Etteyle Hunter, 2116 Ohio Street.

The evening was spent in dancing. Refreshments were served the boys.

Sunday, May 25, 1945, the club held a dinner for the boys. There were fifteen present. The boys were served cocktails before the dinner. The menu consisted of segmented grapefruit with cherries, fried chicken, rice with giblet gravy, buttered peas, buttered hot rolls, candied sweet potatoes, lettuce and tomato salad, and coffee. The evening was spent in dancing and playing Po Kena. The boys departed for their camp at 11 o'clock. An enjoyable time was had by all.

Colleen St. Clair, Pres.
Ethiql Hunter, Sec.

Now I REMEMBER WHAT THIS STRING'S FOR AND GET MY BRAKES CHECKED!

WOMEN CIVILIANS IN BERLIN — Berlin (Radiophoto, Soundphoto) Women civilians in Berlin gather around a vegetable market on Bodestraße to purchase their daily ration following the capitulation of German forces. Soviet

troops held their victory march in Berlin on May 20th during which they carried the victory banner which was first raised over Berlin while the Red Army was still fighting.

FLUSHING A SNIPER—Washington, DC (Okinawa) Marine Corps Photo, Soundphoto CFI—After setting fire to this thatched shack on Okinawa, Marine riflemen watch for the Jap sniper who had been firing from the house. Realizing the fut-

ility of the situation, the enemy sniper killed himself with a grenade. Isolated pockets of resistance like this did little to stem the leathern drive to the northern tip of the island.

THE LIVING SOUTH

(BY HAROLD PREECE)
(Copyright, 1945, by New South Features)



HAROLD PREECE
(Copyright, 1945, by New South Features.)

I reckon that my fellow Southerner, P. B. Young, Jr., of the Norfolk Journal and Guide, was testifying for all the little people of Dixie when he wrote from San Francisco on May 12th:

"So far as the little people of the world and the United Nations Conference here are concerned, it is to America and Russia of the Big Five that they must look for whatever deliverance is in store for them."

Now, Brother P. B. Young is sitting up there with other newspapermen in the amen corner at San Francisco listening to what the big people, who are the diplomats, have to say about Russia. Me, I'm sitting up here on a mountain top in Tennessee, trying to get enough fencing for my five acres, and listening to what the little people who are my neighbors have to say about Russia.

My neighbors say that they're not going to help filthy little old John Rankin, cuss-hollerin' old Pappy O'Daniel, and finaglin' old Bob Taft, who comes from Ohio but who hangs in with the Dixie landlord crowd, build any fences to shut out Russia.

"We're tearing down an awful lot of old fences down here in our part of the country," said my Scotch-Irish neighbor, Iva Lee Eldridge, when she brought over a jar of home made plum jelly for my baby the other day. "We're tearing down the fences that kept white folks and colored folks from doing anything together."

Fence Out Rankin
"The only fencing out I want to do is to fence out John Rankin. I believe that you've got to put a wild man, like a wild bull, inside a pen, and if anybody starts a movement to pen up John Rankin, I'll help buy the fence."

"America and Russia are the only two big countries where the little people have a chance. I reckon that the little people down here in Tennessee will have a better chance when we learn from Russia that you can't put a bad sign on a colored man without putting a bad sign on your own soul."

Now, I've just come back into my house from a talk with old Brother Joe Tucker who used to trade horses and who still rides 'em. Brother Joe came riding up this morning, wanting to sell me some hard locust fence posts to tack that fencing on when I get it. He's got four boys in the army. He thinks that those boys won't ever have to go out to fighting again if America and Russia work together to keep peace in this world that the Lord made for folks of all colors.

'Ensign' for the Nations
"I've quit making sharp horse trades and I've got to be a Bible man," said Brother Joe. "I don't study no more about turning an old horse into a young one to get five dollars boot come first Monday. I read in the Lord's word, this morning, that 'He will lift up an ensign to the nations.' Russia saved all of us when Hitler was cutting up worse than a horse thief trying to shoot a sheriff. I believe that Russia may be the 'ensign' for all them other nations if they let her alone and let her be."

