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WHO'S WHO  
IN  
CALIFORNIA



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NEGRO

WHO'S WHO

IN

CALIFORNIA

1948

Edition

LINOTYPE

BY

RENE A. HEWLETT

MAX J. WILLIAMS

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LITHOGRAPHED

BY

WM. WESTERFIELD

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## FOREWORD



ORE and more various editions of biographical histories published as Who's Who in the particular field covered are being accepted as accurate and comprehensive sources of information on the civic and social contributions, achievements, successes, and popular recognition of outstanding men and women.

Thinking people everywhere are alive to the importance of biography in plotting and interpreting growth and progress; not only the biographies of the renowned, but of all those who achieve success and recognition in law or medicine, in press or pulpit, in art or in music, in business or industry, in social or civic endeavor, or in any legitimate activity of life. Nor need the attainment of the individual be nation-wide in its acclaim. It is important so long as in its material affect and interest it commands the respect and admiration of his fellow citizens.

Throughout the country a search of public, school, and university libraries, of social and research agencies, and of private collections indicate in many States a definite need for a Who's Who designed to record and present the Negro in the light of his achievements and recognition in those fields of activity which are measures of his advancement and his contributions to the growth and progress of the community and State in which he lives.

The Negro Who's Who in California has as its purpose the recording of biographies, which Carlyle declared, "are the essence of history, and which because of the greater complexity of modern life, we need to have written more than in any previous period". Extreme care has been exercised by the Editorial staff to make this volume acceptable at the highest level as a dependable source of biographical data of prominent Californians.

In the preparation of our work we have attempted to divide the volume into sections representing a cross-section of community life; there has been no idea of balancing one against the other; no setting up of better or best. We have relied upon committees selected on the basis of their broad acquaintance and wide knowledge of the community and the field in which they are active.

In the preparation of this first edition of Negro Who's Who in California we received aid from many sources. We wish to express our acknowledgement of the cooperation and assistance given us by the various committees who have given their time and impartial consideration in selecting those who warrant inclusion in this volume. We are happy to acknowledge the advice and support given us by so many who are cognizant of the need of this type of publication.



## DEDICATION

This volume is dedicated to the Negro Pioneers of California.

To their untiring efforts, their belief in freedom and the will to make for this generation, and generations to come; a more democratic place to live.

To these untiring men and women, who have carved out a pattern, that the world of today may well be proud--we dedicate this first edition of Negro Who's Who in California.

—The Committee on Publication



The outstanding people in all races are those, who in their field have made marked success. These are the successes which give hope and inspiration to their fellowman.



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COMMODORE WYNN  
Editor, Negro Who's Who in California

WYNN, COMMODORE, Public Relations Director, born in Fort Worth, Texas, June 6, 1894, the son of Lorenzo and Lucinda (Hurd) Wynn. Commodore Wynn was reared by his grandmother Mrs. Clarissa Fields of Marshall, Texas, where he received his academic education, taking his preparatory course at Wiley College, and later attending Bishop College, at which institution he pursued a classical course leading to the A.B. degree. He, also, completed special courses in education and public housing at the University of Southern California.

In 1918 Mr. Wynn entered the Armed Forces of his country and saw service overseas nine months of his twelve months enlistment.

After World War I he became a free lance newspaper correspondent, continuing this work until 1925, at which time he joined the New Age Dispatch of Los Angeles as columnist. In 1929 he became associated with the California News as Associate Editor and editorial writer. He left the California News in 1931, and, later, was connected with the Adult Education Program as Playground Director, Teacher, and Counsellor at Jefferson Evening High School. Then to the State Department of Education as statistician and analyst for the Government sponsored Survey of the Social Background, Education and Training and Occupational Experience of Negroes in Los Angeles, 1936, and Editor of the compilation of an Annotated Directory of Negro National Organizations, Interracial Commissions and Private and Religious Boards administering funds and services for the advancement of the Negro.

Not long after that work was completed Mr. Wynn entered the field of public relations and directed the publicity and assisted in planning all phases of Mrs. Fay Allen's two successful campaigns for election to the Los Angeles City Board of Education. In 1946, following two years with the Los Angeles Public Housing Authority and four years in business, Mr. Wynn established the firm of Evans and Wynn, Advertising and Publicity Agents, and has been engaged in public relations and related services since that time.

Mr. Wynn is married to the former Mrs. Gussie Johnson Jones of Austin, Texas, who is active in church, civic and social circles in Los Angeles.

He is President, Central Avenue Community Council, Vice-President, Los Angeles Pan-Hellenic Council. He is a member of the Urban League, NAACP, YMCA, American Legion and the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and Secretary, Central Avenue Chamber of Commerce. He holds membership in the Bishop College and Wiley College Clubs of Los Angeles.



JOHN W. ROY  
Director, Negro Who's Who in California

ROY, JOHN W., Promoter, born in Anaconda, Montana, December 3, 1903, the son of Joseph A. and Lillian (Chisholm) Roy. His father for many years was State Park Commissioner for the State of Utah, and his mother a housewife. Both parents are deceased.

His public school education was in Anaconda and Ogden, Utah, the family moving to Ogden while he was at an early age. He was the first Negro to graduate from the University of Utah, and the second youngest student to graduate, A.B. (class of 1921).

After graduation, wishing to see some of the world, John W. spent two years in foreign travel; part of this time was spent working for the Federal Government in several European countries.

Returning to America in 1924 he resumed his scholastic training at the University of Pittsburgh, receiving his M.A. degree in Business Administration in 1926.

Mr. Roy then entered the insurance field, working in various executive capacities with companies in Ohio, and the deep south.

In 1938 Mr. Roy entered the advertising and public relations field, specializing in Negro marketing; in this field he was national representative for several advertised products, and traveled extensively over the country.

From 1941 to 1946 the armed services claimed him, and in the Inspector General Department of the Army he served as trouble shooter in camps and other installations where there was friction between Negro and White troops. In 1945 he was placed in command of the Pershing Hotel project in Chicago; this project was one set up by the Army to service returning overseas veterans, but had to be discontinued when pressure was brought on the Army by several Negro pressure groups, because only Negro soldiers were to obtain the rehabilitation offered in this center.

In 1946 Mr. Roy was retired to inactive duty and accepted a position with the Veterans Administration, working as Training Facilities Officer in the State of Indiana. In 1947 he resigned this position because of the discrimination shown Negro Veterans in the administration.

In October of 1947 he came to California for a short rest, but in November was commissioned to Direct the Negro Who's Who in California publication.

Married to Virginia Margaret Chisholm of Washington, D. C. and Evanston, Illinois, a permanent federal employee. There are no children. He is a member--NAACP (life member), YMCA, and the Omega Phi Psi Fraternity.

His hobby--Negro History.



# **The Pioneers**

The "Trail Blazers" are those who through their untiring efforts, fought the early battles against intolerance and discrimination, and who laid the cornerstone of growth and achievement for the Negro in California.





JACKSON L. TAYLOR

TAYLOR, JACKSON L., Real Estate Broker and Financier, born in Texarkana, Arkansas, April 15, 1885, the son of John and Maria (Jackson) Taylor.

His early education was in the public schools of Texarkana, later attending the State Normal College in Pine Bluff, Ark., where he received his teachers' Certificate.

After graduation he taught for a short while in the public school system of Miller County, Ark., but seeing no promising outlook in this field, he left his native state and came to California in 1910. For the past thirty-eight years the life of this Arkansas farm boy has been a series of successes. For six years he was the Assistant Port Warden for the City of Los Angeles, then he passed the examination for the fire department and climbed the ladder of success in that department. He retired in 1939 with the rank of Captain.

In 1940 he was named as Vice-President of the Liberty Savings and Loan Co. of Los Angeles, a million and half dollar institution. The same year he entered the Real Estate field; in this field he is known as one of the outstanding Realtors.

In 1907 he married Miss Myrtle H. Hooks, a graduate of Bishop College in Marshall, Texas. There are two children, Morris E., an assistant in his father's office, and Velaska Taylor Graham, a licensed Real Estate Broker, also, in her father's office.

Mr. Taylor is an active member of the NAACP, the Golden West Realty Board, of which he was one of its organizers, YMCA, Southern Conference Educational Fund, Pacific Town Club and Association for the Abolishment of Second Class Citizens. He is, also, Vestryman of the St. Philips, Episcopal Church, Chairman of Committee on Finance and Auditor of Most Worshipful Prince Hall, Grand Lodge of Masons.

His hobby is sports, fishing, hunting and golf.

YOUNG, EVA WHITING, Chiropractor, born in Glouster, Ohio, daughter of Nathan and Martha Whiting. Educated in Ohio. Attended Ohio University and its Conservatory of Music. Studied further in University of California at Berkeley. A pioneer among Negro teachers in California, teaching in Allensworth and El Centro.

In 1918 she married Benjamin Franklin Young in San Bernardino, California. There is one son, John B. Young, a graduate Physiotherapist. She came to Los Angeles in 1921, later entering Los Angeles College of Chiropractic graduating in 1925.

Dr. Young for years active in Independent Church and choir, recently became interested in studying advance religious thought.

She was chairman of 62nd Assembly District Republican Central Committee, 1934-1936, and also, Assistant Secretary to 14th Congressional District Committee. Past President, California Cooperative Improvement Association, past Daughter Ruler of Hiawatha Temple Daughter Elks, past President Phys-Art-I-it-Mor and Friday Morning Clubs. Organized Compton Playground Association which improved Playground conditions and the organizing and sponsoring Troop 716 Boy Scouts of America. She assisted organizing and is past President of Carver Junior High P. T. A., and was active in Hooper Avenue P. T. A.

Practicing Chiropractor over twenty years, recently at 2020 South Western Avenue, now retired and resides with family at 2151 So. Harvard Blvd.



DR. EVA WHITING YOUNG BENJAMIN F. YOUNG

YOUNG, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, Real Estate Counselor, born in South Carolina. Parents, Jordon and Louisa Young. The family moved to Fowler, California during Benjamin's infancy. He received his public school education in Fowler. In 1914 he became the first Negro to receive a Pharmacy degree from University of California in Berkeley.

He practiced Pharmacy in Fowler until 1921, the year he came to Los Angeles, later entering the Real Estate Field.

He is a member of the CME Church, Southern California Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association, and the Shriners.

He owns and operates a fourteen unit Apartment on Washington Blvd., an eighteen unit Apartment on Manhattan Place, and a thirty acre ranch near Fontana, California.

He resides with his family at 2151 So. Harvard Blvd.

EDWARDS, JOSEPH M., Pioneer, born in Verett Village, St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, April 24, 1875. He is the son of Myrtle and Marie Edwards, former Creole Negro slaves.

His early education was in the public schools of New Orleans; here he learned the fundamentals of English, Arithmetic and Spelling. So unlike the modern schools of today, little time was spent in play or in the extra curriculum now taught in public schools. He learned his lessons the hard way, and he learned the "Golden Rule." This "Golden Rule" became a part of "Sonny," as he was called by everyone; throughout his life he has always practiced it: making friends of everyone he meets, and keeping these friends.

At the age of seventeen, in the year 1892, he took the long journey to California; here he stayed for three years, but in 1896 left for Central America where he remained for nine years working in the mahogany trade.

Returning to America he settled down in Los Angeles, where he accepted a job as custodian and doorman at the old Mason Opera House, and later at the Biltmore Theater. On this work he has remained for over forty years.

Today (1948) Sonny as he is still known, is not an employee; he is considered a part of the theatre. Known, loved and respected by the "Great's" of the screen. He knows them all; Lillian Russell, George Dameret, Sophie Tucker, Elsie Janis. These and many more of the famous stage and screen personalities all were, or are his friends.

In 1906 he married Elizabeth St. Charles who is today an outstanding civic and fraternal leader.

Mr. Edwards is active in civic and fraternal circles; he is a member of B.F. Talbart Lodge, No. 8 F. and A.M., U. B. F., Odd Fellows, NAACP, pioneer member, YMCA. He is an ordained Deacon, and a member of the Second Baptist Church.

His hobby is collecting programs of theatre performances including symphony, opera, concerts and lectures.



JOSEPH M. EDWARDS



MRS. E. STCHARLES EDWARDS

EDWARDS, ELIZABETH ST. CHARLES, Pioneer Civic and Fraternal Organizer, born in New Orleans, Louisiana--the daughter of Lawrence and Catherine (Bernard) St. Charles. Her father was the owner of the Wheelright Blacksmith Shop, one of the early landmarks of New Orleans.

Mrs Edwards was educated in the parochial Catholic schools of New Orleans, and completed her high school work in Los Angeles in 1906.

In 1906 she married Joseph M. Edwards. For the past thirty years Mrs Edwards has been an outstanding figure in the civic and fraternal life of Los Angeles; she is a Past President of the California State Association of Colored Women, a member of Hiawatha Temple No. 91, Daughter Elks, Past Matron, Electro Chapter No. 2 Eastern Star, Past Matron Heroines of Jericho, (California and jurisdiction), NAACP (member of the board for 20 years), California Temple, UBF and SMT and Household of Ruth, and a member of the Second Baptist Church

Mrs Edwards is also one of the founders of the Eastside Settlement House in Los Angeles and the Delta Mothers Club.

Highly respected in her community, this pioneer civic leader has devoted a lifetime to the uplifting of her people in her adopted city.

Her hobby is helping young people by giving them scholarships.



MRS. MABEL V. GRAY

GRAY, MABEL V., Personal Problem Counsellor, and international civic leader is a native of Los Angeles, the second daughter of James and Miranda (Robinson) Dogans. James Dogans was recognized as one of the leading plaster contractors of Los Angeles, and his wife was the daughter of Henry and Ellen Robinson, one of California's pioneer families.

Mabel Gray was reared by her grandparents in an atmosphere of culture and refinement, and her training for her life's work began at two years as a reader on many programs presented in the old Second Baptist Church. She received her education in the public schools of Los Angeles, all the while giving her time and talents to the church in a measure which indicated her desire to give unselfishly to charitable service. She has been a member of New Hope Baptist Church since childhood.

She is married to Vernon Robert Gray whose reputation as a chef is known far and wide.

Mrs. Gray's interest in organization work is significant. She has been an active member of the Five and Over Charity Club for sixteen years, and its President for thirteen years. She played an active part in the organizing of the Local Y.W.C.A., and aided in forming the Outdoor Life and Health Association of which she was its first Vice-President.

Mrs. Gray rose to national recognition as an active member of the Knights and Daughters of Tabor, International Order of Twelve. She has held all presiding offices in this organization at local, jurisdictional, and international levels. She is now the International Grand High Perceptress of the Knights and Daughters of Tabor of the World, the highest honor that can be conferred on a member of the fraternal order. Other fraternal organizations in which she holds memberships are Heroines of Jericho, Victory Chapter No. 37, Order of the Eastern Star, and the Daughter Elks.

Civic organizations are the media in which Mrs. Gray's endeavor produces astonishing results. She is past National Vice-President, National Association of Colored Women; past Vice-President, Southwestern Regional of the National Association and past State President, California Association of Colored Women. She is Second Vice-President and member of the Board of Directors of Los Angeles Urban League; Board of Directors, Avalon Community Center; Executive Boards, Congress of American Women and California Legislative Conference, and an active member and Auditor of the Lafayette Junior High

School P.T.A. She is, also, a member of the Citizens Emergency Committee, Congress of Racial Equality, All-for-One Brotherhood, Eastside Settlement House, and Los Angeles County Committee on Human Relations. She was six years a member of a United States Selective Service System, Advisory Board. Mrs. Gray is, also, a graduate and member of the Institute of Religious Science and Philosophy, whose teachings are the basis of her personal counselling. Her work in this field and in the field of nursing are known nationally and her interest in the rehabilitation of the unfortunate has come to the notice of Parole Officers throughout the country. She has had parole to her young and old, from Texas, Virginia, and California, and her counsel and guidance have been a factor in the complete rehabilitation of those who have come under her supervision.

Mrs. Gray is an influential supporter of the Community Chest and Red Cross Drives. She has sold war bonds totaling thousands of dollars, and gave more than 5,000 hours of volunteer service to the U.S.O., for which she was awarded U.S.O.'s Six Star Medal. Her varied activities and unusual experiences included being honored with Henry Wallace, then the Secretary of Agriculture, George Washington Carver, and the Governor of Tennessee at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. She picketed the White House in Washington, D. C., and attended the United Nations meeting in San Francisco as a representative of her organization.

Mrs. Gray has been honored on numerous occasions for her unselfish service to the community, State and Nation. She has received the Certificate for Meritorious Service from the Hugu E. Macbeth Research and Historical Society, and the Certificate of Service from the United States Selective Service System. She was selected "Woman of the Week" by the Los Angeles Sentinel, and cited for outstanding charitable work by the Los Angeles Neighborhood News. Recent recognition was the Los Angeles Sentinel's Award for Meritorious Service for club work in 1947.

A kind manner, a gracious spirit, and a deep sympathy for the unfortunate are the qualities which have made for Mabel Gray an active and useful life.

**GREEN, THOMAS A. Sr.,** Social and Religious Worker, born September 15, 1868 in Ripley, Mississippi, the son of Andrew and Sarah (Prince) Greene; his father a native of Ripley, Mississippi and his mother a native of Charleston, South Carolina.

Mr. Greene is a graduate of Rust College, Holly Springs, Mississippi, receiving from this institution a Teachers' Certificate. He also attended Walden University of Nashville, Tennessee (two years). Completing his scholastic training, he taught for approximately twelve years, six of these years at Alcorn A. and M. College in Rodney, Mississippi.

While teaching at Alcorn, he married Lula Walton, a former classmate at Rust College. This marriage was in July of 1894. From this union was six children--Thomas A. Jr., practicing Dentist in Los Angeles; Lawrence C., painting contractor; Anna Mae (Greene) Murdock, Post Office Clerk; Alma (Greene) Covington, Los Angeles City school teacher; Prince Greene, Clerk of Supplies Los Angeles County Hall of Records; and Luella (Greene) Bryant, Clerk with the Board of Education.

Mr. Greene came to California in 1902 and for the first four years after his arrival he operated a printing establishment and edited the Los Angeles Enterprise, a weekly newspaper.

On November 21, 1906 he was called to the Secretaryship of the San Pedro Street Branch, YMCA, which is now the 28th Street Branch. He held this position for twenty-six years. During this time, thousands of men and boys were influenced by Mr. Greene to accept Christianity and live christian lives. The present \$200,000.00 plant was a direct culmination of his diligent and sustained work.

During the many years of service to his community he has been always active in the civic, religious and business growth of his people. For forty-six years he has been a member of the Wesley Methodist Church, and for the past thirty-four years the Sunday School Superintendent.

Presently, he is a member of the Official Board for his church, and Trustee Emeritus. Mr. Greene was a member of the first Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Urban League, and aided Mrs. Katherine Barr in the establishment of the local branch. He is, also, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Outdoor Life and Health Association, and through the years has been an outstanding factor in every movement for the uplift of Negroes in Southern California.

Mr. Greene, who acknowledged as a pioneer leader, and who is respected by members of every group or race, can look back on a life that has been devoted entirely to the educational and spiritual uplift of his fellowman.

**ROBERTS, FREDERICK M.,** Statesman, President, A. J. Roberts Sons and Company, born in Los Angeles, California, the son of Andrew J. and Ellen (Hemings) Roberts. Educated in the public schools of Los Angeles, and a graduate of Colorado College (pre-legal major). He is, also, a graduate of Barnes-Worsham School of Embalming and Mortuary Science, in Chicago, Illinois.

Married Pearl Hines. There are two children--Gloria and Patsy.

For many years Mr. Roberts worked in the educational field, and was President of Mount Bayou Normal Institute in Mt. Bayou, Mississippi.

Making the change from the field of education to that of business, he joined his family in the operation of the A. J. Roberts Sons and Company.

He soon became very active in the civic and political life of Los Angeles, and because of his leadership he was elected eight consecutive terms to the California State Assembly, the 62nd District. During his many years as a representative of the 62nd District, he was accredited with the sponsoring of many constructive and progressive measures. He is nationally known as a Republican party leader and is respected for his ability as an able Statesman.

In 1946 he won the Republican nomination for U. S. Congressman from his district, but was defeated by a very close margin. His defeat was to the regret of the majority of Negroes throughout America, and Negro Newspapers in America censured many Negro leaders and voters of Los Angeles for their stand in this closely fought campaign.

Mr. Roberts is one of the founders of the Los Angeles Branch, Urban League, and a member of many civic and welfare organizations.

His hobby: Political Science.



DR. VADA J. SOMERVILLE

SOMERVILLE, VADA J., Dentist (Retired)--a native daughter of California. Dr. Somerville is the daughter of Welcome and Dora (Johnson) Watson, her parents were early settlers in the State.

Her early education was in the public schools of Los Angeles, graduating from Commercial High School (now Polytechnic). She later attended the University of Southern California, and the L.S.C. Dental College, where she received her degree in Dentistry in 1918, the first Negro woman to receive a degree in dentistry from that institution.

Dr. Somerville practiced for a number of years with her husband, Dr. John Somerville, also, a graduate of the L.S.C. Dental College, and whom she married in 1912.

In 1933 Dr. Vada Somerville gave up her active practice of dentistry to devote most of her time to the social and civic welfare of all people in Southern California. Since 1925 she has been an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, serving as Basileus of Alpha Gamma Omega Chapter for two years, served for a number of years as Chairman of Public Affairs and at present is Far Western Regional Chairman of the Non-Partisan Council on Public Affairs.

Seeing the need for organization on the part of Negro Women in California, Dr. Somerville was one of the founders of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Council of the National Council of Negro Women and was its first President; she later served as Vice-President of the National Council, with jurisdiction over five Western States.

She is an Executive Board member of the Los Angeles League of Women Voters, Secretary on the Executive Board of the Los Angeles Family Service, and Vice Chairman of the Executive Board of Pilgrim House Community Center.

During the war years Dr. Vada Somerville was a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Office of Price Administration (Los Angeles District), and a member of the Editorial Committee of the Citizens Research Institute of Los Angeles.

At the time of this writing (1948) Dr. Somerville has become nationally known for her civic and political interests in many organized groups. She is now giving financial support as well as much time to the inter-cultural house for students attending the University of California at Los Angeles. On this project she is a member of the Executive Board, having special responsibility for program education.

Dr. Vada Somerville's untiring efforts to make her community a better place to live has gained the respect and confidence of persons in all walks of life and among people of every race. She stands out as an example of American Womanhood.



DR. JOHN A. SOMERVILLE

SOMERVILLE, JOHN A., Dentist, born in Jamaica, British West Indies, the son of Thomas G. and Frances A. Somerville. His father was a graduate of Cambridge University (Englano), and a priest of the "Church of England;" his mother was a teacher in the Church of England school. His father was also the school master. Dr. Somerville's father was the acknowledged leader in his community, and for 50 years guided the destinies of his parish; he died at the age of 85. The mother of Dr. Somerville passed in 1946, at the age of 100.

Dr. Somerville's early education like all others in his community, was in his father's school; later he attended Mico College in Kingston. In 1902, with the urge to obtain an American education, and to visit the land of many promises, he obtained his father's permission and his blessings and came to America; his first port of call--San Francisco.

Knowing little of the customs of America his first experience in San Francisco was far from a pleasant one. Here on his first day in America, the specter of Jim Crowism reared its ugly head, and he soon learned that decent places to eat and sleep were not for persons of color. Determined to fight for the objectives for which he came to America, he mapped his program for battle, and prepared to fight. The fight against intolerance, bigotry and discrimination has always been the prime motive in the successful career of this stalwart man, who landed in San Francisco on a bleak day in February, 1902.

Not wishing to ask financial aid from his parents, but electing to fight his own battle, by hard work and many sacrifices, he saved enough for entrance fees to the University of Southern California. This was the first step in the realization of his dream. Working by day, and oft-times late into the night on any job that came his way, he became the first Negro to graduate from the University of Southern California. He later was the first Negro to graduate from the University of Southern California Dental School, and with the highest honors of any student up to that time. He, also, passed the dental board with high honors. Thus, the first objective of securing an American education had been surmounted.

Shortly after graduation Dr. Somerville set up his practice in Los Angeles, and now began the fight to accomplish his other objectives--a successful practice, and a lifetime of fighting the forces of bigotry and discrimination. During his years of practice he has not only built up a most successful practice, but he has been a leader in many of the constructive civic and welfare programs of his community.

Dr. Somerville was one of the organizers of the local branch NAACP, and was its first Vice-President. The organization of the branch was in his home.

In 1927, remembering his first night in San Francisco, and the difficulty he found in securing a decent place to stay, Dr. Somerville erected the first modern apartment building to be occupied by Negroes in Los Angeles (La Vada Apts.) In 1928 the Somerville Hotel was erected (now Dunbar Hotel), at the time this hotel was the finest hotel for Negro patronage in America. Over 5,000 people attended the opening of this fine and beautiful structure. It was also the Convention Headquarters of the NAACP, which held its National Convention here in 1928. The erection of these two modern buildings started a new area of building on the Eastside of Los Angeles, and within six months there began a better business and living trend, all due to the forethought of this pioneer dentist and civic leader.

Dr. Somerville has served his people on many occasions, serving on committees that fought every phase of our American method of making the Negro second class citizen.

In 1912 he married Miss Vada J. Watson who is also a retired Dentist. There are no children.

He is a member of YMCA, and the Pacific Town Club. Dr. Somerville, like most men who are self-made, is a modest man, and many of the civic and welfare programs he has fostered will never go down in print, but to those who know him, he is acknowledged as a leader in his community having no peer.

His hobby is growing of choice flowers.

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**SKANKS, HARRIE BYRON**, Government Employee, born in Portland, Maine, the son of James and Rebecca Ann (Cummings) Skanks. James Skanks has enjoyed the wide reputation of being a skilled violin maker, his wife, a landscape artist.

Harrie Skanks came with his family to California at an early age. He attended the public schools in Los Angeles, graduating from Los Angeles High. His talent for music is evident in his broad musical training. He is an accomplished pianist and while in High School, he was a member of the orchestra and glee club.

On June 16, 1903 he was married to Miss Eva Allensworth, to whom was born one daughter, Louise Skanks Collier.

Mr. Skanks has been in the Government Postal Service since his graduating from high school. He was a pupil of the distinguished English instructor, Thomas Wilde, and organist of St. Vincent's Church. He has the distinction of having been one of the Instructors of Elmer Barr, the brilliant Artist-Composer. He is an Episcopalian.

His hobbies are woodwork and craftsmanship.

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**SKANKS, EVA ALLENSWORTH**, born in Bowling Green, Kentucky, the daughter of the late Colonel and Mrs. Allen Allensworth. Her father was Chaplain of the 24th Infantry, United States Army, and founder of the town of Allensworth, California.

She attended public schools in Salt Lake City, Utah; Chicago, Illinois and graduated from Girls' High School in San Francisco. As the daughter of an Army officer, all of her early years were spent in Army garrisons. She was the first woman to be appointed a Notary Public in the State of New Mexico.

On June 16, 1909, in Los Angeles, she was married to Harrie B. Skanks.

Mrs. Skanks is a member of the Church of Christian Fellowship, and has been a Californian since 1905. She is a charter member of the Jessie Benton Fremont Tent, Daughters of Union Veterans.

Special interests are home and flowers.



C. R. RANSOM

**RANSOM, C. R.** -Real Estate Broker, born in Jefferson County, Mississippi, January 5, 1880, son of Nathaniel and Mary (Woods) Ransom. In this typical Southern rural setting, young C. R. acquired the schooling provided at that time, but his parents developed the character, initiative, courage and self-independence, which later replaced the formal education they were in no position to give him. Thus equipped, on April 3, 1910, at the age of 30, this pioneer, with his bride of a few months, the former Mary Morris, his first child, and his father and mother, arrived in the promised land--California. Soon after his arrival, sensing the possibilities in the potential growth of Southern California, Pioneer Ransom passed the brokers' examination and entered the Real Estate field in September 1916. After 31 years in this field, his forethought and vision back in 1916 have brought many rewards to this outstanding pioneer. During these years his slogan, "If it's real estate you want to buy or sell, C. R. Ransom is the man to tell" has been a by-word in the lives of the rich and poor alike--all those who, sooner or later, sought the services or counsel of this acknowledged leader in the Realty Field in the buying of homes and business properties. Mr. Ransom, with all his business activities, has found time to serve his community. He is Past Master and Treasurer of St. John Masonic Lodge, No. 5, F. & A.M., Life Member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Chaplin of Golden West Realty Board, Class Leader in the First A.M.E. Church, and a vigorous figure supporting such legislation as F.E.P.C. and the anti-lynching bill--a lifelong Republican, supporting only progressive legislation.

In 1918 the passing of his beloved wife dealt a great blow to this then young pioneer, leaving five children, Marcus T. C., Rosslyn M., Daisy E., Ieona M., and Charles F. A few years later he made the happy choice of his present companion, Mrs. Virginia Carr, whose gracious presence meant much in the successful rearing of his five children and his success in business. Mr. Ransom will never retire to a life of leisure but now finds time to help in shaping the careers of his grandchildren. Truly the fine life of this pioneer has been one to lend inspiration to the growth of this generation. From the most humble setting, he has become a guiding force in one of the world's greatest cities. His life has brought many rewards--a loving mother for his children, and later a devoted wife to carry on step by step the growth and welfare of these children; a fine home and many other parcels of Southern California property. Business address: 239 West Vernon Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

ROBINSON, GEORGIA A., Retired Policewoman the daughter of Dodridge and Cecelia Hill of Leadville, Colo., received her education in a Catholic Convent, and at an early age married her lifelong companion, Morgan Ed-nuson Robinson, a native of Kansas, and who for many years was a trusted employee of Leadville's leading banking in-stitute. This young couple, both active in the civic and political welfare of Leadville, soon earned the respect and trust of the citizens of this small, but growing, city, and color played no part in their civic progress.

Mrs. Robinson was the first Negro woman in Colorado to be elected as a delegate to the Republican State Con-vention. She was, also, chosen by the Governor of Colo-rado to represent the state at the Virginia Negro Exposi-tion.

But late intervened in the lives of this progressive couple, and shortly after the birth of their daughter, Marion, who is now Marion McCord, Los Angeles school teacher, Mr. Robinson was advised, because of his health, to seek a warmer climate. Selecting Los Angeles as their future home, the Robinsons moved to California in 1912. Here, they selected their homesite, and built their home; this home is their present address (1948).

Soon after their arrival in Los Angeles, Mr. Robinson, because of his banking experience, was employed by the Security First National Bank. Here he remained until re-tired 1943.

Mrs. Robinson soon became active in the civic and political welfare of her new community. She was one of the founders and first treasurer of the Local NAACP; held office in the Los Angeles Forum, (this organization was instrumental in educating Dr. Ruth Temple, one of the foremost women doctors in America). She became affiliated with the Progressive Party, and her active work caused the Old Line Party (Republican) to seek her en-trance into the party.

Mrs. Robinson became a member of the Women's Re-publican League, was the first Negro woman in the League, and later the first on the Executive Board. It was while on a committee from the Women's League that she first became interested in court room procedure. This committee, in an advisory capacity, had been asked to sit with Jude Thomas P. White in women's court. Her in-terest in helping unfortunate women lead to volunteer work as a policewoman.

In 1919 Mrs. Robinson passed the Civil Service ex-amination, and became the first Negro Policewoman in America, and since her work combined the field of Social Work, the first Negro Social Service Worker in Los An-ges.

Mrs. Robinson's efficiency in line of duty brought to her the highest praise of departmental and city officials, and in one of the daily papers (L.A. Times), a feature writer spoke of her as, "The Woman, Booker T. Wash-ington," of Los Angeles. Mrs. Robinson worked in various departments of the force, including two years in the Nar-cotics Department.

Thinking always in terms of helping others, she was instrumental in getting the first Negro woman in the juvenile court, (Mrs. Lucille Shelton); the first in the Adult Probation Department, (Mrs. Nellie Brown Reed); and the first field worker in the County Probation De-partment. Mrs. Robinson was retired from active duty in 1929.

She was First President of the Delta Mothers and Spon-sors Club, founder of the Pico Heights Mothers Club, and one of the founders of the Eastside Mothers Club, and active in every venture for the common good of the Negro of Los Angeles. Her helpful efforts and unselfish work stands out as a beacon light, and her name, when spoken, whether in high official circles, or in the circles of the forgotten men and women in the street, brings praise to this outstanding Negro woman.

OFFUTT, GEORGIA K., Chiropodist, born August 21, 1868 in St. Louis, Missouri. A student of Lincoln Uni-versity, Jefferson City, Missouri. Attended College of Chi-ropody in San Francisco, California, from which she re-ceived the degree of Doctor of Orthopedic and Surgical Chiropody in 1922.

In 1890 she married Rodum F. Kenner who died in 1893. There is one child by this marriage, Byron F. Ken-ner. Mrs. Offutt came to California in 1893. In 1897 mar-ried Boone Offutt who died in 1933; one daughter by this marriage, Ruby Offutt, deceased 1935 (Los Angeles School Teacher for fourteen years).

Dr. Offutt has been practicing Chiropody in Los An-ges for the past twenty-five years. Her office is located in Los Angeles on West 7th Street.

She is past President and life member of Sojourner Truth, Member of Delta Mothers, Kappa Mothers, YWCA, NAACP and the A.M.E. Church of Pasadena.

REESE, NETTIE B. SCOTT, Social Worker is a native of San Antonio, Texas, the daughter of James and Annie (Mills) Scott, pioneer educators.

Holds B. A. Degree from Prairie View State College. Married to Ernest R. Reese. Children--James and Richard. President and Director, Eastside Settlement House, twenty-eight years; Officer and member of California Association of Women's Clubs, thirty-three years; has held appointive National offices in the National Associa-tion of Colored Women (California); Second Vice President, Sojourner Truth Home; Board of Directors, Outdoor Life and Health Association; Member, YWCA, Five and Over Charity Club, Congress of American Wom-en, first Vice-President, Auxiliary, Lt. James M. Beck Post VFW, NAACP, Delta Mothers, Los Angeles Coordinating Council; pioneer member, Independent Church of Christ.

Holds Six Star Pin for U.S.O. Service; Coordinating Council award for outstanding service to the youth of the city. Member of the National Association of Settlements and Centers, National Association of Group Workers, and California Conference of Social Work.

JOHNSON, PEARL L., Housewife, born in Austin, Texas. Mrs. Johnson came to California in 1891. For many years Mrs. Johnson has been active in the social and civic life of her community, is a member of the Women's Political Study Club, the mother of a fine family, and holds the honor of being chosen Queen for one of the Tournament of Roses Floats, some years ago.

Her hobby is riding.



WOODFORD H. TERRY

TERRY, WOODFORD H.—Pioneer Contractor and Builder, was born in Birmingham, Kentucky on January 3, 1871—son of Henry and Rachael (Eggnor) Terry.

His early education was in the city schools of Clarksville, Tennessee, where his family moved when he was a child.

Through a correspondence course from the Smith Trade School of Nashville, Tennessee, he received his Masters Certificate in Plumbing in 1894. During this same period he received some training in structural engineering.

At an early age he worked as an apprentice carpenter for the American Tobacco Works in Clarksville and later as a carpenter with the same company in Louisville, Kentucky. Now a master in his trade, he plied his trade in the manufacturing of furniture for a short time in Bowling Green, Kentucky. He returned to Clarksville and spent the next twenty years with his first employer, the American Tobacco Company, as chief builder at their plant.

In 1908, while on a vacation in Southern California, he saw the potentialities here, and in 1909 moved to California, where he has since engaged in the general contracting and building field.

In 1912, he took his examination and secured his General Builders License; this was a new license law enacted by the State in that year.

In 1910, he married Miss Jessie Sayers. There are three children—Juanita E., Beulah L., and Frank W. Terry.

During the years of his successful career as a builder in Los Angeles, Mr. Terry has constructed many of the outstanding buildings and homes in the Los Angeles area. Among them are: Vernon Avenue A.M.E. Church, Pasadena; Angelus Funeral Home, Trinity Baptist Church, The Hudson Building, and the fine homes of Atty. W. O. Tyler, Atty. Loren Miller, Prof. Eason, and others that are today the show places of Southern California.

Mr. Terry is active in the civic and religious welfare of his community. He served for 15 years as director and treasurer of the Unity Finance Corporation, chartered in 1924 and liquidated in 1936. Also, served as trustee for the First A.M.E. Church for 18 years.

This highly respected pioneer, still very active at the age of seventy-seven can look back through the years and see a very successful marriage, an outstanding career, and three fine children to carry on the Terry name. What more can a man ask for?

His hobby is reading.



MISS JUANITA E. TERRY

TERRY, JUANITA E.—Secretary was born in Los Angeles, California, April 23, 1912—the daughter of Woodford H. and Jessie (Sayers) Terry.

Graduate of Jefferson High School, Los Angeles, California.

At the age of five, Miss Terry started studying the piano. She had her early training at the William T. Wilkins Academy of Music. She later studied for two years in the Music Department at the University of Southern California, after which she attended City College for two years, majoring in music. She studied for three years at the Zoellner Conservatory of Music and was presented by Joseph Zoellner, Sr., at Barker Brothers Auditorium in a piano recital in 1940. Miss Terry served as an accompanist for many local singers for many years.

She later pursued a business career, attending Miss Noreen Forney's private business school. She has worked for County, State, and Federal Agencies and resigned in December, 1947, from the Bureau of Internal Revenue, where she served as a stenographer, to accept a position on the secretarial staff of Congresswoman Helen Gahagan Douglas, Representative for the 14th Congressional District of California. Miss Terry is the first Negro to be appointed to the secretarial staff of a member of Congress from the State of California.

Her hobbies are music and reading.



MRS. JESSIE L. TERRY

TERRY, JESSIE L., Manager, Pueblo Del Rio Housing Development was born in Clarksville, Tennessee, August 8, 1885—the daughter of John Wesley and Lucinda (Pollard) Sayers.

Educated in public schools of Tennessee.

Came to California in 1910 and on September 6th of the

same year married Woodford H. Terry--the son of Henry and Rachael Terry. Mother of three children--Juanita E., Beulah I. and Frank W. Terry.

Chairman, 12th Street Branch, Y.W.C.A., 1922-1928; member, Board of Directors, Y.W.C.A. of Los Angeles, 1924-1928, president, 20th Street District, Parent-Teachers Association, 1932-1935; was founder and served as first president of the Jefferson High School Parent-Teachers Association, 1937-1939; member, Executive Board of same since 1939. Mrs. Terry was the first Negro to be president of a mixed Parent-Teachers Association in the State.

Democrat. Member, 14th Congressional District Club, Democratic Club, Democratic State Central Committee. Appointed member, Los Angeles Housing Authority, by Mayor Fletcher Bowron, June, 1939, and served as one of its Commissioners for five years.

Appointed administrative aid to the State Council of Defense by Governor Olson in 1942. At present, Manager of the Pueblo Del Rio Housing Development, which has 488 family units.

Member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; member Executive Board, Los Angeles Urban League; member, First A.M.E. Church, Los Angeles.

In 1940, Mrs. Terry had the signal honor of being one of three Negroes to be included in "Who's Who in the New Deal."

In 1942, Mrs. Terry was the deserving recipient of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Award--this is an annual award given to the most outstanding woman of the year.

Her hobbies are civic betterment and understanding people.



LUTHER M. HUDSON

HUDSON, LUTHER M.--Retired Mortician--born in Clinton (Henry County), Missouri, November 9, 1882, the son of Coleman and Martha (Pruitt) Hudson. His father, a laborer, died when he was nine years of age, and his mother died when he was twenty.

He is a graduate of the Lincoln High School of Kansas City, Missouri, class of 1899. After graduation from high school he had to stop his scholastic training, for a time, to help in the support of the family. He worked as a waiter in various hotels in Kansas City and later in Omaha, Nebraska.

During these years, he cherished the dream of a business of his own, so in 1913 he opened an undertaking establishment in Omaha. Knowing very little about the business he posted someone in charge of the business and entered the Worsham School of Sanitary Science and Embalming in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated in the class of 1914.

In 1915, upon the advice of his brother, Oscar, a successful attorney in San Francisco, he moved to California, and in Oakland on July 1, 1915, opened the Hudson Funeral Home. At this time the Hudson Funeral Home was the first Negro funeral home in Oakland. Here in Oakland from 1915 to 1943, the Hudson Funeral Home served the ever-growing Negro population and is still, years after the retirement of its founder, the most outstanding establishment in the Bay Area owned by Negroes.

In Omaha, Nebraska on March 7, 1908, he married Miss Jane Mack, a nurse. At this writing plans are being made for the celebration of their 40th anniversary. He is a member of the YMCA, Masonic Lodge, Elks, American Woodmen, NAACP, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Pacific Town Club, the Fifteenth Street A.M.E. Church, while in Oakland, where he served as a trustee for 20 years; a charter member and a member of the Board of Directors of the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company of Los Angeles. Mr. Hudson moved to Los Angeles in 1944.

His hobby is raising flowers.



MRS. JANE MACK HUDSON

HUDSON, JANE MACK, Retired Mortician, was born in the State of Missouri, February 8, 1880, the daughter of Mal and Frances (Berry) Mack.

Her early education was in the public schools of Kansas City, Kansas. Later she graduated in nurse training from the Douglas Hospital in Kansas City. Shortly after graduation, she married Luther M. Hudson, moving to Omaha, Nebraska.

In Omaha she was the first woman of her race to hold the position of police matron. In 1915 they moved to Oakland, California and in 1916 was the first Negro woman to successfully pass the Embalmers License Board, taking the course of embalming under her husband. Mrs. Hudson worked with her husband at the Hudson Funeral Home until her retirement in 1943. Moved to Los Angeles in 1944.

Mrs. Hudson is a member of the Eastern Star, NAACP, YWCA, and Seven Day Adventist Church, Los Angeles, California.

Her hobbies are designing clothes and antiques.

ROBERTS, WILLIAM G., Managing Director, A. J. Roberts and Company, Roberts Mortuary, born in Los Angeles, California, the son of Andrew J. and Ellen (Hemings) Roberts. Educated in the public and high schools of Los Angeles and attended Colorado College where he majored in Mining and Engineering.

Soon after his graduation, upon his return to California, he filed upon a desert claim near San Bernardino, where he developed an orchard and alfalfa ranch.

Giving up his career in agriculture, Mr. Roberts entered the field of business, joining his family in the operation of the A. J. Roberts Sons and Company. Finding the business field to his liking, he soon began to put into practice some of the technical training he had received

in his college years. He made a careful analysis of operation and operation costs, and brought to the undertaking profession in Los Angeles, new methods that enabled the present minimum funeral costs.

Not only has he achieved recognition for his business ability, but he gained a thorough knowledge of the mortuary science and is the oldest practicing mortician of the pioneer firm in the West.

He is married to the former Juanita Bailey, whom he

met at the Los Angeles High School. There are four children—Lucille, William Jr., Andrew and Elmer.

As a civic and fraternal leader he has served as—past Master, Holland Masonic Lodge; past President, California Morticians Association; Member of NAACP, YMCA, American Woodmen, Knights and Daughters of Tabor, January Club, Outdoor Life and Health Association, and is a member of the Baptist Church.

His hobbies are hunting, fishing and Negro History.

## PIONEER OF THE WEST

When Dr. Monroe A. Majors established practice in Dallas, Texas, shortly after his graduation from Meharry Medical College in 1886, he not only became the first Negro doctor in that city, but laid the groundwork for an impressive list of accomplishments which includes many other such "firsts" along other notable achievements in his field.

Dr. Majors was born October 12, 1861, in Waco, Texas. He spent his younger years in Austin, where he attended Tillitson College before going on to Meharry. Upon returning to his native state to begin practice, he called together all the Negro doctors in Texas and assisted in the organization of the first Negro Medical Association in the United States. The first meeting, in 1887, was held in Galveston and was attended by 11 Negro physicians.

The following year, Dr. Majors moved to Los Angeles, where he became the first Negro doctor to pass the California State Board of Medical Examiners, and the first to practice medicine west of Denver. Here, also, he married Miss Georgia A. Green, former student of Oberlin College and Fisk University.

After spending two years in Los Angeles he decided, because of the need for more Negro doctors in the Southwest, to return to his home town of Waco. Here, in 1892, he established the first Negro drug store in the Southwest and through his efforts and hard work he was instrumental in getting the city and county of Waco to appropriate funds for the building of the first Negro hospital there.

Dr. Majors' activities in the field of health and social welfare brought him recognition throughout the state of Texas, and he was honored by being appointed a commissioner to the International Exposition in Chicago. While there, he was the recipient of many social courtesies, including a day as guest of the Honorable Frederick Douglas and Mrs. Douglas, along with Bishop Henry McNeal Turner, Dr. Alex-



Monroe A. Majors, M.D.

ander Crummel, Professor S. M. Coles and two granddaughters of Harriet Beecher Stowe. While in Chicago, Dr. Majors also witnessed an operation on the human heart performed by Dr. Daniel Hale Williams.

Chicago, with its apparently democratic way of life and many opportunities, appealed to Dr. Majors, and in 1901 he moved to that city, where he practiced until 1933. During this period, the Mayor appointed him to the Board of Health Commissioners, and in 1905, he helped organize the present Cook County Medical Association.

Among the many prominent patients he treated were Lucy Ford, first cousin of Henry Ford, and the wife of the superintendent of the Wabash Railroad Company. That a Negro doctor attended these cases attracted wide attention. It was during this time that he added "Paralytic Diabetes" to medical nomenclature.

In 1933, Dr. Majors returned to the Los Angeles area, and he is now living in Monrovia, a suburb.

Dr. Majors was one of the first to advocate and use Calomel in the treatment of typhoid fever and pneumonia, and Aloes in dysentery. For this, he was extensively quoted in the medical journals of the world, particularly in the "London Lancet."

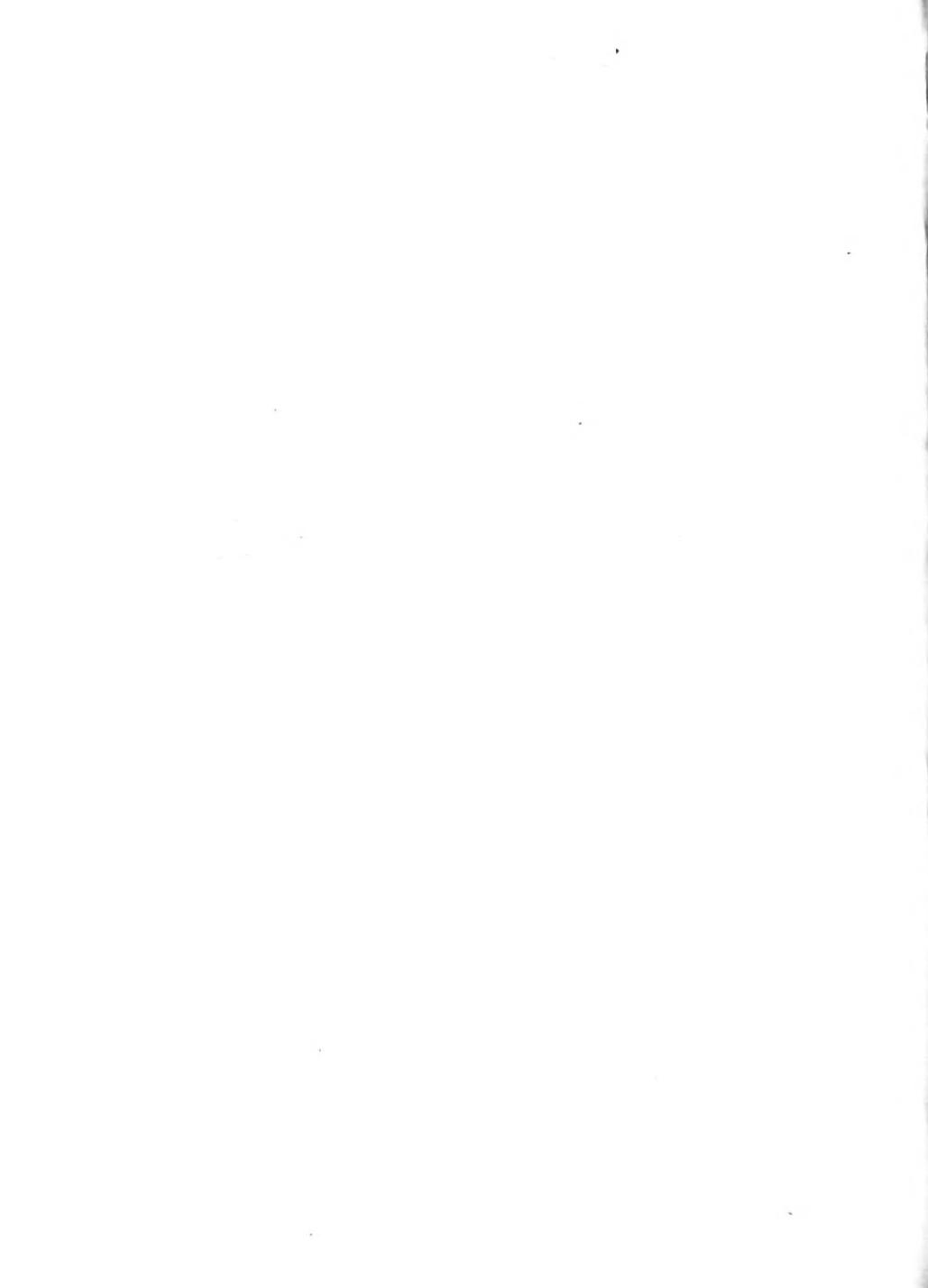
Not only has he been active in the field of health, but he has contributed much in literary, social and civic affairs. For more than 50 years, Dr. Majors wrote articles for newspapers and magazines, and he has also written several books. In addition, he was for 25 years associate editor and later editor of the Indianapolis Free Man. For many years he was editorial writer for the Chicago Conservator, the Chicago Defender, and the Broad Ax. Among his outstanding books are "Noted Negro Women," "Ode to Frederick Douglas", "Nursery Rhymes for Colored Children" and others.

Dr. Majors is the father of Mrs. Grace L. Boswell of Los Angeles and Mrs. Margaret Bonds Richardson of New York City, New York.



# The Church and Pulpit

The many outstanding Negro Churches of California and the eminent leadership of their pastors have played a major part in the rapid advancement of the California Negro.





REV. MOSES FREDERICK MITCHELL

MITCHELL, MOSES FREDERICK, Minister and President, Interdenominational Minister's Alliance of Los Angeles, was born November 3, 1887 in Lonoke County, Arkansas, the sixth child of nineteen born to John and Alice (Gartrell) Mitchell.

John Mitchell, an Elder in his church, and his wife were devout Christians giving to their children the Christian training which has been exemplified in their adult lives.

M. Frederick Mitchell obtained his early education in the schools of Lonoke County. At the age of fifteen, he began earning his own living doing jobs wherever he could find them. In 1909 he enrolled at Louisville College, Louisville, Kentucky, where he pursued a course in Theology in preparation for the Ministry.

Rev. Mitchell was ordained in 1913, but his pastorates began in 1911 in Madison, Indiana. He held pastorates in Louisville, Kentucky; St. Louis, Missouri and Waco, Texas from 1911 to 1917, at which time he entered the service of his country as a Welfare Officer in the War Work Council with the rank of Second Lieutenant. He was stationed at Camp Travis, San Antonio, Texas and later was assigned to the 24th Infantry at Columbus, New Mexico, remaining there until 1919, the year he came to Los Angeles to pastor the 14th and Birch Street Christian Church. He served the congregation of that church two years, and then organized the Cosmopolitan Christian Church which became institutional in its work with facilities for a Boys' Home, Nursery and an employment service in connection with a program of Vocational Guidance.

Rev. Mitchell's contribution to spiritual growth and community betterment through the Youth Program of the Cosmopolitan Christian Church has been acknowledged as an outstanding example of Christian work.

True to his democratic instincts, Rev. Mitchell is a champion of individual liberty and the rights of minorities and is an influential force against attempts to restrict them.

The strong family ties of the Mitchell brothers and sisters were evident during the depression years when through the efforts of Rev. Mitchell he made it possible for his brothers and sisters and their families to come to Los Angeles where together they would be better able to meet the problems inherent in the depression. Since that time he has had the unusual pleasure of seeing forty children of his immediate family graduate from high schools in the Los Angeles City School System.

In September of 1942 Rev. Mitchell was married to Miss Ruth Higgs of Indianapolis, Indiana. Vyvyan Mitchell, a son by a former marriage, who served three years in the European Theatre of World War II, is now in the U. S. Postal Service.

The esteem and respect accorded Rev. Mitchell by his colleagues in the Ministry was demonstrated in his election as President of the Interdenominational Minister's Alliance of Los Angeles City and County.

He is a member, Board of Management, 28th Street Branch, YMCA; Director, Avalon Community Center; Member, Executive Board and Chairman, Bill of Rights Committee, NAACP and an active member of the Los Angeles County Committee on Human Rights.



REV. FREDRICK D. JORDAN

JORDAN, FREDERICK DOUGLASS, Minister and Civic Leader, born in Atlanta, Georgia, son of D. J. and Carrie Thomas Jordan. His parents were both educators, his father, graduate of Columbia University, a College President and his mother a Teacher. Rev. Jordan began his education in the schools of Georgia and North Carolina. His college work was done at Howard and Northwestern Universities. His Graduate work at the University of Chicago and theological study at Garrett Biblical Institute.

He was licensed to preach September 22, 1922 at Ebenezer A.M.E. Church, Evanston, Illinois and has held successful pastorates in Illinois, Indiana, Kansas and Missouri before coming to Los Angeles. He also served as President of Western University in Quindaro, Kansas. September 2, 1925 he was married to Miss Artishia Gilbert Wilkerson of Louisville, Kentucky, a Howard classmate.

In September 1940 he came to Los Angeles to pastor the First A.M.E. Church and its congregation which now numbers 5,000. More than 1,500 members have been added to the church during his pastorate and improvements to the physical plant of the church and parsonage made in addition to the erection of a \$100,000 Youth Center which fills a much needed place in the life of the community.

Rev. Jordan has not only justly gained a reputation as a church builder and financier, and as an authority in the field of religious education, organizing schools of Leadership Training and contributing to the Sunday School literature of the church, but also as an outstanding citizen in the communities in which he has lived. In Los Angeles he is on the Executive Board of the NAACP, the Board of Managers of the YMCA, Chairman of the Race Relations Commission of the Los Angeles Church Federation, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Visiting Nurses Association. He serves on the Human Relations Committee of Los Angeles County, was appointed by the Board of Supervisors to the County Commission for Church and Community Cooperation, is a member of the Jail Commission for Chaplain's Service and was appointed by the Mayor as a member of the American Heritage Rededication Committee for the Freedom Train. He is a Mason, an Old Fellow, and a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the Sigma Pi Phi Boule.



MRS. ARTISHIA JORDAN

JORDAN, ARTISHIA GILBERT WILKERSON, Religious Leader and Club Woman, was born in Louisville, Kentucky. Her parents were the late Bernard O. and Artishia Gilbert Wilkerson. Her father was a well known Louisville Lawyer, Educator and Church Layman, serving as Choir Director and Sunday School Superintendent for twenty-five years. Her mother, a former school teacher, entered the field of medicine and became one of the first practicing Negro Women Physicians in the State of Kentucky.

Artishia Jordan received her public school education in Louisville and her university training at Howard and the University of Chicago, majoring in Mathematics. She taught in Central High School, Louisville until September 2, 1925 when she became the bride of the Rev. Frederick Douglas Jordan, a Howard classmate.

Mrs. Jordan's religious faith is that of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She is President of the Southern California Conference Branch, Women's Missionary Society, Vice President, Southern California Council of Church Women, Member Executive Board, Los Angeles Council of Church Women, Director, Los Angeles Chapter, American Mission to Lepers and Vice President, Interdenominational Minister's Wives Council of Los Angeles and Vicinity.

She is the organizer of the A.M.E. Minister's Wives Alliance, and served as Editor of the Missionary Recorder, official organ of the Woman's Missionary Society of the A.M.E. Church. She is President of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Council of the National Council of Negro Women and a member of the Committee of Management of the Woodlawn Y.W.C.A. Mrs. Jordan is also affiliated with the Sojourner Truth Home, the NAACP, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Order of Eastern Star and a Study Club.

#### FIRST A.M.E. CHURCH

Eighth & Towne Avenue

The African Methodist Episcopal Church had its beginning in 1787 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania just three years after Methodism's first American Conference. Eighty-five years later (1872) it had spread across the continent and twelve persons organized its first Los Angeles congregation in the home of Mrs. Biddie Mason on Spring Street, between Third and Fourth Streets. This was the first congregation of Negroes of any denomination organized in Los

Angeles. During the next few years the struggling congregation occupied locations at Fourth and Grand Avenue, Georgia Street between Tenth and Eleventh Streets, Requena St. Hall, Painter's Hall at First and Spring Streets and San Pedro Street Hall.

