

# WALKS 60,000 MILES

SECOND SECTION

## THE CAROLINIAN

WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1949



**Patriarch** — 102 years old, "Uncle Bill" (William) Erwin, born a slave in Transylvania county January 6, 1847, is still able to get around and has a good memory.

### N. C. MOUNTAINEER IS HALE, HEARTY AT 102

BREVARD—Another Transylvania county native worthy of more than passing attention is William Erwin, familiarly known as "Uncle Bill," who was born a slave on January 6, 1847. "Uncle Bill's" age has been authenticated by old records as being 102.

He has lived his entire life in the county and was for many years a member in Bethel Baptist church here. Despite his advanced age, Mr. Erwin is able to walk without assistance and his recollection of events is vivid. He recalls that as a youth he was treated kindly and was given the task of minding the cattle and sheep.

He spent much time raising hogs, deer, wild cats and rabbits which were plentiful in those days. His master was Overton Erwin, a Negro farmer. "Uncle Bill" lives with his daughter, Mrs. Alice Jel-



**DENTAL DEAN** — Dr. William W. Allen will assume duties as the new dean of McHarry's School of Dentistry on August 1. He succeeds Dr. Clifton O. Dammitt, who has been granted an indefinite leave of absence from the college to accept a position with the Veterans Administration at Yonkers, N. Y. Dr. Allen, a graduate of dentistry, is a specialist in prosthetics. Prior to his recent appointment, he served as assistant dean of the dental school. — (ANP)

### WHO IS RIGHT...

ST. LOUIS (ANP) — Police last week arrested the apparent writer of a suicide note they found on a bridge. Held in custody was Oscar Mayweather for allegedly writing "This is all. This is the best way out." The note was addressed to his estranged wife. She commented that this was strange because her husband could neither read nor write. The husband denied that he wrote the note.

### INDIANS ACCUSE US GOVERNMENT OF HIRING BIAS

WASHINGTON — The National Congress of American Indians, the National Indian Youth Council, the National Indian Health Association, the National Indian Education Association and the National Indian Labor Council have accused the U. S. Government of hiring bias against Indians.

The groups, which are organized to help the Indian people, said that the government was "patronizing" toward Indians and "discriminating" against them in favor of non-Indians.

According to the protesters, the bias was shown in the hiring of Indians in Washington and in the loss of 25 top supervisory and professional positions in six regional offices recently held by Indians.

Other charges made by the Indians alleged that educational facilities provided Indians were inferior to those to non-Indians. Dr. Alexander Lesser of the Association said Congress was to blame for this because it gave the department of interior such little funds for the Indian bureau.

### NEGROES IN AAF SEE RESULTS OF TRUMAN ORDER

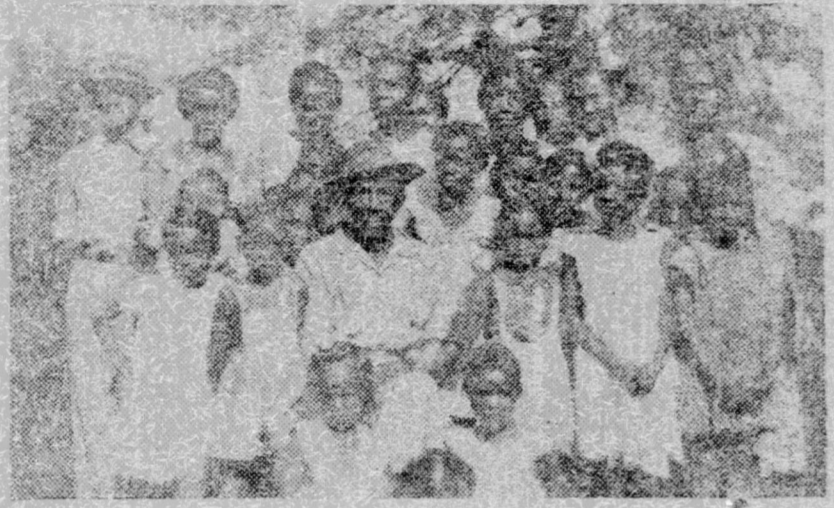
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. (ANP) — Down here at Maxwell Air Force base in the deep south Negro airmen are taking advantage of the President's executive order 9831 regarding equality of opportunity for all men in the armed forces of the United States. One man has requested transfer from an all-Negro unit to an all-white unit. Four attended a dance at the white Airman's club. Another group of 18 men swam at the white Cadet swimming pool.

