

BATES WOMAN MISSING

WHO IS THEO. JORDAN? SHALL THEY DIE?

Digesting . . .
The News
BY CLIFFORD C. MITCHELL

AN APOLOGY

When this month comes to a close I shall have completed three years of contributory service to Negro journalism. I am conscious of the fact that on many occasions I have permitted matter that was purely personal to creep into this "Digesting the News" column and for these occasions I offer an apology to the editors and the readers.

In defense of my actions upon the occasions I have exceeded the bounds of good ethical journalism I wish to offer the following quotation, from the pen of Florence Earle Coates:

"Though his beginnings be but poor and low, thank God a man can grow!"

At times certain incidents or happenings in connection with my humble efforts to rehabilitate myself have caused me to use this space in presenting facts of my growth and increasing reader-appeal to my readers all over America, because of a lack of any other suitable medium.

Since July 1931, through the helpful cooperation of the management of the Chicago Bee, I have conducted a weekly strictly personal column, "This and That", in which I recorded purely personal incidents, acknowledgements of letters, books, "exchanges" and so forth.

And for this privilege, I have always maintained the same spirit of gratefulness to the Bee, that a homeless waif would hold towards his benefactor who picked him up when he was homeless, friendless and hungry, giving him shelter and food until the waif could shift for himself.

Now, however, that my writings are being used by nearly one hundred publications each week, made up as follows: about sixty, using "Digesting the News", and an additional forty-odd publications published by the progressive Southern Newspaper Syndicate using an exclusive "Kilby" release each week, as well as other features, it becomes necessary that I provide a medium of national distribution in which to record the purely personal happenings that formerly were restricted to the Bee readers.

To supply this demand, I am, with the approval of The Bee, supplying "This and That" for "immediate release", to all the papers using any of the above features and thus my readers, in every part of the country, can keep closer in touch with me personally without the necessity of any correspondence on my part, and as the currents in this personal column affect the readers in any particular community the same publisher who uses my other features can also run that particular release of "This and That" which, for nearly two years, has been used exclusively by the Bee. Thus, as I am about to begin my fourth year of journalistic service, I promise that never again will anything of a personal nature be permitted to be used in a space that henceforth will adhere strictly to "Digesting the News" of, and for, racial readers.

THE ROOSEVELTS

The amazing parallel of the Roosevelts, both are 7th in descent from Kias Martensen Van Roosevelt and both were Harvard graduates, editors of their college papers, graduates of Columbia law school, members of N. Y. legislature, assistant secretaries of the navy, both resigned from that office. Governors of N. Y. Candidates for vice-president; each was shot at by a maniac and both became president.

THE ADVOCATE IN EVERY WHITE HOME IN OREGON IN 1933

MYSTERY OF MISSING STAR STATES SCOTTSBORO WITNESS GROWS ONE OF MILLIONS PERSECUTED

Noted Divine Coming
ZION'S BISHOP TO PREACH



Bishop J. W. Martin of the Methodist church who will occupy the pulpit at historical First A. M. E. Zion church on Easter Sunday. A record-breaking audience is expected to meet him on this occasion.

MEIER & FRANK HEAD HONORED

Aaron Frank Elected Chairman of American National Bank Board
Announcement has been made of the election of Aaron M. Frank as chairman of the American National Bank Board, a position which Governor Julius L. Meier held until his recent resignation. Mr. Frank is vice-president and general manager of the Meier and Frank Company, head of the Portland Community Chest, and two years ago was chosen as Portland's "First Citizen."

OREGON'S REPRESENTATIVES VOTE FOR PASSAGE OF BILL

On Tuesday the house passed the 3.2 per cent beer bill by a vote of 316 to 97. It was sent at once to the senate where leaders gave assurance it would pass speedily. The measure leaves regulation and control to the states and allows advertising. Brewers pay \$1,000 a year license for each brewery. It restores the Webb-Kenyon law as protective measure to dry states and areas. Oregon's representatives, Mott, Pierce and Martin, voted for the bill.