Under the Rev. Jordan Allen in 1887, the Azusa Street property was purchased and a church building erected. This edifice served the congregation until just past the turn of the century. In 1903 the cornerstone was laid for the famous cathedral-like structure located at 801 Towne Avenue. Here it has been the center of social as well as religious activities for a growing community for four decades. A succession of capable, devoted ministers has assembled here one of the largest congregations of the denomination.

Now under the leadership of the present pastor, the Rev. Frederick D. Jordan, Eighth & Towne enters a new phase of its work. Paul R. Williams, the famous architect, a trustee of the church, designed a beautiful "Community Youth Center" which includes a private chapel, administration offices, church parlor, class rooms, library, ladies lounge, social hall and an apartment for the custodian. It was completed and furnished at a cost in excess of \$100,000.

Eighth & Towne is enabled through these facilities to serve the community as well as its own membership which is scattered through the entire metropolitan Los Angeles. Thus through supervised recreation, personal counseling, employment service, week-day religious education, community discussion groups and social education classes, the church adds to its ministry of worship, an effective ministry of Social Service. It has also an established endowed community service program, more than \$10,000 in the fund at present.



REV. GERALDINE O'CONNOR

O'CONNOR, GERALDINE. Minister, born in Pueblo, Colorado. She received her public school education in Pueblo and her college work at Washburn College, Topeka, Kansas.

Rev. O'Connor came to Los Angeles in 1921 and is a graduate of California College of Embalming in Los Angeles; studied further at L.I.F.E. Bible College, receiving her G.T.H. and her B.T.H. degrees at University of Southern California.

Rev. O'Connor has successfully pastored the Zion Temple Community Church for the past eight years and is the Founder, President and Dean of the Liberators Evangelistic Bible College at 1315 E. Vernon Avenue.

She is Past Matron of Deborah Chapter 13, and is Grand Lecturer, O.E.S. Golden State Grand Chapter Prince Hall Affiliation.



WILLIAM HENRY BYRD

BYRD, WILLIAM HENRY, retired, Los Angeles Fire Department, born November 12, 1888 in Wilmington, North Carolina. Early in his life he left home to start out in the world and provide for his own support so that he is largely a self-educated, as well as self-made man.

From 1908 to 1918 William Byrd held two positions, the first with the Brooklyn Navy Yard and the second with the New York City Police Department. In 1921, struck by the "Go West young man" fever, he came to California and established residence in Los Angeles. Soon after his arrival he was appointed to the Los Angeles Police Department. He holds the distinction of being the first Negro Policeman to attain the rank of Police Chauffeur, driving ambulance and flying squad cars for the Detective Bureau.

On May 21, 1924 he was appointed to the Los Angeles Fire Department which he served for twenty years. During that time he had no demerits, was never late and was considered one of the most efficient chauffeurs in the history of the Fire Department. He was retired on May 30, 1944.

On April 2, 1913 in Brooklyn, New York, Mr. Byrd was married to Miss Varnetta Harris, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Harris, pioneer resident of that city. Two daughters, Dorothy Mae and Contance were born to that union. On May 5, 1923 in Los Angeles, Mr. William H. Byrd and Mrs. Elizabeth Williams of Brooklyn, New York were united in marriage. Mrs. Byrd passed September 17, 1934.

Mr. Byrd is more widely known for his religious and community work. As a layman in the Phillips Temple C.M.E. Church of Los Angeles of which he has been a member since 1927, he has made an enviable record of Christian service. His long record as an officer of the church not only proves his efficiency, but, also, gives evidence of his philosophy that there is a business side to the church that must be treated like any other business institution.

Mr. Byrd is a member of St. John Lodge No. 5, F. and A.M., NAACP, YMCA, and Ma-Po-Fi Social Club.

RUSSELL, CLAYTON D.—Minister—Peoples Independent Church of Christ. Outstanding young minister of Southern California, active in civic and political welfare; Officer in local branch NAACP and his program of action within the church includes a boys and girls home, employment education, music and other civic uplift programs.



PHILLIPS TEMPLE C M E CHURCH

In the year 1907 the youngest daughter of Methodism, the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church of America, organized its local branch in Los Angeles.

It was at the request of W.T.E. Robinson, a Christian and pioneer, that Bishop C. H. Phillips sent Rev. J. W. Reece to pastor the church that began with seven members assembled in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robinson. The late A. J. Roberts, granted the privilege of holding services in his establishment. During Rev. Reece's administration, Bishop Phillips gave encouragement to the small congregation by promising a \$200.00 grant, if they would raise \$100.00. The funds were raised, the Bishop kept his word, and a lot was purchased.

Then from the Texas Conference in 1908, was sent Rev. S. L. Harris, under whose administration the building of the church was completed, neatly furnished, and cleared of debt. Following Rev. Harris' administration came Rev. J. S. Webb, who passed in the year 1915. Rev. J. C. Anderson was the fourth pastor of the station, then known as Phillips Chapel. During his stay of six years the church was re-seated, a new pipe organ was installed, and a \$600.00 "Schubert" piano was secured. In addition, the first parsonage was purchased. When Rev. Anderson was transferred to another conference in 1922, Rev. R. W. Underwood was assigned to Phillips Chapel, which he pastored for seven years. In June 1924, Phillips Chapel burned. Thereafter, the services were conducted on the parsonage lawn, until through the courtesy of the Seventh Day Adventist Church and its pastor, Rev. E. P. Rogers, the church was made available to the Phillips Chapel congregation. During the time services were being held in the Adventist Church, the New Greater Phillips Temple, C.M.E. Church was purchased at a cost of \$41,000.00. Rev. N. H. Humpries followed Rev. Underwood in 1929, and remained the pastor until 1937. During his stay the pastor's study was modernly equipped, the parsonage newly furnished, and the church debt substantially reduced.

During the annual conference in 1937, Rev. Lane C. Cleaves, the present pastor, was assigned to Phillips Temple. Many achievements have been accomplished under his leadership. The church debt has been liquidated, and a broad program of renovating and new construction has been completed.

From 1943 to 1945 Phillips Temple, the largest C.M.E. Church West of the Rockies, expended more than \$60,000.00 over and above current expenses, and in the 1946-47 two year period, contributed more than \$15,000.00 for connectional and conference purposes. The membership of Phillips



REV. LANE C. CLEAVES

CLEAVES, LANE CALDWELL, Religious Leader and Pastor of Phillips Temple C.M.E. Church, is the second born of twins, the son of Bishop and Mrs. N. C. Cleaves. Bishop N. C. Cleaves, the twelfth Bishop of the C.M.E. Church, was the son-in-law of Bishop Isaac Lane, the Fifth Bishop of that denomination. The mother of Lane C. Cleaves, who bore the maiden name of Jennie E. Lane, was the first teacher at Lane College.

Lane C. Cleaves received his education in the public schools of Memphis, Tennessee, Washington, D. C., and Columbia, South Carolina. Later he attended Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee, and completed his collegiate work at Benedict College, Columbia, South Carolina.

He enlisted in the Armed Forces of his country in 1917, and became Second Lieutenant, Company A, 368th Infantry, 92nd Division, in which he served with honor and distinction.

In 1921 he followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather and entered the ministry in the C.M.E. Church. He has held pastorates in Missouri, Kentucky, Washington, D. C., Oklahoma, Tennessee, and California.

On December 29, 1917 Rev. Cleaves was united in marriage to Miss Marguerite V. Jones of Memphis, Tennessee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Jones of that city. She was educated in the public schools of Memphis, LeMoyn Normal Institute of Tennessee and Hampton Institute of Virginia. She was an instructor in the Memphis public school system for five years. Rev. and Mrs. Cleaves have one son, Lane Caldwell Cleaves, Jr.

Rev. Cleaves is First Assistant Secretary, General Conference, C.M.E. Church; Member of the General Connectional Board, representing California and Treasurer of the California C.M.E. Conference. He is a member of the Los Angeles Interdenominational Minister's Alliance, and has those qualities which make his fellowmen know that he is a man of God, and that his service to his Master and to his church will ever measure up to those standards which have made the name of Cleaves what it is in the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church.

Temple increases at an average of 400 per annum, and its youth program attracts young people in every age-group. The Young People's choir maintains an average attendance of fifty, and there is a youth counterpart of every basic department in the church.

It follows that from 1907 to today the Los Angeles Station of the C.M.E. church has been an ever-growing Christian institution, and its membership, which started at seven, has reached 3,000—certainly, a splendid addition to the religious life of the community.



BISHOP SAMUEL M. CROUCH



EMMANUEL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

CROUCH, SAMUEL M., Bishop, Western Diocese, Church of God in Christ, was born in the State of Texas and reared in the City of Dallas by his Grandmother, Emily Crouch, a devout Christian.

At an early age he determined to make a mark in life and at once set about preparing to reach his goal. Of a studious, sober nature, he studied and associated with older people whose advice and experience helped him shape the course of his life.

Saved in his boyhood days, his religious training was carefully guarded by his grandmother and he became a constant reader of the Bible, in connection with other worthwhile books, to develop his mind and prepare him for church work. In his boyhood days, he heard the call—"I have need of thee" which stimulated his desire to devote his life to the ministry.

God blessed his efforts and his consecrated life made for him a place in the church world and he became a leader among young people.

Full of zeal and ardor for the work and the spread of the gospel, he went into rural sections preaching and establishing churches and was called to a pastorate when he had barely reached manhood and had assumed the responsibility of a family. God blessed them to become the parents of four boys and two girls. Regardless of hardships and handicaps, he and his wife preserved until he was called to Fort Worth and there established a most successful work, and became the first Negro Radio Preacher of Texas.

In the early '20's he made his first evangelistic tour to California, preaching in Fresno and Oakland in a great soul-saving campaign, and later was called to Pastor here.

In 1931 he was made Overseer of the State of California, and the work has almost doubled itself under his leadership.

At this stage of his career, his life was saddened by the loss of his faithful wife, the mother of his six children. Two years later he married his present wife who has

been a most devoted mother, a faithful wife, and helpmate in his work, and a source of great inspiration not only to him, but to the church at large. God has blessed his second son, Samuel Jr., to follow in his father's footsteps and to become a National Evangelist.

At present there are 135 churches in the State. His present pastorate is at Emmanuel Church of God in Christ at 33rd Street and Compton Avenue, which has recently been enlarged and remodeled, after having liquidated the original debt of several thousand. The cost of remodeling and enlarging was \$70,000.00 with a seating capacity of 1,500. The membership is 800.

The local work, like his District work, is thoroughly organized as well as the State work. In Southern California the work from Santa Barbara to El Centro is divided into six Districts with a Superintendent and District Missionary in each. Each District holds two meetings annually, thus stimulating the work, both financially and spiritually and caring for the State and National work.

The women's work of the church is under the supervision of a State Supervisor of Women's Work, cooperating with the Overseer in all his plans for the work. Through his vision a band of Personal Workers is organized to hold services each Sunday in the Newton St Jail and the County Jail, also carrying on a bed-side Ministry weekly in the General Hospital, and doing welfare work throughout the city. The jail commission, with Rev. Batema the Chaplain, showing their appreciation for the valuable service rendered in helping to rehabilitate men, named Bishop Crouch recently as a member of the Board of Directors of the Jail Commission.

The General Church with headquarters at Memphis, Tennessee, under the leadership of Senior Bishop C. H. Mason, recognizing the value of this dynamic young man as an organizer, appointed him to the Bishopric of the Western Diocese in 1940.

The Annual State Convocation of the Church is held the first week in June at 33rd Street and Compton Avenue—Emmanuel Church of God in Christ.

## *Twenty-first St. Temple, Church of God in Christ*

On December 27, 1940, five Christian men and women met in the home of Rev. W. L. McKinney to organize a Church of God in Christ. Present at this meeting were Rev. A. Williams, Bro. W. A. Lee, Bro. J. Graves and Sis. M. Lee.

Services were held in the home of Rev. McKinney until the small band worshipping together moved to 5212 Hooper Avenue, a little church already furnished with pulpit, seats and baptismal pool. At that location, which was being rented, the membership, then twenty-seven, started a drive to build a church of their own.

Believing that it could be done, even in those hard times called the depression, the small group joined hearts and hands and in a period of six weeks raised \$1,000.00 to make the down payment on a church home.

On Easter Sunday afternoon of April 13, 1941, Rev. McKinney and his congregation, filled with praise for God, marched from their rented church at 52nd Street and Hooper Avenue to their own place of worship located at 1327 E. 21st Street. Today, the Twenty-first Street Temple, Church of God in Christ Inc., of which Rev. W. L. McKinney is the Pastor, stands as a living monument to the Glory of God and the small band of Christian men and women, who seven years ago in the home of their present Pastor, organized this church.

The Twenty-first Street Temple, Church of God in Christ seats about 1,000, and has taken its place among the leading churches of the city. Its administration and officers include a Deacon Board, J. Jackson, Chairman; Deaconess Board, Mrs. Pearl Williams, President; Mothers' Board, Mrs. Alice Smith, President; Usher Board, Mrs. M. Cutliff, President; Bible Band, Mrs. W. L. McKinney, President; Sunshine Band, Mrs. L. Mitchell, President; Sunday School, Lester Keyton, Superintendent; Y. P. W. W., Mrs. Ruby Williams, President, and a very fine choir headed by Mrs. Ethel Jackson.



W. L. MCKINNEY

MCKINNEY, W. L., Pastor of the Twenty-first Street Temple, Church of God in Christ, was born in Black Hawk, Mississippi, June 28, 1893, the son of Wilson and Rachel (Crowder) McKinney. Wilson McKinney was a successful farmer in the county in which he lived.

W. L. McKinney attended public school in Mississippi and later Wendell Phillips High School in Chicago. He pursued a course in Theology at North American Institute in Chicago.

Rev. McKinney has been married three times. He first wedded Miss Roberta Mason on December 25, 1912 in Lexington, Mississippi. In 1931 his wife passed away leaving six children; John, Ethel, Amos, Naomi, Hosea, and Samuel. For his second wife Rev. McKinney chose Miss Evangeline Pettigrew Cotton, whom he married in 1932. They are the parents of two children; Evangeline and W. L. Jr. The death of Mrs. Evangeline McKinney occurred in 1940. In 1941 he was united in marriage to Miss Marguerite Askew.

Rev. McKinney is at present Overseer, State of Oregon; Member of the National Board of Overseers, Church of God in Christ Inc. and Superintendent of the Central District of California. The pastorates of this leader in his denomination began in 1917 in Wellington, Ohio where he organized the Church of God in Christ. In 1918 he moved to Chicago, Illinois to become Assistant Pastor to Bishop W. M. Roberts. His charges following his association with Bishop Roberts are as follows: Harvey, Illinois, 1919-1922; South Bend, Indiana--1923; Waukegan, Illinois--1923-27; Milwaukee, Wisconsin--1927-1930. In June 1930 Rev. McKinney was appointed by Bishop E. M. Paige to serve as Pastor of the Second Church of God in Christ in Los Angeles. This position he held until 1932. At that time he was appointed by Bishop S. M. Crouch to serve as Pastor in Fresno, California. In 1935 he went from Fresno to Bakersfield to Pastor a church which was heavily in debt. In 1936 all debts had been liquidated. In 1937 he returned to Los Angeles and was appointed Assistant Pastor at Immanuel Church of God in Christ. In October of 1939 Rev. McKinney returned East to accept appointment at Champagne, Illinois. About this time Rev. McKinney felt that his service to his church could best be carried out in California where the climate was conducive to his health. It was upon his return to California from his charge in Illinois that he organized the present Twenty-First Street Temple, Church of God in Christ.



Fraternally, Rev. McKinney is a member of the Masonic New Day Club. He has received recognition on many occasions by the leadership of the Church of God in Christ. In 1942 Bishop S. M. Crouch appointed him superintendent of the Central District of California. In 1944 Senior Bishop C. H. Mason appointed him Overseer, Church of God in Christ, State of Oregon. In 1946 he organized a church in Portland, Oregon, and purchased property now valued at \$40,000.00. This church is a monument of beauty and inspiration to its membership and the community as a whole.



REV. J. E. COX

COX, J. E., Pastor of Philadelphian Seventh-Day Adventist Church, was born in the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia of God fearing parents and taught to obey and reverence God from birth. Brought up in an atmosphere of christian veneration, it is not surprising that he would dedicate his life to christian service and leadership. After completing High School he furthered his education at Morgan State College and later attended Western Reserve University. Subsequently he was a student at the Baltimore Business College, and also took a course in music at the Baltimore School of Music. In addition two certificates in Practical Nursing have been earned by the Minister. Rev. Cox married Mary E. Smith, a lovely girl from his home-town, and soon after was ordained to the gospel ministry in the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Rev. and Mrs. Cox are the parents of seven sons: Irwin, Paul, Jeter, Leon, Bennett, Earl and Dan, four of whom served overseas in the Armed Forces in World War II. His first charge was in Baltimore where much of his preparation for the ministry was received. Later he was called to pastor in Wilmington, Delaware, then to Ohio where he served as the first Negro District Leader in the State. Rev. Cox in his early years, had wondered why God who created all that was beautiful should be worshipped in such unattractive and unsightly buildings as the churches of his community. "Someday, he said, I will do something about it". It was in Ohio that Dr. Cox began his glorious task of acquiring tabernacles of beauty in which to worship God. He purchased two churches in Cincinnati, two in Dayton, two in Springfield and two in Columbus. A total of eight churches in the State of Ohio ranging in cost from \$20,000 to \$55,000 represented the magnificent effort of Dr. Cox. From Ohio he went to Philadelphia, Pa. where the need and desire for a suitable place of worship was urgent. He purchased a beautiful edifice there for \$45,000. His next call was to Brooklyn, N. Y. where a stately structure was acquired for \$30,000. Soon after

the Brooklyn Church was dedicated free of debt Dr. Cox was called to San Francisco, California. To find a suitable place of worship for the large number of war workers who had come to San Francisco and wished to maintain their church connections presented a challenge to Dr. Cox's unusual ability and accomplishments. His faith and belief in prayer brought the desired results, and in the city of the Golden Gate another beautiful edifice was secured. In less than seven months he dedicated the Phil-San Francisco Church free of a \$53,000 debt. While purchasing and erecting beautiful monuments to the worship of God, Dr. Cox served on the Board of Oakwood College, Huntsville, Ala 6 years; Ten years on the Mount Vernon Academy, and ten years with the Home Study Institute, Washington, D. C. Dr. Cox is endowed with strong spiritual and intellectual force which he has wisely directed along the lines of christian leadership and his name is a honored one in the annals of his Church.



LEANNA OSBORNE HALE

HALE, LEANNA OSBORNE, Supervisor of Women, Church of God in Christ in Southern California, born in Kansas City, Missouri, the daughter of Alpheus and Laura (Butcher) Osborne.

She completed High School in her native city, later graduating from Oberlin Academy and College, Oberlin, Ohio in 1904 with the degree of A.B.

On August 22, 1906 in Los Angeles she married John Waldo Hale, Sr. They were the parents of six children. Her husband passed in 1939.

Mrs. Hale has devoted her life to Church work. She is a member of the National Council of Supervising Women of the Church of God in Christ. She teaches English at the annual Seminary for Women workers held in Memphis, Tenn., the national home of the Church.

In Southern California she supervises all Women's Auxiliaries and gives guidance and inspiration to all under her supervision.

Mrs. Hale is a life member of the Literary Society of Oberlin College and active in many organizations of her Church. Her willingness to serve and her ability to help intelligently have made her an invaluable factor in the increasing usefulness of the Church of God in Christ.



REV. HELEN B. CALHOUN



REV. A. W. ROSS

CALHOUN, HELEN BATTLE--Minister and Singer, born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, the daughter of William and Annie (Brown) Battle.

Her early education was in Kansas City attending Sumner High School and Western University, majoring in music.

In January 1928, she married Lee Calhoun, a school-mate. The family moved to Los Angeles, California in 1937.

Here Mrs. Calhoun continued her musical studies, and a short time later joined the famed Hall Johnson Choir, an organization in great demand in many of the Hollywood studios. She was also a member of the Ben Carter Choir.

During her musical career Mrs. Calhoun was very active in her church, and in 1943 she had to make a decision that altered the course of her life--whether to accept many promising offers in the movies, and a possible contract with the Amos and Andy Show, or to enter the Los Angeles Bible Institute and further her Bible studies, pointing toward the Ministry. She chose the latter. Shortly thereafter, Mrs. Calhoun was ordained a minister of the gospel by the Ministerial Alliance of Los Angeles. Practicing the precepts of religion and seeing the need for the help and guidance of unfortunate and delinquent girls, Mrs. Calhoun decided to dedicate her life to this cause.

Her first home for girls' on East 49th Street in Los Angeles, operated there for four years. During these years many girls were helped in the building of character and taught the fundamentals of music. Today, many of these same girls have married well, and one is now attending an outstanding academy of music.

Later, the home was moved to its present location, where Mrs. Calhoun continues to give her life to this worthy cause. Now, however, she is receiving some financial help from the State of California. Other states learning of the fine work this christian woman is doing, have asked permission to enter girls from their states.

The fine spirit of this christian exemplifies the word of the Master when he asked that children and those who were heavily burdened be brought unto Him.

The home address in 235 W. 51st Street, Los Angeles,

ROSS, ALEXANDER WENDELL, Baptist Minister; born Oct. 3, 1883, Versailles, Mo.; son of James P. and Jane Rhoda (Meadows) Ross; educated at Western College, B.S. 1900-05; Columbia University (New York), Certificate; Crozier Theological Seminary, Certificate; married Enjetta Adelaide Diggs, Oct. 11, 1908; foster daughter--Pauline Elizabeth Slade. Ordained Minister, 1908. Pastor: First Baptist Church, Leavenworth, Kansas, 1911-15; Calvary Baptist Church, Fulton, Mo., 1915-19; Calvary Baptist Church, Coffeyville, 1919-23; 1937-38. Corresponding Secretary, State Baptist Convention (Missouri), 1911; Vice-President, Seldon Institute, Georgia, 1914; Superintendent of Missions and Executive Secretary, Kansas State Baptist Convention, 1923-28; Pastor: Mt. Calvary Baptist Church (Canton, Ohio), 1928-32; Temple Baptist Church (Birmingham, Ala.), 1933-34; Second Baptist Church (Jefferson City, Mo.), 1934-37; Calvary Baptist Church, (Coffeyville, Kan.), 1937-38; Received D.D. degree from Western Baptist Seminary (Kansas City, Mo.), 1939; Pleasant Hill Church (Los Angeles, California), 1939-1946; Did graduate work at George Pepperdine College (Los Angeles, Calif.), 1945; Organized Kingdom Baptist Church (Los Angeles, Calif.), 1946. Member, Board of Directors. Eastside Com. Center; Outdoor Life and Health Assn. (Los Angeles, Calif.). Member, Interracial Committee of Federation of Churches of Los Angeles; Executive Board, Committee of International Council of Religious Education of U.S.A. Member, Foreign Mission Board of National Baptist Convention, U.S.A.; Director, Board of Sunday Schools of B.T.U. Congress, U.S.A. Instructor of Directors of National B.T.U. and Sunday School Congress. President, International Ministers Alliance of California, 1941-42; Vice-President, California State Baptist Convention, 1940-43; President, California States Baptist Convention, 1943-47. Author: The Christ, 1937; The Director and His Task, 1944. Accepted for Chaplaincy, during World War I. Sustaining member of the International Council of Religious Education and Executive Member of the Board of International Council of Religious Education, and a member of the Federal Council of Churches. Pastor and organizer of the Kingdom Baptist Church. Residence: 700 Micheltarena Street, Los Angeles, California.



WILLIAM J. TAYLOR

TAYLOR, WILLIAM J., was born in Beaumont, Texas, July 6, 1915, the son of J. W. and Ada (McCardell) Taylor. His father is overseer of the Church of God in Christ in El Centro, Brawley, Calipatria, Indio, and Blythe, California, all of New Mexico and El Paso, Texas.

Rev. Taylor, received his public school education in Phoenix, Arizona, graduating from Phoenix High School in 1933. He then attended El Centro Junior College one year before pursuing religious courses in a number of Clerical institutions to prepare himself for Christian leadership in the Church of God in Christ, Inc., one of the largest Holiness bodies in the world. His study at L.I.F.E. Bible College, Los Angeles Baptist Theological Seminary, Providence Baptist Theological Seminary, Temple Hall College and Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois, gave him the preparation that is evident in his leadership.

Rev. Taylor began his pastorates in 1935 at Blythe, California, where property was purchased and a church building was erected under his guidance and supervision. In 1936 he pastored in El Centro, California and built there a place of worship for the members of his Church. He came to Los Angeles in 1941 and accepted appointment as Pastor of the Church of God in Christ which became Grace Memorial Church of God in Christ, Inc. on September 23, 1943 after all incumbrances were liquidated.

On June 11, 1936 in Phoenix, Arizona, Rev. Taylor was united in marriage to Miss Flossie C. Paxton of that city. They are the parents of four children: Rudolph Wayne, Gwendolyn Yvonne, Kathleen Patricia and Jacquelyn Cynthia.

Rev. Taylor is a prominent figure in the guidance and supervision of the Church of God in Christ, Inc. He is president of the Board of Christian Mission and Member of the Board of Elders of Southern California, and Superintendent of the San Diego District.

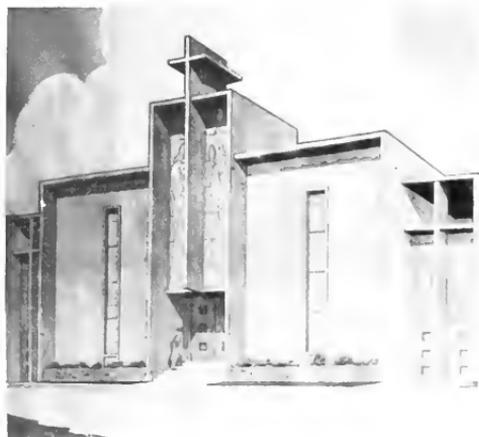
In the promotion of good citizenship Rev. Taylor has been active in City, County, State and National elections, while in all civic matters there probably is not a more zealous and ardent figure in Los Angeles.

Grace Memorial Church of God in Christ of which Rev. William J. Taylor is pastor is incorporated September 25, 1943 after all existing debts had been dissolved. This was accomplished two years after Rev. Taylor had accepted the call to pastor this growing Church of God in Christ.

At the time of this review in February of 1948, complete plans have been filed for the Greater Grace Memorial Church, which will include a new three story edifice housing the religious, educational and administrative facilities required to carry on the work of this Christian institution.

The interest of the Pastor and Congregation of Grace Memorial Church in carrying the message of salvation in gospel and song to hundreds of thousands outside the Church is manifest in their soul-stirring services heard over Station KLOX, Tuesday evening of each week until recently, when the broadcast was changed from Tuesday to Sunday A.M., from 11 to 12 over Station KGER. These broadcasts are outstanding as a medium of Christian service.

The Christian men and women under whose leadership the work of Grace Memorial Church of God in Christ is being carried on are Rev. Wm. J. Taylor, Pastor, and Rev. Wm. Webb and Rev. Dorce Shepherd, Assistants to the Pastor. Board of Trustees: McKinley Archie, William Webb, Jesse James, Joseph Hubbard and Phinis Willis, Deacons; Phinis Willis, Washington S. Farver, Jesse James, Frank James, David Byers, Nelson Miles, McKinley Archie, Cleveland Higgins and Mr. Alston Deaconess Board; Susie Lewis, Martha Dunmon, Ida Brown, Mathilda Williams, Erma Stagers, Leola Mendez and Mother Mac (deceased), Choir Directress and Organist, Maggie Branville; Director, Youth Choir, Herman Woods, Pianist, Youth Choir, Ella Ruth Lee, Sunday School Supt., Jesse James, Youth Leader, Rev. William Webb, Scout Master, James Morrow, Prayer and Bible Band, Group I, Ida Brown, President; Group II, Viola Ray, President, Sewing Circle, Lucile Davis, President; Home and Foreign Missions, Geneva Hamilton, President. This organization, one of the most active and important in the Church, secures monies and clothing for the less fortunate both at home and abroad. It performs a special service in making monthly contributions to Native Missionary Handfield working in New Caledonia, Turk Island, British West Indies.



GRACE MEMORIAL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

HARRIS, EFFIE WILLIAMS, Pastor, Bethel Community Church of Christ, was born July 13, 1899 in Alamo, Texas, the daughter of Albert and Nealy (Beasley) Williams, who moved to Boley, Oklahoma when that Negro township attracted enterprising Negro men and women from all sections of the country.

Rev. Harris received her education in the public schools of Boley and later attended C.M.E. College in Boley, Oklahoma.

On July 19, 1919, Miss Effie Williams was married in Kansas City, Missouri to Mr. Lindsay Harris of that city.

Rev. Harris has been a devout Christian since she was old enough to understand the meaning of Christianity. She is an outstanding organizer, a leader in civic and religious life. She devotes much time to child life, and youth development activities.

Rev. Harris is the founder and Pastor of Bethel Community Church of Christ, one of the most active and outstanding churches of the City of Los Angeles, located at 27th and San Pedro Streets.

She is a member of the Community and Independent Churches Ministerial Alliance, and is termed, one of the leading speakers and teachers in the West.

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HENDERSON, J. RAYMOND--Minister--born in Virginia, educated, Virginia Union College. (A.B. 1924); Oberlin Seminary, Oberlin Ohio (Bachelor of Divinity, 1927); Andover Newton Seminary (Master of Sacred Theology, 1937). Pastored in Virginia, Penna., W. Virginia, Georgia and New York before accepting pastorate of Second Baptist Church of Los Angeles. His present charge is the largest Baptist church West of Chicago.

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OLIVER, WILLIAM, Religious leader, born in Crawfordville, Indiana, the son of George and Malinda Oliver. He was educated in the public schools of his native city, and early left school to make his own way in life.

William Oliver came to California in 1914 to establish a business manufacturing inner liners for automobile tires, a trade he had acquired as an employee in the automobile industry. The business was organized under the firm name of Hampton and Oliver, and was a going concern for more than four years.

At a later period Mr. Oliver became interested in a career in the Postal Service. He took the examination, passed, and soon received appointment as a mail carrier.

Mr. Oliver has continued as a mail carrier in the Postal Service for more than 30-years, and holds the respect and the commendation of postal authorities and the public he serves.

However, his greatest contribution has been to his church and the spiritual life of the community. He is the oldest active officer in the Phillips Temple CME Church, having become a member under the pastorage of Rev. J. P. Anderson.

At the present time he is Chairman of the Trustee Board and member of the Board of Stewards.

In 1911, in Omaha, Nebraska, he was married to Miss Annie Mae Brown, and the two have remained a devout christian couple through the years.

Mr. Oliver is a member of the St. John Masonic Lodge No. 5.

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HARRIS, GRANT--Minister--Pastor of Zion Baptist Church, one of the outstanding churches of Southern California.

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# **The Professions**

The remarkable expansion in the professional fields in California should be an inspiration to Negro youth seeking an answer to the age old problem of, "Where can I go, What should I do"





DR. RICHARD S. WHITTAKER

WHITTAKER, RICHARD SALINTIUS. Physician and Surgeon was born on May 17, 1881 in Carlton, Kentucky, the son of Scott and Cecelia (Thompkins) Whittaker.

Being the son of farm parents, his early education was in the rural public schools of Carlton. He then entered the University of Louisville in Louisville, Kentucky and received his A.B. degree in 1904. He received his M.D. degree at the National Medical College of Louisville, Kentucky, following up with three months of post graduate studies at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

After several years of successful practice in Kansas City, Dr. Whittaker, in 1922, answering the siren call of the West, moved to California. His first stop in Pasadena, where he set up his practice. He practiced here until 1923, and then moved his practice to Los Angeles where he saw the need for a Negro Hospital, because of the discrimination to Negro patients in Los Angeles, at that time.

He founded the Dunbar Hospital. The Dunbar Hospital was the first Negro hospital to be opened in Los Angeles, and for years it was a haven of mercy to the fast growing population.

Two of the physicians, who later became successful practitioners in California were staff members of the Dunbar Hospital, Dr. J. T. Whittaker, brother of the founder, and Dr. Charles S. Diggs.

After the deaths of Dr. J. T. Whittaker in 1934, and Dr. Diggs in 1938, the founder closed the hospital to con-

fine his practice to his office and work on the staffs of the Angeles Hospital, and the Rose Netta Hospital, the latter under the supervision of Dr. N. Curtis King.

Thus closed one of the landmarks of Negro progress. The good to the community rendered by Dunbar Hospital, its founder and associates will long be remembered in Southern California by people in every walk of life.

During the early years of his practice in California, Dr. Whittaker, found the time for a two years course at the Southern California Eye, Nose and Throat Clinic.

In February 1927, he married Ester Dawson, a graduate of the University of Kansas. Dr. Whittaker had one son, James Salinthus, Jr., a graduate of Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. James Jr. practiced as a mortician from 1932 to 1938, the year of his death.

Dr. Whittaker throughout the years has held a great interest in the civic welfare of his race, and is active in any program to promote better conditions for Negroes in Los Angeles.

He is a member of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, K. of P. Lodge, National Medical Association, So. California Medical, Dental, and Pharmaceutical Association, NAACP, Independent Church of Christ, and other civic and welfare organizations.

His hobbies are: Fishing, Hunting, Tennis, Horseback-riding and races.

Business Address: 1055 E. 43rd Street, Los Angeles, California.



DR. N. CURTIS KING

KING, NORRIS CURTIS--Physician and Surgeon, born in Princeton, Kentucky, August 27, 1894--son of Dee and Nettie (Metcalf) King.

Education in the public schools of Cairo, Illinois, where his family moved while he was very young. In 1920, he completed his high school and college training at Roger Williams University, Nashville, Tennessee, the family having moved to Nashville after the death of his father. Graduated Meharry Medical School in 1924.

During his years of college and medical study, student King supported his mother hauling trunks for students of all the colleges and by securing a large house near the school campus and renting quarters to other students. After graduation and internship at Tuskegee Institute Hospital, young Dr. King, M. D., selected the State of Georgia to begin his practice. Armed with credentials from some of the outstanding business people of Nashville, a letter from the Masonic Lodge, and other character references, he walked into the Negro bank of Atlanta. In a few words he asked for a loan to open an office; his credentials were thrown at him, but no loan. Determined to make a start, Dr. King, broke but not discouraged, with assistance from Dr. E. I. Robinson went to Newnan, Ga. There after many a struggle, cooking and sleeping in his office, he finally succeeded in setting up his practice. Later, seeing the need for a hospital, he founded the Curtis King Hospital. It was during this period that Dr. King began to attract the attention of the medical profession. Soon he was in demand for lectures to medical groups, schools and to the general public on the prevention and cure of venereal diseases. Soon he became an authority in this field and, today, stands out as one of America's greatest.

It was in Newnan that Dr. King married Rosa Mae Webb, a graduate nurse. To them one child was born--Rose Marie, now a receptionist in her father's hospital.

In 1929, seeking a larger field of practice, Dr. King moved his family to California. Here he immediately took his place with other successful practitioners; later, founding the Rose Netta Hospital, one of the most modern and best-equipped in America. And one of the first truly interracial hospitals, where he has employed Mexicans, Negroes, Japanese and white assistants.

Always interested in the public welfare of his race, Dr. King dedicated his training and services to that cause. For ten years he was in charge of the South Los Angeles

Venereal Clinic; three years in charge of 102nd Street Clinic for the Board of Education; Panel Physician, Los Angeles General Hospital; Examining Physician, Selective Service Board 253, NYA, 28th Street Clinic, and the Third Battalion of the State Guard. All of these gratis. Examining physician State Boxing Commission.

Dr. King, with all his many duties, found time for a Special course in Electro-Therapy at San Gabriel under the eminent authority, Dr. Worster; and in 1937 a three-month specialized course at Howard University on venereal diseases.

In 1942, Dr. King and the Rose Netta Hospital became internationally known when the Red Cross set up the first interracial blood bank at the Rose Netta Hospital. This stab at the segregated system used throughout the country brought hundreds of letters, telegrams and calls from outstanding medical and thinking people throughout the world. Dr. King has attended many conferences on the prevention and cure of venereal diseases, including one called by the Surgeon General in Washington, D. C., when only the most outstanding authorities on venereal diseases in America were called. For outstanding work in his country's cause during World War II he received, the certificate of merit and the selective service medal.

Some of the high points of Dr. King's civic career are: The sponsoring of the "Craftsman of Black Wings", a group of young Negro aviators and students interested in becoming licensed flyers; active work with the Watts Coordinating Council, of which he was chairman; and many other civic organizations.

He is a member of the Los Angeles County Medical Association; National Medical Association; Southern California Medical, Dental, and Pharmaceutical Association; member board of directors, Los Angeles County Branch of the American Cancer Society; a 33rd Degree Mason; Palomino Horse Asso. and an active member of the South Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

Hobbies: Photography and the breeding of palomino horses. On his fine ranch in Elsinore, California, he now spends much of his time in pursuit of these hobbies.

Truly this Negro of humble beginning has carved a pattern that is an inspiration for any young American to follow.

Business Address: 4412 South Hooper Avenue, Los Angeles, California.



MRS. ROSA MAE KING

KING, ROSA MAE--Nurse, born in Hartwell, Georgia, October 18, 1904--daughter of John and Macey (Ware) Webb.

Early education at the Hartwell County Training School; one year A. & I. State College, Nashville, Tennessee, majoring in Business Administration. Entered into nurses training course at the Millie E. Hale Hospital Training School, Nashville, Tennessee, graduating in 1924. Shortly after graduation, worked for the City Health Department in Nashville; later, for one year at the Mercy Hospital in Shreveport, Louisiana.

In 1925, married Dr. N. Curtis King. There is one child, Rose Marie.

In 1925, the newly married doctor and nurse opened the N. Curtis King Hospital in Newnan, Georgia. In 1929, the Kings, seeking greater fields, moved to Los Angeles. Arriving in California, Mrs. King worked five years for the City of Los Angeles Health Department, one year at the Los Angeles County Health Department, seven years at the Los Angeles Hospital, four years as Superintendent of Nurses at the Rose Netta Hospital, the latter a general hospital founded by Dr. King. At the present (1947), Nurse King is a supervisor of nurses at the Golden State Hospital in Los Angeles. Under her supervision are nurses of various nationalities.

During the years of California residence, Mrs. King has been very active in civic and group welfare. In 1929, she organized the auxiliary of the American Legion (Fred Whittaker Post) and was its first president. During the war years, she trained classes in nurse training--these classes receiving their theory at the Jefferson High School (Los Angeles) and their practical work at the Rose Netta Hospital. Mrs. King was active in the 111th Street Parent-Teachers Association, and served for one year as its president. She was a voluntary USO worker during World War II.

Member: Hallie Q. Brown Women's Political Study Club; Local and National Nurses Association; and Grant Chapel A. M. E. Church.

Hobbies: Reading and sewing.



DR. BERT L. BOSWELL

BOSWELL, BERT L., Physician and Surgeon, was born in Talladega, Alabama, to Anthony and Elizabeth Boswe'l. The family moved to Dallas, Texas, during his early years, where he received his public school education. He is a graduate of Wiley Univ., 1902, and Meharry Medical College, 1907. Practiced medicine and surgery in Oklahoma City and El Reno, Oklahoma, and Dallas and Paris, Texas. For six years Medical and Administrative Director of Hygeia Sanitarium in Paris. Came to California in 1922 with a background of broad experience in medical practice and since has been continuously and successfully engaged in his profession. Dr. Boswell married Edith Ruth Everett, at that time, a teacher in the High School at Dallas, Texas, her native city. They are the parents of two children, Lois B. (Greenwood) and Everett G. He is a member of Phillips Temple C.M.E. Church and an active layman in religious work. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights and Daughters of Tabor, and American Woodmen in which he was Banker of Camp No. 1, Los Angeles, for 24 years. He belongs to the National Medical Association, the Southern California Medical, Dental, and Pharmaceutical Association, and is a member of Board of Directors, West View Hospital Inc. He holds membership in the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, NAACP, and Y.M.C.A. His entire life has been guided by high and honorable principles, and in his profession he displays the closest conformity to high ethical standards.

HAIRSTON, HELEN LEE--Pharmacist, born in New Orleans, La., daughter of Ansel H. and Julia (Cooks) Lee. Attended the public schools of New Orleans, completing her high school education in Los Angeles, after the family moved to California in 1922. Later graduated from the School of Pharmacy, University of Southern California. Associated with Mozelle E. Lewis, now deceased, in 1935, started her Pharmaceutical career with the L&W Pharmacy. She is now the only Negro woman who owns and operates her own store in the Pacific Southwest. Married to Archie A. Hairston, Chief Warrant Officer, U. S. A. There are no children. Affiliations: Rho Psi Phi Medical Sorority, Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association, YWCA, NAACP, and Hamilton Methodist Church. Hobbies: Movies, driving in the country, and attending concerts.

Business Address: 1530 Griffith Avenue, Los Angeles, California.



FRANK S. MAXWELL

MAXWELL, FRANK STORM--Pharmacist, born in Los Angeles, California, March 12, 1905--son of David Henry and Clara (Dunlevy) Maxwell Both of his parents, pioneer residents of California, are deceased.

His early education was in the public and high schools of his native city, where he attended the Temple Street and Boyd Street elementary schools, graduating from the Polytechnic High School.

While in high school, because of his early interest in pharmacy, he was given special courses in Chemistry and, while still in high school, successfully passed the State Board of Pharmacy. He was the youngest person at that time to pass this board. Continuing his studies in Pharmacy, he entered the University of Southern California, College of Pharmacy, later becoming an honor graduate.

Mr. Maxwell's interest in the field that he now masters began when, as a boy, he started his chosen career working for the James F. Smith Drug Store at 12th and Central Avenue. There under the tutelage of Dr. Smith, he took out his apprenticeship license in Pharmacy. The going was not easy for this young and ambitious native son. Working from dawn to dusk at his duties of janitor, clerk, and every other odd job to be found at a drug store earned him the meager salary of \$4.50 per week. Out of these earnings \$3.50 had to go for board and room, the other dollar went into a savings account. The generosity of Mrs. Ophelia Williams, in whose home he lived during his struggling youthful years after the death of his mother

aided him to save the money that in later years was to enable him to go into business. Dr. Maxwell is high in his praise of this kind and christian woman. Dr. Maxwell also gives much credit to his success through the trying years to the religious and inspirational guidance of Rev. N. H. Nelson's House of Prayer, where he is still a member.

In 1931, he married Malvena Bruner. There is one child, Bonnie Diane Maxwell.

Dr. Maxwell, always cognizant of the early struggle in his life, is very active in the civic welfare of his native city. His philosophy is to help others by constructing in their minds that the disappointments and catastrophies of life should not lead to bitterness, cynicism and failure.

Many young men and women have been helped through the generosity and worthwhile philosophy of this man who saw no defeat and whose life became enriched by hardships and setbacks.

Dr. Maxwell, active in social and fraternal circles, is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Masonic Order, Shrine Temple, Native Sons of Pioneers, Pacific Town Club, Knights of Pythias. He is also a member of Southern California Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association and the National Medical Association.

Dr. Maxwell's ambition is to some day travel extensively. To this end he believes that service and consideration to his ever-growing clientele will some day bring to him the financial security needed for world travel.



DR. AND MRS. P. PRICE COBBS

COBBS, PETER PRICE--Physician and Surgeon, born November 16, 1892, in Barboursville, Virginia--son of Norman and Martha (Price) Cobbs. Graduate of Howard University, B. S. 1914, M. D. 1919, completed post-graduate courses at the University of Stanford and University of Southern California.

After his internship at Tuskegee Institute Hospital, began career as general practitioner. Later became head of Nurse Training Department of Hale Infirmary. During this period and up to 1925, Dr. Cobbs was also a staff member, Tuskegee Institute Hospital.

In 1925, Dr. Cobbs moved his practice to California and, from 1925 until the time of its closing, was staff member of the Dunbar Hospital in Los Angeles. In 1925, married Rosa Mashaw, a teacher in the public school system of Birmingham, Alabama. There are three children--Prince Roland, Marcelyn Rose, Price Mashaw.

During the years of general and hospital practice, Dr. Cobbs had always cherished the dream of a sanitarium of his own. This dream was realized in 1946, when the Cobbs Sanitarium was opened. This sanitarium, located in one of the most beautiful settings of Southern California, is one of the few institutions of its kind in the country. This fully-equipped and staffed sanitarium has four registered nurses, a dietitian, two general helpers, and has a capacity of sixteen beds.

Dr. Cobbs is a member of the American Medical Association, California State Medical Association, National Medical Association, Los Angeles County Medical Association, Chi Delta Mu Fraternity; a Mason and an Elk. One of examining physician for Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. During World War I, was a member of the S. A. T. C. Dr. Cobbs also holds the distinction of being listed in "Who's Who in Medicine." He is a member of Phillips Temple Methodist Church.

Hobbies: Hunting and fishing.

Office Address: 2624½ South Central Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

Sanitarium Address: 803 North Hazard, Los Angeles, California.

COBBS, ROSA MASHAW, Supervisor, born in Birmingham, Alabama--the daughter of Benjamin Franklin and Mam, Alabama--the daughter of Benjamin Franklin and Margaret Luella Mashaw, father, a Methodist Minister.

Graduate, Teachers Training Course in 1923 Miles College, Birmingham, Alabama. She was a teacher in the public school system of Birmingham until her marriage to Dr. Peter Price Cobbs in 1925. Later in the same year moved to Los Angeles, California. There are three children--Prince Roland, student, East L. A. City College, School of Architecture, Marcelyn Rose, student, Howard University, School of Medical Social Work, and Price Mashaw, pre-med student, University of California at Los Angeles.

Mrs. Cobbs, active in civic and religious work, has spent a number of years on the executive board of the Parent-Teachers Association, Board of Management, Y. W. C. A., National Council of Negro Women, active member of the Local and National Medical Auxiliary; and the Phillips Temple Methodist Church. She is an ardent believer in child care and welfare through scientific study and because of her tireless work in this field, was chosen the "Mother of the Year" in 1946, an annual award sponsored by the Child Study Guild.

Mrs. Cobbs is also Supervisor of Cobbs Sanitarium



MISS PAULINE L. SLATER

SLATER, PAULINE L., Teacher, born in Chicago, Illinois, the daughter of George N. and Sarah Ann (Venable) Slater. Miss Slater's ancestral history is one of close connection with the growth and development of the A.M.E. Church. Her father was a pioneer of the Middle West, and an active force in the building of Bethel A.M.E. Church in Chicago. Her brother, George N. Slater Jr., was an organizer of the A.M.E. Church in Western Canada. Her uncle was Bishop Sampson Brooks of the same denomination.

Superior educational advantages have been accorded Miss Slater. She acquired her early education in the public schools of Chicago and Los Angeles, later attending Los Angeles State Normal and the University of Southern California, from which she received her B.S. and M.S. in Education. She has studied at Columbia University in New York City, and pursued courses at the University of California at Berkeley. She holds general, elementary and secondary administration credentials.

Miss Slater entered the Teaching Profession as an Instructor in a private school in Vallejo, California under Mr. Charles Toney. It was in 1924 that she became con-

nected with the Los Angeles Public School System. Her first assignment was at Holmes Avenue School. She remained there until 1939, at which time she was transferred to Lafayette Junior High School, where her work in the Home Making Department has been outstanding. In 1943-44 she was a member of the Curriculum Committee, which planned the Home Making courses of study for Los Angeles. At present, Miss Slater is a member of the Vocational Home Making Curriculum Committee of Los Angeles. She is Chairman of the Home Making Department of Lafayette Junior High School with six teachers under her supervision.

Miss Slater has the distinction of having assisted in rearing and educating two nieces, Mrs. Aurora Slater Haskins and Mrs. Annabelle Slater Phillips, both of whom have prepared for the teaching profession.

Professionally, she is a member of the H.S.T.A., C.T.A., N.E.A., and the A.H.E.A. She is active in the AME Church, League of Allied Arts, and the Women's Political Study Club. She organized the Delta Mothers and Sponsors Club, and is a member of the Board of Directors, Outdoor Life and Health Association, and affiliated with the Assistance League of that organization. She is a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority for which organization she served as Regional Director of the Far West. She was appointed, in 1935, Chairman of the Delta Sigma Theta National Convention which met in Los Angeles of that year. In the same year, because of activities connected with that office, she was, also, presented the Los Angeles Fellowship League Award for distinguished service rendered to the civic growth and welfare of Los Angeles.



MRS. HILDA L. ALLEN

ALLEN, HILDA L., High School Teacher, born in Abita Springs, Louisiana, the daughter of Manuel and Camille (LaFlot) Lisberg, Manuel Lisberg was widely known as an able and successful Building Contractor.

At an early age Miss Hilda Lisberg became interested in languages and displayed an unusual talent in the fluent expression of foreign speech.

She came to California in 1930 and made Los Angeles her home where she enrolled at Chapman College. Later she attended Whittier College and was graduated from that institution in 1934, receiving the A.B. degree. Afterward she did graduate work at the University of Southern California specializing in Languages and Customs of People. She is at present a teacher of Languages in the Los Angeles City School System.

On September 10, 1930 in Los Angeles, Miss Lisberg became the wife of Dr. Howard Allen. They traveled extensively in Central and South America—Dr. Allen to study health problems in Latin America, and Mrs. Allen to broaden her education by direct contact with the peoples of other nations.

Mrs. Allen, also, has the distinction of having received credits for graduate work at the University of Mexico; St. Marquese University in Lima, Peru, and the Institution of Cultural Arts in Buenos Aires in Argentina.

The religious faith of Mrs. Allen is that of the Episcopal Church. She is President, State National Medical Auxiliary, past President and member of Pi Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Member of the Wilfandel Club, the Twelve Thirty-three Social Club, the Ad Club and the NAACP.



DR. HOWARD ALLEN

ALLEN, HOWARD, Physician and Surgeon, born October 23, 1902 in Omaha, Nebraska, the son of E. C. and Hortense C. Allen, who represented one of the pioneer families of that city.

To the public school system of Los Angeles, Dr. Howard Allen is indebted for the early educational advantages which he enjoyed. After coming to Los Angeles in 1916 he was graduated from Jefferson High School in 1920. Later he attended the University of Southern California, remaining there to earn his A.B. degree in 1924. He then entered Howard University, Washington, D. C. and was graduated from that institution in 1928, receiving his M.D. degree. Following his internship at Provident Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, 1928-29, he began the practice of medicine in 1930 in Los Angeles.

Dr. Allen has made steady professional progress, keeping in touch with the trend of modern thought and investigation regarding the treatment of disease, and is now a member of the American Medical Association, the California Medical Association, Southern California Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association, and a certified member of Asociacion Fronteriza Mexica Estandounidense de Salubridad Publica. He is a member of the staffs of the Maternity Service of the Los Angeles City Health Department, Maternity Service of First Street Clinic and Rose Netta Hospital. He is a student of Latin American Health Problems of which he has made a survey in South America.

Dr. Allen is a charter member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity in Los Angeles, a member of the Chi Delta Mu Medical Fraternity; belongs to the Pacific Town Club, and is President of the Ad Club, and a member of the Episcopal Church.



MRS. BESSIE B. BURKE

BURKE, BESSIE BRUINGTON, Administrative Educator, born in Los Angeles, the daughter of James and Jannie (Beck) Bruington, pioneer citizens of Los Angeles. The late Mr. Bruington was one of the first Negro teachers during the reconstruction period.

She received her basic education in the public schools of her native city, graduating in 1911 from Polytechnic high school. She next attended Los Angeles State Normal School, now a part of UCLA, receiving her Teachers' Certificate from that institution. She then took a city school examination and passed seventh on a list of eight hundred. She entered the Los Angeles public school system as a teacher at Holmes Avenue School, thus, becoming a pioneer in education and the first Negro receiving such an appointment. Still continuing the process of learning, as a student of the University of Southern California, she received both her A.B. and Masters Degree. In addition she did post-graduate work at Columbia University Teachers College. In 1918 she was promoted from teacher to principal in the same school where she remained until 1938. During the time Mrs. Burke was principal at the Holmes Avenue School, that school was used as a teachers' training center, and many of the teachers and principals now teaching in the system received training under this pioneer educator. Teachers of all nationalities accord their success and advancement in the Los Angeles School System to their early training received from Bessie Burke. Beginning the school term '39-40 Mrs. Burke took her seat as principal of Nevin Avenue Elementary School where she was well liked and highly respected by a democratic faculty. After serving at Nevin Avenue School, she was appointed to Ascot Avenue School where at present she is doing a splendid work.

In June of 1925 in Riverside, California, Bessie Bruington became the wife of Chester R. Burke, a native of New York City.

Her religious faith is indicated in her membership of Wesley M.E. Church in Los Angeles. She is a member of the Elementary Principals Division of the National Educational Association, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, was one of the three first initiates in Pi chapter; and the first delegate from "Pi" to the Convention in New York in 1924. Member, Wilfandel Club, the League of Allied

Arts, the YWCA and the NAACP. For eight years she was Girls' Reserve Counsel of YWCA, and served for two years on the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Chapter, NAACP. She is Vice-President of the Native Californians Club, and received in 1933 the service award of the Los Angeles Fellowship League. She was the second woman to be chosen "Woman of the Year" by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

GRIFFIN, EDNA L.--Physician--owner and operator of modern hospital unit in Pasadena. Member, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Eastern Star, NAACP, and active in the civic welfare of Pasadena.



MRS. BERNICE BARNUM

BARNUM, BERNICE WEBB, Principal Nevin Avenue Elementary School, born in Alexandria, Louisiana, the daughter of John and Susie (Coleman) Webb.

Educated in the private schools of Alexandria, and a graduate of Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana (Teachers Normal School Training) class of 1922.

After graduation she taught for one year in the Alexandria school system, but in 1923 resigned her position to come to California. In 1923, she accepted a position with the Myer-Siegel Company, one of California's better clothing stores; here until 1928, Mrs. Barnum was in charge of the receiving and shipping department, a position requiring ten assistants.

In 1925 she married Gerald Barnum. There is one child--Geraldine, born in 1928.

Resigning her position with Myer-Siegel Company, she assumed the duties of rearing her daughter until 1937, when she entered the University of Southern California, graduating in 1939 with a B.S. degree in Education.

Mrs. Barnum began teaching in the Los Angeles public school system in 1940, received her first appointment in 1945, as Principal of Holmes Avenue School; in 1947 was promoted again to the principalship of Nevin Avenue School. Mrs. Barnum has continued her studies at USC and in 1944 received her secondary and administrative credentials and in 1948 her Masters degree in Education.

She is a member of: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Wilfandel Club, Assistance League of the Outdoor Life and Health Association, Elementary Principals Club, N. I. A. C.T.A., and the Wesley Methodist Church.



DR. SHELBY B. ROBINSON

ROBINSON, SHELBY B.—Physician and Surgeon, is a native of Atlanta, Georgia, the daughter of Miller and Alice Boyhton. She received her basic education in the public schools of Atlanta, and completed two years in Spelman College, graduating in 1904.

She entered Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee in 1904, from which institution she received her M.D. in 1909.

She married James A. Robinson in the year 1912 in Atlanta, Georgia. They are the parents of three sons—James A., Edward A., and Shelby L. James A., who received his M.A. in Business Administration from Northwestern University is now interning in Hospital Administration at the Los Angeles County General Hospital; Edward A., served in the Armed Forces of his country for five years as Radio Tower Control Operator at Tuskegee Air Base and Shelby L., who is a student at Los Angeles City College, is a World War II veteran with three years service in the European Theatre.

Dr. Robinson began the practice of medicine in Atlanta, where she was engaged in her chosen profession for eighteen years. She gives special attention to the field of Gynecology and Pediatrics, and has become widely known for her thorough knowledge and proficiency in her practice.

In 1930 Dr. Robinson moved to Kansas City, Missouri where for eighteen months she was connected with General Hospital No. 2. In 1932 she came to Los Angeles, California, established her practice, and has been an outstanding physician in Los Angeles since that time.

She is a strong supporter and moving factor in the West View Hospital Project, which will be for all people, and which in a large measure, will meet the problem occasioned by the inability to place Negro patients in private hospitals under conditions which will permit the attending Negro physician to perform the surgery, or give the treatment indicated by the diagnosis. This, in her opinion, is flagrant discrimination and a violation of professional ethics upon which competent and responsible medical practice is based.

