

Doings In "The Gate City" Of The South.

By W. Frank Williams
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ATLANTA, GA., Jan. 7.—The most important event of the week is the writer's birthday celebration. Today is our birthday and we have seen thirty-two springs. Also today marks the tenth month of the existence of our son, W. F., Junior. The writer dreamed his away this morning at three, but at nine-forty tonight (W. F., Jr.), will be presented with a bottle of milk.

INTRODUCING ATLANTA.

What is Atlanta, the capital of Georgia? Yes, but it's more than that! It is known everywhere as "the New York of the South." It has almost as many people as Jacksonville, Savannah, Charleston and Columbia combined. It is the hub around which the entire south-east revolves. Its building permits amounted to \$18,000,000 in 1924 and \$23,000,000 in 1925. It has more skyscrapers than any city south of Baltimore. It has more apartment houses than any twelve cities south of the Ohio river. It has more miles of street railway than New Orleans. It is the southern distributng point for nearly every Northern manufacturing concern. Atlanta has manufacturing of nearly every commodity from automobiles and street cars to pins and paper. The United States Penitentiary is here. Stone Mountain, the world's largest solid rock is near here. The Federal Reserve Bank for the sixth district is here. The Cyclorama with its \$50,000 painting of the "Battle of Atlanta" (civil war) is here.

NEGRO ENTERPRISES.

Atlanta has five Negro Colleges, two Theological Seminaries, three Normal schools, one business college, and fourteen public schools. Atlanta is the home of two insurance companies operating in states from Florida to Kansas. More than one hundred Negro churches are in Atlanta proper. Atlanta has eleven Negro drug stores, five theatres, and undertakers, real estate offices, lawyers, doctors, dentists, and many of the usual businesses too numerous to mention.

So, this is Atlanta from which you will read weekly news reports.

NINETY-SIX DANCERS ARRESTED

A big party was cut short of its climax on Friday night when officers entered the home of Lena Mae Higgy, Elm Street, and arrested ninety-six men and women who were enjoying a "big evening." Her cottage was too small for all who were invited so she borrowed the homes of two neighbors to accommodate the crowd. Evidently the cops were "put wise" of the occasion, and a squad of the husky blue coats swooped down upon the scene. They searched for liquor but were not able to find it. So they made a case of disorderly conduct against hostess and attendants.

STINSON'S SCHOOL CONDEMNED.

The Atlanta Normal and Industrial Institute, of which the Rev. Richard D. Stinson is principal, has been condemned by the city as an unfit institution for the health and comfort of its students. This act is the result of a charge made by one of the patrons that Stinson had unmercifully whipped some of the small children under his care. Upon investigation it was found that the school building was in a dilapidated condition, window panes out, beds broken down and linen unclean, heaters out of order and everything run down. The school is owned by Stinson who solicits funds from the wealthy white citizens of Atlanta under the pretense that he is giving the students industrial training. Many white men who have aided the school have never seen it. It is said that Stinson has bought personal real estate with much of the money he has collected from white people. He was arrested and released under \$500.00 bond. The colored people of Atlanta do not support nor approve Rev. Stinson's school as it is intended as a slap at higher education and training that will make colored youths independent of hiring themselves out as servants.

STREET CARS vs. JITNEYS.

Jitney competition in recent months has made things rather tough for the Georgia Railway and Power Company which operates the street cars of Atlanta. The Company lost on an average of \$35,000.00 per month during the year just closed and as a result has launched a fight against the jitney busses of the city. Several bus lines are owned and operated by Negroes and have proved quite a convenience to working people and school children. Some of these busses will seat twenty people and their schedules are closer together than those of some street cars.

Black and White Cab Co. Buys Out A. B. C. Co.

The "Bluebird" Cabs, the only cabs of the city driven by colored men, have been bought by the Black and White Cab Co. The "Bluebirds" were owned by the Atlanta Baggage and Cab Co. Their new owners have replaced some of the colored drivers with white ones, giving the remaining colored drivers the colored patronage and the white drivers the white patronage. The colored drivers are permitted to ride white patrons but the white drivers do not ride colored patrons. They are the prettiest taxis in the city and their colored headquarters is on Auburn Ave.

THE LAFAYETTE PLAYERS.

The Lafayette Players, the leading dramatic company of the race, have just completed a two weeks' engagement at the new Crystal Theatre on West Hunter Street. Among their presentations were, "The Firstborn," "The Laws of God and Man," and "Who is Guilty?" They gave three performances daily and at nearly every curtain filled the big play house which seats twelve hundred people.

WRITES FOR LEADER



W. FRANK WILLIAMS

The Leader has secured W. Frank Williams, of Atlanta, Ga., to contribute news letters and editorials which it is expected will be of much value to the paper.

Mr. Williams is well known in Columbia, having spent several years as a student at Allen University, and in his last year assisted Editor Roach with The Southern Indicator.

He is a graduate of Morehouse College, class of 1922, a church worker, a Pythian and a member of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity, one of the oldest Greek letter fraternities of the race.

Mr. Williams will conduct a column headed: "The Searchlight," and will send news of Atlanta and Georgia to The Leader.

Twenty Houston Martyrs Win Freedom This Season.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Ave., New York City, announced that four Houston martyrs released on Sunday Dec. 14, made a total of 20 released from the Federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kas., during the year. These figures were corroborated by a telegram received from Warden Biddle.

