

Tuskegee Is More Than A School; It's An All-American Institution Serves As Model For Whole World

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—Volumes have been written about Tuskegee Institute, but half has not been told about this school, founded in the heart of the Black Belt by Booker T. Washington sixty years ago. For Tuskegee is not only a unique school, it is an American institution.

More than a school for the training of colored youth in the practical trades and professions, it has served as a model for educators of many races and as a basis for a number of present-day government projects and private agencies. It has also been used as a pattern for educational institutions on four continents.

THOUSANDS VISIT CAMPUS

Its widespread influence is attested by the thousands of visitors who come annually from all parts of the world to study the aims and methods initiated by its founder, the famous Booker T. Washington. Last year alone, 7,000 visitors

signed its guest registers. Today the school is worth close to \$5,000,000 in buildings and equipment, owns 3,550 acres of land, and expends an annual budget of close to \$1,000,000. The student enrollment, hovering around 2,000 annually, is one of the largest in the world among Negro colleges; and its faculty, consisting of some 260 members is now and has always been composed exclusively of Negroes.

Booker T. Washington, only a few years removed from slavery when he began his career at Tuskegee, set out to give his people the sort of training he felt would be most suitable for their existence and growth in a difficult and unenviable state in which they found themselves—thrown without preparation wholly upon their resources. In his own words, he wanted to teach them "to put brains and skill



AN ABLE ADMINISTRATOR. Dr. Frederick Douglass Patterson, Tuskegee's third president, is pictured here as he spoke over a nationwide radio hookup recently. Dr. Patterson is credited with having brought Tuskegee back to its fundamental purposes.

into the common occupations of life."

AHEAD OF TIME

Today, in the midst of the national cry for men skilled in these occupations—it is belatedly realized that "Booker T." was fifty years ahead of his time in pointing the way to what President Roosevelt has recently characterized as "the more abundant life." It is also to the credit of the late Dr. Robert Russa Moton, who succeeded Dr. Washington and to Dr. Frederick Douglass Patterson that they caught the far-sighted vision that was Dr. Washington's and carried the pioneering idea of industrial education that is Tuskegee's ever forward.

Tuskegee today is a little city in itself, with all of the conveniences of one living on school property. There are some 5,000 residents, and the number is increasing. The institute has its own bank under federal control, whose total resources as of March 31, 1941, were \$250,310. Several years ago, this figure was twice as high.

HAS OWN POST OFFICE

It has its own United States post office, which, in 1920, was rated second class, eight years before the post office in the town of Tuskegee was so rated. In order to receive this classification U. S. post offices must do a \$12,000 annual business in stamp sales alone.

Tuskegee Institute Post office does a \$100,000 postal saving business annually and offers an international money order service. For three months in succession in early 1940 it sold the highest amount of savings bonds among post offices of its class in the whole state of Alabama, and it is now doing a normal business in defense bonds. The office serves the immediate campus, the village of Greenwood, where many of the faculty members rent and own homes, and some residents of Tuskegee town.

A special honor came to the post office last year when the federal government issued a stamp honoring the founder. Sale of the stamp was launched here by Postmaster General James A. Farley and \$23,336 worth of them was sold here on the first day.

CHAMBLISS BUILT HOTEL

Not alone the recipient of

philanthropy of white capitalists, Tuskegee can boast of significant gifts from its own people. The late William Chambliss, a cotton farmer, gave to the school before his death money to build a hotel, it cost \$44,401—and stands in The Block, serving as an apartment house for employees, while its first floor is used for shops. At his death Mr. Chambliss, also, bequeathed \$68,502 for the children's house which serves as the elementary school building, and a large tract of land.

In the same spirit, the school's own Dr. Carver has recently given more than \$32,000, practically his life's savings, to the school of maintenance of the agricultural research foundation, which he now heads, and has added the several monetary awards he has received in recent months from outstanding national organizations. The 6,000 alumni and 50,000 former students frequently rally to their alma mater's pleas for help, as well as volunteer contributions from time to time.

Although encouraging, Tuskegee in many ways, the state of Alabama has not been as liberal as would be expected in the face of the goodwill and more tangible assets that the institute has brought to its inhabitants. Only last year the state raised its annual appropriation to \$5,000, a meagre sum for the school's million dollar budget. However, it did dip into its jeans for \$15,000 more to construct a building for the vocational guidance program in the state.

