



# ORACLE

MARCH • 1941

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# The ORACLE

EDITOR

FREDERICK S. WEAVER  
920 U STREET, N. W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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ONE DOLLAR YEARLY

# THE ORACLE SPEAKS

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## THE OLD AND THE NEW

ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE is to be found the address of Grand Basileus Dent to the twenty-ninth Conclave held in Nashville, Tennessee last December. The Conclave, on motion of Dr. Montague Cobb, chairman of the *Oracle* Advisory Board, voted commendations to the Grand Basileus and instructed the *Oracle* editor to carry the address in full in this issue.

Brother Dent ended in Nashville three years of notable service to the Fraternity. There are many who believe that under his administration, the Fraternity made its most progressive strides. Since a survey of the past three years is contained in the address, we will not attempt to review it here.

We point out, however, that the record of Brother Dent as Grand Basileus was so glowing, that the Conclave was strongly urged to shatter its

precedent of three-year tenure, and re-elect him for a fourth term. But the modest Grand Basileus would not yield to the emotions of the delegates. He felt that there were issues of much more importance than the issue of breaking the three-year tradition. He declined the nomination.

Today, we have a new Grand Basileus, Z. Alexander Looby, brilliant Nashville attorney, whose years of toil for and interest in Omega are well known to every Omega man. His ability is beyond question. His election, to the highest office it is our privilege to bestow, is a crowning achievement and a sincere tribute to his many years of sacrifice and loyalty to Omega. We wish for him great success in his new office, and pledge him the cooperation of the entire brotherhood.

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## SPEAK UP FOR HOME AND DEMOCRACY

*"Breathes there the man, with soul so dead  
Who never to himself hath said,  
This is my own, my native land!"*

—Sir Walter Scott.

TO BE SETTLED in a place; to feel that there is a spot one calls home fills the human heart with deep satisfaction. Home to most mankind is where life begins. It serves as an anchor for life. In its environment arise early experiences in human relationships. Appreciation of human personality grows. Tolerance and mutual helpfulness are born. Ideals come into being and creative effort obtains encouragement. Home nurtures body, mind and spirit.

Home to mankind fulfills a manifold purpose. It affords shelter, protection, comfort and convenience. It aids in safeguarding health and morals. It is the nucleus that motivates every function of existence. It is a miniature government with primary demands upon our loyalty. In it family life functions and around it the state places safeguards. All that is worthy and noble proceed from its sanctuary. Without it life would be devoid of purpose and meaning.

The country in which we live is our enlarged

home. In it are our fortunes. Associated with it are our ideals. Inherent in it are the opportunities we seek to utilize. Here compatriots pursue happiness and transmit a heritage to posterity. With their thought they give direction to human destiny. They aim at attainment of culture. And they seek to achieve a full measure of self-realization. Home and country then become reasons in themselves for mobilizing every resource to assure their integrity. In the changes now taking place is a challenge to their existence.

The values already mentioned can be enjoyed only during an era of peace. Peace is necessary to their fulfilment. It is a condition essential to their expression and growth. Under it genius creates for human betterment. Sanity in living becomes manifest, and the noble and good in mankind come to fruition. Reason and the necessity for preserving life and culture urge upon man the continuation of peace.

Peace for this day and generation is a state most difficult to maintain. It is being sullied by propaganda; jettisoned by ideology; and dethroned by force. Commercial intercourse between nations sends tremors through its foundations. Wealth and living standards of a people

## THE ORACLE SPEAKS

become the envy of others and an object of conquest. Deep yearning for power and territory upsets its equilibrium.

Confronting every American is a world in turmoil. It is a world deviating from the paths of peace. Our way of life, standard of living, and security are being challenged. There are those who see in our way of life waste, license, and inefficiency; in our standard of living a reason for their poverty; and in our governmental machinery a slow and cumbersome instrument for getting things done. They also see in our security a negation of their aspirations. In this world militarism is being studied and practiced with fanatical zeal. Security for the masses of men is being substituted for individual self-determination. And the old way of life is crashing with a resounding din.

Life in the world being born presents a dismal picture. Compassion and tolerance seem to be dying. Right is being bludgeoned by the hammer of might. Barbarism threatens with tidal violence to inundate the strongholds of civilization. The scourge of an evil destiny convulses nations. And one by one they succumb to blows from the conqueror. What does it mean? How do their impact affect our homes, fortunes, and way of life? What can we do to conserve our heritage? How can we halt the impending cataclysm? How can we keep the lights of freedom, justice, tolerance and brotherhood alight?

A survey of nations whose lights are dimmed reveals the extent to which they have fallen. Their leaders are being shot and imprisoned. The masses are being brutalized and exploited. Racial minorities are being proscribed, persecuted and prevented from earning a livelihood. Further, they are deprived of wealth, victimized by pogroms, and confined to compounds and ghettos. Men of color are considered as sub-human, and unworthy of life and culture.

This is a picture of the plight of conquered lands. Its meaning is clear. As colored Americans we are determined to defend with our lives our liberty, heritage, and way of life. We implement this resolve with our fortunes and honor; with labor in the fields, factories and mines; and with our enlistment in the fighting forces of our country.

The impact of totalitarian forces is disturbing to racial relations. They abet friction, intensify animosities and disorder normal intercourse. It

is imperative that gains already made in tolerance, mutual helpfulness and understanding be consolidated and conserved. Everyone can make a contribution. Consciously develop a more cooperative attitude toward your neighbor. Think through and appreciate his problems. Honestly labor in the common interest. Uphold our institutions and abide by our laws. Be vigilant and alert and strive to improve further racial relations.

Tolerance can be kept alive by being ourselves tolerant. Accord the right to expression of opinion to all. Espouse the right to education for everyone and oppose with your intelligence and character the doctrine of class, racial, and religious hatred.

We have a tremendous stake in the country. We are flesh and blood of its soil; defenders of its integrity; and laborers toiling in its interest. To be worthy of this heritage implies that we cherish and conserve it with devotion and loyalty. Now is the time to speak up for America. Citizens must condition themselves for a finish fight against every ism that is not our own. A positive devotion to our way of life and reconsecration to our ideals are the first imperatives. Re-read the Constitution. Study American history and observe the workings of our institutions. Take cognizance of our standard of living, and work industriously at your job. Such practices will produce better Americans; for they will thereby be conditioned to protect our heritage and defeat those who disparage our way of life.

Americans can avert the catastrophe that has befallen Europe. Divided counsel, dissension, disunity and saboteurs brought ruin to Europe. We can save ourselves by being united in purpose. Cross-purposes and dissension can be eliminated through a common understanding. Divided counsel can be avoided by heeding only the united voice of our elected leaders. Saboteurs can be thwarted by the eternal vigilance of everyone.

Spiritual mobilization through the schools and churches can further condition us against ruin. Every citizen should be made aware of both our heritage and our danger. Educators, editors, radio commentators, churchmen, and movie producers should labor unremittingly to further condition us in Americanism. And the great mass of citizens should assume with zeal the work of defense.

The impending convulsion can be averted by

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giving tonics now. Learn anew of the sacrifice and travail the early Americans endured to win the freedom we now enjoy. Visualize the price we must pay to maintain it. Consider yourself an individual trustee of this heritage. Realize fully that our way of life gives the individual opportunity to attain complete self-realization; that we reward energy, initiative, and ambition; and that the spirit of our laws protects the weak and underprivileged. Realize too that the conception of our laws and institutions presupposes that gov-

ernment is established to serve human interests, and that it exists for the individual. Eschew the theory that the individual lives for the government.

Speak up for home and our way of life. This is a contribution everyone can make. The essence of doing this will be useful in the cause of vitalizing democracy. It will aid in halting the recrudescence of barbarism.

By HARVEY JONATHAN REYNOLDS

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## HE MADE VIRGINIA HONOR ROLL

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• BY RICHARD W. FOSTER

**T**HE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH, daily newspaper of Richmond, Va., salutes at the end of each year a limited number of persons who have reflected credit upon the State through the display of courage, ability, intelligence, tenacity, generosity or unselfishness.



MCGUINN

theatre of action is comparatively limited, provided their achievements are inherently worthwhile.

"It is important to bear in mind, however, that a place on the Times-Dispatch Virginia Honor

"Citizens in every sphere of activity are considered eligible for inclusion, provided they have been pre-eminent in that sphere. It should be stressed that pre-eminence does not necessarily connote State-wide prominence. The Times-Dispatch makes it a practice to hail the achievements of those whose

Brother Henry J. McQuinn, concerning whom Brother Foster writes of here, is a member of Phi Phi Chapter, Richmond, Va.

In October of last year, he was one of two persons to receive the annual achievement award made by his chapter.

It is significant that three months later, Brother McQuinn's achievements were further recognized by the leading daily newspaper of the State of Virginia.

To Brother Foster, Basileus of Phi Phi Chapter, the Oracle is grateful for bringing to its attention the record of outstanding achievement of Brother McQuinn.

Roll goes only to those who achieve above and beyond what is expected of them. It is not sufficient to do a job well. It must be done superlatively well."

After making the explanation quoted above, the Richmond Times-Dispatch names eleven persons to its Honor Roll for 1941, one of whom is our own Brother Henry J. McQuinn. The others are all white.

This is the fourth year the Times-Dispatch has announced an Honor Roll, and on two occasions a Negro has been nominated. The others was Brother William Cooper, of Hampton, Virginia, who was nominated on the first Honor Roll of the Virginia daily.

Two pages of the Sunday issue of January 5, is devoted to the honorees, giving the reasons for the selection and a picture of each person. Brother McQuinn was fourth on the list, and the reasons given for his selection are taken from the Times-Dispatch as follows:

(Continued on page 11)

# ROSTER OF THE TWENTY-NINTH CONCLAVE -- NASHVILLE

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Iota — Chicago — Deton J. Brooks and Corneff Taylor.

Mu — Philadelphia, Walter P. Harris.

Xi — St. Paul, Minn., John R. Butler.

Phi — Charlotte, N. C., Edward Hancock and William Oliver.

Beta Psi — Atlanta, Ga., Lloyd Taylor.

Gamma Psi — Talladega College, H. S. Cloud and George W. Moore.

Zeta Psi — Brooklyn, N. Y., Otto B. Ramsey.

Eta Psi — Nashville, Tenn., Theodore Mason and Richard Harris.

Iota Psi — Columbus, Ohio, Chester Gray.

Mu Psi — Greensboro, N. C., James A. Ruffin.

Xi Psi — Orangeburg, S. C., Harold B. Kelly.

Rho Psi — Nashville, Tenn., Calvin C. Gibson and Walter Pinkston.

Alpha Sigma — Atlanta, Ga., Jerome P. Jones.

Gamma Sigma — Montgomery, Ala., W. R. Clarke and Leroy Bryant.

Zeta Sigma — Bluefield, W. Va., James Rowland.

Nu Sigma — Detroit, Mich., Earl Harris.

Alpha Omega — Washington, Thurman L. Dodson and W. Montague Cobb.

Beta Omega — Kansas City, James E. Trotman.

Gamma Omega — Lynchburg, Va., R. R. Spencer and R. W. Johnson.

Delta Omega — Ettrick, Va., D. R. Ingram, Jr.

Eta Omega — Atlanta, Ga., J. H. Calhoun and Charles Prothro.

Theta Omega — Louisville, Ky., David A. Lane and C. L. Thomas.

Iota Omega — Tuskegee, Ala., Marshall Cabiness and W. R. Maynard.

Lambda Omega — Norfolk, Va., E. F. Corbett and T. H. Shields.

Mu Omega — Philadelphia, B. A. Mills, F. L. Brodie, R. D. Baskerville.

Nu Omega — Detroit, Mich., George A. Isabell.

Sigma Omega — Chicago, M. H. Goff and Leroy Bingham.

Upsilon Omega — St. Louis, U. S. Donaldson and S. H. Dreer.

Beta Phi — Durham, N. C., A. H. Turner and R. H. Harris.

Gamma Phi — Nashville, Tenn., John W. Work and R. W. Harris.

Eta Phi — Cambridge, Mass., Carey Jacobs and Otto Ramsey.

Lambda Phi — Macon, Ga., H. S. Toney.

Nu Phi — Houston, Tex., Lawrence Thomas.

Mu Phi — Savannah, Ga., E. R. Edmunds.

Xi Phi — New York, A. C. Garner.

Omicron Phi — Columbia, S. C., John F. Potts.

Pi Phi — Charlotte, N. C., S. H. Adams and J. T. Broome.

Rho Phi — New Orleans, La., Randolph Edmonds.

Sigma Phi — Montgomery, Ala., Franklyn W. Taylor.

