

National GRAPEVINE

By CHARLEY CHEROKEE

EDUCATION-OR-BUST DEPARTMENT

Illiteracy, Joe Houchins of Census tells us, is still six times as high among Negroes in all age groups, as among whites. Happily however, while 32 percent of Negroes over 65 are illiterate, only 4 percent of colored between 14 and 25 are so classed. Understandably, 1.7 times as many Negro men are illiterate as Negro women. . . . Meanwhile educational barriers continue to crumble. In Maryland, the state U. with Negroes already in its law school considers letting them in other departments. St. Johns College in Annapolis took in its first Negro, Martin Dyer. Johns Hopkins quietly let down a barrier. In D. C., Howard's medical Internes start training at the "white" municipal Gallinger hospital. Old Catholic Georgetown let in a few to the law school.

The courts ruled it unconstitutional for U. of Oklahoma to bar Negro grad students (McLaurin case), and that in Atlanta the school board has discriminated against Negro teachers "on account of race and color" by paying smaller salaries.

Four of the five young Washingtonians awarded research fellowships by the Atomic Energy Commission are colored,—Evelyn Boyd who will study at Yale, Geo. Ferguson and Geo. Sherard to U. of Pa., and Edgar Williams to U. of Chicago.

A strange note in D. C. Army contemplates pulling its cadet corps out of the 8 half-empty high schools because of lack of student interest. In the 4 jam-packed colored high schools on the other hand, the kids flock to the corps. Maybe they love a parade.

HATFIELDS VERSUS McCOYS

Nothing like a good feud to keep things lively. Leaving out the Baptist group wars, the J. Finley Wilson versus this'n that rebellion Elk lodge and the political name-calling, there are other good ones. These old ones are getting tiresome, anyway.

One of the best is the Walter White versus W. E. B. DuBois bristling. They are both prima donnas each each used to having things his own way. There's no right and wrong to this one, they just rub each other the wrong way.

Another good one but with less history is the Paul Robeson versus Max Yergan push-and-shove. Each apparently wants control of the Council of African Affairs and Paul appears to be ahead, altho' the fight is young yet.

On the interracial side there is the Lester Granger versus Oscar Ewing nose-thumbing. Oscar, chief of Federal Security and Prexy Truman's civil rights tub-thumper, insisted on making what Lester says was a "political" speech at the recent Urban League Convention. It's pretty heated. Les' also has a long-standing one with Henry Wallace but even he seems to have forgotten how it started. Throw them words, boys!

SPEAK OF THE DEVIL

Speaking of politics New Mexico's newly enfranchised Indians held a pow wow Friday to decide who to vote for. The All-Pueblo Council representing 18 of the 21 tribes is asking candidates how they stand on social security benefits now refused Indians. They are hard-boiled about it, too, saying it seems to them that anybody who wants to be a public servant should be able to understand and answer a simple question. (Shucks fellows, that would just about ruin a politician)

Otherwise and Ho-Hum,—Rev. William Brown of St. George's Methodist Church in Maxton, N. C., became second Negro nominated for Senate by Henry Wallace's new party (Larkin Marshall, a Macon, Ga., editor is already in race) . . . Bill Dawson's Democratic mills are grinding full strength and he points out how much interest Negroes have in Ewing's recent report,—“The Nation's Health—A Ten Year Program” . . . The Dems are also circulating a copy of GOP's Scovel Richardson's (Assistant to Val Washington) letter to a Negro editor in which he asks the usual questions and invites him in to discuss confidentially a “fourth consideration” if interested in going GOP.

NAACP bulletin also has that voting record of Congressmen to guide you . . . Val Washington should be credited for convincing Dewey to adopt that old pat-on-the-back and hand-shake with “the little fellow” technique he is now using . . . All at one time last week there were in Val Washington's outer office, Val, Scovell Richardson, Z. Alexander Looby, Marse Calloway, Dr. Emmett J. Scott, Grant Reynolds, Alex Barnes and Genoa Washington. Whew! Little crowded boys, ain't it?

