

# FIRE LOSS TOTAL for 1947 \$700 Million

From the point of view of fire loss, last year was the blackest in American history. The total destruction was about \$700 million.

At the same time, however, it was a year of progress in fire prevention work. According to the National Board of Fire Underwriters, there was material improvement in the delivery of new fire fighting equipment. The number of cities adopting the Board's model fire prevention ordinance increased by 48 per cent. Many cities made progress in strengthening their building laws. The President's Fire Prevention Conference initiated a long-term program which has been felt to some degree in most of the states. And the Spring Clean-Ups attracted an unusual degree of cooperation and eliminated many hazards.

It may seem strange that we should have record fire losses along with such intensive prevention work. That simply indicates the extent of the fire danger. The total number of fires has been on the increase, and in these days of high prices the average fire does much more dollar damage than before the war. And due to the building shortage, many homes and businesses are housed in substandard structures where the risks are abnormally great.

Last April was the first time since March 1944, that monthly losses declined below the same month in the preceding year. If that continues, we will make a dent in fire's ravages. It can be done if we keep the fire prevention campaign going and intensify it.

## AMERICA'S GREATEST SCANDAL SAYS NOTED AUTHOR

New York—Dr. Gunnar Myrdal, author of "An American Dilemma," spoke before a distinguished dinner gathering at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel last week.

The famous Swedish statesman and social scientist appeared under the auspices of the Committee of 100, fund raising organization for the legal defense and educational fund of the NAACP.

Sharing the program with Dr. Myrdal were Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Bartley Crum, publisher of the newspaper P. M., Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers, Walter White and Roy Wilkins.

"Negroes are constantly gaining" in their pursuit of liberty, Dr. Myrdal asserted. "They have, always many of the best whites fighting with them. They can fight wholeheartedly while their adversaries have a split personality. They have not only the law, but the national creed on their side."

Gains are being made, Myrdal continued, in spite of the fact "the treatment of the Negro people is America's greatest and most conspicuous scandal." For the colored peoples all over the world rising influence is exiomatic this scandal is salt in their wounds.

In response to an appeal by Mr. Wilkins, a total of \$6,657.50 was contributed to the legal defense and educational fund by organizations and persons attending the dinner. The largest contribution, \$2,000 came from the AFL International Ladies Garment Workers union. The Amalgamated Clothing Works of America, CIO, contributed \$1,000. Other large contributions included \$500 from the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and \$250 from the Jewish Labor Committee.

Contributions previously raised and announced at the dinner were \$7,500 from the Rosenswald Fund and \$1,000 from the CME Church.

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## Marshall Holds News Conference



WASHINGTON, D. C.—(Soundphoto)—Secretary of State George C. Marshall invited Russia to end the "Cold War" by taking positive action to settle vital differences between the U.S. and the Soviet Union before existing agencies. The Secretary is shown as he issued a formal statement at a news conference designed to end the confusion from Moscow's announced "acceptance" of what it called an American proposal for discussions aimed at bettering U.S.-Russian relations.

## ESTILE TO WHITE CHRISTIANS

By Fred D. Wentzel

CLOTH—\$1.50

Do you remember how the reading of the *The Races of Mankind* by Benedict and Welton was banned in our armed services, and how the sale of the pamphlet skyrocketed as a result of the ban? The American people have become increasingly aware of the fact that a new way of interracial fellowship must be found if we are to justify democracy and the Christian religion before the world.

Dr. Fred D. Wentzel, author of our new publication, *ESPISTLE TO WHITE CHRISTIANS*, has worked for twenty years in the interracial field. He has devoted a great deal of effort to the elimination of segregation in churches, offices, colleges and seminaries. He helped organize the Philadelphia Interracial Fellowship in 1931. Since 1941, when this group was incorporated as Fellowship House, he has been president of the board of directors. He is one of the presiding ministers of the monthly community services sponsored by the Religious Fellowship of Fellowship House and chairman of the executive committee of the Religious Fellowship.

With this background of experience and his long acknowledged ability in writing both poetry and prose, Dr. Wentzel is well qualified to state the case of the Negro and the church. He offers a frank appraisal of the "long and dreary singing" of the white Christians. Not content merely to point out what is wrong, he proposes a simple, undamental remedy for what we call "the race problem."

This is not a book for faint hearts, or for people who are content to drift. It is for those who are willing to take the gospel seriously. Jacket and endpaper, by Harold Minton of Philadelphia, strongly suggest the force and honesty of the book's contents.