STARTED MANY NATIONAL MOVEMENTS

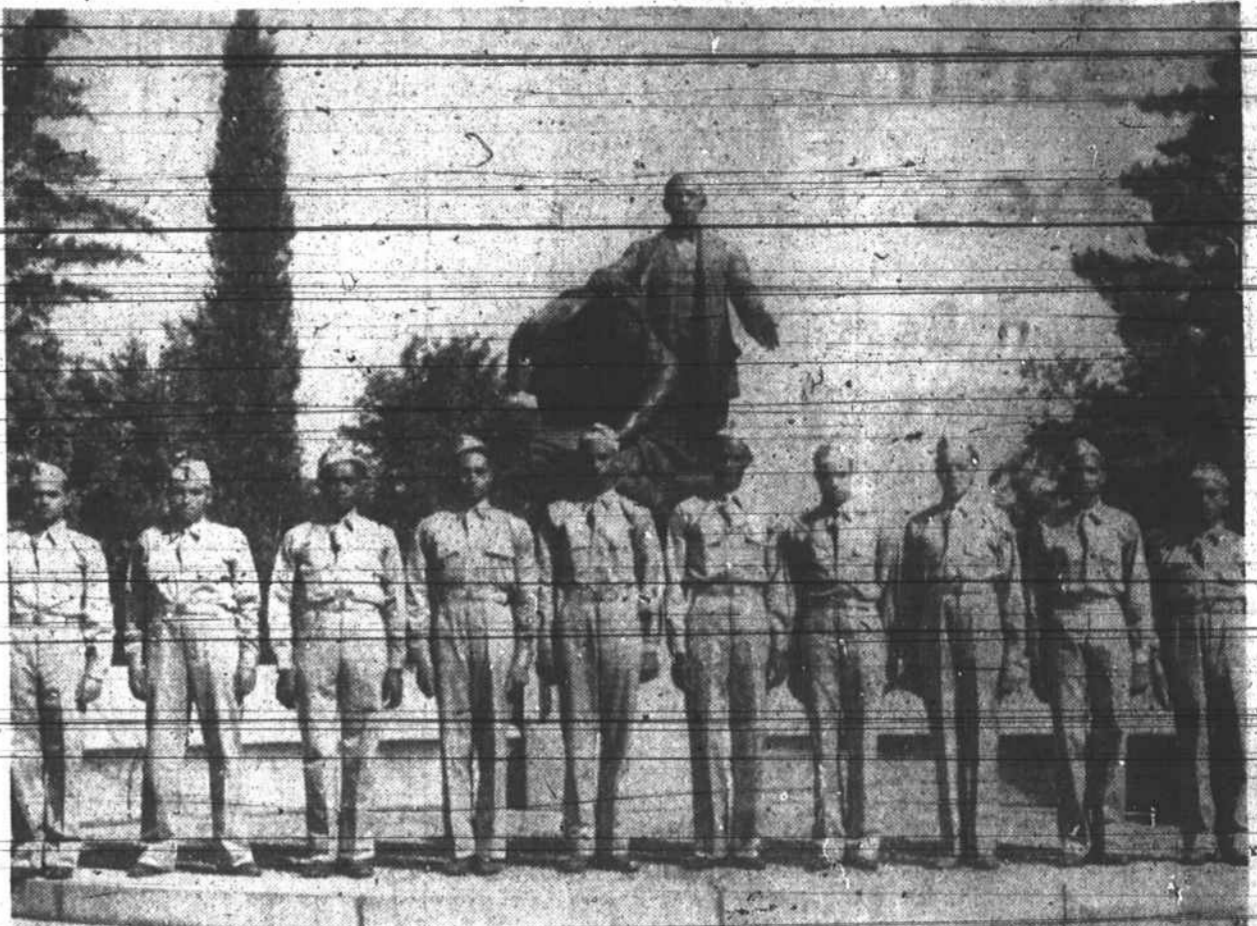
Exclusive of present-day, the national health week, the National Negro Business league, and other significant movements, which can trace their origin to Tuskegee, the seed was sown here for the modern Rosenwald rural schools, of which there are now more than 5,000 in the south existing as properties of the states. And the Jeanes fund for rural education also sprung from its influence.