The N. A. A. C. P. in connection with the above news, made public a complete list of men released since the presentation to President Coolidge in Washington last February of a petition signed by 125,000 names; the movement being a direct result of the N. A. A. C. P. Pilgrimage to Leavenworth from Kansas City during the 14th Annual Conference of the Association in 1923. The list of men released together with the dates of parole is as follows:

Isaac A. Deyo, June 5th; Ben McDaniel, Aug. 16; Renben W. Baxter, Sept. 17; Douglas T. Bol-

den, Sept. 17; Roy Tyler, Sept. 17; Jos. Williams, Jr. Sept. 17; Albert T. Hunter, Nov. 10; John Ranier, Nov. 10; Jas. E. Woodruff, Nov. 10; J. H. Hudson, Jr., Nov. 13; John Jeter, Nov. 26; John H. Gould, Nov. 26; Jas. H. Mitchel, Nov. 26; Grant Anderson, Dec. 3; Chas. A. Hatton, Dec. 14; Robert Tillman, Dec. 14; Hezekiah J. Turner, Dec. 14.

At the time of the N. A. A. C. P. pilgrimage to Leavenworth penitentiary in 1923, there were 54 former members of the 24th U. S. Infantry in prison and one in the hospital who was subsequently transferred back to the prison, making 55 in all. Of this number 35 now remain, all of them with sentences reduced in consequence of the campaign and petition presented to President Coolidge, and they will be paroled at intervals during the next few years, up to 1928. According to a letter from John W. Weeks, Secretary of War, to the N. A. A. C. P., dated May 13, 1924, 10 life prisoners and six long term men will be eligible for parole in 1925; 16 life prisoners will be eligible for parole in 1927; and four in 1928.

GREAT TENOR PLACES HIS TOWN ON MAP.

Hayes Won Fame in Face of Big Odds.

Rome, Ga.—Obscure and shut in by the foothills of northern Georgia, known only to postal rural carriers and tax collectors lay the little hamlet village of Curryville. Its deep tranquility was undisturbed by the noisy rush of the city or even the fair sized town. It sought no contact from the outside, it offered very little welcome to those coming within its boundaries. It had only a store, a near store, a blacksmith shop and a few residences and wanted nothing else.

Today, the fame of this little Floyd county village has, through the name of one of its natives and perhaps the only one of any consequence, spread to the uttermost parts of the earth. And now, though it still has the same number of houses and other buildings, it has attached an importance of which any town would like to boast.

More than 30 years ago in the Georgia hamlet, there was born a man who is now perhaps the world's greatest tenor, Roland Hayes. Soon after Hayes left the old home town and as he ascended to lofty plains of glory in the eyes of the world, so rose the renown of Curryville, far above the tallest peaks, far out across the widest oceans.

A brief survey of Hayes' work as given out by a New York paper is as follows:

"Roland Hayes, born at Curryville, Floyd County, Georgia, has just won the praise of all New York music circles. Hayes is a tenor and critics in Europe declare that there are few, if any, in the world whose voices surpass his in quality. His income this year will exceed \$100,000. He has sung by command before the king and queen of England, and by invitation before society people in special concerts, both in England and America.

"Hayes and his mother moved from Curryville, Ga., to Chattanooga, Tenn., when he was 17 years old. Another man, a graduate of Oberlin college, heard him sing in a Chattanooga church and urged him to take up music. This man and two other men paid Hayes' way through Oberlin and he worked his way through the music conservatory. Then he took a place as a waiter in an exclusive club in Louisville, Ky. The white men there, members of the club, heard him sing and raised a purse that sent him to New England to study. He went abroad, where he has

been for the last four years. Last year he sang in Germany and received the praise and applause of the greatest masters. Protests went up against Hayes singing in public and to such audiences as he drew. The anger was inspired by the French black troops from Africa. Hayes continued to sing and the storm of protests that raged around his head brought music lovers and critics from all over Europe. He won unanimous praise and Germany's wrath turned to applause.

"In all his concerts Hayes sings the spirituals of the slaves of ante-bellum days. Once recently at a Brooklyn concert someone who did not know about the southern plantation spirituals laughed out loud, and Hayes stopped in the middle of a song. A spiritual is too sacred to be laughed at. He was singing 'Heaven, Heaven.'

With the mammoth success of Hayes and the singular fame achieved by the little town has come a certain pride to Curryville. It now looks with honor and respect upon the great singer, who once dwelled there. Even the relatives of Hayes, most of whom still reside in "the old home town" have received a great degree of recognition on account of the achievements of their singing relative.

BARS SALE TO COLORED

Temporary Stay Granted By Judge of District of Columbia.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 22.—In keeping with the growing manifestation of prejudice in Washington, Justice Hoehling, of the District Supreme Court, has signed a temporary restraining order preventing Minnie E. Torry from selling her home at 40 Randolph place, N. W., to a colored person.

It was rumored that Mrs. Torry has indicated her desire to leave the neighborhood and that she contemplated selling her property to a Negro, which started no end of excitement among other white residents in the block.

The order of the court is based on a complaint of the owners of five houses in the same block, who point out that the deed by which the title to the property was acquired by the defendant contained a covenant "not to sell to a person of Negro blood under penalty of \$2,000 to be lien on the property."

The petitioners claim that the sale of the said property to a Negro will cause adjacent properties to depreciate in value. The Boston Guardian.

Colored Man Who Tumbled Building Down Upon Himself Rescued.

Kansas City, Mo. Buried for more than seven hours under tons of debris by an explosion that demolished a three-story building here today, Aureney Wilkins, 25, Negro, who was rescued by firemen late today, was little the worse for his experience.

"It was powerful cold down there," the Negro smilingly observed when hoisted from the wrecked basement. "I spent a whole lot of my time praying."

He was suffering from exposure and a slight cut on the head. When the building collapsed Wilkins was thrown into the basement, where he crouched against a wall in a pocket formed by fallen timbers.

Harold Dixon who escaped uninjured, said the explosion followed soon after Wilkins had lighted a cigarette near a gasoline vat.

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