

NOW "AT HOME"



MRS. ROBERT S. ABBOTT

The former Mrs. Edna Brown Denison, widow of the late Col. Franklin A. Denison, has closed her summer cottage at Benton Harbor, Mich., and is now with her husband in their beautiful home on South Parkway. Editor and Mrs. Abbott were married at Crown Point, Ind., August 14.

Mrs. Robert S. Abbott Now "At Home" With Husband

After several weeks spent at their palatial summer cottage in Benton Harbor, Mich., Mrs. Edna Brown Denison Abbott, who became the bride of Robert S. Abbott, Editor and Publisher of The Chicago Defender early in August, has moved into their beautiful South Parkway residence.

Mrs. Abbott, the widow of the late Gen. Franklin A. Denison, has long been one of the most popular matrons in Chicago. Although rumors had linked her name with Mr. Abbott's for several months, the wedding, which took place at Crown Point, Ind., came as a complete surprise to most of their friends. In reporting the event, Time Magazine, in its issue of August 20, said:

"Married. Robert Sengstacke Abbott, 64, Negro publisher of the Chicago Defender; and Edna Brown Denison, 43, widow of the late Col. Franklin Augustus Denison, commander of the 370th Infantry ('The Black Devils') during the War, sole Negro to take a regiment abroad; in Crown Point, Ind. Helen Thornton Abbott last year divorced her publisher husband after unsuccessfully attempting to have him removed from the Defender's man-

agement, charging he was letting the paper go to ruin."

The original story of Mr. Abbott's marital difficulties, as reported in Time for June 26, 1933, are reprinted here:

"Such Negro readers of the 'white' Press as were aware of the troubles of ex-Publisher Edward Beale McLean of the Washington Post and Mrs. Evalyn Walsh McLean last week found vague analogy in the adventures of their own most famed publishing family. No. 1 Negro publisher is capable, courteous Robert Sengstacke Abbott, 62, founder-owner of the Chicago Defender ('World's Greatest Weekly'), and Abbott's Monthly, only Negro fiction magazine. Like Publisher McLean, he is a loyal Republican. His wife, Mrs. Helen Thornton Abbott, who says she thinks she is 38 but is not certain, is practically white-skinned, with straight brown hair. Georgia born, she is a normal school graduate and has dabbled in welfare work.

"In a Chicago court last week Mrs. Abbott demanded: 1) separate main-

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tenance from her husband, whom she accuses of peccadillos (as did Mrs. McLean); 2) removal of her ailing husband as publisher because she asserted he was letting the paper go to ruin through neglect (as did Mrs. McLean). There the analogy ends.

"Whereas Mrs. McLean wanted to buy the Post for herself and her sons, Mrs. Abbott, childless, asked a receivership for the Defender. (Presumably, however, she hoped to get it for herself.) Whereas the Post admittedly has been losing money for years the Defender has picked up after its Depression slump and, according to its owner is making a little money. According to the owner's wife it is worth \$1,000,000. (Eugene Meyer got the Post last fortnight for only \$25,000.) Fun-loving "Ned" McLean could not be bothered with business. Round-faced Publisher Abbott was kept from work by tuberculosis and Bright's disease. "Ned" McLean's woman friend was the sister of Film Actress Marlon Davies. Mrs. Abbott says that two years ago she found

her husband in bed with his nurse.

"During Publisher Abbott's illness of the past two years the Defender has been run by his right-hand man, Nathan K. McGill, brown-skinned onetime Assistant Attorney General in Illinois. His divorced wife, Idalee, is Mrs. Abbott's sister, two years younger, a few shades darker and not so good looking. Mrs. Abbott charges that McGill runs the business badly and that he continues to draw his salary of \$700 a week although he insists that neither he nor Publisher Abbott (salary \$2,000 a week) has drawn money for a long time.

"Last year Mrs. Abbott was awarded temporary maintenance of \$300 a month, use of their 11-room house on the South Side, the Pierce-Arrow, Arthur the chauffeur and Rosalee the maid. Publisher Abbott was permitted to keep the Rolls-Royce which, he has confided to friends he bought second-hand to set at rest the gossip of competing Negro papers that the Defender was on the rocks."

Editor W. P. Dabney Writes Editor R. S. Abbott About Love, Luck and Marriage

August 18, 1934

Robert S. Abbott, Esq.
Chicago, Illinois
Dear "Bob":

I have just begun to realize that God plays favorites. Many congratulations on your marriage. Were I to be born again I would pray that our Heavenly Father would have me born under the star that twinkled when you gave the cry that told your mother that you were far from being a dead one.

I envy you exceedingly for I met on one occasion the charming young lady that you have just taken under your "Vine and Fig Tree." I had gone to her house with a letter of introduction to Colonel Dennison as I was very desirous of seeing his library. Though ever deeply interested in books, I will be frank enough to admit that her many charms prevented me from giving the volumes the attention they so richly merited. "You sho is a lucky man" and the bride is beyond a doubt a protege of "Lady Luck," since as I see it, your only failing is that you have always been too much of a gentleman. I regret that no one will ever pronounce such eulogy over,

Yours with best wishes,

DABNEY, (W.P.)

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