Tau Phi — Pine Bluff, Ark., Harold Flowers.

Phi Phi — Richmond, Va., Oliver Hill and M. Boyd Jones.

Psi Phi — Winston-Salem, N. C., Chancey S. Winston.

Alpha Alpha — Newport News, Va., F. W. Green.

Gamma Alpha — Roanoke, Va., Wilmer F. Dillard and D. H. Woodbury.

Delta Alpha — Dayton, Ohio, Moreland Foita.

Epsilon Alpha — Fort Worth, Tex., F. Rivers Barnwell.

Nu Alpha — Elm City, N. C., W. O. Yarbrough.

Pi Alpha — Princess Anne, Md., W. H. Young.

Chi Alpha — Bluefield, W. Va., James Rowland.

Beta Iota — Cincinnati, Ohio, Bernist Dixon.

Don't Send Any Material for June Issue of  
The Oracle after April 25th Because  
That's Our Deadline

# ANNUAL ADDRESS OF GRAND BASILEUS

• BY A. W. DENT

TO THE TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL CONCLAVE  
OF OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY

GREETINGS:

**T**O HAVE SERVED as your Grand Basileus during the last three years has been a great privilege. I have at all times been cognizant of the heavy responsibility involved in the executive directing of the affairs of the Fraternity. Within the limits of my ability and the time I could give, I have attempted to approach as rapidly as possible the program suggested at the Atlanta Conclave in 1934 by the committee appointed to "Rethink the program of Omega," which report I had the honor of presenting to that Conclave.

Before calling attention to new problems which are calling for solution by Omega, I would like to sum up my three years of stewardship as your Grand Basileus.

It has been my very good fortune to have worked the entire period with the same brothers, except one, as members of the Supreme Council. Each of these brothers has been most cooperative, and the five of us have worked as one. I cannot recall a single instance when, after deliberation, there were serious differences of opinion among us. I, therefore, at this time wish to pay tribute in the presence of this Conclave to Brothers Sterrett, Gibbs, Isabel, Blayton, and Weaver, who, in their respective offices, have in a brotherly and able manner cooperatively worked for the progressive development of our Fraternity.

During these three years it has been my privilege to visit the sites of at least 67 chapters. Forty-six of these were visited during 1940. As I have talked with brothers, undergraduate and graduate, in and out of formal meetings, I have acquired a deeper appreciation for the loyalty and fraternal good will which exists among Omega men. Because of this close bond of friendship and our interest in a common cause, there is always present a desire to cooperate with a program for the development of the Fraternity.

The yearning of the Fraternity for a more progressive program has been a real challenge, and it is due to this longing for a renaissance that we today see the results achieved through cooperative enterprise.

Omega can pride itself that in the past three years many of the things it talked about for a much longer period were actually brought to pass. We have revised our Constitution and By-laws, enabling us to prosecute a program more commensurate with our ability and prestige. We have made constitutional provision for annual regional meetings. The administration of the Fraternity has been more democratized by shifting the District Representatives from appointment by the Grand Basileus to election by the district, and by making them national officers with greatly increased authority over the chapters in their districts. This year, under Brother Gibbs' direction as Vice-Grand Basileus, for the first time in the history of the Fraternity, every district except one has held a conference as required by the Constitution. A more civil manner of conducting initiations has been effected and our whole procedure for bringing in new blood has been revamped. The contribution of Brother Looby and other members of the committee that revised our Constitution and By-laws for the consideration of the 1938 Conclave at Chicago is noteworthy, for they accomplished a feat for which the Fraternity had striven ten years.

The Fraternity owes a debt of gratitude to Brother Herman Dreer, our historian, and to the committee appointed in 1938 to work with him in writing our history. No man ever worked more assiduously than did Herman Dreer in the completion of this book. We have invested a large sum of money in this publication and it is expected that, as a matter of pride, every brother will purchase a copy.

We have seen the activity of the Achievement Project revamped and enlarged so that today its activity is more widely participated in by our chapter, and its programs more acceptable to the communities. The presentation of the National Achievement Award to some Negro for outstanding achievement; the uniformity of awarding scrolls by chapters to stimulate local achievement; the making of an award to an Omega man to stimulate activity among Omega men for Omega; and radio broadcasts over a national network in 1939 and 1940, all have come about under the direction of Brother Campbell C. Johnson and the committee appointed to work with him. The Achievement Committee has done an excellent job

## ANNUAL ADDRESS OF GRAND BASILEUS

already and I know them to have other ideas for broadening the project.

Since the appointment of Brother Johnson as director of the Achievement Project, he has been selected by President Roosevelt as Executive Assistant to the Director of the Selective Service System. Brother Johnson will give you a report on the Achievement Project, but at this point I would like to call your attention to the achievement of some of our brothers, who because of their outstanding qualifications, have been given important assignments in the Nation's Defense Program.

Brother William Hastie, who was the choice of our brotherhood last year for the first National Achievement Award, has been further distinguished by his appointment by the President as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War. Other brothers who have been appointed follow:

Brother Robert C. Weaver, Administrative Assistant in the Labor Division of the Advisory Commission to the Council on National Defense;

Brother William J. Trent, Racial Relations Officer of the Federal Works Agency;

Brother L. A. Oxley, Supervisor of Negro Placement Service, Bureau of Employment Security, Federal Security Agency;

and Brother Frank S. Horne, Acting Special Assistant to the Administrator in charge of the Office of Racial Relations of the United States Housing Authority.

We are fortunate to have several of these brothers here to conduct a panel discussion on "The Negro and the National Defense Program" at the public meeting on Sunday and to participate in the deliberations of this Conclave.

As early as the St. Louis Conclave of 1923, Grand Basileus J. Alston Atkins recommended that the Fraternity award scholarships. During the ensuing year a committee, of which Brother William Stuart Nelson was chairman, was appointed to work out a plan for making awards. Prior to 1939 the Fraternity made only one award. That was in the amount of \$500, made not as a part of a planned program, but by Conclave vote to contribute to a special project. This award was presented to our distinguished brother and scholar, Percy Julian. In the last two years we have made scholarship awards totalling \$1,500, three times the amount awarded in the previous twenty-seven years of our existence.

The Fraternity is grateful to the Scholarship Commission, with Brother W. Montague Cobb as chairman, for having developed for us a plan which, within the limits of our funds, is providing grants-in-aid to brothers who merit and need our financial assistance.

We are not doing all we should with regard to scholarship awards and I hope that this Conclave will support an expansion of this program.

Over the years our experiments with the purchase of fraternity houses have not worked well, except for the house here in Nashville. In 1939 we began a sound new approach to this phase of our program. A Housing Authority has been appointed with Brother Asa Spaulding as its chairman and they have drawn up procedures for our future participation in acquiring fraternity houses. There is at present \$2,000.00 in the housing fund available to any chapter or chapters who present a workable plan for the acquisition of a house.

The inauguration of the Omega Psi Phi Lecture Series by the New York Conclave was an indication that we are desirous of expressing publicly at each Conclave our cultural interests as well as the social and other purposes which the Fraternity serves. These public meetings and the distribution of the printed address is a notable addition to our intellectual activity and will add greatly to the prestige of the Fraternity.

Following the Cleveland Conclave, the Fraternity needed a program of action that would not only benefit the Fraternity as such or individual members, but one that would reach out and lend the prestige of some 7,500 men of college level to an attack on the social evils of our day, and at the same time call the attention of the nation to individuals who are in the vanguard of those seeking to better existing conditions.

To best formulate and carry out this new program of Omega, the direct outgrowth of the findings of the committee appointed at the Atlanta Conclave to "Rethink Omega," we needed to scout about and find what appeared to be the best available talent within our ranks to develop and push our program forward. In the beginning, committee chairmen and members were appointed without regard to their financial standing or locality. The important thing was to seek and select men who had something we wanted and were willing to give it to us. We felt that if we could get them

## ANNUAL ADDRESS OF GRAND BASILEUS

interested in a program, they would become financial voluntarily. In every instance, brothers who accepted responsibilities requested of them, became financial as we expected, and have given us their loyal support and the benefit of their wisdom. We were not so much interested in where a brother lived as we were in his ability and willingness to serve; although we do recognize merit to be derived from having a committee of men reside within a short radius because it facilitates committee meetings.

We have assumed a broad-mindedness in Omega men. We have felt that you were more interested in getting the cat satisfactorily belled than in who belled the cat and where they lived.

In our planning we have been cognizant of the need for continuity of thinking. Members of the Scholarship Commission, Housing Authority, and Achievement Committee are appointed to terms of five years. Of the five members each on the Scholarship Commission and the Housing Authority, only one new member can be added each year. The Achievement Committee has ten members and a director. Only two of these ten are new in any one year. We have provided for the Housing Authority and Scholarship Commission in the By-laws, and it is my hope that this Conclave will take steps to likewise include the Achievement setup in the Fraternity By-laws.

In making this great record of achievement during the last three years, in many ways the most notable in our entire history, the Grand Basileus is making no claim for personal success. It was his job to select, appoint, confer, and direct. He has always done this to the best of his ability. It is due to the splendid cooperation of the loyal men of Omega that has made this great achievement possible.

Now, as to the future, it seems to me that at this Conclave we might make plans for a more effective publicity program to let Omega men, who are out of contact with the organization, know what we are doing. Simultaneously there should be a campaign to get all of our brothers financial, both locally and nationally, so as to get funds with which to expand our local and national programs. We could stimulate greater interest in Omega and in Omega men through reports of chapter meetings in local papers. There are many brothers in the larger cities and in areas where there are no chapters who would be stimulated to activity if they read more often about us in

the newspapers. In the national press we should play up the activities of the Fraternity and individual brothers whose accomplishments, from time to time, make noteworthy news.

We need to develop further the function of the District Representative and to develop greater respect for that office on the part of our chapters. The present District Representatives, under the able direction of Brother Gibbs, have on the whole, done a good job during 1940. But in many instances they would have been more effective had the chapters been more cooperative. The Fraternity will progress from this point only as rapidly as we are able to have good district conferences and good District Representatives. We need to study further the boundaries of Districts. Some of them are unwieldy and our present program cannot succeed until we re-district our chapters.

Since the Vice-Grand Basileus is usually assigned the responsibility of directing the work of the District Representatives, we must realize that the Vice-Grand Basileus is an increasingly important member of the Supreme Council.

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity has striven ceaselessly—and to a great extent successfully—to develop a fraternity program. Omega was among the founders of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, whose aim is unanimity of thought and action insofar as it is possible among fraternities and sororities. A former Grand Basileus, Matthew W. Bullock, contributed greatly to its founding and was its first national chairman.

One of our delegates will give you a report of the last meeting. I merely wish to state here that many Omega men have felt that the Pan-Hellenic Council should initiate and put into effect a more worthy program. Articles and editorials from the pen of Omega men have appeared in our own official journal and many other magazines and newspapers urging a greater program. The minutes of the last two meetings of the Council will show that the Omega delegates have fought for a greater program.

At its 1940 meeting in Kansas City, the Pan-Hellenic Council adopted an excellent program and appointed a National Program Committee to get the ideas into operation. The program submitted to and approved by the Council is the brainchild of Brother Randolph Edmonds and Brother Edmonds is serving as chairman of the

*(Continued on page 22)*

# A SURVEY OF GREEK LETTER JOURNALS

• BY LEWIS O. SWINGLER

**J**OURNALS OF GREEK-LETTER fraternities and sororities are designated as class publications with an appeal and interest confined, for the most part, to individuals identified with class organizations. Until recently these secret societies were quite cautious in seeing that their official organs did not become common property. They were kept within the scope of their memberships. That is, among members of the fraternity or sorority they served as official publications.

There are today nine Greek-letter fraternities and sororities of national import, namely, Zeta Phi Beta, Sigma Gamma Rho, Phi Beta Sigma, Omega Psi Phi, Kappa Alpha Psi, Iota Phi Lambda, Delta Sigma Theta, Alpha Kappa Alpha, and Alpha Phi Alpha. While it is assumed that each of these organizations has an official organ, there are only four Greek-letter organizations with publications commanding attention beyond the sphere of their own ranks. The four journals referred to are:—

The IVY LEAF—Official publication of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

The KAPPA JOURNAL—Official publication of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

The ORACLE—Official publication of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

The SPHINX—Official publication of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

During my five years as editor of the Sphinx, I have seen only one copy of the "Crescent," official publication of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity. The "Ivy Leaf," "The Kappa Journal," *The Oracle* are received regularly in exchange for the Sphinx. Efforts to obtain copies of the organs of other Greek-letter societies have been without avail. Hence this brief survey is confined of necessity, to the four publications with which I am familiar.

