

Omaha, Nebraska, Saturday, September 28, 1946
THE GREATER OMAHA GUIDE
CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION
FOR NINETEEN YEARS

Louis Jordan Stars In First Feature Length Screen Musical

All Colored Cast, Fine Production, Ten
Exciting New Songs Delivered By
Jordan and His Tympany Orch. Make
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Special Midnite Show Town Theatre
Saturday, October 5th — 1 Performance Only

The story is of simple, heartwarming variety which has proved so successful in the past. Briefly, Louis portrays a leading band leader who returns to his home college, Ware, and saves it from supposed financial difficulty by putting on a ben efit show and a little fact finding. Actually the difficulty is imagined, caused by Milton Woods, who is attempting to close the college and thus force the physical

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welcome romance and claims Miss Black as his bride.
The acting is uniformly superb.

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Frank Wilson as the lovable Prof. Drury, Emory Richardson as the dignified Dean Hargrave, Miss Black, whose portrayal of the physical instructor is outstanding, and Milton Woods, crafty and sly Benjamin Ward 3rd the villain of the piece, are all tops in their roles. Graduates of the Broadway stage, where each has made an enviable name for himself, these four give performances which bear the mark of the finished actor. But credit must also be given to Eddie Byrd, drummer in Jordan's band, whose comedy support is a priceless performance. Great credit must also go to producer-director Bud Pollard for his sensitive, sympathetic direction.

The picture, however, is primarily Louis Jordan's. A slam-bang hit, it gives the leading Negro reciter a good kick across the sort of nuisance to him made him famous in films which pay his millions of fans; sort of what's enough to make any man's hair stand on end, on any man's list, a "must" on any man's list.

To make the Midnite Show at the Town Theatre, Saturday, October 5th a grand evening's entertainment, the second major attraction will be "FIG LEAF FOR EVE".

"Fig Leaf For Eve" Belmont Pictures' love-spiced comedy drama starring the bright new team of Jan Wiley and Phil Warren, is penciled in for an opening Midnite Saturday, October 5th at the Town Theatre. Described as a "keyhole peep at the experiences of a night club girl" the film is said to have more than its share of racy comedy, kiss-loaded romance and exciting dances.

The screenplay of "Fig Leaf For Eve", follows the career of the night club dancer after she splits with her manager because of his trick of having the police raid her performances in order to garner front page publicity. Falling in with the plans of a shady ball bodsman who collects notices of missing persons the dancer poses as the long-sought heiress of an extremely wealthy society family. Her misadventures with her new "relatives" who range from screwball to highgate are breathtakingly hilarious. When her scheming sponsor begins to force his way into the picture the story turns to fast-paced drama and winds up with a climatic murder.

Supporting Jan Wiley and Phil Warren, who have the roles of the dancer and her flip-talking manager, are Eddie Dunn; Janet Scott; Emmett Vogan; and Edward Keane. Donald Brodie directed "Fig Leaf For Eve" for the newly formed production company of Belmont Pictures. J. Richard Western acted as executive producer and the screenplay was written by Elizabeth Hayler.

A Lesson In Democracy

The scene was a streetcar. The diminutive schoolma'am taking a group of Negro freshmen on a field trip was fair and young, and with the front of the car filled, one pupil, forgetful of convention, held a place for teacher near him so she sat down. The conductor came over, inquiring, "Lady, you are in the wrong place?" "Yes Sir." After he had gone back to work, two elderly ladies who got on, called his attention to the blonde seated with the colored children. Again he asked "Lady, you are in the right place?" And again received the right answer. Finally he came back to the teacher accompanied by the operator of the car, apologetic but determined, "Lady are you sure you're in the right place?" "Yes Sir." Then to settle the business permanently and decisively, she explained, "I have colored blood." That satisfied them, but they'd have been jarred considerably had they overheard further explanation to the wide eyed students: "By colored I mean red... all red."

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PHOTOGRAPHY AND POETRY POPULAR WITH NEGRO GIRLS

MANILA, P. I.—"Number one" books in demand by Negro occupation troops at the American Red Cross Passy Club library here are on photography, according to Gladys Wade Powell, Milton, Mass., who is in charge of the library and other Red Cross services.

Number two on the list are poetry of the nineteenth and twentieth century. "New" demand are books on job opportunities and following these came books from which films have been made. Last come philosophy and history.

