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Brown America

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NEWSLETTER

A recent sales analysis for uptown New York, which covers entire Harlem area, revealed that territory represents a retail market of almost \$500 million...survey covered retail stores, did not include rents, service establishments, places of amusement, professional services...Negroes in Chicago made up the largest group of home buyers in city during 1951, according to Chicago Title and Trust Company...populous South Side ranked first, followed by West Side, both areas embracing over 600,000 Negro residents...rise followed Supreme Court decision outlawing restrictive covenants.



MR. ROBERT JOHNSON

Negro Elks have named Philadelphia's Robert Johnson to succeed late Finley Wilson as Grand Exalted Ruler of order...is largest Negro fraternal organization in world, with over million members...veteran politico Johnson was top aide under Wilson regime...National Council of Churches has reported that the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A. Inc., is the third largest Protestant denomination in the United States...membership of 4,467,000 is exceeded only by Methodist Church and the Southern Baptist Convention.

At second annual Institute of Teamwork at New Brunswick, New Jersey, ranking spokesmen for labor and industry agreed on need for education to combat employment discrimination...corporations represented included Revere Copper and Brass, American Type Foundry, Bristol-Myers, Pitney-Bowes, and Bridgeport Brass companies...Three week survey of "defense communities" in western United States was made by ranking regional aides of National Urban League...studied in-migration of minority groups in communities where defense operations are attracting a large labor force.

POLITICAL HORIZON

Nation-wide non-partisan drive to double the registration of Negro voters has been undertaken by the National Newspaper Publishers Association, headed by Chicago Defender editor Louis E. Martin...membership owns all major Negro newspapers in country, with ninety-five per cent of the circulation...body is aiming at goal of six million qualified Negro voters by November...American Veterans Committee, through national chairman Curtis Campaigne, Jr., New York corporation counsel, has urged both presidential candidates to declare themselves as "committed to full civil rights for all citizens"...in a statement from its national office the NAACP board indicated leaning to candidacy of Governor Adlai Stevenson based on his attitude toward civil rights...declared, however, that General Eisenhower was "sincere" and organization is "impressed by his pronouncements against segregation and discrimination"...advised further statement would be made as campaign progresses.

In letter to U.S. Congressman Adam C. Powell of New York, Symon Gould, vice-presidential candidate of the American Vegetarian Party, urged formation of "Negro Freedom Party"...proposed slate of Dr. Ralph Bunche, noted United Nations figure, for presidency, and Powell for vice-presidential slot.

Program for integration of Negroes into top echelon of United States Postal Service is being launched by National Alliance of Postal Employees representing thousands of Negro workers...If elected, attorney Julius Archibald may become first Negro in New York to serve in state's upper chamber... a political unknown, he has secured bi-partisan support... Detroit lawyer Cora M. Brown has chance to be first Negro woman senator of Michigan Senate...received highest number of votes in recent primary.



HON. ADAM C. POWELL

Naming of Dr. C. Patricia Turner as resident psychiatrist at state hospital marked first such appointment of Negro in Delaware...Precedent was made in appointment of Miss Lillian Richards as Director of the Department of Hospitals for New York City...will supervise work of 327 social workers in 33-institution hospital system...Mark Smith, of Vancouver, Washington has received post as Deputy Commissioner of Oregon State Bureau of Labor, FEPC division...William Gremley is new executive secretary of Kansas City (Mo.) Commission of Human Relations...formerly served as director of public information for similar Chicago commission.

INSIDE INDUSTRY

Transportation

Association of American Railroads is sponsoring a series of college convocations at leading Negro institutions during month of October...lectures will be geared to role of American railroads in our industrial economy...ranking spokesmen for AAR will deliver lectures...convocations scheduled for colleges at Raleigh, Greensboro, Columbia, New Orleans, and Baton Rouge...series will open at Lincoln University, Oxford, Pennsylvania with students from surrounding institutions in attendance...program was instituted at Atlanta University system in spring.

Radio-Television-Entertainment

Stage and screen star William Marshall of "Lydia Bailey" fame was heard in leading role during presentation of Eugene O'Neill's "The Long Voyage Home" over an NBC radio network show...Ohio Bell Telephone Company paid special tribute in radio broadcast to Negro social worker Jane Hunter, of Cleveland, as founder of Phyllis Wheatley movement in that city...movement provides shelter for homeless girls...In broadcast over local Negro-owned radio station, Atlanta newspaper editor Ralph McGill declared support of "some type of FEPC law"...edits "Constitution" one of South's largest dailies...Miami radio station WFEC is switching to all-Negro programming as result of policy change.

Title role for forthcoming Billy Rose production of "Carmen Jones", Hammerstein version of Bizet's opera, is reported to be slated for Lena Horne...Singers Billy Eckstine and Dorothy Dandridge are said to be signed for lead roles...Joe Louis is being sought for part as prizefighter, who replaces bullfighter in script...Talented Negro producer Larry Steele will have his "Smart Affairs" show on Broadway, if present plans materialize...successful Atlantic City run has given impetus to move.

Business-Industry-Commerce

General Cable Corporation's full-page ad emphasizing brotherhood and equal economic opportunity that appeared in many of the country's metropolitan daily newspapers, was also scheduled for most of the Negro weeklies throughout the nation...company has been cited on several occasions for integration and up-grading of qualified minority workers ...Special photo story on employment practices at Virginia and North Carolina plants of Lucky Strike is being released to Negro Press by American Tobacco Company.