As previously stated these publications are class periodicals devoted largely to activities and personalities within the ranks of their respective organizations. Occasionally articles of general interest that appear are deserving of greater attention than the circumscribed distribution of the journal will permit. Such instances are the following articles:—

"Behind the Booker T. Stamps." (Kappa Journal, April, 1940.)

Mr. Lewis O. Swingler is the distinguished editor of the "Sphinx," official organ of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Last year, the chairman of the National Pan-Hellenic Council requested him to make a survey of the Greek-letter journals to ascertain if it would be feasible for the Council to seek a consolidation of these journals. Mr. Swingler's report was referred to a committee of the Pan-Hellenic Council headed by the editor of the "Oracle." The committee and the Council were so well pleased with the survey and its findings, that, with Mr. Swingler's permission, it is presented here for "Oracle" readers.

"The Color Challenge." (Omega's Oracle, March, 1940.)

"The Negro in American Civilization." (The Oracle, October, 1939.)

"Economic Life of the Negro." (The Sphinx, February, 1940.)

While these articles were prepared for consumption by men who wear the Kappa, Omega, or Alpha badge, they are significantly broad in subject matter for consumption by the general public. Certainly by all persons identified with the Delphic groups irrespective of their membership.

Quite frequently an important feature in the Kappa Journal may be reprinted in the *Oracle*, or visa versa. This holds true for the Ivy Leaf and the Sphinx. Occasionally editors of these publications will invite a member of another fraternity or sorority to contribute an article on some current topic about which he or she can express an opinion. These exchanges of ideas have served to liberalize Greek-letter society periodicals.

There are definite rules, laws, etc. governing these journals, however. I can speak specifically about the Sphinx only. The editor of the Sphinx is held solely responsible for what appears in each edition of this journal. His activities in connection with the editorship of the Sphinx are well defined by the fraternity's constitution. The executive Council, during that period between conventions, is the supreme body in the enforcement of the society's laws. It can even suspend publication in extreme instances or evoke any action in accordance with the laws governing Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. The Sphinx editor, of course is a member of this Council, and is vested

## A SURVEY OF GREEK LETTER JOURNALS

with the power of vote and freedom of speech as that accorded other members.

Publications of other Greek-letter societies are, in all probability, controlled similarly to that of the Sphinx.

In the consideration of any step that leads toward consolidation of all Greek-letter society publications, one would have taken into account some of the following questions and problems:

1. Suspension of journals already established in favor of one representing all Greek-letter societies mean that the fraternities and sororities would be without direct and immediate media of communication...organs less effective as official spokesmen.

2. Problem of allotting sufficient space to cover major activities for each of the represented groups.

3. The question of whether a consolidated journal would still have sufficient circulation to attract an appreciable volume of advertising. The total membership of the nine best known societies, it is doubtful, would exceed 18,000 persons active as Greeks.

4. Problem of organizing an effective board whose members would so coordinate their efforts in the production of a journal truly representative of the participating Greek-letter organizations.

5. The Kappa Journal is twenty-six years old. The Sphinx is twenty-eight years old. The Ivy Leaf and the *Oracle*, respectively, is 18 years old. The question, therefore, would rise as to the reaction of Kappas, Alphas, A. K. A's, and Omegas to the idea of submerging their respective journals in favor of a merger. Would they consider their journals in the same light as they would other possessions that give them distinctiveness and character? Do they regard their official publications as part of their fraternal traditions? A heritage to be cherished increasingly as the years go by?

6. What method of distribution would be devised for the consolidated journal? How effective would complaints on parts of members not receiving their copies on time be handled? How devotedly would the editorial staff follow through with complaints arising from articles not satisfactory with one group or the others? These and other questions would inevitably rise.

7. Postal regulations must be considered. All four of the aforementioned publications have

second class privilege at the U. S. Post Office in the communities in which they maintain seats of publications. Second class privilege gives status and prestige to any publication. Present postal regulations as they apply to the Kappa Journal, the Ivy Leaf, the *Oracle*, and the Sphinx enable these journals to keep a close check upon losses through postal distribution...changes of address...incorrect addresses, etc.

8. Would the consolidated journal...that is copies of each edition be sent directly to individual members of each participating organization or to their chapters? What about members located at some distant point from their chapters, but are entitled to copies of the publication?

9. How effective would the editorial board be in following through with deadline notices...an important task to be performed if the journal is to be successful?

A study of the four publications disclose some of the following facts in favor of consolidation:-

All four of those journals carry chapter directories which are important in keeping fraters and sorors in close touch with each other. These directories also include names of general officers, grand boards of directors, appointees, executive councils, regional directors, and district representatives.

The Ivy Leaf and the Sphinx list separately their undergraduate and graduate chapters. The Sphinx carries names of all colleges included in the charter of undergraduate chapters.

Editorial sections publish comments quite frequently of interest to the general public, but usually they are confined to intra-fraternal activities. The *Oracle* devotes as much as two pages to editorials, while the Kappa Journal carries a half page. The Ivy Leaf and the Sphinx usually devote one page to editorials.

Book Reviews...The Kappa Journal, the *Oracle* and the Sphinx carry book review sections. The Sphinx has developed one of the best book review sections of any race publications in America. Professor James B. Browning, of Miner Teachers College, Washington, D. C., is editor. The Kappa Journal, under its progressive editor, Mr. James Fleming, is developing a high class book review section, as well as many other departments to his publication. Mr. James Egert Allen is editor of the Kappa Journal's "Books and Such" section. Dr. W. Montague Cobb, has re-

## A SURVEY OF GREEK LETTER JOURNALS

cently begun a regular book review section in the *Oracle*.

**Humor.** A Frat fun page has been in the *Sphinx* for more than 15 years. It is edited by Dr. O. Wilson Winters, of Norristown, Penna., who is as renowned as a humorist as he is as a dentist. The *Kappa Journal*, more recently, has likewise added a humor section which is edited by Mr. J. Bernard Knighten.

**Chapter News.** . . . News of chapter activities consume from approximately one-fourth of the average edition of the *Oracle*, one-third of the *Kappa Journal*, to one-half of the *Sphinx* and the *Ivy Leaf*. The *Ivy Leaf* classifies its chapter news according to its regions, namely, North Atlantic, South Atlantic, Great Lakes, Central, Mid-western, Southeastern, South Central, and Western Regions.

The *Sphinx* in its "Voice of the *Sphinx*," publishes on an average for each edition chapter news for 50 chapters representing the four jurisdictions of the fraternity.

"Chapters in Review" . . . Chapter news section of *Kappa Alpha Psi* devotes comparatively

as much space as the *Sphinx* or the *Ivy Leaf* when a three-month period is taken into consideration. The *Journal* comes out monthly as compared with the quarterly publications of the *Ivy Leaf*, the *Sphinx*, and the *Oracle*.

There is slight variance in the sizes and formats of the four publications. The *Oracle* is largest of the four, from the standpoint of physical make-up, and the *Ivy Leaf* is the smallest. The *Kappa Journal* and the *Sphinx* are approximately the same size. All four publications use high grade paper which reproduces cuts clearly. Their columns are 13-pica ems in width, as in the case of the *Sphinx*, the *Ivy Leaf*, and the *Kappa Journal* or 20-pica ems in width, as in the case of the *Oracle* which uses two columns to a page.

As a monthly, the *Kappa Journal* uses on an average 16 pages to an edition. As quarterlies, the other three publications rank as follows:- *Ivy Leaf* 32 pages; *Oracle* 28 pages; the *Sphinx* 40 pages.

This report is not a scientific summary but does give a general insight of the four well-established Greek-letter journals.

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## HE MADE HONOR ROLL

(Continued from page 4)

Henry Jared McGuinn, director of the division of social science at Virginia Union University, is the Negro member of the Housing Authority of Richmond. He was appointed to the authority by Mayor Ambler on October 5, in recognition of the excellent work he had done as a leader of the housing movement in the city. He has since taken an important part in the planning of two housing projects for Richmond.

Dr. McGuinn was one of the most effective speakers for the public housing program during the two-year campaign that led to the establishment of a housing authority in Richmond. He was one of a panel of speakers chosen to present the case for housing in Richmond at an open forum at which Nathan Straus, administrator of the United States Housing Authority, discussed the part his agency was playing in rehousing dwellers in American slums. Looking back over the trail of their long campaign, after victory had been won, members of the Citizens' Housing Committee decided that their open-forum meeting was one of the most important steps they had taken, and one that had counted most

heavily toward their final victory. Dr. McGuinn continued to take an active part in the housing campaign, until the final approval of the Thompson housing resolution by City Council.

Dr. McGuinn's academic qualifications are of the highest. He took the degree of bachelor of arts at Virginia Union University and went to Columbia University to take the degrees of master of arts and doctor of philosophy. At Columbia, Dr. McGuinn studied sociology (he took his doctorate in this field) under Dr. Franklin Giddings, and later did research work in New York City. In 1926-27 he was research assistant for the Institute of Social and Religious Research, in New York City, for which he made a study of commercial and public recreational facilities for Negroes, which was published in T. J. Woofter's "Negro Problems in the City."

Dr. McGuinn "worked his way through school," up to the highest academic degree obtainable at a university at which that degree has the highest significance. Because of their demonstrative value, his academic achievements and his practical work as a social scientist, have given him a position of importance in the movement for better interracial cooperation in Virginia.



## TWENTY-NINTH CONCLAVE

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These pages of pictures are a partial account of the serious thinking of Omega at its Twenty-ninth Conclave in Nashville.

In the upper panel, Grand Basileus Dent is presenting to Captain B. O. Davis, Jr., acting proxy for his father, the second annual Achievement Award given to General Davis for outstanding achievement in National Defense. Allison Davis, staff member of the University of Chicago, and co-author of "Children of Bondage," is delivering the first annual lecture. To the right, Brother Dent presents to Brother Herman Dreer, author of "The History of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity," the annual award for service to the fraternity.

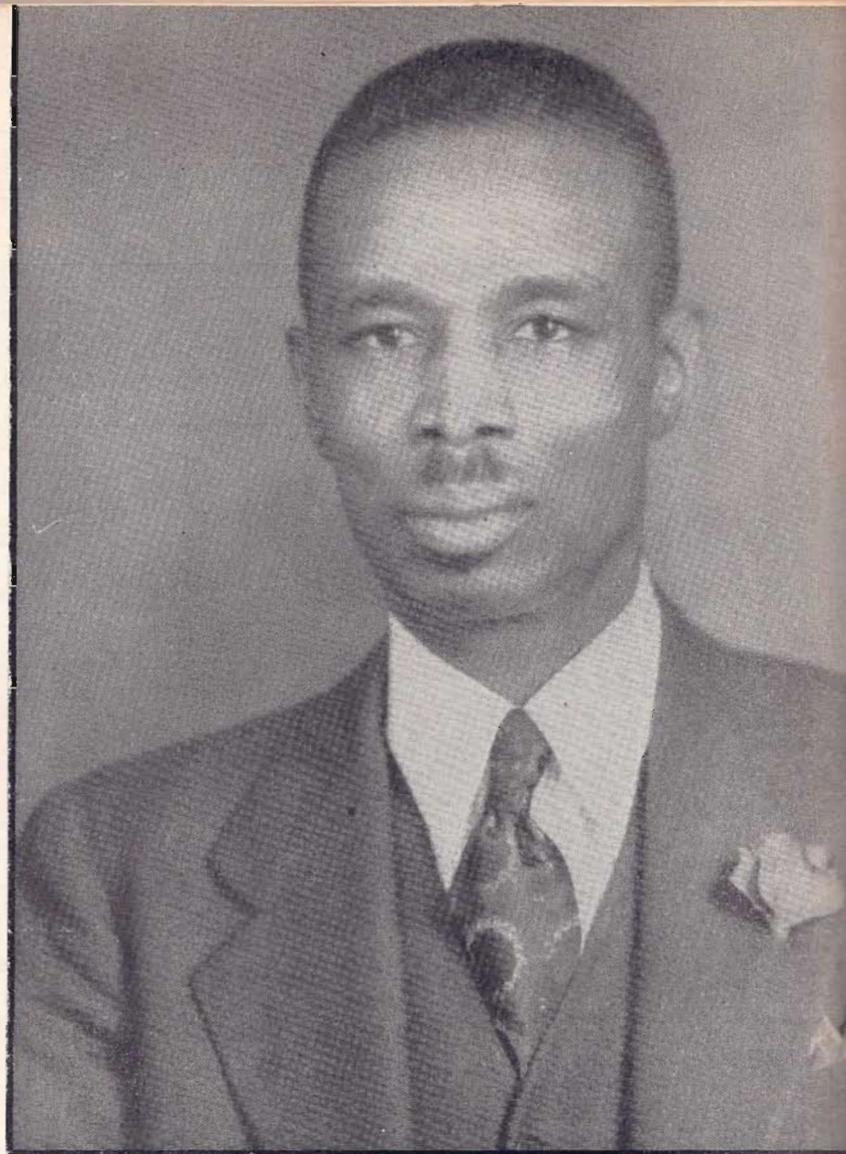
To the left is pictured Brigadier General Benjamin O. Davis, U.S.A., recipient of the Achievement Award.