Books most used at the library dove-tail with club activities Miss Powell says. For example, after the opening of the club's darkroom and photographic laboratory, the demand for books on photography increased. The demand for poetry followed the installation of a dream book at the club's library. The demand for bits of poetry are popular that its place of meeting had to be changed from a small upstairs room to the large downstairs lounge.

"Since the third week of the Dream Hour all books of poetry in the library have been in constant use, says Miss Powell. Before that we couldn't induce anyone to use them.

The library has recently installed more comfortable chairs and a better lighting system, so that the daily attendance is increasing. The checking out of books is decreasing, however, for the men prefer to read at the library.

A unique service offered under Miss Powell's direction is a letter-writing service.

We have very few personal letters to write, she explains. The main thing we do is to help with business letters or fill out forms for the soldiers.

AMERICAN LEGION LOOKS FORWARD

NEW YORK—Trail blazing action was taken at the meeting of the State Convention of the American Legion in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Sunday, Sept. 23, when adopted three progressive resolutions on current issues. Although Michigan is a state not generally considered liberal, and the American Legion hardly noted for its forward-looking point of view on current issues, these resolutions were adopted unanimously by Michigan's Legion members and they should give other chapters a fine precedent to follow.

Attorney General Tom Clark and President Truman to do everything in their power to stop the present wave of crime, against the Negro people in the south and guarantee all people of our country the democratic rights of protection.

A second resolution demands that the poll tax bill may be brought to the vote since 13 million people in the United States are not given the democratic rights of franchise, and a minority group of our statesmen are prohibiting these citizens from their democratic rights.

The convention further went on record in support of the enactment of state and national Fair Employment Practice Committee laws inasmuch as the 30 million people in the minority groups in this country were indicted in the war effort in order to preserve the democratic rights of our nation and the Federal FEPC by its work has proved that it has a permanent place and a national service to perform in the governmental system of the United States.

SETS COTTON PICKING WAGES

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced maximum wage rates for cotton picking in 19 counties in the Delta area of Mississippi. The rate is \$2.60 per hundred pounds of cotton picked as compared with last seasons rate of \$2.10 per hundredweight. The new rate became effective on Sept. 9. Wage ceilings are also in effect in California and Arizona. In the former the rate is \$2.25 and in the latter \$2.65 per hundredweight.

A 9,171,000 bale cotton crop for the United States is forecast for this year by the Crop Reporting Board of the Department. This is 119,000 bales, or 1.3 percent less than the August 1 forecast. Last year production totaled only 9,015,000 bales as compared with the 1935-44 average of 12,553,000 bales.

Abandonment of cotton crops since July 1 is expected to total 2.9 percent or about a half million acres. This leaves 17,776,000 acres for harvest, only 500,000 acres more than last year's 17,271,000 acres smallest since 1884.

The price of Middling 15-16 inch cotton at the ten spot market was 36.04 cents per pound on August 9, highest since the early 20's.

On July 31 Secretary Anderson announced that under the

The Omaha Guide

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C. C. Galloway, Publisher and Acting Editor

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outfall sewers a sewage pumping station, 335 manholes, 50 public toilets and appurtenances and the installation of 67,000 linear feet of cast iron pipe, 110 fire hydrants, a new pumping station and two 200,000 gallon reinforced concrete storage reservoirs.

At Christiansted, St. Croix Island, sanitation and fire protection facilities will include the installation of 15,000 linear feet of cast iron pipe, a salt water pumping station, a 300,000 gallon concrete salt water reservoir, pumps, gates and valves, 34 fire hydrants and appurtenances.

FWA District Engineer Thomas G. Mooney will supervise construction for the Bureau of Community Facilities.

Charles S. Duke, well-known construction Negro engineer, one of the founders and first president of National Technical Assn., will assist Mr. Mooney.

According to Commissioner Field local labor will be utilized to the fullest extent possible on the Virgin Island projects.

AWARDS FOR SANITATION IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Commissioner George H. Field, of the Bureau of Community Facilities, Federal Works Agency, today awarded a contract for construction of sanitation, sewerage and fire protection facilities in the Virgin Islands to the contracting firm of Messrs. and Ewing, Miami, on a bid of \$953,123. Commissioner Field advised Governor William H. Hastie that the work could be started immediately.