Dr. Robinson is a member of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, National Negro Medical Association, So. California Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association, and the Board of Directors, West View Hospital, Inc. She is a staunch Episcopalian, and is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the Five and Over Charity Club, the NAACP, and the YWCA.



DR. RUTH TEMPLE

TEMPLE, RUTH JANETTA, Physician, Director of Special Health Services Division, Los Angeles City Health Department, born in Natchez, Missouri, daughter of Richard Jason and Aimee Rebecca (Morton) Temple. Her father a minister, is now deceased.

Graduate of San Fernando Academy (private) and the College of Medical Evangelists, Loma Linda, California (M.D.). Internship at the White Memorial Hospital which is a part of the Evangelists' Medical College. Dr. Temple later attended Yale University, receiving in 1942, her masters degree in Public Health.

Married Lawrence Banks, Real Estate Broker, February 23, 1928 in Salinas, California.

She was in private practice for nearly twenty years; was an attending staff of Obstetrical Board of the Los Angeles City Health Department; pioneered in the development of southeast Los Angeles Community Health program. The Health Center building in Southeast Los Angeles is the only health center building in Los Angeles, and is one of the finest in America.

Dr. Temple is founder and Medical Director of Community Health Association; founder and general chairman of County wide "Disease Prevention Week;" Board Member, Los Angeles Urban League; Member, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Los Angeles County Medical Association; California State Medical Association; Women's University Club and a fellow of the American Medical Association.

Dr. Temple because of her untiring efforts in public health service is a credit to the medical profession and American womanhood.

GORDON, WALTER L. Jr.—Attorney at Law, born in Santa Monica, California, the son of Walter L. Sr., pioneer realtor and civic leader of Los Angeles.

He is a graduate of University of California Prep School, and Ohio State University (L.L.B.).

Married Anne Franklin, daughter of Dr. James Franklin of Prairie View State College Hospital. There are three children—Walter L. III, Anne and James.

He is a member of: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, National Bar Association, Langston Law Club of Los Angeles, and other civic and fraternal organizations.



ATTY. CLARENCE A. JONES

JONES, CLARENCE ALEXANDER, Lawyer, born in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, the son of Adams and Julia (French) Jones; his father a contractor, and his mother a teacher.

Atty. Jones received his elementary school training in West Virginia and his high school work in Columbus, Ohio. He received his A.B. degree from Ohio State University, class of 1910, and L.L.B. degree from Ohio State University, 1912.

Married Edith A. Jones, a graduate of Ohio State University. There are three children--Edith, Gwendolyn and Corinne; the eldest, Edith, is Research Librarian for Time, Life, Fortune, and Readers Digest publications in New York City, N. Y. All three of the children are University of California at Los Angeles graduates.

Atty. Jones, before coming to California in 1913, served as Asst. Principal of the Lincoln High School, Gallipolis, Ohio.

He successfully passed the California Bar in 1913, and has practiced in Los Angeles since that date.

Atty. Jones, one of the outstanding Lawyers of California, is, also, a civic and fraternal leader in his community, and is considered as a cornerstone in the uplift of his race.

He is a member of: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Sigma Pi Phi (Boule), Elks Lodge, YMCA--Board of Management, the 2nd Baptist Church, and is a director of the NAACP.

His hobby: Outdoor Life.

CONNER, FERROL POPP--Nurse, was born in Ft. Smith, Arkansas, February 19, 1912--daughter of Allen and Alire (Ward) Bobo. Her early education was in the public schools of Ft. Smith, graduating from the Lincoln High School of that city.

In July of 1930, the family moved to California. Here she resumed her education, attending Los Angeles City College for two years, and later the Los Angeles County General Hospital School of Nurse Training. In 1933, she received her R.N. Degree.

During 12 years of service at the Los Angeles General Hospital, Nurse Conner pioneered many activities in the field of nursing. She was the first graduate from a California school of nursing to join the National Association of Colored Nurses. Later she organized the Los Angeles Association of Colored Nurses, serving as its president for five years. She also organized the citizens committee, an affiliate with the graduate nurses association, and the

professional Nurses Sorority, Chi Eta Phi, and the first president of the local D.D. Chapter.

Nurse Conner holds the signal honor of being the only Negro to serve on the staff of the Heckerling School of the University of Southern California and in 1941 the first Negro nurse in California to enter into the administrative field when she was promoted to the position of Head Nurse at the Los Angeles County General Hospital.

Nurse Conner's efforts to help in the welfare of her profession are tireless. She is the only Negro serving on the Structure Committee for the Study of National Nursing Organizations, a recipient of the National Health Circle Scholarship for Colored People and, at the present writing, the president of the Southwestern Region of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses.

Ever striving to advance herself and profession Nurse Conner has continued her studies and in February, 1948, received her B.S. Degree from the University of Southern California.

Active in civic and club affairs, she is a member of the Phys-Lit-Mar Study Club, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority; Worthy Matron, Queen Allen Chapter No. 21 of the Eastern Star; Grand Lecturer, California Jurisdiction of the Queen Ada Grand Chapter, and holds membership in the First A.M.E. Church.

Truly the career of this remarkable woman, who has dedicated her life to her race and relief of their sufferings, should be an inspiration to all Negro girls who have selected the profession of nursing.



ATTY. THOMAS L. BERKLEY

BERKLEY, THOMAS L., Attorney at Law, born in DuQuoin, Illinois, August 9, 1915, the son of Braxton and Sophia (Holmes) Berkley. At the age of four his family moved to Imperial Valley, in Southern California, where he lived for five years. The family moved to Fullerton, California in 1920. In this city he received his public and junior college education. He entered the University of California at Los Angeles in 1936, and received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration, in 1938. He then continued his education at the University of California's Hastings School of Law and was graduated with a Bachelor of Law Degree in 1943, and was admitted to the California Bar in the same year. He began his practice in Oakland, California under the firm name of Vaughns, Bussey and Berkley. In 1943, he entered the Army as a private and was discharged as a Lieutenant.

Attorney Berkley returned to his law practice in 1946 and aided in the formation of Vaughns & Berkley, the largest bi-racial law firm in Northern California. The firm opened its second office in Berkeley, California in 1947. This additional office is located at 2983 Sacramento Street.

In August of 1939, he married Etta LaVerne Jordan. There are two children, Theon Cecilia, age 4 1/2 years and Gail Cardelea, age 15 months. The Berkleys were married in Yuma, Arizona.

He is considered, in his profession, one of the leading counsellors in the State, and is devoting much of his practice to corporations. He is also Legal Counsellor for the East Bay Area Council (Oakland, Alameda and Berkeley), of the American Veterans Committee, a World War II Veterans' Organization.

Active in civic and community welfare, he is Vice-President of the Alameda County NAACP, on the Mayor's Committee for Civic Unity (Oakland), Vice-Chairman for the Board of Managers of the YMCA, member of the Board of Directors of Alameda County Mental Hygiene Society and is a leading figure in many other worthwhile efforts to make his community a better place in which to live.

He was a nationally known athlete while in college, specializing in basketball and track. His hobbies are sports. His religious faith is Protestant.



Mrs. CORTEZ F. STRANGE

STRANGE, CORTEZ FERGUSON, Supervisor, State Employment Service, was born October 8, 1914 in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, the daughter of Hampton T. and Jennie (Haller) Ferguson. The Ferguson family moved to Los Angeles in 1919 where Cortez Ferguson graduated from the Thomas Jefferson High School. Later she attended the University of California at Los Angeles and received the B.A. degree in 1936. In addition, she has completed all but three units on her Master's degree at that institution.

Mrs. Strange started her career as a Technical Supervisor under the Works Projects Administration. Later she qualified as Junior Interviewer for the California State Employment Service. Her four years as a Junior Interviewer gave her the broad experience necessary in qualifying for promotion to the position of Senior Interviewer. This was her official position from 1942 until 1947, at which time she was promoted to the position of Supervisor, having qualified for that position by passing promotional Civil Service Examinations.

On May 5, 1940 in Yuma, Arizona, Miss Cortez Fer-

guson was married to Vernon Strange of Los Angeles, who is prominent in Masonic circles.

Mrs. Strange finds the time from her work as a Supervisor in the California State Employment Service to take active part in religious and civic activities. Her religious faith is that of the Presbyterian Church, and she is active on various committees of the Los Angeles Urban League, the California State Employment Association, California State Credit Union, and the Los Angeles FEPC. She is a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the YWCA and the NAACP.

Mrs. Strange is loyal to all those interest which make for good in the community, and her career has been characterized by persistency of purpose which, intelligently guided, always leads to commendable results.



GEORGE R. VAUGHNS

VAUGHNS, GEORGE R., Attorney at Law, born May 26, 1900 in San Francisco, California, the son of Wilson and Melinda (Anderson) Vaughns.

George Vaughns received his early education in the public schools of the Bay Area. Later he attended St. Mary's College from which he graduated in 1928.

Attorney Vaughns began the practice of Law in Oakland, California under the firm name, Vaughns and Larche. After the death of his first associate, Attorneys Bussey and Berkley became associated with Attorney Vaughns under the firm name, Vaughns, Bussey and Berkley. At present Attorney Vaughns and Attorney Berkley are associates with offices in Oakland and Berkeley, California.

On November 2, 1946 Attorney Vaughns was married to Mrs. Hazel Jones of Dallas, Texas.

He is a member of the A.M.E. Church in Oakland and the YMCA of which he is a member of the Board of Directors in both the Central Branch and the Northwest Branch. Fraternally, he is Grand Master, California Jurisdiction of the Masonic Lodge, and Past Assistant Grand Legal Advisor of the I.B.P.O.E. of W. He belongs to the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

His hobbies are fishing and relaxing in his mountain home in Santa Cruz, California.

**JEFFERSON, EDWIN L.**, Judge, Los Angeles Municipal Court, born May 22, 1905 in Coffeeville, Mississippi, the son of Nelson and Eldora Jefferson.

Edwin Jefferson came to Los Angeles in 1922 and completed his public school education at Manual Arts High School of that city. Afterward, he attended the University of Southern California, graduating in 1929 with the degree of B.S. In 1931 he received the LL.B. degree from the same institution, was admitted to the California Bar and began the practice of Law the same year. He was engaged continuously and successfully in the practice of his profession until 1941, at which time he was appointed Judge of the Municipal Court in Los Angeles. He served under this appointment six years and was continued in office by popular vote in 1947.

In 1931, Edwin L. Jefferson was married to Miss Mattie Pearl Hawkins of Los Angeles. They are the parents of a daughter, Susan Diane.

Judge Jefferson is a member of the Delta Sigma Rho, National Honorary Debating Fraternity, Pi Sigma Alpha, National Honorary Political Science Fraternity, American Judicature Society and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity of which he is Past Polemarch.

His hobby is Motion Picture Photography.



**DR. CLAUDIUS BALLARD**

**BALLARD, CLAUDIUS**—Physician—born in Los Angeles, California, June 14, 1889—the son of William L. and Mary E. (Tibbs) Ballard. His father was, also, born in Los Angeles, and was one of the first Negroes born in that city. His early education was in the public schools of Los Angeles; later attended the University of Southern California, (one year pre-med); graduated in 1913, M. D., University of California School of Medicine.

Dr. Ballard began his practice in 1914, and has continued to practice in his home town since, except during World War I, when he served as a First Lieutenant in the Medical Corp. of the 118th Illinois Regiment overseas. For gallantry in action he was awarded the Croix De Guerre (French War-Cross).

He is one of the founders of the 28th Street Health Center, and is still affiliated with this outstanding Health Center.

During World War II, Dr. Ballard was active as an instructor in First Aid, holding classes at the Southern California Club and Jefferson High School.

Active in civic and fraternal circles of his city, he is a member of: Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, National Medical Association, NAACP, YWCA, and the Catholic Church.

Business Address: 1021 I. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, California.



**MRS. CURTIS C. TAYLOR**

**TAYLOR, CURTIS CAWHELL**—Attorney at Law, born in Jackson County, Texas, December 17, 1898, the son of Edward and Ruth (Chinn) Taylor, his father a rancher and his mother a housewife.

Attorney Taylor is a graduate of Jackson County High School, Prairie View College where he received his A.B. degree, and the Howard University Law School, LL.B. degree in 1926.

During World War I, he was commissioned as Lt. in the U.S. Army, and served from 1917 to 1919.

He moved to California, June 1926, and passed the California Bar, January 1927; admitted to the California Bar, March 1927. In October 1934 he was admitted to the U.S. District Court.

Attorney Taylor set a legal precedent against discrimination in the Hollywood Turf Club, and gained renown as Counsel in the Griffin Murder case; this case is known in California as the "Error Hanging Case." His brilliant defense in this case caused the making of a new statute, providing for automatic stay of execution in California murder cases when the death penalty is invoked.

In September 1941, he married Lotus Pillow, daughter of a pioneer family in California.

Attorney Taylor, outstanding in Public Affairs, won the Phi Beta Sigma "Carver Award," for distinguished public service in 1945, and donates each year the "Edward Taylor Memorial Trophy," to the Jr. Tennis Champion of California.

He is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Elks, K. of P., Tau Delta Sigma (Legal Fraternity), NAACP, Urban League, American Legion, and the Second Baptist Church.

**PORTER, GEORGE COLLYMORE**, Physician and Surgeon, born March 1, 1913 in New York City—the son of George David Porter and Anna Collymore Porter who are still residents of that city.

George C. Porter received his public school education in New York City, having attended P.S. 5 in Manhattan and Dewitt Clinton High School. Entered Lincoln University at Lincoln, Pennsylvania, where he pursued a pre-medical course, prior to his study of Medicine at Meharry Medical College. Following his graduation from Meharry Medical College he attended the National Institute of Health, United States Public Health Service, Washington, D. C., and a post-graduate course in Chemistry followed at St. John's University in Brooklyn, New York.

He has been an administrator, Professor and practitioner. He is a specialist in the field of Gynecology and Obstetrics. He was Instructor in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Meharry Medical College and Resident Surgeon at the G. W. Hubbard Hospital of that institution. He was Director of Slossfield Maternity Center and Hospital in Birmingham, Alabama. His proficiency and ability were recognized in his appointments as Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. Public Health Service; Junior Consultant in Obstetrics, State of Alabama.

In 1940, Dr. Porter married Miss Miriam Webster at Nashville, Tennessee.

After receiving an honorable discharge from the Army in which he held the rank of Major, he came to Los Angeles in 1946 and became engaged in private practice.

Dr. Porter is a Presbyterian. He is a member of the National Medical Association, the Los Angeles County Medical Association, the American Heart Association and the Southern California Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association. He is affiliated with the Reserve Officers Association of the United States, the American Veterans Committee, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and the Pacific Town Club.



ATTY. EDWARD S. HARDWICK

HARDWICK, EDWARD S., Attorney at Law, was born November 13, 1911 in Phoenix, Arizona, the son of David and Arizona Bruce (Watson) Hardwick. Edward S. Hardwick has the distinction of being the grand nephew of B. K. Bruce, United States Senator from the State of Mississippi during the Post Civil War days. Mr. B. K. Bruce also served as Assistant Register of the Treasury under President William McKinley.

Edward S. Hardwick obtained his early education in the public schools of Los Angeles, later attending Los Angeles Junior College and Chapman College. He studied Law at the Southwestern School of Law and graduated from the Pacific Coast University Law School with the degree of LL.B.

On December 25, 1935 in Los Angeles Mr. Hardwick was married to Thelma Daniels. They are the parents of four children: Diane, Edward Jr., James David and Deborah.

Attorney Hardwick was admitted to the California Bar in 1946 and has been engaged in his profession since that time. He is a member of the Methodist Church and the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. His business address is 1666 L. 103rd Street, Los Angeles, California.



MRS. BESSIE B. BARRON

BARRON, BESSIE BRONNER, Registered Nurse was born in Rome, Georgia, the daughter of Moses Franklin and Elizabeth (Murphy) Barron.

In 1905 the family moved to Los Angeles where Bessie Barron received her public school education in Union Grammar School and Los Angeles High. Later she attended the Provident Hospital Nurse Training School from which she graduated in 1917. She also finished a course in Electro-physiotherapy in 1926.

Miss Barron is one of the organizers and founders of the Stovall Clinic, the Outdoor Life and Health Association and the Duarte Demonstration Sanatorium for tubercular patients. She is at present a member of the Board of Trustees and Board of Directors, Outdoor Life and Health Association, the Stovall Clinic, and an active member of the Sunshine Unit, an auxiliary of the Outdoor Life and Health Association, the National Nurses Association, and the YWCA.

SHEEN, HERBERT ARNOLD--Physician & Surgeon--born in Decatur, Ill., September 6, 1897, son of Rev. Charles Hart Sheen and Ellanora Rogan. Graduated from Decatur High School in 1915. Attended Howard University 1920-1921, Columbia University 1921-1922, and University of Chicago 1922-1924 where he received his B.S. Degree. Entered Rush Medical College affiliated with the University of Chicago in 1925, graduating with M.D. Degree, in June 1929. Served as Junior and Senior Interne in St. Louis City Hospital 1929-1931. Appointed Receiving Room Physician 1931-1940 in St. Louis City Hospital later designated as Homer Phillips Hospital. In addition carried on his private practice and also served as Staff Dermatologist for Homer Phillips Hospital, St. Mary's Infirmary, and Peoples Hospital, all in St. Louis. In July 1940 moved to Tyler, Texas to start The Community Center Clinic which he maintained until he moved to California in October 1945.

Dr. Sheen married Quinlock King, September 2, 1930 and they now have five children, Herbert Jr., Eugenia, Dolores, Robert, and Mildred. Dr. Sheen is a Methodist, a Mason, a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, the National Medical Association, and the Southern California Medical, Dental, and Pharmaceutical Association. His avocation is the piano.



MRS. CATHERINE B. GARCIA

GARCIA, CATHERINE BOGLE, one of four children born to Jackson and Susie Bogle of Washington, D. C. Her mother, father and paternal grand parents were business people, and with business being a comparatively new field for women, she elected to follow a business career. Her elementary education was acquired in the public schools of Washington, D. C.; she received her professional training in Dunbar Business School; Jennifer's Business College; Howard University, Washington, D. C.; and Northwestern School of Commerce, Chicago, Illinois, later attending school in Cuba

Mrs. Garcia started her business career as Secretary to a Supt. of Public Schools soon after she finished High School. Her first position indicated the broad training necessary for success in the profession of her choice. Her decision to acquire that training is evident in the early years of her career. Between positions, she attended recognized and accredited Business Schools, thereby attaining formal education which met the requirements necessary to qualify for positions of responsibility. Secretary to the President of a Negro bank, Secretary to President Roosevelt's Private Secretary, Medical Secretary to the Director, Department of Health, Washington, D. C., Secretary to the Purchasing Officer of QMC War Department--ten years in Washington at the top level of Federal Government Secretarial work, and then an opportunity to go West--to California as Private Secretary to California State Minorities Specialist, War Manpower Commission. Four years of service in this capacity and later appointment as Private Secretary, Medical Division of Veterans Administration, the position which she now holds.

Mrs. Garcia's assignments in California have been in Los Angeles where she has and is taking an active part in the civic life of the community. She is the organizer of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Council, National Council of Negro Women, Inc., and Alpha Phi Chapter, Iota Phi Lambda Sorority. She holds membership in the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs; the NAACP; YWCA; Iota Phi Lambda Sorority; and is an Advisor of the Industrial Relations Committee, Los Angeles Urban League; is secretary of International Film and Radio Guild, Inc.; a volunteer driver of the American Red Cross Motor Service, having received two Safety Driving Awards granted by the Greater Los Angeles Chapter, National Safety Council; and is a member of the Episcopal Church.

Mrs. Garcia, formerly was married to Jose Garcia Yenerarity, wealthy Cuban merchant. She resided in Cuba, Panama, Costa Rica and Guatemala and has traveled extensively throughout the United States, Canada and Central America. She has the distinction of being one of the three Negro women to receive the Prince of Wales at the American Red Cross reception in Washington, D. C., on the occasion of his first visit to the United States.

With the recent purchase of a three-acre ranch it is quite apparent that Mrs. Garcia is going to make San Fernando Valley her home. Her greatest inspiration is her 89 year old grandmother, Mrs. Amelia Edelin of Washington, D. C.



CHRISTOPHER C. SCOTT JR.

SCOTT, CHRISTOPHER C. Jr.--Post Office Superintendent, was born in Houston, Texas, December 12, 1902, the son of Christopher and Minnie (Walls) Scott

His early education was in the public schools of Phoenix, Arizona where his family moved while he was at an early age. The family later moved to Lawrence, Kansas, where he completed his High School and Junior College training.

Seeking better opportunities, the family moved to California in 1922, and young Christopher Jr. entered the University of Southern California.

During the youthful years of Superintendent Scott's life, he had two ambitions; one to be a master chemist, the other to be a great musician. In 1921 he organized an orchestra and played for school and public in Kansas and Nebraska, (the profits helping to finance his Junior College training).

While attending USC he continued his studies in music, and was the first Negro to play in a USC band. Following his other ambition, that of chemistry, he majored in that subject.

In 1923 due to financial difficulties, both ambitions were shattered and he entered the U. S. Post Office. His first duty was as a window clerk at Station K (47th and Central Ave.).

The progress of this young man, who failed to culminate his early ambitions has been indeed remarkable. Step by step he advanced in his new career, until in 1937, he became the first Negro to hold the position of Asst. Superintendent of a Post Office Station. In 1942 he was again advanced, this time to full Superintendent, the first time in the history of the Post Office Department for a Negro to hold this responsible position. At the time of this writing (January 1948), Mr. Scott, is Superintendent of Station K, located on East Vernon Avenue, one of Los Angeles' busiest Post Office Stations.

In 1941 he married Morris Prince, of Pasadena. There is one daughter by a previous marriage, Juanita, who is now attending the University of Texas (Negro) in Houston, Texas.

He is a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, YMCA, NAACP, and other civic and welfare organizations.

His hobby is music (violin and drums).

Truly the example set by this young Negro should give inspiration to any American youth who questions his chances for progress and success.



HENRY L. CHESTER

CHESTER, HENRY L., Supervisor, Railway Mail Service, born in Fallis, Oklahoma, February 9, 1896, the son of Andrew Lewis Kass and Sophronia (Walker) Chester. His early education was attained in the Fallis elementary school, Junior and Senior High Schools of Pratt, Kansas, and two years preparatory training at Langston University of Langston, Oklahoma.

In 1918, he was a draftee in the U. S. Army and served with the Pioneer Infantry in France from September 1918 to August 1919. Returning home he was discharged at Camp Pike, Little Rock, Arkansas with the rank of Corporal. He returned to Pratt, Kansas, but soon tired of the small town. Shortly afterwards, he moved to Kansas City, Missouri.

In 1921, he passed the examination for Railway Mail Clerk and was appointed in October of that year at Kansas City, Missouri Terminal Post Office. After two years of service, Mr. Chester resigned from the Railway Mail Service to enter George Williams College in Chicago, Illinois. There he majored in social work and there, too, he starred on the track team and was a member of the Glee Club. At that time, the George Williams Glee Club was famous throughout the Midwest and its members (a mixed group) traveled extensively, giving concerts in Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Illinois.

Leaving George Williams College in his Junior year, he accepted a position as Principal of a Consolidated Junior High School in Ellington, North Carolina. He continued his education at Hampton Institute, majoring in Education and participating in musical and athletic activities.

Soon he found the traditions of the South not to his liking, so he resigned his work there and moved to the Northeast. Here in Massachusetts and Rhode Island he worked and during his spare hours he continued his study in social work.

In 1931 upon the advice of an older brother, he moved to Los Angeles, California, and became engaged in Social Service work in Los Angeles County.

Later, desiring to finish his social studies, he entered the University of California at Los Angeles, majoring in Social Science. Mr. Chester was a Social Service worker for three years and in 1935, again returned to the Railway Mail Service.

Settling down to his task, he soon started to climb the ladder of success. Each step upward only came after months of study, hardwork and the ever-present fight against discrimination, but in the end this fight was won when in 1946, for the first time in the history of Railway Mail Service West of Kansas City, a Negro--Mr. Chester--was advanced to the position of Supervisor.

Mr. Chester gives much of the credit for his success to his marriage in 1938. His wife, the former Miss Robbie Broyles, is a graduate of U.C.I.A., a high school teacher, and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. There are two children--Phyllis Ruel and Winifred Yolanda.

Mr. Chester is a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, YMCA, NAACP, Rod and Gun Club, and the Second Baptist Church.

His hobby is deep sea fishing.



LT. ALUE McDOWELL

McDOWELL, ALUE, Lt. Attorney, was born in Atlanta, Georgia in 1887, the son of Robert and Francis (Stinson) McDowell. The McDowell family came to Los Angeles in 1893.

Alue McDowell is a graduate of Polytechnic High School in Los Angeles--1908, and Howard University Law, School, Washington, D. C.--1911. Admitted to the bar in Washington, D. C., 1911, in California, 1912. Served in Army and Navy, World War I.

In 1932, awarded Southern California Alumni Association Gold Medal for inducing the Courts to adopt his original theory that changes in racial conditions surrounding real estate should justify the Court's refusal to enforce racial restrictions against occupancy. This decision has been followed throughout the country.

Attorney McDowell is a Reserve Officer, California National Guard and former District Grand Secretary, Odd Fellows of California. He is a member of the National Bar Association, National Lawyers' Guild, Golden State Realty Board and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

He is one of the founders of New Hope Baptist Church in Los Angeles and gives his support to the Republican Party.

He is the father of three boys, Alvin R., Paul D. and Frederick I.

Attorney McDowell has gained a creditable position among the Lawyers of the Los Angeles Bar.



DR. CHARLES B. SANFORD

SANFORD, CHARLES B.—Dentist, born in Covington, Tennessee, February 12, 1893—son of Plumb and Victoria (Rucius) Sanford. Educated in the public schools of Covington, entering Fisk University in 1914; from there to Howard University Academy, finishing in 1917. Entered into his college work that same year at Howard University. Young Sanford, like so many young men during that time, left in his freshman year for the Army. He spent fifteen months as a radio operator in France. Upon his discharge, this young man, anxious to school himself, resumed his training at the University of Chicago, Pre-dental school. In 1923, he entered the Dental School at Northwestern University. In 1928 graduated from Howard University, School of Dentistry. During these trying years before getting that coveted sheepskin, life was far from easy for this struggling young student. Through his senior years, he worked full time as a postal clerk to support a wife and two children. Soon after graduation, Dr. Sanford went to Brazil, South America, to practice, joining there one of the leading dentists in South America, who is a Harvard graduate. After extensive travel in that country, he returned to the United States, where for 17 years he practiced in Ohio, coming to California in 1945.

Married in 1945 to Lillian Johnson of Tulsa, Oklahoma, now his assistant. They have two children: Warner and Juanita. Warner is now manager of a drug store in Detroit, and Juanita, a graduate of Ohio State University, is clerk in one of Brooklyn's larger department stores.

Dr. Sanford is a member of Watts Chamber of Commerce, Fidelity Lodge F. & A. M. 103 of Chicago, and active in civic welfare and his church Phillips Temple.

Hobby: Foreign languages. He speaks French, Spanish and Portuguese fluently. This hobby is very useful to him since a number of his patients speak Spanish only.

Business address: 1618 East 103rd Street.

GRIFFITH, THOMAS L. Jr., Lawyer, was born March 5, 1902 in Albia, Iowa, the son of Thomas L. and Carrie (Thomas) Griffith. His father, the late Thomas L. Griffith Sr. while pastor of the Second Baptist Church in Los Angeles, built the beautiful edifice which is now one of the largest in the State.

Thomas L. Jr. was educated in the public schools of Iowa and Kansas. Later the family moved to Los Angeles where he attended the University of Southern California from 1922-1924. He then enrolled at Southwestern University to pursue a course in Law, graduating from this institution in 1928.

He was admitted to the State Bar of California, June 5, 1931, and since that time has been engaged continuously and successfully in the practice of his profession.

He is a member of the National Legal Committee of the NAACP. He has been President of the Los Angeles Branch of the NAACP for fourteen years. He is a trustee of the Second Baptist Church in Los Angeles, Director of the 28th Street YMCA, Chairman of the Citizens Emergency Committee, member of the Los Angeles Committee on Home Front Unity, the American Heritage Committee of Los Angeles and former basileus of Lambda Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

On April 9, 1933 in Los Angeles he married Miss Portia Louise Broyles, a representative of one of the pioneer families of California. They are the parents of three children: Thomas L. III, Greta Louise, and Lisa Jane.

During the fourteen years of his leadership of the Los Angeles Branch of the NAACP, he directed the legal procedure in the Monrovia School cases which compelled the Board of Trustees to close the school, and represented the Negro citizens of Pasadena in the Mandamus proceedings against the city, which resulted in opening the Brookside Park Swimming Pool to all races. During the same period the local NAACP has grown from a membership of 1,500 to 16,000.

COHEN, EDNA WRIGHT, Principal, 96th Street Elementary School, born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the daughter of James and Juanita (Suarez) Wright. Educated in the public schools of Philadelphia, graduate of Philadelphia Normal School. After teaching three years in the public schools of Philadelphia, she moved to Los Angeles. Here, Miss Wright entered the University of California at Los Angeles and graduated in 1936 with the degree of B.S. in Education. She later attended the University of Southern California, where she received her administrative credentials.

In August 1939, married Merritt Cohen, a Pharmaceutical graduate of U.S.C., now a postal employee, holding the responsible position of Wholesale Stamp Clerk.

Mrs. Cohen taught for nine years at the Hooper Avenue School, was Vice Principal from 1943 to 1946, and in 1946 accepted an appointment as Principal of the 96th Street Elementary School.

Mrs. Cohen is Past Secretary of the Assistance League of the Outdoor Life and Health Association, a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Wilfandel Club, and the Elementary Principals Club.

Her untiring, cheerful, and generous spirit has gained for her the respect of her teachers, pupils, and all who know her.

Her hobbies are Reading, Sewing, and Chess.

HILLI R. FOREN, Attorney at Law, born in Pender, Nebraska, January 20, 1904. Son of John and Nora (Herbough) Miller. Married. Wife, Juanita, nee Ellsworth. Children - Loren Jr., Edward E. Educated in public schools of Pender and Highland, Kansas. College education: Kansas University, Howard University, LL.B., Washburn College of Law, Topeka, Kansas. Admitted Kansas Bar, 1929. California Bar, 1934. General practice of law, Topeka, Kansas, 1928-1929; Los Angeles, 1936 to date. Admitted to practice United States Supreme Court, 1947. Specializing in Civil Rights litigation.

Came to California in 1929. Editor, California Eagle; California News, Los Angeles Sentinel, 1930 to 1936. Foreign correspondent, Associated Negro Press, 1932-1933 in Russia, Germany, France.

Authority on race restrictive covenants. Contributions on subject in National Bar Journal, Lawyers Guild Quarterly.

Member National Legal Committee, NAACP; First Vice President, National Bar Association; Member of Los Angeles Boards of Southern California Branch American Civil Liberties Union; National Association for Advancement of Colored People; Lawyers Guild, Council for Civic Unity. Co-Chairman Los Angeles Branch Conference, Christians and Jews. Member Urban League, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity; YMCA; AME Church, and the Democratic Party.

Contributor Nation, Crisis, Opportunity, Survey Graphic magazines. Co-Author with Bishop Sheil, pamphlet: Race Restrictive Covenants.



ATTY. EARL C. BROADY

BROADY, EARL CLIFFORD, Attorney, was born in Los Angeles, California, December 24, 1904--son of Wiley T. and Lillie A. Broady.

His early education was in the public school system of Los Angeles, graduating from the Jefferson High School. He later attended the University of Southern California and the Los Angeles College of Law. In 1944, he passed the bar and began the practice of Law in his home city.

In 1925 he married Maude Hicks. There are two children--Haine and Earl Jr., both students in Los Angeles colleges. Following in the footsteps of their father, both son and daughter are assisting in their father's office, receiving under his tutelage the fundamentals of business and law.

The career of Attorney Broady has set a fine example for the young man who has an objective to reach and who has to earn his way while achieving that objective. All during the time he was in school, Attorney Broady worked on the Los Angeles police force. While on the force, he made a study of the causes of crime and its elements and at the time of his leaving, was considered one of the most outstanding detectives in Southern California. This first hand knowledge of crime and its ramifications, coupled with his law training, has been a valuable asset in his practice and in helping the welfare of his community.

Attorney Broady is a member of the Masonic Lodge, Elks Lodge No. 86, and other civic and welfare organizations.

Business address: 2534 South Central, Los Angeles, California.



DR. FRANK G. ZETAR

ZETAR, FRANK GARY, Chiropractor, born in Rayne, Louisiana, the son of Oliver and Lecter (Miles) Zetar. His father is now deceased, and his mother is now residing in Los Angeles, California with her son Frank Gary.

His early education was in the Arcadia Parish Training School near his native home of Rayne. The family moved to Los Angeles in 1922, and young Frank Zetar resumed his education, later graduating from the Jefferson High School.

In 1928 he married Alfretta J. Johnson of New Orleans, Louisiana. There are three children--Jeroline Marie, Frank Gary Jr. and Eleanor Alfretta.

Dr. Zetar graduated from the Los Angeles College of Chiropractic in 1939, and in the same year began his practice at 4803 So. Central Avenue. In 1947 his offices were moved to the present location, 4511 So. Avalon Blvd. Here, a building designed and built by Dr. Zetar to conform to the latest and most modern techniques of his profession. He has built the largest business of its kind on the West Coast.

In 1948 the latest in X-Ray and Fluorescopic equipment was installed, which affords to Dr. Zetar's clients the latest in health aids known to medical science.

Dr. Zetar has, also, attended the American College of Orthopedics.

Active in civic welfare, he is a member of NAACP, YMCA, Past President, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, a 32nd Degree Mason, a Shriner, and member of the First A.M.E. Church.

His hobby is Swimming, Hiking and Golfing.



MRS. MAUDE WHITE FOSTER

FOSTER, MAUDE WHITE, Supervisor, California Dept. of Employment, Division of Unemployment Insurance, born in Perry, Iowa, the daughter of Grant and Lallie (Bradford) White; her father a Methodist Minister.

Her early education was in the public schools of Perry, later attending for one and a half years the University of Iowa.

In April 1927 she married Ulysses Foster, the marriage taking place in Iowa City. There is one child, Marguerite Patricia, a student at the Los Angeles High School.

In 1940 Mrs. Foster moved to California where she resumed her education, attending the University of Southern California, and Southwestern University, majoring in accounting and business administration.

Mrs. Foster began her business career in 1942, as a stenographer for the Los Angeles County Purchasing Department. In 1943 she resigned from this position; her reason for resigning was failure on the part of the department to conform with Civil Service classification rulings. Mrs. Foster accredits much of her advancement in Civil Service positions to her demands of assignment, strictly under the classification and ratings as found on Civil Service Examination. The same year Mrs. Foster passed the State Civil Service Examination and began working at her present place of employment.

In 1946 Mrs. Foster was the only person to successfully pass the examination for Department Supervisor within her department. She was upgraded to Supervisor and now supervises seventeen units of personnel. She is responsible for statistical, payroll, stenographic and clerical functions.

She emphasizes the importance of young Negro women entering into the field of business, and during the calendar year, 1948, she plans to use her influence in bringing to the West Coast one of the Midwest's major business concerns, of which she is a stockholder.

Mr. Foster is active in the civic welfare of her community and was a co-organizer of the Home Owners Defense Council, an organization formed in 1944 to combat through the courts, the restrictive covenants that prevent the right of occupancy by Negroes in various sections of Los Angeles.

She is Corresponding Secretary of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Council of the National Council of Negro Women and a member of the Los Angeles League of Women Voters, the NAACP and the YWCA.

Her hobby: Words.



MRS. AUDREY BOSWELL JONES

JONES, AUDREY BOSWELL, Supervising Social Case Worker, born in Dallas, Texas, the daughter of George L. and Alice (Ellis) Boswell. She is the Niece of Dr. Bert L. Boswell one of L.A.'s pioneer physicians. Educated in the public schools of Dallas, University of Minnesota, 1927-1929; Tennessee State College, B.S. degree in 1932. Now working on her Masters Degree in Social Work at the University of Southern California. Married to Winfield Jones. There is one child by a previous marriage-Roland Bradshaw. Mrs. Jones is Director of the Far Western Region, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Past President, Los Angeles County Social Workers Local A.F.L., Member, National Council of Negro Women, Financial Secretary, Roosevelt Unit, Women's Political Study Club; and for the past eleven years a Social Worker in Los Angeles County.

Hobby: Sewing.

PATRICK, ALBERT T., Dental Technician, born in Kansas City, Missouri, the son of John S. and Lucy (Glemons) Patrick. Mr. Patrick's father, a graduate of the Lincoln University in Missouri, was for many years a teacher in the public school system of Kansas City, Missouri, and his grandmother, was one of the first teachers of Lincoln High in Kansas City, heading the Department of Languages, teaching four different languages.

Mr. Patrick was educated in the public schools of Kansas, and attended the School of Prosthetic Dentistry in St. Paul, Minnesota, graduating in the class of 1929.

In October of 1932 he married Celeste Carter of Minneapolis, Minnesota. There are two children-Ronald and Patricia.

In 1932 Mr. Patrick began his practice in the Dental offices of Dr. J. H. Dillon; in 1935 he was promoted to Laboratory Supervisor, with eight technicians under his supervision. During 1936 he taught at the Southern California School of Prosthetic Dentistry. In 1940, at his present location in the Blodgett Building, he opened the A. T. Patrick Dental and X-Ray Laboratory.

Mr. Patrick is past President of Southside Young Democrats, and as Chairman of the Housing Committee through his expose of slum clearance and the need for low cost housing, had a direct influence upon the federal appropriation of funds for N.H.A. Mr. Patrick is State Chairman of Finance (Young Democrats), Chairman of

Assembly District, Progressive Citizens of America; Member, Board of Directors, Loyal Insurance Company; President, Supreme Recording Record Company; Member, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Masonic Lodge and the Independent Church.

Business Address: 2510 So. Central Avenue, Room 218, Los Angeles, California.



DR. NATHANIEL FEARONCE

FEARONCE, NATHANIEL A., Dentist, born in Shreveport, Louisiana, the son of Nathaniel and Dora (Haywood) Fearonce. He received his public school education in Texarkana, Texas; graduate of Fisk University, majoring in Pre-Med and Theology.

In 1923 he moved to Los Angeles, and resumed his scholastic training at the University of Southern California, graduating from the School of Dentistry in 1927 (D.D.S. degree).

Dr. Fearonce passed the California Dental Board in 1927, and began practicing in 1929. He has practiced since 1929 and is now located in the Blodgett Building, 2510 S. Central Avenue.

During the depression years, Dr. Fearonce, seeing the great need of free dental care for under-privileged children, gave his services gratis two days of each week, in the free clinic in the Peoples Independent Church.

He is active in all civic and welfare programs for the growth and development of the community, and is a member of: Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Elks Lodge, Southern California Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association, YMCA Century Club, Association for the Abolishment of Second Class Citizenship, and former trustee of his church, the Peoples Independent Church.

Married in Los Angeles, August 1947 to Dorothea Marie Towles, formerly of Texarkana, Texas, and a graduate of Wiley University in Marshall, Texas.

Dr. Fearonce has a special interest in sports, including hunting, fishing, Golf and is a speed boat enthusiast. His hobby is Barbecuing, and the concoction of edible dishes. His hobby has made him somewhat of an expert in the seasoning of meats.

ROBINSON, F. I.—Physician, Past President, National Medical Association; examining physician, California State Athletic Commission; member, National Medical Committee, NAACP, staff member, California Hospital and Past President Southern California Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association Offices, 2510 South Central Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

HUDSON, CLAUDE H., Dentist—Past President, NAACP (Los Angeles Branch), active in civic and political welfare, and considered as pioneer leader in the civic growth of Los Angeles. Offices: 4266 South Central Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

BECK, W. A. Physician—Graduate of Meharry Medical College, former professor of Clinical Medicine, Meharry Member, American College of Chest Physicians. Office Address: 1214 E. Vernon Avenue, Los Angeles, California.



DR. ELVIN V. NEAL

NEAL, ELVIN V., Doctor of Dental Surgery, born in Yoakum, Texas, the son of James W. and Mollie (Fullmore) Neal. Educated in the public school system of Yoakum, Prairie View State College of Texas (Teachers' Certificate), Wiley College of Texas (one year), and Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee (D.D.S., class of 1924).

Married, in August 1923, to Olive Morrow in Chicago, Illinois. There are no children.

In June of 1924, moved to Los Angeles. In 1925, Dr. Neal successfully passed the California Dental Board and began his practice in Los Angeles.

Dr. Neal, during World War I, was one of ten candidates selected from the Prairie View College S.A.T.C. and attained the rating of Captain.

He is a member of the Los Angeles County Dental Society; American Dental Society; Past President of the Alva C. Garratt Dental Society of Los Angeles; California State Vice-President of the National Dental Association; this office has been held by Dr. Neal for the past three years, 1946, 1947 and 1948.

Member, also, of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Masonic Lodge; Prairie View and Wiley University Clubs, Meharry Alumni Association; YMCA, NAACP.

Dr. Neal is a Republican, also, a member of Hamilton M.F. Church of Los Angeles, California.

His hobbies are Golf, Hunting and Fishing.

McPIH RSON, HENRY A.—Physician—President, Southern California Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association Offices, 3315 South Central Avenue, Los Angeles, California.



LT. ROSCOE C. WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, ROSCOE C., Lieutenant of Police, born in Los Angeles, California, the son of George and Susie (Goodman) Washington.

Educated in the public schools of Los Angeles, graduating from the Lincoln High School.

In September of 1925, he became a member of the Los Angeles Police Department, as a Patrolman. He held various assignments, among them, stenographer, jailer at the Newton Street Jail and on the vice squad, working with Maceo Sheffield. The police team of Sheffield and Washington received national recognition for their fine work in stamping out vice in their precinct.

In 1932 he was one of the first Negroes to be assigned to a Radio Patrol Car; in 1935 was assigned to the Juvenile Bureau; 1936 was promoted to the Detective Bureau.

In 1937, out of a list of 1500 he successfully passed all examinations and was promoted to Sergeant of Police and again in 1940 passed promotional examinations and received his appointment as Lieutenant of Police.

Because of his superior knowledge in police work, he served as an instructor during the years of 1942 and 1943; out of the six patrolmen assigned to him for instruction, five have received promotions. In this group are Lt. A. J. Johnson, Sgt. Floyd, Sgt. Collins and Sgt. Bradley.

During the war years, he was coordinator of the Civilian Defense Program for East Los Angeles, and Head of the Eastside War Bond Committee. Because of his valuable war work he received the U. S. Treasury Department's "Meritorious Award."

Lt. Washington is active in the civic welfare of Los Angeles, and because of his outstanding contribution in this field, he was awarded the 1940--Los Angeles Fellowship League Award.

His wife the former Hazel Anderson, whom he married in Los Angeles is one of America's outstanding leathercraft artisans.

Lt. Washington is a member: Board of Directors, Local Urban League; Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Masonic Lodge, YMCA, and Honorary Citizen of "Boys Town."

His hobby--Pinocle.



KENNY WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, KENNY STANLEY Sr., Actor, Professional Football Player, born in Los Angeles, California, August 31, 1918, the son of Edgar and Marion Washington. Both parents natives of Los Angeles, California.

Kenny was educated in the public schools of Los Angeles, graduating from the Lincoln High School in 1936. He is a graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles (B.A. 1941).

The athletic career of Kenny Washington is the type of career that every American boy dreams of, but few ever achieve. At Lincoln High School during the years of 1933-34 and '35 he made the All City Baseball Team; in 1935 made All City, All Southern California and All State Football Team. In the years 1937, '38 and '39, while attending U.C.L.A. he made the All Coast Football Team, and in 1939 was, also named on the All-American Football Team, and the All-Players All American Team. He has to his credit, the longest completed pass; this was the famous sixty-nine yard pass thrown to Hal Hirshon in 1937.

In 1946 Kenny joined the Los Angeles Rams, Pacific Coast member of the National Professional Football League. Playing Left Half-Back for this team he starred in many games and in 1947 was the leading ground gainer in the league with an average of 7.3 yards per try.

Mr. Washington during his college years worked for the Warner Bros. Studio in the property department. Here he gained valuable experience in the art of making pictures. He, also, did bit parts in several pictures. These experiences helped when the big break came and he was cast in the Walter Wanger Production, "Sundown" with Gene Tierney and George Sanders, and later in the 20th Century Fox Production "The Foxes of Harrow" starring Maureen O'Hara and Rex Harrison. At the time of this writing (April 1948) he is scheduled for an important part in Universal International's "Rogue Regiment," which will star Dick Powell.

In September 1940, married June C. Bradley of Long Beach, California, a member of one of the pioneer families of that city. There is one child, Kenny Stanley Washington Jr. Kenny Jr. is an outstanding piano student of Consuelo Pappy, and is to be presented in his first recital in June 1948 at the age of six and a half.

He is a member: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Flks Lodge, Screen Actors Guild, and former Representative at Large of U.C.L.A.

His hobby--Music.



DR. WILLIAM E. BAILEY

BAILEY, WILLIAM E., Physician and Surgeon, born in Dyersburg, Tennessee, August 31, 1897. He is the son of Edward M. and Fannie V. (Purdue) Bailey. His father was principal of Gibbons High School, Paris, Texas for twenty five years.

A graduate of the public schools of Paris, Texas, he finished his academic training at Wiley College in Marshall, Texas (A.B. 1917). His medical study was at the University of Iowa College of Liberal Arts and the University of Iowa School of Medicine (M.D. 1925).

Dr. Bailey moved to California in 1927 and since that time has conducted a general practice of Medicine in Los Angeles. From 1930 to 1945 he served as physician for the Los Angeles City Health Department.

In 1939 married Edith Bell in Yuma, Arizona. There are two children--Janet L. by a former marriage, and Judith W. Mrs. Bailey is active in the civic and social life of Los Angeles and holds the office of Far Western Zone Director of the Medical Association Auxiliary.

Dr. Bailey is a member of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, Southern California Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association, Pacific Town Club, Southern California Golf Club, and the Hamilton M.E. Church.

His Hobby--Golf.



ATTY. DAVID WILLIAMS

WILLIAMS, DAVID W., Attorney at Law, born in Atlanta, Georgia, March 20, 1910, the son of William and Maude (Lee) Williams.

The family moved to California in 1912; in Los Angeles David attended the public schools, graduating from Jefferson High. He is a graduate of Los Angeles Junior College, University of California at Los Angeles, (A.B. in 1934), and the University of Southern California Law School (LL.B. 1937).

In June 1939, married Ouida White of Los Angeles, California, a member of one of California's pioneer families. There are two children--David W., Jr. born December 23, 1941 and Vaughn Charles, born March 2, 1945.

Attorney Williams passed the California Bar in 1937, and is a member of one of California's outstanding law firms--Matthews and Williams with offices at 2510 South Central Avenue.

Attorney Williams is active in the fraternal and civic Welfare of Los Angeles. He is Past Polemarch of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, a leader in the Juvenile Delinquent program promulgated by the YMCA, Vice President and Member, Board of Directors, Pacific Town Club; Chairman, Board of Directors, 28th Street YMCA, and a member of Town Hall.



DR. WALTER W. DAVIS

DAVIS, WALTER W., Physician and Surgeon, born in Memphis, Tennessee, June 5, 1910, the son of Charles H. and Willie V. (Springfield) Davis; his father, presently pastor of Salem Baptist Church in Los Angeles.

In 1912 the family moved to Los Angeles and Walter W., acquired his academic education in the public schools of Los Angeles and Monrovia, California. He is a graduate of Citrus Junior College, Azusa, California, and the University of California at Los Angeles. His Medical training--Meharry Medical College (M.D.) 1935, Nashville, Tennessee. Internship, St. Louis City Hospital, 1935-36 Resident Surgeon, two years Prairie View State Hospital, Prairie View, Texas. Three years Staff Surgeon, Barnewell Community Hospital Clinic, Beaumont, Texas.

In 1940 Dr. Davis did post-graduate study in Surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and has had special training in Venereal Diseases control at the Howard University and University of Pennsylvania, under U. S. Public Health Service Scholarship.

He is a diplomat of the National Board of Medical Examiners, which permits practice almost everywhere without further examinations.

Dr. Davis is active in the civic welfare of his city and Vice-President of West View Hospital, Inc.



DR. LEONARD STOVALL

STOVALL, LEONARD--Physician and Surgeon, born in Atlanta, Georgia, the son of Jerry and Mary (Scott) Stovall. Soon after Leonard was born, the family moved to Los Angeles. His early education was in the public schools of Los Angeles, finishing the Los Feliz Boulevard Grammar School and Hollywood High, where he was the first Negro to graduate. He took his pre-med work at the University of Southern California before entering the Medical College of the University of California.

Dr. Stovall began his practice in Los Angeles and became a member of the staff of the University of California Clinic on North Broadway. When the United States entered the World War he closed his office and volunteered for service. He saw action in France as a First Lieutenant, USA Medical Corps.

After the war, Dr. Stovall resumed his practice in Los Angeles, specializing in the prevention and cure of tuberculosis. He was soon placed on the staff of the Los Angeles City Tuberculosis Clinic, and then in 1930 he became the first Negro Staff Member of the Los Angeles County General Hospital--Tuberculosis Service. For twenty years he has served on the Methodist Hospital Staff.

Besides qualifying as one of the country's outstanding authorities on the treatment of tuberculosis, Dr. Stovall has been, thruout the years, a leader in the public welfare of Southern California. In 1929 he started public essay contests among students on the subject of Mental Hygiene, a subject in which he was very much interested. In these contests he furnished all the prizes for the winning essays.

In 1932 Dr. Stovall organized the 28th Street Health Center which has given much needed help to the community. Associated with him are Dr. Claudius Ballard, Miss Bessie Barron, and Mrs. Carolyn D. Mitchell.

The same year, this public spirited physician, seeing the need for a rest home for tubercular patients in Southern California, founded the Outdoor Life and Health Association to promote better health conditions and alleviate suffering among the people.

This organization built a sanatorium which has enjoyed a tremendous growth under Dr. Stovall's untiring guidance. It is located in Duarte, California. Some of the most public spirited people of California have joined Dr. Stovall and the Outdoor Life and Health Association in making it one of the most outstanding humanitarian efforts ever accomplished by Negroes in the United States.

Dr. Stovall's affiliations are: American Medical Association; National Medical Association; Los Angeles County Medical Association, Trudeau Association (Tuberculosis Association); National Tuberculosis Association; Southern California Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association Life member--Alumni Association of the University of Southern California, a Mason, an Elk, a Forrester, and a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

His hobby is gardening in which he has won first prizes for his carnations grown from seeds and, also, a giant hybrid amaryllis.



DR. JOHN M. ROBINSON JR

ROBINSON, JOHN M. Jr., Physician and Surgeon, born in Newport, Arkansas, the son of John M. Sr. and India (Cobb) Robinson. His father a well known Physician of Little Rock, Arkansas, and his mother (now deceased) was a teacher in the school system of Little Rock.

Dr. Robinson is a graduate of the M. W. Gibbs High School of Little Rock, Fisk University, A. B. 1923; University of California, M. D. 1927; and completed his internship in the Los Angeles County General Hospital in Los Angeles.

Dr. Robinson was an honor student while in medical school, completing his medical studies with a "B" plus average, and was the first Negro accepted as an intern in the Los Angeles County General Hospital. He passed the California Medical Board in 1927, and began practice the same year.

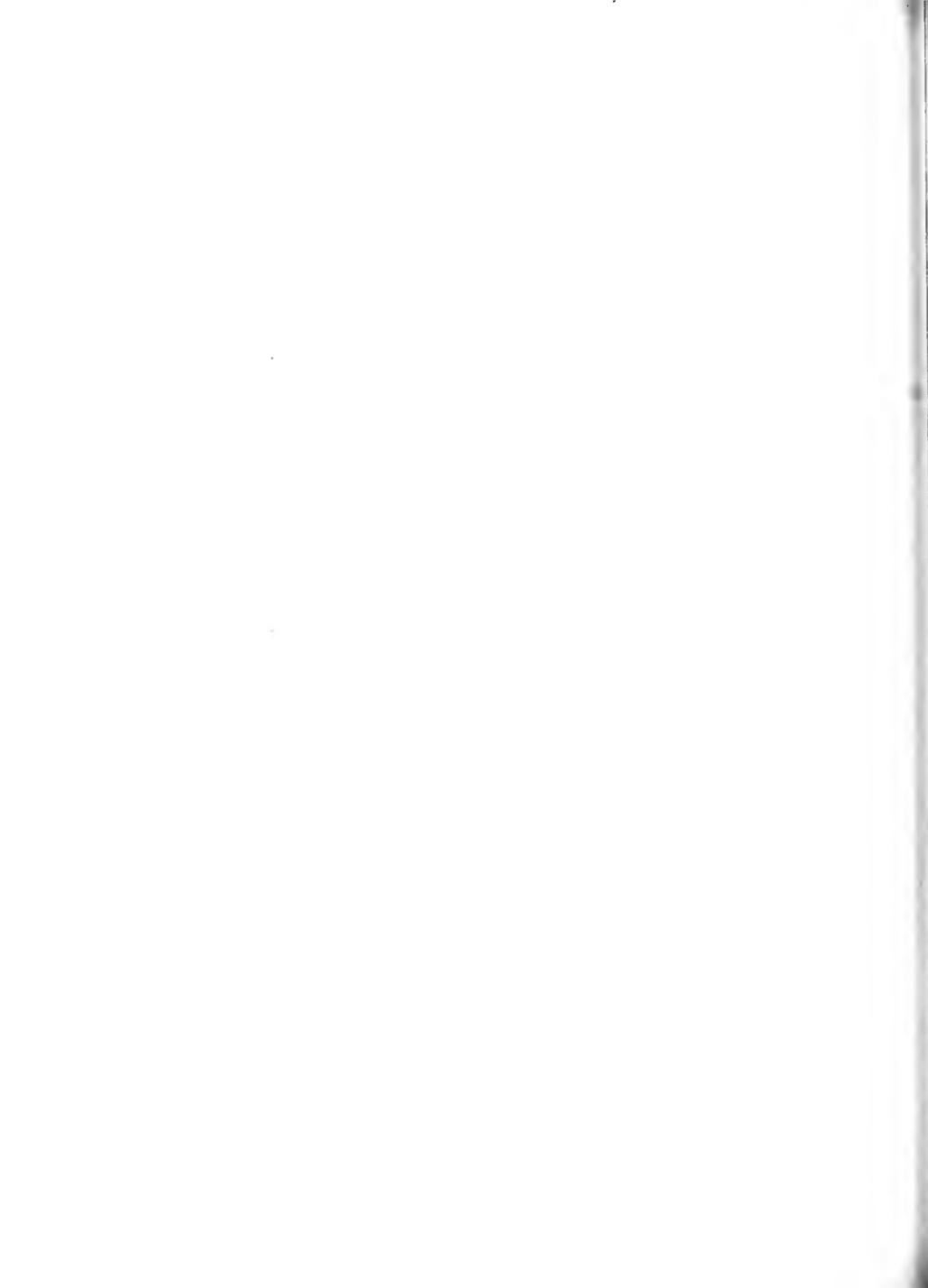
From 1942 to 1944 Dr. Robinson served in the U. S. Army. During his Army career he was stationed at the Jefferson Barracks Station Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri (Urology Dept.)

In 1924 he married Fay Jackson, well known journalist of Los Angeles. There is one daughter--Joan Robinson Pierson.

Dr. Robinson, active in fraternal and civic circles is a member Southern California Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association, Charter Member and past President, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity (local chapter), Century Club of YMCA, Urban League and the Board of Directors of West View Hospital.

His religious faith is A. M. E. Church.

His hobbies are Photography and Horseback Riding.



# **Business & Industry**

In no State, in so short a period of time, has there been the growth and success of Negro enterprises, as in California. Some of the top ranking business institutions of the race have been built in California, and within the period of forty years--(1908 to 1948).





MR. & MRS. ROY L. LOGGINS SR.,  
ARTHUR J. & ROY L. JR. (INSERT)

LOGGINS, ROY L. SR., Caterer, born August 9, 1882, Ennis, Texas, Son of John and Nellie Loggins. In this typical Texas setting, young Roy grew up with little or no chance of an early education. His parents did manage to send Roy to Dallas for a few years where he attended the public school. The early years of his youth and into manhood found young Roy jobbing about throughout Texas, learning the hard way to overcome the many obstacles that confronted the Negro of that time. This school of hard knocks taught him a lesson in courage, initiative and how to meet people and make friends. This lesson, he never forgot.