Our newly elected Grand Basileus, pictured on the right, is Brother Z. Alexander Looby, prominent Nashville Attorney and dean of the Kent School of Law of that city.

The panel discussion on "The Negro in the National Defense Program," was a highlight of the public session held in the Fisk Chapel. More than 1,500 people crowded in the chapel to join in the lively discussion which followed the opening statements made by the brothers pictured below: Lieut. Lawrence A. Oxley, administrative assistant, U.S. Employment Service; Dr. Robert C. Weaver, administrative assistant, Advisory Board to the Council on National Defense; and Major Campbell C. Johnson, executive assistant to the Director of the Selective Service System.



. . . **AS RECORDED BY THE CAMERA**



# AN APPREHENSIVE OUTLOOK ON FRATERNITIES

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• BY "ABLE ABEL"

**I**F YOU RESIDE in a metropolitan center where there is a plethora of fraternity men, you will be a bit diffident about reading the contents of this article. Or if you live in a collegiate area in which fraternity chapters are reasonably firmly entrenched, you may find little appeal here. Or if you live in sizeable communities where Greek letter organizations are alive, the point here may be no point to you at all.

But if you are a fraternal affiliate, with an honest perspective and appreciative appraisal of true fellowship values, then I suggest that you read further. For what follows is, at least indirectly and remotely, concern of yours. Usually things of indirect and remote concern are ultimately transformed into things of direct and immediate concern.

Fraternity men who are not fraternity men, may not be the best way to epitomize the situation I am about to explore. You can size it up any way you like; but those desolate and uncounted brethren, whose fraternal activities cease the moment their hands clasp college diplomas or their destinies and responsibilities lead them to obscure hinterlands where contact with the genuine purpose of fraternalism is eventually lapsed or completely severed, are tantamount to just that.

I have just spent a year in a locality where there are more than twenty fraternity pin wearers. More than half of that number profess membership to a single organization, with no vestige of animation as far as fraternalism is concerned. These quack fraternity men, for the most part, are utterly unaware and impeturbably ignorant of any utilitarian concept or aim of fraternalism. Moreover, there has not been an organ of any Greek-letter organization in sight within recent memory and some cannot recall ever seeing one. Neither has there been any effort, formally or informally, to organize chapters or affiliate with neighboring ones.

It is my impression that these are not a singular combination of circumstances but a very nearly universal one. I have talked with several fraternity men from other communities where similar situations exist. My conversations have not been confined to any particular sect or section

and many of my conversationalists did not bother to inquire of fraternal identity. They express themselves with freedom and frankness. In fact, many of them registered understandable alarm over what they considered an urgently perplexing problem.

One individual expressed it thus: "More than fifty per cent of initiated men are lost because of inability to keep intact their association with fraternities after leaving college or through attitudes that are nauseatingly nonchalant. Salvaging even a third of that number would be a monumental achievement, if we set for ourselves the task of doing it."

Another with a more apprehensive outlook, saw it this way: "Unless we can conserve the bulk of college graduates who leave college beset with enough bewilderment and to all practical intents and purposes forget all about the sacred pledges they commit themselves to in college, I am afraid fraternities are going to disintegrate. I do not want to sound an ominous or overly-pessimistic note but I have a sincere fear that we are heading in that direction if we do not do something about it in a hurry."

The problem is, indeed poignantly great and the appalling angle to it is that the number grows apace with every annual output of college graduates. How to keep the maximum of these young men fraternally functional and conscious and to stimulate a revival of spirit in the older and dormant fraternity men are paramount and distressing questions confronting all fraternities. Verily, they constitute a challenge that can no longer be complacently or resignedly ignored.

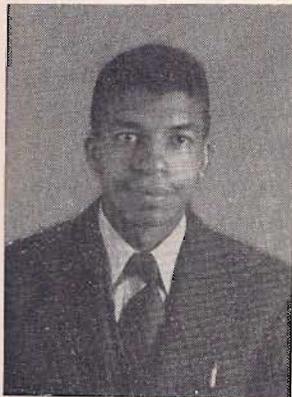
Various reasons have been advanced by members of fraternities who, because of sequestered motive, find it inexpedient to condescend to participate in the affairs of their respective organizations. Really their motives must be sequestered because the reasons they offered are substantially flimsy. One pharmacist and civic leader in his community said he has "neither time nor money to bother with such foolishness." Another responsible person described fraternities as being "no good to you after you leave college." Still another ascribed his fraternal inertia to pure apathy. He had a "so what" attitude and ap-

*(Continued on page 27)*

# OMEGA'S SPORT PROFILE

• BY WILLIAM A. BROWER

**I**F YOU CAN INTERLACE your avocation so that both are but one and the same, you've got something. You've achieved a situation that can only be aptly described by three adjectives—ideal, enviable and unique.



BROWER

That's exactly what Harry K. Parker has done. Engaged in an occupation in which there is no sign of demarcation as to where duty ends and gratuity begins, he has so inextricably interwoven work and play until—well, that life for him is a spacious bucketful of pleasure.

Wherefore we write this, and just what are we getting to? This vagueness may be made explicit thuswise:

For nearly four years Brother Parker has been Director, Negro Division, Greensboro Recreation Commission, Greensboro, N. C. Before assuming his present post he held professorial portfolios at Livingstone College, Greensboro. At both institutions he doubled in brass by coaching athletic teams.

That, in brief, is the professional career of Harry up to date. (Henceforth he will be referred to as "Harry," as he prefers it that way.) Straightway after he became recipient of his sheepskin in 1934 from the University of Pittsburgh, with the indentification of B. S. in Physical Education marked on it, he accepted the job at Livingstone. He recessed during the academic year of 1935-36 to secure his masters degree from the University of Michigan. The following year found him back in the role of pedagogy at A and T. He resigned during the summer of 1937 to take charge at his present station.

Now, behind those harmlessly plain facts lies the point in our story. It is a story whose diverse ramifications don't seem to fit beneath the caption under which we write. That paradox presently will become self-explanatory.

Harry appears to have been born with a savor

Omega's Sport Profile is to be a regular feature of the Oracle. Conducted by Brother William A. Brower, it will attempt to bring to the attention of Oracle readers the activities of Omega men in the realm of sports.

Brother Brower is a graduate of Wilberforce University, and is now engaged in free lance writing. He is well versed with the goings on in the sports world, and is well qualified to conduct this department. The Oracle requests members to communicate with Brother Brower if you know of someone who should be featured in this department. His address is 218 Underhill Avenue, High Point, N.C.

for sports. Since he can remember, his activities, whether by coincidence or stark calculation, have drawn him into direct nearness to things sport. It must have, at least, started in tender childhood and grew on him just as age.

There's your answer to the supreme satisfaction Harry derives from his current employment. He admits that if he didn't enjoy it, he wouldn't toy with it. He finds at once an opportunity to accomplish something notable and stay in close contiguity with the thing to which he has undying devotion.

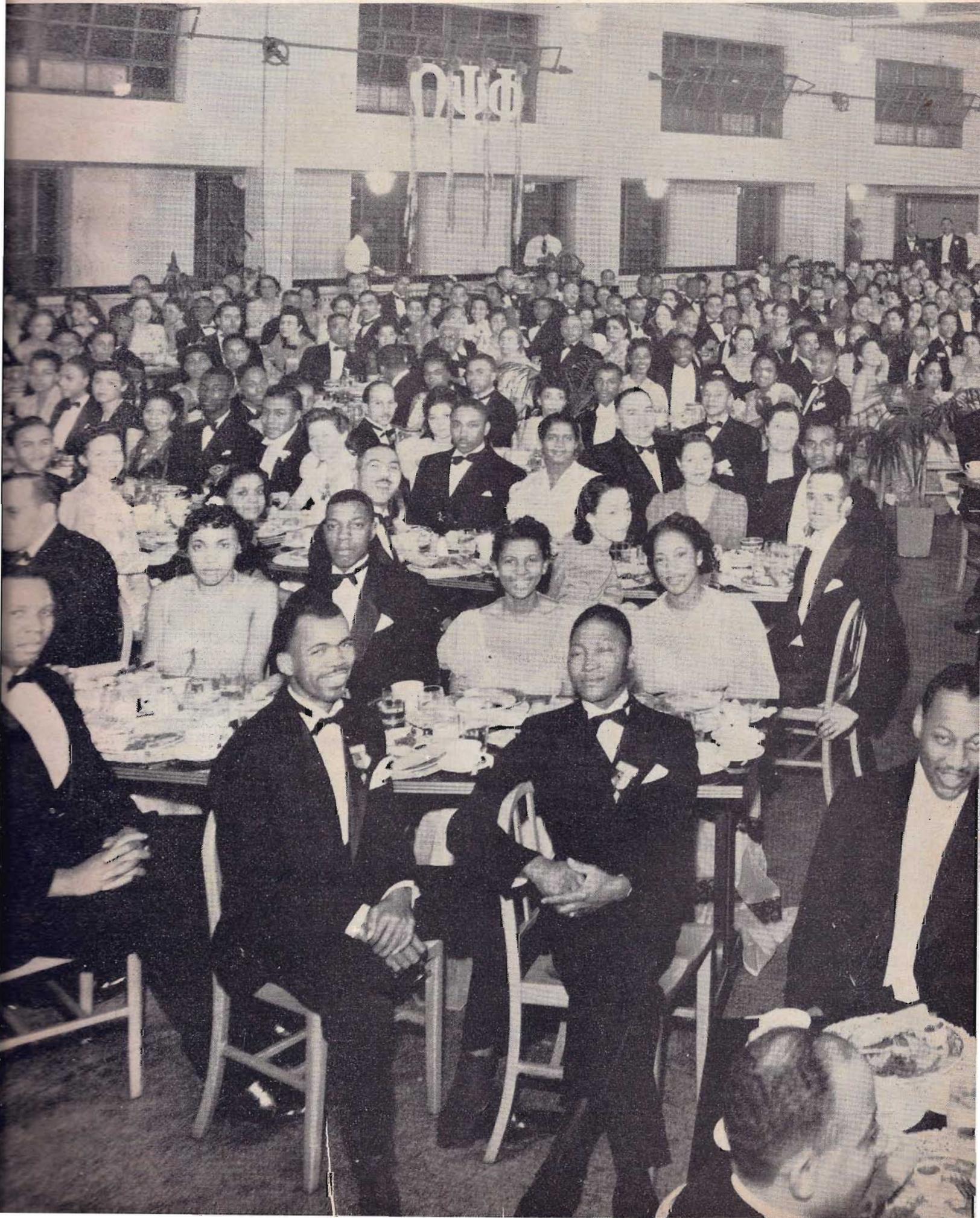
Don't get the idea that Harry is insouciant to the seriousness and importance of his task. In his words, the place he fills is not "peaches and cream." Nevertheless, he knows his way around. Especially is he sedulous in seeing that the recreation program touches all of Greensboro's Negro citizens, from infants to octogenarians.

But Harry is not the type you can entomb in executive offices and come up with a smug individual. He operates on the theory that recreational supervision has two essential parts to its equation: administrative and practical. To turn in good results you've got to be versed in both, or else you're like a carpenter without a hammer.