Honor Negro Representative

Topeka, Kans., Mar. 17—(L. A. Greg for the A. N. P.)—On Tuesday Mar. 7, Dr. W. M. Blount, State Representative from the 8th District, was called upon to preside over the state legislature of Kansas. Dr. Blount is serving his third term as the representative from his District and bears the distinction of being the senior representative from Wyandotte county. He has served his District with such ability that he has been returned twice to his present position, after the enviable record he made during his first term, even polling a majority of the votes of the other group. In presiding over the House last Tuesday, Dr. Blount won the hearty commendation of all his fellow legislators both Republican and Democra-

CONFLICTING THEORIES ADVANCED BY BOTH

Chattanooga, Tenn., March 17—(By A. N. P.)—When Ruby Bates, alleged rape victim and girl hobo who achieved notoriety in connection with the famous Scottsboro case, left home in Huntsville, Ala., on the night of Feb. 27, she may have just decided to go out on a little harmless lark and then got lost.

Up until Saturday of last week, she had not returned to her home. That made her absence without leave amount to almost two weeks.

In the meantime, the legal lights of the International Labor Defense appeared before Judge Hawkins in Scottsboro in behalf of the nine boy victims and sought and obtained a change of venue to Decatur. Opposing them in an effort to have the indictments against the boys quashed because no Negroes were on the grand jury which indicted them nor on the petit jury which convicted them was the attorney general of the state, Thomas Knight.

The date of the trial is problematical. It may not occur before June, although by special arrangement between prosecution and defense, it can be held much sooner. The state is said to wish to get through with the case. The defense is not hurried, the reports state.

Of chief concern as matters now stand is the whereabouts of Ruby Bates. Ruby is the girl who wrote a letter stating that she lied in court when she said the boys had attacked her. Later, police said that she repudiated that letter and declared that if

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AT THE ORIENTAL THEATRE

The double feature bill opening at the Oriental Friday presents "Nagana" and "Parachute Jumper", the former with locale in Africa and the latter taking audiences to Nicaragua. Tala Birell is featured with Melvyn Douglas and Onslow Stevens in "Nagana", story of sleeping-sickness, while Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Leo Carrillo and Bette Davis are leads in "Parachute Jumper", a story about the marines. Frank McHugh, Sheila Terry and Claire Dodd are in the cast of the latter film, in which airplane crashes and comedy are mixed.

The Oriental is noted for its unusual high class entertainment. Last week the theatre offered "Goonoo Goona" a most interesting, artistic and altogether informative picture of the Bali people.

tic, for the very dignified manner in which he served, the fairness of his decisions and the courtesies toward his fellow members.

This is real history in the great state of Kansas, for it is the first time that a colored man has presided over a session of the legislature. But that is the spirit of Kansas, the home of John Brown. Dr. Blount is the first colored man to hold a chairmanship of one of the important committees of the legislature, being chairman of the Committee on Hygiene and Public Health. He is sought by fellow members for his advice on all matters affecting legislation because of his knowledge of State affairs and his sane leadership.

(By DAWN LOVELACE)

Theodore Jordan awaits the hangman's noose at the Oregon State Penitentiary, accused, convicted, and sentenced to death for the crime of killing a Southern Pacific Railroad employee last year. He was sentenced by a Klamath County Court at Klamath Falls, convicted by circumstantial evidence, while evidence in his favor was suppressed by the State. Jordan's skin is black. He is an unemployed, impoverished member of the working class, hard hit by this economic crisis. Those are the two potent factors involved in his conviction and sentence. For more than twenty years Klamath County had not seen a death sentence passed. For more than twenty years murderers had been escaping the capital punishment for their crimes. After twenty years of leniency, the court passed a death sentence upon a poor, unemployed Negro—in spite of the fact that the evidence which convicted him was purely circumstantial—that no one witnessed the crime; that a serious element of doubt must certainly have been apparent to even a court of white man's justice!