In 1906 in Dallas, Texas, he met and married his life-time companion, Minnie Lee Felto, daughter of Smith and Sally (Westley) Felto of Mendum Louisiana. In 1910, with the dream of freedom and the spirit of the pioneer, the Loggins arrived in Southern California. For the first year in this new land, pioneer Roy worked as a chauffeur for a private family. He then ventured into the Real Estate field, working with Milton W. Lewis, a pioneer in that field. This was a successful venture until the crash of 1929 at which time as he puts it: "We were all washed up period". His ambition, courage, and the will to forge ahead at last put him on the right track. He entered the catering business along side his life companion. Roy had found his field, he now was on the main line.

Starting on a small scale, this business grew. The smile and friendliness of this likeable man carved its imprint into the heart of Hollywood-actors, actresses and executives alike. They loved Roy and the cooking and service of Loggins Food Products. Long time contracts began rolling in until all Hollywood wanted the service of the Loggins-RKO, Metro-Goldwyn Mayer, Republic, Universal, the big stores, Howard Hughes Inc.-service to hundreds, then to thousands. Roy had achieved success was his at last. Through all this the quiet and humble manner of this pioneer never changed. Today he says this success was due to the untiring efforts of his business partner-his beloved wife.

In 1946 The Loggins Food Products Company moved into its present plant. This plant built at a cost of over \$500,000 fronts on one of Los Angeles busy boulevards. It is modern in every respect, equipped to prepare catering service for parties up to 25,000 people employing from 30 to 35 full-time employees.

Yes, this pioneer, who fought life the hard way, has indeed achieved success on a major scale. His ambition now is to work his two sons, Arthur John and Roy L. Jr., into the business and let them take over and carry on the "House" that the Loggins built.

LOGGINS, MINNIE LEE--Cateress, born in Mendum Louisiana, August 26, 1885. Daughter of Smith and Sally (Westley) Felto. Like others who grew up in rural areas of the Southland there was little chance for an early education but between crops a partial elementary education was attained.

Throughout early womanhood this daughter of the proud but poor parents was fired with the ambition to become a cateress and later to teach catering to other Negro girls. To this end, a full year of training with no pay was accomplished under the rigid and strict guidance of a German cateress. After acquiring this knowledge of the catering art, an ambition was born to some day be the best in that field.

In 1906 in Dallas, Texas, while attending a performance of "Black Patti" she met and a short while later married her life-long companion and later business partner, Roy L. Loggins. Now a wife and housekeeper, there was still the urge to forge ahead with her dream. So the young wife continued to cater to the wants of the wealthy of Dallas. The results were small, but the experience was valuable, as she was to learn in later years.

In 1916 the Loggins moved to California to a land of promise, where each could feel free to carry out his dreams and ambitions. Soon after coming to California Mrs. Loggins opened a school of catering and for four years, taught the art to classes of mixed girls, 90 per cent of whom were white. After this venture Mrs. Loggins set forth to make her dream come true--the Loggins Food Products Company was formed. In 1932 a partner was added, Roy L. Loggins Sr., and from that time to the present the history of this company is like a story out of the book of miracles.

First came big parties to serve, then entire casts on Movie Production lots, yearly contracts for service from the land of make believe (Hollywood), added equipment, more employees--all Hollywood at the feet of this pioneer woman, wanting to enjoy the fine and friendly service of the house of Loggins.

In 1946 when the firm moved into the new and superbly equipped plant, it was Mrs. Loggins who designed and had made a new and modern type portable steam table, one that the heat and oven aroma can be kept for 30 hours after leaving the plant. At last her dream had come true--one of the greatest businesses of its kind in America, and the love and respect of all who were served. Through all this success Mrs. Loggins found time to rear her two sons, Roy L. Jr. who served in the Army Air Corps, and Arthur John who served as an ensign in the Merchant Marine. Both sons are now helping to manage and preparing to carry on this remarkable business.

The beauty to be found in the life of this fine Christian woman is to inspire all Negro girls of humble origin.

Business address: 1401 West Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, California.

## Officers and Directors, Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company



WILLIAM NICKERSON JR.  
1870 - 1945

Founder and First President

Leaving an established insurance career in his native state of Texas in 1921, and four years later founding the first Negro insurance company in California is a terse but wholly inadequate account of the accomplishments of William Nickerson, Jr., one of California's most famous adopted sons.

Mr. Nickerson had the vision to foresee the development of the West and with George A. Beavers, Jr. and Norman O. Houston, present chairman of the board and president respectively, organized Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company in Los Angeles. From the date of organization, July 23, 1925, Mr. Nickerson directed expansion of the firm's operations throughout California and into the states of Texas and Illinois. At the time of his death, Nov. 14, 1945, the firm had already reached the rank of seventh largest Negro insurance concern in the nation and largest Negro business west of the Mississippi River.

Behind this spectacular accomplishment, lay broad business experience gained during the sixteen years Mr. Nickerson served as general secretary of the American Mutual Benefit Association in Texas, the first Negro insurance company in the Lone Star state, and of which he was one of the founders. The recent ruling by the United States Supreme Court allowing Negroes to vote in Texas primaries recalls the first of many suits against the Democratic Party leading up to this decision, which was led by Mr. Nickerson in Houston in 1919. He is also credited with assisting in launching the Houston Informer, the largest Negro weekly newspaper published in Texas.

Mr. Nickerson's religious civic and political activities in Los Angeles and California paralleled those of his Texas career. He was an active member of People's Independent Church of Christ, serving continuously for many years as trustee, yet supporting all other religious organizations of Los Angeles. He was a close friend of the Rev. N. P. Gregg, founder of Independent Church, who gave him staunch support in the organization of Golden State Mutual.

Few persons could match Mr. Nickerson in eloquence, inspiration or energy and he used these talents freely in civic affairs and programs. He served as a member of the Policy Committee of the Republican Central Committee of Los Angeles County; as chairman of the Statewide FEPC Petition Committee; as member of the Board of Directors of the Hospital of the Good Shepherd, contributing \$1000 to the hospital's building fund; as a member of the Los Angeles Chapter of the NAACP; and upon the Executive board of his fraternity, Phi Beta Sigma.

Two noteworthy honors were bestowed upon Mr. Nickerson, the first in May, 1939 in recognition of thirty-four years of outstanding work in insurance and pioneering in the field of Negro business. At the 58th anniversary convocation exercises on the campus of Bishop College, President Joseph J. Rhodes conferred upon him the university's highest honor, degree of Doctor of Science in Business Administration. The second honor was given posthumously, and was the only U. S. Treasury Department award made in Los Angeles to a Negro industrialist for service to country in the war financing program.



GEORGE A. BEAVERS JR.



NORMAN O. HOUSTON

BEAVERS, GEORGE ALLEN JR., Chairman of Board and Agency Director. Was Vice-President, Director of Agencies to 1945. Born 1891, Atlanta, Ga. Educated in California, majoring in business administration at U.C.L.A. and U.S.C. Entered insurance in 1922 as agent for American Mutual Benefit Association of Texas. Member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and leading civic, social and community organizations including the NAACP. Commissioner Los Angeles Housing Authority, Vice-President of Los Angeles Council for Civic Unity, Hospital of the Good Shepherd, President of Pacific Town Club. Is married to Lola L. Cunningham of Kansas.

HOUSTON, NORMAN OLIVER, President and Comptroller and Director. Was Secretary-Treasurer to 1945. Born 1893, San Jose, California; Educated in California majoring in business administration at U.C. and U.S.C. Entered insurance in San Francisco with Board of Fire Underwriters of Pacific. Was co-organizer and field secretary of Liberty Building and Loan Association of Los Angeles in 1924. Member of the State Athletic Commission; Vice President, Pacific Coast Council Inter-cultural Education; Chairman Board of Directors, Broadway Federal Savings-Loan Association; member of boards of the National NAACP, Los Angeles American Red Cross, Pacific Area YMCA and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. Married to Edythe Pryce of Louisiana, has two sons and one daughter.



DR. H. H. FOWLES



SIMON P. JOHNSON



EDGAR J. JOHNSON



MRS. BERTHA B. NICKERSON

**TOWLES, HENRY HOWARD** Vice-President, Medical Department, and Director since organization. Born 1888. Mount Vernon, Texas. Attended Prairie View College, received medical degree from University of Illinois. First practiced medicine in Texas. Single. Member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Masonic Lodge and First AME Church.

**JOHNSON, SIMON PETER** Vice-President and Director since organization. Born 1877, Emporia, Kansas. Educated in Kansas. Graduate of Biggers Business College, Los Angeles. Vice President, Conner-Johnson Funeral Home, also Broadway Federal Savings and Loan. Member, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, NAACP, YMCA. Married to Daisy Taylor of Topeka, Kansas. Has two sons and two daughters.

**JOHNSON, EDGAR JAMES** Secretary and Director. Born 1904. Atlanta, Ga. Educated in California, studying commerce and business administration, commercial law, life insurance, real estate and real estate appraising at U.C.I.A. Entered insurance in 1924 as organizing agent with Golden State Mutual. Married to Willie B. Nickerson, daughter of the late founder, has one daughter. Charter member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity on the Pacific Coast. Member, Board of Managers Southwest YMCA, Board of Extensions, Los Angeles Presbytery. Member, Pacific Town Club. NAACP.

**NICKERSON, BERTHA B.** Treasurer and Director. Born 1887, Carthage, Texas. Educated in Texas schools, graduate of Tyler College. Widow of founder, William Nickerson Jr. Mother of eight children, has fifteen grandchildren. Member of Independent Church and NAACP.



LUTHER M. HUDSON



MRS. HELEN HODGE

**HUDSON, LUTHER M.** Director since organization. Born 1882, Clinton, Missouri. Received elementary education in Missouri; graduated from Worsham Embalming College, Chicago. Married to Jane Mack of Missouri. Member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Pacific Town Club, Masonic Lodge, Woodmen of America, Elks, Western Branch YMCA, and NAACP.

**HODGE, HELEN ELIZABETH** Assistant to comptroller. Associated with the company since 1925. Has held official positions as cashier and statistician. Born 1905 in Los Angeles. Attended U.C.I.A. studying accounting, personnel management and business administration. Married to Dee Hodge; sister of George A. Beavers Jr. Member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Independent Guild (scholarship organization), YWCA and the NAACP.



ROBERT W. SMITH



ARTHUR J. WILLIAMS

**SMITH, ROBERT WEBSTER** Assistant to the Secretary. Associated with the company since 1933. Began insurance career with the National Benefit Life Insurance Company of Tennessee. Was co-organizer, fiscal agent and General Manager of Peoples Finance Corporation of Camden, New Jersey and Philadelphia Peoples Finance Corporation. Born 1900, Denver, Colorado. Attended Wilberforce University, majoring in general science. Married to Vivian Eller, has one son. Member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Colorado Club, YMCA, Urban League and NAACP.

**WILLIAMS, ARTHUR JOSEPH** Superintendent of Agencies. Entered insurance as agent for the firm in 1933. Born 1903, Augusta, Georgia. Educated at Haines Institute, attended Morehouse College, received masters degree in political science and economics from U.C. in 1951. Married to Juanita Black, two daughters and one son. Member of 28th Street YMCA, Pacific Town Club, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, First AME Church, NAACP.



### ANGELUS FUNERAL HOME

Starting in 1922, under the co-partnership of Fred Shaw and L. G. Robinson, this institution that is today (1948) one of the outstanding in America, got off to a slow start.

The undertaking business during these early years in Los Angeles was somewhat crowded and the Negro population was very small. So much so, that in 1924 Mr. Shaw retiring of the struggle sold his interests to his partner.

The business was reorganized and Lorenzo Bowdoin who was then a postal clerk and John L. Hill, became a part of the organization.

Under the leadership of these three stable men, the business took on new life and soon the Angelus Funeral Home became a factor in the community.

In 1934, wishing to give to the Negro populace of Los Angeles, a home that would give credence to the rapidly growing population the present structure is a tribute of farewell to those who pass through its doors on their last journey and a consolation to their loved ones who remain. It is the fulfillment of the Angelus Home policy that "Through the dignified beauty of the service, the last rites should remain as a beautiful memory." To accomplish this policy the owners have provided a tasteful and beautiful drawing

room, the largest and finest Church Chapel to be found in any funeral home, slumber rooms where relatives and friends can view their loved ones in privacy, special family rooms, a nursery for the smaller children, drawing room chapel for those who want complete privacy, all tastefully decorated and with view windows looking out into peaceful patios where fountains, beautiful flowers and shrubbery give the comfort and peace so seldom found in an institution of this kind.

Much credit is due these three men who had vision and forethought to give to the people of Los Angeles this beautiful show place.

It is needless to say that this firm is enjoying the greatest undertaking business among Negroes on the West Coast.

In 1942 the firm lost one of the three men who made possible this outstanding company; upon the death of Manager John Hill, Mr. Robinson, resigning his position with Los Angeles County, assumed the manager's duties and carried on until the Summer of 1947, when upon retirement from active duties, John Lamar Hill, son of the deceased John Hill became President and Manager. Lorenzo Bowdoin, the last of the three who built this great firm, remains on as Secretary and Treasurer.



JOHN LAMAR HILL

**HILL, JOHN LAMAR**, a native of Los Angeles, born to John L. and Elizabeth (Reid) Hill, June 11, 1923. Received early schooling in the Los Angeles public schools. However, his second high school year was spent in a Honolulu T. H. Private School, but he began and finished at Manual Arts High School, Los Angeles. Mr. Hill entered University of California, September, 1942, but was called to the U. S. Army the following May and had spent almost a year in the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre before return-

ing to his country in August, 1944 to enter Officers Training School, from which he graduated the following December 5th with a commission as 2nd Lieutenant.

Five days later he was married to Miss Athehaise Marie Houston of Santa Monica, California. Their union subsequently resulted in the birth of their two daughters, Jan Marie age two and a half, and Dorothy Elizabeth age one.

After marrying Lt. Hill was sent to the European Theatre where he commanded the 524 Q. M. Car Company. He was discharged January 1, 1946 as a reserve officer U. S. A. He immediately re-entered the University of California to study business administration and later entered the College of Mortuary Science and secured his license as an embalmer.

Mr. Hill's father, J. L. Hill, who had been manager of the Angelus Funeral Home since its organization, died while his son was yet in high school. It being the desire of the Home that the son be groomed to carry out the tradition of the father and his associates, young Hill has been working in the Mortuary since a high school boy during summer vacations, and was back with the Angelus at the time of his election as President and Manager of this large business on October 1, 1947.

Mr. Hill is a member of the Pacific Town Club, Westminster Presbyterian Church and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He and his family reside at 1601 W. 35th Street, the same house in which he was born.



LOUIS GEORGE ROBINSON

ROBINSON, LOUIS GEORGE, Retired Business Executive, born in Barnesville, Ga., the son of John R. and Amelia (High-Tower) Robinson. Born into a family of eight sons and three daughters, Louis spent the early years of his life helping on his parents farm. At the age of sixteen Louis first learned of financial troubles that beset farm families. This was during the depression of 1893 when two of his older brothers tiring of farm life and farm set-backs, left the old homestead, but Louis stayed on, worked hard and soon helped to pay off the family debt. Leaving the farm clear of debt he struck out to make his own fortune. His first stop was in Florida where he found a job nursing a wealthy white man. He took the job at \$15 per month but before two weeks he had driven a bargain with the man's wife that raised his pay to \$60 per month. However, the man died and Robinson settled for \$300 which he divided equally with his dad and proceeded to work on the beaches at Spanish Landing Fla. For the next year this ambitious youth, determined to get ahead, worked in logging camps or any honest work he was fortunate to find. Other workers in these camps, rough though they were, seeing this young man who did not gamble, but talked of school, helped him by letting him hold the lamp while they gambled. This extra money all went into savings and when Louis decided the time was now to get an education, he had saved \$575.00.

Buying new clothing and dividing with his father, he started out for Tuskegee Institute, but landed at Knoxville College (Tennessee). Here he studied for one and a half years; then on to Payne College (Augusta, Georgia) where he remained for five years.

In 1899 he returned to his native home and began teaching in the local school. On Christmas day of that same year he married Marv Pearl Willis. Making but \$40.00 per month he remained on as a teacher until in the fourth year, he resigned because he was asked to inform on one of the other teachers.

In 1904 seeking a greater opportunity and more freedom, he moved to California. Two days after his arrival he found work at the Pasadena Huntington Hospital. Here his salary was \$40.00 per month and board and room. Later his old Superintendent wrote to assure him of his forgiveness and invited him back to his school work, he answered, "I wouldn't return if you'd pay me more than I am now earning." After two years and fourteen days of hospital work and getting acquainted with his new home town, this determined pioneer secured a job sweeping the

streets of Pasadena for about two months. He then moved to Los Angeles and became the thirteenth janitor of the Los Angeles county building on February 7, 1907. Two years later he became head of the department and on November 1, 1942 he retired after thirty-six years at that post to assume management of the Angelus Funeral Home.

Being a land-minded man from the very start it is not surprising that Mr. Robinson early coined the slogan "Land Never Wears Out," and started buying land the first month he came to California. He now admits that he has since bought over 500 parcels of land. Some of these parcels he sold. Among these was one sold to Fred Shaw for erecting the first Angelus Funeral Home in 1922. He was given half interest in the concern when Shaw was unable to pay his debt to him. In 1924 Robinson bought his partner out for \$5,500. He had then re-established himself in community life and a second life-career in the field of business and public service. He now was in a position to call his friend Lorenzo Bowdoin, who was then a postal clerk and J. L. Hill to reorganize the business. It was incorporated and in 1934 they built the present beautiful and up-to-date Angelus Funeral Home at 1030 East Jefferson; the firm now has fourteen employees and handled 548 bodies during 1947.

During the years Mr. Robinson has been active in the civic welfare of Los Angeles. He is a member of the Board of Managers, 28th Street YMCA; Executive Board NAACP and a leader in every worthwhile civic enterprise. Since 1906 he has been a member of the Scott Methodist Church in Pasadena. Presently he is assistant pastor of his church and on several occasions served as pastor.

Mr. Robinson is also one of the founders of the Liberty Saving and Loan Association. Since 1947, L. G., as he is affectionately called by his many friends, he has retired from active business duties, but his interest in the advancement of his race, the many civic organizations he helped to build, and the Angelus Funeral Home, still keep him busy. There can never be complete retirement for this man who is one of the most highly respected in Southern California. Truly, the life of L. G. Robinson is a beacon light, to the young Negro who finds his path strewn with hardship, disappointments and discrimination. The results attained by this farm boy who started his education at an advanced age, who had no help from parents or friends, can be obtained by every American boy who has the courage, will-power and trust in God and man.



MR. LORENZO BOWDOIN

BOWDOIN, LORENZO, Business Executive. Behind that warm glow of Lorenzo Bowdoin lies a story both realistic and positive. Deeply and passionately he spoke of his native Griffith, Georgia, where he spent his youth. The most singular influence upon his life was one hard driven point of his father that kept him in check.

From infancy the children of his family were taught that accomplishments are generally few to those who seek the easy way. But the worthwhile things, the gratifying things are those secured from toil, sacrifice, and service to others. And these, he believed, should be applied in solving our personal problems as well as our everyday livelihood.

This was impressed upon him from the example of his father's background. A graduate of Atlanta University, Dr. John L. Bowdoin taught school in Georgia for 33 years. He came up from slavery with such distinguished men as Richard R. Wright, Dr. John Hope, Dr. Croghan of Clark University, and other fine men, who were among the first free men to take advantage of a college education. And their success was measured by their unswerving desire to achieve accomplishments of purpose. They labored toward that end. Dr. Bowdoin owned a plantation, grocery store, bakery shop, and a very comfortable eight room house. In those days such holdings were almost unheard of. Therefore, the honors were not only shared by the families of these men but the community at large because they symbolized the awakened spirit and industry of Southern freemen.

It was after John L. Bowdoin's trip to Detroit to attend a conference that he decided to move away from the South. In 1904 he brought his family to Los Angeles so that his children might enjoy the full advantages of equal opportunities of citizenship, education, and higher living standards. But he died soon afterwards, before he could realize his ambitions for them.

Young Bowdoin had completed one year of law at the American Law school in Los Angeles when his father died. The elder son, he was thrust into the world to cope with this immense problem of becoming the family breadwinner. There were five brothers and sisters who received his help through school. Entering the post office in 1906, he worked there until retirement in 1944, giving 38 years of service. He was the third Negro clerk appointed in the post office and some years later, became a special clerk.

During this time he finished a two year course in accounting at the University of Southern California that was to equip him for his present position as secretary-treasurer of the Angelus Funeral Home, one of the finest mortuaries in the entire country.

Still no visible signs of struggle twist his optimism for the future. And success hasn't made him arrogant. Besides his fraternal and civic affiliation with the Garrison Masonic Lodge No. 45 F. & A. M., Consistory, Egyptian Temple, Ancient Order of Mystic Shrine, Ancient Order of Foresters, Court Solomon No. 8677, Los Angeles Lodge of Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, Westside Benevolent Society No. 1, YMCA board of management, NAACP treasurer he is a devout member of Wesley Methodist church, where he serves as chairman of the trustee board and district conference lay leader.

Bowdoin holds a very high and important position in the Methodist church. He is on the trusteeship of the California Temperance Federation and has been asked to serve on the nominating committee of the Southern California-Arizona conference of the Methodist church. This conference is one of the most powerful and democratic in the country today. He has served in this Methodist conference with distinguished educators, civic and business leaders in various important capacities.

A strong family man he is married to the former Frankie L. Johnson of Little Rock and is the father of Lorenzo W. and Frances Lillian Vaughn. For relaxation he enjoys fishing and hunting.

## The Broadway Federal Savings and Loan Association

The Broadway Federal Savings and Loan Association opened its doors to the public on January 11, 1947. This event registered another milestone in the progress of the Negro race and shows that colored people in Los Angeles are gearing themselves to the rapid tempo of business activity along the West Coast. The community responded to this new venture immediately and expressed their confidence in it by depositing over \$162,000 during the first month. This new federal institution has established several records since its organization, say those well versed in the history of savings and loan associations in the California area. All of its accounts were insured by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation in a shorter period of time than any other association in this area.

This institution has an all-colored personnel and the directors and officers give their services free. The association is housed in a new modernistic building located at 4125 South Broadway, Los Angeles 37, California, a building owned and controlled by a Negro concern, The Broadway Investment Company. The Broadway Escrow Company is also housed in this building; the Guaranty Realty Company, a flourishing real estate concern, occupies the opposite side of the ground floor; and the second floor has four modern apartments occupied by Negro tenants.

Entering its fourteenth month of operation, the association has hundreds of accounts from all parts of the country, from members of all races, and assets of over \$902,000. Many of its depositors from other parts of the country are people who are saving up for the day when they may retire to live in the warm sunshine of Southern California. The officers and directors are proud of the fact that the Broadway Federal Savings is maintaining high standards and aiding the wage earner to save and purchase his home with a sound financial plan. They are encouraging thrift by paying 3 per cent annually on all accounts; thus giving their depositors the same security as other banking institutions.

Officers and directors are: H. A. Howard, President and General Manager; G. William McKinney, Vice-President; Zella M. Taylor, Secretary; M. Earl Grant, Treasurer; Mildred P. Wilson, Assistant Secretary; Albert Maddox, Vice-President; Cynthia Belle G. Smith, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer; Board of Directors, Attorney Thomas L. Griffin, Jr., Chairman; Norman O. Houston, Vice Chairman; Zella M. Taylor, Secretary; H. A. Howard, M. Earl Grant, Dr. H. Claude Hudson, Honorable Helen Gahagan Douglas, Cynthia Belle G. Smith, and Albert Maddox. Paul R. Williams was later elected to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. C. G. Smith.

JENKINS, HAROLD "SLIM", Businessman, respected by the citizens of the Bay Area for his contribution to the growth of Negro business in Oakland.

Mr. Jenkins in a few short years has built the largest business owned by Negroes in Oakland. Jenkins corner comprises a Super Market, one of the finest grills and restaurants to be found in California, and a bar and lounge. His business enterprises have helped to encourage Negro business in Oakland, and the adjoining Bay cities.

He is also active in the civic welfare of his community. He is Director of the Carver National Life Insurance Company, and can be counted on to help in every worthwhile program for the uplift of his race.

## Liberty Savings and Loan Association

The Liberty Savings and Loan Association was organized in the year 1924, its doors being opened for the first time on March 17, 1924.

The Association was organized for two distinct purposes, first, to promise thrift among our people by providing a safe and convenient method for people to save and invest money, and secondly, to provide for the sound and economical financing of homes.

Dr. Wilbur C. Gordon, one of the founders of the Association, was its first president. In 1926 he was succeeded by Louis M. Blodgett, also one of the founders of the Association. Louis M. Blodgett has remained President of the Association since that date.

Among some of the early founders and directors of the Association were the following: Frank A. Harvey, Albert Bauman, C. S. Blodgett, A. Hartley Jones, W. C. Gordon, Norman O. Houston, George S. Grant and Dr. Eugene C. Nelson.

On November 17, 1933 the Liberty Savings and Loan Association was elected to membership in the Federal Home Loan Bank System, and in February of 1938 the Association became a member of the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation. As a result of membership in this federal agency all savings accounts at the LIBERTY are automatically insured up to \$5000.00. The Association is also a member of the United States Savings and Loan League, the California Savings and Loan League, the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and Better Business Bureau.

The Liberty has operated continually since 1924 and boasts of the fact that during the "Bank Holiday" and depression it did not close its doors.

The Association has progressed steadily and securely since its founding. On December 31, 1947 the assets of the Association were \$1,539,806.12. It owns its building located at 2512 S. Central Avenue. During the year 1947 the LIBERTY loaned approximately a half million dollars to assist persons in the purchase of homes, or to build homes, refinance homes or to make additions and alterations to homes.

The Officers of the Association are Louis M. Blodgett, President; Jackson L. Taylor, Vice-President; Ella S. Matthews, Secretary; Bertrand B. Bratton, Asst. Secretary; Lawrence B. Wilson, Public Relations Director; Cordelia R. Martin, Cashier. Charles H. Matthews and David W. Williams are Attorneys for the Association.

The Board of Directors consist of Louis M. Blodgett, Jackson L. Taylor, Bertrand B. Bratton, Charles H. Matthews and C. S. Blodgett Jr.

## Carver National Life Insurance Company

The Carver National Life Insurance Company of California was organized in August, 1944. The provisions of the charter call for the sale of 20,000 shares of Capital Stock at \$20.00 per share, making a total capitalization of \$400,000.00. The Carver National Life Insurance Company seeks to be authorized to do business as an Old Line Legal Reserve Insurance Company selling life insurance and annuities.

At the time of this writing (1948) there has been subscribed and paid in \$250,000.00 of this Capital Stock. There remains the sum of \$150,000.00 to be subscribed and paid in to meet the requirements of the State of California. This is the greatest aggregation of capital which any Negro financial corporation has been called upon to raise in the his-

tor, in the United States. This represents an immense step forward from those conditions which heretofore necessitated our financing of companies and businesses through the mutual plan. This represents an investment which is the basic ownership of a company and permits the owners, thereof, to share in the profit which may accrue.

Carver National Life Insurance Company expects to complete its Capital Stock sales' campaign prior to June 30 of 1948 and be licensed to sell life insurance. It is now manned and controlled by Negroes and to date almost 100 per cent of the capital invested, therein, is from Negroes.

The Board of Directors and officers of the company are as follows:

Bertrand B. Bratton, President; Dr. Daniel A. Collins, Second Vice-President and Chairman of the Board; M. M. Fields, First Vice-President; William C. Faulkner, Secretary; Karl F. Kimbrough, Assistant Secretary; Wesley F. Johnson, Treasurer. Ura D. Harvel, Assistant Treasurer; William H. Sharpe, Director; John W. Ware, Director; Edmond O. Allen, Actuary and Comptroller.

The growing population of California and the West Coast has made mandatory the extension of facilities in life insurance and all other types of Negro business. The Carver National Life Insurance Company is being organized at a time when the need is greatest and looks forward to an outstanding success. It should receive the support of every thinking Negro throughout the State of California.



COL. MOODY STATEN

STATEN, COLONEL MOODY, Real Estate Broker and Civic Leader, born in Lincoln County, North Carolina, February 18, 1891, the son of Julius and Ann (Holzclaw) Staten.

Colonel Staten received his early education in the rural schools of Lincoln County. At the age of twenty-one, he enlisted in the United States Army, and was attached to the 25th Infantry. He continued his education in army post schools and at Washington Teachers College.

In 1917, he was commissioned a Captain of Infantry and assigned to the 92nd Division. He went to France with the 92d Division and participated in campaigns in Voges Mountains, the Argonne Forest, and at Metz. In 1923 by presidential appointment he became Military Attache to the American Legation in the Republic of Liberia, and Commandant of the Liberian Army for more than four years.

On December 7, 1941, he was in command of the 7th Regiment, California State Guard, with the rank of full Colonel. Other war-time services included membership on

the Ration Board, Draft Board and Minority Committee of the War Manpower Commission.

On April 30, 1918, in Manhattan, Kansas Colonel Staten was married to Miss Lulu Gordon of Spokane, Washington. They are the parents of one child--Lt. Moody R.

Colonel Staten is a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, and Negro Veterans Council of California. Fraternally, he is a member of I.B.P.O.E. of W., Masonic Lodge, A.F. and A.M. (Prince Hall); and Order of the Eastern Star. He holds membership in the Golden West Realty Board, the Outdoor Life and Health Association, the Pacific Town Club, the Century Club, 28th Street Branch, YMCA, and the NAACP. His religious faith is indicated in his membership in the Zion Temple Non-denominational Church.

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GARCIA, JOHN--Businessman--born in Kingston, Jamaica, August 16, 1889. His early education was in the public school system of his home town, later attending Camden finishing school, majoring in Auto Mechanics.

For a number of years Mr. Garcia worked at his trade in Kingston, although, he was a master of his trade, the opportunity for growth and expansion were not until he decided to come to America.

He moved to California in 1929 and opened a garage. Here his expert training and excellent service gained him many customers. The business grew, and in 1939 the Garcia Super Service Station was established.

The establishing of this Super Service Station, one of the best equipped service stations owned by Negroes in America, was aided in a great measure by the cooperation of Mrs. Garcia, whom he married in 1933. Together as co-partners each share in the management of this fast expanding enterprise. Their business slogan is "Service," and car owners from every section of Los Angeles know the value of Garcia Service.

Mr. Garcia is a member of the Pacific Town Club, and is active in the civic welfare of his community.

His hobby: Sports.

Business Address: Garcia Super Service Station, 5201 S. Central Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

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GARCIA, BESSIE--Businesswoman, born in Murphyborough, Illinois, the daughter of Granville, and Lizzie (Hudson) Whitlaw; her father for many years a city employee for the city of Murphyborough.

Her early education was in the public school system of Murphyborough. Having the ambition to enter into the field of business, she later took an apprenticeship in the Jackson, Michigan School of Linotyping and Engraving; and received a journeyman certificate in 1921.

The same year Mrs. Garcia began working at her trade; working for the Solomon Engravers in Chicago, Illinois for two years.

Still seeking a business career to her liking she entered the E. Burham School of Cosmetics in Chicago, Illinois, and completed a business course in cosmetics. In 1929 Mrs. Garcia moved to California, where for a number of years she had the locker-room concession at the Hollywood Country Club and the California Country Club.

In August 1933 she married John Garcia, who at that time was in the garage business.

Mrs. Garcia is a member of the NAACP, Independent Church, and active in civic and social circles of Los Angeles.

Her hobby: Golf, and sports.



SANFORD ALEXANDER

ALEXANDER, SANFORD, President of the S. Alexander Co., Inc., with main offices at 3650-52 South Western Avenue, Los Angeles, is a native of Grenada, B. W. I. who has made a magnificent contribution to Negro business development in Southern California.

The son of a large cocoa plantation operator in Grenada, Mr. Alexander got his first business training in helping his father handle the multitudinous details of cocoa cultivation and marketing. Sent by his father to the United States to study American business methods, he took courses in general business administration and building construction in New York City.

In 1931 he became the first Negro automobile dealer in that city. Possessed of a remarkable vitality, a soaring ambition and that true executive ability which is able to work through and with others to achieve objectives, Mr. Alexander quickly developed his business into one of the largest and most successful Negro enterprises in New York, capable of competing on equal terms with older white establishments in its class.

After Pearl Harbor, he quickly realized the necessity of revamping his business interests to meet wartime conditions. He sold his automobile business while it was possible to do so at a profit, came to California with the idea of going into the used car business here. A careful study of the local used car business convinced him, however, that the field was overcrowded, and he decided to go into construction, which he recognized would be in for a tremendous postwar boom.

He did not rush into that field, however, but bought some income property; got a job at Douglas Aircraft Co., and settled down to a careful preparation of his invasion of the construction field.

As a result of an exhaustive study of that field, he decided to combine real estate with construction, and in August, 1946, the S. Alexander Co., Inc. was born, with Mr. Alexander, president, Cyril Briggs, vice-president, and Mrs. Alexander, office manager. Mr. Alexander became a general contractor, with a plastering contractor C35 and a C8 cement foundation contractor licenses as riders.

In less than two years, the new firm had built up an

enviable reputation for quality of work and business integrity. Today it is on the favored lists of leading architects, both white and Negro, with most of its construction work in the swanky Rolling Hills, Palms Verdes North Hollywood and Beverly Hills sections.

The firm sells its clients on quality workmanship, even when, as happens once in a while, its estimates for a job are slightly above those of other contractors. Mr. Alexander's slogan, "It Pays to Have Your Work Done by Those Who Know How," is implemented by a policy of hiring only the best workmen in the various trades of the construction field. Wages paid by the company are among the highest in the industry.

Long an advocate of the principle that ability, not race, is what counts, Mr. Alexander early gave his organization an interracial complexion. Interracial set-ups prevail in both office and field forces, with key positions held by members of both groups.

Mr. Alexander's business interests are many and varied. He owns stock in several eastern concerns. In addition to its brokerage and construction business, the S. Alexander Co., is in the process of organizing a building material and lumber yard; and manages several income properties of its own, as well as income properties of many of its brokerage clients.

Mr. Alexander's philanthropic interests include Hampton Institute, Hampton, Va., the Virginia State College, the YMCA and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He is a member of the congregation of 8th and Towne, Rev. F. D. Jordan, pastor.

His favorite sport is prize fighting. His own sports activities include golfing and horseback riding.

Mr. Alexander is married to the former Elizabeth P. Patterson of Boston and New York, who now heads the real estate division of the S. Alexander Co. Pat Alexander, as she is popularly known in Los Angeles social circles, is a licensed real estate broker and a level-headed, efficient businesswoman in her own right.

Cyril Briggs, vice-president of the company, is a veteran publicist and journalist who has had wide experience in the construction field. He is currently managing editor of one of the leading Los Angeles newspapers.

# Simpkins and Gower, Inc.

**SIMPKINS, RUFUS**, Businessman, was born April 17, 1909 in Iking York, Mississippi, the son of Henry and Lulu (Banks) Simpkins.

Henry Simpkins entered the Government Services as a Railway Mail Clerk, working in the position fifteen years. Later he became a F.B.I. Agent, operating in and out of New Orleans, Louisiana, where in 1924 he retired and still lives. His wife, a prominent educator, still teaches in Rolling Fork, Mississippi.

Rufus Simpkins received his grammar school education in Rolling Fork, Mississippi. Later he enrolled at LeMoyné Junior College in Memphis, Tennessee, studying there in 1924-31. He then entered Alcorn A and M College in Alcorn, Mississippi for one year. In 1932 he came to California and became a resident of Los Angeles.

In 1938 Rufus Simpkins and Truman Gower became partners and purchased a small, poorly-equipped Service Station. They improved its physical facilities and offered a type of service which was a factor in its growth to gratifying proportions. When the partnership decided to expand and to enter a new field of business, the firm became Simpkins and Gower, Incorporated. Financing construction of five Apartment Buildings and completing the venture in one year is one of the enviable records of this firm.

On December 15, 1936 Mr. Simpkins was united in marriage to Mrs. Tommie Pyles Cross of Haskell, Oklahoma.

Mr. Simpkins is a member of the A.M.E. Church, the Masonic Lodge, NAACP, Angelites Rod and Gun Club and the YMCA in which he renders yeoman service during Membership Campaigns.

His special interest are hunting, fishing, horseback riding, and sports.



MRS. TOMMIE SIMPKINS



RUFUS SIMPKINS

**SIMPKINS, TOMMIE CROSS**, Business woman, was born in Haskell, Oklahoma, the daughter of Henry and Mollie Pyles. Henry Pyles was a teacher in Lexington, Texas.

Mrs. Simpkins received her public school education in Haskell, Oklahoma, as a pupil in the Booker T. Washington Grammar School. She pursued a course in Cosmetology at the Mme. Eleanor Miller's School of Beauty Culture of Wichita, Kansas, completing the course in 1928. Additional training was taken at the C. J. Walker's School in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1929.

In 1931 Mrs. Simpkins came to California and soon was established as a Cosmetician. She was licensed to practice her profession in Kansas, Oklahoma and Cali-

fornia. In 1939 she studied stage and screen make-up under Harry L. Siegelman in Hollywood, California, completing the course the same year.

On December 15, 1936 she was married to Rufus Simpkins. She is the mother of one daughter by a former marriage, Eddy Mae Cross.

Mrs. Simpkins formerly conducted a Beauty Salon with eight operators. Notwithstanding, she has always found time to aid civic and charitable endeavors. In her religious belief she follows the precepts of Unity, and civically, is active with the West View Hospital Guild.

Her hobby is that of Ceramics of which she has been a student. She completed a course at Grant Beach Ceramics School for which she received a diploma November 20, 1947.



MR. & MRS. TRUMAN GOWER

**GOWER, TRUMAN**, Businessman, was born January 8, 1910 in Great Bend, Kansas, the son of Isaac and Grace (Martin) Gower.

Truman Gower obtained his education in the public schools of Great Bend, and early became interested in a business career.

In 1929 he came to California and worked diligently in his preparation to own and to operate a business enterprise.

On May 21, 1933 in the house of Rev. A. Lively, a counsellor and friend, Mr. Gower was married to Miss Alberta Bell of Beaumont, Texas.

In 1938 Truman Gower and Rufus Simpkins entered into a partnership to operate a Service Station. The growth of this business under the skillful management of these two young men has been accepted in business circles as an outstanding example of cooperative effort.

In 1940 the partnership purchased their second Service Station, and in 1944 was incorporated, at which time was begun the construction of five apartment buildings owned and controlled by the incorporated firm.

The religious faith of Mr. Gower is that of the Baptist Church. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Angelites Rod and Gun Club, and the YMCA in which he takes an active part in Membership Campaigns.

His hobbies are sports, fishing and hunting.

**GOWER, ALBERTA BELL**, Business Woman, was born in Beaumont, Texas, the daughter of Turner and Estel'a (Williams) Bell. Turner Bell followed farming, the usual occupation in the section of the State in which he lived.

In the acquirement of her education Alberta Bell attended the public schools of Beaumont and Los Angeles

where she came to live in 1928. In preparation for her professional work she attended Mme. C. J. Walker's School of Beauty Culture, completed the course and received a diploma in 1929. In 1932 she finished a course in Personality, Appearance and Charm at Frank Wiggins Trade School in Los Angeles.

On May 21, 1933 in Los Angeles Alberta Bell was married to Truman Gower, a young businessman.

Mrs. Gower and Mrs. Tommie Cross Simpkins formed a partnership in 1935 and opened the first and only Beauty Salon ever located in the Clark Hotel. In 1937, a larger clientele necessitated expansion and the partnership moved to a new location. Business flourished for these two enterprising young ladies. However, Mrs. Gower turned her attention to new fields. The business was sold in 1941. In 1947 she completed a Real Estate Brokerage Course at Woodbury College, received a Real Estate Brokers license and became engaged in the Real Estate Business.

Mrs. Gowers' special interest is working in YMCA Membership Campaigns.



JOHN W. BEAN JR.

BEAN, JOHN W. Jr., Real Estate Broker, Notary Public, Hotel Owner--born in Arkansas, the son of John Sr. and Mary (Ballard) Bean.

The family moved to Los Angeles in 1910 where he attended the Manuel Arts High School and Los Angeles City College. He later attended the Walter Lumbeau Real Estate School.

In 1943 he married Verna Deckard. There is one step-son, Arthur Lewis.

Mr. Bean is a member of the Masonic Lodge, Presbyterian Church and other civic organizations. He is also, a World War II Veteran. He is a leader in the fight against Restrictive Covenants.

His hobby is Golf and Bridge.

HARVEL, URA D., Merchant, born in Chetopa, Kansas, August 17, 1904, the son of James and Minnie (Mayhew) Harvel.

Educated in the public school system of Chetopa, Langston University and Kansas State Teachers College in Pittsburg, Kansas, receiving his B. S. degree in Industrial Arts from the latter institution.

In 1933 Mr. Harvel accepted a position as Principal of the Chetopa Elementary School and remained in that position until 1937; he then took over the assistant principalship of the Lincoln High School in Bristow, Okla.

In June of 1939, he married Fletta Washington, an Oklahoma school teacher. There are no children

In June of 1943 the Harvels moved to Richmond, California, and soon became active in the civic and welfare programs of their community. Mr. Harvel worked as ship fitter in the Kaiser Shipyards until the termination of World War II.

On December 1, 1945, the Harvel Grocery Store was opened at 3200 California Street in Berkeley. This store located in their own building, has enjoyed a tremendous growth and at the time of this writing (1948) is being enlarged to give a better and more modern service to the ever growing clientele. It is the ambition of the Harvels to make their store the pride of every Negro in Berkeley.

Mr. Harvel, interested in the advancement of Negro business, is Treasurer of the Carver National Life Insurance Company, this company now in the process of activation, is the greatest financial venture ever attempted by Negroes in America, and is deserving of the support of every thinking Negro in California.

He is a member: Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity (Keeper of Exchequer), Trustee on the AMF Church Board, NAACP, YMCA, and other civic organizations.

His hobbies are woodworking, sports and Contract Bridge.



MR. & MRS. URA D. HARVEL

HARVEL, ELLETTA WASHINGTON, Teacher, born in Haskell, Oklahoma, June 10, 1910, the daughter of Rev. James L. and Nettie (Jackson) Washington. She is a graduate of the public school system of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and the Langston University, receiving her B.S. degree in Education from Langston in 1936. She, also, attended the University of Nebraska and the Kansas State Teachers College.

In 1939 she married Ura D. Harvel, Asst. Principal of the Lincoln High School in Bristow, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Harvel started her teaching career in the primary grades in the Claremont, Oklahoma Elementary School System. Later, from 1939 to 1943, she taught in the elementary school system of Holdenville, Oklahoma.

In 1943 the Harvels moved to Richmond, California where she was employed as Operator at the Standard Oil Company for three years.

Mrs. Harvel, aside from the time spent in co-managing the Harvel grocery business, is very active in the civic uplift of her community. She is a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Ivy Leaf (Reporter), Kappa Silhouette Club (Reporter), and Treasurer of Stewardess Board No. 2 of the AMF Church.

Her hobbies are collecting Poetry, Journalism and Contract Bridge.



MR. CHARLES WILLIAMS

WILLIAMS, CHARLES A., Photographer, was born in Spring Town, Oklahoma, the son of Charles W. and Emma L. (Guess) Williams. In 1910 during Charles early childhood his family moved to Los Angeles, California, where he received his education, and made a name for himself as the city's Ace Photographer.

In 1936 he was married to Yoshi Kuwahara his charming Japanese American wife known to her many friends as Lucy. They are the proud parents of a talented daughter Yoshi C. Williams who is a child pianist and artist. During the early war years Charles Japanese wife and daughter were evacuated from Los Angeles. His desire to be near his wife and growing daughter forced Charles to abandon his profession and work in a steel mill in the town where his family resided.

Charles first work was as staff photographer for the Pittsburgh Courier, Pacific Coast Edition; and later for the California Eagle Staff. He is currently staff photographer for the Los Angeles Sentinel the paper for which he did full photographic coverage of the historical San Francisco Peace Conference.

Since 1945 Charles has owned and operated his own night club picture concessions, which includes an interracial staff of Negro, Caucasian, Japanese, and Mexican camera girls and dark room men, all of whom he tutored for the field of Photography. He also owns a seventeen foot land yacht equipped as a photographic laboratory which turns out photos on the scene in fifteen minutes.

Charles outstanding photography with the Avalon Studios, the largest Negro owned studio on the Pacific Coast earned him the title of "Charles of Avalon". His aerial photographs include parachute jumps of Skippy Smith, owner of the Pacific Coast Parachute Company. Charles also served as official photographer for that company during its war contract era.

For the past three semester Charles has done the campus shots for the Jefferson High School Year Book and has been highly commended by the teachers as producing the best photographs the school has ever had. He has shot a series of photographs using professional models for Muriels of California, dress designers and manufacturers of exclusive gowns sold to the leading stores. He is official photographer for the Glover and Sons Tailoring Institute, the largest Negro owned tailoring school in the world. Charles comes from and has a photographic family, his father Charles W. Williams for better than forty

years has been the leading photographer in Kansas City, Missouri. His wife Lucy Williams has successfully operated several of his concessions, and his nephew Herbert Bost works behind a speed graphic for the Avalon Studios and the Los Angeles Sentinel newspaper under Charles tutورشip.

The California School of Photography the only Negro school of its kind in California is an idea conceived by Charles and he is its President. This school is the most modern and completely equipped of its kind, teaching all phases of photography for beginning and advance students.



MR. LEON WASHINGTON JR.

WASHINGTON, LEON H. Jr., Publisher Los Angeles Sentinel, born in Kansas City, Kansas, the son of Leon H. and Blanche (Bland) Washington. Leon H. Washington, Jr. received his early education in the public schools of Kansas City where he earned the distinction of winning the Annual Oratorical Contest for four consecutive years, before graduating from Sumner High School of his native city. Later he attended Washburn College in Topeka, Kansas.

Mr. Washington came to Los Angeles in 1928 at the invitation of David E. Taylor, Publisher of the California News, and entered the field of journalism as a member of the staff of the Taylor publication. His first venture on his own account was the publication of "Town Talk" the first free distributed advertising publication serving the Southeast area of Los Angeles.

Later he joined the California Eagle as Advertising Manager, continuing in that capacity for eighteen months. After a short period as a free lance advertising representative, he established the Eastside News-Shopper which later became the Los Angeles Sentinel, which under his guidance has become a potent force in the public affairs of Los Angeles, independent in tone and character and ever striving for the good of the community.

In the Los Angeles Sentinel Mr. Washington wields a powerful weapon for the rights of the Negro and never hesitates to use its columns for social and civic betterment. During the Sentinel's most dramatic and effective campaign "Don't Spend Your Money Where You Can't Work" Mr. Washington withstood the criticism of short-sighted leadership, the complaints of dictatorial merchants, the pleas of self-seeking politicians, false arrests, threats and every conceivable effort to defeat his program to place Negro workers in "White Collar" positions in retail establishments on Central Avenue. When the campaign started only one Negro was employed in a position

above that of janitor in any retail establishment doing business on Central Avenue. Today, the store, market or business on Central Avenue not employing a Negro salesman, clerk, cashier, butcher or secretary is very much the exception.

Mr. Washington's expose of discrimination wherever it is found, his fight for equal opportunity, his support of just causes and worthwhile projects has given the Los Angeles Sentinel influence and standing worthy of its role in the community and State.

Mr. Washigton is married to the former Miss Ruth Brummell of Salinas, Kansas, who is a portrait photographer of exceptional ability.

Professionally, Mr. Washington is a member of the California Newspaper Publishers Association, National Negro Publisher's Association and the National Editorial Association. He is Grand Publicity Director, I.B.P.O.E. of W.; Member, Executive Board, Los Angeles Branch, NAACP; Member, Board of Directors, Watts Civic Welfare Committee and holds membership in the Association against Second Class Citizenship, YMCA, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He is an honorary member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Captain (State Guard Reserve). His religious faith is that of the A.M.E. Church.

Hobbies: Fishing, Hunting, and outdoor activities.



MRS. HAZEL WILLIAMS

WILLIAMS, HAZEL HITHE, Beauty School Operator, born in New Orleans, Louisiana, the daughter of Joseph and Mary (Bezart) Hithe; her father a plumber and her mother a housewife.

Educated in the public schools of New Orleans and Straight College in New Orleans. After her college work she taught in the public school system of New Orleans; leaving New Orleans and the teaching profession in 1924, she came to California. In the same year married John C. Williams in Chicago, Illinois.

Mrs. Williams began her career in Beauty Culture after graduation from the Henrietta Beauty School. She is, also, a graduate of Frank Wiggins Trade School.

Since 1932 Mrs. Williams has been the owner and Instructor of the Henrietta Beauty School.

Mrs. Williams is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Benjamin J. Bowie Post No. 228, and the Congregation Church.

## History of The Henrietta Beauty School

The Henrietta Beauty School was founded in 1916 by Henrietta Kent at 10th and Central Avenue with one pupil. Her outstanding ability and her will to uplift her Race caused her school to grow by leaps and bounds. She moved to 4,09 So. Central Avenue in order to accommodate the increased enrollment. Her untimely death in 1931 was a great loss. Mrs. Mildred McKinney came to the school as Manager at this time.

In 1932, Mr. Frank Kent sold to Mrs. Gertie R. Lee and Hazel Williams. From an enrollment of twenty students to one of well over a hundred in a short time caused this school to move to its present location.

An annual graduation of over three hundred pupils a year since the purchase of the school in 1943 by Hazel Williams and Mildred McKinney; there have been students from all over the United States and many foreign countries to complete the courses. This has been the result of hard work on the part of these two young women. From a one teacher one pupil school it has grown to a standard enrollment of one hundred seventy-five students and a teaching staff of eight.

The School practices the Departmentalized System, with the most efficient Teaching staff in the United States.



MRS. MILDRED MCKINNEY

MCKINNEY MILDRED, Beauty School Operator, born in Topeka, Kansas, the daughter of Frank and Rochel (Bennett) Jackson.

Educated in the public schools of Topeka and Washburn College of Topeka, Kansas. Coming to California in 1928, she entered the Henrietta Beauty School, and later was one of its honor graduates. She is, also, a graduate of the Frank Wiggins Trade School.

In 1943 she married Jesse R. McKinney in Los Angeles. There are no children.

After graduation Mrs. McKinney began as an Instructor at the Henrietta Beauty School, and later was made Manager. In 1944 she became co-owner of the school.

Mrs. McKinney is a member of the Pal O' Mine Social Club, and Conductress in the Rose of Sharon Chapter No. 46, Order of Eastern Star.

Her hobby is collecting antique fingerings of shoes.

FOUCHE, ARAMIS--Business Executive, owner of the Hudson Funeral Home in Oakland, and outstanding in civic and business circles of Oakland. His success in building a million dollar, Burial Insurance Department in connection with his funeral home, is acknowledged as an outstanding accomplishment.

**JAWELYN M. STUBBS**, Real Estate Broker, Assem-  
blyman 62nd District, born in Shreveport, Louisiana; his  
family moved to California in 1921, and in Los Angeles  
he completed his academic training, graduating from the  
Jefferson High School and the University of California  
at Los Angeles (class 1931).

In 1934 after an extensive campaign, he was the people's  
choice, and was elected to the California State Assembly.  
At the time of this writing (1938) he is serving his sixth  
term as Assemblyman from the 62nd District.

He is active in business and civic circles and has served  
on the Executive Boards of the NAACP; NNC; West  
View Hospital, Progressive Citizens of America; and the  
American Council on Race Relations.



**T. R. YARBOROUGH**

**YARBOROUGH, T. R.**, Real Estate Operator and Civic  
Leader, was born in Dermont, Arkansas, July 23, 1895,  
the son of William and Alice (Otis) Yarborough. The  
family moved to Greenville, Mississippi where T. R. Yar-  
borough passed his youth and received his Public School  
education and after-ward continued his studies at Strait  
University, New Orleans, La. during 1911-12. In 1916 at  
Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. Yarborough was married to Kath-  
ryn Stewart of Oberlin, Ohio. Mrs. Yarborough is a gradu-  
ate with an A.M. degree from Oberlin College. In 1919  
Mr. and Mrs. Yarborough moved to Los Angeles, Cali-  
fornia, where Mrs. Yarborough for a time was a social  
worker with the Los Angeles Social Service Department.  
Later they located in Elsinore, California, a vacation re-  
sort which offered many opportunities in business and  
civic endeavor. In Elsinore Mr. Yarborough started a lu-  
crative business as a Real Estate operator and became ac-  
tive in community organization work. His knowledge,  
from close study, of economic and sociological problems,  
and his deep interest in community betterment have won  
for him the highest respect and confidence. Today the  
Elsinore Progressive League of which he is Founder and  
President has a membership representing a cross section  
of every phase of community life and is interracial in  
every sense of the word. In religious faith Mr. Yarborough  
is an Episcopalian, and recognition of his sterling worth  
is evident as a member of the Elsinore Planning Com-  
mission; Board of Directors, Elsinore Chamber of Com-  
merce, and Executive Board, Property Owners Associa-  
tion. His affiliation with the National Association for the  
Advancement of Colored People has been over a period  
of years. The responsibility which he carries is great, but  
he fully measures up to the requirements of his position.



**WESLEY J. FAIRCHILD**

**FAIRCHILD, WESLEY J.**--Broker (Real Estate and Busi-  
ness Opportunity), born in Jackson, Mississippi, the son  
of Mr. & Mrs. E. C. Fairchild. Father was a railway mail  
clerk, now deceased; mother still living in Jackson, Mis-  
sissippi. Mr. Fairchild attended the elementary schools  
of Jackson, then as a youth 27 years ago came to Cali-  
fornia to seek his fortune. He later resumed his educa-  
tion, attending the Metropolitan High School of Los An-  
geles, and later a special business course at the University  
of Southern California, majoring in Business and Busi-  
ness Law. He then entered the Brokerage Field and was  
one of the pioneers in that field. He helped in breaking  
down many barriers for Negroes on the westside of Los  
Angeles. His present affiliations are: Hol'and Lodge No.  
20 F. & A.M., Century Club, YMCA, Pacific Town Club,  
of which he is Chairman of Committee on Hunting and  
Fishing; Golden West Realty Board, of which he is  
Chairman of the Restrictive Covenant Committee; Board  
Member of Out-Door Life and Health Association; Mem-  
ber of C.M.E. Phillips Temple. He was married on July  
5, 1940 to Jay Joyner a musician. There are no children.  
Hobbies: Fishing and Hunting. Business address: 2319  
West Jefferson Boulevard, Los Angeles, California.

**WOODARD, ALLEN C. 3rd**, Licensed Real Estate Broker  
and Civic Leader, was born in Glidden, Texas, September  
9, 1911, the son of Allen Woodard and Luola (Small-  
wood) Woodard. He received his basic training in public  
and preparatory schools in his native state. He early  
turned his attention to providing for his own support.  
With the idea that preparation is the basic requirement  
for advancement and ambitious to enter upon a profes-  
sional career, he came to California in 1930 to further his  
education, first at Los Angeles City College, then to the  
University of California at Los Angeles, followed by a  
preparatory course at the Los Angeles College of Law.

During the depression when there was a demand for  
highly trained social workers, Mr. Woodard qualified for  
the position with a Certificate in Social Service from  
USC. He resigned from social work to enter into the real  
estate business in 1940.

As a pioneer Realty dealer in selling properties covered by restrictive covenants, Mr. Woodard pursued a policy of selling Negroes homes in any district they choose, and backing them up financially and otherwise in any legal action which contested their right of occupancy. He opened the West Adams Heights (Sugar Hill) District, the Westchester Place Tract in the Wilshire District, and the Charles Victor Hall Tract in the Westside area between Jefferson and Adams Boulevards, and has contributed legal fees to more than fifty buyers where restrictive covenant cases were involved, and has, thus, contributed to the development, progress and growth of the city as it affects the Negro citizen.

On the 21st of August, 1940, Mr. Woodard was married in Los Angeles to Miss Clothilde Curry Mrs. Woodard, who holds both a B.A. and M.A. degree from UCLA, is a teacher in the Los Angeles City Public School system.

Mr. Woodard holds membership in the St. Philip's Episcopal Church, in the work of which he takes active and helpful part. He maintains an independent political position, and is President, West View Hospital, Inc.; Member, Board of Management, 28th Street YMCA; Member, Executive Committee of Los Angeles Branch NAACP; Member, Board of Directors, Golden West Real Estate Board; Chairman, Board of Directors, Westside Chamber of Commerce and member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.