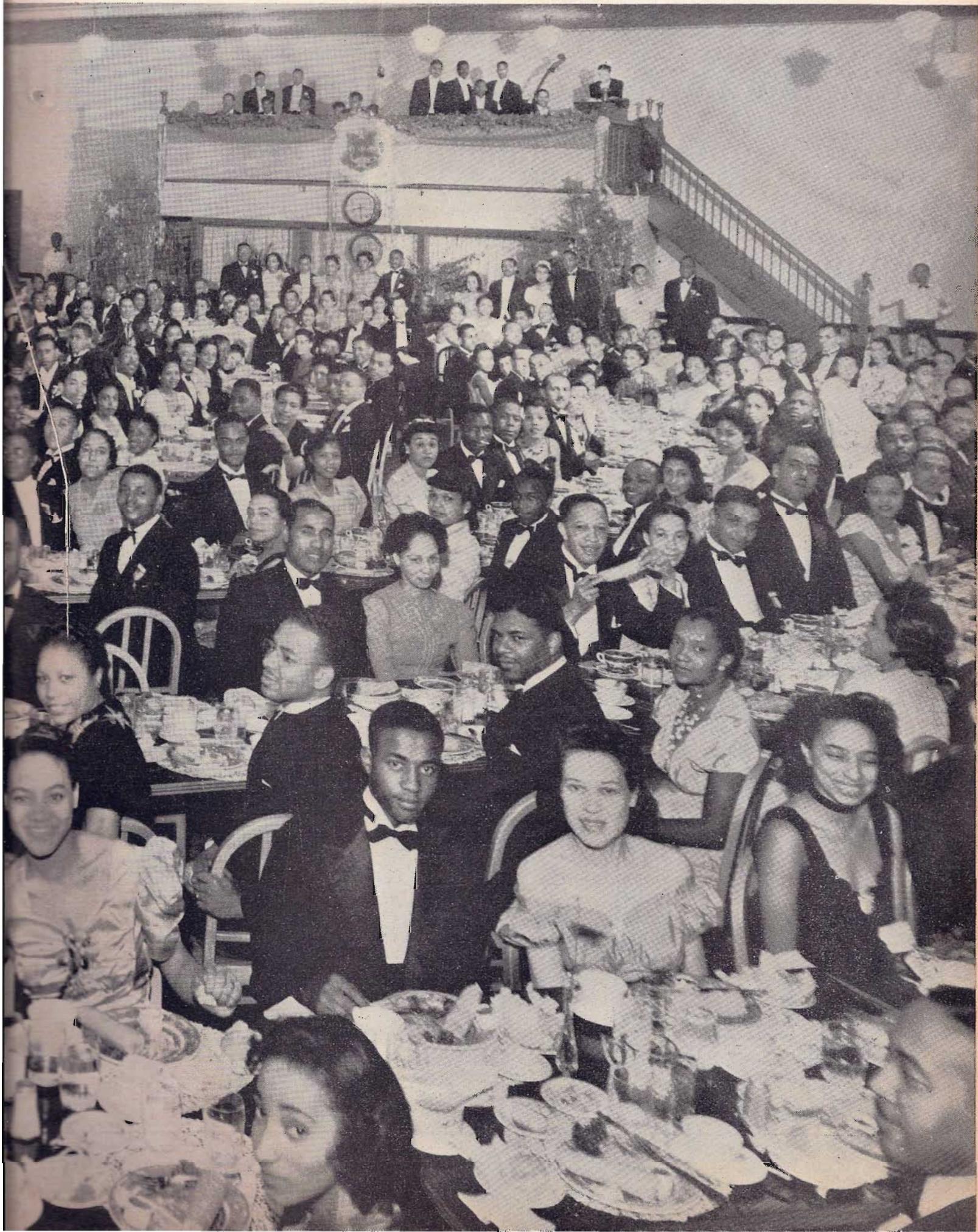
During a conversation with Harry we discovered that versatility is the word for him. We had had a sample of his oratorical ability during a speech he delivered on the popular Sunday morning radio program "Wings Over Jordan." We knew of his flair for dramatics by his portrayal of the "country preacher" on the "Voices From the South," a radio program he helped to originate on radio station WBIG in Greensboro last year. We had, through hearsay, learned of his musical attributes. But we were surprised to ac-

*(Continued on page 18)*

# CLOSED BANQUET



• • • • **TWENTY-NINTH CONCLAVE**



## OMEGA'S SPORT PROFILE

certain that, in a technical sense as well as otherwise, he possessed literary talent.

Were it not for his modesty he would probably, profitably for you, be doing this piece himself. He contributes frequently to trade journals, does publicity work for Windsor Community Center, headquarters for Negro recreation in Greensboro, and is chapter editor for Tau Omega. His recent articles were published last year in BEACH and POOL and PHYSICAL EDUCATOR, both nationally circulated recreation publications. The latter is the organ of Phi Epsilon Kappa, a professional fraternity, whose pages are graced by the contributions of some of the most distinguish-

charged the mission more efficiently. A and T compiled a record of 20 wins and 3 defeats, which attests Harry's genius in the craft.

Incidentally, Harry left another landmark to his affiliation with A and T. Before his advent physical education and recreation were unknown to its curriculum. He introduced both. Now these are fullfledged courses that flourish to a greater extent each year.

Harry is reticent about speaking of his days at Livingstone. And you can't blame him. Livingstone is traditionally short on manpower. Bedeviled with that tradition and without magic, he wasn't equal to producing miracles. But his pupils



Windsor Community Center is the seat of year round recreational activities in Greensboro. The building includes Brother Parker's offices, browsing room, gymnasium, singing room, and lockers. The gym contains up to date equipment for gymnastics and various exercises. Behind the building are located a commodious swimming pool and a half dozen well kept tennis courts. Brother Parker is pictured in the inset.

ed physical educators in the country. Which means Harry is traveling in fast company.

Getting back to our original theme, the zenith of athletic attainment for Harry came through something whose actual handiwork he had no active part in. It happened in 1937. That year he coached A and T Aggies to the only CIAA basketball championship in the school's history.

This was an unlooked for success. In reality, Harry was sort of coach protem. Inman Breaux, regular Bulldog mentor, was on leave of absence. In his lieu Harry had been summoned. From the appearance of things, Breaux couldn't have dis-

invariably gave a respectable account of themselves, albeit this painful deficit of qualitative and quantitative resources.

His decision to accept the position of major domo of Negro recreational activities was strongly impelled because he had no other alternative. It meant fulfillment of a life-long ambition. He had tinkered with recreation and community work throughout his undergraduate days. He spent several summers in his home town, Washington, D. C., as an apprentice on playgrounds and in community houses.

Recreation had been on part-time basis prior

## OMEGA'S SPORT PROFILE

to Harry's entrance into the picture. Obviously he was on the spot. Windsor Community Center had recently been constructed to accommodate offices and facilities for wholesome recreational development for colored people. A roomy swimming pool and well-groomed tennis courts were erected. The responsibility for verifying the wisdom of these investments was dumped in the middle of Harry's lap.

To say that he has done an excellent job would be restrained commendation. He has nurtured Windsor Community Center into one of the finest sensible diversion and relaxation meccas in the south. He has kindled a dormant Negro populace into enthusiastic recreation consciousness. He has made his program one of continuous expansion.

At present he has a staff of five certified city recreation employes. This group is augmented by a varying number of WPA workers. In the summer the personnel is supplemented by extra municipal hirelings to satisfy the ever-increasing need for playgrounds and playground instructors.

Every phase is contained in the recreational setup: music, dramatics, dancing, and all kinds of games and sports. The radio program "Voices From the South" is an outgrowth of musical projects under the auspices of Windsor Community Center.

The phenomenal growth of Negro recreation under Harry's superintendence has diffused its influence in neighboring cities. High Point, Winston-Salem and others are following suit. It is doubtful though whether they will catch Greensboro because Harry's philosophy is one of progress and future planning.

Dunbar High School in Washington gave Harry his first big push in sports. For two seasons he was varsity center on the basketball team. The cage pastime from a tactical standpoint has undergone a transition since then, which was more than a decade ago. Consequently, his excessive height as a prohibitive asset on the hardwood was more appreciated then than now. That is not to infer that Harry was bereft of the skill to match his tallness, but to emphasize what potency he commanded with both. As a matter of fact, he still does. But more about it later.

In 1930 Dunbar won the South Atlantic Scholastic Conference basketball crown. That's a fast league for secondary schools, and titles are usually hard earned. Harry was quite instrumental in helping his team bag that one.

As a scholastic, Harry engaged in intramural football and such common sports on the Negro high school calendar as soccer and volley ball. He also was a prolific participant in other extra-curricula activities.

While matriculating at the University of Pittsburgh he found his athletic tendencies inhibited for the first time. Pitt has an ungentlemanly policy of soft-pedaling Negro athletes in every sport except track. He had to be content with participation in intramurals, confined principally to football and basketball.

Likewise at his alma mater he was identified intensely with campus life. He was soloist with the Men's Glee Club and a member of Y. M. C. A., Interracial Commission, and Physical Education Club. But the association whose memory he cherishes most is with Omega there.

Harry was inducted into the fraternity with two other inspired brothers during the fall initiation in 1932. During his tenure at Omicrom Psi he occupied the capacity of basileus for two years. Under his helm much civic, fraternal and social advancement was recorded by our Smoky City outlet.

In an energetic way, all sports but basketball and swimming are excluded from Harry's personal regimen. He organized Tau Omega's first basketball aggregation this year and set the pace for the rest of his mates in ability and stamina. Most of the campaign he has led his team in scoring and used his tremendous reach to an incalculable advantage around the backboards.

Basketball seems to run in the Parker family. His younger brothers, Emerson and Nelson, traced Harry's footsteps at Dunbar. Later, Emerson starred at Howard University, playing on the 1933 CIAA titleholders. Nelson entered A and T and continued the game while dwelling there.

Perhaps the highspot of Harry's life was his invitation to speak on "Wings Over Jordan." His address was entitled "Leisure Challenges The Negro." He endeavored to point out some avenues for the integration of the Negro in American culture through the medium of recreation.

Harry was born in Washington, July 8, 1912. He grew up there but was led to Dixie to pursue his vocation. Three years ago he married the comely Miss Beatrice Sarrish in Greensboro.

The thing that impresses us most about Harry is his congenial personality. It is the type that excites admiration and is bound to ingratiate.

# HWETLOTROAYDTD

• BY RICHARD T. HODGES

UNSCRAMBLED, HWETLOTROAYDTD, reads, "The World Today," and it is by far easier to unscramble that jumbled bunch of letters than it is to even begin untangling the problems of the world today—or even of our own nation today. I heard an Armistice program a few weeks ago, over which the usual run of "Over There," "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp," and "Sleep Well, Brave Hearts," songs were sung with "In Flanders Field," and "Our Flag" sandwiched in between. Seemingly this was to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice, but in reality it was to pull the scabs off healing wounds, and to inflame smouldering hatreds. The program ended to the tune of blood-warming martial airs and with the thought, "and in the American traditions, we go marching on." To what, who knows, or seems to care!

Perhaps the source of all national and international strife is forgiving, but not forgetting. If so, the accepted fact that we avoid future blunders by remembering those made in the past, has been debunked.

The recent series of events in Europe are a direct result of the harboring of thoughts of vengeance. The Armistice twenty years ago squelched the ambition of the Germans to become a world power, but under a powerful leader, that country is again in search of might and domination. It is difficult to believe that the recent and present conquests of Germany are entirely the efforts of a power-mad dictator, but the efforts of most of the Teutons. The leader merely served to awaken the dormant desires of his people (in addition to his personal wants, of course). Through its leader, Germany verbally whipped into submission democratic (?) France and Britain (formerly Great Britain) and got what she wanted. There are at least two known ways of getting what one wants. They are, "ask and ye shall receive" (which apparently makes everybody concerned happy), and the "If you don't give me what I want, I'll take it" attitude. In late years, the latter method is the preferred one, (e.g. the Rape of Ethiopia, the Purge of Austria and Czechoslovakia, and the Exploitation of China and Spain).

America, the "land of the free, etc.", on the face of things, stands placidly out of the way, "pro-

Richard T. Hodges, Fisk University student, possesses remarkable insight for one whose years are so tender. We submit "The World Today" (unjumbled) as a model by which students might well be guided in considering the world outside their college walls.

ected" by two seas. Occasionally, she sends futile pleas for peace to the European hot box. But behind the carefree, yet stoic face of the nation, are grave concerns of national defense. For the first time in 162 years of independence, America is thinking definitely of defense. (America has yet to fight a purely defensive war). The largest American peacetime armament program in U. S. History is now stewing in the governmental kettle, "because," it is argued, "a good offense is the best defense."

America seems to welcome foreign difficulties and problems. Spread out in a network throughout the land are reams of propaganda from France, England, Japan, Germany, and China. France and England would like to further entangle their democratic sister America in their troubles (maybe to make the world safe for democracy again). Japan, Italy and Russia continue as passive rivals for the hand of Spain.

As American public opinion becomes more and more muddled by the intricate web of European problems, affairs on this side of the Atlantic add their bit to bewilder the thinking citizens. A close examination reveals that the problems of Americans in these United States are not far from being exact miniatures of the European complexities. The conflicts of the Laborites, which tend only to weaken the labor movement, have grown more fierce, and widened the rift between the Republican and Democratic parties in the United States. And while we Americans are sending money and food to war-scarred Spain, miniature riots take place in the relief headquarters of several metropolises because of little food and less money: School systems are forced to become inactive for weeks at a time, because there is no money with which to run them.

