Fellowship House Where All Races Live in Democracy

CHICAGO - (ANP) - They call it Fellowship house and a more appropriate name would be hard to find.

For that is what it is, this seven room apartment on Ellis avenue near the University of Chicago campus where men of all races, colors and creeds live together in friendly cooperation and goodwill.

The idea for this interracial mer's housing cooperative was born in 1942 in a sociology class of Prof. Ernest J. Burgees, noted Midway social scientist. Discussion centered around the crowded, unhealthy living conditions in the city's Negro district, that vast city isolated within a city by hostile whites, absenee landlords and the unholy machinations of residential restrictive covenants.

A group of shocked students decided to do something about it but they were handicapped by lack of funds and the ready objections of older whites alarmed at any change in the current dangerous racial pattern in housing accomodations.

Further stûmbling blocks were erected by the University of Chicago business and real estate offices which control, own or wield considerable influence in disposition of property immediately surrounding and near the famous institution.

The university was rich and powerful. It had kept the longdisputed Washington park area hard by lilly-white for years until Carl Hansberry and a corps of brilliant colored lawyers dared challenge and finally crack its dominance with a United States Supreme Cocrt decision.

an interracial housing coopera- Carter, 43 year old father of Leof the city acreage is so covered. on Pine Island near here, Educate the fascist clan through demonstration. Show them it can be done. What democracy cases have had to be fought and How it works.

Bob Burgess, Jim Robinson and Hugo Victoreen.

Knocking over opposition, surmounting the insurmountable, these three daring and deter-Missouri, Robinson from Massa- ence of Negroes on the premises" chusetts, and Victoreen a New Hampshire lad, established the residence at 4853 Kenwood dur- and other tenants of the building ing the spring of 1942. The property was owned by Mrs. Edgar Lee Masters, wife of the Chicago poet famous for his Spoon River Anthology" and other works.

On Kenwood trouble for the adventurers in race relations was spearheader by rabid agitators of the Hyde Park-Kenwood Property Owners association sponsored by millionairre realtor Newton Farr who declared "Negroes and dogs" must be barred and George B. McKibben, Chicago Tribune candidiate in the last mayorality.

After several threats, neighborhood mass meetings and picketing residents succeeded in intimidating the renting real estate firm to refuse renewal of the lease and Fellowship house seemed doomed. However, the enterprise triumvirate was not long disposing and the house at 615 Eilis avenue was set up almost immediately.

President residents are Willie Wilkins, 29, and his brother, John, 31, Negroes; Richard Baki, 20, a Jew, and Victoreen, 25, of Swedish descent. Robinson of the founders, is in a civilian public service camp in Colorado for conscientious objectors, while the other, Burgess, is now librarian at Talladoga college, Ala-

bama. Athough Fellowship house has existed in its new location for some two and one-half years it has been an up-hill struggle all

MEET "HOT LIPS" PAGE THE JIVE EXPONENT



With the money earned by his daily street corner | Hot Lips Page, a former student of oratory, is frequently

serenades Hot Lips enrolled at Texas College in called upon to lecture on jazz. His most recent delivery Tyler, Texas, to further his musical career. His trum- took place at Hunter College, the success of which peting was the mainstay of the school band for three prompted the school to institute a regular weekly series of jazz lectures.

Newspaper Story Saves Father

CONWAY, S. C .- (ANP)-How a newspaper story effected his facts county authorities sought to What then really could be release from ail and probably savdone? Why not, someone sug- ed him from a stiff sentence gested, have a group of their though he was innocent, was told Negro griends live with them in here Thursday night by Nolan ond oldest, said officers slammed tive. Select a site in a reaction- tha Belle Carter whose raped, ary area covered by racially re- murdered body was found by him siste they take into custody a strictive conenants which would and his six year old son, Joseph be easy to do since 85 per cent Benjamin, the evening of Aug. 15,

the way. Three times eviction won in city courts. First time the And that is what they did. judge threw out the case because McKey-Peague realtors frankly pettitioned on racial grounds, and in violation of Illinois civil rights law. The second case died because MsKey-Peague failed to mined young men, Burgess of prove in court that the "mere prescreated a nuisance and deteroriated the property. Next time the first Fellowship house in the realtors sought to have neighbors testify against Fellowship house but when the case was called not one McKey-Peague witnes put in appearance, apparently unwilling to publicly exhibit their prejudice. Attorney Ulysses S. Keys of the law firm of Prescott, Burrought and Tayolr represented the defendants.

F. J. O'Brie, vice-president of McKey-Peague, is a director of the South Side Boys' club in the Negro district and a regular contributor to its campaign funds This fact he points to by way of showing his liberality. Robert Church, club director, said O'Brien is a "very fine man" but hastily added when told of O'Brien's racial policies in the housing situation that he knew nothing of politics.