BERTRAND B. BRATTON

BRATTON, BERTRAND B., Certified Public Accountant, was born in Bluefield, West Virginia, September 23, 1899, and is the son of Isaac H. and Alverta A. Bratton. Both his father and mother were school teachers, the former having taught in public schools of Bluefield, and his mother at Hampton Institute in Hampton, Virginia. They moved to Colorado when their son, Bertrand B. Bratton was but six months old, and lived there until he finished grade school. In 1911 the family moved to Wyoming, where B. B. Bratton worked in the coal mines, and at various times was a delegate along with his father, to the United Mine Workers of America, which then, as now, was headed by John L. Lewis. His father and Mr. Lewis were very good friends.

After completing his public school education, Mr. Bratton attended the University of Chicago from 1917 to 1921. He then took the position of Chief Accountant with the Knights of Pythias of North America, South America, Europe, Asia and Africa, in New Orleans, Louisiana. During the time of his connection with the Knights of Pythias,

he passed the Certified Public Accountant examination in Louisiana.

Mr. Bratton came to California in 1925, and entered business as a Certified Public Accountant. He continued practice until 1932, at which time he was appointed Senior Accountant with the California State Board of Equalization, and advanced in this connection to the position of Supervising Auditor of the Alcoholic Beverage Tax Division for the County of Los Angeles. After twelve years of service with the State of California he resigned to run for Congress in 1944. Although, defeated in this effort, his social disposition and genuine personal worth gained for him the high regard and honored friendship of many with whom he was brought in contact.

In 1939 he was married to Angelique DeLavalade, the daughter of Louis and Emma DeLavalade of Alexandria, Louisiana. Mrs. Bratton is a legal stenographer in the Division of Labor, State of California.

During the war Mr. Bratton was chairman of Rationing Board No. 42 of Los Angeles, which he served with honor and distinction. His civic interests are wide and varied and he gives support unstintingly to worthwhile efforts.

Bratton is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Pacific Town Club, Board of Directors, YMCA; Board of Directors, Liberty Savings and Loan Association; and President, Carver National Life Insurance Company. He is Chairman of Citizens Military Affairs Committee; Chairman, Republican Assembly, 62nd Assembly District, and an officer of the Negro Voters League.

The results he has achieved mark him as a man of high purpose, and his example should serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement to others.



H. T. SHEPPARD

SHEPPARD, H. T., Real Estate Broker, was born September 4, 1888, in Aberdeen, Maryland, the son of Alex and Annie (Simms) Sheppard.

H. T. Sheppard received his early education in his native city, later moving to New York City where he finished high school and attended the City College of New York. Later he pursued a Commercial course in Thompson Business School and Astor Place Law School.

Ambitious to enter business on his own account he saved diligently to acquire the capital for this purpose. He entered the Real Estate Business in 1933. His first location being at Sutter and Baker Streets. Commendable success at this location necessitated expansion, and he moved to 1740 Post St. in 1940. In 1942 the United Security Investment, Inc. was organized and Mr. Sheppard be-

... Board of Directors of this organization... influence in selling to municipal... lost housing for the benefit of... group. In recognition of his interest in the field of Public Housing he was the recipient of an award for honest and faithful performance from the Federal Public Housing Administration.

In April 1907 in New York City, Mr. Sheppard was married to Miss Hester Snowden of that city. They are the parents of one daughter, Gloria (Simpson), now living in San Francisco.

The United Security Investment Inc., of which Mr. Sheppard was President in 1947 is an investment concern, holding properties in many sections of San Francisco. His other business interests include a children's wear store, Sandra Kiddie Shop, which is one of the outstanding businesses of the city.

Throughout his life Mr. Sheppard has been interested in and helpful to those movements which have as their objective the betterment of the community.

He is a veteran member of the NAACP in San Francisco. He is the Past President and Secretary of this organization, and was its first delegate to the National Convention which was held in Houston, Texas in 1941. His religious faith is that of the Methodist Church.



MRS. SADIE LOUISE DAVIDSON

DAVIDSON, SADIE LOUISE, Business Executive, born in Tulsa, Oklahoma the daughter of Willie and Mary (Taylor) Nero, both parents now deceased. Her early education was in the elementary schools of Tulsa, and in the Polytechnic High School of Los Angeles; her parents moving to Los Angeles when Sadie Louise was still at an early age. She later attended the Los Angeles City College but left that college to attend the Los Angeles College of Chiropractic, where she worked on her D.C. degree. Mrs. Davidson, also, holds diplomas from the McDonald College of Beauty Culture, Barnes College of Hair Styling, and Hollywood International Academy of Continental Hair Styling.

For several years she operated a successful beauty salon, but now she has retired from active work as a Cosmetologist to Co-Manage with her husband, the Sadie Louise Retail Center.

Mrs. Davidson attributes much of her success in business to the early training of her parents who for many

years operated a grocery store, and who trained her in the fundamentals of business through her childhood.

Mrs. Davidson is very active in civic and welfare work in her community. She is President and Founder of the Hair Stylist Guild, Vice-President of the Slayton Foundation, State Organizer of the California Hair Stylist Guild, a member of the Independent Church Guild, YWCA, NAACP and President of the Alpha Wives Aux.

Her career and success in business has earned for her the respect of the community, and is considered as outstanding among the young business women of Los Angeles.

Her hobby is music.



DEWEY D. DAVIDSON

DAVIDSON, DEWEY, Businessman--born in Jonesboro, Arkansas, the son of Richard and Delia (Smith) Davidson. Educated in the public schools of Tulsa, Oklahoma, University of Kansas, (two years in Economics) and the University of California in Berkeley, A. B. in Physiology.

Mr. Davidson, sensing the great possibilities in business choose the field of business as his career. For several years he successfully operated a ready-to-wear and general merchandising store in co-partnership with his wife, Sadie Louise (Nero) Davidson, whom he married in Riverside, Calif. She is a successful business woman in her own right. They founded the Sadie Louise Retail Center. This center consists of a fully stocked Department Store, Beauty Parlor and Wig Shop, and is the largest Negro owned business center of its kind in California. At the time of this writing (1948) plans are in the making to enlarge the business to add a complete line of household furniture, and to make the Department Store the most modern store owned by Negroes in America.

The Sadie Louise Center is recognized for its leadership, and because of its high type and quality of merchandise, it has been responsible for the Central Avenue Stores coming up to a much higher level in the quality of goods offered to the public.

Mr. Davidson is a member of California Alumni Association of the University of California; President, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity (graduate chapter); Past President, St. Philips Episcopal Church Men's Club; Chairman, South Eastern Co-ordinating Council; member N.A.A.C.P., Masonic Lodge, YWCA, and Past Far Western Regional Director, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

His hobby is reading.



MRS. VICTORIA JOHNSON

**JOHNSON, VICTORIA**, Musician and Owner of Johnson's House Cleaning Establishment, native of Augusta, Georgia, the daughter of R M and Annie (Stokes) Marshall. Her father is a pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church. Mrs. Johnson received her education at Walker Baptist Institute in Augusta, Georgia. She came to Los Angeles, California, in 1920 and married William M Johnson in 1921. There are two children--Mary V. and William A Jr.

Mrs. Johnson is affiliated with Shiloh Baptist Church and has been the church pianist for over twenty years; the YWCA and American Woodmen.

The Johnson's House Cleaning Establishment is twenty-one years old and the first of its kind, which trains young men and women in the art of cleaning. Services offered are: Professional floor sanding, furniture shampooing, cleaning of rugs and upholstering, along with everything pertaining to general house cleaning.



WILLIAM JOHNSON JR

**JOHNSON, WILLIAM A Jr**, Farmer and Musician, native of Los Angeles, California, son of William and Victoria Johnson. He is foreman for his parent's House Cleaning Establishment.

William Jr. attended Riverside Junior College, and has made outstanding records in football, baseball, and track. In 1934 he won the All Conference Tennis Championship. He is a member of AAU and plays on the Avalon Christian Church Community Center basketball team.

William Jr. became a farmer and owner of a ninety-seven acre ranch in Riverside, California at the age of eighteen and is known throughout Riverside County as one of its youngest farmers. He is a member of the Riverside Agricultural Association, Shiloh Baptist Church, YMCA and NAACP.



MISS MARY V JOHNSON

**JOHNSON, MARY V.**, Accomplished Violinist and Real Estate Broker, born in Los Angeles, California, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Johnson, co-owners of Johnson's House Cleaning Company. She is a Los Angeles High and Compton Junior College graduate and attended University of Southern California.

Miss Johnson's musical background comes from the greatest violin leaders--the late Jascha Gogna, Leon Goldwassen and Peter Meremblum, all of the Philharmonic Orchestra and Hollywood Bowl. She has appeared in concerts throughout the United States.

She is affiliated with Shiloh Baptist Church, Deltas and sponsor of YWA and YWCA.



HERMAN HILL

**HILL, HERMAN**, editor of the Coast Edition of The Pittsburgh Courier. Born in Portland, Oregon, reared in Seattle, Washington. Educated at Whitman College, Walla Walla, Washington, and University of Southern California, graduating with Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. In Los Angeles since 1927, was a member of USC varsity basketball and track squads, 1930-31, high jumper in track, center on basketball team. Team won Pacific Coast Conference and National Track championships in '31. Social worker for State Relief and Los Angeles County six years. In oil station business for himself for two years. Had several courses in journalism in high school and college but literally stumbled into newspaper work eight years ago as sports columnist for Coast Edition; branched out from there. Married and has a daughter and twin boys. Ambition: to build Courier empire in 11 western states.



JAMES H. HAYES



HENRY J. LEWIS



MRS. LESSIE STEVENSON

**HAYES, JAMES H.**, Automobile Dealer, born May 20, 1900 in New Orleans, Louisiana, the son of Edward and Rose C. (Anthony) Hayes.

James Hayes received his early education in the public schools of his native city. When he left school he moved to Chicago, Illinois, and in 1920 came to Los Angeles and became engaged in the Automobile Business as salesman, working with A. E. Johnston at the Pearl Garage. He later was promoted to Manager of that business.

In 1927 he became associated with Henry J. Lewis under the firm name, Central Motor Sales. Subsequent to this association in business, Henry Lewis and James Hayes entered into a partnership under the firm name, Lewis and Hayes, with offices at 3001 S. Western Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

In addition to being Automobile Dealers, other business activities of the partnership include Realty investments and the operation and management of rental properties, Service Stations, a hotel and theatre.

On November 19, 1937, James Hayes was married to Miss Ivy Slaughter. He is the father of a son, James Roland Hayes, by a former marriage.

Mr. Hayes is a Christian Scientist, and member of Garrison No. 45, Masonic Lodge, and the Pacific Town Club.

**LEWIS, HENRY J.**, Automobile Dealer, born in Los Angeles, California, January 9, 1902, the son of Harry and Cora (Walker) Lewis.

Henry Lewis was educated in the public schools of Los Angeles.

In 1927 Henry Lewis joined with James Hayes in the establishment of Central Motor Sales. This company was the first to use the method of caravanning new automobiles from the East to the West Coast.

In 1929 Mr. Lewis became the manager of the Blodgett Motor Company. Later he was affiliated with the R. A. Glines Company and finally became the buyer for Abe Goldstein, one of the largest Auto Dealers in Los Angeles. Twenty-four years of experience in the motor sales field has culminated in the present representative firm of Lewis and Hayes Auto Buyers.

This firm specializes in late model cars and has better than \$100,000.00 in cars and equipment, which assures their clients that any and all competition, as to price and quality, can be met.

On October 24, 1930 Mr. Lewis was married to Miss Josephine Turnham. They are the parents of one son, Henry J., Jr.

Mr. Lewis is a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Association for the Abolishment of Second Class Citizenship, the Cosmopolitan Golf Club and the Pacific Town Club, of which he is a member of the Board of Directors. His religious faith is that of the Methodist Church.

**STEVENSON, LESSIE**, Designer and Manufacturer of Hairpieces, born in Little Rock, Arkansas, the daughter of David and Ruth (Garrett) Williams. Her mother is a well-known club woman and fraternal leader. During Lessie's early childhood Mrs. Williams moved to Los Angeles, California where Lessie received her public school education. Her college studies were completed at Wiley College in Marshall, Texas. She studied beauty culture at McDonalds Beauty College, and at present (1948) she is taking a course in French Weaving and ventilating under a French craftsman in Hollywood.

In 1938 Lessie Stevenson became interested in her career of the art of making one's personal appearance more attractive by the proper hair grooming and wearing of human attachment. During this era the very short bob was losing its popularity and the glamour girl hair styles of page boys, curls, chignons and braids were rapidly gaining popularity. Mrs. Stevenson was her best client and model of her work, as she first began glamorizing her personal appearance by wearing her own attachments. The many compliments and praises received from sincere friends on the improvement of her own personal appearance was Lessie Stevenson's greatest recommendation for the sale of her goods, and she proudly states, that she owes the success of her business to her friends for their encouraging words and kind thoughts.

Mrs. Stevenson studies her client with the same careful precision that a portrait artist studies his subject. She personally weaves and dyes hair to blend with the natural hair and coloring of the customer. She carefully studies one's facial contour for feature defects that can be improved with the proper hair grooming. Much of Lessie Stevenson's work has been in the privacy of her customer's boudoir, and Lessie's greatest happiness is satisfyingly watching milady's smile of pleasure when she views the improvement in her personal appearance when her work is completed.

Mrs. Stevenson's first salon was called the "Blue Room" which she operated at 1950 S. Central Avenue. Within a short time the demand for personal home service was so great that she was unable to divide her attention between home service and office. She now confines all services to the home which brings more privacy and efficiency for improving the personal appearance of the ladies as well as the men.

Mrs. Stevenson is a member of the Holman Methodist Church.



CLAUDE C. DAVIS

DAVIS, CLAUDE C., Sales Representative, was born in 1920 and reared in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he received his basic education. Later he attended the Wilberforce University from which he graduated.

He served close to five years in the Armed Forces of his country, having gone into the Army as a 2nd Lieutenant Infantry, later becoming a 1st Lieutenant of the 474th Bomb Group in which he was a bomber pilot.

During the war years he married Virginia Pronty of Pittsburgh. He was released from service at Fort Lewis, Washington and came to California "to look the place over." He found it good and became a resident of San Francisco. His appointment as salesman for Acme Breweries and his assignment to cover the trade in San Francisco and Oakland have been widely acclaimed in business circles.

Mr. Davis is an ardent flyer in private life and usually spends some time each weekend flying at Hamilton Field in Marin County. "Keeping my hand in" is the way he describes his hobby of flying. Claude C. Davis, still a young man and one of the top salesmen of Acme Breweries, has made for himself a creditable place in business, and his progress is the direct outcome of his native ability, his close application, and his loyalty to the interests intrusted in his care.

COLEMAN, SAMUEL BRYANT, Mortician and Funeral Director, was born February 28, 1912, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the son of Rev. G. C. and Annie Coleman.

Samuel B. Coleman acquired his early education in the public schools of Oakland, California, having come to that city with his parents when he was an infant. He then entered San Mateo Junior College and later Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. His professional training was taken at the San Francisco College of Mortuary Science from which he graduated in 1943.

Samuel B. and Lolita Coleman were married in Jackson, Tennessee in 1932. They are the parents of one girl, Lyta Marie.

The Coleman Funeral Home, owned exclusively by Mr. Samuel B. Coleman was opened in April of 1946. Mr. Coleman is a Baptist and member of the NAACP. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Masonic Lodge, I.B.P. O.E. of W., American Woodmen and the Knights and Daughters of Tabor.

While still numbered among the younger representatives of his profession, he has already made a name and place for himself.



HAROLD L. CAMBA

CAMBA, HAROLD L., Accountant, Linguist and Notary Public, is a native of Hannibal, Missouri, where he received his public school education.

Mr. Camba came to California and established residence in San Francisco in 1922. He attended Stanford University pursuing courses in preparation for a varied career.

He was a language teacher in 1926, and extended his efforts in other fields until 1933, at which time he became Co-Manager of Butler's Funeral Home. He worked in that capacity from 1933 to 1944. His efficiency and loyalty to the interests he represented brought him the opportunity to become Co-Owner of Butler's Funeral Home. He held his share in the business until 1947. In July of 1947 he received a commission of Notary Public from Governor Warren, this being the first given a Negro in San Francisco.

Mr. Camba deserves credit for what he has accomplished, his course being that of a man of high ideals and honorable principles.



JOHN A. HARDEE

HARDEE, JOHN A., Supervisor of Maintenance Personnel, was born July 24, 1897, in Corsicana, Texas, the son of Robert Henry and America (Townsend) Hardee. Robert Henry Hardee for years was Band Instructor in the Public Schools of Corsicana and was widely known and well liked, particularly, by the youths who sought his counsel and learned music under his direction.

... to the public... education in the public... and later prepared for a business... at the Hampton Williams School of... in Dallas, Texas. After completing the... diploma, and obtaining a... he returned to Corsicana... the Hardee Brothers Home in 1928. Mr. Hardee was the active head of this successful business from 1928 to 1937 at which time he decided to move to California. He lived in Los Angeles for a while and then went to El Centro, California, where he remained until 1942. He returned to Los Angeles the same year to accept a position with the National Supply Company as Supervisor of Maintenance Personnel. In this capacity he was responsible for the first employment of Negroes by this Company. More than two hundred Negroes became regular employees.

Mr. Hardee was married in Corsicana to Miss Eula Glover of that city and their children are John A. Jr., Mary Catherine and Jacquelyn.

His religious faith is that of the Baptist Church and he is a member of the Masonic Lodge (Prince Hall) in Dallas and Egyptian Temple No. 5 Shrine in Los Angeles. He is affiliated with the NAACP, YMCA, Lucky Few Pool and Gun Club, and President of the Angel Bowl Association, Inc., the organization responsible for the first Negro Intercollegiate Football Game played on the Pacific Coast.



CARL J. JOHNSON

JOHNSON, CARL J., Real Estate Broker, born in Houma, Louisiana, August 23, 1911, the son of Spencer and Lenora (McGuinn) Johnson. His father, for many years, a Union Labor Leader and organizer.

He is a graduate of the public school system of Los Angeles, his family having moved to California when he was a small boy. He later attended City College of Los Angeles, University of Southern California, Kansas State College, and the Los Angeles University, obtaining his A.B. degree, from the latter. He is now working on a degree in Law, expecting to complete his work in 1948.

Following in the footsteps of his father, Mr. Johnson soon became active in civic and political welfare. In 1946, he became nationally known for his leadership when he successfully managed the Republican Presidential Campaign in the 62nd District. Since that time he holds the respect of the Republican Party in the State and has served on many district, county and state committees.

Always using to an advantage for his race the prestige he has in political circles, he fought and was successful in opening the doors for employment for Negroes at the Preston School of Industry, Fred C. Nelles School, and Juvenile Hall. In 1946 he was his party's candidate for the State Legislature.

He served as President of the district organization, Young Republican Club, Vice President of the Los Angeles County Organization; Assistant Secretary of the State Organization and was a delegate to the National Convention.

During the war he fought with the 92nd Division, as a rifleman, serving for nineteen months in Italy.

He is an active member and has held offices in the Law Students' Association of the Los Angeles University. He belongs to Alpha Fraternity; Veterans of Foreign Wars; American Legion; American Veterans Committee; Masonic Lodge; Elks Lodge; American Woodmen and the Musicians Union. At the time of this writing he is sparking the fight to prevent Governor Warren of California from becoming a Republican Presidential nominee, because, in his opinion, of his lack of consideration for qualified Negroes in his appointments.

Mr. Johnson entered the Real Estate field in 1938 and is now active in that field.



WILLIS E. CARSON

CARSON, WILLIS E.--Real Estate Broker--was born in Dallas, Texas, December 23, 1912, the son of Willis and Bertha (Jackson) Carson. He was educated in the public schools of his native city, and came to California in 1943. He became a resident of Los Angeles, and immediately enrolled at Metropolitan Business School, where he completed a course in Business Administration and Real Estate.

Mr. Carson started the Real Estate business in his home. His understanding and knowledge of the real estate business, and the intelligent use of his time and efforts soon made it impracticable to continue his business in his home. He organized the Carson Realty Company and Associates, which included an employment agency service.

On March 17, 1932 in Dallas, Texas, Mr. Carson married Miss Ida Mae Thorpe, a native of that city. They are the parents of a daughter, Doris Louise.

In the real estate field, Mr. Carson initiated a new and successful approach to breaking Restrictive Covenants. The approach was tested in the Lucky Baldwin tract, located between Avalon Blvd and Main Street, on 56th and 57th Streets in Los Angeles. The properties in this area were restricted. A series of meetings with property owners were held, and an agreement to sell and permit occupancy was reached. Twenty-one homes in this tract were sold by the Carson Realty Company, thereby, justifying the concept that mutual understanding and agreement can be reached when alleged opposing forces come together for open and frank discussion.

Mr. Carson's religious connection is with the Independent Church of Christ. He is a member of the William Nickerson Jr. Lodge No. 55, F. and A. M., the Golden State Realty Board, and the NAACP.



BRACY L. HESTER

HESTER, BRACY, L., Dairyman, was born September 24, 1902, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the son of Charles and Lenora (Vernouse) Hester.

Bracy L. Hester received his formal education at Baton Rouge Academy, but preferring to learn by apprenticeship, he left school at an early age to work for his uncle, J. D. Brown, an outstanding contractor and builder in his native city. With determination, application and ability, young Hester learned well the fundamentals of building construction, but his interest in a dairy farm which grew out of a visit to the country when he was eleven years of age was yet to be a motivating factor in choosing his business career.

In 1918 he came to Los Angeles to work in the building construction industry. Knowing building construction as he did, he prospered—first as a Carpenter, next as a foreman and Construction Engineer, and later the President of the Dependable Construction Company which did a flourishing business from 1929 to 1935.

In 1935 Bracy L. Hester, pioneering new fields in business, became the first Negro dairyman and distributor on the West Coast. The B. L. Hester Pure Milk Company was a reality—a dream come true.

In 1940 the Company was merged with United Independent, Inc. Mr. Hester became member, Board of Directors, next was elevated to Vice President and in 1945 was made President. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite, A. F. and A. M., and an Honorary Deputy Sheriff of Los Angeles County.



PURMAN ROBERT SMALLWOOD

SMALLWOOD, PURMAN ROBERT, Real Estate Broker, born in Butler County, Alabama on October 14, 1891, the son of R. L. and Fliza Jane (Dickerson) Smallwood.

In 1892 the family moved to Guthrie, Oklahoma where his father, a Baptist preacher, pastored for forty years, serving as Vice President of the Baptist State Convention for twenty-five years.

Mr. Smallwood is a graduate of the Logan County (Oklahoma) High School, and Langston University in Langston, Oklahoma. For several years he was a teacher in the rural schools of Logan County.

In World War I he served with the Medical Corp. of the 805th Infantry, U. S. Army. Leaving the Army Mr. Smallwood traveled extensively in many states of the Union.

In 1921 he married Miss Nellie F. Eubanks and the family moved to Los Angeles, California.

Mr. Smallwood entered the Real Estate field in 1923, working for a number of years with the Woods Realty Co. and the Blodgett Realty Co.

In 1943, seeing the need for Real Estate development on the West Side of Los Angeles, he moved his offices to that section of the city, and increased his personnel to include five Associates, E. E. Wigley, Thomas J. Pinchback, Maurice McGovock, M. A. Griffith, and Helen E. Childs Page, who serves efficiently in the capacity of Secretary to the firm.

Mr. Smallwood was a leader in the fight against Restrictive Covenants; and organized the Home Owners Defense Council, Inc., an organization to finance and fight UN-democratic and UN-American practices.

He is a member of the YMCA, NAACP, Century Club, and the Golden West Realty Board.

His hobby is golf at which game he is considered very good.





S. P. JOHNSON SR.

JOHNSON, S. P. Sr., Mortician, was born in Emporia, Kansas, June 1, 1877, the son of Squire and Isabell (Bain) Johnson, both parents now deceased.

His early education was in the public schools of Emporia, he later attended the Los Angeles Business College.

Mr Johnson came to Los Angeles in 1901 and worked for two years as a laborer in the building industry. In 1903 he was elected Business Manager of the International Building Trades Union, whose membership consisted of all races. In 1906 at the convention of the Union in Kansas City, Missouri, he was elected Sixth Vice-President of his Union; in 1907 he was elected General Secretary of the same International Union, being the only Negro that held that position. This position he held until the organization merged with the A. F. of L. Union.

In 1918, Mr. Johnson entered the field of undertaking in partnership with Chas. D. Conner. The Conner-Johnson Mortuary was founded. This firm has been doing business in one place for the past 28-years. For many years Mr. Johnson has been President and Manager of this outstanding firm.

Soon after coming to Los Angeles, Mr. Johnson entered into the fraternal, religious and civic life of his adopted city. After only three years of residence he was elected Grand Master of the Odd Fellows Lodge, a position he held for seven years. Resigning as Grand Master, he was elected Grand Secretary, and served in this position for thirteen years. He was elected and served for five years as Grand Patron of the Eastern Star Grand Chapter.

He has served as General Secretary of the Western Baptist Convention, Clerk of the Second Baptist Church, President of the State B.T.U., President of the State Sunday School Convention, Secretary of the State Baptist Convention, Treasurer of the State Baptist Convention and for thirty-four years as Sunday School Superintendent of his church the Second Baptist Church.

As a civic figure in his community he served for eleven years as President of the Kansas Club. Has been active in YMCA work, serving for many years on the Board of Managers. Since the organization of the Golden State Life Insurance Company, Mr. Johnson has served as Vice-President and member of the Board of Directors. He is, also, on the Board of Directors of the Broadway Federal Savings Association, one of the fastest growing concerns of its kind in America.

In April of 1928, Mr. Johnson married Daisy Ceruti. Thus, this man who came to Los Angeles in 1901, who worked as a common laborer until he found his stride, has been for many years one of the most outstanding figures in Southern California. He is regarded by every one in every walk of life as a courageous leader and an inspiration to every Negro youth.



MRS. FANNIE E. BENJAMIN

BENJAMIN, FANNIE E., Musician and Secretary, born in Denver, Colorado, the daughter of Thomas and Emma (Davis) Wilson. Having come to Los Angeles at the age of nine, she was educated in the public schools of Los Angeles, completing her work in piano, organ theory and teaching at the University of Southern California School of Music. Upon her graduation she was presented by her organ teacher, Professor Roy Hastens, in an Organ and Piano Recital at the Philharmonic Auditorium in Los Angeles.

Her musical talents soon earned for her admiration and respect in the musical circles of Southern California, and her piano and organ renditions were in great demand in church and other recitals.

Her acceptance of the position as Church Organist at the People's Independent Church, brought to that church a new area in finer music, and throughout the years this church has gained fame and applaud because of its touching and inspiring music.

Mrs. Benjamin is, also, the Director of the N.P. Greggs Gospel Choir, and the Advisor of the Art and Organ Guild, the largest club in the church.

Her fine musical background is largely responsible for the position Mrs. Benjamin now holds with the Conner-Johnson Company, one of the largest and best known Negro concerns in Los Angeles. She started with this concern playing the organ for funerals, but her methods in dealing with people and the regard that everyone had for her soon elevated her to the position she now holds. Mrs. Benjamin is a stockholder in the concern, and is considered as one of the main cogs in the function of the Conner-Johnson Company.

Her husband Arvant M. Benjamin is the owner of one of Southern California's largest cleaning and laundry establishments.

Mrs. Benjamin is a member of the American Guild of Organist, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority; Honorary member, Pi Beta Sigma Sorority, NAACP, YWCA, Friendly Twelve Charity Club, and other civic and fraternal organizations.

Her hobby--Reading and the legitimate theatre.



GEORGE E. CANNADY

CANNADY, GEORGE EDWARD, Attorney-at-Law and Real Estate Broker was born in Portland, Oregon, May 1, 1913, the son of Edward and Beatrice Cannady.

His early education was in the public schools of Portland, and graduated from the Grant High School of that city.

He later attended the Willamette University in Salem Oregon where he received his A.B. Degree. Because of his outstanding scholastic career at Willamette University and his graduation as an honor student, he received a scholarship to the Howard University School of Law, and later graduated with the degree of L.L.B.

At Howard University, Attorney Cannady, was outstanding in the field of sports; starting on the track team, and as a member of the football squad.

In 1938, answering the call of the West, he moved to Los Angeles and shortly afterwards, he entered the Real Estate field. While working in this field, he, also, managed to complete his graduate work in Law at the Pacific Coast College of Law in Los Angeles.

Attorney Cannady soon became an active part of the business and civil life of Los Angeles, and because of his willingness to help others in their civic and welfare problems, he has made hundreds of friends in all walks of life.

Through these friendships and services to his clients, he soon was acknowledged as one of the most outstanding in his field.

Always an active member of the Golden West Real Estate Board, he became its Vice-President in 1946. In 1947 he was elected President of this board.

In 1942, he married Camille Lisberg, a graduate of De Pau University in Chicago and a talented artist of the stage and screen.

Attorney Cannady is a member of Guardian Lodge No 50 of the Masons, YMCA, FEPC, Los Angeles, Chapter; National Lawyers Guild, NAACP, Pacific Town Club, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and Vice-President of the Association for the Abolishment of Second Class Citizenship, and belongs to the Vermont and Jefferson Business Men's Association.

His hobby is swimming.



BYRON W. RUMFORD

RUMFORD, BYRON W., Druggist, reared in Phoenix, Arizona, the son of Chauncey Rumford and Margaret Lee Rumford Williams. His early education was in the public schools of Phoenix and Los Angeles, his parents moving to California in 1915 when he was at the age of seven. Shortly after High School graduation he entered the University of California, College of Pharmacy in San Francisco, and received his Ph.D. degree in 1931.

In October of 1932 Mr. Rumford married Elsie Rebecca Carrington in Oakland, California. From this union there are three children--William Byron Jr., Randolph and Elsie Rebecca II.

As a youth Mr. Rumford worked as a delivery boy at the same drug store he now owns. It was here, too, that he first entered the drug business after being admitted to practice pharmacy. He, also, has a joint interest in one of the better Drug stores in the heart of the Negro District of Oakland. This store was purchased during the war years by Mr. Rumford and three other Negro Doctors, in order to divert business to the Negro race and employ Negro professionals in the drug field. Over \$20,000.00 was invested in this civic venture.

Mr. Rumford, active in civic and community welfare, has held many important posts in State and Federal Government. He served on the staff of the Alameda County Hospital; held Civil Service positions with the State Department of Public Health; was appointed by Gov. Earl Warren of California to the Rent Control Advisory Board; during the war years was an Investigator for venereal Diseases in the local community; and was appointed by Mayor Cross of Berkeley to the City Housing Commission. Mr. Rumford, because of his civic activity, has been able to help in getting Civil Service Jobs for qualified Negroes in the Bay Area. At the time of this writing (1948) he has just been elected as Alternate Delegate to the Democratic National Convention to be held in Philadelphia in June of 1948.

In 1945, Mr. Rumford aside from his business and civic activities, found time to enter the University of California at Berkeley, and in 1946 completed work on an A.B. degree in Public Administration. This course was taken to better fit him for the political and civic problems that he had dedicated his life to help solve for the good of the Negro race.

Mr. Rumford is a member of: Gamma Phi Lambda Chapter, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; Democratic Central Committee; President, Business and Professional Association of California; Director, Oakland Chapter American Red Cross; Director, Berkeley Municipal League; and President of the East Bay Health Association. His religious faith is Baptist.

His hobby is Political Science.



LOUIS M. BLODGETT

**BLODGETT, LOUIS M.** Business Executive, born in the state of South Carolina, but spent his boyhood and early manhood in Augusta, Georgia.

In 1904, Mr. Blodgett, seeking the freedom and opportunity offered to a young and ambitious man, moved to Los Angeles, California.

His first venture into the field of business was organizing of the Blodgett Bros. Contracting Firm. This business, starting on a small scale, grew into one of the most outstanding contracting businesses in Los Angeles, and the Blodgett brothers became financial figures in the Southern California area.

In 1908 he married Nella Allensworth, daughter of the late Colonel and Mrs. Allen Allensworth. Her father was Chaplain of the 24th Infantry and founder of the town of Allensworth, California.

In 1924, Mr. Blodgett was one of the organizers of the Liberty Building and Loan Association, the first major financial institution to be organized by Negroes in California. He is now President and Manager of the concern that has grown into the Liberty Savings and Loan Association, a fully accredited financial institution in which all savings accounts are federally insured up to \$5000.00 by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation.

Mr. Blodgett is the founder of Blodgett Manor (generally referred to as Blodgett Tract), one of the better home projects in Southeast Los Angeles.

For many years Mr. Blodgett has been active in the civic welfare of his community and his name is linked with every worthwhile venture for the uplift of his race.

On August 10, 1923 in Norfolk, Virginia he was married to Miss Margaret Davis; they are the parents of one child, Estella

He is Baptist in religious faith and has been a resident of California since 1922.

Hobbies: Sports.



L. EDWARD GRIGSBY

**GRIGSBY, LEE EDWARD**--Secretary-Treasurer and Manager, Smith-Williams Mortuary Co., Inc., born in Kansas City, Kansas, April 9, 1906--son of Edward and Catherine Beatrice (Creek) Grigsby. Father deceased April 17, 1945.

Mr. Grigsby's early education was in the public school system of Denver, Colorado, where the family moved soon after his birth. After graduation from the Manual Training High School of Denver, he entered the University of Denver, where he studied dentistry for two years. In 1919, answering the call of the West, he came to California. Not finding at that time the type of work he wanted, he returned to Denver. From this time on the life of this young Negro, like that of so many others seeking their proper field, was like a story out of the work of O'Henry. First a career in music. Following this, he went to Oregon, where he spent a number of years on the stage. Then again the call to California and back to Los Angeles. Back in Los Angeles, he was cast in several motion pictures, having fairly good parts. During these years he was also route manager for the Los Angeles Examiner, the first Negro to hold this position. In 1943, he was called to the colors of his country serving for 16 months in the Army.

Returning to Los Angeles after his discharge from the Army, he enrolled and graduated from the California College of Mortuary Science. In 1945, he began his practice, at last finding a field where he was to become an outstanding success. He founded and is Vice-President of the Pascal-Grigsby Mortuary, Inc.

In 1946 he married Cornelia Edwards, an outstanding business and church woman, who is now President of the Smith-Williams Mortuary Company. There is one son (step), Leon Chester, a student at John Adams Junior High School, Los Angeles.

Hobby: The study of slang words, of which he is compiling into a slang dictionary, and short story writing. Several of his short stories have been published.

Business address: 1311 South Central Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

Business address: 9920 So. Central Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

**WILLIAMS SPURGEON**, Retired (Navy), was born December 20, 1903 in North Emporia, Virginia--the son of John Edward and Helen (Powell) Williams. John Williams was a successful Virginia farmer. Spurgeon Williams was educated in the public schools of South Hampton County, Virginia.

On July 12, 1919 he enlisted in the United States Navy at Norfolk, Virginia, and remained in the Naval Service until January 6, 1946 at which time he was honorably discharged and placed on the Retired Navy list.

He has been service on the USS Battleship South Carolina, Wyoming, Colorado and Langer 1941-45. He first saw action in the Haitian Revolution in 1919. He took part in the first battle of Pearl Harbor, December of 1941, the Carol Sea Engagement in April of 1942, and the Midway Encounter in the Pacific, June of 1942. In August of 1943 he saw action in the Solomons.



REV. EUGENE ROBINSON

ROBINSON, EUGENE--Preacher and State Supervisor (American Woodmen), born in Taylor, Texas, March 17, 1902--the son of George and Lula (Robinson) Robinson. Born of humble parents, the early education of this youth who was to later carve a name for himself in two states, was indeed an achievement. After many a financial struggle, helping to support his widowed mother and two smaller children, he finally finished his high school training. A large part of this was attained by attending night classes at the Terrell High School of Fort Worth, Texas. Being of religious bent, he entered the Summer Bible Institute at Tillotson College, Austin, Texas. Later ordained a minister of the gospel, he pastored at the Salem Baptist Church at Teague, Texas, and at the First Baptist Church of Mexia, Texas--these assignments extending from 1936 to 1940. In 1937, he made a special study in the field of Fraternalism and that same year was appointed a deputy for the American Woodmen. In 1940, because of his outstanding work in organization, he was promoted and transferred to Los Angeles, California. Here in Los Angeles the results attained by this God-faring executive resulted in a promotion to State Manager--the position he now holds.

The American Woodmen in California, under the leadership of Rev. Robinson, has shown a tremendous increase in 1947, leading all other states in membership increase and insurance increase.

In 1925, he married Verdell Bradford. There is one daughter, Lala V.

Rev. Robinson, active in civic welfare, is a member of the State Central Committee for the Republican Party, Friendship Center Club and other civic and religious organizations.

Business Address: 4269½ South Central Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

HASSAN, VAINO--Real Estate Broker, was born in Los Angeles, California on July 20, 1920, the daughter of Abdul and Nona (DeLivera) Hasson

Graduate of Polytechnic High School and Woodbury Business College of Los Angeles.

In 1939 entered Realty field, as secretary for Sidney P. Dones Realty Co., and became manager of the firm in 1940.

In 1944 she established Hassan Realty Company.

She is a member of the Westview Women's Guild, El Lacormon Riding Club, and other civic organizations.

Business Address: 4525 S. Main Street, Los Angeles, California.



GEORGE G. SMITH

SMITH, GEORGE GRIFIN--Real Estate Broker, born in Savannah, Georgia, August 19, 1912, the son of Mrs. Eunice C. Smith

Educated in the public school system of Savannah; four years in Morehouse College in Atlanta. Mr. Smith moved to California wishing to further his education he completed a business course at the University of California at Los Angeles Extension, and a specialized business course at the Los Angeles City College.

In 1943 Mr. Smith entered in the field of Real Estate, and General Insurance. Because of his astute business training, he soon developed a going concern and today after five years of operation, his business is recognized as outstanding in the Real Estate field. His office is among the best equipped in the State, and his associates are Walter B. Smith, Lorraine Armstrong, Mrs. W. A. Ayers and R. E. Stone.

In August, 1941 he married Miss Josephine Blodgett, whose father is L. M. Blodgett, founder and President of the Liberty Savings and Loan Association. They are the parents of one child, Georgette Josephine, born September 21, 1946.

Mr. Smith is a member of the Pacific Town Club, Golden West Real Estate Board, and other civic and welfare organizations.

McKINNEY, GEORGE WILLIAM--Businessman--born in Pittsburgh, Pa., October 6, 1912--the son of Herbert and Cora (Zimmerman) McKinney. Educated in the public schools of Pittsburgh, Howard University, A. B. University of Pittsburgh, M. A. (Public Administration) 1939.

From 1937 to 1942 he was Occupational Analyst for the U.S. Government with offices in Pittsburgh and Harrisburgh, Pa.

Married Eleanor Ann Hooper of Harrisburgh, Pa. in 1940.

Mr. McKinney during the war years served in the U.S. Army from February 1942 until May 5, 1946. During his military career he served two and a half years of active duty overseas, and was decorated with the Bronze Star; his rank was that of Major, and was assigned to the Adjutant General Dept. Returning to civilian life Major McKinney was Vice-President of the Broadway Federal Savings and Loan Association of Los Angeles, and later Executive Secretary of the Los Angeles Branch NAACP.

He is a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and Pacific Town Club.



WALTER J. MILLER

**WALTER WALTER JOSEPH**, Business Executive, born in Los Angeles, December 3, 1917, the son of Walter and Caladonia (Clausell) Miller. Both parents were instructors at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama under Booker T. Washington. Mrs. Miller is still living, and is a resident of Los Angeles.

Walter J. Miller Jr. was educated in the public schools of Los Angeles. As a student of Jefferson he was the second Negro in the school's history to be elected by the student body to the Presidency of the Boy's Student Government.

Miller entered the hotel business while still in High School as bookkeeper for the Mortgage Guaranty Co., a million dollar Corporation. After finishing high school he pursued a Commercial course at night at Southwestern Business School.

In 1937 he advanced from bookkeeper to manager of the Dunbar Hotel. Later he joined the staff of Consolidated Hotels, Inc. as Asst. Manager of the Regal Hotel. Three months later he was appointed Manager.

Acting at the suggestions of Walter Miller, Consolidated Hotels, Inc. launched an improvement program which added a number of related businesses to the Company. This attracted other interests which resulted in the general improvement of the Sixth Street Area where Consolidated Hotels were located. It made possible the employment of more than three hundred Negroes as employees in the business and service industry.

In recognition of his interest in and contributions to business development and community betterment, Mr. Miller was appointed Supervising Manager of Consolidated's nine hotels. As a Hotel Executive with a thorough knowledge of this service industry, he was cognizant of the need of emphasis on Courtesy. He became an authority and public Speaker on the subject.

In 1944 Mr. Miller enlisted in the U. S. Navy. He was two years in the Armed Forces being honorably discharged in 1946. Upon return to civilian life he again became connected with Consolidated Hotels, Inc. in his former position as Manager of the Regal Hotel.

Miller is a Catholic. He is a member of the Hotel Association, the NAACP, and the Angel City Racquet Club, Ross Snyder Division.

His hobbies are tennis, weight lifting, and the enjoyment of all sports.

Business Address: 815 E. 6th Street, Los Angeles, California.



ARVANT M. BENJAMIN

**BENJAMIN, ARVANT M.**, Businessman, born in Pensacola, Florida, the son of Henderson and Ida (Judge) Benjamin.

Family moved to Los Angeles in 1907, where Mr. Benjamin received his education in the public school system.

Being musically inclined he began playing the trumpet, and during his career in the musical world played with the "Famous Ferris Family," traveling extensively in many foreign countries, including New Zealand and Australia. Later he formed his own orchestra, and for years had one of the leading orchestras in Los Angeles.

In 1930, thinking of future security for himself and family, he gave up his musical career and started a laundry business in the rear of his home. Later venturing out, the business was moved to 5000 Central Avenue, where cleaning equipment was added to the business.

Mr. Benjamin applying the "Golden Rule" to his business, found that honesty and fair dealing with the public paid and soon more space was needed to house the ever growing business. The business was then moved to 5016 S. Central Avenue, where the most modern type of cleaning and laundry equipment, including the latest "Prosperity" cleaning unit, was installed.

The business has grown to the extent of five employees, Pick-up and Delivery Service, and an average of 750 drop-in customers weekly. Speed lines of operation in the shop enable the plant to turn out work cleaned and pressed in two hours. At the time of this writing (1948) this modern plant has equipment valued at \$15,000.00 and the business is still growing.

In 1921 he married Fannie E. Wilson, one of California's most talented musicians and business women. There are no children.

Mr. Benjamin, interested in the civic growth of his community, spends time away from his business to promote the progress of other Negro business places and is always to be counted on for any worthwhile uplift program.

He is a member of the Pacific Town Club, NAACP, YMCA, and other civic and welfare organizations. He is, also, a member of the People's Independent Church.

His hobby is Sportsmanship.



MRS. HAZEL WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, HAZEL, Business Woman, born in Dallas, Texas, the daughter of Charles (deceased), and Willie (White) Anderson, an accomplished modiste.

The early education of Miss Hazel Anderson was in the public schools of Dallas, Texas and Los Angeles, attending Polytechnic High School and graduated from the Lincoln High School. At present time she is enrolled at University of Southern California where she is majoring in Fine Arts.

Throughout her early education Miss Anderson displayed exceptional talent in art work. Determined to make the best of her talent she studied Cosmetology at Frank Wiggins Trade School by day, and pursued a course in Leathercraft at Berland's Studio at night, graduating from both schools upon the completion of the required work.

Her desire to become an outstanding Artisan was encouraged by the encouragement and unselfish devotion of her husband, Lt. Roscoe Washington of the Los Angeles Police Department.

Seeing Leathercraft as a medium of artistic expression and a business opportunity of unlimited possibilities, Mrs. Washington developed and improved her skills. Whenever busy otherwise, as clerk, beauty operator, or secretary, Leathercraft was a hobby at which she worked diligently until she made it a business, fashioning and producing leather goods in her home. Aided by Rosalind Russell, the Cinema star, for whom she worked, the two of them became partners in "Hazel, Inc.", manufacturers of fine custom made leather goods. Located in Beverly Hills to serve a Hollywood clientele, the business flourished. Then came the war, and a shortage of leather for commercial use. Hazel, Inc. closed its doors, and Mrs. Washington served her country in Army and Navy hospitals as an Instructor of Vocational Therapy. In recognition of her accomplishments in this field she received the Government's Award for Meritorious Service.

After the war she put her artistry and skill to fashioning new products in leather. Today she is making shoes of original design. Her registered Trademark, "Hands", is symbolic of her dexterity.

National recognition has come to Hazel Washington because she is an artisan of unusual ability. However, in all this she is a modest and unassuming home-maker who finds time to be active and helpful in the civic and social life of the community.



MRS. EMILY A. JOHNSON

JOHNSON, EMILY ADAMS--Real Estate Broker, born in Chicago, Illinois. The Adams family one of the best known families in the Chicago area, was the first Negro family to live in the Inglewood section of that city. This section, at the time of this writing, is now free of the restrictive covenants that this pioneer family played a large part in breaking down. Mrs. Johnson's mother, Mattie Adams, is one of Chicago's most outstanding modistes and furriers.

Educated in the public school system of Chicago; A.B. Degree from Livingston College, Salisbury, North Carolina. She moved to California in 1922, resuming her scholastic career at the University of Southern California, majoring in sociology. Completing her study in sociology, Mrs. Johnson entered into the field of social work, first with the County Emergency Relief Board and later with the State Relief Administration. In 1934 she started work with the Juvenile Probation Department as a social case worker. In 1936, sensing the need for specialized training in the aid for the needy children of the Los Angeles area, she secured a position with the Department of Charities, where she worked as a case worker until her resignation in 1943.

In July, 1938, she married Otto Johnson

It was in 1945 that Mrs. Johnson became a licensed real estate broker and shortly thereafter established the realty firm which she now heads. This firm, during the past two years, has enjoyed a rapid growth and is considered an outstanding business in the Realty Field.

Mrs. Johnson is a member of the Sigma Chapter (graduate) of the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, holding the office of parliamentarian; Assistant Secretary of Anti-Grammatists; Secretary of Twelve Big Sisters, an organization set up to act as big sisters to delinquent girls, working with and under the direction of the Juvenile Court. President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Pullman Porters Union and an executive on the board, now fighting for the Fair Employment Practice Act.

Mrs. Johnson's hobby is character building in delinquent girls. This, she believes, can be done only through the help and guidance of women who have the welfare of these unfortunate girls at heart.

Business address: 1323 West Jefferson Boulevard, Los Angeles, California.



MACEO B. SHEFFIELD

SHEFFIELD, MACEO BRUCE--Commercial and Portrait Photographer, born in Seguin, Texas, September 8, 1898, the son of Simon and Rhoda Ann (Littlefield) Sheffield. His father a jockey, ranchman, and a trustee of Guadalupe College, his mother a housewife. Both parents are now deceased.

Maceo Bruce attended the public schools of Seguin, later attending Guadalupe College. Leaving college in 1917 he worked for one year in the U. S. Post Office in San Antonio, Texas, but this work was too much of a routine nature for this adventuresome youth, so he obtained work as a cook on the S.P. Railroad. His run was to Los Angeles, and soon the call of the West and the adventures to be found there, prompted young Maceo to remain in Los Angeles. From this time (1918) he started one of the most colorful careers, that only the daring and adventuresome can look back on.

From 1918 to 1921 he worked in Hollywood's Motion Picture Serials, as a motorcycle stunt rider, he was known for his daring, in character parts, he was in demand because of his good acting. Some of these serials were "Elmo the Mighty" and "Elmo the Fearless" in which serials he was the mystery man and wore a black hood.

In 1921, Mr. Sheffield entered the Los Angeles Police Department. In this field, like that of the movies, he soon became known as a fearless officer of the law. His efforts in cleaning out the lawless elements in his district, gained for him the respect of the Los Angeles Police Department, and the admiration of law abiding people over the entire country. He remained on the force until 1930, and at the time of his leaving was a Police Lieutenant.

During his law enforcement career, not satisfied with the dangers in his work, he turned to aviation as a hobby. Completing his training at the Roger School of Aeronautics in 1927, he became the first Negro aviator on the West Coast. He received his Transport Permit in 1928 and his Pilots License in 1929.

In 1928 the first airport was opened in Brawley and Calipatria, California. This airport was opened by Pilot Harry Smith and Mr. Sheffield, using the latter's plane the "Sadie W." As an aviator his name became known over America and he acted as pilot in many instances where there was a call for daring and bravery. He was the pilot for Swede Anderson, Staff Photographer for the Los Angeles Times, together they made many risky aerial shots.

In 1930 Mr. Sheffield entered the theatrical business; he produced "Harlem," a play that the "Literary Digest" termed as one of the better plays produced by Negroes.

He, also, presented many of the old Lafayette players at the "Old Music Box," (now one of the Nat'l. Broadcasting Studios). Among them were such outstanding artists as, Rex Ingram, Lawrence Criner, Cleo Desmond, and the late Arthur Ray. In 1936 he was the producer of "California Swing Minstrels," (Nat'l. Broadcasting Co.) featuring F. L. Miller, Mantan Moreland, and the Four Tones. In 1937 supervised the first all western picture "Harlem on the Prairie." In this, the best picture ever produced with an all Negro cast, he played the heavy role of "Wolf Cain." Mr. Sheffield continued as a producer and associated producer until 1941, producing a series of pictures for National Consolidated, and played various roles in Million Dollar Picture Companies.

During the early war years, due to a shortage of film, he had to curtail his motion picture ventures, so he turned to the art of photography, completing an extensive study in photography, under the late Professor Robert Parker, and practical training at the Griffin-Siminoff and Avalon Studios; he opened his present (1948) laboratory, located at 821 East 46th Street, Los Angeles.

Still the producer, Mr. Sheffield for the past four years (1944-1948) has managed the Luvenia Nash Singers; this group has produced such operas as "Cavalleria Rusticana" and "Pagliacci," both in its original libretto, Italian.

March 18, 1926 he married Sadie Virginia Simmons. He has one son, Bruce, by a former marriage.

Mr. Sheffield is fortunate to have the photographic assistance of Walter Blair, a graduate of the famous Wilshire School of Photography. It is his--to look back on one of the most colorful lives of any living American and to look forward to the completion of "Look Out Sister, Look Out," a picture in which he is now working, acting the role of "Sheriff." The picture is Louis Jordan's latest, and is being produced by Astor Productions.



JOHN R. WILLIAMS

WILLIAMS, JOHN R., field supervisor, Pacific Coast edition of the Pittsburgh Courier, Born in Baltimore, Md. Graduate of Brown University, Providence, R. I. Has been in newspaper work practically all his life, beginning as cub reporter for Baltimore Times and served similarly with Providence Daily Journal. Came to the Pacific Coast as managing editor of the Oakland Independent in 1928; later served as managing editor of California Eagle before joining the Pittsburgh Courier family in the mid '30s. Worked as field agent for 5 years before starting the Detroit Edition in 1940 where he continued as managing editor until 1946 when he returned to the Pacific Coast as field supervisor.



JAMES C. NELSON

NELSON, JAMES C., Proprietor, Dunbar Hotel, Los Angeles, was born in Brenham, Texas in 1882, the son of George and Mary Nelson. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson and their seven children moved to Houston, Texas in 1889 where James Nelson received his early education. Later he attended Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

Early in 1900 he left Houston to make his own way in life. Moving from city to city in search of livelihood and adventure, he lived a life marked by vicissitudes and acquired the training and education that comes from travel and the school of "hard knocks." Those were the days the courageous left home "to see the world" without benefit of suitcase or trunk and without family approval.

In his travels James Nelson worked mostly as bellhop and waiter in hotels for wages from \$1.00 per week to \$8.00 per month. Those were prevailing wages in New York, Cleveland, Buffalo, Chicago and other cities where young Nelson could find hotel employment. Oftimes, no job of any kind could be found. The kind of diving incident to unemployment was not to his liking. James Nelson soon learned the importance of, and how to take advantage of every opportunity; how to make the most of every situation which would contribute to his well being. He made Chicago his home, entered the Dining Car Service as a waiter and continued employed in this capacity off and on for twenty years.

With an insatiable desire to become a successful business man he invested in a number of small business ventures and Real Estate.

In the year 1915 Mr. Nelson married Catherine Brooks Shoecrast, a famous modiste, who was a loyal and faithful helpmate until her passing in 1946. On November 24, 1947 he was married to Miss Julia Stearns of Wichita, Kansas.

In 1936, Mr. Nelson decided to make Los Angeles his home. He sold his Real Estate holdings in Chicago and purchased the one hundred room Dunbar Hotel. Wishing to actively direct the business of his hostelry, he converted the Hotel Ballroom into a smart elaborate apartment which he furnished with antiques collected over a period of thirty years. He is one of the few owners of fine old Madera gold tableware.

Without special advantage at the outset of his career, Mr. Nelson has passed the point of mediocrity. His business activities has made his name a familiar one from Coast to Coast, while his intelligently directed effort has made his career one of successful accomplishment.



HORACE PETTIBONE CLARK

CLARK, HORACE PETTIBONE, Hotel Proprietor, was born in Grenada, Mississippi—the son of Dan and Ella Clark. The family moved to Chicago in 1910 where Horace Clark completed his high school education. Later Mr. Clark attended Alcorn College where he majored in Business Administration. After graduation from this institution he returned to Chicago where he obtained employment in the Railway Service.

He made his first trip to Los Angeles in 1918. In 1923 he established his first hotel in Los Angeles and contracted with the Santa Fe, Union Pacific, North-western and Rock Island Railroads to house their employees on the Los Angeles end of the line. His first hotel was located at Tenth and Central Avenue. Others were at Pico and Central, Eighteenth and Paloma, and Washington and Central where the present Clark Hotel was established.

Early in 1918 Mr. Clark married Miss Vera Newman of Yazoo City, Mississippi. They were the parents of one son, Horace Jr., who is the present Manager of the Clark Hotel. Mrs. Clark's death occurred in 1944.

Mr. Clark is a member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, having served as Vice-President of the Los Angeles Chapter for four years and is now a member of the Board of Directors of that organization. He is also a member of the Pacific Town Club, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Tavern Owners Association. He gives aid and support to many civic organizations which have as their objective the welfare of the community.

Mr. Clark, who spends most of his time in his beautiful West Los Angeles home with his aged mother, likes an occasional game of golf. When he turns his business over to his son he plans to travel and take things easy to compensate for his long years of hard work in building his business and acquiring extensive holdings.



MAIN REALTY CO. OFFICE

The Main Realty Company was founded in 1945 by Lorenzo V. Spencer and two associate partners. Shortly thereafter, the two associate partners dropped out of the business and later the present partnership of Spencer and Reid was formed. At the time of this writing, the Main Realty Company is one of the outstanding concerns in the realty field in Southern California.

From the very outset the firm set out to break down some of the restrictive covenants of Los Angeles. Fighting with every means at its command, the firm has been successful in breaking down restrictions in two tracts—one on the Westside and one south of Slauson Avenue. The partners are still fighting and plans are now in the making for additional fights against the evil confronting Negro prospective home buyers.

**SPENCER, LORENZO V.**—Real Estate Broker, Main Realty, was born in Los Angeles, California, December 18, 1912—son of Virgil and Minnie (Smith) Spencer. His father, one of California's early pioneers, has been with United States Postal Service for 36 years. His mother is very active in civic and political affairs, being especially active in the Women's Republican Study Club.

Mr. Spencer's early education was in the public school system of Los Angeles, graduating from the Belmont High School, and later taking one year in Engineering at City College of Los Angeles. For a short while Mr. Spencer worked at one of the downtown department stores but quit to resume his studies in Engineering—this time majoring in Steam Engineering at the Wiles Engineering School in San Pedro, California.

In the early war years, Mr. Spencer answered the call to service and from 1942 to 1945 served as an engineer in the Merchant Marines. Returning to Los Angeles after the war, Mr. Spencer entered into the Real Estate field, founding the Main Realty Company.

Mr. Spencer is a member of the Golden West Realty Board, the Masonic Lodge, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and other civic organizations.

Very active in the welfare of the Southern California

In December 1947, the expanding concern moved into its present location. The office, fully-equipped, has all the modern aspects of a growing company. The firm buys and sells all types of property, makes loans and buys and sells first and second trustee deeds.

There is also an employment agency operated out of the office—this branch in charge of Rita Adams, who for several years worked in this and the Real Estate field in Chicago, Illinois. This service offers all types of jobs to job-seekers. Elizabeth Braxton is the efficient stenographer and bookkeeper of the firm. The growth and development of this firm over the past two years proves that public service will bring growth and prosperity.