Another striking similarity between European and American conditions exists in the minority's problem (which in this case, however, does not assume the proportion of an American miniature of European conditions. The Poles and Hun-

*(Continued on page 29)*

# CHAPTER CARAVAN

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• BY OTTO McCLARRIN

**T**HE CONCLAVE IS OVER, and believe you me it was everything this column predicted it would be. Grand Marshal Maxwell and his committee had seen to it that everything would be included and nothing omitted. Social festivities ranged from the Delta Smoker at the Club Del Morocco to the swank banquet at Tennessee State College.

Grand Basileus Dent and the Supreme Council had taken care of the serious side of the Conclave program in inaugurating the first of the lecture series in the presentation of scholarly Brother Allison Davis, of the University of Chicago faculty. There can be no question that the public meeting held in Fisk Chapel was the most outstanding and significant public contribution the fraternity has made in recent years.

In addition to the lecture there was held a panel discussion on the Negro in the National Defense Program, with Dr. Robert C. Weaver, Major Campbell C. Johnson and Lieutenant Lawrence A. Oxley, big-shot Omega men in the Defense set-up, leading the discussion. Brother Bill Hastie, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War was en route by plane, but was grounded due to the weather conditions.

The daily papers carried pictures of our public meeting—the first time Nashville dailies have carried pictures of Negroes in roles other than criminals. Thanks to our National Publicity Director Brother Fred Weaver and Baxter Collier, the Grand Marshal's aide in Nashville.

Our new Grand Basileus, Brother Looby, is planning a big program for Omega. He has already sent out letters to the chapters as a preliminary. He pleads for the support of us all, and this column wants to say, "Amen!" Let's keep Omega going forward.

The ceremonies to deceased brothers conducted by Brother Dean W. J. Faulkner, of Fisk University, were very impressive and intellectual. Incidentally we have just received word from District Representative F. Rivers Barnwell that the Dean has just left Texas from delivering a series of lectures at Texas University, Southern Methodist University, Gregory College and Denton College, all white; and at Tillotson and Samuel Huston Colleges. While in Austin, Brother Barnwell and

the Q's gave a reception for the Dean to let the public know that the learned gentleman was an Omegan.

We have a note from the Keeper of Records of Gamma Sigma Chapter, at Alabama State, Brother Bill Clarke. Brother Clarke extends greetings to all brothers on behalf of his chapter, and states his pleasure at attending our Conclave.

Iota Alpha in Knoxville, Tenn. was late informing us of their Achievement Week program held last November. Through Chapter Editor Dr. O. B. Taylor, we learn of public addresses, a sermon and radio hour used as a means of conveying to the public the Achievements of Negroes. Attorney Webster L. Porter, militant editor of the East Tennessee News, is Basileus of the Chapter.

We congratulate Brother George Spencer Roberts of Theta Psi, on being the first Negro accepted in the Flying Cadet Corp of the U. S. Army. He received his appointment November 23, after successfully passing the examination. Brother Roberts will be remembered as the efficient Keeper of Records of Theta Psi from 1936 to 1939.

Gamma Chapter, in Boston ("Oxley's home town") has elected Edward Dugger, Basileus, and Reginald Pearman, Keeper of Records.

Speaking of Boston, we are reminded of the District Conference of the First District held in Springfield, Mass., under the leadership of District Representative Fleming Norris. A fine report on this Conference was sent in by the Keeper of Records of Upsilon Phi Chapter, Brother Hatcher Norris. The chapter in Northern New Jersey has been revived, and Dr. Hubert Humphrey, is the Basileus; Attorney Roger M. Yancey, Vice Basileus; Dr. David Morris, Keeper of Finance; Dr. James Hill, Chaplain, and Dr. Theodore Inge, Editor to the Oracle. Sounds like a medical society with legal advice. Good luck, doctors and judge.

New officers of Xi Psi Chapter, South Carolina State, are Harold B. Keely and Addison V. Bowman, Basileus and Keeper of Records and Seal, respectively.

Brother Barnwell has called a meeting of the

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Ninth District Conference for April 25 and 26, in Houston, Texas, with Nu Phi, the hosts. Delta Sigma Theta meets there the same dates, and the brothers are looking forward to a little intermingling. The agenda calls for a concert by the celebrated pianist, Mrs. Jesse Covington Dent, wife of our recent Grand Basileus.

Looks like Texas means to get the next Conclave. They were angling for it in Nashville, but yielded to Indianapolis. The agenda of the Texas confab has a place on it for deciding on which city of the Lone Star State shall be the host.

Conferences in the Fourth District will be held May 9-11; in the Fifth, November 28-29, and in the Sixth, April 18-19.

Brother Otto Ramsey, freshly elected chapter editor of Zeta Psi Chapter, alert to his new assignment, informs us of the re-election of Brother George Gilmer, Basileus, and of the election of Archie Beckles, Keeper of Records. A scholarship dance has already been planned by the chapter.

Another one of those inspirational letters has reached our desk from Beta Chapter. There can

be no finer spirit of fraternalism existing than that at the chapter at Lincoln University. Rominus Stokes is the new Basileus and Roscoe L. Browne is Keeper of Records. Their annual banquet has just been held, and brought back such chapter sons as Tim Neal, Herbie Cain, John Thomas and "Bo" Bohannon, all former Beta officials.

Tau Psi Chapter at Little Rock has gone through a reorganization, with Elza H. Hunter the Basileus and Malvin E. Moore, Jr., Keeper of Records.

Quarterly greetings from Upsilon Alpha Chapter, in the Seashore Town of Atlantic City, has come to us. Like many other chapters, they too, have had a recent election. James E. King and William McPhail are the Basileus and Keeper of Records, respectively. This is one of our younger chapters that has been consistently active since establishment.

The June Oracle will carry a feature on Omega men in Wilmington, N.C. with Omicron Alpha Chapter. Brother G. Albert Gore is going to do the writing; don't miss it—they've got a real chapter down there.

## ANNUAL ADDRESS . . .

*(Continued from page 8)*

Program Committee. As a means of stimulating group action among all of the fraternities and sororities, I urge the full cooperation of Omega Psi Phi.

The programs of some of our chapters and districts are worthy of emulation by the Fraternity as a whole. For instance, the chapters in the State of Virginia require brothers to present certificates of registration as voters as a condition of their good standing in the Fraternity. Eta Omega Chapter of Atlanta published as part of its Achievement Week Observance, a study of "The Health Needs of Atlanta's Negro Population." "A voteless people is a hopeless people," we might do well to give much thought to stimulating more interest in the franchise both on the part of ourselves and the total Negro population. We would also do well to think toward the time when each of our graduate chapters will make an investigation of some specific problem in their respective communities annually and include pro-

posals and efforts to remedy the situation.

I am most grateful to the electorate of the Fraternity for the honor of having served as your Grand Basileus during the last three years. To my fellow members of the Supreme Council, to Committee Chairmen and members, and to our entire brotherhood, I am very appreciative and thankful for the splendid cooperation which I have received.

December 27, 1940.

IF YOUR CHAPTER is incorrectly listed in the directory, it's because the Oracle hasn't been notified of the change of officers. Check your chapter listing now and inform us if it is incorrect.

# THE RED CAP AND YOUR DIME . . .

• BY J. ARTHUR WEISEGER

**J**UST BEFORE THE EFFECTIVE date of the Wage and Hour Law (October 24, 1938) the railroads and terminal companies put the red caps on their pay rolls and guaranteed them the statutory minimum wage under the Wage and Hour Law. The red caps were informed that all tips received from passengers were to be reported daily to the railroad or terminal company, and that these reported tips would be credited against the minimum wage which the employer was required to pay. Many complaints accusing the carriers of intimidating red caps, of not paying the minimum wage and of falsifying records were received by the Division.

In June 1939, the Division investigated the complaints against the Cincinnati Union Terminal Company to ascertain the accuracy of alleged intimidation and failure to pay the minimum wage to red caps.

The inspection showed that since the beginning of its operation in April 1933, the Terminal Company had never paid any wages for the red cap service rendered by the hundred odd station porters (except captains) but had required them to serve the traveling public for any tips which they might receive. From October 24, 1938 to November 6, 1939, the tips reported by red caps at the Cincinnati Union Terminal almost covered their total earnings for the period.

An analysis of the Terminal Company's pay roll records showed that the average hourly tipping income was below 25 cents an hour for every semi-monthly period prior to October 24, 1938, and after this date the average tipping income of red caps suddenly went above the 25-cent level and the average for each week examined for the next year (October 24, 1938 to October 24, 1939) remained above 25 cents.

On the basis of the evidence obtained during this investigation, the Wage and Hour Division filed suit on November 6, 1939, in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, under Section 17 of the Act, to compel the Cincinnati Union Terminal Company to pay its 96 red caps a minimum wage of 30 cents an hour, as provided by the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Within three months after the suit was filed, the Cincinnati Union Terminal dropped the

The writer of this article needs no introduction to Omega Psi Phi members, because we all knew him as our Grand Keeper of Records and Seal, who succeeded the late Brother Walter Mazyck.

Today, Brother Weiseger is better known as an Economist in the Research and Statistics Branch, Wage and Hour Division, United States Department of Labor.

He gives us here a clear picture of the current dispute between Red Caps and Transportation Terminals, over the proper wage Red Caps should receive and how it should be paid.

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"guarantee" arrangement and adopted a new plan on February 1, 1940, involving a charge for red cap service. This plan has been called the "ten-cents-a-bag plan" or the "Cincinnati Plan" by many red caps since its adoption.

When the new plan was instituted the red caps were instructed to collect ten cents for each piece of baggage handled. Tags were to be attached to each piece of baggage or parcel when taken, and a coupon was to be detached from each tag and given to the passenger. After the red caps had carried the luggage to or from the train, taxi, or elsewhere as directed, the coupons were to be recovered and ten cents collected for each tag used. All money collected and all unused tags were to be turned over to a designated station employee at the end of the red cap's tour of duty. The station master or one of his assistants could waive the charge when passengers were unable or refused to pay for red cap service. No charge was to be made for handling invalids in wheel chairs or on stretchers, but any baggage accompanying these passengers was to be charged for at the prescribed rate. Under the new plan the company pays the red caps a wage of 30 cents an hour.

Other carriers and terminal companies were not long in falling in line with the Cincinnati Union Terminal after it adopted the plan of charging for red cap service. Within six months the "Cincinnati Plan," or a very similar one, was in operation at the majority of the larger stations in the country, including New York City, Boston,

1. The statutory minimum wage of the Fair Labor Standards Act became 30 cents an hour on October 24, 1939, and remains at this level until October 24, 1945; however, the railroad carriers industry wage order setting minimum wage rates of 36 cents an hour for trunk lines and 33 cents an hour for short lines became effective March 1, 1941.

## THE RED CAP AND YOUR DIME

Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Houston, Indianapolis, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Washington.

Considerable publicity has been given the "Cincinnati Plan" since its adoption by the Cincinnati Union Terminal Company. It might be well to consider how well it has worked. When the plan was adopted in Cincinnati, an official of the Terminal told newspaper reporters that the charge system had been brought about by controversies and litigation between the Wage Hour Division on the one hand, and the Cincinnati Union Terminal, other larger terminals and carriers, on the other. Most of the newspaper articles which appeared in Cincinnati when the plan was adopted, and most of those which appeared subsequently in the press of other cities where the plan has been placed in operation have conveyed the impression that red caps retain all revenue obtained from the sale of the ten-cent checks. The quality of service is said to be impaired because the red caps think in terms of selling a large number of checks instead of giving good service. Red caps allege that they are handicapped by having to place a check on each piece of luggage handled, and by often having to explain the plan to passengers. Tips are said to have dropped to the point where a red cap might work a whole day and not make 25 cents in gratuities.

The "Cincinnati Plan" had not been in operation very long before its validity was questioned under the Interstate Commerce Act. Mrs. Ida M. Stopher of Cincinnati, Ohio, a patron of the Cincinnati Union Terminal on March 31, 1940, filed a complaint with the Interstate Commerce Commission on April 23, 1940, in which she stated that the Terminal Company had charged her 20 cents for the handling of two pieces of luggage. She objected on the grounds that no uniform rate or tariff had been published, that the charge was discriminatory, and that the charge was illegal as the Terminal had already been paid for the red cap service when she paid for her ticket.