There is much strife and worry in the world which many people feel they can do nothing to alleviate but the injustice of segregation is the common sin of white Christians, and this unhappiness, at least, can be wiped out if we will. May we count on your cooperation in bringing *ESPISTLE TO WHITE CHRISTIANS* to the attention of Negro and white Americans? We believe this book will help to give reality to the conviction of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America that the pattern of segregation in race relations is "unnecessary and undesirable, and a violation of the gospel of love and human brotherhood."

The Christian Education Press

## —TRAFFIC NEWS—

Douglas County suffered an economic loss of \$107,340 during March 1948 according to figures released today by the Nebraska State Council.

For the same period in 1947, the county's loss was \$138,160. This represents a 81 per cent decrease (increase over this year's cost).

Included in the 1948 sum was the following analysis as provided by the Accident Records Bureau of the Department of Roads and Irrigation: 1 fatalities, 81 personal injuries. This is compared to the

1947 which showed 1 fatality, 82 personal injuries, and 13816 property damage accidents.

The economic loss for the state during March 1948 was \$653,260 or a 30 per cent decrease over the same period in 1947. The state is also realizing a 30 per cent decrease in loss for the year to date.

"With an estimate 94 persons destined to date to die in Nebraska due to traffic accidents during the summer vacations, as announced last week by the council.

## HENRY WALLACE AND THE NEGRO PEOPLE



Getting the drop on the campaigns of the other parties, the National Wallace for President Committee has begun issuing informational material to Negro newspapers from its New York headquarters, where George B. Murphy, formerly with the NAACP, is assistant campaign manager. This cartoon was drawn for the Wallace group by Owen Middleton, well-known Negro cartoonist.

## "Y" TO ERECT \$225,000 BUILDING FOR ARMED FORCES IN GUAM

Construction of a \$225,000 Y M C A building to serve American military and civilian personnel on the island of Guam will be undertaken immediately, Wm. H. Mead, general secretary of the Omaha Y M C A announced today.

The building will be a one-floor structure of reinforced concrete covering 14,000 s. u. are feet and will contain an auditorium, clubrooms, restaurant, lounge, game rooms, snack bar and an outdoor patio. The new building is expected to be in operation by next spring, Mead said.

The decision to construct the building was made in response to requests from the armed forces that the Y extend its services to Guam, he declared.

"The leisure-time problems of American military and civilian personnel in Guam is particularly acute," he said, "because the island contains no sizable town and the American population there now outnumbers the natives. Guam is the 'civilization' that men

aboard ship wait months to reach. What they find is one main highway that parallels the beach, leads to nowhere, and already is populated with thousands of soldiers and marines looking in vain for something to do."

A unique feature of the new Guam Y M C A building, Mead said, will be its service to the families of military personnel and civilian service and contractors' employees. Armed Services Y M C A's, he explained, ordinarily limit themselves to military personnel but because the recreational facilities on Guam are so limited a special effort will be made to provide activities for civilians.

Funds for the construction of the new building Mead said, were obtained from the sale of Armed Services Y. M. C. A. properties located in areas no longer having strategic value to the Army or Navy. To carry out its contemplated program in 1949 the YMCA's Armed Service Department budget will total \$4 million. Of this, \$155,000 must still be raised.

## Neil Scott and His Service to Mankind

Neil Scott, forward thinking young publicist of New York City, has announced the 1948 Amsterdam News Welfare Fund Music Festival will do honor to three truly great Americans, well known and loved as the bit of americana itself, music, which has made them famous, and visa versa. These three great Americans are W. C. Handy, "The Father of the Blues," Irving Berlin, America's greatest composer of popular tunes, and Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, who started the world to tap dancing. Mr. Scott acclaimed that too much honor cannot be given Mr. Handy, Mr. Berlin and Mr. Robinson, who have done so much to gladden the hearts of people the world over through their many contributions to the world of music entertainment.

Mr. Scott, who is executive director of the Festival, will be remembered for his many outstanding achievements in the fields of public relations, publicity, and race relations. Joining Columbia Pictures Corporation in 1944 as assistant exploitation director, Scott has forged ahead in the field of public relations in unprecedented fashion, and is responsible for many "firsts" in the field. He was the first Negro to be engaged to act as consultant and advisor to a major movie corporation, the Sjol Cotton Company, which he joined in 1946, and is recognized throughout the country as one of the ablest leaders among the race in the never ending fight for better conditions and improved relations. In the race relations field, Mr. Scott has taken the lead in many militant movements in behalf of the race. Notable among his many efforts was his lightning-like attack against the merchants of 125th Street in Harlem last fall. Using sound trucks, picket lines, and conferences he brought the discontinuance of many malpractices by certain unscrupulous merchants on the street. Such practices as overcharging, pulling-in of window shoppers, use of epithets, insulting women customers, etc. Again and again, with his radio campaign of a few Saturday nights ago to quell a threatened race riot which would have caused the loss of many lives and thousands of dollars worth of property damage in the community as a result of vicious rumors concerning a policeman-civilian incident in one of the large stores in Harlem; with his ceaseless efforts in behalf of the oppressed and the weak, his sound truck campaign to secure funds for the New York City Cancer Committee, Mr. Scott has proved that he is a true leader, and a champion of the many mistreated, exploited members of his race.