But that is not all! Theodore Jordan according to official records, confessed to the brutal slaying of the white man. His confession in black and white were produced to convince the jury that he killed the railroad employee, depriving his family of the protection of a father and husband. Those confessing statements help to whip up the race hatred of the court, jury, and citizens. And those confessions, so damning in appearance . . . Statements signed after long days of third-degree torture—physical brutalities which included a kick in the groin, permanently injuring the condemned Negro; burns inflicted by a "lie detector", applied to his arms; beatings leaving their marks on the body and their impression of terror on the mind, and threats at the hands of the investigators. Such were the confessions—statements prepared for Jordan's signature when he had at last endured to the limit of human capacity the terror and cruelties inflicted upon him.

And now he is waiting in the death cell, and will hang unless the masses of white and Negro people respond to his appeal for support.

But Theodore Jordan is something else—he is a deeper, farther-reaching significance than an isolated instance of persecution. He is one of 12 million Negroes in America whom the U. S. Constitution was supposed to have freed! Freedom for the Negro masses! Freedom for the slaves! It is a harsh and bitter mockery at which history will point in scorn! The 12 million Negroes, descendants of slave victims who were brought to this country in the horrible slave traffic before the Civil War, are guaranteed freedom—but actually face Jim-Crowism, so that they dare not ride in the same Pullman with white "folks". James W. Ford, a national Negro figure, was forced to buy a double berth out of Portland because he could not associate with white passengers on the railroad that has been so instrumental in the persecution of Theodore Jordan. Some counties in Indiana and Illinois do not permit Negroes to live inside their boundaries. Negro students are excluded from various state universities. Even in the army, during the world war, Negroes were segregated in separate companies, and a campaign was carried on in France, urging the native French people not to treat Negro soldiers as equals lest it demoralize them and make it difficult to keep them in their places at home! And this Democracy, for which those Negroes helped fight—for which they mingled their blood with the blood of white soldiers in France—does the Negro share in it at elections? No indeed! Negroes are kept from the polling places by discriminatory laws which many state have enacted. Clever laws—subtle tricks of

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THE NINE SCOTTSBORO BOYS WHO WILL BE RETRIED AT DECATUR, ALABAMA IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THEIR CASE HAS ATTRACTED WORLD-WIDE ATTENTION THRU ACTIVITIES OF THE I.L.D.

CHANGE OF VENUE GRANTED IN SCOTTSBORO CASE

Motion to Quash Indictments Adjudged to Small Town

SCOTTSBORO, Ala.,—Mar. 17—A change of venue from this lynch town was won by the International Labor Defense attorneys for the new trial of the nine innocent Scottsboro Negro boys, today. At the same time, in granting the change, Judge E. A. Hawkins, the same who conducted the original lynch hearing in April, 1931, refused to move the trial to Birmingham, but set it in the town of Decatur in Morgan County, two counties removed from Jackson County.

Defense counsel raised opposition to moving the trial to this town, scarcely 50 miles from Scottsboro, and offered proof of prejudice in Morgan County, which Judge Hawkins refused to consider. A motion for a re-hearing will be filed it was announced.

The motion to quash the indictment against the boys on the ground that Negroes were excluded from the Grand Jury which handed it down, was

adjudged to the Decatur hearing. Evidence was brought forward to show that Negroes in Jackson County were not eligible but had not been called for Grand Jury service, and that Judge Hawkins' move, forced by the and illegal practice in the county. Decatur is a small town of about 20,000, lacking the wide Negro and white working-class population which in Birmingham, would have made it more difficult for the authorities to organize lynch-gangs during the trial, removing the trial to Birmingham. Atmosphere at Scottsboro was tense all day Monday and Tuesday, while Attorneys General George W. Cham-lee, Irving Schwab, and Carol King of the I.L.D. presented their motions, the streets as they did on the day of the original hearing, in response to a third-party call published in the Jackson County Sentinel the week preceding. The obvious intention was to intimidate the defenders of the innocent boys.

The attorneys presented the two motions late Monday, after waiting all day for the case to be called. So Judge Hawkins himself was obviously fraught with possibilities of violence

was the situation in the town they were not able to stay overnight when the hearing was adjourned until Tuesday morning, but were forced to go to Chattanooga and return the next day, in accordance with an established world-wide pressure, it was pointed out by I.L.D. representatives, was designed to give an illusion of "fair play" to the masses of workers all over the world which have been watching the progress of the case, without actually removing the trial to Birmingham. The defense chose as the least unfavorable city in the state. Judge Hawkins himself shown stubborn opposition to the choice of Birmingham by the defense counsel, and in his choice of Decatur revealed the lynch-boss determination to keep the trial in the northern rural section of Alabama, near Huntsville.