These incidents do not mean that the camp is changing over to be run by any means. The Negro who wants to transfer to white units will not live with the whites, according to Col. Justice G. Mendenhall, base commander. He lives off the base now and would continue to stay there.



**WRITES ON SWIMMING** — Dr. J. L. Sorugg, of Buffalo, N. Y., vice president of the National Medical Association, is discussing safe swimming in "The Road to Health" column this week relate, "no one should ever swim alone. Accidents can happen to even the best swimmers and some one else should always be along to help out in case he is needed." — (ANP)

### 88-Year-Old Widow With 84 Descendants Travels By Foot



**HAS 84 DESCENDANTS** — Mrs. Sarah Mackay, 88 year-old mountaineer is shown with a few of her 84 children, 40 grandchildren and 32 great grandchildren. She has walked over 60,000 miles to work in 60 years at Brevard, North Carolina.

By J. B. BARREN

BREVARD, N. C. — There is much that is unusual and beautiful to be found in the mountainous area which surrounds Brevard, and no small part of the area's unusual reputation stems from its Negro residents.

This mountain town is surrounded by beautiful peaks and waterfalls, and here it is less than a thousand colored people live amicably with their white brethren.

Included among these is a very unusual family, not only from the standpoint of size, there are approximately 108 of them, but



**PLANS CONVENTION** — Horace Suddeth of Cincinnati, O., is president of the Negro Business League, which is instituting a revitalized program as it celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. The league will hold its annual convention in Detroit Aug. 21-26. — (ANP)

### DIVINITY SCHOOL EMPLOYS NEGRO

PHILADELPHIA (ANP) — Last week the Philadelphia Divinity school announced that it had elected a Negro to its faculty for the first time in its history.

The new faculty member is the Rev. Edgar Charles Young. He will be professor of Biblical and pastoral theology, faculty librarian and director of extension courses.

Dr. Young is in the Protestant Episcopal diocese of Pennsylvania.

Brucellosis in cattle is the source of undulant fever, a serious human disease, as well as the cause of serious economic losses in dairying and in beef herds.

from the fact that only fifty percent of them are the descendants of one woman.

### MOUNTAIN RENAMED

This woman is Mrs. Sarah Thomas Mackay, an 88-year young woman who was born and reared on Peter Mountain in Henderson County. For the past 60 years, however, Mrs. Mackay has lived on what is officially listed as Pinnacle Mountain, but which now is known throughout the region as "Mackay's Mountain."

Mrs. Mackay is the widow of the late George Mackay, a popular mountain fiddler, chair caner and basket maker. To this union were born twelve children, of whom nine are still living.

According to the latest census, however, made with the assistance of Mrs. Ella Bailey, the eldest daughter and Howard Erwin, a son in law, there are 49 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren, which make a total of 84 descendants.

### LIVING CHILDREN

The living children of Mrs. Mackay are: Meda Mae, Ella Bailey, Maggie Lynn, Rebecca, James Agnes, Fannie, Sallie Mae Baker, Thomas Mackay, Kendrick Mackay, Edward Mackay and Cora Mae Baker.

The deceased children are Willie Mackay, Darius Mackay and Mrs. Mary Henrich.

None of the surviving Mackay children live near their mother on "Mackay's Mountain" where they have been homes which overlook the best of Brevard two miles away.

Although she is nearly 90, Mrs. Mackay, from Brevard, is yearly, the ever Mrs. Mackay travels by foot to town and back almost daily to do errands for her favorite white families who feel that they can't do without her.

Continued on page 16



**COMMUNITY LEADER** — W. Roscoe Dausuel (right) of route 5, Hendersonville, is shown with his boyhood friend, J. B. Harren, on a recent visit of the latter to the comfortable Dausuel farm home at Horse Shoe. Mr. Dausuel's farm and the family farm cover the side of a mountain. He builds boats and repairs cars and farm machinery in his spare time.



**AUTHOR** — Esther Warner, author of the revealing and beautiful written book "New Song in a Strange Land," is shown carving an African head from rare camwood. Her new book, which was published by Houghton Mifflin, is hailed as one of the best written on Liberia. — (ANP)