Mr. Scott, realizing the wonderful work which the Amsterdam News Welfare Fund is carrying on, through its president, Dr. C. B. Powell, accepted the executive directorship of the Festival to raise needed funds to further this cause, which benefits all, regardless of race, creed or color. Since its foundation, the Amsterdam News Conference Fund has contributed to the Riverdale Children's Association, The African Academy of Arts and Research, Hope Day Nursery, The American Red Cross, Disabled American Veteran Committee, Wiltwick School for Boys, Urban League Service Fund, Harlem Council of Social Hygiene, Friendship House, Katy Ferguson Home for Unwed Mothers, St. Phillips Home for the Aged, Sydenham Hospital, and scores of other worthy individuals and organizations that profited as a result of the existence of the Amsterdam News Welfare Fund. In honoring Mr. Handy, Mr. Berlin, and Mr. Robinson, the motto of the fund is available for needy purposes, regardless of the race, creed, or color of the recipients. Mr. Handy is now 75 years old, as a successful composer. Anyone wishing to contribute to this great cause please contact Mr. Neil Scott, Academy 2-7800 or by writing to the Amsterdam News Welfare Fund, 2340 8th Avenue, New York City, New York.

## BLACKJACKER SHAR-CROPPER SUES LANDLORD FOR \$100,000 DAMAGES

Little rock, Ark.—James Hawkins, Negro sharecropper was beaten, robbed and threatened with death by the operator of Cox Brothers plantation and some of his friends.

As a result he has just brought suit in U. S. district court here for \$100,000. The Workers Defense League has placed the case in the hands of Ross Robley, leading Little Rock attorney.

In addition Hawkins and his stepfather, William Henderson, have sued for \$3,000, the value of their crop, livestock and personal possessions.

When cotton-picking time came, the operator had warned Hawkins and Henderson not to use their mules, asserting he would do the job with his tractor. His motive was to raise his share of the crop from the customary 25 per cent to 40 per cent. But a month passed and no plowing was done. Finally the two sharecroppers told the operator they would have to go ahead with the plowing.

On that afternoon the operator and some of his friends, armed with shotguns, headed for the shack. Meeting Hawkins accompanied by his wife on the road, they hauled him off the wagon and staged him unconscious with blackjacks. They told him they would kill him if he left the plantation for medical aid.

Hawkins lay bleeding in his shack. When he tried to work he lost consciousness. Two days later overcoming his fear, he went to a doctor. When the operator learned of this, he threw Hawkins and Henderson off the plantation, confiscating their share of the crop. These facts were verified by WDL field investigators.

To insure Hawkins and Henderson against reprisals, the WDL removed them from the area. Hawkins, his wife and his two children are now in Chicago. Henderson is on a cooperative farm near Elmira, N. Y.

"This is not the only case of its kind on the WDL docket," commented Rowland Watts, of the national WDL secretary. "WDL field workers have unearthed evidence of other grave injustices in this and other areas where men and women are still held in peonage and slavery. Vigilant investigation of all such evidence and immediate legal action as soon as victims are removed to safety are the answer to violence and terror, peonage and slavery."

## Fortune Hunter



CHICAGO — Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation puzzle contest draws pretty Carol Benson as one of contestants that may get rich for life while helping DAV maintain its free rehabilitation and service program. Fifty thousand dollars will be won by 270 top scorers in DAV word puzzle quiz.

Police: "Did you knock down this pedestrian?" Motorist: "No, I nulled up to him, stoped the car so he could cross the street, and he fainted."