At the same time, the I.L.D. pointed out, the change was in itself a partial victory, inasmuch as Attorney-General Thomas E. Knight, who personally took charge of the prosecution had expressed bitter opposition to it, and day for the case to be called. So Judge Hawkins himself was obviously fraught with possibilities of violence unfavorable to the defense.

NEGRO VETERANS TAKE NOTICE OF MEETING

Portland, Oregon, March 18—(Special to The Advocate)—A provisional committee of veterans has been organized to lay plans for a campaign against the proposed cuts in disability allowances, pensions, compensation and hospital privileges. The Committee meets every Tuesday at 8 P. M. in Room 720, County Court House.

"There are a lot of Negro war vets in Portland who will be effected by this economy program of the federal government," Howard Hanes, Chairman of the committee said. "It is obvious that we will all have to fight this out together—or else starve together. Negro war veterans are urged to come to our committee meetings and help plan this fight, and help carry it through."

Hanes stated that plans have already been drawn up for a mass and delegated, state-wide conference to be held in Portland, 2:30, April 2nd, Sunday, where further plans for action will be discussed.

He urges the attendance of all Negro veterans of any American war to attend the conference, either as delegates elected by an organization to which they belong, or as individuals.

SIGNAL VICTORY WON IN JESS HOLLINS' CASE

Okmulgee, Okla., March 17—(By A. N. P.)—Defense counsel for Jess Hollins, Negro, charged with the rape of Alta McCullom, white girl, won a signal victory here Tuesday when Sam Cunningham, assistant county attorney of Creek County returned from Sapulpa and voluntarily asked Judge Mark L. Bozarth to dismiss the information which the day before Cunningham had declared he had the right to amend.

As the case now stands, there is no charge in any court against Hollins. The prisoner is still held, and it is possible that new information will be filed in Creek County against the now famous prisoner. Hollins' attorneys express the belief that they will be just as able to demur the prosecution out of court on their next information as in this instance.

STANWYCK IN PERSON HEADS MUSICAL REVUE FOR PORTLAND



Barbara Stanwyck, famous screen and stage star, and Frank Fay, nationally known comedian, head the cast of "Tattle Tales," gigantic musical revue on two acts and 28 scenes, which appears in the auditorium, Portland, on Wednesday and Thursday evening, March 22 and 23. The show arrives on the "Tattle Tales" special train consisting of ten Pullman cars, three baggage cars and a diner. There will be a special matinee on Thursday, March 23, and the management of the auditorium announces new 1933 prices for the engagement. "Tattle Tales" is en route to the world's fair at Chicago.

The most important theatrical announcement is made by the Auditorium, which advertises the engagement of "Tattle Tales," gigantic musical revue with Frank Fay, noted comedian, and Barbara Stanwyck, screen celebrity, for two days commencing Wednesday, March 22, with a popular price matinee on Thursday, March 23rd.

Seventy-five persons comprise the entourage which comes here direct from a record-breaking engagement in San Francisco. The company carries a special orchestra, two carloads of scenic equipment, 17 wardrobe trunks of lavish costumes and travels in a special train.

Of extreme interest to women are the gowns worn by Miss Stanwyck, who reenacts several scenes from her most popular motion pictures. Among the special contributors to the revue are the following American and European headliners: Don Cummings, Bradley & Wayne, the Orange Grove Four, Dorothy Douglass, Buck Mack, Salu Brilliant, and the Famous Chain Gang Jubilee Singers, all new to Portland.

In addition is the chorus, a handpicked aggregation of glorified American beauties; song hits galore, and beautiful melodies. Special low prices prevail. Best seats are priced at \$2.00, \$1.50 and \$1.00, with desirable seats at 75c and 50c. Mail order response is establishing a new record for Portland.