In 1908, at the call of the founder, Monroe N. Work went to Tuskegee to set up a department of record and research, which has become the most important clearing house for information on the status of the Negro in the United States, if not in the world. Inquiries come here from all parts of the country and the foreignlands and the federal government leans heavily on this office for information pertaining to colored people.

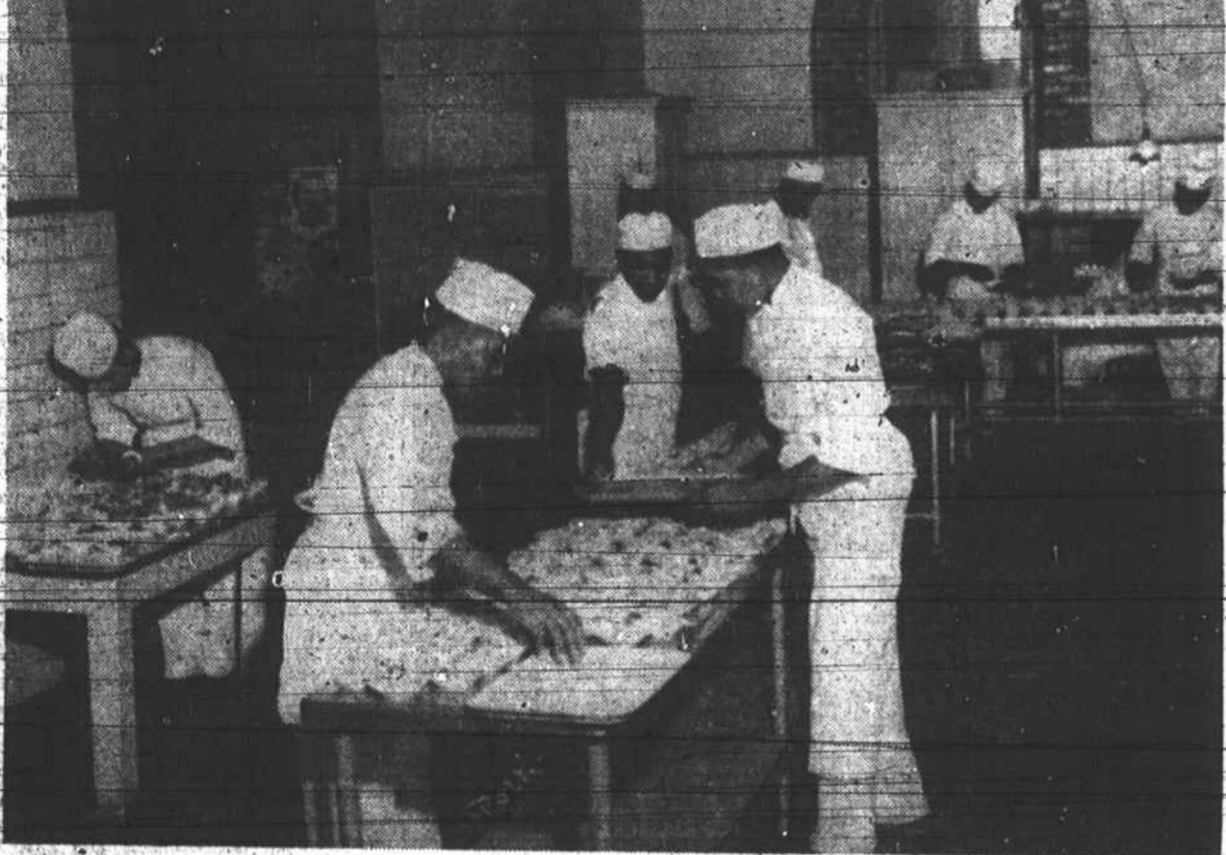
The Negro Year Book, an accepted authority on the annuals of the American Negro, was launched by Dr. Work in 1912, with each subsequent edition being compiled and edited by him and printed by the institute's press. For his development of the bureau and his recent exhaustive "Bibliography of the Negro in Africa and America" Dr. Work was honored with the Harmon award in education in 1928. Ralph N. Davis, who now heads the department of records and research, has supervised a number of students for the federal government in the past few years and is now working on two books: one a study of vocational education in Negro life, the other on the Negro newspapers in the United States.

