

# DANCE WHERE NEGRO MUSICIANS CAN PLAY

## Learning From The Depression

By CARTER G. WOODSON

A friend of mine came to town last week looking for employment. He has been in business, but his firm recently failed. It had some high-sounding plans for the future which will work out successfully just as soon as this depression passes over. He could not explain to me, however, exactly when that will be; and the hope he has for great results from the plans to be carried out by Hoover did not register on me, for I do not think that the President knows what he is doing or what he is talking about. Most of what he says on the economic situation reads like an essay of a high school boy.

The fact is that there is not any depression anyway. As one has wisely said, we are merely returning to normal conditions. In this process we are suffering because of the unwillingness of Hoover and his co-workers to readjust matters on the lower economic level to which we must eventually go. While one man is willing to make the sacrifice of working for lower wages or to accept the former price for products the others backed by trades unions and politicians are unwilling to sacrifice anything. For this reason nobody can do well under the circumstances. The products are sold out by high priced labor are beyond the reach of the poorly paid menial workers and, therefore, not much in demand. Houses are out of repair because of the inability of landlords to pay high wages required to build mechanics. Rent is too high, and taxes continue exorbitant to provide such as high salaries for government employees as they received in 1919.

A change, however, is inevitable. We shall have to return to the time when mechanics and artisans received \$4.00 or \$5.00 a day instead of \$15. or \$20.00, and when a conductor on a train received \$100 a month instead of as much as a governor of a State. In those days when most of us worked for a dollar or two a day, we could board for ten dollars a month and paid three dollars for a pair of shoes and eight dollars for a suit of clothes. We did not have many luxuries, and did not feel the need of them. We walked to work in the morning and walked back home. We had a better appetite than we have today after riding in our fine cars; we enjoyed better health, and we lived longer than we do now at this poor dying rate.

Nobody wants to go back to that state of affairs, you will say. But what is the difference? It is merely a matter of all suffering alike or enjoying things equally. None of us are entitled to more than the comforts of life, and few of us under the best circumstances will ever be able to afford more for any long period. Our speculators inflated everything and made us believe the contrary; but he that lives by speculation may die by it, as it is happening through our inevitable deflation.

It is certain that the world will hardly get rid of conveniences like the automobile and the airplane; but these things must be used for the comfort of mankind rather than to stimulate luxurious and riotous living. The world has made considerable progress in recent decades, but we have not yet worked out a scheme by which every man can have a palace and a yacht. Only those who have been unusually fortunate or who have taken advantage of the weak can afford these things.

We poor Negroes who have never had very much find it difficult to live according to the standards of the speculators who have hurried us economically downward when they said they were pushing us upward. They

**JUMPS OFF ROOF, LIVES**  
Wilmington, Del., March 22—Peggy Henderson, 25, stood on the roof of a four story building and shouted, "Look out, folks, I'm coming!"

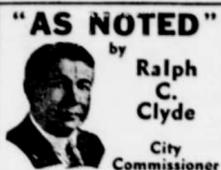


### Keep those friendships green!

"I hadn't seen Jack Shepard since we were boys together. But last night I called him up, a can tell you the 'voice-visit' did us both a lot of good."

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### "AS NOTED" by Ralph C. Clyde, City Commissioner

**HAVE YOU REGISTERED?**  
"Jimmie" Gleason, Director of the Registration Bureau told me that lots of people are going to be left out in the cold if they figure on voting in the May primaries unless they register before April 19th. There will be numerous city measures to be voted on and officials from United States Senator down to Constable to be nominated. Hurry and register at the County Court House immediately if you want a finger in the pie.

### FRANK FITTS

Frank Fitts who was elected to a seat in the Seattle City Council, is a live wire. I met him at the National Public Ownership Conference at Los Angeles, and he made a rattling good address. Mr. Fitts was elected on a platform which said "I am for the protection of City Light and all publicly owned utilities from their enemies." He was a leading worker in the recall of Frank Edwards, as Mayor, and a staunch booster of J. D. Ross, Manager of the municipal electric plant, who, by the way, came to Portland as a guest of the Municipal Ownership League to make a talk in behalf of Senator Joseph for Governor.