## Mr. Taylor R-416 Karback Bldg.

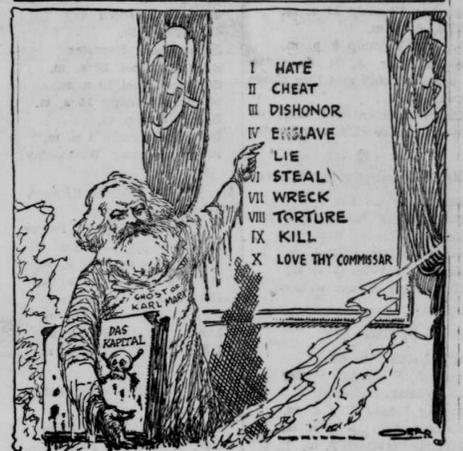
NURSE TRAINING FACILITIES DISCOVERED IN DENVER

Omaha Girls have opportunities also, local Urban League officials advise.

Friday, June 25th, 1948—An invitation was given the Omaha Urban League this month to refer Negro girls, who are desirous and qualified for nurse training. The information came from Mr. W. Miller Barbour, Executive Secretary of the Denver Urban League, of Denver Colorado. Mr. Barbour revealed in a letter addressed to Mr. M. Leo Bohanon, Executive

Secretary of the Omaha Urban League, that his health and Welfare Committee learned of five nurse training schools with doors ajar for Negro entry. This knowledge was the culmination of the committee's project in Denver, which was to gather facts and seek opportunities for nurse training, it was further disclosed by Mr. Barbour. Interested girls and young women, having a high school diploma are requested to contact Mr. Taylor of the Omaha Urban League for additional information.

## THEIR PROPHET AND HIS COMMANDMENTS



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The strength of a civilization is measured always by the scope and tenacity of its obstructions to larceny. Those obstructions range from laws against your neighbor picking your pockets to statutes that forbid his counterfeiting your registered trade-marks and stealing your patented inventions, says American Fair Trade Council.

Incentive to individual enterprise springs primarily from assurance that the fruits of that enterprise will not be stolen. Men seldom plant gardens where thieves abound and police protection is inadequate. Thus our Trade-Mark Laws, our Fair-Trade Laws and our Patent Laws have been the strongest factors in persuading our people to that extraordinary effort to create and produce which marks the difference between a static and a dynamic economy.

Collectivism, by whatever name, is but organized larceny, aggrandizing and enriching a cunning few—out of declining productivity of the many. Therefore, Communism hates, and seeks to destroy, our laws against larceny. Henry Wallace, long before he so openly embraced his natural allies, said of our Patent System that it is wrong and that everybody should be permitted, without restraint, to make any and all patented products. Naturally, no one then would have much inducement to invent anything. Industrial momentum in America, and our strength for defense, would be destroyed.

## Picket Movie



NEW YORK — (Soundphoto)—One of the pickets is down on the pavement in the riot which broke out last night in front of the Roxy theatre here at the scheduled opening of the picture "The Iron Curtain." Opposing pickets lines, one against the movie showing and the other, consisting of Catholic War Veterans, for it, tangled in a melee that required the use of police reserves to quell.

## SEES YELLOW STREAK IN SCHUYLER COLUMN

To the Editor: The column of George Schuyler May 15th, had a large yellow streak in it. He says, "After all there are worse things than serving in a jim-crow Army." It seems as though he fears annihilation—then he mentions the Jews. But if he will take a good look around him in all parts of this world he will see that there are a good many proud Jews left despite what they have been through.

I wonder what could be worse than going thousands of miles to kill people who have treated you much better than the average American white? What could be worse than fighting for your country and your civil rights and when it comes to claiming these same rights it threatens the life of you, your family and even innocent parties? What could be worse than facing enemy fire of Japanese and Germans, fighting for the cause of democracy, only to return to your home and be hanged, burned or blinded by one of your white countrymen?

Schuyler should take a good look at all of the Negro graves that have accumulated over the years of fighting for democracy and come back and write a good column—something that the Negro can read and hold his head high in praise for Mr Schuyler.

William Richardson Pueblo Colo.

## CAMP HOWARD

Camp Howard at Paoli, Fla., west of Sanford, for Negro boys in the Boy Scout Movement, demonstrates both the growth of the organization in that area and the practical help given by white leaders in behalf of colored youths.

The 105-acre site was purchased by William E. Howard retired New York business man and the late Joshua Coffin Chase, citrus grower and shipper of Sanford, Fla.

Mr. Howard is a member of the Section on Negro Work of the Boy Scouts National Committee on Interracial Service. His winter home is near Sanpford.

The late M. Chase was born in Germantown, Pa. 90 years ago and spent more than half a century in the citrus business in Florida. He helped to obtain the site of Memorial Park in Jacksonville and was a Director of the Children's Home Society in Florida. The Central Florida Council of the Boy Scouts presented to him the Silver Beaver Award "for distinguished service to boyhood." Camp Howard, a woodland