SPLASH INSURANCE

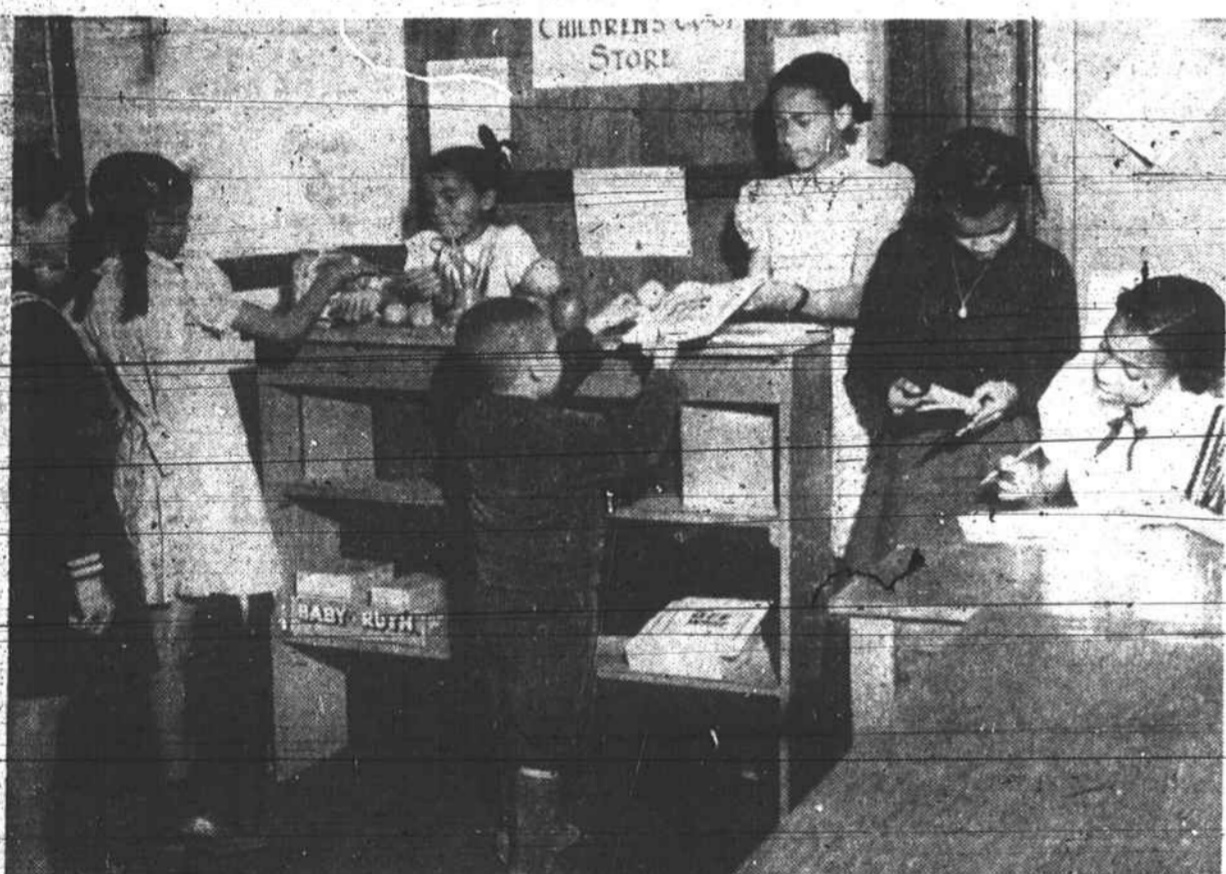
Covering a bowl up to 15 inches in diameter, a transparent shield to prevent food spattering has been invented to be fitted over the shaft of an electric mixer.



THESE AVIATION cadets stand in front of the Washington monument erected by alumni and friends at a cost of \$25,000.



ONE OF THE MOST popular courses which Dr. Pa'terson's administration is the commercial dietetics course. Here students get practice in food preparation.



IN THIS CHILDREN'S cooperative store, the youngsters of the community take charge of all phases of the store's operation under adult direction.