### SEATTLE WATER SYSTEM

City-owned utilities are successful in Seattle. Not only is the municipal Light and Power plant making money but the water system is publicly-owned and is also profit making. The report for 1931 shows a new record. The income was \$2,001,554.57 states G. B. Cseunk, city accountant. \$722,000 was paid off on the bonded debt and \$500,000 was set aside to pay on principal due January 1, 1932. Almost 17,000,000 gallons of water were used for 1931 than in 1929.

### NOT A "WAR" — JUST A BIG KILLING (By William Pickens)

A new "Kellogg Pact" is badly needed. The lawyers who drew up the first one "outlawed war" but entirely overlooked the more important need to outlaw killings. Therefore, the Japanese did not declare war on China, neither did China declare war on Japan; they just turned out and killed each other. The old pactmakers overlooked that "war" is a technical-



MR. PICKENS

ity; it has to be "declared" and announcements made throughout the realm that we are at war with such-and-such an enemy. This was never done by either China or Japan. Each one was hoping that the other one would do it, so that other could be blamed for violating the pact which had outlawed war. But so far neither one has allowed the other to completely pass the buck to him. But since said pact did not say that the people of one nation should not kill the people of another, they have "beat the law". American fashion without breaking it. It would have been decidedly better if the pact had said: "You may have all the war you want, but you must not hurt anybody or destroy any property."

That is why shrewd lawyers use not only the one word, but all its synonyms and near-synonyms, when they want to make sure that the whole case is covered. When a good lawyer is writing your will, he makes it say: "I herewith bequeath, give, leave, will and devise," etc. Or in a lease he may write it: "Lease, let, hire, rent," etc. So the Kellogg Pact should have said: "We outlaw international war, murder, killing, homicide, slaughter, putting to death, or causing humans to cease to breathe by any direct or indirect method, means, instrument or material, thru the use of any force, power or poison." Especially should that omnibus phrase, "causing humans to cease to breathe," have been included to make sure of covering the whole objective.

But both Japanese and Chinese will have to concede us this point: That if what they have been doing around Shanghai is not war, then it is just plain, old-fashioned, but wholesale murder, — and a lot of the gang leaders on both sides ought to be tried and imprisoned by their own courts.

## Helpful hints

By NANCY LEE

A young lady told me a short time ago that she wanted to marry and have a home, but the young man she is engaged to keeps putting the wedding date with the "excuse" that he can't afford to maintain a home.

I advised this young lady to wait until she was sure he was the right one. No use being in a hurry when her whole life's happiness is at stake. Better to delay a few months than spend a whole life time in regret. Girls are too anxious to plunge into matrimony just because they think they want a home. What they really crave is admiration, to be spoiled, to be the only one to somebody, and be petted and loved by him and take up his whole thought, time and energy, and yet, they expect him to make a good living besides. In other words, he is supposed to bring home the bacon fat, and plenty of it.

There will be happier marriages when young people wait to serve each other and do what is best for the happiness of both instead of each one making demands on the other for his own gratification and inflated ego.

NANCY LEE

## BOOK REVIEW

### "THE ROCK OF DECISION"

By Bertha B. Moore (Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co. Grand Rapids, Michigan)

Reviewed for The Advocate by CLIFFORD C. MITCHELL

This is a novel based on the rural life of certain North Carolinians in the mountainous region. It is centered around the family life of the Bradfords, a typical Blue Ridge Mountain family.

There were twelve children in the Bradford family with Phoebe Bradford the outstanding character. On a high and lofty spot on the Bradford acres Phoebe had a retreat and to this spot she would isolate herself when her mental affairs demanded deep thinking. While thinking over her problems, resting her head on a large boulder (which she called her rock of decision), eyes turned heavenward, Phoebe would solve life's problems.

The story emphasizes the many deprivations suffered by the mountain folk and intimately describes their daily activities, ambitions, sorrows, happiness and loves — and as Phoebe grows into young womanhood the reader is kept wondering whether Phoebe will finally capture her. The intense religious beliefs of the mountaineers is aptly portrayed and before Phoebe becomes converted to the belief she has many a thought session with herself on her rock of decision. In fact it is her rock of decision that she finally succumbs to the love-making Bill Farnham and at the same time she lets the light of God and Phoebe and Bill consecrate their lives to one of usefulness in aiding the unfortunates in their beloved mountain region.