Sanitation and fire protection facilities at Charlotte-Amalie, St. Thomas Island, call for 35,000 linear feet of sanitary sewers and laterals, 8,000 feet of interceptor and

Traffic Deaths Increase

Captain C. J. Saunders, Nebraska Safety Patrol, reports that traffic death struck with unusual ferocity among the ranks of Nebraska motorists during August.

Thirty-two fatalities an increase of 88 percent over the 17 recorded in the same month of 1945, have been reported to the Nebraska Safety Patrol.

The commonness of traffic violations, which contributed to August's record of traffic fatalities, is shown in the August Patrol activities report to Captain Saunders.

Speeders, reckless and drunken drivers continue to make up a majority of the violations which called for 777 arrests. 187 drivers were arrested for speeding, 91 drivers

were too reckless, and 65 were arrested for drunken driving. These arrests were record high over any previous month.

In addition to the arrests, 582 other motorists were given written warnings for dangerous driving practices. And 1,850 motorists were given equipment violation cards for operating their vehicles with faulty equipment. Improper lights headed this list with 1321 violations.

The Patrol investigated and reported 221 accidents. This number topped July's record of 214.

In the field of service, the Patrol assisted 1334 motorists in distress, removed 554 dangerous obstructions from the highway, gave 21 safety talks, and recovered 12 stolen cars.

GOOD READING
★ The GREATER Omaha Guide

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Natural Gas Reserves Sufficient for at Least 40 Years....

On September 4, Charles R. Bellamy, nationally recognized gas engineer, recommended to the Directors of the Metropolitan Utilities District that Omaha be converted to straight, 100 per cent Natural Gas service... as the most practicable and economical method of meeting the city's rapidly increasing and urgent gas demands. Highlights of Mr. Bellamy's formal report were published recently. In addition to the formal report, Mr. Bellamy was questioned closely by the members of the Utilities District board of directors regarding the adequacy of natural gas supply and other important phases of the problem, in order to satisfy themselves that Natural Gas would be the suitable solution. The information and quotations that follow were taken directly from the stenographic notes made during the informal questioning of Mr. Bellamy by the Directors of the District.

Adequacy of Natural Gas Supply Available for Omaha

First question in the minds of the Directors was to make sure that there was a long-time, dependable natural gas supply available for the city's use if the people vote to change to 100 per cent natural gas.

Mr. Bellamy said: "In the Federal Power Commission hearing in Washington, competent geologists pointed out that at the present rate of consumption there is a 30 years' known reserve and, of course, there will be discoveries which should increase that to at least 40 years. But the most encouraging thing about the situation is this: In the past 10 years DISCOVERIES HAVE EXCEEDED CONSUMPTION so that reserves are stronger today than they were 10 years ago."

Double Pipelines from Gas Fields Protect Omaha Supply

Another point checked carefully by the Directors in their questioning related to the dependability of pipelines serving Omaha from the natural gas fields. Mr. Bellamy said that by the earliest time Omaha could install full natural gas service (summer of 1947) there would be double or parallel lines practically all the way, providing double protection from any breaks.

Would Line Breaks Affect Omaha Natural Gas Supply?

Questioned by Directors about what would happen to Omaha in case of

a break in the pipeline, Mr. Bellamy said: "In many cities where lines have gone out, valves have been closed in the line and the city has never known there was an interruption. Crews of men are maintained all along the lines who can make repairs within a very, very short time. Meanwhile the gas in the line itself is sufficient to maintain supply for an extended period. Fortunately, in the case of Omaha, with your large holder capacity, you are in an exceptionally fine position to weather such conditions." In his statement about holders, Mr. Bellamy referred to the three large gas storage tanks or "holders" at the Gas Works, where a reserve supply of gas is stored for emergencies. Mr. Bellamy said Omaha's holder capacity was very great in comparison with most gas companies. Many cities distribute Natural Gas without any emergency holder capacity. "You have a holder capacity," Mr. Bellamy said, "that is sufficient to meet almost a peak day, when the changeover to Natural Gas is made. It will meet normal days very easily. That is very unusual... most companies have very little over half that supply."

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Odorizing Would Continue If Natural Gas Adopted

Mr. Bellamy was questioned regarding odorizing Natural Gas. The engineer recommended that the District continue to odorize Natural Gas in the same manner as the present 600 B.t.u. gas is odorized, and pointed out that regardless of the character of the gas—mixed or natural—it was necessary to odorize with some material (Calodorant and Pentalam are used at present) so that leaking or escaping gas can be detected by the sense of smell.

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