A hearing was held on the Stopher complaint by an examiner of the Interstate Commerce Commission in Cincinnati on September 9-12, 1940. The United Transport Service Employees of America had filed an intervening petition and supported the complaint of Mrs. Stopher. Witnesses presented by the complainant's counsel and by the attorney for the United Transport Service

Employees of America, claimed that the plan of charging for red cap service is unsatisfactory to the red caps and to the traveling public; and that the service is included in the price of the ticket. The charge was said to be waived by station officials when passengers refused or were unable to pay. It was alleged that red caps are often accused of instituting the charge system, and that members of the traveling public are, consequently, taking a hostile attitude toward the red cap. Coercion was said to be practiced at several stations, and red caps who sell the most checks were said to receive the best ratings and to be more likely to keep their jobs. Red caps employed by the Cincinnati Union Terminal and ten other stations operating under the charge plan testified at the hearing.

A Terminal Company witness maintained that the charge for the handling of luggage was fixed by consideration of the parcel check room charge and the cost of the red cap service to the Terminal. He testified that the service had not been impaired, that some passengers had spoken in favor of the new plan, and that more passengers were now using red cap service. The Terminal Company claimed that the charge for the handling of hand baggage by red caps was a service charge and, therefore, a legal one.

During the latter part of 1940, the examiner studied the briefs filed by the complainant, defendant, and the intervener, and reviewed the record of the hearing. Examiner Rice completed his report on January 21, 1941, and recommended that the Interstate Commerce Commission rule that it was without authority to regulate the charges collected for red cap service at the Cincinnati Union Terminal, except to prevent violations of the rebate and discriminatory provisions set forth in sections 2 and 6 (7) of the Interstate Commerce Act.

The United Transport Service Employees filed a brief of exception to the examiner's report in February of this year.

On October 14, 1940, a resolution (S. Res. 325) was introduced in the United States Senate by Senator Barkley (for Senator Thomas of Utah) requesting the Wage and Hour Division to investigate the new plan of charging for red cap service and report to the Senate—

"(1) The extent to which the new plan or practices violate the letter or the spirit of the

## THE RED CAP AND YOUR DIME

Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 or other Federal statutes, if at all;

"(2) The extent to which such new plan, or variations thereof, is susceptible to regulation under the Fair Labor Standards Act in its present form; and

"(3) What legislation, if any, should be enacted for the purpose of regulating said new plan of compensation to red caps under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938."

This resolution was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, but no action was taken on it before the last session of Congress adjourned.

In October, Senator Thomas informally asked the Division to make a preliminary report on the red cap problem under the act. Colonel Fleming instructed representatives of the Division to make investigations of the Grand Central Terminal in New York City and the Washington Terminal in Washington, D. C. The preliminary investigation of the Washington Terminal Company made last October showed that apparently red cap service was sustained by the tips given red caps by the traveling public prior to October 24, 1938. From this date until April 14, 1940, the "accounting and guarantee" arrangement was in operation at the Terminal, and during this period the total tips received by red caps amounted to \$198,730.12, or \$584.54 less than the total minimum wages due the red caps under the act. The Terminal took credit for the tips and paid the men \$584.54 on account of the "guarantee" arrangement. There were apparently some minimum wage violations, as deductions were made for the cost and maintenance of red caps' uniforms, and deductions were also made for lost baggage.

On April 14, 1940, the Washington Terminal discontinued the "accounting and guarantee" arrangement and adopted the plan of charging ten cents for each parcel or bag carried by the red caps. The men were put on the pay roll and paid the minimum wage, but were required to collect the dimes for red cap service and turn the money over to the Terminal. According to the records the red caps collected \$94,677.33 from passengers and turned this amount over to the company during the period April 14 through September 30, 1940. The pay roll expenses for the services rendered by red caps at the minimum wage rate for this period were \$71,799.84, and the Terminal's

gross profit was \$22,877.49, or \$4,159.54 a month, but the Terminal maintained that its net profit for this period was only \$14,950.23 or \$2,718.22 per month. This would amount to an annual profit of approximately \$33,000 over a period of a year. A preliminary report on the Washington Terminal Company was made to Senator Thomas on October 31, 1940.

Unless the revenue from the ten-cent checks or tags equals the red caps' salary, the cost of the tags, clerical hire and other expenses, the carriers and terminal companies maintain that the red cap service is being operated at a loss. The United Transport Service Employees of America have been successful in negotiating several agreements with the carriers regarding the revenue from the charge for red cap service. They have a contract with the Pennsylvania Railroad calling for the payment of a wage of 39 cents an hour to the red caps employed at the Pennsylvania Station in New York City. The bonus arrangement with the Grand Central Station in New York City allows the red caps to keep a portion of each dime received for red cap service. Red Caps at the Northwestern Station in Chicago share in the revenue after the expenses have been deducted.

Since the proposed report of Examiner Rice has been made public, the question is whether the Interstate Commerce Commissioners will accept or reject his recommendation. If the "Cincinnati Plan" is held to be legal, then members of the traveling public will have to continue paying the charge for red cap service. The Wage and Hour Division railroad carriers industry wage order became effective March 1, and the minimum wage for trunk lines is now 36 cents an hour, and the resulting increased wage bill of the carriers and terminals may have some effect on the operation of the "Cincinnati Plan."

Be sure  
To attend  
Your District  
Conference

THE ORACLE

## BOOK REVIEW

*"The First Negro Medical Society, a History of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of the District of Columbia, 1884-1939," by W. Montague Cobb. The Associated Publishers, Washington, D.C., 1939. X, 159 pp., \$2.00.*

**T**HE CAREFUL RESEARCH so evident in Dr. Cobb's book assures it space on any historian's shelf. As the first complete record of the oldest Negro Medical society in the world it demands the attention of physicians especially. But this book is more than a record of meetings and members for medically-minded historians; it is a book of 159 pages filled with facts of great import for sociologists and psychologists as well. And for that large nebulous group—the laymen—it should prove interesting throughout.

The first five pages reveal as succinct a socio-economic analysis of this particular phase of the "color" question as one can find anywhere. These pages merit the attention of all who are concerned with the effects as well as the causes of segregation within a democracy. Referring to the lack of incentives because of this social "disease," Dr. Cobb writes: "It retards professional advancement by diminishing contacts and consultations, by decidedly limiting training from institutional sources and by fostering local professional crowding and inbreeding with consequent lowering of morale."

The initiation of a movement, such as Dr. Cobb describes, is usually attended with missionary zeal and enthusiasm. But sociologists whisper the warning that these motional activities are wont to wax and wane—with decided emphasis upon the latter. The physicists remind us that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction; therefore, one would expect a violent emotional reaction to segregation on the part of Negro physicians. But, keeping in mind the sociologist's warning, the physicists complicate the problem by showing us diagrams illustrating the resolution of forces. A knowledge of the latter discloses the fact that a moving body acted upon by opposing forces does not move in the direction of the applied forces, but in a direction that is the resultant—neither one nor the other. That is to say, if one wishes to maintain a desired course in the face of so many vectors (factors) he must exert

a much stronger force than the opposing ones.

For the Negro Medical Society (or any other Negro group), the foregoing comments should mean much. If they would maintain the direction that leads to professional success, they need call upon all the enthusiasm, interest in medical advances, desire to study and learn more—all the "forces" they can possibly muster. Since there is no relaxation of the opposing forces, there must be no diminishing of the stronger forces needed to maintain the desired direction, their dignity and professional status. The relevancy of this warning is quite evident when the reader analyzes Dr. Cobb's tables of the attendance at meetings, the petty bickerings and sporadic condemnations referred to in some parts of his sections on "General Affairs" and on "Public Relations."

"Chapter II. The Door That Stayed Closed" is an illuminating extension of the socio-economic approach to the entire problem. Here he depicts the background of the struggle of several hardy pioneers (white and colored) to storm the ramparts. Names, dates, places, votes—all combined to give us an account of the struggle so clearly that we seem to be witnessing the whole affair anew. We learn of the professional jealousy of the faculty of the Medical Department of Georgetown University, the battle in Congress, and the final bitter struggle during the 21st. annual meeting of the American Medical Association in Washington, D. C., May 3rd through May 6th, 1870. Obviously, the foregoing comments have been descriptions of the "labor pains" which preceded the birth of the organization. Comes now the "infant" itself. And it is interesting to note that among those eight incorporators of Medico-Chirurgical Society on May 5th, 1870, there were three white physicians, and that the same old hue and cry was voiced then, as now, by Negro physicians about the "new" segregated organization. It would make an interesting comparison if a record of the activities (professional!) of that first group of "conscientious objectors" were to be made public. This reviewer wonders whether those who decry even feeble efforts to advance oneself or one's group professionally ever make an attempt in that direction themselves—if so, how do they do it? What are they doing? We need such information! As for those who would continue to hue and cry, let them read the sec-

tion on "Public Relations" to learn just what, in spite of such limitations, can be done collectively—and the succeeding section on "Publications by Society and Members" to learn how much can be accomplished individually.

The section on "Related Developments" is an interesting excursion into what might have been called (excluding the Freedmen's Hospital Staff Association) "Unrelated Activities." Medical reading clubs, at least to this reviewer, imply compact groups interested in some phase of medicine—specialists and internes (not necessarily in the hospitals) in pediatrics, tuberculosis, internal medicine, and the like. It seems that the emphasis should be upon "Medical" and "reading" rather than "clubs." It may be that such a division of labor is as artificial as any other, but it does seem more of professional worth might be gleaned thereby.

In an abstract of his book, Dr. Cobb writes: "Certain deficiencies of the Society are indicated with constructive intent." The reviewer hopes that this statement will not be missed by those who

read the book or this review—for it is the theme of both. For justification of this point of view, Dr. Cobb states: "The history of this Society would seem to have more than local significance for those who are interested in the potencies and progress of the Negro and factors which aid or retard them, because it deals with the collective behavior of one of the most advanced groups of Negroes (representing "individually and collectively the best in the community in intelligence, character and leadership.") , in an environment providing strong stimuli, both positive and negative, for effective organizational activity, over a period covering more than the last two-thirds of the time during which all men have been legally free in America."

To make Negro life in America a more potent force for good we need to know the strength of such organizations as this so that we may know how to acquire it—and we need to know its weaknesses so that we may know how to avoid them.

We need to read this book!

## AN APPREHENSIVE OUTLOOK . . . .

(Continued from page 14)

parently was not molested at all. There is also the type that hides behind the pretext of isolation, contending there is no personal dividend realized from your investment, financial or otherwise.

Inferentially, fraternities have too long been underestimated and distorted. The cynic and die-hard antagonists have indicted them as sanctuaries for epicurean living and social hounds. That accusation is immoderate and inimical. The voluptuous phase is frequently, most too frequently, inordinately advertised, excessively emphasized and intemperately magnified. Many are absolutely blind to any humanitarian aspect of Greek letter organizations. An important factor that is too generally overlooked is that sometimes we have to dig deep beneath the surface foam to find the true character of a thing.

The coterie which attaches the appellation of foolishness to fraternities is to be pitied because it has a twisted point of view. It should be exposed to the Citizenship Week observance of Alpha Phi Alpha or Kappa's Guide Right Week—a week dedicated to the guidance of secondary

students in the choice of their vocations. It could scrutinize with inestimable edification the ramifications of Omega's National Achievement Week, during which signal tribute is paid to racial attainments in sundry fields of endeavor, supplemented by a nation-wide search for the Negro making the greatest contribution each year. It could spend valuable moments inspecting the objectives of Big and Better Business Week, held each year under the auspices of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and designed to encourage participation in business by the mass of Negroes, both from a consumer and mercantile standpoint. Constructive work is also carried on by individual chapters throughout the country through projects of material and altruistic good. If all this makes for foolishness, then somebody's thinking is superannuated or the dictionary needs a new definition for the word.

Perhaps the most idiotic of all is the assertion that fraternities are useless after you leave college. Anyone, ostensibly intellectual and purportedly intelligent, supporting such an assertion is another who ought to have his head examined. There was never a more complete absence of common sense. True, fraternal life is at its emotional

(Continued on page 31)

# NEGRO BUILDERS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

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• BY JOHN F. POTTS

**A**MERICA STANDS TO-DAY as the last formidable and unscathed bulwark against the fanaticisms of Dictators and totalitarian usurpations. At such a time—while our land is still unravaged by bombs, while our government is still unharassed by ultimatums, while our oceans are still unshadowed by maneuvers of hostile fleets, at such a time, it is well for America to pause and take inventory.

