



BUILDING No. 29—NEGRO VILLAGE WASH-HOUSE

Building No. 29

The Negro Wash House, or as it is officially known Building No. 29, has been completed and in use since early in March. This one-story and basement building, measuring one hundred and fifty by seventy feet, built of red brick with concrete trim, was started in July, 1918.

It is admirably located, where Grant Street meets the Plant site, north of Roosevelt Road. The convenience of this location is unsurpassed, and it saves many steps from the village to the Carbon and Aluminum Plants that formerly were wasted in weary walking down to the old building near the Railroad Station, where the colored force changed clothing and clocked in. A broad concrete road and sidewalk run down a gentle slope, connecting the new Wash House with the main passageway thru the plant.

The new building is the last word in fireproof design, with one hundred and seventy-nine washbasins, twenty-four shower baths, and nine hundred and forty lockers for the men, located on the main floor, and forty basins, four showers, and one hundred and eighteen lockers for women, in their own wash-room in the basement. The building is so arranged that the lockers, showers, etc., may be used without the necessity of clocking in, and are thus available at all times to the people of the colored village.

The clocking arrangement is unique, in that the "In" and "Out" lanes are provided with turnstiles, whose operation is controlled by one man. The operator

is in a nice little glass cubby-hole between the two stiles. And when the stiles get to clicking and whirring like Liberty motors, as they do on payday when for instance the seven to three shift comes off, he can grip his control levers, close his eyes, and imagine easily he is in the NC-4, bouncing off Punta Delgada Bay, Lisbon bound, the blue sky over him, the blue sea beneath him, a fifty-thousand-dollar prize at the end of his trip, and the world ever after a paradise of perfect metal, with low carbon consumption, and a copper content of nothing.

And while we are talking of unique things, you should see the mechanically operated plant gate at Building 29. They do say Saint Peter has been deviling Chief Early for the gate tender's job (or would angeling for the job be better than deviling? I don't know). At any rate, the gate is operated by a crank within the control cage, another little glassbound structure, shyly sticking to the southwest corner of the building.

You come to the gate. The man looks at you. If you have business within, the gate will miraculously open. Should you appear to be an undesirable citizen, Bolshevik, or an insurance agent maybe, sans pass, outside you stay. And the superior person in the conning tower, heedless of your pleading, puffs on, and reads the last BULLETIN, at peace with the world. And why not? Omar had nothing on him.

"A book of verses underneath the bough,
A loaf of bread, a jug of wine, and
thou"—

Horatius Hatley, the captain of the gate, has the shade of the old tentmaker green with envy. What verse is comparable to the *Charlotte Observer* or the *Albemarle News*, even if Aiken Moore will write poems for it? A spreading bough is but a flimsy substitute at best for the conning tower. And the loaf and jug is but a step away in the form of delectable sandwiches and Coca Cola from Bob Crump's cafe. As for thousand a thousand thous are his for the asking—for who would not sit with him all day for a single chance to turn the wondrous crank?

Yes, the Negro Wash House is a world of its own, and well worth a visit. It is a credit to the Construction Department, for many features of its design had their inception in the little wooden office south of Building 39. It is an inspiration to the men and women who use it, and it is a monument to the ideal that clean bodies mean clean work, clean play, clean minds, and clean hearts.

Noted Names in A. E. F.

The first name on the alphabetical list of the American expeditionary force is Private Aaae, and the last is Corporal Zzeppenfelt. Between the two names, are more than two million others. George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, Woodrow Wilson, several Caesars, and a few Bismarcks, adorn the ranks with intermittent frequency.

Excluding the commander-in-chief of the army and navy, there is but one Woodrow Wilson. He is a private and according to *Stars and Stripes*, has just been placed in the working personnel of Base Hospital No. 27, which was organized in Pittsburgh.

There is an abundance of the names of great men, including seventy-four George Washingtons. The name of the first president is surpassed by seventy-nine Robert E. Lees, who hold the record for bearers of the names of great men. There are but two Abraham Lincolns, and seven Grants; twelve Caesars, and four Bismarcks.

Among the "common people," there are about fifty-one thousand Smiths. True to their traditional predominance of the directories of most cities, they dominate the American expeditionary force numbers. There are 39,000 Johnsons, 22,500 Joneses, and a like number of Greens. Sullivans aggregate 10,500 Browns, 9,000, and Cohens, 4,500.