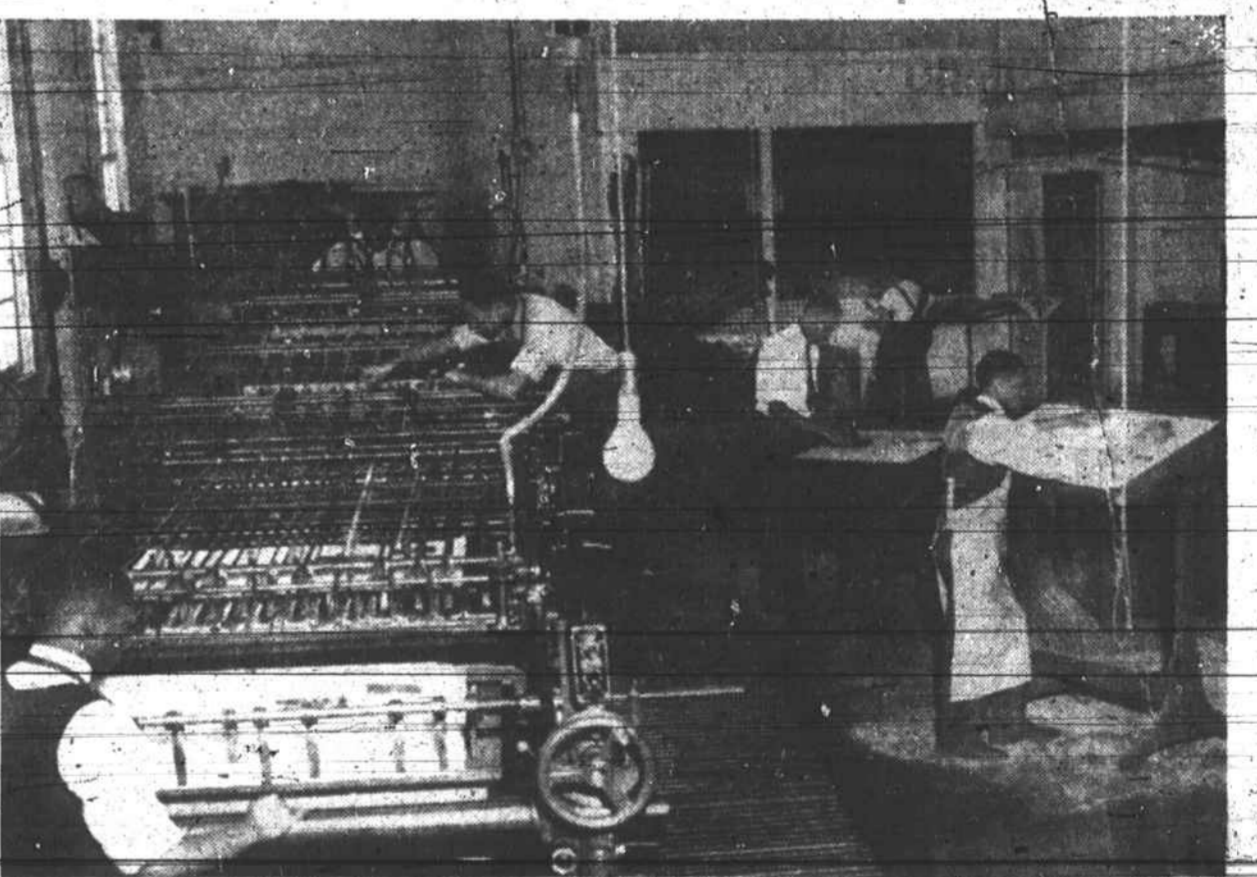
ONE OF THE newest trade courses to be added is radio repair. These students are busy getting two receiving sets back into working order.



DR. JOHN W. CHENAULT, internationally famous surgeon, who heads the Tuskegee Infantile Paralysis unit, is shown examining an aviation student. The 99th Pursuit Squadron, an all-Negro air corps, is located at Tuskegee.



DESIGNING AND tailoring of garments is one of the most popular courses at Tuskegee Institute. These girls are putting finishing touches on two dresses.



PRINTING CRAFTSMEN are being developed here in this photograph of students at work in the large and modernly equipped Tuskegee printing shop.



DR. GEORGE W. CARVER is pictured here as he chatted with the auto magnet, Henry Ford.