Nevertheless after three stinging defeats in almost as many months in 1943 McKey-Peague became convinced that Fellowship house is here to stay and has brought no further legal action against it.

Oliver E. Smith

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Mr. Carter warmly pumped the hands of John H. McCray, editor More Pay Raises of the Lighthouse and Informer at Columbia, S. C. and ANP correspondent who broke the case At Bell Bomber respondent who broke the case open by digging out important

conceal.

Carter, father of nine children, Letha Belle having been the sechim in jail and charged him with his daughter's death after he inwhite insurance agent whom circumstances pointed. No mention was made of the girl's having been raped at the time but when newspaper stories presented accurate descriptions of factors surrounding her deatht, factors authorities knew from the beginning but sought to conceal-Carter was let out of jail without ex-

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ATLANTA- (ANP) -A directive of the War Labor Board, setting 75 cents per hour as the minimum at the Bell Bomber plant, became effective Nov. 12, with with Wesley E. Garrison, white, workers in the lower brackets, many of them Negroes, receiving in question, to smash the undemosubstantial increases in pay for the 40-hour week.

Slips will be issued in a few days to all former employes who made less than 75 cents per hour to be filled out and returned to Bell Aircraft corporation for "back-time pay." The extra pay was won by UAW-CIO when it was established that Bell was paying hourly wages below national aircraft standard pay.

planation.

them with his wife, James M. extension service director. Hinton, state NAACP resident, had told the mass meeting that the NAACP was backing it all the the NAACP was backing it all the has been selected to head the soil added to a previous \$102 raised in will be assisted by P. H. Stone, G. Goings Daniels of Georgetown, work for Negroes in this state. who sponsored the meeting at starting fund.

Racial Zoning Uninforcebale Says Miami Judge Legion Charter

commission is without authority to impose zoning regulations on a racial basis, Circuit Judge Stanley Milledge ruled last week.

Judge Milledge's ruling was is sued in habeas corpus proceedings brought on behalf of two Negro couples, Felton and Willie Mae Wilson, who had been held for moving into premises zoned for occupancy by whites. They were

The premises occupied by the

17833, general laws of Florida, which seeks to prohibit Negroes white occupancy."

tion of the 14th amendment to them." the United States constitution and the declaration of rights of the Florida constitution. He also contended Florida law does not authorize the commissioners to designate in what areas members of races may reside and the com- "whether the Negro veterans gets it a penal offense to reside in tion in his claims for benefits." such areas.

Attorneys appearing on behalf S. R. Carson, assistant state at- are abridged," said Barton. torney, Roland Sweet and John C. Wynn, assistant county solicitors; Rep. George S. Okell and Rudolph Isom, assistant county attorney. Since their arrests, the couples have been at liberty under bonds of \$250 each.

Sam B. Solomon, local editor and publisher, has worked along millionaire promoter of the area cratic enforcement against Ne-

Program Mapped To Teach Negro Soil Conservation

INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE, GA. -(ANP)-A program to train Negro farmers in 57 counties of the A near capacity audience in the state of Ga. 4l Conservation was Cherry Hill Baptist church here outlined here last week by L. T. filed out with knowing the quiet, sbury, state soil conservationist, hardworking father was among and Walter Brown, agricultural

ay. Approximately \$275 was conservation training program. He this section for the case. Rev. head of agricultural extension

The farmers receiving the trainhis church and who is also one ing will be eligible for prizes in of a three-man committee organ- a state-wide contest, which will ing action, said after the meeting close in August, 1946, with the that about \$118 more was needed probability of expanding the soil to reach a \$500 goal, sought as a conserfation program to include nine southern states.

Says Vets' Rights Are Abridged in

PHILADELPHIA -- (ANP) -Rights of Negro veterans have been abridged by the American Legion's refusal to grant them charter rights in five southern

That stand was taken here last. week by the National Baptist veterans in stating their policy. The Coleman and Jack and Claudia Rev. Bertram E. Barton, commander-in-chief, said:

"Since the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars ordered released by Judge Mill- of the United States are supposed to issue charters to any group of veterans who served under two couples are in Causeway the American flag and are honpark, just across from Brown's orably discharged or whose present military services are honor-Informations filed against the able, regardless of race, creed or couples are based on chapter color or previous conditions of servitude.

"Their past and present tenfrom "willfully and unlawfully" dency to differentiate in many moving into premises zoned for of the southern states when the personnel is colored is directly E. F. B. Brigham, who appeared against the principles of these for the two couples at the hear- organizations and against the ing before Judge Milledge, argued principles for which congresthe zoning regulation is in viola- sional charters were granted

Since such prejudices exist in "these national organiations and since the majority of the personnel of the Veterans administration is from these organizations," Barton questioned mission has no authority to make proper and unbiased considera-

The National Baptist veterans organized because the "constituof the state and county include tional rights of colored veterans





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