Failure by the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company to hire Negro operators at Baltimore has been protested by local NAACP to Government Contracts Compliance Committee ...action stemmed from rejection of four women applicants who applied for posts as result of newspaper ad...Nation-wide campaign to secure jobs for Negroes in all job classifications with the major air-lines has been launched by National Negro Labor Council with headquarters in Detroit...seek Negro pilots, co-pilots, stewardesses and office employees.

Negro State Senator Charles Diggs, Jr., of Detroit, has asked Michigan insurance commissioner to draft legislation for end of bias by American Automobile Association in consideration of Negro applications...Two Negro civic units of St. Louis are challenging employment policies of local Quality Milk Company...avers Company will not employ Negro drivers...company spokesmen claim largest percentage of Negro "inside" employees of any similar firm in city...Up-grading practices of Ex-Cello Corporation at Detroit have been questioned by local NAACP...has asked that corrective measures be taken.

First Negro employee in Banking Department of multi-million dollar Philadelphia Saving Fund Society is Natalie Ward, an assistant secretary to floor officials...has received five promotions since hiring in April, 1951...was only Negro speaker-demonstrator at recent annual Open House...brother James has been accepted in accounting department...Hoffman Candy Company of Los Angeles has upped 26-year veteran employee Leslie Bujol to post as engineer of operations...started work as janitor, learned every phase of business, has had continuous promotions...Three Negro chemists and one chemical engineer have been hired by Dupont Company at its Indiana arsenal.



MISS NATALIE WARD

National Negro Insurance Association is holding its annual sessions at Texas Southern University in Houston, October 21-24...is largest financial organization of its kind in the world ...Biggest independently owned used car and auto repair business along "Automobile Row" in midtown Manhattan is owned by Negro...proprietor Charles Cofield employs thirty-two salesmen and mechanics...had business volume in 1951 of over \$165 thousand.

Hayes-Jackson Company, of Raleigh, North Carolina was first Negro-owned electrical contracting firm in city...specializes in sales, contracting, and repairs...has nine qualified engineers...holds General Electric and Westinghouse franchises...is planning chain of stores throughout Carolinas...Negro farmers marketing cooperative in Beaufort County, South Carolina produced \$316 thousand crop during summer season...represented \$51 thousand increase over 1951.

Savannah Sugar Refinery Corporation was host to over 300 Negro 4-H members during recent sessions of body at Savannah State College...group taken on guided tour of plant, served shrimp dinner, heard Vice-President C. C. Tews...After four-hour work stoppage by city utilities foremen of Richmond because they were assigned Negro workers, entire group agreed to return upon threat of replacement.

2/24/89 Conrad G. H.

NATIONAL COMMUNITY

Race Relations

Racial restrictions on membership in famed "40 and 8" unit of the American Legion caused floor discussion at recent convention...was referred to Executive Committee... Estimated three thousand citizens met in Houston to discuss ways of halting movement of Negro home owners into white residential districts...blamed "behind-the-scene operators" for tense situation...Negro plantation worker at Silver City, Mississippi was shot by white tenant farmer for "doing a white man's job"...employer said Negro was hired to operate tractor and weigh cotton...Only Negro girl entry in Ohio community's "Miss Massillon" contest won title in field of ten...Singer Perry Como made selection...Dr. Alex V. Boston, sole owner of 60-bed hospital in Virgie, Kentucky is only Negro resident of town proper.

Education

Appropriation of over \$100 thousand to Negro university at Durham was appropriated by North Carolina state council to provide graduate school facilities for Negro students... discrimination suits have been aimed at getting Negro students admitted to major white universities of state...Five Negro students who were refused admission to the University of Florida by state's Supreme Court will appeal to U.S. Supreme Court...group sought courses in law, chemical engineering, and pharmacy...Los Angeles school teacher Mrs. Aaron H. Douglas became first Negro member of county board of education...appointment was made by Supervisor Leonard J. Roach, credited with several major appointments of Negroes.

CAPSULE PORTRAIT

PENNSSTATE CIGAR COMPANY



MR. WALTER K. LYON

When equable employment is discussed in our industrial economy attention is most frequently focused on "big business"...the truth is that many smaller units have an industrial "conscience" that expresses itself in utilization of personnel...one of Philadelphia's units whose operations reflect this principle is the Pennstate Cigar Company

The Company is based in the heart of the sprawling Northeast which houses hundreds of its counterparts at the manufacturing level... an area which, by and large, has not incorporated Negro labor into its scheme on "just plain principle"...particularly when operations involving the finished product are concerned.

Back in 1942, prompted only by wartime manpower exigencies and an open mind, Pennstate "experimented" in placement of Negro girls on cigar making machines...no action of earth-shaking consequence, as it turned out, despite lack of precedence for the cigar industry...white employees remained at their machines, Company products found their way to counters, as usual, with no labor unrest or production delays occasioned by the "test".



MR. HARRY I. TABAKIN

Today, women employees constitute 90% of the 400-odd Pennstate workers...Seventy-five per cent of the total are Negro, a testament to the quality of workmanship that a decade of experience has sired...co-owners Harry Tabakin and Walter Lyon, at the managerial reins, are free of any dismay at the sagacity of the move but rather are convinced of the "plus" values that have fortified the step.