We are a democratic people. We would preserve, strengthen and secure this democracy against external aggressions and internal deterioration. Today we are preparing space for the millitary security of America—through the expenditure of billions of dollars for defense. Yet it is fatuous to assume that these billions of dollars are spent in a meaningful fashion unless we have behind them a happy people. Yes, down to the least articulate minority, the citizens of America must be happy if democracy is to function properly.

At the meeting of the White House Conference on Children In A Democracy on April 26, 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asserted:

"The success of a democratic institution is measured, not by extent of territory, financial power, machines, or armaments, but by the desires, the hopes, and the deep-lying satisfactions of the individual men, women, and children who make up its citizenship."

It is in such a concept of the working of a democracy that the Negro wishes to participate as a builder.

In such a concept racial antipathy is replaced by the brotherhood of man; prejudice is crowded out by clear and liberal thought; discrimination yields to unequivocal justice; narrow-mindedness is superseded by an expanded mental horizon that embraces only the realities of a given situation. In such a concept there is equality of opportunity and an absence of hamstringing.

There is a dual responsibility involved in the Negro's building for American democracy—the responsibility of America to the Negro, and the responsibility of the Negro to America. The responsibility of America to the Negro may be tersely stated thus: that he be allowed all the

John F. Potts is principal of the Waverly School, Columbia, S. C. Last November 7, the accompanying address was read by him over Radio Station WIS, in Columbia.

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immunities and privileges of a citizen of the United States, without qualification and without reservation. To the extent that America falls short in this responsibility, to that same extent does she fall short of the real meaning of democracy, and to that same extent does she deprive the Negro of an opportunity to be a builder of this democracy.

As long as the Negro is denied the right to actively participate in the political, military and economic phases of our American Life; as long as the Negro receives such a disproportionate share of the money spent for the educational training necessary for the development of those attitudes, habits, skills and appreciations which every desirable citizen must have—just so long will the democratic processes in America be retarded.

Let us now consider the responsibility of the Negro to America. He should willingly assume all obligations and duties which are required of every citizen such as educating his children, supporting his family and other necessary institutions of our society, voting, acquiring property, paying taxes and serving in the defense of our country. Now let us analyze the activities of the Negro during the last seventy-five years to see just how well he has shouldered his obligations.

When the Negroes were freed, ninety per cent of them could neither read nor write. By 1936, seventy years later, only ten per cent remained illiterate. In the last fifteen years Negroes of the Southern states have contributed \$4,683,000 toward the erection of more than 5,000 Rosenwald school buildings. Negro religious denominations contribute \$3,000,000 annually for the support of 175 schools which have a property value of \$4,000,000. It is estimated that since the Civil War Negroes have contributed \$40,000,000 for their own education besides paying their proportionate share of taxes for the support of public schools.

In addition to his educational responsibilities

the Negro also has assumed his economic obligation in an equally remarkable way. It is estimated on the basis of tax returns that, in spite of the depression, Negroes in the United States, in 1936 own more than 22,000,000 acres of land, an area larger than the five states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont and New Hampshire. This may seem small as compared with the total acreage in the United States but when we consider that most of the land in America was either given away or sold at very low prices while the Negro was in slavery and that even when freed the vast majority of them were penniless, this achievement looms even larger. In 1866 Negroes owned only 12,000 homes. In 1936, home ownership had increased to 750,000. The number of farms operated increased from 20,000 in 1866 to 880,000 in 1936 with Negroes actually owning about 200,000 of them. The total wealth accumulated by Negroes in America now amounts to \$2,500,000,000.

History records no finer examples of patriotism and loyalty than that exemplified by the Negro in his response to the call to arms. In every major conflict in which America has participated from the Revolutionary War to the World War his record has been clean and unsullied. Although hundreds of American citizens during the World War were accused of disloyalty, and many were convicted and imprisoned, not a single Negro was among the number. The Negro soldiers were praised for their bravery by such outstanding men as General Lafayette, Commodore Perry, General Jackson, Colonel Roosevelt and General Pershing. Of them General Pershing said, "The only regret expressed by Negro Troops is that they are not given more dangerous work to do. I cannot commend too highly the spirit shown among the colored combat troops, who exhibit fine capacity for quick training, and eagerness for the most dangerous work."

Who are the Negro builders of American Democracy?

Every Negro mother and father who, even at the price of personal sacrifice, make it possible for their children to get the training necessary to support themselves and intelligently participate in democracy;

Every Negro teacher who develops attitudes of loyalty, tolerance, cooperation, respect for the rights of others, obedience to authority and such habits as industriousness, cleanliness, regularity,

promptness and other desirable habits, skills and abilities;

Every Negro physician and health worker who safeguards the health of the Negro so that he will not become an economic liability because he cannot produce;

Every Negro business man who provides employment for other Negroes, thereby making it possible for them to support their families;

Every Negro minister who exhorts us to use the pattern of life set by Jesus Christ as our example. (And well may we take his advice because democracy cannot succeed unless it is undergirded by Christianity;)

And finally every Negro who may not be included in any of the other aforementioned categories who uses his influence to help mould public opinion to the extent that Negroes will be given more favorable consideration in the future than he has in the past.

A well-known Southerner recently said: "The Negro is not a menace to America. He has proved himself worthy of confidence. He has been and may continue to be a blessing. In the years that are to come he needs the help of those who have voices of influence. He needs only that we remove unnecessary barriers out of his way, and give him a chance to demonstrate that under God he is a man and can play a man's part."

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## HWETLOTROYD

(Continued from page 20)

garians in Czechoslovakia and the Jews in Italy and Germany are in no way worse off than the Negro in the U. S.).

Twelve million American Negroes who for the most part have ceased to be the "white man's burden," are striving to achieve some degree of economic and political equality. But at every inch of the road this minority group finds blockades, and all but a few of the muddy detours closed. And still white America, which has closed them in roads and all but blocked the detours to its minority group, is sorrowful and grief-stricken over the fate of a distant foreign minority group. Perhaps charity no longer begins at home.

It may be that the world has always had its periods of national and international strife, but it is hard to believe that they have always been as complex as they are now.

# WHAT IF HITLERISM SHOULD COME? .

• BY CHARLES B. TYREE

**T**HERE ARE NOT MANY of our people who, I believe, realize the present world situation as serious to our way of life. So many of us seem content to go our way, feeling that the now existent universal problem is one belonging to the white man who must find the answer, and whatever solution is found will have little, or no effect upon the status of the Negro. During frequent discussions I have heard this statement by various people. Certainly all of us are cognizant of the fact that we are not permitted the fullest measure of the enjoyments of citizenship, but vigorously take issue with the stand that conditions could not be worse.

It seems to me that all of us would do well to look objectively at the whole situation, and determine our true standing and expansion possibilities in this great Democracy of ours. Then let us look at ourselves, with an effort to find our own shortcomings, correct them, in order to present a united and co-ordinated well trained front upon which to base our arguments and demands for the fuller life. No group of people is perfect, but I do feel that by making general improvements in ourselves, we can break down so many more barriers that still remain before us. Let us build up, and let none tear down in order that our social and economic status might be definitely improved.

What if Hitlerism should come? Today, we still have hope but under the yoke of a tyrant, I believe our lot would be miserable, and we would again find ourselves much like our great-grand parents; enslaved. If the Nazis are to suppress and oppress all non-Aryan peoples yet white, what would they not do with the Negroes who might be a part of their conquered land? We are told that Negroes who once enjoyed almost normal freedom of movement in France are now forbidden the right to continue in many social and other pursuits.

There comes a time in the lives of people (if it doesn't, it should) when they experience an awakening; made aware, and often keenly so, of the conditions and circumstances under which they live, and in which they move. Most of us go through life caring little to improve first, ourselves, and in broadening our own proscribed so-

cial area. We would do well, and eliminate a lot of problems, by doing a little personal grooming. If we expect to be integrated into the great American scheme of things as we have a right to expect, then it seems only fair that we should at least strive to meet the expectations of others in so far as we seek that integration. The continuous giving of and making excuses for our own plight and conditions is not enough. Let us not sit and complain about things as they are, but rather work to make them as they should be. In that way and only in that way does it appear possible to me to enhance and broaden our own sphere. We can still have hope in this land. How much of this hope could be carried over to the totalitarian philosophy?

Now we are threatened by the oppressors of Europe who are endeavoring to test the sinews of democracy and to break it down. Let every Negro, nay every American beware, lest through his own narrow-mindedness the devils of destruction, through their agents explore our deepest feelings and further pervert our ideas so that they can set asunder our hoped for, and much needed National Unity. He, who would welcome the Nazi state of control, welcomes the very embodiment of oppression, suppression, tyranny, tears, poverty and death as is proved by the conditions now prevailing on the European continent. He who by his adoption, knowing by example the inevitable consequences, would advocate or welcome its coming, bids for the certain enslavement and debauchery of his children. Let no man and especially no Negro say that under Democracy and Old Glory there is nothing more we can gain, but under the Swastika we shall gain everything. This is still a white man's world from the standpoint of might and power, but of any existing evils in the two opposing political philosophies let us cling to the one with some freedom built upon future hopes.

These lines might express the true feeling of the Negro, and our regard for the land of which we are a part:

We stand today as loyal as of old,  
And wither not before the dragon's breath.  
Of pagan gods who would their subjects hold  
And beat them down in cruelty and death.  
We'll stand for liberty though ill despised,  
And die for freedom hoped for in the land,

## WHAT IF HITLERISM SHOULD COME?

When we the foe, would have them well apprised  
Of our devotion to our home at hand.

No, not for that unknown dark abyss deep,  
Where Semite, Friar, Monk dispaired to go,  
Would we who think, lie down and bay like sheep.  
But rather meet the conquering bloody foe.

For this, we've well deserved our rightful place.  
The right to full participation true,  
To build within this land a sturdy race.  
Through liberty deserved, with freedom do.

Remember, that upon the battle field,  
We fight for you, your children; all mankind,  
The sabre toward the evil foe we'll wield.  
And look to home, return with kindred kind.

To thee America, Allegiance pledged,  
To all our people all our sons who've died;  
They look to you whose freedom is alleged  
To set all peoples free, quite well applied.

For if the oppressor's rule should be our fate  
You too will fall beneath the tyrant's heel  
Wake up America before too late  
Lest dastardly oppression you may feel.

Let brothers all go forward hand in hand,  
Lest in the darkest dungeon we'd be cast,  
Let true democracy prevade our land,  
That true democracy might always last.

## AN APPREHENSIVE OUTLOOK

*(Continued from page 27)*

peak in the course of our college days. Proms, stags, smokers, initiations confuse many and often only one side of the picture is absorbed. It has been said that service is the greatest of all earthly honors. If more of us would realize that, we would be less inclined to complain that fraternities serve no purpose after our collegiate days are memories.

The apathetic element is unpleasant to consider. That species is invariably found in all kinds of organizations and the least said about it the more savory. The variety of impassiveness which grips most fraternity men is out of the orbit of sympathy. The maxim that, "we get out of life what we put in it," is peculiarly applicable to fraternal life.

If there is a single extenuating circumstance involved in the whole problem I have been deviously discussing, it belongs to the isolated brothers. It is conceivable that the loss of communication with active chapters might impell one into inactivity. But such is not entirely excusable. Men should strive with sufficient vigor and ardor to maintain touch with normal functions of their organizations. It is more than worth the effort.

Fraternities make no extravagant claims to being unassailably perfect organisms. They are comprised by human beings and the presence of fallibility in human beings is an actuality that is commonly acknowledged. But whatever shortcomings they might have are drowned by a deluge of virtues—a truth established beyond dispute.

I have no alleviating achlemy to propose for the situation I have brought to your attention. My idea is catalogued to awaken the cognizance of conscientious fraternity men to a malady that is snapping at the internal structure of fraternalism. The responsibility of mobilizing forces to combat its virulence, or at least to diminish its enormous seriousness, rests with the various organizations concerned. A solution can only be a product of intelligent and collective thinking and industrious and unified action. And that is the way I leave it.

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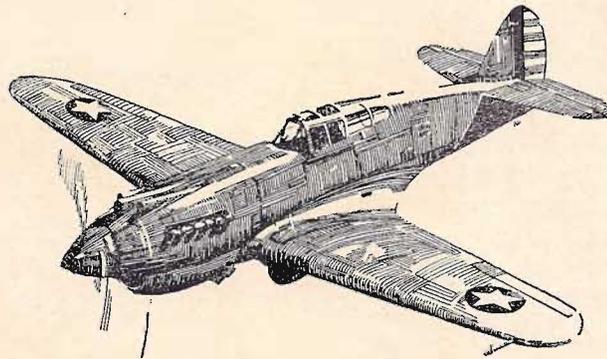
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