I've got another friend who is a black man and who raises cotton on the shares over in St. Francis County, Arkansas. I won't give his name because the men who own the land of St. Francis County are like the rest of the Dixie ku kluxers who red-bait the world's peace at the same time they black-bait the South's people.

My friend has been reading of the Russian cotton country and of the black Uzbek people of Russia who raise the cotton. The Uzbeks grow cotton, not because they are black but because they live in

LATIN AMERICAN NEGROES MAKE GOOD CITIZENS

By Harold Preece

I'd like to be one of the first to welcome into the many-tongued and many-colored family of 130,000,000 Americans, a Negro from Latin America—Private Melbourne Owen Smith, who was born down in Panama but who now claims Brooklyn, N. Y., as his home.

Maybe, it's just a coincidence that Private Smith and another Negro serving in the American armed forces, Diata Pierre Campine, born in Senegal, should have been naturalized by a Department of Justice official, Dr. Henry B. Hazard, in Old Mother Africa where they shed their blood for human freedom. Negroes everywhere are proud that the War Department singled them out for special mention in connection with "I Am An American Day" observed Sunday, May 20th.

We are glad to have with us Melbourne Smith, Diata Campine, whose two boyonnet scars are set down as identifying marks on his certificate of naturalization, and a third young Negro soldier, Franklin Emanuel Long, native of Trinidad who Dr. Hazard made an American citizen in the New Hebrides.

Three Negroes from three different parts of the world—from Latin America, from the West Indies, and from Panama—who join their strength to ours in that long, but inevitably victorious fight, to confer the dignity of man upon all men. All of us are honored because three men of the darker peoples were given this special recognition on an important American holiday. It gives point to something that Paul Robeson said in an interview published in the Modern Thinker Magazine back in 1935:

"We must remember that outside North America, there are three other centres of Negro population."

(Continued on Page 2, Col 1)

warm territory and cotton, the way they produce it, gives them something besides a slab of bacon and a chalice bonnet for a year's work.

"There's a lot of talk here among the big white folks about whipping Russia to save our country from what they call 'communism.' But that scare about 'communism' leaves me as cold as a watermelon in a well bucket. You can admire a man's honesty and courage without wanting to wear his suit of clothes. But you don't get mad at a man's suit if you like the man."

"I've been studying a lot about these Uzbeks. They make me think that there is democracy for black people in Russia, and that gives me hope that we will some day have democracy for black people in Arkansas."

I'm sending this letter from an Arkansas cotton cropper to one of America's greatest cotton scientists who is also one of the South's native sons. He is John Sutton of San Antonio, Texas, favorite pupil of Dr. George Washington Carver and sent by Dr. Carver who admired the folks in Russia to help them develop their farms.

I reckon that John Sutton might tell you a whole lot about the folks in Russia. I reckon he might tell you that not in all the thousands of villages in all the eight million square miles of Russia is there any sign reading, "N---r, don't let the sun go down on your head here."

John Sutton, John Sutton, of San Antonio, Texas. I remember a Mr. Bonnie Sutton working for the Omaha Guide and he took a vacation and went home. Yes it was San Antonio, too, to visit with his home folks. We wonder if John Sutton and Mr. Bonnie Sutton know anything about each other?

"This is no time for windy platitudes."—Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

"We don't go for women hoo-boes!"—Hobbes of America, Inc., barring them as members.

"Government can't put 60,000,000 people to work—there wouldn't be anyone left to pay the bills."—Warner & Swasey Co., Cleveland.

"In this nation and in this State the right of the individual holds the basic priority."—Gov. Dwight Griswold, Nebraska.

"I am for a free press in Germany, and everywhere else."—Director Elmer Davis, OWI.

"Never did so many wait for so little!"—Spokesman for Washington reporters, awaiting OWI handout.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

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