Address: 4333 South Main Street, Los Angeles, California.

Negro. Mr. Spencer has sparkplugged the fight to open restricted home areas in Los Angeles.

Hobbies: Swimming and all sports.

Business address: 4333 South Main Street, Los Angeles, California.

**REID, CLUESE**—Real Estate Broker, Main Realty, was born in Lear, Georgia—son of Thomas and Bolene (Blanchard) Reid.

His early education was in the public schools of Lear and later in the public school system of Los Angeles, where the family moved in 1922. After graduation from the Jefferson High School, Los Angeles, young Reid began his business career as a salesman and debit collector for the Golden State Life Insurance Company. Here he remained until 1941. During the war years, Mr. Reid worked in essential industry. In 1946, tiring of working for the other fellow, he secured brokers license and associated himself with the Main Realty Company. He is now co-partner in this very enterprising company.

In 1936, he married Jule Hicks.

Mr. Reid is active in civic affairs of the city and also active in his church. He is a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

Hobbies: Movies and sports.

Business address: 4333 South Main Street, Los Angeles, California.

# C and D Auto Buyers

Founded in March 1946, by James McClain Dickerson and Carrol Cline.

The remarkable growth of this business that was founded on the trust of each of the founders toward each other, has been astounding. Knowing each other for only a period of one month, and starting with only one used car, a 1931 Ford, this business has grown into one of the largest of its kind in America operated by Negroes.

At the time of this writing (January, 1948) there are two well stocked lots of used and new cars; one at the first location, and one in a fast growing Negro neighborhood on Western Avenue. Today there is well over \$50,000 in stock on hand.

Associates who are now with this fast growing enterprise are: Henry A. Stevens, who has had seven years experience with the Kelley Car Co. of Los Angeles; George D. Brown,

with twenty years car selling experience in California, William H. Polard, nine years with the Nadeau Ford Dealers, and Clarence Landry, a young man with two years auto dealers experience.

Both of the partners believe that service and honest dealing with the public brings results. This practice is really getting results—evidenced by the rapid growth of C & D Auto Buyers.

Ninety percent of the sales are to Negroes.

The establishment and growth of this firm should be an inspiration to any young men who believe in their ability, and the fact that Negroes will patronize businesses owned by members of their race.

Business Address: 5105 Avalon Blvd., 2946 S. Western Ave., Los Angeles, California.



JAMES McCLAIN DICKERSON

DICKERSON, JAMES McCLAIN—Businessman, born in Pueblo, Colorado, June 29, 1906—son of James and Sarah (Brandon) Dickerson.

His early education was in public school systems of Colorado.

Soon after graduating from high school, he began his business career in the cleaning and pressing business in Pueblo. For two years he successfully operated this venture, and in 1927 he came to California where he thought that business opportunities would be better.

Finding the field of business in California, not to his liking at the time, Mr. Dickerson started his present career by working for various auto dealers on Figueroa Street, the world's greatest street for used car business. Here, too, he saw white dealers selling thousands of cars to Negro purchasers, and in 1946, seeing the potentialities in the Negro used car market, Mr. Dickerson, with his present partner, Carrol Cline, founded the C & D Auto Buyers.

Mr. Dickerson married Ruth Tolliver in 1927. There is one child, Jacqueline, who is now a student at U.C.L.A. taking a pre-legal course.

His hobby is selling automobiles.

Business Address: 5105 Avalon Blvd., 2946 Western Ave., Los Angeles, California.



CARROL CLINE

CLINE, CARROL, Businessman, was born in Lawrence, Kansas, April 12, 1908—son of Herman and Minnie (Jackson) Cline.

His early education was in the public school system of Lawrence, graduating from Lawrence Memorial High School.

Soon after his high school graduation, he entered into his father's business, who at that time had a well established trucking and house cleaning business. After the death of his father in 1929, he moved to California, seeking better opportunities.

Like so many other Negroes who came to California during the depression years, he found few opportunities for advancement, so he worked at various jobs until the boom war years. At the beginning of the war he entered essential war work, and was the first Negro to work as a Ship Fitter at the Western Pipe and Steel Company.

Always seeking a career in business, in 1946 he entered into his present partnership, establishing the C & D Auto Buyers.

In 1932 he married Miss Myrtle Lofton. There is one child, Carolyn, who is a student at Carver Junior High School of Los Angeles.

He is a member of the YMCA, NAACP, First A.M.F. Church and the Masonic Lodge.

His hobby is cabinet making.



CECIL L. FINLEY

**FINLEY, CECIL LEVIN**, Funeral Director, born in Birmingham, Alabama, the son of Clarence and Annie (Payne) Finley. Parents in Real Estate Business and Teaching Profession.

Cecil Finley received public school education in Detroit, Michigan, later attending Minnesota College, completing Academic Course in 1927; then to the University of Minnesota and the University of Washington to pursue a course in Medicine.

From 1935-39 Mr. Finley was Manager of the Angelus Funeral Home in Seattle, Washington. In 1943 he moved to San Francisco, California where he entered the San Francisco College of Mortuary Science from which he graduated in 1944. In 1946 Mr. Finley purchased the Butler Funeral Home, which has been established since 1923.

The religious faith of Mr. Finley is that of the Episcopal Church. He is a member of the Elks, Masons, Shrine, American Woodmen, Knight and Daughters of Tabor, The Eastern Star, the NAACP, the YMCA and Business and Professional Alliance. Professionally, he is a member of the California Mortician Association and the National Negro Funeral Directors Association of the United States.

His hobbies are Music, Photography and Golf.

Business Address: 1914 Sutter St., San Francisco, California.

**SAUNDERS, MYRTLE ESTELLE ROBERTS**, Vice President, A J Roberts & Sons, born in Ohio, the daughter of Andrew J. and Ellen (Hemings) Roberts. Her early education was in the public schools of Los Angeles. Her college training was attained at the Colorado College of Music and the Chicago College of Music.

Married Ivan Saunders in Los Angeles.

Mrs. Saunders an accomplished musician, has played in many recitals, giving her talent freely for the benefit of church and civic organizations. She has been the accompanist for several concert artists, including Roland Hayes, who was known as one of the world's greatest singers. For a number of years Mrs. Saunders has served as Organist in her church the A.M.E. Zion at Pico and Paloma in Los Angeles.

She is a member of: Electa Chapter, Eastern Star, American Woodmen and Chairman of Music, Phys-Art-Lit-Mor Club.

Her hobby--Reading, the opera.



JAMES H. GARROTT

**GARROTT, JAMES HOMER**, Architect, born in Montgomery, Alabama, the son of James Henry and Fannie (Walker) Garrott, representatives of one of Los Angeles' pioneer families. The family came to Los Angeles in 1903. The brothers of the late James Henry Garrott are Dr. A. C. Garrott and Homer L. Garrott, Detective, both retired and residents of Los Angeles.

James Homer Garrott is a product of the Los Angeles Public School System, having graduated from Los Angeles Polytechnic High School.

In 1928 he took the examination of the State Board of Architectural Examiners and qualified as a licensed Architect. As a profound student of his chosen profession and wishing to keep in touch with modern trends in his profession, he studied Architecture at the University of Southern California from 1930 to 1934.

Mr. Garrott is successfully engaged in his profession and specializes in modern architecture. The thoroughness of his work, his reliability and efficiency have won him a well merited reputation. At the date of this review Mr. Garrott, in cooperation with Mr. Aim, a colleague, has completed plans for a new architectural office building in Hollywood.

Mr. Garrott's second marriage was to Helen Duncan on February 13, 1942 in Yuma, Arizona. He has no children from either marriage.

Professionally, he is a member of the American Institute of Architects and is a contributor to various architectural publications. He is a pioneer in the liberal movement of Southern California, and an ardent worker in the constant fight for the rights of minorities. His religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**VENERABLE, GRANT DELBERT**, Engineer, born in Kansas City, Missouri, the son of B. Grant and Louise (Scott) Venerable--educated in the public schools of Kansas City and San Bernardino California. B. S. degree, California Institute of Technology, class of 1932 (only Negro to complete the undergraduate curriculum of this institution). Married Thelma L. Scott of Topeka, Kansas--children, Grant Delbert II, Lynda Blaine and Lloyd Dennis.

Mr. Venerable is a member: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Masonic Lodge, Alumni Association, California Institute of Technology and the Bethel A.M.E. Church.

## ***ART & MUSIC***

The cultural growth of the California Negro, stands out as a beacon light to Negroes the world over.



**SHUMATE, HAZEL**, Fashion Designer and Photographer was born in Washington, D. C. Her early education was in the public school system of her native city. She attended Howard University and Virginia State College obtaining her Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education.

After graduation Hazel taught Physical Education in Maryland in the high schools. During this time she served as instructor in swimming and Red Cross Life Saving courses in Washington, D. C., Playground Department.

Mrs. Shumate, then the wife of Lincoln W. Shumate, physician and Major in the United States Medical Corps, resigned her position and traveled with her husband from camp to camp during the war years.

Possessing a profound talent for fashion designing, Hazel has developed her abilities to the extent of attracting the attention of clothing authorities and critics. Her original creations receive lavish responses wherever they are shown. In addition to her artistic genius, Hazel is blessed with the poise and grace which embellish gowns for the most effective modeling. Her gowns and millinery have been shown in fashion clinics from coast to coast



HAZEL SHUMATE

Besides becoming an authority in advanced fashion trends she has become known as a photographer of skill. Hazel Shumate is a staff photographer for the Pittsburgh Courier. This latest art has been the outcome of study and practice needed for the execution of photographic processes in the "Couturstat" clothing method. The method is a discovery in clothing construction processed by Grace Fisher Atkins.

This startling young, creative artist is, also, active in cultural and civic affairs in her community. Her gowns and hats have helped to make a success of numerous benefit performances for charity and other worthwhile projects. Some of these are West View Hospital, Jefferson P.T.A. and the Y.W.C.A. Her personal service to the American Red Cross during World War II was freely and graciously rendered.

Hazel is interested in sports of all types. She has played in many tennis matches, and loves swimming and golf.

She is a member of the Angel City Racket Club, Business Women's Athletic Club and other civic and social organizations.

Her hobby is traveling.

**ATKINS, GRACE FISHER**--Inventor, Designer, Teacher and Real Estate Broker--born in Denver, Colorado, the daughter of Nelson Thomas and Elizabeth (French) Fisher--her father owner and operator of a small machinery business, her mother active in civic life and a devoted housewife. When Grace Fisher was age five, the family moved to Seattle, Washington, where she obtained her elementary high school education.

At an early age Grace Fisher began her career in the art of clothes designing; at the age of thirteen she began making clothes for friends and neighbors; at fifteen she was able to earn \$300 a day for her sewing during vacation season; at sixteen she entered the University of Washington, College of Liberal Arts where she studied clothes and other requirements of Home Economics. At seventeen she won first prize in a city wide contest in dressmaking, sponsored by the Frederick and Nelson Department Store, the largest in the Northwest.

Shortly after her graduation from high school in Seattle, Miss Fisher accepted a position with Dot Gregson, famous Hollywood Designer and moved to Los Angeles. Later wishing to design exclusive gowns under her own name she entered into partnership with Maudie Trokey; this partnership designed clothing for many of Hollywood's best dressed women including, Helen Hayes, Marilyn Miller, Lila Lee and other stars who were renowned as Hollywood's Best Dressed Women.

In 1930 Miss Fisher married Alphaeus Prowell, who in 1932 in the Olympic Games, represented America in the 5000 meter race. He was killed in the Spanish Civil War in 1938.

The same year of her marriage, wishing to further her education she entered the University of California at Los Angeles, receiving her A.B. degree in 1934. She later at-



GRACE FISHER ATKINS

tended the University of Southern California where she received her M.A. degree. After her graduation from UCLA a position to teach costume designing was accepted at the Jefferson Evening High School. It was while in this position that a comprehensive study was made in the art of fitting clothes without try-ons. Using an engineering process of her own origin, using hundreds of students as models, she was able to perfect through photography and mathematical computations, a system of clothing manufacturing without using the usual method of try-ons. This system was patented by Mrs. Atkins under the trade name of "Couturstat." This system is now in use by James Oviatt Company, one of the nation's most exclusive tailoring firms, here the method is known as "Photo-Fitness."

At the time of this writing (1948) plans are well under way for the forming of a corporation to advance the "Couturstat" system into the garment trade throughout the world. Assisting Mrs. Atkins in this venture are Hazel Shumate, well known designer and photographer and Herman Crouch, young sketch artist and designer.

Mrs. Atkins is, also, the inventor of the "Personnel Wheel", a mechanical device that will reduce the "paper work" now required for personnel processing. The invention has attracted the attention of the United States Senate Civil Service Commission.

Besides her inventive progress Mrs. Atkins is also talented in music, and is fond of playing the pipe organ. She has also served as accompanist for several soloists. Her son, Nelson Lawrence Atkins, who also is a pupil of the piano, and an outstanding pupil at the 32nd Street School, University of Southern California Training School, Nelson is the son of Weldon Atkins whom she

married in 1938

Mrs. Atkins, permanent teacher at Wadsworth Elementary School, and Jefferson Evening School, Real Estate Broker, Inventor and Fashion Editor for the California Eagle, still finds time for social and civic welfare work. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Associate Member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Associate Member, American Psychological Association, California Research and Guidance Association Charter member of the Business and Professional Women's Club, Member of Elementary Teachers Club, and in 1943, Mrs. Atkins and Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune were the only two Negroes on the O.P.A. Consumer Advisory Committee which met in Washington to regulate price on clothing.

Her hobby is cooking.



GILBERT F. ALLEN

ALLEN, GILBERT FRANCIS, Composer and Choral Conductor, was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, the son of John H. and Tillie (Parker) Allen. Brought to California at the age of six, he attended the public schools of Los Angeles, and is a graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles.

Wishing to make a career in music he studied under Professor William T. Wilkins, one of the outstanding music teachers in Los Angeles. Soon the musical talent of this young musician was brought to the attention of Hall Johnson, famed Choral Leader, who advised young Allen to go to New York for graduate study in Music Composition.

Taking this advice he attended the Juilliard School of Music in New York City. Completing his training at Juilliard, he accepted the position of Associate Professor of Music at Sam Houston College, Austin, Texas. While in this position he directed the college choir and in 1947 toured the Republic of Mexico, where the choir received many favorable press comments.

Mr. Allen has appeared in concerts with choirs and as guest artist with the Los Angeles Symphony, the San Francisco Symphony and the San Antonio Symphony Orchestras. At the time of this writing (1948) Mr. Allen is the Conductor of the world famous radio and concert choir, "Wings Over Jordan." This choir is considered the greatest of all Negro Choirs, and has been for many years one of the top attractions on the Columbia and National Broadcasting Networks.

American music critics predict that Gilbert Allen will go far in his chosen musical career.

He is a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

His hobby is composing music.



MRS. EMILY WOODY

WOODY, EMILY THOMPSON, L.A. City School Teacher and Civic Worker. Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Gordon of L.A. Reared by grandparents, Solomon B. Larkin, a carpenter, and Emma Offutt Larkin, Housewife, early California pioneers who moved from Oklahoma to Pasadena, California in 1910.

Emily Woody received her education in L.A. City School system, graduated from Jefferson High School in 1932; entered UCLA in 1932; graduated in June, 1936 with the degree of Bachelor of Education; now working on Master's Degree in Public Administration at USC. A permanent teacher, she has taught in the L.A. Elementary School System for the past eleven years; now teaches at Ninety Sixth Street School.

She has one daughter, Claudia Marie Thompson, born on December 31, 1936

Emily Woody is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, past President of Pi Chapter; past President and Secretary of the Assistance League of the Outdoor Life and Health Association. It was during her administration that this group had the privilege of successfully presenting Carey McWilliams, writer and lecturer of international fame.

She is a member also of the YWCA; past secretary of the National Council of Negro Women, Los Angeles Chapter; NAACP; Los Angeles Elementary Music Teachers Assn; Los Angeles Elementary Teachers' Club, and A.M.E. Church.

Dramatics is her special interest. As Upper-School Chairman and Music Teacher of Nevin Avenue Elementary School, she was in charge of Auditorium Dramatic presentations for three years. L.A. public productions in which she has appeared are Langston Hughes' "DON'T YOU WANT TO BE FREE?" and Mitchell's "SHOULD WE ALWAYS TELL THE TRUTH" produced under the medical supervision of Dr. P. P. Cobbs, and the technical direction of Clarence Muse.

Her hobby: Short Story Writing, and Golf.

WINTERS, PEARL LOWERY--Singer--known in past years as "The Nightingale of California." Active worker in church, fraternal and club activities. Past President, State Federated Clubs; winner of National Loving Cup, National Convention of Federated Clubs (1927). She has sang in churches and fraternal gatherings in many parts of America. She now resides in Bakersfield, California.



MRS. LORENZA JORDAN COLE

COLE, LORENZA JORDAN, Concert Pianist, born in Los Angeles, California, the daughter of Edward and Amanda Jordan. Mrs. Cole's parents are pioneers of California coming to Los Angeles in 1902.

She is a graduate of the public school system of Los Angeles, graduating from the Los Angeles High School Soon after her graduation she married Thomas A. Cole, a portrait artist and interior decorator. Mrs. Cole for a number of years, studied music and piano in Seattle, Washington; there under the tutelage of one of America's finest private instructors.

In 1925 Mrs. Cole won the Lisniewska Scholarship, and studied for three years in Cincinnati, Ohio with this famous Leschetizky exponent. In 1928 she won the coveted Juilliard Scholarship in New York City, this award was won over eight-hundred contestants from every State in the Union. In 1930 she graduated and resumed her studies abroad. In London, England she studied under the great Tobias Matthay. Mrs. Cole is the only Negro holding a teacher's certificate from the Tobias Matthay School of Music.

Returning to America, Mrs. Cole entered the University of California, and received her degree and credentials to teach music in secondary schools. She is now head of the Department of Music at Belvedere Jr. High School in Los Angeles.

There is one child, Yvonne Cole, an accomplished pianist in her own right, as well as an artist in Interior Costuming and Social Painting. Both mother and daughter are members of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Mrs. Cole during her musical career has traveled half way around the world, crossing the American continent many times. She has been heard in concerts in many leading cities and universities of the world, and has received acclaim and favorable comment from music critics in the Metropolitan papers throughout the country. Tentative plans for future concerts for this summer and fall are now being arranged.

Her hobby is working toward immediate civic improvement.

NASH, LUVENIA HARPER, Founder and Director of the Nash Singers, was born in Wichita, Kansas, September 5, 1901, the daughter of James L. and Henrietta (Turner) Harper. James L. Harper was a grocer and member of the Wichita Police Force.

Luvenia Harper received her early training in the public schools of Wichita, Kansas, later moving to Los Angeles where she finished her public school education as a graduate from Los Angeles High School. She then entered the University of Southern California and there pursued a course in Music over a period of four years. To further her knowledge and appreciation for Music, Mrs. Nash studied at the National Academy of Music in New York City, receiving from that institution a Certificate for Teaching, thus, thoroughly qualifying for a career that has been marked by recognition and success.

In addition to being a teacher of Piano and Pipe Organ, Mrs. Nash has been selected as accompanist for such outstanding Artists as Clarence Cameron White, Florence Cole Talbert, Bell Salter Tyler, Julian Oliver, Estelle Slater Jackson and Edna Heard.

The Nash Singers of which she is the organizer and Director is a choral group of unusual talent and skill. Their presentation of Operas in their entirety has won wide acclaim.

Mrs. Nash, a Baptist in her religious belief, has been the organist of the Second Baptist Church in Los Angeles for twenty-seven years.

She finds time to engage in benevolent and uplift work, while her social qualities are evident in her many friends.



MRS. LUVENIA H. NASH



MISS ELLEN M. ELLIOTT

ELLIOTT, ELLEN MARJORIE, born in Berwyn, Oklahoma, the daughter of Samuel and Odessa (Hood) Elliott.

She received her public and high school education in Milford, Michigan.

In 1939 her family moved to Los Angeles, California. Resuming her education, she entered the University of Southern California, later changing to the University of California at Los Angeles, where she is now majoring in psychology.

Miss Elliott, following her ambition to start a Finishing School, attended the Hollywood Finishing School and studied "Charm" under Eleanor King.

In November 1947 she established the Marjorie Elliott's Finishing School, the first of its kind for Negroes.

Her hobby is bicycle riding.  
Business Address, 3632 4th Avenue, Los Angeles, California

**WILKINS, WILLIAM** Composer, Musician and Teacher of Music born in Little Rock, Arkansas the son of Thomas and Marion (Grant) Wilkins. His father a musician and pianist, tutored his son and at the early age of three young Wilkins was displaying his musical talent by playing in a tin and drum band by ear.

Professor Wilkins received his public school education in Los Angeles and is a graduate of Polytechnic High. After his graduation from Polytechnic he began the serious study of music in Von Stein Academy and progressed so rapidly that at the end of four years his teacher, Heinrich Von Stein, announced him a teacher of piano at the Von Stein Academy.

Since that time, he has studied with some of the most prominent concert pianists to visit the coast. Among these noted artists were the late Brahm Vandenberg, well-known Belgian solo pianist, the late Jaroslaw de Zielinsky, Herr Franz, Robert Lichner, private pianist to the Dutchess of Austria, and Professor Hague Kinsey of London, England.

In 1912 Professor Wilkins pioneered the Negro music field in Los Angeles, when he gave the first Negro pupil music recital which continued for twenty-six consecutive years and was looked forward to by musical minded Angelenos as an outstanding social event.

In 1914 Professor Wilkins was heralded as a genius in the Los Angeles Sunday Tribune, and he is the only Negro ever mentioned in the book "Who is Who in Music in California." A reference book which is found in all public libraries of the United States. He was the first Negro to appear with a sketch, accompanied by a photograph in "The Pacific Coast Journal of Music," one of the oldest musical journals published on the coast. Delliiah L. Beasley's "Negro Trail Blazers of California," also, carries some interesting information on this great artist. She gives first mention to him as an outstanding artist and musician.

Aside from his musical career the Professor is skilled in other trades. He studied Steam and Electrical Engineering, and was the first young Negro to be employed by the Edison Light and Power Company of Los Angeles as line inspector. He is a graduate of the School of Telegraphy and has taught the same; a tin smith and sheet iron worker; is a maker of fine candies and has operated a candy establishment of his own.

Professor Wilkins has appeared in many of the largest churches of this and other coast cities, as well as over many local and national radio stations as piano soloist and Director of the Wilkins Symphonic Choir. Professor Wilkins takes an active part in all churches and he is minister of music for Reverend G. Albert Miller.

Recently, Professor Wilkins has specialized in music at the California Christian College in composition, harmony, orchestration, form and analysis. His principal teachers were Professor Herbert G. Tovey and Dr. Mary Car Moore. He has composed for Voice, Piano, stringed instruments and choir; some of these works have been published.

At this writing (1948) he has purchased a concert Steinway piano and several smaller pianos to be used in his recently purchased building on West 29th Street near Vermont Avenue, which will house his new Piano Academy. At present he employs five especially trained student teachers, and will add several more when he opens his music academy at an early date.

More than 3,000 pupils have taken instructions from the Wilkins Piano Academy in the past thirty years, and many of these pupils now hold prominent positions in the world of music, among them are: Lucille Blaychettia Huley, Pianist, Organist and Teacher; Mike Stewart (white) of the A.B.C. Network; Fannie Benjamin, Pianist and Organist; Albert McNeil, music teacher and director of Independent Church Choir; Gilbert F. Allen, Professor of Music in Sam Houston College and director of "Wings Over Jordan"; Samuel Brown, former musical instructor of Jefferson High School now music teacher at Los Angeles City College; Leon Rene, Composer; Lorenzo Flennoy, radio artist; Frederic D. Skinner, soloist and radio; in Hawaiian Islands, Charlotte Schimidyu, pianist and organist.

His daily assistant teachers of music classes are: Ruth Claire Clifford (Chief), Zella Beacon, Eugenia Caldwell Clark, Ethel Bethune Thompson, and Evelyn L. Cole, Financial Secretary and instructor in Music Appreciation, Music History, Piano and many others.



MISS LOUISE BEAVERS

**BEAVERS, LOUISE**, Motion Picture Actress, born in Cincinnati, Ohio, the daughter of William and Ernestine Beavers.

Her public school education was in Cincinnati and Pasadena, California. After her high school graduation Miss Beavers began her career doing bit parts in silent pictures. In 1928 her first speaking part was in Warner Brothers' "Glad Rag Doll;" in 1935 she played her greatest role in the outstanding production of that year "Imitation of Life." This performance earned for her the acclaim and applause of movie goers over the world. The star in this picture, Claudette Colbert, admitted publicly that Miss Beavers really should have been named as the female star.

Following this success Miss Beavers played a supporting role in several outstanding productions, among them: "No Time for Comedy," "Rainbow on the River," "Virginia," and "Reap the Wild Wind."

Miss Beavers aside from her acting is quite active in the civic welfare of her community. She can always be depended on to make personal appearances for any worthwhile charity, and hardly a week passes but that she gives freely of her time and talent.

She is President of the Thirteen Aid Charity Club and active in the Allied Arts League.

Married Leroy Moore Jr., a caterer of Los Angeles.

Her religious faith is Christian Science.



MISS EDNA R. HEARD

HEARD, EDNA ROSALYNE, Singer, Composer and Teacher, born in Santa Monica, California, the daughter of Edward H. and Eliza (Moses) Heard. Her father was a contractor, and her mother a civic and religious leader; the first Negro church in Santa Monica was founded by her mother in 1906, and her sister, Mrs. Nancy Butler, writing the first minutes at the meeting. Both father and mother are now deceased.

Miss Heard is a graduate of the Santa Monica High School, the University of Southern California, (the Department of Voice, Theory and Composition); she was the first Negro to graduate in this Department of the University.

After graduation Miss Heard studied composition under Charles Pemberton, Dr. Joseph Grief and Julia Howell, all noted teachers in music composition. She studied voice under Madam Jennie Torriani, Alfred Vogger and Lillian Wilson, the latter her voice teacher at U.S.C.

At the early age of fourteen, Miss Heard, won the applause of musical Californians, when she was awarded a gold medal in a contest sponsored by the NAACP, this prize was awarded by the late Bishop Joseph H. Johnson, first president of the Southern California NAACP Branch.

Since this time Miss Heard has won the acclaim of music and voice critics throughout California, for her fine compositions and the quality of her dramatic soprano voice. This can be summed up in the following press comments written after Miss Heard wrote the Musical Scores for the Maddin Premiere (Mayon Theatre), Volpone (Belasco Theatre) and Will Shakespeare at the Hollywood Playhouse.

*"She is the only woman of her race doing serious work in composition in the West, and has composed the music for a number of Hollywood's most outstanding stage productions."*

--Evening Outlook June 1941

*"To Edna Rosalyne Heard for the original score--last night's audience was lavish in its applause"*

--Los Angeles Examiner

*"An artist of achievement"*

--Rufus B. Von Kleinsmid

Miss Heard has just completed her own original arrangement of the Chinese National Anthem. This ar-

range ment has been accepted by the American-Oriental Friendship Association, and is to be published soon in their monthly publication, "Asia Calling." Records of this composition are enroute to China to be presented to the Chinese Government. Miss Heard has, also, won the "Kriqwa Award" awarded by the Krisis Guild of Writers and Artists in New York City; and served as one of the judges on the audition board for the Atwater-Kent National Voice Contests.

Miss Heard is a member of the Hollywood Council of Composers and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Her hobby is collecting interesting and unusual pictures of babies. She calls her collection "The Stork Variety Club."



MRS. FREITA SHAW JOHNSON

JOHNSON, FREITA SHAW, Choral Conductor, born in Bilings, Montana, the daughter of Andrew J. and Sadie Viola (MacElroy) Shaw. Her father, now deceased, was a famous chef. Her mother is now living in Los Angeles, California. Miss Shaw's early education was in the public schools of Portland, Oregon.

After her high school graduation Miss Shaw studied music for two and a half years at the Oregon Conservatory of Music. It was during her course of study at the Oregon Conservatory that Madam Lucia Valiar, world-famous teacher of voice, became interested in her voice, and as a protegee of Madam Valiar, Miss Shaw studied voice and music in Paris, France.

Miss Shaw returned to America and continued her studies with Oscar Saenger, in New York City, considered as America's finest voice teacher. Completing her studies in New York, Miss Shaw started her professional career with Lyceum and Chautauque and Stock Companies, later with the Harriot Singers, traveling in North and South America and in Bermuda.

In 1926 Miss Shaw established residence in California and on July 26, 1929, married William Vernon Johnson, master mechanic for the city of Los Angeles. There are no children.

Miss Shaw was the organizer and leader for the Etude Ethiopean Chorus. This outstanding choral group, sang in many motion picture productions. It was the first Negro group in America to receive the special honor of singing in grand opera with Metropolitan Opera stars such as Lawrence Tibbett, Grace Moore, Richard Bonelli, Alessandro Gaglio, and many other greats of the Opera. In 1933 during the Los Angeles and San Francisco Opera Season.

...with the regular season ... Hollywood career ... staff for the ...

...Musician on the ... Steamship Company ... she sailed ... America and one trip ... Since 1945 Miss Shaw is one of the directors of the Los Angeles Bureau of Music and is directing youth and adult choirs throughout the area. Miss Shaw is also conductor of the famous Euterpean Singing Society.

She is a member of Wilfandel Club, Screen Actors Guild, NAACP, Y.W.C.A., and the St. Philip's Episcopal Church.

Her hobbies—raising pedigree dogs and sailing her little ship, the "Billfreita."



MRS. JESSIE C. GRAYSON

GRAYSON, JESSIE COLES, Singer and Character Actress, born in Albia, Iowa. Came to Los Angeles, California at the age of eight. Received public school education in Los Angeles, and a graduate of the Los Angeles High School. Started singing in a juvenile choir of the First A.M.E. Church at age of eleven; joined the Senior Choir at the age of seventeen.

Married Garner V. Grayson, and went to Portland, Oregon where she lived for many years singing in the choir, and at the same time studying for a Concert Singer, where she, also, took a course in Dramatics. Also directed the Choir for six years. President of the Oregon Association of Negro Women's Clubs for four years, and was Second Recording Secretary of the National Association of Negro Women's Clubs for four years. Returned to Los Angeles to live in 1936 when she started singing with the Hall Johnson Choir doing Concert and radio work and doing background music for many moving pictures. After studying for a Concert Singer for eight years, she traveled, giving song recitals in many cities.

In 1941 she played her first role as a character actress in the picture "The Little Foxes." After which, she had character roles in many pictures including, "One Dark Knight," "Syncopeation," "The Youngest Profession," "Wilson," "The Life of Mark Twain," "Tomorrow is Forever," and others. Recently, "Cass Timberlane," "The Spirit of West Point," and the unreleased "Homecoming."

In 1947 she was called to New York to join the road company of the great problem play, "Deep are the Roots,"

in which she portrayed the role of Mother to the young Army Lieutenant, one of the stars of the play, traveling for six months all through the East and Canada. She is presently portraying the same role, currently running at the Belasco Theatre in Los Angeles. After their engagement in Los Angeles the company will continue up the Coast as far as British Columbia.

She is an active member of First A.M.E. Church, and an active member of the Woodlawn Branch Y.W.C.A., of which she was the Chairman for several years. She is, also, a member of the Metropolitan Board of the Los Angeles Y.W.C.A., and holds the office of Secretary, the first Negro officer the Board has ever had. She was Vice Chairman of a Financial Drive for a new Y.W.C.A. in 1941, which resulted in the purchase of the present Y.W.C.A., Woodlawn Branch.

She was chosen as the "Woman of the Year" by the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority during the "Finer Womanhood Week" in 1944, for her outstanding work in the Y.W.C.A. and for her work in the Community Chest, for which she served as Vice Chairman of the Eastside Area for two years.

She has two children, a daughter, Mrs. Jennie Dora Wagoner, who operates a gift shop, and a son, Garner V. Grayson Jr., a Pharmacist, and three little grand-children whom she adores.

She is an active member in the Clef Club, Old Pals Club, Kappa Mothers Club and Wilfandel Club. Received a reward from the Interracial Award Committee in the pictures "Cass Timberlane", and was the first time a Negro woman was called "Mrs." in a picture.

Whenever she is not busy on stage or screen, she can, usually, be found working in some capacity at, or for the Y.W.C.A.

Her hobby is collecting unusual pictures, miniature and otherwise.

BUTLER, LAURETTA GREEN, Musician and Producer of Children's Acts—born in Los Angeles, daughter of Joseph and Amanda (Shelton) Green. In the early pioneer days Mr. and Mrs. Green operated the "Alpha", a well known rooming and boarding house.

Mrs. Butler received her education at Commercial High School and Los Angeles Business College.

She is affiliated with the First A.M.E. Church and Clef Club, also President Emeritus of the Native Californians and a member of the Old Pals Club.

Mrs. Butler was Superintendent of the State Federation of Music for six years. She taught music for three years in Eatonville, Florida, and traveled with singing groups of children to Daytona, Palm Beach and Miami, Florida, entertaining with folk songs at the well-known, Royal Ponciana and the Breakers Hotels.

In 1917 Mrs. Butler presented the first of her Kiddies Revue which continued annually until the late thirties when by special request she took her talented kiddies to Hawaii. She and her nationally famous Kiddies made two trips to Hawaii, and on the second trip they witnessed the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and was detained on the island for five and one-half months before the Government evacuated them to the States.

Lauretta Butler has trained many celebrities in various parts of the country, and much of her services has been generously donated to various philanthropic causes, also given many children training without compensation bringing out beauty, rhythm and art which so definitely proves to be her hobby.



ALBERT J. McNEIL

McNEIL, ALBERT JOHN, a Supervisor of Music in Los Angeles City School System, was born February 14, 1922 in Los Angeles, California, the son of John Joseph and Rhodier (Robertson) McNeil. Albert J. McNeil completed his public school education in Los Angeles, graduating from Polytechnic High School. Later he attended U.C.L.A., graduating from that institution in 1942 with a degree of B.A. Then to University of Southern California where he received his M.A. degree in 1944.

His religious faith is that of the Catholic Church. Professionally, he is President of the Los Angeles Musicians Association, and member of the Los Angeles Music Teachers Association, National Education Association, Southern California Conductors Guild, California Western Music Education Association, and the Negro Musicians Inc. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Omega Psi Phi and Phi Mu Alpha Fraternities and the Masonic Lodge. He belongs to the NAACP and the YMCA.

He is Director of Music at the Peoples Independent Church of Christ, and Director of the Albert McNeil Choir, and also a teacher of music in Los Angeles Schools. He is organizer and founder of the Philharmonic Artist Series and is now doing background music work for the CBS Broadcasting System. In 1947 he taught at Lincoln University and will teach at Howard University in the Summer of 1948.

COLLINS, JEANNETTE, Concert Dancer, was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, March 2, 1917, the daughter of Ernest L. and Alma (DeLavallade) Collins.

At the age of four years she came with her family to Los Angeles, where she received her public school education. Prompted by her talent for and interest in dancing, as an Art, she took advantage of every opportunity to attend Art Schools. Her first scholarship was from the Art Center School in Los Angeles. Later she received a Julius Rosenwald scholarship to do research on Hebrew Classic and American Negro Dances, and worked with Ernest Bloch of the University of California in Berkeley in research on a Hebrew Biblical Suite of Dances. Throughout the period of her study of the dance she was diligently training for a career as a Concert Dancer.

Miss Collins made her debut as a Concert Dancer in Los Angeles in 1947. Her first appearance was a success. She is now planning an extensive itinerary for dance concerts in the leading cities of the nation.

Her hobby is oil painting and theatrical costume designing. All costumes used in her concerts are original designs of Miss Collins.



BILLY LACY

LACY, BILLY Poet born in 1918 at Henderson, Texas, the first child of Leathan and Etta (Goss) Lacy. His father is a small-scale farmer and Baptist deacon, and his mother, now deceased, was a housewife. Mr. Lacy went to public school in Henderson, Texas, except for the last two years of high school finished at Emmett Scott High, Tyler, Texas. Following this completion he entered Texas College of that city but declined in his junior year because of severe illness. Called to serve his country Sept. 7, 1942, Mr. Lacy, then an agent for The Universal Life Insurance Co., the Tyler branch, was four days later transferred to March Field (Army Air Base) Calif. and remained in near-by Riverside after being honorably discharged, Feb. 25, 1946. Married Vera L. Tucker, teacher in Texas public schools, in the summer of 1946. He is Baptist and she is Methodist. Mr. Lacy is affiliated with NAACP, also a member of THE NATIONAL WRITERS CLUB, Denver, Colo. His poems have appeared in the California Eagle and Tri County Bulletin, both of California. His last published poems are included, with those of other writers, in "Important AMERICAN POETS AND SONG WRITERS" recently released by Valiant House, Publishers, New York.

Business address: 4472 Grove Ave., Riverside, Calif.

GRAY, JOHN ANDREW JR., Professor of Music, born in Norfolk, Virginia, the son of John Andrew and Susan S. (Washington) Gray.

Before coming to California in 1910, he lived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he attended the public school. Professor Gray is a graduate of the Polytechnic High School of Los Angeles, and studied at the University of Southern California, as well as the University of California at Los Angeles.

He showed an early aptitude for music—his father gave him his first lessons. He studied music in Los Angeles and later went to Europe where he attended the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris, France. It was from this world renowned institution of cultural art and music that he received his teacher's diploma.

Professor Gray is the founder of the Musicians' Association in Los Angeles, the first West Coast organization of Negro Musicians.

In 1931 he founded the Gray Conservatory of Music, an interracial institution, both as to teachers and pupils, which is considered outstanding in the musical circles of Southern California.

Professor Gray belongs to the Masonic Lodge. His hobby is work.



SAMMY FRANKLIN

FRANKLIN, SAMMY--Musician, born in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Son of Eli and Marie (Bowers) Franklin. Educated in the public schools of Denver.

Young Sammy, always having a flare for music, started playing with the YMCA band in Denver, first playing the violin, then the trombone and later the trumpet. For several years he played with the George Morrison Band of Denver; later to Kansas City with the Benny Moten Band. During his career he has played in such fine bands as Andy Kirk, Les Hite, Lionel Hampton and Eddie Barefield. He then formed the Sammy Franklin Orchestra, now noted as a society band and in great demand by west coast clubs, fraternities and sororities. Married to Vera Wysinger Franklin, a native of California and a registered nurse; they have one child, Henry Carl Franklin.

Mr. Franklin is a 32nd Degree Mason, an Elk, Member of the Board of Directors of the Musicians Union, Local 767, member of the Second Baptist Church. Hobbies: playing, and golf.

Business address, 2627 Raymond Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

COLE, NADINE ROBINSON--Dancer, Benevolent Worker, born in East St. Louis, Illinois, the daughter of Charles and Emma (Oliver) Robinson.

She was educated in the public schools of East St. Louis and Chicago. Soon after her graduation from high school she began her career as a dancer, becoming quite famous in this chosen art.

In January 1937 she married Nat Cole, founder of the famous King Cole Trio, and the same year the couple moved to California.

After leaving the stage Mrs. Cole saw the need for benevolent work in the field of art. She is a charter member of the B.V.A., an organization founded to assist actors and actresses who are incapable of earning a living because of age or other unfortunate circumstances.

In this organization Mrs. Cole is very active, and is accredited highly for the time and benevolence expended for this most worthy cause.

Mrs. Cole is a member of the Actors Laboratory of Hollywood, the Les Petite Femmes Club, of which she is the sponsor, the A.W.A.S., an organization that helps the blind by driving blind students to school, etc. Aside from her benevolent work Mrs. Cole is a member of the Eastern Star, and active in the social circles of Los Angeles.

Her hobbies are golf and badminton.



VIOLA M. BENTLEY

BENTLEY, VIOLA M., Dramatic Soprano, Mrs. Viola M. Bentley, Dramatic Soprano, was born and educated in the public schools of Cleburne, Texas. Later, she attended Gaudeloupe College where the training for her musical career began. Advanced instruction in voice was taken under nationally known teachers including J. Harrison Thomas, now at Florida A & M, Jeanette Bacote, Kansas City, Missouri, and L. C. Myers, Dallas, Texas.

She married Alfred Miller in 1903 and they became the parents of two daughters, Comerlett (Powell) now residing Los Angeles, and Diana (Riley) a resident of Kansas City, Missouri.

Mrs. Bentley's well earned reputation as an artist of superior attainments makes her known throughout the country. The eminent Raphael Rubenstein of Kansas City was her accompanist in one of the most engaging recitals ever presented in the midwest. Her forte is the church and radio. She has always been religiously inclined and has given much of her artistry to spiritual uplift. She has been presented as guest artist and in recitals in many of the nation's outstanding churches.

Mrs. Bentley's religious faith is that of the Baptist Church. She is a member of Friendship Baptist Church of Pasadena in which she is keenly interested in the various branches of service. She is an active worker and labors to advance the interest of her church.

It can be well said that in her profession she steadily worked her way upward to become a recognized artist. Step by step she advanced through her own industry and diligence and wise use of opportunities which came to her.

Her civic interest is centered in the work of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, of which she has been a member for many years. She is interested in all those forces which make for the benefit and uplift of the individual and the progress of the community. She has provided the means of her own advancement and by diligent study has reached a place of distinction as a Dramatic Soprano.



MRS. DOROTHEA FEARONCE

FEARONCE, DOROTHEA TOWLES, Teacher, Professional Model, born in Texarkana, Texas, the daughter of Thomas Elsworth and Arabella (Clark) Towles (both deceased). Her father was a contractor and her mother a housewife. She is the seventh child in a family of eight.

Dorothea is a graduate of the Dunbar High School in Texarkana, Wiley University of Marshall, Texas. At Wiley she was an honor student, completing her college work in three and a half years, and was Cum Laude class of June 1943 (B.S. degree, majoring in Biology and pre-med).

In 1943 Miss Towles moved to Los Angeles to live with her uncle, Dr. H. H. Towles, a well known Physician of that city.

She has worked previously as a clerk, secretary and a cashier before beginning her teaching career.

In 1945 she entered the Los Angeles School System and began teaching at Jefferson High School (Biology and Drama). Having a natural flare for art and drama, Miss Towles completed courses at the Dorothy Farrier School of Modeling and Charm of Los Angeles, where she majored in High Fashion and Photographic Modeling. Because of her superior photogenic qualifications, she was chosen from her class for further instructions in photographic modeling.

During the summer of 1945 she enrolled in the University of Southern California's School of Drama and Speech; here, she studied under William DeMille, outstanding teacher of dramatic arts and brother of Cecil DeMille, peer of Motion Picture Producers. In connection with this highly specialized training, she was selected to play the role of "He'len Johnson," in the play "Trail by Fire." This play, was one of the most controversial plays ever to be presented by an interracial group, was written by the liberal Edward Durrell, S. J., of Loyola University, and was staged at the Wilshire-Ebell Playhouse.

In 1947 married Dr. N. A. Fearonce, outstanding dentist of Los Angeles. Since her recent marriage, she and her husband have made extensive study and travel in quaint old Mexico.

Mrs. Fearonce has given freely of her time and superior knowledge to many charitable fashion shows presented by various welfare and charitable organizations. For the past five years (1943 to 1948) no Fashion Show was complete without the services of this highly trained fashion expert.

Los Angeles patrons of fine art remember her hand-picked and trained models presented by the Laura Slayton Youth Foundation in the interracial Fashion Show in April 1947 (Earl Carroll Theatre). Also, the Dorothea Towles trained models presented at the Meadowbrook and Florentine Gardens Shows.

Since 1946 Mrs. Florence has been a teacher at the Holmes Avenue School, and at present (1948) is studying for her M.S. degree at the University of Southern California.

She is a member and publicity director of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, President, Crop & Tail Riding Club, Chairman Vocational Guidance Committee (AKA) and member of the Baptist Church.

An enthusiast for Negro achievements she is interested in seeing us take our place in politics. She has contributed many hours of her time freely to Rev. Clayton D. Russell in his recent supervisory campaign and plans to do more in the coming elections.

Her hobbies run from hunting, tennis, swimming to most of the outdoor sports including golf, a recent addition. An ardent lover of music and something of a classic pianist herself, she makes all the concerts from Boogie to Bach.

In the very near future she plans opening a school of Charm to adequately fill the need of teen-agers, housewives and business women.

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WOODARD, BEULAH, ECTON--Sculpture, born in Frankfort, Ohio, the daughter of William Paul and Jane I. Ecton.

Graduate--Los Angeles Polytechnic High School, Los Angeles Art School and the Otis Art Institute.

She studied Sculpture under David Edstrom, Prince Troubetzkoy and Rodger E. Burnham.

She specializes in Native African subjects and is considered one of the outstanding artists in her field.

Mrs. Woodard has resided in California since 1902.

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HAIRSTON, JESTER--musician--was born in Homestead, Pennsylvania July 9, 1901, the son of Louis and Nancy (Ramey) Hairston. He is a graduate of Tufts College, Boston, Mass. where he received his B.S. degree Cum Laude in music. For thirteen years was assistant conductor of the Hall Johnson Choir. Conducts his own choir in the motion picture industry. Recent pictures in which his choir is heard are "Duel In The Sun," "The Long Night," "The Foxes Of Borrow." In 1939 he married Margaret Lancaster Swanigan of Oakland. They have a daughter, Shirley Jeanne. Hairston toured Europe in 1945-46 with the USO show, Shuffle Along, where he was choir-master and comedian. Became interested in antique art while in Europe, and his present collection contains many rare 18th century pieces of German origin. His religious connection is with the AME church. He is affiliated with the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity YMCA, NAACP, and the Negro Actors Guild. He is well known as a poet and reader of Negro folk-lore.



MRS. BESSIE W. DONES

DONES BESSIE WILLIAMS--Pioneer Violinist--born in Atlanta, Georgia, December 24, 1891, the daughter of John W. and Ophelia (King) Williams

The family moved to California in the year 1896, her father establishing a cleaning and dying business; her mother a housewife.

Bessie Williams' early education was in the public schools of Los Angeles, and she graduated from the Polytechnic High School of that city.

As a young girl Bessie Williams studied music in Riverside, California under Miss Ida Mae Trott, and becoming deeply interested in that field decided to be a violinist, after hearing a violin recital at one of the Riverside schools. Following her ambition she studied violin for three years under Mr. Fred Meine, continuing her studies for several years under Mr. Clarence Cook. Both instructors were considered outstanding as teachers of music and the violin.

Bessie Williams was presented in her first recital with John A. Gray at the Eighth and Towne Avenue Church. The acclaim of music lovers and critics were high for her brilliant performance, and Bessie Williams began a career that in a few short years made her the most outstanding violinist on the Pacific Coast. A number of recitals with

Miss Florence Cole and Essie Roberts Saunders were given in cities and towns throughout the State.

In 1929, wishing to further her studies in music, Bessie W. Dones, entered classes at the Zoellner Conservatory of Music, completed the required course of study, and later received her certificate as a teacher.

Mrs. Dones for a number of years played for her church choir, and made several concert tours of A.M.E. churches in California and Colorado. On these tours Miss Essie Saunders was her accompanist.

Although she specialized in ensemble training for violin students, Mrs. Dones later had to confine her teaching to her home for she had two small children to care for. She married Sidney Preston Dones, June 18, 1918. There were two children from this union, Sydneta and Sidney Preston Jr. Sydneta is a graduate of Chapman College and is now married to Walter B. Smith, a Real Estate Broker, and the son Sidney Preston Jr. passed in 1932.

Bessie W. Dones will always be remembered for her outstanding work as a teacher. Many of her pupils were chosen to play in the All City Orchestra. Only outstanding students from all the schools are chosen to take part in this orchestra. Her annual pupil recitals were well attended and eagerly looked forward to by students and parents alike. Her achievements as a concert violinist, her instructions to the youth of Southern California, in the home and at the Gray Conservatory where she also taught, will always be an inspiration to Negro youth with a love for music.

Mrs. Dones is a member of the NAACP, YWCA, Sojourner Truth Home, Women's Political Study Club, and Delta Mothers and Sponsors Club.

## *Civic and Social*

Much has been accomplished and nowhere is there a greater determination on the part of citizens, to make their community a better place to dwell.





C. BLAINE VENERABLE

VENERABLE, C. BLAINE, Financier and Philanthropist, born in Norborne, Missouri, June 18, 1884, the son of Robert J. and Frances E. (Powell) Venerable. His father, a Methodist Minister, died in 1910; his mother deceased in 1890.

Mr. Venerable received his early education in the public schools of Kansas City, (Missouri), and in St. Louis, Missouri where he graduated from the Sumner High School. He later attended the University of Kansas, earning his own living while attending the University. He took care of five large churches and the People's State Bank in the University City. While attending the University, Mr. Venerable was offered a position as Asst. Principal at one of the local schools, but sensing the vast difference in pay, he continued his duties as church and building janitor.

In 1919 Mr. Venerable moved to California, and soon established a janitor and porter service. Before long he had contracts with a number of large office buildings and churches, and from 1922 to 1932 his business flourished and he was well on his way to becoming a prosperous business man.

Like so many others during these critical years, he and his companion whom he married in October of 1926, the former Nellie Johnson of Chicago, Ill., made heavy investments in Southern California properties. These investments were all wiped out during the following years of depression, and the Venerables salvaging only one parcel of property, had to start all over again.

The next few years were trying ones, but working together, helping others less fortunate than they, working in their church and praying, this Christian couple in 1941 received the answer to their prayers. Borrowing on the one piece of property salvaged from the depression, they purchased the Kentucky Hotel at 12th and Central Avenue. Later as profits began coming in, other hotels were added to the chain, until the Venerable chain of hotels numbered seven in all.



MRS. C. BLAINE VENERABLE

The war years were prosperous years for the house of Venerable, and the financial comeback was much greater than even they could expect. The Venerables, now retired from their labors, are enjoying the comforts of a fine home and the other pleasures that come with great wealth.

Mrs. Venerable who was born in Louisiana, Missouri; educated in the public schools system of Chicago, and who came to California in 1921, is devoting much of her time to religious and charitable work. She is active in her church, the Neighborhood Community Church; Y. W. C. A., the West View Hospital group and all other civic and charitable causes for the uplift of her people. She is an ardent bridge fan, and is a member of the Jolly Eight Bridge Club.

Mr. Venerable, since his retirement, spends much of his time helping others in a worthy cause. He was one of the largest contributors to the Outdoor Life and Health Association; contributes large amounts to various churches and always has a helping hand to anyone who is deserving and in need. His generosity can best be shown by his experience in 1947, when he visited the Goerge Washington Carver School in his home town (Kansas City). While making a talk to the student body, he asked, "How many of the boys want to grow up and be like Jackie Robinson?" Many said "yes" they wanted to, but one boy said, "No", he wanted to grow up like the speaker. This touched the heart of Mr. Venerable and today, that boy (Samuel Watson) is a protege of the Venerables, and plans have been made to educate young Samuel, and also help the family.

Mr. Venerable is a member of the Businessmen's Club, on the Board of Managers at the YMCA, and a trustee of his church, the Neighborhood Community Church.

His hobby is Gospel Singing and helping people. Thus, this man who built his life on the "Golden Rule" had the astute business sense to see opportunity when presented, and who has acquired enough wealth to help others of his race, exemplifies what ambition and hard work can do for any American.



AUGUSTA F. GLOVER



GEORGIA HORTON

GLOVER, AUGUSTA F., President, P.T.A., born in Lake-Compte, Louisiana in 1903. Family moved to Lake Charles, Louisiana where she completed her high school education. Later she attended Tuskegee Institute in Alabama and New Orleans University in Louisiana, graduating from the former institution in 1923.

In 1923 she married W. J. Glover, who was a student at Tuskegee, and who later became the founder and President of Glover & Sons Institute in Los Angeles. Mrs. Glover taught school in Lake Charles, Louisiana for two years before moving to Logan, West Virginia where her husband established a business. Mr. and Mrs. Glover are the parents of three sons—Alvin J. and William J. who were born in Logan, and a third son born in Los Angeles, now deceased.

The Glover family moved to California in 1928 where they became active in the business, educational and social life of the City. Mrs. Glover is a charter member of a number of P.T.A. and church clubs, and at the time of this writing, President of Thomas Jefferson High School P.T.A. Together, with Dr. Eva W. Young, they organized playground auxiliaries and fostered the Boy Scout movement in the Eastside Area. She has worked diligently to curb juvenile delinquency, often providing the necessary funds and equipment for youth clubs. She was the only woman chosen to serve on a recent special committee of outstanding citizens to advise the Mayor on methods of dealing with minority police cases.

Mrs. Glover is a member of the YMCA, California Co-operative Association, and the NAACP. She was a Colonel in the Community Chest Drive of 1947 and spends a great deal of her time in community service.

To make more effective her special training in character building she plans to study Child Psychology. She has taken many short courses in Child Study.

She loves the role of wife and mother with enough energy and time to give in making the community a better place for all young people.

HORTON, GEORGIA, Civic Worker and Clubwoman, born in Greenwood, Mississippi, the daughter of Anderson and Amanda (Scales) Beck. Educated in the public schools of Greenwood and Rusk University in Holley Springs, Mississippi.

Mrs. Horton came to California in 1912. In November of 1911 she married James Arthur Horton, a graduate of Tuskegee Institute. They were married in Etbabena, Mississippi. They are the parents of three children—James Jr., a mail carrier; Lois, a postal clerk; and Louise, librarian. All were born and educated in Los Angeles.

Mrs. Horton has devoted a number of years to the charitable and philanthropic side of community uplift. She is a member of Sojourner Truth Club, and has served as Colonel of the Membership Drives of that organization. Past President, Westside Benevolent Society No. 1; Charter Member, Women's Society of Christian Service; Eastside Settlement House; Thirty-sixth Street P.T.A.; Women's Auxiliary to Goodwill; NAACP; YWCA; Loyalty Welfare Club; Pioneer Club; Roosevelt Unit, Women's Political Study Club; Emergency Club of the Universal Institutional Church Center. Member of the California State Association of Colored Women, Inc.; Member of Board of Directors of the Friendship Home for Girls; Past President, Women's Society of C.S., which office she filled for ten years. From 1912 to 1948 she was a Charter Member of the Wesley Methodist Church. Recently, because of convenience, Mrs. Horton has transferred her membership to the Holman Methodist Church, a new church in her community.

Mrs. Horton's unselfish work in helping others in her community has gained for her the respect and adoration of people in every walk of life.

Her hobby: Helping the underprivileged.





Mrs. VASSIE D. WRIGHT

WRIGHT, VASSIE DAVIS—Club Organizer—Social and Civic Worker, born in Paola, Kansas—daughter of Samuel William and Lulu Ann (Pettilla) Davis. Her early education was in the public schools of Denver, where she family moved soon after her birth. She later attended the Western Univ. in Kansas City, Kan., graduating in the Teaching Training course, also graduate work in Teacher Training at the Univ. of Kansas. In 1925, Mrs. Wright came to California, where she continued her study career, attending the University of Southern California Extension completing courses in Sociology and Business Administration. Mrs. Wright also studied music, and for a number of her early years, was presented in many piano recitals. At the age of eleven, Mrs. Wright began her civic religious and promotional career, organizing at that age the "So Different Club", of which she was president. Since this early beginning, her many activities will form a volume in itself. Some of the most outstanding are: The founding of the "All States Tea" in 1938, a copyrighted system to raise funds for churches, organizations and clubs. This plan is one of the most unique and original methods in use today for the raising of funds, many thousands of dollars have been netted to her church alone through these "All States Teas".

Mrs. Wright originated the National Booker T. Washington Day and for many years this day, April 5th, was observed throughout America. At her church, the Second Baptist, each year for many years outstanding programs were held on this day, attracting national attention and comment.

Mrs. Wright organized the Denver Club, the Boosters Club, Our Authors Study Club, and was their first president. She is one of the past presidents of the Presidents Council, C.A.C.W.C.; and at present, Organizer in the California Assn. of Colored Women's Clubs and has served for several years as President of the Young Women's Department; and Supervisor of the N.A.C.C.

Mrs. Wright is a member of the Committee of Management, Y.W.C.A.; American Woodmen; Treasurer, Roosevelt Unit, Women's Political Study Club; Member, West Side Property Owners Assn., the Golden West Real Estate Board, and for a number of years clerk and financial secy. of the 2nd Baptist Church.

Mrs. Wright is also active in Red Cross and Community Chest Work, and during the year 1935, found time from her civic and religious activities, to teach classes in Shorthand at the Lafayette Jr. High School in Los Angeles.

At present, Mrs. Wright is also in the Real Estate business.

Her hobbies are attending club meetings and reading books by Negro Authors.

Business Address: 3439 5th Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.