TEACHER'S PRAYER

Nick Ford, English prof at Morgan, picks this poem-prayer by Prexy Leslie Pinckney Hill of Cheney as one of ten best poems by colored poets:

“Lord who am I to teach the way
 To little children day by day.
 So prone myself to go astray?
 I teach them love for all mankind
 And all God's creatures but I find
 My love comes lagging far behind.
 Lord, if their guide I still must be,
 Oh, let the little children see
 The teacher leaning hard on Thee.”

ALL TOGETHER

As we were saying, there is a growing racial and religious tolerance between Jewish and Negro people. When the few Jews in Greenville, Miss., set out to raise \$30,000 as their quota for United Jewish Appeal fund, the first ten dollars contributed came from a Negro Methodist Minister. In Jacksonville, Fla., the colored Clara White Mission which itself depends on contributions, was among the first to contribute to the UJA in that community.

In Chicago's Loop it is now possible to witness a direct policy change from segregation to integration. During the old Camp Smalls-Jim Crow training days, when you saw sailors there, you saw separate groups of colored and white lads. Now nearly every group you see has both colored and white members, showing the Negro “boof” comes to town with his white buddies.

Things are looking dark for white supremacy in sports. Brooklyn and Cleveland have killed WS in baseball and there are about 20 colored boys in the two football big leagues. Sunday, Geo. Marshall who once said to sports writer Ric Roberts that Negroes would never get back in the National League, saw a Negro, Emlen Tunnell, play against his Washington Redskins. (With NY Giants). On big college teams dark faces are dime a dozen.

ON THIS 'N THAT

Our dentist tells us that most of his work is in the evenings now. With government agencies still cutting down because of reduced budgets, colored government workers have reformed and are scared to stay away from work even for sick leave. Chum this is a far cry from War days when the average one never bothered to go to work on Mondays or days following Holidays and with sick leave at least once a week.

National Council of Negro Women holds its 13th annual convention in D. C., Oct. 10 to 13. Mary Bethune is still a respected favorite of the Administration and the sumptuous Departmental Auditorium and conference rooms will be available to her potentially strong organization as in the past. Convention features addresses by Sec. of Labor Tobin, Women's Bureau chief Freda Miller, Madam Nehru, wife of Indian Minister, Sadie Alexander, Anthropologist Ethel Alpenfels, and Julius Schreiber, noted psychiatrist.

Dean William Pickens, race adviser in Treasury Bond Division, has gotten three colored members on that Treasury National Organizations Committee of big business men. They are Henry Allen Boyd of Nashville, Baptist leader and banker, Willard W. Allen, of Baltimore, Masonic leader and Insurance executive, and Julia West Hamilton of National Asso. of Colored Women.

AND THIS ENDS IT

Sec. of Labor Tobin speaking to United Hebrew Trades, congratulated members on breaking up old “sweatshops,” but warned they have moved to a new locale, springing up now in some sections of the South as industry moves there . . . William Daniel of Trinidad is newest appointee to staff of Caribbean Commission as statistical draughtsman . . . Walter White's newest book is out; it's on himself,—“A Man Called White,” an autobiography.

U. S. Court of Appeals ruled against Negro train firemen who charged discrimination last week, and this week Federal Court in Baltimore upholds segregation in diners on these same southern railroads . . . Capital Press Club had a sports luncheon with Coach Ed Jackson of Howard U. and his star fullback Sandy Greene, and Coach Sal Hall of Cardoza High with his team Captain Russel Williams as guests . . . Miner Teachers College in D. C. is fielding a football team this year for first time since death of Coach Hal Martin.

Names of those five colored soldiers killed in that Florida air field ammunition explosion,—Sgt. Harold Jeffreys of Winston-Salem, Cpl. Essex Graham of Kansas City, Mo., Cpl. Calvin Jackson of Williamsburg, Va., Cpl. Joe Miller of Birmingham and Pvt. Clarence Johnson of Phila. . . Navy League of U. S., known as Civilian Arm of the Navy, has invited both NAACP and Urban League to help sponsor Navy Day, Oct. 27.

BUY ANOTHER U. S. SECURITY BOND, MISTER, and remember even the Southern Regional Council made up of prominent white and colored southerners has formally told the South that it's “time for a change,”—KEEP 'EM SQUIRMING!