### JUDGE CRAWFORD FILES

James W. Crawford has filed his declaration of candidacy for the nomination for circuit judge of the fourth judicial district, department No. 2, Multnomah County.

### TO AID JUDGE WOODELY

To further the candidacy of Judge George N. Woodley, who is seeking nomination for a place on the circuit bench, a number of prominent lawyers have organized themselves as a campaign committee. It was on the nomination of the Multnomah County Bar Association that Judge Woodley was first appointed to the district court by Governor I. L. Patterson.

## THE DENTIST

By Roy C. Proctor, D. D. S.

What cruel creatures human beings can be to themselves.

If in the old days they took a crude pair of pinchers and just yanked out a tooth or let a barber get it out with a barbarous "turn key", what did the poor thing do who happened to have toothache back in the stone age when the only tool at hand was a sharpened flint?

Do you recall that childish method of tying one end of a string to the tooth and the other to a door knob and getting ones brother or sister to suddenly slam the door? What important shivering took place while the string was tied? What torture preceded the slam? What self importance after the tooth was out and could be shown? You remember, don't you?

In those days great dread was attached to the thought of tooth extraction.

Now, and rightly, a tooth extraction is looked upon as a surgical operation which can be done without any pain at all, and every precaution for cleanliness, to guard against infection. Extraction for children can be made very simple by the use of anesthetic. They feel no pain and do not know what is going on.

# EASTER DANCE

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## MON. NIGHT MARCH 28

## THE TRIUMPH OF THE LILY WHITES

BY KELLEY MILLER

Memory is the only friend that the old line Negro politician can call his own. I can well remember how the city of Washington used to be crowded on each inauguration day with Southern Negro politicians in quest of official recognition, from Register of the Treasury to Minister to Dohe-



KELLY MILLER

pi still linger shivering on the brink of disaster. Stout-hearted old Bob Church still holds on doggedly to the Memphis district, Tennessee.

Recently the old line Republican organization under leadership of Boozie and Howard, met in Mississippi and endorsed Mr. Hoover's administration, baring his lily white policy. One is greatly at a loss to divine just what features of his administration they intended to endorse. The patronage of the state was taken from the regular organization and given to its lily white adversary. Mrs. Boozie is now fighting in open battle a lily white nominee for Marshall of the Northern District of her state. One wonders what is to be the destiny of Negro leadership in that state and in the South generally under Mr. Hoover's administration. If he is to have a second of one thing we may rest assured that the old line Negro leader will have no part or parcel in it.

Now what do you think of this, my dog? What do you think of this, my cat? Mr. Hoover has not only succeeded in imposing his lily white policy on the South but on the entire Republican party. There are no longer any simon pure Republicans. The Civil War Amendments have been abandoned. The Negro has been eliminated from the equation. He cannot help himself. The die is cast. One might as well say that not only is the Republican party all lily white, but the Democrats and Republicans are of the same hue. The old regime is past. A new day calls for a new deal. The Negro must needs be non-partisan; for he has no welcome political home in either party. Both parties want his vote in the North; neither wants or welcomes it in the South. The new Negro statesmanship will wear partisan ship as a loose garment. Alexander Pope used to say "Whatever is right, howsoever this may be, in politics, whatever is lily whiteness is way by which he can be unthroned. Blind optimism will not see the truth; insane pessimism falls stupified and insane before it. But we should not yield to either of those vices, but rather face the situation as it is and not allow ourselves to be overcome or dashed by the ugly face of facts. We may look unto the North, whence cometh our help, not because any party or politician desires it but because conditions make it inevitable. The next election will be close. The Negro constitution will be a balance of power. The wise use of this power in the North may react to bring to the race offsetting advantage for what has been lost in the South. What we have lost in Lincoln, Johnson, Walter Cohen, and Ben Davis, we may gain in Oscar DePriest.

Queen of the South  
Mamie Smith  
Blues singer, who was voted the most popular attraction to appear in the Southland by a recent poll conducted by a southern newspaper. Mamie recently played to capacity houses at the Michigan theatre, Chicago, for a solid week. She is now touring the East.

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