Mrs. EDITH R. BOSWELL

BOSWELL, EDITH R. Civic and Social Leader whose activity in church and fraternal circles has won her an enviable place in the community. is one of the twin daughters of Henry Everett and Ruth (Hurd) Everett, one of the old pioneer families of Texas. She was educated in the Public Schools of Dallas, Texas, her native city, before entering Prairie View State Normal where she won her Teachers Certificate. Following her graduation she was selected as a teacher in the High School of the city of her birth. Her interest in and talent for music was a factor in accepting the position of organist of the St. James A.M.E. Church, Dallas, Texas, which she held until her marriage to Dr. Bert I. Boswell, a young home-town Physician making good in Oklahoma. She joined the Doctor and taught school in El Reno, Oklahoma, where he was practicing at that time. They are the parents of two children, Lois B. (Greenwood) and Everett G., who lives with his father and mother in a most attractive and beautiful home in the exclusive West Adams Heights district in Los Angeles. Mrs. Boswell is a member of the Phillips Temple C.M.E. Church, which she has served as Reading Clerk, Sunday School Teacher, Supt. Grading and Classification, and Pres., Pastor's Aid Board. She is affiliated with the Y.W.C.A., N.A.A.C.P., Eastside Settlement, West View Hospital Guild, Southern California Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association Auxiliary, Wives of Sigma, and Knights and Daughters of Tabor. She is widely known for her charity and the support given benevolent projects which are seeking to ameliorate and alleviate the hard conditions of life for the unfortunate.

GANTT, LEOTA JONES, Civic Worker, was born in Wichita, Kansas—the daughter of William and Hattie (Penny) Jones; both parents deceased.

Educated in the Wichita School System, later attending Friends University of Kansas.

In November 1936, married Clifford Gantt. There is one son—Gordon.

Moved to California in 1938, where she resumed her college studies, attending Los Angeles Junior College and the Efficiency Business College.

Active in civic work, Mrs. Gantt has worked with the 36th Street Parent-Teachers Association and was president for two years. She is a member of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Les Modernes (Social Club), the St. Phillips Episcopal Church, and the church guild.

Hobby: Contract bridge



CORINNE F. ADAMS

ADAMS, CORINNE FERGUSON, Society Editor Los Angeles Sentinel, born in Lincoln, Nebraska, the daughter of Ollie Wayman and Marie (Brown) Ferguson of Lincoln, Nebraska. Both parents were instructors at Florida Normal College, St. Augustine, Florida. She is the niece of Rev. Father D. LeRoy Ferguson, rector of St. Cyprians, Boston, Massachusetts. Mrs. Adams has one sister, Mrs. Marie E. Peters of Chicago, Illinois.

Educated in the public schools of Lincoln, she later attended the University of Nebraska where she received her B.S. degree in Journalism. Graduate study--Atlanta University School of Social Work and the University of Southern California.

Married Harold S. Adams, Sr. There are two sons, Harold S. Adams, Jr and Ollie Ferguson Adams.

Mrs. Adams is a member: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, National Association of College Women and the Episcopal Church.



MRS. HARRIETT A. HARRISON

HARRISON, HARRIETT A. Club Woman, Church and Civic Worker born in Clinton Parish, Louisiana, the daughter of Louis and Emmaline (Youngblood) Vickers. Mrs. Harrison was a very studious child and at an early age was the pride of her parents. She received her education in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Mrs. Harrison came to Los Angeles, California, September 12, 1902 where she married Homer A. Harrison on February 22, 1905 at the home of Mr and Mrs. Thomas Rosenfield, 1920 New Jersey Street. The mar-

riage ceremony was performed by the late Rev. J. E. Edwards, Pastor of Eighth and Towne. Soon after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Harrison moved to 5206 Long Beach Avenue, known then as Furlong Tract, one of Los Angeles' early residential sections. In 1915, after a brief illness, Mr. Harrison passed. He was a native of Tennessee and came to Los Angeles in 1899. He was a member of Los Angeles Lodge No. 2639, G.L.O.O.F.

In pursuit of more education, Mrs. Harrison studied in the Los Angeles schools. She, also, took a business course from Professor Charles Eason. Both parents of Mrs. Harrison passed when she was very young, and she received her education the hard way, as she was forced to work her way through school, and as a self-made woman she has made many contributions to church, clubs and civic life.

She is a member of the Second A.M.E. Church and one of its class leaders. She is President of the Stewardess Board and past President of the Missionary Society. For eleven years Mrs. Harrison served as President, Elzora Gipson Unit of the Women's Political Study Club, and is now its President Emeritus. She is a member of P.M. N.G., Chamber No. 8, Past Officer of the Household of Ruth No. 561, and past Chief Companion of Pride of the West Circle No. 207. Other organizational affiliations are Carver P.T.A., YWCA and the NAACP. Charter member of the Golden State Insurance Company.

#### THE DELTA MOTHERS AND SPONSORS CLUB

In the year 1935, Miss Pauline Slater, a city school teacher, and at that time Far Western Regional Director of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, acting under authorization of Nu Sigma Chapter, organized the Delta Mothers and Sponsors Club of Los Angeles. The object of the club was to aid the sorority and assist and extend the educational and cultural advantages of worthy young women.

Crystallizing the principles of this beautiful objective the club has become a very staunch unit among the clubs of the city, giving scholarships to four young girls; contributing to numerous charities; purchasing war bonds and participating in various civic and social projects of note.

Among the most active officials of the Delta Mothers and Sponsors to date are, PRESIDENTS: Georgia Robinson (president emeritus), Ethel Johnson, Nellie V. Connor and Pearl C. Garrott.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENTS: Dr. Georgia Offutt, Bertha Turner, Bessie W. Dones, and S. P. Johnson.

SECRETARIES: Dr. Anna Leggett, Zenobia Clark, Lottie Dunning and Bessie W. Dones.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES: Mary Broyles, Alice D. Webb, Alice Davis and Mamie Fortier.

TREASURERS: Dora L. R. Shackelford and Katharine Reeves.

Listed among the following are many members who have performed very meritorious service: Elizabeth St. Charles Edwards, Lula Asbury, Lillian Brazlev, Jennie Bruntington, Florence Carter, Sadie Cole, Elizabeth Fisher, Jennie Graham, Hattie Hampton, Florence A. L. Gordon, Fitta Moxley, Amanda Jordan, Nettie Reese, Stella Turner, Mary Washington, Anna Batiste, Sadie Holt, Rose Garner, Muriel Brewer, Ethel Bruntington, Fitta Greene, Clara Jackson, Laura Young, Janie Twyne, Laura Allen, Lucille Buford, Jane Hudson, Sarah Johnson, Esther Beck, Jean Willa Holmes, Vernice Tatum, Gora Howard, Mary Bowman, Beulah Bass, Alice W. Mason, Annie Walker, Rose A. Bairpaugh, Luella Fowler, Katie Grayson, Camille Lisberg, Jamie Lee, Hazel Lewis, Gertrude Wright.

# Delta Sigma Theta Sorority



Charter Members of Pi and Upsilon Chapters, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Reading left to right-- Ruth Sykes Webster, Marion Robinson McCard, Alma Thomas Elsworth Miller. Charter members not shown in picture: Griffith, Roena Muckelroy Salvage and Alice S. Buggs. Marian Carter Moore, Miriam Matthews, Juanita Alma Green Covington, Fay Jackson, Portia Broyles

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, a pioneer national sisterhood of Negro women, came to Los Angeles ten years after its birth at Howard University, Washington, D. C. in 1913. It was in 1923 that five eager coeds on University of California at Los Angeles campus organized Pi Chapter.

The next year Soror Marian C. Moore the first president of a Delta chapter in Los Angeles, and her Sorors Alma G. Covington, Ruth S. Webster, Marian R. McCord, and Miriam Matthews inspired six promising young women at University of Southern California to found Upsilon Chapter. With Soror Fay M. Jackson, an outstanding contemporary journalist, as president, Sorors Juanita F. Miller, Portia B. Griffith, Roena M. Savage, Alice S. Buggs, and Alma Thomas the Delta roster in Los Angeles was complete.

Nu Sigma, the graduate chapter was established on July 26, 1928 and Soror Miriam Matthews, now head librarian at Los Angeles City Washington Irving Public Library, was elected president. One of the twenty-two original founders of Delta Sigma Theta, Soror Wertie Weaver, was among the founders of this chapter. The other members were Sorors Hebe Mack Robinson, (first Negro woman probation officer in Los Angeles County), Veola Brown, Ellen G. Garrett, Juanita F. Miller, Roena M. Savage, Consuela Bright and Portia B. Griffith. This nucleus of less than twenty Deltas has grown to over 200 graduate members and 35 active undergraduates, not to count the large pledge and interest groups.

The sisterhood was founded to encourage Negro women in their pursuit of careers. A National Scholarship Fund was created to fulfill this end. Soror Pauline Slater, Chairman of Homemaking Department, Lafayette Junior High School, of Nu Sigma chapter has guided the scholarship committee locally for four years, helping high school graduates along with graduate and undergraduate girls to realize their ambitions with a little financial help.

Another activity sponsored by Deltas is the annual Jabberwock, a national Delta institution. In 1947 Jabberwock was revived and once again the Greeks competed against each other to win the prizes with their skits. One of the oldest projects under local Delta tutelage is the lending library at the Pilgrim House located at 120 N. San Pedro Street. Sorors Iva Washington and Lillian Tyler, teachers at W. 36th Street School, have spent many an hour after their school-room days among the children of the neighborhood.

Along the scholarship line Deltas have excelled as well as in other fields of endeavor. Soror Murel Harris of Upsilon Chapter was selected to join Phi Beta Kappa National Honorary Society in 1947. Other members of scholastic honoraries in the Delta folds of Los Angeles are Dr. Geraldine Wood, Ph.D. and Soror Willia Hudgins, Phi Kappa Phi honorary society in 1930 and Soror Diane McNeal Pierson, formerly of Los Angeles, now Professor of English at Wiley University was the first Negro to graduate from University of Southern California, Magna Cum Laude. Many others have followed with cum laude honors.

The annual White Christmas Dance has become a tradition and a bright spot on Los Angeles holiday social calendar.

The present officers of the three chapters in Los Angeles are:

## PI CHAPTER

Veola Beavers, President, Betty Gibson, Vice President, Fay Hopkins, Recording Secretary, Lene Brown, Corresponding Secretary, Jean Holmes, Treasurer.

## UPSILON CHAPTER

Lucille Jones, President, Marnie Clark, Vice President, Vernon Johnson, Recording Secretary, Geraldine Chisby, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer.



## NU SIGMA CHAPTER

Honore Carey, President, Mary Lou Robberson, Vice President, Abelyne Wynne, Recording Secretary; Estella Estes, Corresponding Secretary; Angiebelle Nicholas, Treasurer, Minnie Lomax, Journalist.

Outstanding Deltas in the various professional fields. EDUCATORS.

Principals--Vassie Brown; Edna Cohen; Bessie Burke, native daughter and first local Negro teacher and first Negro Principal.

Counselor--Honore Carey at Jefferson High School.

Teachers--about 70.

### SOCIAL WORKERS:

Gladys Harris, first Negro woman graduate in Social Work from USC and first county social worker.

Y.W.C.A.--Inez Allen

Henderson Community Center--Mary Lou Robberson.

Public Agencies--Elizabeth Hampton, ex-captain in W.A.C. case worker for Bureau of Public Assistance and

On February 9, 1922 in Wheeler Hall, on the Berkeley campus of the University of California, the only Negro Greek Letter organization to be organized under the direction of the Dean of Women's office, starting with the blessing of the President's office and being given the official recognition of the student body came into being.

Charter members were Vivian Osborne (President), Elizabeth Gordon (Treasurer), Onilda Taylor (Vice President) and Louise Thompson (Secretary). In September 1922 Soror Ida Mae Miller journeyed from the East and the initiation was completed with candidates Vivian Osborne, Onilda Taylor, Elizabeth Gordon, Louise Thompson, Creola Cook (deceased), Myrtle Price, and Gladys Brown.

On March 30, 1944 Miss Pauline Slater then Regional Director returned to Berkeley under instructions from the Grand Chapter and formally established in the home of Soror Vivian Osborne-Marsh two chapters, Kappa Chapter became an undergraduate chapter, and Omega Sigma became the second graduate chapter to be established on the Pacific Coast in the Delta chain. Nu Sigma Chapter in Los Angeles having been organized by Miss Miriam Matthews, (see Program 11) in August of 1929.

Charter members of Omega Sigma Chapter were Vivian Osborne-Marsh (President), Evelyn Ware, Muriel Taylor,

first person to be sent to graduate school for Masters Degree in Social Work by Los Angeles County.

### FINE ARTS:

Drama--Camille Cannady.

Music--Lorenza Jordan Cole, Chairman of Music Department, Belvedere Junior High School, and graduate of Matthay School of Music London, England.

Florence Cole McCleave--wrote Delta Hymn, International Opera Star.

Elizabeth Garrett--studying at Julliard School of Music.

Literature--Wertie Weaver.

Dance--Audrey Covington, Donna Brown.

Painting--Lovie Perry.

Journalism--Fay Jackson, Executive Secretary FEPC for Southern California; first Negro woman to go abroad as correspondent.

Minnie Lomax--columnist for Los Angeles Tribune.

Corinne Adams--women's editor Los Angeles Sentinel.

Civic work--Juanita E. Miller, Los Angeles Housing Authority.

Grace Hackett, Eleanor Watkins, Mae Edwards Hill.

Jointly Kappa and Omega Sigma Chapters sponsor major activities. The fourth annual Jabberwock presented in March of 1947 was a sell out and the Deltas were able to add \$2500 to their Educational and Loan Fund. Plans are now under way for the 1948 "Jabberwock". This has become a MUST feature in the Bay Area.

Jointly a Patroness club is sponsored and lists among its members some of the most outstanding women of the Area among them, Mesdames Mary Buckner, Elsie Burgess, Georgia Busch, Mary Carroll, E. D. Clardy, Elizabeth Foreman, Julia Furlow, Marylese Golphin, Ivah Gray, Jewel Hogan, Cornelia Henderson, Lucy Johnson (Secretary), Jessie Kennon, Helen Kidd, Marie Lee, Edith Loving King, Marcita Fenear, Mayme Le Protti, Ethel Lewis, Funice Marchant, Mercedes Martin, Ruth Richardson, Viola Romine (Treasurer), Josephine Williams, Lora Akins, Eloise Davis, Veola I. O'Neil, Daniel Collins, Misses Bessie B. Osborne, and Hilda Tilghman.

Miss Earetha Hall is the present President of Omega Sigma Chapter. Miss Mary Buckner is president of Kappa Chapter. Miss Bessie B. Osborne is president of the Patroness club of both chapters.

## THE ORCHIDS



Left to right: Ellen Kussman Smith, Business Manager; Marian Crawford Gordon, Reporter; Ramelle La Couer Bagnerise, President; Elizabeth Gay Johnson, Adele Jase Weaver, Juanita Mars Smyles, Vice President; Laverne Handy Mayfield, Recording Secretary; Laura Slayton, Founder; Wmونا Wright Martin, Corresponding Secretary; Majorie Woods Wright, Nancy Coleman Skillman, Virginia Small Johnson, Mamie Wiggins Anderson, Treasurer. Not on picture: Edythe Slayton Hendricks.

In 1932 during the early depression years The Orchids were founded and organized by Laura Slayton to work in behalf of underprivileged children. The Orchids first charitable effort was their Annual Charity Ball which was presented to charitable minded Angelenos as a subscription social event with ladies bringing toys for girls and men toys for boys. These toys, along with candy, fruits and other things that go to make a child happy at Christmas, are given to unfortunate children at a mammoth Christmas Tree Party which has accommodated as many as 2000 children. The owners of the Lincoln Theatre graciously donated their

theatre for this cause. The Orchids first Christmas tree party was held at the East Adams Blvd. residence of Mrs. Jessie Terry.

Over a period of sixteen years The Orchids have contributed to many causes benefiting unfortunate children and needy families. During the war years when everything flourished, there was no great need for the Orchids social service so they gave their time and effort to volunteer war service through the American Women's Voluntary Services. In early post war days The Orchids resumed their annual charity Ball and interest in the welfare of youth.

*"Women," says the historian Gayarre, "if left free to obey the noble instincts implanted within their hearts by the Creator and not checked or perverted by evil influences or circumstances, have seldom failed in any civilized country to splendidly accomplish the part assigned to their sex in helping onward the progressive destinies of the human race."*

*In no age, in no country, have women risen to nobler heights or filled to fuller measure the opportunities given them for forwarding the destinies of the race, than the Negro women of California, who through their social interest and civic activity have contributed to the growth and progress of their community, State and Nation.*

# Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority organized in 1908, on the campus of Howard University, marked the first Greek letter organization for college Negro women students. One of the first women, Ethel Hedgeman Lyle, who now holds the position of honorary basileus, and the group of young women whose names appear on the Sorority charter, realized the increasing complexity of colored women students, and founded their organization for the purpose of cultivating and encouraging high scholastic and ethical standards among college students keeping alive the interest of alumnae in college life and progressive movements emanating therefrom, with the avowed purpose of improving the social status of our race, raising moral standards, and increasing educational efficiency.

The Alpha Kappa sorority is organized and dedicated to a work of social, moral and educational uplift, rather than organized mainly for pleasurable social contacts. Because of this, the sorority has been able to forge ahead, not drawing apart from the struggles of its people, but by lending a helping hand.

In 1934, when the depression held a strangle hold on the nation, AKA came to the aid of her people by establishing its National Health Project. From Oakland, California, Mrs. Ida B. Jackson took the steps that developed into the Mississippi Health Project. Mobile Clinics and visiting nurses, financed by the Sorority, did much toward alleviating the health problem in that part of the country.

In 1938 the sorority continued to broaden its scope by establishing the National Non-Partisan Council on Public Affairs. Through the keen political mind of Mrs. Thomasina Johnson, the Non-Partisan Council was at the front fighting for equal rights during the war. Through the council the AKA sorority kept a watchful eye on governmental administration, ever ready to take a stand against discrimination and to safeguard the interests of minority groups. An outlook on world affairs and an opportunity to build for a

true democracy is the work of the Non-Partisan Council of Alpha Kappa Alpha, the one Negro group that keeps a paid analyst in Washington, D. C.

The Ideals of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority have swept over the entire nation, and chapters are organized on practically every recognized university and college campus in the country. These chapters are divided into eight great regions: North Atlantic, South Atlantic, Great Lakes, Central, Mid-Western, Southeastern, South Central and Far Western.

In Los Angeles, California, part of the Far Western Region, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority was the first Negro sorority to be organized. In 1922, the late Miriam Garrott Hall, daughter of Dr. Alice Garrott, did the ground work of organizing Sigma chapter on the University of Southern California campus. Ruth Price McGregor was the first president, and charter members included, Naida McCullough, Corine Stovall, Ursula Pruitt Murrell, Leola Lewis, Coby Johnson and Helen Wheeler Riddle. The chapter gained recognition on the campus and formed the Ivy Leaf pledge club according to the requirements of the university and the national body of Alpha Kappa Alpha.

Shortly after the organization of Sigma chapter, Alpha Gamma undergraduate chapter was organized on the campus of University of California at Los Angeles campus. The organization of Alpha Gamma Omega, graduate chapter was formed still years later and took the place of being the first Greek letter graduate chapter of Negro women to be organized in this city.

On the campus of Los Angeles City College, the Alpha Phraterie club serves as an interest group to the Sorority. Students striving to gain a degree from a four year university are accepted into this club.

The national projects that keep Alpha Kappa Alpha women very busy are headed locally by the following persons who are very busy as civic leaders.

Lucille Bonnett, Basileus, Alpha Gamma Omega, Patsy Wilson, Basileus, Sigma and Grace Davis, Basileus, Alpha Gamma Chapters. Locally, the observance of Founders Day in February, the Vocational Guidance Conference in June, presentation of some nationally known artist in the Fall tends to make a well rounded community program.

You will find Alpha Kappa women leading in the various business and professional fields of the city including law, teaching, social work, journalism, medicine, nursing, music etc.

To date, the three local chapters have played hostess to the Boule, the national meeting of Alpha Kappa Alpha, twice. The last meeting held in Los Angeles was during the summer of 1946.

### Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity

It was on the campus of Indiana University that a small group of men banded themselves together for the purpose of organizing a fraternity that would measure up to their ideals of what a Greek-letter organization should be. Headed by Elder W. Diggs, the society subsequently known as the Grand Fraternity of Kappa Alpha Psi was founded in 1911. Expansion of the fraternity began in 1913, and has continued until we'll over 100 chapters now exist throughout the United States.

Los Angeles, California was added to the fraternal roll in 1923, Upsilon Chapter being established on the campus at UCLA at that time. Bros. Rucks Green, Leon Whittaker, Jeff Brown, Tiny Graham, Wendel Gladden and Edgar Johnson were charter members of the local undergraduate chapter. The efforts of those small groups have resulted in the growth of Upsilon Chapter, and, later, Los Angeles Alumni Chapter until today finds approximately 100 men in this city actively furthering the interests of higher education through fraternal programs.

### Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the oldest and largest Greek letter organization among Colored and University Negroes, was founded in 1906 at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. It now admits other than Negroes.

Alpha Delta Chapter was founded at the University of Southern California in 1921 with the late Attorney Bert McDonald as its first President. Alpha Epsilon Chapter was founded at the University of California at Berkeley in 1922 with Attorney Walter A. Gordon as its first President. These two chapters were set up by Attorney Clarence A. Jones, a former General Treasurer of the National Organization.

In 1941 Beta Psi Lambda, the first graduate chapter, was set up by the late Bert McDonald who was Western Vice-President, with Dr. Howard H. Allen, as the first President.

In 1947 Gamma XI, an undergraduate chapter, was set up at the University of California at Los Angeles with Albert Jones as its first President. In the same year two graduate chapters were set up, namely--Gamma Phi Lambda, Berkeley, California, with doctor William Pittman its first President; and Gamma Chi Lambda, San Francisco, California with Jeff Beaver its first President. These three chapters were set up by Dewey D. Davidson, who was 1st Western Regional Director.

In Los Angeles there are three chapters:

Alpha Delta--William Rex Freeman, President.

Gamma XI--Henry Melton, President.

Beta Psi Lambda--Dewey D Davidson, President.



MISS ELAINE PARHAM

PARHAM, ELAINE DIANA, Stenographer, Student Designer, born in Dallas, Texas, July 5, 1928, the daughter of Fred Levert and Elaine (Brown) Parham. Her family moved to California in 1938, and established residence in Los Angeles.

Miss Parham is a graduate of Jefferson High School, and the Biggers Business College, both of Los Angeles. She attended the Biggers Business College on a scholarship won in a contest while attending high school.

Since graduation she has held positions as stenographer for the Angel Bowl Association, Inc., Mrs. Echo Robinson in the "Caston for Council Campaign," and Negro Who's Who in California. She is, also, a student in Costume Designing, training under Janet Lastrapes, one of Los Angeles' favorite modistes.

Miss Parham is a member of Hamilton M.E. Church and President of the Les Savants Social Club.

Her hobbies are Sewing, Interior Decorating and Horseback Riding.

### Southern California Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association Auxiliary

This organization was founded in 1927 with Mrs. Laura Smitherman serving as its first President.

The purpose of this association is to bring together, at frequent intervals, the wives, widows, daughters and mothers of the professional men of medicine, dentistry and pharmacy, who are interested in the social and civic betterment of the community; and to cooperate with the Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association in whatever program they see fit to put over.

This Association has agreed to be open minded and liberal in judgment towards all problems brought before it for discussion or investigation.

Past Presidents: Mrs. Laura Smitherman, Mrs. Willette Humphrey, Mrs. Marie Fredericks, Mrs. Florence Robinson, Mrs. Georgia Hardiman, Mrs. Clara Van Slack Webb, Mrs. Edith Bell Bailey, Officers and Members of the Executive Board: Edith Bell Bailey, Far Western Zone Director; Glenna Hayes, Vice-President; Fyverell Harwell Rec, Secretary; Evelyn Griffin, Secretary; Lois Macheth Carr, Corresponding Secretary; Mildred Hawkins, Treasurer; Florence Robinson, Parliamentarian Executive Board; Clara Van Slack Webb, Chairman, Pearl Taylor, Edith Boswell, Sarah Griffin, Marjorie McPherson, State Organizer, Ways and Means; Beulah Wyndon, Chaplain, Publicity; Susan E. Cooley, Hospitality; Emily Brown Portwig; Membership; Elois Davis, Program; Wylma Windsor, Sunshine; Pocahontas Whiteman; Budget; Georgia Hardiman.



MISS LAURA A. SLAYTON

SLAYTON, LAURA A., Clubwoman, born in Los Angeles, California, the daughter of William and Laura (Mock) Slayton. Her parents came to Los Angeles in 1887. Her father was a pioneer business man having owned and operated Slayton's Skating Rink and Recreation Center", which was the first Negro owned business of its kind in Los Angeles. It was located at Twelfth and San Pedro Streets. Her mother was well-known in club and civic circles. Laura Slayton received her education in Los Angeles. She attended the University of Southern California and Otis Art Institute.

Apparently a born organizer, Miss Slayton at 10 years of age, formed the first youth group in the People's Independent Church of Christ. Thus began an outstanding career in welfare work on behalf of the city's underprivileged youth. During the early years of the depression, she began organizing service groups to aid unfortunate children. First of these was "The Orchids," who furnish toys and food baskets to children and needy families at an annual Christmas Party. Next came the "Doll League", so named because it provides dolls for girls and toys for boys at their Annual Christmas Party for unfortunate Eastside boys and girls. As the outcome of a request by social workers and physicians of tubercular institutions, Miss Slayton formed the "Godmothers", their purpose was to create a milk fund with which to provide milk daily to children being released from hospitals. For emergency cases, the milk was furnished whenever parents were unable to do so.

During the early years of World War II, Laura Slayton was selected by a group of Beverly Hills socialites to organize the Southeast American Women's Voluntary Services (AWVS), which was located at 45th and Central Avenue. This organization serviced thousands of service men who frequented this area: Regular trips were made to isolated desert camps in California and Arizona, furnishing hostesses and entertainment. The center had a sewing class that made lavettes for babies, and furnished their assistance to serve men's families.

More recently Miss Slayton has organized "Les Femme Aujourd-Hui" (the Women of Today) and Les Dames (The Ladies). The first is a group of young women brought together to do their bit toward curbing delinquency and raising funds for a youth foundation and recreation center. Les Dames a social and charity club has also pledged to support underprivileged children by giving the foundation an annual donation.

The Laura Slayton Youth Foundation, headed by Mr. Leon Washington Jr., composed of these groups and other outstanding organizations in the city, plans a single contribution to the Eastside, the erection of a club house and recreational center for youth. Other groups comprising the foundation include the Camellia Girls, Original Cavallettes, Smart Set, The Cavallette Social Club, Inc., Classic Literary and Social, Commandettes, Pal O' Mine, Town and Gown, Hair Stylist Guild, Gaye Modernaires and Talisman Girls. Besides forming welfare groups Miss Slayton found time to serve on the board of directors of the Los Angeles Urban League, the board of directors of Friendship Center, in the membership drives of the Young Women's Christian Association, and the Community Chest and American Red Cross Drives.

In 1947 Laura Slayton was selected as the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority's "Outstanding Los Angeles Woman of 1946".



MISS JESSIE MAE BROWN

BROWN, JESSIE MAE--Writer, Lecturer, Club organizer, a native of Los Angeles, California, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Brown, pioneer residents.

Miss Brown is a graduate of Los Angeles High School. She attended UCLA 1941-1944; Southwestern Law School, 1947.

Entered field of journalism in 1941 as columnist for the California Eagle, writing "What's Doing in the Younger Set," which won wide acclaim from servicemen and the community, and marked her as one of the most popular, younger writers. In 1944 she took over the position of society editor of the Eagle, and introduced the annual feature "The Ten Best Dressed Women" that has merited national recognition.

In 1946 she was presented an award for outstanding journalism and contributions to the development of society, which for many years has lagged behind the cultural growth of this new metropolis.

Under Miss Brown's editorship, the social section of the Eagle the oldest Negro weekly in the country, has taken the forefront in all phases of women's activities. Its unique layouts, life-like photo subjects, and makeup has captured the attention of national publications. Her name has been linked with leading women's organizations, both civic and social, all over the Southwest.

Miss Brown has served as Basileus of Alpha Gamma chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, journalist of Alpha Phi chapter of Iota Phi Lambda Business and Professional

sorority, organizer of Junior League to Westview Hospital, Charter member and past president of the fashionable Crop 'n' Hats Riding Club, vice-president of the Turnabout Charity Club, member of the Board of Directors of Hencerson Community Center of Second Baptist Church and a member of the Pioneer March Club.

She contemplates branching out into broader fields of creative writing in the near future.

Her hobbies are horseback riding, reading, swimming and photography.

## OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY

On November 17, 1911 at Howard University, Washington, D. C., the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity was founded by three men; Brothers Edgar A. Love, Oscar J. Cooper, and Frank Coe-man, in company with Professor E. E. Just. These three men, having thoroughly gone over the situation, saw keenly the necessity of such a movement, and decided to plant the first "Mother" Chapter of a Greek letter Fraternity to be founded in a Negro Institution, at Howard University.

The principles upon which this Fraternity is based are set forth in the four words: Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift. This fraternity aims to emphasize Christian manhood and scholarly attainments. There cannot be too much emphasis placed upon manhood, for without this quality no organization can thrive; with it, every organization has the germ to become a powerful influence. Scholarship, although second to manhood is still fundamental, for with a good, strong, manly character, there is usually a tendency toward scholarship; that is to say, there is a concomitant relationship between manhood and scholarship. With these two qualities well developed there should be no fear of the other two--Perseverance and Uplift, for they will fall in as naturally as scholarship does to manhood.

There are three chapters in the State of California--Lambda chapter was organized at U.S.C. in 1923, an undergraduate chapter, Los Angeles, California, at present Brother Charles W. Thrash, Basileus; Sigma Iota, San Francisco, California, was organized in the 1946, a graduate chapter; Lambda Omicron Chapter, Los Angeles, Brother Rev. H. R. Moore, Basileus, was organized December 16, 1946.

Some of the outstanding Omega men here on the West Coast are; Brothers Paul R. Williams, Architecture; Dr. E. I. Robinson, Medicine; Brice Taylor, Athletics; R. E. Brown, Jr., Social Worker; H. Claude Hudson, dentistry; J. Cullen Fentress, journalism; Charles Matthews and Thomas Griffith Jr., attorneys; Reginald Jones Urban League; E. W. Rakestraw, I. L. White and Bane, Ministry; Allen C. Woodard III, Real Estate; C. O. English, insurance broker; Isaac H. McClelland, teaching; Leon H. Washington, newspaper; Foster E. Driver, Druggist. The twelfth district representative of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity is James P. Perry Jr.

## LOS ANGELES BRANCH N A A C P

The local branch fights against all forms of racial discrimination in employment, housing, legislation, education, the courts, the armed forces, and politics. Among the recent successes for which the Los Angeles Branch can take partial credit are the employment of Negroes by the Los Angeles Railway Co., the upgrading of Negro deputies in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office, the redistricting of the councilmanic districts so that Negro representation on the City Council from the 7th District may be secured, and the elimination of the use of a textbook derogatory to the Negro at Compton Junior College.



MR. FLOYD C. COVINGTON  
Executive Director

## LOS ANGELES URBAN LEAGUE

The Los Angeles Urban League was organized April 15, 1921, by a group of former students, workers and friends of Tuskegee Institute. The founder of the organization was Mrs. Katherine J. Barr, with the assistance of Ellis N. Warren. The name of the organization was originally the 'Tuskegee Industrial Welfare League'. Application was made to the National Urban League for membership and on June 14, 1921, this membership was granted and the name of the organization was changed to the Los Angeles Urban League.

The Los Angeles Urban League is a Community Chest Red Feather Agency; and has been since 1925.

Among the Presidents of its Board of Directors have been Dr. A. C. Garrett, Mr. Albert Bowman, and Mr. Joseph S. Dunning. Its present Board of Directors include twenty-seven outstanding citizens of various racial and religious groups. It has a staff of ten employees under the Executive Directorship of Floyd C. Covington.

Its program--Inter-racial co-operation in action is the Urban League's basic method of securing its objective. It works in the following fields:

**RESEARCH AND PUBLIC INFORMATION**--supplying facts about Negro living and working conditions so these facts can be used as a base for further improvement.

**INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS**--striving to remove the racial factor from employment' by educating business and industrial management and employment agencies to expand job opportunities for Negroes, and to provide employers with information and advice leading to the solving of any problems which might arise from employment of Negroes.

**LABOR UNIONS**--assisting responsible labor leaders in developing effective workers' educational programs, and in advancing fair and just policies and practices regarding the admission and participation of Negro workers in unions.

**VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE**--encouraging youth and adults to prepare and train for jobs.

**COMMUNITY PLANNING**--working with public and private agencies and developing neighborhood programs to alleviate problems that arise in the fields of health, housing, education and recreation.

## History of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority

In January of the year 1920 Zeta Phi Beta Sorority was founded on the Campus of Howard University, Washington, D. C. by its brother fraternity, Phi Beta Sigma and five young college women who were, Misses Arizona Cooper, Viola Tyler, Myrtle Tyler, Pearl Neal and Fannie Petrie as charter members. Their idea of a sorority was to reach college women in all parts of the country who were sorority minded, and who desired to affiliate with a group that had for its objective the idea of service, scholarship and sisterhood, and for its ideal, "Finer Womanhood."

The objective of finer womanhood, sisterly love and scholarship has brought together women from all parts of the country who have similar tastes and aspirations, similar potentialities for higher attainment and similar desire for concerted action that will bring results in removing or blocking movements that would retard the growth and progress of our group of women, especially in the field of academic and literary attainment.

Zeta's membership includes women in the professions, medicine, law, dentistry, Pharmacy, the fine arts, music and painting; all of the fields of higher learning, teachers and women with the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. These women are awakening from the lethargy that seemed to have fastened its tentacles about the social and economic life of the nation during the last four years; in that awakening they have become an integral part of the community life of the country and have interested themselves in civic and social betterment throughout the jurisdiction.

In April of the year 1937, the banner of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority was erected in Los Angeles, California, with Xi Alpha Chapter being formed by college women who were also anxious to carry out the ideals and aspirations of Zeta as did their predecessors and founders.

Los Angeles Zetas have labored faithfully for the past ten years and just recently celebrated their 10th anniversary during their annual observance of "Finer Womanhood Week." In their line of progress during these years, another chapter has been added, Beta Eta Zeta Chapter; other groups have been organized, such as Zeta Phi Beta Auxiliary, composed of mothers and sponsors, The Zephinians, a High School Interest Group, and its pledge girl "The Archonians," that is composed of young women aspiring for a higher education in the universities and colleges of the city.

Notwithstanding the fact that these Sorors give liberally to their national scholarship fund, they also made many scholarship awards locally to deserving girls.

They have promoted and participated in any number of worthwhile projects in the community, aside from their annual observance of "Finer Womanhood Week," at which time the most outstanding woman of the year is recognized and presented a gold plaque for her achievements during that year. The organization has honored such prominent and outstanding women as, Mrs. Charlotta A. Bass, Mrs. Besse Burke, Mrs. Bettie Hill, Mrs. Jessie Terry, Dr. Ruth J. Temple, Mrs. Jessie Cole Grayson, Miss Mildred Blount, Mrs. Fannie Williams, Miss Laura Clayton, and Mrs. Gertrude Hicks, the woman of 1947.

The interest and enthusiasm of Los Angeles Zetas has spread throughout the Pacific Coast, with chapters being organized in Berkeley, California, Tucson and Phoenix, Arizona. Extensive plans are being made to form more chapters in other western cities which will become a part of the Pacific Region.

In August, 1947, four hundred or more Zetas from all parts of the United States gathered for the first time in Los Angeles for their 27th Annual Boule. This was a momentous occasion for local Sorors, since they for the first time had the privilege of entertaining their national body. Visiting Sorors were loud in their praise for such a successful and well planned meeting, and for the hospitality extended them by other greek organizations and friends.

As Zeta continues to seek sorority-minded young women, she does so with always the thought, "Quality rather than Quantity," noting not the outer approval, but the inner heart, soul and brain," and the eby forever renewing her pledge of Finer Womanhood for the coming years.

## The Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity

The Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity was organized at Howard University, Washington, D. C. January 9, 1914 with nine charter members agreed upon by the three founders who realized the need of a Fraternity expressing the high ideal "Culture for Service and Service for Humanity."

The first initiation occurred May 4, 1914 with fourteen candidates. The first chapters set up were: Alpha, Howard University; Beta, Wiley College; Gamma, Morgan College and Delta, Kansas State College.

The first conclave in the history of the fraternity was held during the Christmas holidays, 1916, with Alpha Chapter, Washington, D. C. serving as host.

The Phi Beta Sigma Chapter in Los Angeles was organized in 1937 with William Nickerson Jr., Dr. C. W. Hill, Edgar Browne, William Perry and S. P. Johnson as charter members from 1937 to 1943, the Presidents of the Phi Beta Sigma Chapter have been in the order named: Bros. Edgar Browne, William Perry, George A. Beavers, Jr. and Frank G. Zetar. In 1943 Bro. C. W. Hill was made President and has served the fraternity in that capacity since that time.

With prevention of juvenile delinquency as its program for civic betterment, Phi Beta Sigma Chapter has appropriated more than \$5000 for this work since 1944. The sponsoring each year of the National body's "Bigger and Better Business Week" has been a factor in the increasing business consciousness of the Negro in Los Angeles.

The 34th Annual National Conclave of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity will be held August 11-14, 1948 in Los Angeles, with the local graduate and undergraduate chapters serving as host.

KENNER, BYRON, born in St. Louis, Missouri, August 3, 1892, Came to Los Angeles in 1893. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois (Mechanical Engineer degree).

Member, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, YMCA and the NAACP.

Lapidary is his hobby. He has won several trophies and awards with his marvelous collection in various Hobby Shows.

KENNER, LOUISE REYNOLDS, born in Ironton, Ohio, the daughter of Attorney and Mrs. Calvin Reynolds of Columbus, Ohio. She is a graduate of Ohio State University, A. B., class of 1917. Did Post Graduate work at Columbia University.

After graduation she taught French at the Douglas High School in Baltimore, Maryland, for six years.

Married Byron Kenner of Los Angeles in Columbus, Ohio, 1925. Moved to Los Angeles in 1926.

She is Past Chairman of the YWCA Committee of Management of 12th Street Branch, and active in civic and social circles of Los Angeles.

# Chi Eta Phi Sorority



1st Row, left to right: Mrs. Rubye Wiggins, Mrs. Vera Franklin, President; Mrs. Marion Willingham, Mrs. Jessie McDaniel; Mrs. Arlayne Hall Logan; Mrs. Clyde McCullum. 2nd Row--Mrs. Irma Lairs, Mrs. Evelyn Gibson; Mrs. Euvalda Morris; Mrs. Ann Taylor, Mrs. Melba Weems, Miss Clara Porter, Mrs. Irene Campbell; Mrs. Ruth Davis; 3rd Row--Mrs. Faye Wilson; Mrs. Clarice Jackson; Mrs. Katherine Norris; Mrs. Georgia Hardimon; Miss Bernice Batchelor; Mrs. Winifred Davis.

Chi Eta Phi Sorority, the name denoting character, education, and friendship, was founded at Freedman's Hospital, Washington, D. C. in 1932. Dr. George W. Adams rendered invaluable service in advising and counselling the twelve charter members of the organization. Mrs. Eliene Carrington Ewell was elected first Supreme Basileus. Membership in the organization is composed of Registered Nurses outstanding professionally and scholastically.

From its inception Chi Eta Phi Sorority has been dedicated to the promotion of closer and more friendly relationship between members of the nursing profession and to the stimulation of greater intellectual attainment and higher standards within the profession.

The Sorority Motto is "Service for Humanity"

The inspiration for Delta Chapter in Los Angeles was first conceived by Mrs. The'ma Johnson Narcisse, who learning of the lack of such a group in this city in 1937 organized a group of Senior Student Nurses (of which her daughter was one) and young Graduate Nurses. This club had the establishment of a chapter of Chi Eta Phi Sorority in this city as its specific aim. In addition it took an active part in community health affairs.

The first public affair of the new group was a tea, later that year, at the Twelfth Street YWCA with Mrs. Betty Hill, Dr. Henry McPherson, and Dr. Leonard Stovall taking active parts on the program.

In 1938, the preliminary work having been done the nine graduate members of the group were organized into the Delta Chapter of Chi Eta Phi Sorority with Mrs. Vera Weisinger Franklin officiating as representative of the National Sorority. This same group later served as the nucleus for the reestablishment of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses in Los Angeles.

One of the main projects of Delta Chapter is the granting of scholarships to deserving young graduate nurses desiring further study at one of the accredited Colleges or Universities.

Delta Chapter Basileus past and present are: Fred Connor, Clyde McCullum, Jessie McDaniel, and Vera Franklin (nowly elected).

Chi Eta Phi Sorority is the object of the contribution to Chi Delta Medical Center.

## CHI ETA PHI SORORITY



**FRANKLIN, ALERA**, daughter of the late Reuben Carl Wsynger, a native of California, and Cornelia Young, formerly of Columbus, South Carolina, Registered Nurse and Licensed Real Estate Broker, was born in Fowler, California where she completed her high school education. Attended Fresno State College, 1925-27; Nurses Aid Course, Fairmont Hospital, San Leandro, California, 1930-31, Howard University and Freedmen's Hospital, 1932-35; U.C.L.A., 1936-37. Married Samuel F. Franklin February 5, 1939. One Child, Henry Carl. Member of Los Angeles Chapter, National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, first basileus, Beta Chapter, Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Washington, D. C., and present basileus of Delta Chapter, Chi Eta Phi, Los Angeles. At present, Registered Nurse engaged in private duty.

**JOHNSON, METAROSE**, Registered Nurse, born in Los Angeles, California, the daughter of John and Edna (Shelton) Jones.

Nurse Johnson received her education in the public schools of Los Angeles and is a graduate of Los Angeles County General Hospital School of Nurse Training (class of 1940). Since graduation she has pursued her profession at the Los Angeles County General Hospital.

Married Julius Johnson. There are two children, Allen and Alden (twins), both students at Jefferson High School.

She is a member: Graduate Nurses Association, YWCA, NAACP, Moderns Social Club and the St. Paul Baptist Church.

Hobby: Tennis.

**DAVIS, RUTH BRENDA**--Registered Nurse, born in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, the daughter of William and Isabel (Curry) Anthony.

Educated in the public schools of Detroit, Michigan and Los Angeles, California. Attended Los Angeles City College two years, leaving the latter to enter the Los Angeles County General Hospital School of Nurse Training; graduated in September 1940.

In June of 1943 she married William Warren Davis. There are no children.

After her graduation, Mrs. Davis, entered the Contagious Ward of the Los Angeles County General Hospital as a graduate nurse, and has served there for the past seven years. Her service has been through two polio epidemics; one in 1943 and in 1946.

Mrs. Davis is a member of the Chi Eta Phi Sorority holding the office of Epistoleus, and the Methodist Church.

**CAMPBELL, IRENE L.**, Registered Nurse, born January 24, 1911 in Mississippi. Completed public school education in Los Angeles. Attended U.C.L.A. two years, and Graduate Nurse, Los Angeles County General Hospital School of Nursing. Married Bernarr McFadden Campbell, June 26, 1938. Children, Bernarr McFadden II. Held following positions, Los Angeles County General Hospital; Nurse in Charge, Obstetrical Department, five years; Head Nurse, Obstetrical Department, two years; Instructor, student nurses, two years; Head Nurse, Gynecology Surgical Ward, at present Member Board of Directors. President and Membership Chairman, Los Angeles Chapter, NACGN; First Vice-President, Gay Spinsters Social Club; member, First AME Church and President of its J. E. Edwards Gospel Choir, and affiliated with NAACP and YWCA.

**LOGAN, ARLAYNE. HALL**, Registered Nurse, born in Sacramento, California. Completed high school in Los Angeles County General Hospital School of Nursing. At present student, U.C.L.A. working for her P.H.N. and B.S. Former nurse at Los Angeles County General Hospital and First Lt., Army Nurse Corps, overseas E.T.O., eighteen months. Charter member, Los Angeles Chapter, National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses and Los Angeles Chapter, Chi Eta Phi Sorority. Member of California State Nurses Association, Los Angeles County General Hospital Alumni Association, and Xi Alpha Chapter, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

**FAIRS, IRMA A.**, Registered Nurse, born in Charleston, West Virginia, the daughter of William and Bettie (Hunter) Edwards; both parents now deceased. Educated in the public schools of Charleston and the Provident Hospital Training School in Chicago, Illinois, where she received her R.N. degree.

On December 7, 1931, Miss Irma A. Edwards was married to Dr. Herbert M. Fairs of Los Angeles.

During her nursing career Mrs. Fairs has served in private duty in Chicago, Asst. X-Ray Technician at Dailey Sanatorium (Chicago, Ill.) and Nurse in Charge of Obstetrics, Los Angeles County General Hospital. She is now connected with the Los Angeles City Health Department as Clinic Nurse.

She is a member of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, Chi Eta Phi Sorority, YWCA, NAACP, Los Angeles City Employees Association and the Silhouette's Social Club.

**NORRIS, KATHIRINE**, Registered Nurse, born in Ft. Worth, Texas, the daughter of Sippie and Georgia (DeWitt) Welsh. Educated in the public schools of El Paso, Texas, and Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee (R.N. 1927).

Married James T. Norris, January 18, 1942. There is one child, Margaret Potter.

During her nursing career, Nurse Norris has served as Assistant X-Ray Technician, in Chicago, Illinois, in charge of Nurse Medical Ward, Los Angeles County General Hospital, and private duty in Chicago and Los Angeles.

She is a member, National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Los Angeles Employees Association, YWCA, NAACP, Eastern Star, and the People's Independent Church.

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**TAYLOR, ANNE JOHNSON**, Registered Nurse, born in Los Angeles, California.

Nurse Taylor attended UCLA Extension, and is a graduate of the Los Angeles County General Hospital Nurse Training School.

She practiced for ten years as staff nurse at the Los Angeles County General Hospital and for two and a half years on private duty at the Methodist Hospital.

She is a member of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, YWCA, and California State Nurses Association.

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**HARDIMON, GEORGIA C.**, Registered Nurse, born in Atlanta, Georgia, the daughter of Edward and Texas (Veal) Cook. Educated in the public schools of Los Angeles, University of California at Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles County General Hospital School of Nursing.

Married Eugene W. Hardimon in Santa Ana, California in 1933.

Mrs. Hardimon is a member of the Phys-Art-Lit-Mor Club, Southern California Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association, YWCA, and the League of Women Voters. She served as Colonel of the Wilshire-Western District for both the Red Cross and Community Chest Drives in 1947. She is a Religious Science Practitioner.

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**GIBSON, EVELYNE BERNICE**, Registered Nurse, born in Los Angeles, California, the daughter of William and Helen (Sims) Dulany. Educated in the public schools of Brawley, California, Los Angeles City College, 1934-35; graduate Los Angeles County General Hospital Nurse Training School, 1937. Graduate work, University of California at Los Angeles, 1945. Practiced, LACGH, 1938 to 1945; Los Angeles City Health Department, 1945 to present time (1948).

She is a charter member, (Delta Chapter) Chi Eta Phi Sorority and a member of Ward Chapel A.M.F. Church.

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**MCCOLLUM, CLYDE W.**, Registered Graduate Nurse, was born in Houma, Louisiana, the daughter of Thomas I. and Susie A. (Dumas) Welch. Educated in Los Angeles public schools and a graduate of Los Angeles County General Hospital School of Nursing, 1932. Married Edward McCollum April 25, 1935. One child, Dale. Head Nurse, Pediatric Department, Los Angeles County General Hospital, Presbyterian and member of National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses and YWCA.

**WILLINGHAM, MARION M.** Registered Nurse, born in Bedford City, Virginia, June 3, 1879, the daughter of Henry and Sophie (Reid) Reid. Educated in the public schools of Bristol, Virginia, graduate and post-graduate of Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia. Graduate of Freedman's Hospital Training School in Washington, D. C.

Prior to her nursing career, Mrs. Willingham taught school in Mount Meigs, Alabama, Lawrenceville, Virginia, and Annapolis, Maryland. She holds the signal honor of being the first Nurse in the Mary M. Bethune Hospital, Daytona Beach, Florida, and was selected to represent Hampton Institute at Stanford University, when that institution celebrated their fiftieth anniversary.

Married Henry Willingham in Los Angeles, March 29, 1922. She has lived in California since 1918.

Mrs. Willingham is Past Matron, Chapter No. 18, Eastern Star; Member, National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, Virginia Club, Phys-Art-Lit-Mor Club, Whit Del-Phi, Married Ladies Art Club, and the Second Baptist Church.

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**McDANIEL, JESSIE J.**, Registered Nurse, born in Beaumont, Texas, the daughter of Johnnie and Thelma (Scott) Reed; parents retired business people. Educated in the public schools of Los Angeles, two years pre-nursing course, Los Angeles City Junior College, graduate, University of California at Los Angeles, Ph. N., B.S., B.A. degree, and the Los Angeles County General Hospital School of Nursing.

Married Charles H. McDaniel in 1938, her husband a local businessman.

She has practiced as Staff Nurse, L.A.C.G.H., and Public Health Nurse, for Los Angeles County. Mrs. McDaniel is a life member of UCLA Alumni Association, member, YWCA, League of Women Voters, National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, National Organization of Public Health Nurses, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She is the retiring President of Chi Eta Phi Sorority (Delta Chapter), and has served as Secretary, Vice President and Treasurer of the Public Health Club at U. C. L. A.

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**WIMMS, MELBA MILLER**, Registered Nurse, born in Coalgate, Oklahoma, the daughter of David C. and Maggie (Gunn) Miller. Her father was a Baptist Minister, and her mother a housewife.

Her public school education was in her native city and Alton, Illinois. She is a graduate of Freedman Hospital School of Nurse Training in Washington, D. C. Public Health graduate course (University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia). After graduation she practiced in Washington before coming to California in 1946.

Married Harry E. Wimms. There are no children. Presently pursuing her career at the Los Angeles County General Hospital. Nurse Wimms in 1948 received her California State Public Health Certificate.

**JACKSON, C. ALICE J.**—Registered Nurse, the daughter of Alice W. Han and Charlotte C. Layton. Born in a town in Los Angeles. Her father now retired operated a small grocery and clothing and tailoring business in the city of Los Angeles for many years. Her grand-father, Shelly S. Irvine, was one of the first Negro politicians in the city.

She completed her high school education in public and private schools of her native city. She was a student at Los Angeles City College and attended the University of California at Los Angeles for two and a half years, and made her formal social debut in June 1936. She is, also, a graduate from the Los Angeles County General Hospital School of Nursing, class of 1943.

She was Supervisor at the Out-door Life and Health Association in Duarte, California two years. She is a member of the Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Home Owners Defense Council and the National Nurses Association. Her religious faith is indicated in her membership of the St. Philip's Episcopal Church.

Mrs. Jackson is the wife of James N. Jackson of Los Angeles.

**PORTER, MISS CLARA F.**—Registered Nurse, born in Little Timber Hill Delaware District, Indian Territory, daughter of William Edward and Flora Ethel (Walker) Porter. Her public school education was received in Oakland, California, where the family moved when she was a baby. She began her Nurse Training at Freedman's Hospital, Washington, D. C., and finished at Los Angeles County Hospital in 1927. She has served as Staff Nurse for several years at County Hospital on the Ward, and Clinic Nurse for five years. At present, Miss Porter is a Clinic Nurse for the Los Angeles City Health Department.

She is a member of the YWCA and NAACP.  
Hobby: Reading.

**RANKIN, LOUISE ALEXANDER**—Registered Nurse, born in Birmingham Alabama, the daughter of Andrew James and Anna Laura (Young) Alexander. Educated in the public schools of Los Angeles, graduate of Los Angeles County General Hospital Nurse Training School, class of 1929.

Practiced 1929 to 1941, General duty, Los Angeles County Hospital, private nurse service intermittently since 1941.

In 1936 married Daniel P. Rankin.

She is a member, Graduate Nurses Association, and the Congregational Church.

Hobby: Crocheting.

**WIGGINS, RUBY**—Registered Nurse, born in Choctaw, Oklahoma, the daughter of Albert and Addie (Williams) Savle.

She received her public school education in Oklahoma and her nurse training at the Los Angeles County General Hospital Nurse Training School.

Married—Ross Wiggins Jr. in Los Angeles, March 11, 1941. There are two children—Donald and Ronald.

Nurse Wiggins is a member of National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, Chi Eta Phi Sorority, YWCA, NAACP, P. E. A., Campfire Girls, Boy Scouts, and the Congregational Church.

**STEWART, LEON W.**, Vocational Counsellor and Civic leader, born in Galveston, Texas, November 11, 1894, the son of William and Virginia (Walker) Stewart. Mrs. Virginia Stewart was widely known as a civic and social worker throughout the State of Texas.

Leon Stewart received his early education in the public schools of Galveston and the Granamir School of Paul Quinn College, Waco, Texas. Later he entered Wiley College, Marshall, Texas, where he completed his college preparatory work in 1914.

Mr. Stewart's first experience in leadership was in the field of athletics as coach and manager of the college baseball and football teams respectively. He was president of the class of 1914. In 1916 he became a student at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, pursuing the degree of A. B. as a member of the class of 1918.

Soon after the United States entered World War I, Mr. Stewart became a volunteer enlistee and served with the 325th Field Signal Battalion, American Expeditionary Forces.

Mr. Stewart's twenty-five years as a YMCA Secretary began in Los Angeles in 1919 when he became the first Negro YMCA Boys' Work Secretary west of Kansas City, under J. A. Green, the Executive Secretary of the Ninth Street Branch. His work with the YMCA Boys' Club, which interested Negro high school boys in participating in all phases of high school life including athletics, dramatics and music, was a contributing factor in the recognition and acceptance of Negro boys as high school, and later college and university representatives.

This work received national attention which resulted in Mr. Stewart's being called to St. Louis where he served five years as Boys' Work Director of the Pine St. YMCA, and two years as Assistant Executive Secretary. During this time he became founder of the Guide Right Movement of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity of which he was National Director for many years. Then to St. Joseph, Missouri to establish the Sixteenth Street Branch YMCA, and serve as its Executive Secretary until he was invited by the YMCA of Dallas, Texas to become the Executive Secretary. In Dallas he was responsible for collecting the \$400,000 necessary to start the building of the Moreland Branch YMCA. In 1932 he went to Chicago, and while there served on the Board of Managers of the Wabash Branch and did volunteer work among out-of-work, and out-of-school youths. In 1936 he was called to Denver to serve as Executive Secretary of the Gleanam Branch YMCA, remaining there eight and a half years before coming to Los Angeles in August 1944.

On June 21, 1923 in Texarkana, Texas Mr. Stewart was married to Miss Dovie Fearonce, a school and music teacher of that city. She attended Bishop College and is a graduate of Prairie View State University. She has completed a course in "Children's Musical Training" under the personal direction of Louise Robyn, at the American Conservatory of Music, Chicago, Illinois, and has taken a course in nursery work at Chicago Normal College. She was a student six years at Denver University Musical College under Arthur Riegs. Now conducts a Music School at 2910 Budlong Street. She is active in Bowen Methodist Church and a member of Silhouettes, Wives of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity members.

Mr. Stewart is a member—NAACP Board, Vice-Chairman of the Pilgrim House Board and member of the 28th Street YMCA Board, Charge Lay Leader of Bowen Methodist Church and active member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and Contributing Editor of its National Journal. He is columnist for the Los Angeles Tribune.

## St. Patrick Court No. 95



Officers and Members of St. Patrick's Court No. 95, Ladies Auxiliary Knights of Peter Claver. Reading left to right--First Row: Mrs. Alma La Chau, Relief Committee, Miss Audrey Quintel, Relief Committee, Mrs. Bridgette Duhe, Former Treasurer; Miss Doris Allen, Recording Secretary, Mrs. Maude Lyman, Vice Grand Lady; Mrs. Rose L. Casanave, Grand Lady; Mrs. Alma Macklin, Treasurer, Mrs. Beatrice Hippolyte, Mrs. Audrey Allen, Finance Committee; Mrs. Alverta Cormier. Second Row: Miss Gwendolyn Dixon, Mrs. Bertis White; Mrs. Ada Quintel; Mrs. Lavenia Collins, Relief Chairlady, Mrs. Marjorie Archer, Finance Committee, Mrs. Aurelia Sloon; Miss Anna L. Cross. Third Row: Mrs. Clara Jones; Mrs. Mary Ann Rogers. Inner Guard, Mrs. Corine Zeno.

### HISTORY OF THE ORGANIZATION

St. Patrick's Court No. 95, Ladies Auxiliary, Knights of Peter Claver, a National Catholic Organization, organized April 27, 1947 at St. Patrick's Church, Oakland, California

**CROSS, ANNA L.**, Typist, born in 1926, New Orleans, Louisiana. Attended Corpus Christi School and St. Mary's Academy. Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cross. Her father, born Belise, British Honduras, served as Grand Knight of K. of P.C. Council No. 50 and Financial Secretary of Dieu Nous Protege, Benevolent Organization. They moved to Reno, Nevada in 1943 where Miss Cross served as Vice President and Financial Secretary of the Interracial YWCA. Moved to California in 1945, served as Secretary of De Fremery U.S.O. Very active in social work; took part in many entertainments. Received Business Education at Merritt Business College (Oakland). Worked at War Assets Administration (San Francisco), now employed by the Veterans Administration. Member of Employees Association and the Recreation Club. Ambition is to devote all time to voice training and singing. She is in the International Bowling League.

with membership of twenty-eight. Present membership is forty-two, and it is increasing rapidly with great possibilities.

**CASANAVE ROSE L.** Organizer and Grand Lady of St. Patrick's Court No. 95 Ladies Auxiliary Knights of Peter Claver. Formerly Vice Grand Lady and Recording Secretary, Sacred Heart Court No. 60, New Orleans, Louisiana. Active Claver member for past eighteen years.

**ARCHER MARGORIE** Housewife, born in Houston, Texas. Educated at Phyllis Wheatley High School. Wife of Joseph Archer. Married July 5, 1949. Came to California 1944, joined Auxiliary in 1947.

**LYMAN MAUDE (Mrs.)** Formerly, 2135 Mission of 1435 9th Street, Oakland, California Church and Society Lady. Now Vice-Party of the Ladies Auxiliary Knights of Peter Claver.

**ZENO CORINE** Housewife, born in Louisiana. Educated at St. Paul School. Secretary of Legion of Mary.

## California State Association of Colored Women

The California State Association of Colored Women was organized August 6, 1906 in Oakland, under the leadership of Mrs. Eliza A. Warner (now deceased) with delegated or representatives from clubs in San Francisco, Sacramento, Oakland, Pasadena and Los Angeles.

The Art and Industrial Club of Oakland presided over by the late Mrs. Emma B. Collins, was hostess to the momentous occasion.

"It is said that Giant Oaks from tiny acorns grow"--from that small meeting in Oakland, thousands of little tots have been properly supervised and become fine citizens; broken homes have been adjusted; wards of state institutions have been re-habilitated; unwed mothers have been sheltered; homes for itinerant working girls established; students seeking higher education aided thru scholarships, among whom was that celebrated personage, Dr. Ralph Bunche. Creditable monuments owned are--The Madam C. J. Walker Home for Women and Girls in San Francisco--Fannie Wall Home and Day Nursery, Oakland--Golden West Club House, Bakersfield--Women's Civic Improvement Club House, El Centro--Margaret Hood-Banks Club House, Victorville--Philomatheon Club House, Santa Monica--Sojourner Truth Home, Los Angeles and Eastside Settlement House, Los Angeles.

Because of the length of the State of California the Association is divided in three sections--Northern, Central and Southern. The State President and two Vice Presidents preside respectively over each area. The activities are carried on through twenty-four departments providing a department for girls from ages six to eighteen, known as the National Association of Colored Girls (N.A.C.Gs.) and young women aged eighteen to twenty-five, known as the Phyllis Wheatley Dept. and a Past State Presidents Congress.

State Presidents serve a two year term of office. Presidents of clubs and Past Presidents from a Presidents Council and Assembly.

The "Trail Blazers" of the past or preceeding forty odd years were:

\*ELIZA A. WARNER--Organizer, served three years.

\*KATHERINE D. TILLMAN--

\*D. W. BOYER--First Club Journalist.

ETTA V. MOXLEY--The builder; Fanny J. Wall Home and Day Nursery; Eastside Settlement House and Sojourner Truth Home.

MARTHA TATE DODGE--Departmentalized the activities.

ELIZABETH BROWN--Quiet and unassuming, presented a well rounded program.

MINNIE BATE--Created Scholarship Fund.

\*HETTIE B. TILGHMAN--World War I Red Cross Worker.

\*LULU SLAUGHTER SIMS--Built C. J. Walker Home. PEARL LOVEY WINTERS--The C.S.A. C.W. So'ist.

\*IRENE BELLE RUGGLES--San Francisco's first President.

CORRINA B. HICKS--Brought National Ass'n. of Colored Women's Convention to California.

ESTHER JONES LEE--Organized the Girls Club.

Z. OTEY SMITH KAHN--Social Worker.

ELIZABETH ST. CHARLES EDWARDS--Silver Jubilee

President and increased Scholarship Funds.

CHLORA HAYES SLEDGE--Progressiveness.

FRANCES M. BURLEIGH--A staunch christian.

MABEL V. GRAY--Silver tongued Orator and Ambassador of Goodwill.

TEREA HALL PITTMAN--Radio Commentator.

ADA IRBY BROWNLEE--Peacemaker.

ADA HAWKINS JACKSON--Reconstructionist.

ARDELIA AUGLIN--World War II War Bond Advocate.

VIVIAN OSBORNE MARSH--Financier.

\*VILLIE ASHBY--Reorganized Central Section.

\* Deceased

The California State Association of Colored Women is an incorporated body, composed of sixty-two clubs with more than twelve hundred financial members, is an affiliate of the National Association of Colored Women, Inc., Washington, D. C., and the South Western Regional.

--Ester Taylor Greenly, State President, March 11, 1948.

## The Outdoor Life and Health Association

The Outdoor Life and Health Association, a non-profit, non-political organization was incorporated in 1935. This organization was founded by Dr. Leonard Stovall, noted authority on the prevention and cure of Tuberculosis. The purposes of the organization are:

1. To cooperate with the City and County Health Department in every possible way. To cooperate with all private agencies for the prevention of tuberculosis.
2. To promote Health Education by distributing standard health literature; by public programs, institutes, lectures, motion pictures.
3. To facilitate the early diagnosis of all disease, especially tuberculosis. This to be done through public information, through tuberculin and other tests and through X-Ray diagnosis.
4. To build a demonstration rest home. To encourage the establishment of other convalescent homes, nursing homes, rest camps, nutrition centers, sanitariums and hospitals-- and to own and operate such institutions.
5. To cooperate with the Federal and local governments in establishing better housing systems.
6. To teach mental hygiene--with special emphasis on problems of children; wholesome attitudes in human relations and to encourage wholesome, positive philosophies toward life and death.
7. To arouse interest among Negro people as to their responsibilities in (a) preventing tuberculosis and (b) giving aid to patients who may have contracted the disease.
8. The aid of people of all races in helping to accomplish these objectives is earnestly solicited.

The OUTDOOR phase of the Association was emphasized as follows; To educate people to appreciate outdoor life--to encourage sleeping, playing, working, camping, worshiping, and all possible human activities out-of-doors. To stress the following values of outdoor life: (a) *breathing* fresh air as an aid in preventing sickness; (b) *exposure of body* to air and rays of sun in proper manner as an aid to health; (c) *relaxation*: away from noise and confusion of city life as an aid to *nervous* and *respiratory* systems; (d) *appreciation* of nature which add to happiness of mankind.

Since the time of its founding and up to the present writing (1948) the Association, has enjoyed a remarkable growth. This growth was due largely through the help of many church, civic, social and fraternal organizations who organized fund raising campaigns, and whose members contributed freely of their time for this worthy cause.

The Association is now free of all indebtedness and plans are now on foot to raise an additional \$100,000.00 for the erection of several new units: these units to be a memorial to the veterans of World War II, and a memorial, especially, to the memory of Lieutenant Magellan C. Mars, well known young man of Los Angeles, who lost his life during World War II, and who was decorated for gallantry in action for outstanding courage and heroic devotion to duty.

## NATIVE CALIFORNIANS CLUB



1st Row, reading left to right:--Mrs. Bessie McCaskell, Mrs. Irene Phillips, Mrs. Maggie Sheppard, Mrs. Estella Broady, Mrs. Cecil Jones, Mrs. Viola Jackson, Mrs. Naomi Dorsey.

2nd Row, reading left to right:--Mrs. Anita Wright, Mrs. Zelma Boyd, Mrs. Bessie Burke, Mrs. Irma Perry, Mrs. Ethel Hampton, Mrs. Hattie Wilson, Mrs. Madeline Osborne, Mrs. Yola Brinson, Mrs. Lauretta Butler.

3rd Row, reading left to right:--Mrs. Grace Hooks, Mrs. Adele McGruder, Mrs. Vera Franklin, Mrs. Isabelle Clifton, Mrs. Leona Taylor.

Members not appearing on picture are: Mrs. Theresa Hardwick, Mrs. Grace Phillips, Mrs. Estelle Wosencroft and Mrs. Doris Morris.

The Club of Native Californians was organized in 1926 and has held regular meetings ever since. To become a member one must be a woman, an adult, and a native born Californian. The club was organized for beneficial social contact and to form a group which might do effective philanthropic work.

The Native Californians make a public presentation each year, and in this way the club has assisted such organizations as the Outdoor Life and Health Association, the

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Fair Employment Committee, the Booth Memorial Home and others. The presentation for 1947 was made to the Assistance League of the Outdoor Life and Health Association.

Mrs. Laura Talbot Young is the Club Mother and among the members of the Native Californians are descendants of some of the oldest families in the West.

WRIGHT, ANITA F., Housing Project Manager, Mrs. Wright has been in a supervisory capacity with the Los Angeles City Housing Authority since the beginning of its expansion program in 1942. In 1944 she was made manager of Corregidor Park Development and Annexes, a temporary War Housing project. In 1945 she was appointed manager of Hacienda Village Housing Project, a permanent slum clearance interracial project of 184 units.

OSBORNE, MADELINE DORA MOULTON, born in Oakland, California. Parents, Nancy Moulton and Eugenia Marcel Moulton Brown, a native of California. Educated in Los Angeles. Married to Alpheus I. Osborne, one son, Alpheus Jr. and three granddaughters. Member of the Independent Church of Christ, Modern Priscilla Art and Charity Club, and the Native Californian Club. Hobby: Knitting and millinery.

BOYD ZHUMA FITZPRICE--Nurse, born in Bakersfield, California. Daughter of Rose Boydston. (Alhambra) and Jerome "Romeo" Fitz Price, (Oakland). Granddaughter of Fannie F. Reese, first Negro resident of Kern County. Mother of M. Sgt. Charles J. and Vincent A. Handy, Los Angeles. Member of St. Odilia's Catholic Sodality and the Native Californians.

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SHEPARD, MAGGIE E., Secretary, born in Los Angeles, California the daughter of Harry and Constance (Olivier) Lewis.

She is a graduate of the Los Angeles Polytechnic High School. She later attended the University of Southern California Extension taking Office Personnel Management, and has been employed by Los Angeles County for over twenty years as a Stenographic Secretary.

She married Edward Shepard, October 10, 1938, now Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance for Los Angeles County. There are five children--Eugene, Harry, and Hugh Stovall, Mrs. Constance Plummer and LaRue Shepard.

Mrs. Shepard is a member of the First AME Zion Church.

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BROADY, ESTELLA A.--Clubwoman, oldest daughter of the late William T. and Ellen Green.

Attended schools of Los Angeles. Recipient of a scholarship from the Los Angeles Times in 1906. Attended University of Southern California Business College.

Estella A. Broady is the wife of Charles S. Broady, retired Police Officer and Detective. They are the parents of William C., Police Officer and Lillie G. (Clifton).

Mrs. Broady is a Charter Member of 29th Church of Christ Scientists, YWCA, NAACP, and President of the Native Californian Club.

Her hobby is Art Work.

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McCASKILL, BESSIE, Housewife, born in Los Angeles, California, the daughter of Frank and Mary (White) McVea, both now deceased.

She was educated in the public school system of Los Angeles.

Married John McCaskill, October 21, 1920. There are three children--Esther, Eleanor and Ellis.

Mrs. McCaskill is a member of the YWCA, Modern Pricilla's (Art and Charity) Club, 8th and Towne Utility Club and the "Native Californian's Club."

Her hobby: Fabric Painting.

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McGRUDER, ADELE E., Registered Nurse, was born in Los Angeles, California, the daughter of Presley and Lucille (Balingier) Kemp; her father one of the early contractors of Los Angeles.

She is a graduate of Los Angeles High School. Mrs. McGruder was one of the first Negro nurses graduating from the Los Angeles County General Hospital.

She married Enman C. McGruder in July 1929.

Mrs. McGruder is a member of the First AME Church, YWCA, NAACP, and the Sojourner Truth Home.

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PHILLIPS, IRENE VARINDA BUTLER, Clubwoman, born in Oakland, California. Parents, Yancy Moulton and Eugenia Marcella Moulton Brown; mother a native of California. Educated in Los Angeles. Member of Independent Church of Christ in Los Angeles, Modern Pricilla Art and Charity Club and Native Californian Club. Hobby: Sewing and gardening.

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PERRY, ERMA LOUISE FIELDS, Cateress, born and educated in Los Angeles, California. Parents, George P. and Mamie L. (Pope) Fields. On June 29, 1921 in Los Angeles she married Charles W. Perry. Parents of one daughter, Dorothy Louise (Perry) Goodall. Member of the A.M.E. Church in Pasadena, organizer of the Crown City American Legion Auxiliary, and member of the Native California Club.

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TAYLOR, LEONIE RANDOLPH, Civic Worker, was born in Los Angeles, the daughter of Pasqual and Anna (Hall) Randolph.

She was educated in the public schools of her native city, graduating from Los Angeles High School.

Mrs. Taylor is the grand-daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Hall, first of Negro Pioneers, who came to California in 1849 from Chucha, Mexico. She is the niece of Carl and Richard Hall.

She is a member of the Catholic Church and belongs to the Native Californian Club.

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BRINSON, YOLA BLACK, was born in San Francisco California, the daughter of Alonzo and Lizzie (Patterson) Black.

Mrs. Brinson is a graduate of the University of New Mexico, and the Quincey Conservatory of Music, Quincey, Illinois.

She is a member of the Native California Club, and the Episcopal Church.

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CLIFTON, ISABELLE, Secretary, born in Bakersfield, California (the daughter of John and Hattie (Hall) Williams. Her parents were early pioneers of California.

Mrs. Clifton is a former member: National Business and Professional Women's Council, Young Women's Christian Association, and the first Negro Medical Secretary, Los Angeles County General Hospital.

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JONES, CECIL GREEN, was born in Los Angeles, the daughter of Joseph and Amanda Green. Joseph Green was the first Negro policeman in Los Angeles. Mrs. Jones has been active in studio work as a member of choral groups. She is a member of the Native Californian Club.

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PHILLIPS, GRACE BEATRICE (JONES), born in Los Angeles, California, the daughter of Rev. Robert F. and Annie Green (Duncan) Jones. Her parents were early settlers of California; both coming to California in 1887 and were married in Los Angeles in 1890.

Mrs. Phillips is a member of the "Native Californians Club."

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WILSON, HATTIE E., Power Machine Operator, born and educated in Los Angeles, California. Parents, John Wesley and Lydia (Lee) Coleman. In 1910 was married in Los Angeles to Henry Wilson. Parents of one son, Clifford. Member of the Second Baptist Church and Native Californian Club. Hobby: Dressmaking.

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HOOKS, GRACE V. (OWENS), born in Los Angeles, California the daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Beck) Owens. Her parents were among the early homesteaders of California, coming to California in the year 1885.

Mrs. Hooks is a member of the "Native Californians Club," the YWCA and the A.M.E. Church.

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DORSEY, NAOMI GERTRUDE (LOGAN), born in Shasta County, California--the daughter of Robert A. and Ella (Parson) Logan. Both parents were born in California. Married Edgar L. Dorsey, June 12, 1915, a native Californian. There is one child, Ellavenia Trice. Member: Easter Star and the A.M.E. Church.

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## *West View Hospital, Inc.*

Recognizing that sickness and suffering are universal and believing that only healthy people can build a healthy nation, 25 prominent Los Angeles physicians and dentists looked for an answer to the serious problem caused by the shortage of hospital facilities in this area and the discriminatory practices of the existing approved hospitals.

Reaffirming the principles of social justice upon which our nation was founded, their answer was WEST VIEW HOSPITAL--an inter-racial, non-sectarian non-profit hospital, open to every race, creed and color in the finest tradition of American democracy.

Contributing \$1,000 each themselves, they incorporated as a non-profit organization in August 1945 and purchased a city block on Main Street, between 53rd and 54th Streets. They then sought participation from enlightened public-spirited citizens to help build this community hospital.

The community moved into action. More than 85 of the city's best-known leaders enlisted as members of the Community Advisory Board. Paul R. Williams, nationally-known architect, was engaged to design the proposed 300-bed hospital. A series of organizational conferences brought support from religious, labor, veteran, women, philanthropic, fraternal, youth, and civic groups.

In 1946 the Los Angeles Daily News and radio station KLAC labeled West View as "The Cause of the Year", and jointly staged a gigantic benefit show in Hollywood Bowl. The sports world promoted a championship prize fight at Olympic Stadium. 1947 brought a mammoth benefit show at the Shrine Auditorium, featuring 25 top stars of screen, stage, and radio, and informal benefit concerts by Paul Robeson and Hazel Scott. Strong editorial support was given by Robert E. G. Harris in the March 8th issue of the Daily News in an editorial titled "West View: bright view".

Scores of volunteer workers have formed the "Women's Guild", the "Junior League", the "West View B'Nai Brith Young Women" and the "Westviewers", all to serve as permanent sustaining groups of the new hospital. The community, conscious of the great need, is helping West View, the dream, to become West View, the reality.

West View will be a modern up-to-the-minute hospital, serving Los Angeles in its entirety and providing Southeast Los Angeles with its only class-A hospital. It will be operated by the community for the community on a non-profit basis, its non-sectarian, inter-racial policy will show, by example, that men and women of different races and beliefs can work side by side for the welfare of all the people.

Officers and members of the Board of Directors of this non-profit corporation are: President, Allen C. Woodard, 3rd; Vice President, Harpo Marx; Secretary, A. M. Mitchell, M.D.; Treasurer, T. J. Griffin, D.D.S.; member of the Executive Committee, W. W. Davis, M.D., D. A. Hawkins, M.D., J. H. Hayes, M.D., H. A. McPherson, M.D., and J. P. Taylor, M.D.; representatives of auxiliaries, Mrs. Gertrude R. Hlicks and Miss Jewell Lockett; and members-at-large, Albert Dekker, Edward D. Mitchell, Judge Stanley Mosk, T. R. Payton, M.D., J. M. Robinson, Jr., M.D., S. B. Robinson, M.D., L. W. Shumate, M.D., L. V. Steward, and H. H. Towles, M.D.

The office of the corporation is located at 5334 South Main Street, with Miss Nita Blackwell, as Executive Secretary.

BRIGHT, CONSUELO V.--Teacher--born in Los Angeles, California, daughter of Jonas W. and Birdie (Cooper) Bright. Her parents (both deceased) were early pioneers of California, moving to this State in 1887 and 1891 respectively.

## *Silver Spurs Riding Association, Inc.*



Silver Spurs Riding Association, Inc., organized June 25, 1946. A group studying finer horsemanship, athletic, social and cultural advancement; furthering civic religious and philanthropic interest.

Reading left to right: Standing, 1st row: Gwynn Preseley, President-Founder; Dolores Davidson, Faustina Johnson, Advisor; Gussie Morris, Mamie Modwell, Dorothy E. Moore, Historian-Reporter-Founder. Mounted, 2nd row: Retha Spears, Corresponding Secretary; Wilhemina Wright, Willie Chambers, Treasurer-Business Manager; Brunette Mounday, Secretary. Not shown on picture: Dorothy Williams.

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HARRIETT L. WADLEY

WADLEY, HARRIETT L., born in Chicago, Ill., daughter of William and Velmer (Brown) Simmons; educated in Chicago, married Rudolph E. Wadley in 1933. Member of Independent Church; Vice-president, Doll League Charity Club. Mrs. Wadley is well-known socially, a successful business woman, and manages one of the city's major retail establishments.

Her hobby is making her own hats.

## LES DAMES CHARITY AND SOCIAL CLUB



Left to Right, standing: Janet Lastrapes, Sergeant-at-Arms, Melba Loppe, Laura Slayton, sponsor, Bobby Chasteen; Ernestine Tinsley, Edith Wilson, Bertha Lamb, Treasurer. Seated left to right: Pauline Evans, Financial Secretary; Gertrude Gipson, Reporter; Lillian Randolph Chase, President, Antoniette Renty, Vice-President; Gwendolyn Valentine, Business Manager, Audrey Scott, Recording Secretary. Seated on floor left to right, Lilla Moore, Parliamentarian; Laverne Cryer, Ruth Mars, Maxine Herritorid.

### ORIGIN AND PURPOSE

Les Dames Charity and Social Club was founded in December, 1947 by a group of charitable and social minded young ladies, who selected Lillian Randolph Chase, celebrated star of Radio, Stage and Screen, as their leader.

Les Dames' (The Ladies) charitable goal is to make an annual contribution toward curbing delinquency and serving youth. They are affiliated with the Laura Slayton

Youth Foundation, the organization to which they contribute annually. One of Les Dames main objectives is for members to become acquainted as club sisters through socializing and planned social activities which tend to knit them closer together. They believe that the common good of an organization comes from being able to have charity at heart for each club member, before charity can be given out to others.

WILSON, LYDA, Civic Worker, was born in Danville, Ky., the daughter of Walter and Betty (Southern) Scott. She received her early education in the public schools of Cincinnati, Ohio. Later she attended Wilberforce University in Wilberforce, Ohio and the State University in Louisville, Kentucky.

On August 9, 1919 in Chicago, Illinois she was married to Walter Wilson.

In 1931 she moved to Los Angeles, California where she

has been active in the civic and social life of that city. Mrs. Wilson was the first Negro appointed to the California State Democratic Central Committee from the 63rd Assembly District. She is a member of the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee and Secretary of the Democratic Citizens League. Socially, she is President of the Hands of Love Club, and Past Vice-President of the Upper Crust Club.

Her hobby is pets.

## Men's Christian Association

The Twenty-Eight Street Branch, YWCA was organized in this city two years ago by a group of Pastors of churches in the south central Area of the City because of the needs of the young people in the community. Professor F. A. Greene, now retired, was the first Executive Secretary. Through the years the YWCA has been supported by the interest of the churches of the Community and the churches of the Community have used the resources of the "Y" for its purposes.

The YWCA at Twenty-Eight and Paloma is housed in one of the best buildings in the country. Designed over twenty years ago by the famous architect, Paul R. Williams, its structure and arrangement still admirably serves the purposes of the Association. Gymnasium, Lobbies, Dormitory, Club Rooms are still standard. The Swimming Pool is the only indoor pool south of "up town".

The Twenty-Eight Street "Y" is operated by a Board of Managers under the Metropolitan Board of Directors. This group is nominated by vote of the Branch Governing members and is responsible for operating the facilities, managing the services, and developing programs to meet the changing needs of the Youth and Adults of the Area. The Board of Managers directs a staff consisting of Mr. Harold S. Prince, Executive Secretary; Clifton V. Horne, Physical Education Director; Emory L. Cain, Boys' Work Secretary; Frank Donaldson and Charles D. Brown; Boys' Work Secretaries of Areas III and IV, clerks, stenographers, maintenance workers and assistants as well as a large number of volunteers.

The YWCA works primarily with groups of boys and young men. Although under pressure of increased population and the lack of facilities by other agencies, the "Y" also serves women and girls and Co-ed groups. The work of the "Y" counselling and guiding individuals, especially young men recently arrived to the city, is an important function of the organization. Clubs and classes, teams, councils, special events, interest groups, sports, tournaments, etc., are the typical groups in which the "Y" works, trying through these forms of activity, these contacts with youth, to teach and develop Christian attitudes and ideals in personal group life.

Responsibility for the successful operation of the Branch is vested by the Metropolitan Board of Directors in a Branch Board of Managers under the leadership of David W. Williams, Attorney. The Membership of the Board includes, Dr. Paul Fisher, Vice Chairman, Reverend Frank A. Harris, Recording Secretary, George V. Beavers, Jr.; Harold L. Benedict, Reverend Hamilton T. Boswell, Lorenzo Bowdoin, George A. Bryant, Leonard Christmas, Attorney Thomas E. Griffith, Dr. M. E. Herrriott, Dr. C. W. Hill, Norman O. Houston, H. V. Howard, Dr. H. Claude Hudson, Toussaint I. Jennings, S. P. Johnson, Attorney Clarence A. Jones, Reverend Frederick D. Jordan, Attorney Charles H. Matthews, Reverend M. E. Mitchell, Reverend H. Randolph Moore, Frederick M. Roberts, Reverend E. G. Robinson, Clarence H. Smith, Leon W. Steward, Dr. Leonard Stallard, Budd A. Thomas, C. B. Venerable, Robert E. Williams, Jr., Allan C. Woodard III.

The year Nineteen-twelve found the Los Angeles Young Women's Christian Association cooperating with Negro Women in establishing their own Branch which has evolved into the beautiful Woodlawn Branch at 1600 Woodlawn Avenue dedicated in 1942 to serve all racial groups in this area.

The Los Angeles, YWCA is a part of a world-wide organization which has continued ever eager to serve where the need is greatest and has adapted itself to changing needs and conditions.

Throughout its long history housing for women and girls has been one of the chief concerns of the Young Women's Christian Associations.

With emphasis on emergency and transient housing at the Woodlawn Branch, the nine beds there are in constant use with an extensive room registry service made possible through the cooperation of homes in the city.

And as always, a girl can find at YWCA, help with personal problems, whether they be recreation, health, a chance to make desirable friends or spiritual guidance on everyday problems.

An opportunity for young employed women to discuss their work problems, public affairs and Social legislation, etc., is made possible through two well organized groups: The Young Employed Girl's Clubs and the Business and Professional Girl's League. These groups meet regularly with staff supervision.

The teen age program for Junior members (12-18 years) has always loomed large in the YWCA. With attractive club rooms, patio and spacious lawn now provided at our Woodlawn Branch a year-around program is carried on.

Besides the Girl Reserve Club program which has always been geared to individual needs of girls, an accelerated program for Young people has been instituted to meet the newly created strains and tensions of the present time. These activities include: A Weekly Co-Ed Teen Canteen, Youth Speaks Forum one Sunday each month and an Arts & Crafts Work Shop.

The YWCA is a fellowship devoted to the task of realizing Christian ideals of personal and Social living. Membership is the first step in that fellowship.

## Sojourner Truth Home

Myrtle Cook, President; Laura Young, Chairman Executive Board; L. Vest, Secretary; Margaret C. Scott, Treasurer; Evangeline Woodfolk, Executive Director.

On October 25, 1904, Mrs. Eliza Warner, with the cooperation of a small group of women, met and organized a club for the purpose of building and maintaining a house for young self-supporting women. Out of this effort grew the Sojourner Truth Industrial Club.

In April of 1913, a fifteen room building was erected. It became a member of the Community Chest in 1925. The House is located at 1110 East Adams Blvd., and is a Christian, non-sectarian home for self-supporting, working girls and women. It has grown since 1904, and hundreds of girls have been housed over a period of years. A girl is allowed two years' resident.

Mrs. Warner was President Emeritus until her death. She took an active part in the activities of the Home as long as she was able, or until her current illness and recent death in 1948.

The club is also a member of the State Association for Negro Women of Federated Clubs.

*Daughters of Elks IBPOE of W, Hiawatha Chapter No. 91*



MRS. ECHO ROBINSON

ROBINSON, ECHO STANTON, Clubwoman, was born in Echo, Oregon, the daughter of Richard and Margaret (Nash) Hazelwood.

Education St. Vincents Academy and Underwood Business College in Walla Walla, Washington. In 1925 she moved to California where she entered into the Civic and Political life of the City and State

Married June 30, 1938 to Roscoe C. Robinson, Deputy Sheriff of Los Angeles County. By a previous marriage she has one child--Margaret Corrine.

Mrs. Robinson is active in the NAACP, Women's Political Study Club, the Election Board in her District, the Republican Central Committee and the Eastern Star; holding offices in each organization at various times. At present (1948) she is Daughter Ruler of the Daughters of Elks, IBPOE of W, Hiawatha Chapter No. 91. She is a member of the Twenty-ninth Church of Christian Science in Los Angeles.



MRS. MATTIE ALEXANDER

ALEXANDER, MATTIE WOODSON, Clubwoman, born in Augusta, Georgia, came to California in 1921

Mrs. Alexander is Past Matron, Order Eastern Star, Victory Chapter No. 37, Vice-Daughter Ruler of Hiawatha Temple, IBPOE of W No. 91, a member of the Daughters of Isis, Heroines of Jericho and Past Worthy Counselor of Pleasant Hill Court No. 11, Order of Calanthe, N.A.S.A.E.A. and A.



MRS. ERMA BAILEY

BUKEY, GUSSIE A.--Housewife--born in Waco, Texas, the daughter of T. J. and Connie (Flemmings) Frierson; her parents, Real Estate Brokers. Educated in the public schools of Waco and Howard University in Washington, D. C.

She came to California in 1913 and soon became active in the civic and religious welfare of her community.

In 1925 married John Bukey. There are two children--Fannie L. and Henry F. Bukey.

Mrs. Bukey is a member of the Eastern Star, Courts of Calanthe, Household of Ruth and the Daughters of Elks. Her active work in the Hiawatha Temple No. 91 (Daughters of Elks) won for her the first "Cap and Gown" from the Elks Grand Lodge in 1939 and first prize in the Grand Lodge, working for Arts and Crafts in 1938. Her religious faith is Methodist.

BAILEY, ERMA V., Clubwoman, born in Rock Dale Texas, the daughter of Edward and Virginia (Stafford) Jones.

Educated in the public school system of San Angelo Texas.

Came to California in 1926, and became active in the social and fraternal life of Los Angeles. She is a member, Board of Directors, Union Usher Board (Southern District); Gatekeeper Hiawatha Temple No. 91 IBPOE of W and the Peoples Independent Church of Christ



*Elks Past Daughter Ruler's Club, Hiawatha Chapter, No. 91*



Reading left to right--Mrs. Fannie Hippard; Mrs. Emma Surrey; Mrs. Darlene Robinson, President; Mrs. Jennie Marzett, Vice President; Mrs. Regina Haywood; Mrs. Alberta Johnson. Not shown on photograph: Mrs. Fannie Westbrook; Mrs. Nancy Walton and Mrs. Margaret White Williams.



Drill Team, Hiawatha Temple No. 91, IBPOE of W



#### CAMILLIA GIRLS

Standing, left to right: Dorothy Itson, Imogene Winston, Jeanella Elkins, Edith Paradise, Treas.; Ernestine Offord, Christine Haynes, Myrtle Eggleston. Seated, left to right: Ethel Boykin, Corresponding Secretary; Mattie Sanders, Martha Emery, President; Margaret Potter, Recording Secretary. Inserts, left to right: Alene Holt, Doris Perry, Vice-President and Arwilda Woods, Historian.

Organized, November 5, 1944. Club colors: Pink and Orchid. Club flower, Camillia. Club motto: "Not for ourselves, but for others." First advisor, Miss Lillian Randolph.

Affiliated with the Laura Slayton Youth Guidance League. Lends assistance to other charitable organizations, not only in California but in other states as well.

Annual affairs: Tea, Carnival, Breakfast, Formal, Mother's Day Tea and Fashion Show.



Mrs. QUEENIE MITCHELL

MITCHELL, QUEENIE--Singer, Housewife, born in Corsicana, Texas, the daughter of Jeff and Maggie (Harvey) Watson. Married September 8, 1921 in Dallas, Texas to Archie Mitchell. There is one child--Gracie M. Mrs. Mitchell came to California in 1932. She is a member of Hamilton Methodist Church, Hiawatha Temple Daughters of Elks, and the Elks Singing Chorus.



Mrs. ELIZABETH HARRIS

HARRIS, ELIZABETH DIGGS, Clubwoman, was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, the daughter of Raymond and Marie (Pairie) Diggs. Educated in New Orleans and Chicago. Received diploma in Beauty Culture from Poro College in Chicago. Married Tony Harris, October 21, 1927. Religious faith, Catholic. Member of Daughter of Elks, I. B. P. O. E. of W., Hiawatha Chapter No. 91.

## RETIRED NAVY MEN'S AUXILIARY



Members, reading left to right: 1st row--Mrs. Nancy Franklin, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Eon Allen, Chaptain; Mrs. Edythe Warren, President; Mrs. Darlene Robinson, Vice-President; Mrs. Louise Wimmis, Mrs. Lillie Mumford, Financial Secretary. 2nd row--Mrs. Fay Turpin, Mrs. Beulah Mae Holt, co-Chairman; Mrs. Arna Simpkins, Mrs. Hanah Robinson, Mrs. Helen Gray Davis, Chairman and Mrs. Margaret M. Wheaton.

Members not shown in picture are: Mrs. Iris Morgan Jackson, Mrs. Eunice Jones, Program Chairman; Mrs. Inez Cudjoe, and Mrs. Lois Sigles.

**ALLEN, HENRY GARRETT**, Retired from the Navy, was born August 26, 1899 in Pensacola, Fla., the son of David and Eon Allen. He received his early training in the public schools of Pensacola.

Henry Allen enlisted in the United States Navy in 1917 and came to California in 1921. He served eighteen months in World War I. Then for sixteen years he was assigned to a Destroyer Flotilla. After twenty years in the service he was transferred to the Fleet Reserve. Later he was called back to active duty and assigned to the Fifth Naval Construction Battalion which saw service on the Midway Island and at Pearl Harbor.

In 1943 Henry G. Allen returned to the States and was stationed at Camp Parks at Shoemaker, California. On November 15, 1945 he was honorably discharged and given the benefits of retirement.

Having served his country faithfully and with honor since the early years of his life, he now has the time to enjoy sports of every kind which he considers a hobby.

**WARNER, LEROY NEWKIRK**, Retired Navy (Chief Petty Officer), was born December 8, 1892 in Mettle-town, New York, the son of Albert N. and Hanna E. (Stoops) Warner, Albert N. Warner was a contractor in New York for fifty years. After completing his public school education in his native city, young Warner went to work for his father until he was twenty-one years old.

In 1913 he enlisted in the United States Navy, and remained in the service of his country for thirty-two years. He saw action in the Haitian Campaign, of 1914, The Mexican Campaign in 1915, and in World War I, 1917-1918. His post-war assignments in the Navy were varied and interesting, including service in the North Sea in 1918, the West Indies from 1920-22, and Submarine Service from 1923 to 1930. Later he was on duty in Con-

necticut two years, in Panama two years, and in the Philippines two years.

Chief Steward Warner served nine years on an United States Aircraft Carrier and was on the U.S.S. Raleigh when that ship was on duty picking up refugees from France and Spain in 1936 and 37.

On February 23, 1923 Chief Steward Warner married Edythe the Sportsman.

After serving in World War II with Fleet Air Wing from 1940-1944 he was honorably discharged. He is the secretary of the Retired Men's Navy Club, and a member of the Fleet Reserve Organization, the Masonic Lodge, the Elks, and affiliated with the Neighborhood Church of Los Angeles.

**ROBINSON, ROBERT JAMES**, retired Naval Officer, was born in East,op, Texas, March 21, 1885, the son of William and Ellen (Robinson) Robinson.

In August, 1907, Mr. Robinson enlisted in the U. S. Navy at Shreveport, Louisiana.

For twenty-two years Mr. Robinson served his country. During World War I, he served on several fighting ships, including the USS Harietta, Celtic, Connecticut, North Caro'ina, Wyoming, and on USS Destroyers Corry, Chase and Seattle.

In June 1929, he was transferred to inactive duty in San Diego, and has remained since then as a resident of California. In 1937 he was placed on the restricted list.

During his Navy career, Mr. Robinson received many medals and service ribbons, among them are the Good Conduct, the Victory, and Grand Fleet Awards.

In 1924 he married Mary Darleen Hawkins. He was retired with the rank of Officer Cook First Class. He is a member of the Retired Navy Men's Club. His hobby: Music.

## In Memorium

Do not carve on stone or wood,  
"He was honest" or "He was good."  
Write on smoke on a passing breeze  
Seven words--and the words are these,  
Telling all that a volume could:  
"He lived, he laughed, and he understood."





MRS. JANNIE BRUINGTON AND GRAND NIECE  
ESTER L. BECK

**BRUINGTON, JANNIE SIDNEY,** Pioneer and Christian Leader, lived in Los Angeles for more than a half century. When death called her on August 26, 1945, Los Angeles lost one whose christian service and civic worth were beacon lights for men and women of every race, color, and creed.

Mrs. Bruington was born in Carthage, Tennessee, soon after the end of the Civil War, the daughter of Pleasant Jones and Goletty Beck. She was reared in Tennessee until she reached the age of thirteen years, at which time her mother passed. Her brother, the renowned Lt. Col. James M. Beck, who had moved to Kansas where land and opportunity were offered to freemen and former slaves, arranged to have his youngest sister, Jannie, come to Kansas to live with him.

The guidance, counsel and security given by her older brother was, in a large measure, responsible for the Christian Spirit, fine character and high ideals of Jannie Beck. She remained with her brother until she reached womanhood and was united in marriage to James Bruington, young school teacher and farmer, who, in turning his attention to farming had prospered.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruington were the parents of six children, four of whom are living—Ernest, and Charles, born in Kansas, and Ethel Bruington and Bessie Bruington Burke, born in Los Angeles. Mrs. Burke was the first Negro school teacher and Principal in the Los Angeles City School System. Alfred lived only six months and Alexander passed at an age of young manhood.

When the health of Mr. Bruington indicated a change of climate would be for the better, the family moved to the West Coast and settled in Los Angeles. That was in 1888. His death occurred in 1929.

Mrs. Bruington was a devoted mother giving her children and Ester L. Beck, a grand-niece, the advantage of intelligent guidance, and she made them citizens of whom Los Angeles has a right to be proud. She was deeply religious, worshipped as a member of the Second Baptist Church in which she was an active worker and belonged to the International Missionary Society.

Professionally, Mrs. Bruington was one of the first Negro Registered Nurses in Los Angeles and was associated with Doctors specializing in diseases of children. Throughout the period of her 58 years as a resident of Los Angeles she was considered a leader in the civic life of the city. She organized the Pico Heights Social Club, an organization to help deserving boys in receiving scholarships. She was a member of the YWCA Women's Society of Christian Service, Sojourner Truth Home, and Phys-Art-Lit-Mor Club. She held charter membership in the Delta Mothers and Sponsors Club of the Delta Phi Theta Sorority, Auxiliary of the Lt. Colonel James M. Beck Post No. 2651, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Pioneer Club No. 1 of Los Angeles of which she was Treasurer and the Colored Womens Federated Club. She was the first delegate from the Federated club.

Mrs. Bruington was interested in USO work and displayed pictures of "her soldier boys" on "her patriotic table." She was proud of the fact her brother, Lt. Colonel Beck was the first Negro Officer to put foot on foreign soil, that her daughter, Bessie Bruington Burke was the first Negro teacher and Principal in the Los Angeles City School System and that her niece, Aurora Jones, was the first Negro woman to graduate from Los Angeles High School. Certainly, hers was a full and model life.



SIDNEY P. DONES

**DONES, SIDNEY PRESTON**--Real Estate Broker and Philanthropist was born in Marshall, Texas, February 18, 1892; died in Los Angeles, California, August 2, 1947--son of Dexter W. and Lucy P. Dones. The humble parents of this farm boy, who was destined to carve out a career non-surpassed in color and in goodwill toward his fellowmen, were proud and courageous christian people. Wanting their son to advance to a greater life, they instilled early into his young mind the value of mathematics and the principle of helping others to help himself. Later in the country school that he attended, his interest in mathematics gained the help of his teacher in giving special lessons in algebra.

After finishing the high school of Marshall, young Dones entered Wiley College in his home town and there completed three years of college studies. But the will to seek a greater freedom caused him to quit school and at the age of 20 he made the long step that brought him to California--this in 1912.

Soon after his arrival in California and the city of Los Angeles, this young but determined Negro secured real estate license and opened his office on the corner of 4th and Central Avenue. Here he worked and slept, and to make ends meet, he janitored at night at the Manual Arts High School, where he received twenty-five cents per hour.

It was not long before people began to notice this young man, who had a pleasant smile for all people and a desire to help those seeking advice and counsel. Soon business started to come his way. Yes, the early teachings of his parents, "Help others and you help yourself" began to pay dividends.

In 1913, Mr. Dones married Bessie Williams--at that time one of California's outstanding violinists. To this union two children were born--Sylvetta and Sidney Preston, Jr., the former now the wife of Walter B. Smith, progressive young realtor, and is the mother of three fine children. Sidney Preston, Jr. died at the age of 12 on April 20, 1932. The passing of Sidney Preston, Jr. brought the one great sorrow of his father's life. There could have been no greater bond than that between this father and his son.

The achievements of this pioneer during his life time were varied in their scope and reached the heights seldom attained by Negroes in America. In the early years of

his residence in Los Angeles, he became interested in motion pictures and was a member of one of the pioneer companies, the Democracy Film Corporation. He starred in "Loyal Hearts" and "The \$10,000 Trail."

In his selected field, that of real estate, he founded and developed several tracts and subdivisions--among them Val Verde Township, now a popular year-round resort and playground; and Landon Township, now a thriving rural community near San Bernardino. Always willing to assist in the betterment of his race, he helped other realty firms to open up areas for the rapid-growing Negro population.

He was active in all civic and political affairs in the community, belonging to almost every welfare and betterment organization. As a philanthropist he was always to be counted on to donate to every worthy cause. During his life time many thousands of dollars were given to child welfare organizations and to aid in the fight to combat venereal diseases in the State. Not only did he give, but he worked in all drives for worthy causes to secure funds.

In the political field, he offered his time and service and on several occasions was a candidate for public office.

In the critical years before World War II, Mr. Dones was named as a special investigator for the United States Government and was sent on confidential and dangerous missions into Mexico and the Hawaiian Islands. Because of outstanding service to America on these missions and because of his achievements beyond the call of duty, he was awarded the highest honor given to a civilian--the Medal of Honor. He also received the Selective Service Medal for his services as a director of Selective Service during the war.

In the last few years of his life, Mr. Dones devoted time to the reading and study of the science of mind and became recognized as an authority on Metaphysics.

He was a member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Y.M.C.A., NAACP, National Congress of Parents and Teachers, Republican State Central Committee, Eastside Shelter, Eastside Chamber of Commerce, a 33rd Degree Mason, an Elk, and Zion Hill Baptist Church.

His hobby: was helping people.

This man, who proved by his work and his deeds the true concepts of brotherly love, and who amassed a fortune, in worldly goods, as well as the love of his fellowman, will be mourned by all who ever knew him.



LEON WHITAKER

**WHITAKER, LEON L.**, Attorney and first Negro Deputy District Attorney of Los Angeles, was born in Georgia, August 14, 1904 and came to his death January 4, 1931 at twenty-six years of age, and at the beginning of a career that held promise of being one of the most brilliant in the annals of jurisprudence.

Leon Whitaker was brought to Los Angeles in his infancy and received his early education in the public schools of the city in which he lived from infancy until his death.

After graduation from Los Angeles High School he attended the University of California at Los Angeles and received from that institution the A.B. degree. Later he was a student at the University of California at Berkeley, where he received his Master of Arts degree, and the degree of Juris Doctor from the Law School of that institution.

Leon Whitaker was an outstanding athlete and lightweight boxing champion of the University of California. A scheduled match between the University of California and Stanford University in which Leon Whitaker was to participate led to an incident which caused a furor between the two universities. Whitaker could not participate because of his color. It was a shock to Leon and he gave up athletics, and, thereafter, kept to his study of literature and law, and reason and logic, in preparation of the role he was to fill so capably until his passing.

Soon after leaving school he became engaged in the practice of law. His brilliant work as an Attorney led to his appointment as Deputy District Attorney by District Attorney Buron Fitts of Los Angeles County.

Leon Whitaker married Hazel Gattschalk, graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles. Hazel Whitaker was the first Negro appointed to the Academic Department of a Los Angeles Senior High School.

Leon Whitaker gained the respect and esteem of his colleagues in the District Attorney's office in the face of opposition and resentment. Leslie T. White of the District Attorney's office, wrote in his biography of Whitaker that, "Leon Whitaker had the finest mind I had encountered. Whitaker won and held the respect of the men in the district attorney's office.

"Whitaker was well versed in world affairs. By analogy and history he painted his arguments on broad canvas. He won point after point with his natural eloquence, his legal brilliance, his evidence, and his logic.

There was something Christ-like in the way he spoke of the members of his race. There was a bright future for Leon Whitaker. He was a genius and was on the way to the heights. The entire force of the District Attorney's office displayed grief at Whitaker's early passing."

**ROBERTS, ANDREW J.** Undertaker—a native of Virginia, but spent his boyhood and early manhood in Ohio. Mr. Roberts was educated in Wilberforce University and Oberlin College. After graduation he taught school in several cities throughout Southern Ohio and Tennessee.

He married Ellen Hemings in Chillicothe, Ohio.

Answering the call of the West, Mr. Roberts came to California in 1888, and was one of the early pioneers of Los Angeles. His first venture into the field of business was the operation of a transfer and trucking business. Later in 1905, he founded together with his two sons and daughter the A. J. Roberts and Sons Mortuary. This Mortuary was the first Negro undertaking establishment in the far West. The firm began business at 12th and Los Angeles, now (1948) the center of the downtown district. Later moved into a new structure located at 1119-1121 So. Los Angeles, in 1922 moved to the present location 1415 So. Central Avenue.

For the past forty-three years the firm of A. J. Roberts and Sons has been a cornerstone in the development of Negro business in Los Angeles. Mr. Roberts, founder of this outstanding institution, was known for his generosity, gave large sums of money to the various churches and to the many struggling civic organizations that played such a part in making Los Angeles a better place for Negroes to live.

Some of the outstanding churches, now in this area, had their beginning in the chapel of Roberts Mortuary.

Mr. Roberts was one of the founders of Tabernacle Baptist Church, and for many years a leading Baptist layman. He was also the first Negro to serve on a Los Angeles Grand Jury. Mr. Roberts, a christian gentleman, was respected by all who knew him, and at his death was mourned by all races of Southern California.

**JOHNSON, SHADERICK CHARLES**, Plastering Contractor, born in Raleigh, North Carolina, came to California in 1891, and came to his death in 1948.

Mr. Johnson was one of the first licensed contractors in the construction industry in California.

In 1902 he married Pearl L. Cooper. From this union there was five children—Theodore, Lawrence, Pearl, Ruby and Cornelius.

During his many years of residence in Los Angeles, Mr. Johnson had been active in many organized activities, both church and civic. He had retired from active work and had devoted much of his time to his life time hobby of Hunting. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge.

**BEANE, S. M.**—Preacher (deceased)—former Pastor, Hamilton Methodist Church in Los Angeles. Before his death he was one of the most beloved and respected ministers in California. He was very active in the civic and fraternal affairs of his community, having served on the board of the NAACP, YMCA, and other organizations whose purpose was to help in the uplift of the Negro race.

**GREGGS, N. P.**—Minister—founder of Peoples Independent Church of Christ, pastored at the church of his founding for twenty years, building a membership from 17 to 3000. At his death he was mourned by all races in Southern California.

BASS, J. (deceased) Editor, Publisher California Eagle. Came out of a hilly, mountainous wilderness by the coast architects, Mother Nature and Man, California has become a magnificent metropolis—both fantastic and fabulous. It is the most spectacular state in the Union and one of the most diversified, containing the most sophisticated and bigoted, adolescent and mature. From the days of Horace Greeley, who said "Go West, Young Man" to the present Negroes have played a conspicuous role in the growth and development of California.

You were much younger, or undoubtedly unborn, when the California EAGLE emerged out of its womb to grow in the land of sunshine and flowers. It was back in 1879 that John J. Neimore, its founder and first editor, nurtured this fledgling. Today the EAGLE, like its namesake, the King of birds, soars high. Proudly we celebrate our 97th anniversary this year as the oldest Negro weekly in the country and one of the two Negro newspapers in the nation holding membership in the "Half Century Club" of the American press.

In the early days of the EAGLE, the Negro population in this state was not more than 20,000. John J. Neimore, a native of Austin, Texas, was to become one of the primary figures to open this new door of opportunity to his oppressed people of the South, more particularly Texas and Louisiana. Like Frederick Douglas, who led his people out of Southern slave bondage by the way of the underground railroad, John J. Neimore started a newspaper which was the underground propaganda agency to attract Negroes to California.

Last of the frontiers, this state not only attracted Negroes but peoples from all parts of the world seeking living conditions that would give them the dignity and status of a man, no matter what his occupation. It was this conglomeration of cultures that was to give the color and glamour to Hollywood, the land of make-believe.

Whenever progressive programs are discussed, the California EAGLE has been the paper of reference. This policy has existed since the early history of the EAGLE. Back in 1914 when J. B. Bass, one of the founders of the Topeka Plainsdealer, became the editor of the EAGLE he fought untiringly to bring about proper national legislation to provide funds for the dredging and widening of Los Angeles Harbor. The present aqueduct system that supplies water for domestic use and the victorious fight waged for the proper federal and local legislation to insure equal participation of this municipality in the Boulder Dam project were also a part of the EAGLE program.

When discrimination arose in restaurants, cafes, and other public places of recreation, Neimore introduced the famous Dribble bill in the California State Legislature. The bill provided for the penalizing of persons who discriminated on account of color, against persons applying for accommodations in hotels, restaurants, theatres, barber shops, and similar places of public resort in California.

The EAGLE's role in the development of a powerful labor movement on the West Coast is well known. It helped make possible the powerful Dining Car Cooks and Waiters Union, the interation of Negroes in the labor movement. It championed and nurtured two progressive movements generally. From this great body of effort and accomplishment has come a growing public awareness of the importance of unity . . . a sense of very real participation in the larger aspects of city, state, and national activities.

Today, Charlotta A. Bass, editor-publisher, is carrying on the plans to further stimulate a growing demand for a pattern of living that promises to realize the people's as-

pirations. The Soaring Eagle, as a real newspaper for the uplift of all men has but one ambition . . . and that is to serve the people and to speak for them at all times for the continued advancement and progress of the human welfare.



LT. MAGELLAN C. MARS

MARS, MAGELLAN C., born in Roanoke, Virginia, on October 31, 1914. "Crip" as he was known to most of us came to California as a small child. He attended Fresno State College. There he was active in school affairs, gaining recognition as a star of the basketball team. Magellan lost no time in affiliating himself with the Scrollers Club, and in 1939 he "crossed the burning sands" to become a member of the Kappa clan. Always an ardent participant in fraternal affairs, Mars was elected Strategus of Upsilon Chapter. He was famous for his ability to pull inter-frat basketball games "out of the fire." When he was called to the colors, he accepted the bid with his customary good nature. When he lost his life he knew that it was the only way possible for him—in behalf of the men under his command. His heroism was recognized by the War Department as follows:

"By authority contained in Circular No. 89, Headquarters Mediterranean Theatre of Operations, July 10, 1944, a Silver Star is awarded, posthumously, to the following named officer:

Magellan C. Mars, 012960060, First Lieutenant, Infantry, 371st Infantry Regiment. For gallantry in action, on November 17, 1944, in Italy. First Lieutenant Mars' company was deployed in a sector of mountainous terrain when it became the object of an intense enemy mortar attack. Without thought of personal hazard, First Lieutenant Mars moved among his men adjusting counterfire, and insuring that each man was in a protected position. When the severity of the hostile mortar barrage forced the supporting right flank unit to withdraw, First Lieutenant Mars' company became chief target for a concentration of enemy machine gun fire. In spite of this, he continued to expose himself in effecting a more advantageous deployment of his men until he was killed by the hostile fire.

For outstanding courage and heroic devotion of duty First Lieutenant Mars' performance of duty . . . was to the officers and men of his organization, a conspicuously inspiring example of the highest traditions of the American soldier in armed military service. From Los Angeles, California, next to kin: Mrs. Ruth E. Mars (wife), 132 West 45th St., Los Angeles, California.



CORNELIUS JOHNSON - OLYMPIC CHAMPION

**JOHNSON, CORNELIUS COOPER**, High Jumper, born in Los Angeles, California, August 21, 1913, died February 15, 1946, the son of S. C. and Pearl I. Johnson. Educated in the public schools of Los Angeles and the Compton Junior College, Compton, California.

During his high school career, Cornelius was an all-around athlete, and was one of the few three year, all-star lettermen at the Los Angeles High School. In the Olympic Games in 1932, he was the youngest member, and only high school student on the American Olympic team and placed in the High Jump. In the Olympic's of 1936, held in Berlin, Germany, he established a world record in the high jump and won for America, first place. Great honors were bestowed upon him by the nations of the World and he became a hero in the eyesight of every youth throughout the world who aspired to athletic fame.

Cornelius Johnson, was a leader in the YMCA athletic program and will long be remembered for his work and inspiration to the youth of that center.

His great prowess on the field was under the colors of the Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.), and his death came as a shock to the world of sports and to his bereaved family. Although Cornelius Johnson passed on, his name and his great athletic records will live on and continue to be an inspiration to young men the world over.

His hobby was swimming.



MOZELLE E. LEWIS

**LEWIS, MOZELLE ESTER**-Pharmacist, was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, August 27, 1909. Death came in Los Angeles, April 16, 1945. She was the daughter of Alex and Lena (Hambright) Lewis. Her early education was in the public schools of Chattanooga. Miss Lewis re-

ceived her Degree in Pharmacy from the Howard University. After graduation she worked in the pharmacy of the Leakee Institute Hospital, Asheville, North Carolina, and in Washington, D. C. The latter city her home at that time.

Dr. Lewis moved to Los Angeles in 1933. During that career work in her field was hard to find so this young, courageous woman worked for several months without pay at the Benton Drug Store, 48th and Central.

In 1934 with little capital but a lot of determination and with the help of her family, Dr. Lewis associated herself with Dr. Helen Lee Harlow, another Negro woman pharmacist, and bought the stock of a drug store, and opened the I & W Drug Store at 1530 Griffith Avenue, the owner leaving Los Angeles to go East. After a formal opening sponsored by the Rho Psi Phi Sorority on December 22, 1934, these two courageous women started on what proved to be a successful and profitable venture. Dr. Lewis was co-owner of the I & W Drugs at the time of her death. These two young women were the only Negro women pharmacists in the Pacific Southwest to own and operate their own store.

Dr. Lewis was active in the civic life of the community, affiliating with the YWCA, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Rho Psi Phi Medical Sorority, South California Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association, and was an active member of the Independent Church. She was also a talented pianist and played as accompanist at many of the church recitals.

Perhaps the greatest honor to come in this time young woman's life was the winning in 1925 of the Lehigh Link Medal. This is a national award to the student in Pharmacy submitting the best article or thesis on Pharmacy. Her article was published in the American Druggist Magazine in August, 1925. She was the first Negro ever to win this award.

Her hobby was reading, and of course her work.

**HARVEY, FRANK ARTHUR SR.**-Businessman and Philanthropist, born in Pensacola, Florida, January 7, 1894. Died in Los Angeles, Calif., December 22, 1946. Son of Marsh and Emma (Judge) Harvey. Educated in the public schools of Pensacola, later special courses in Business Administration in Los Angeles.

In the early years of the rapid expansion of Southern California, Mr. Harvey, as Vice President and General Manager of the Harvey Brothers Corporation Building Materials, was an outstanding factor. This pioneer firm furnished material for many of the skyscrapers and larger structures in Los Angeles. He was prominent in YMCA work, Outdoor Life and Health Association, NAACP, Pacific Town Club, and many other civic and charitable organizations. He was vestryman at the St. Philips Episcopal Church, a position which he loved and which exemplified his spiritual longing. At his passing he was accorded the highest mass given to a layman, Rev. H. Randolph Moore officiating.

He is survived by a loving widow, Mrs. Alice B. Harvey, and one son, Frank Arthur, Jr.

His hobby of fishing and hunting often took him into Mexico on extended trips along with Frank, Jr. The passing of this pioneer, businessman and philanthropist will long be mourned by all of Southern California as well as a host of friends throughout the country.

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