

Things You Should Know

Bessie SMITH

CA 1896-1937

BORN IN CHATTANOOGA, TENN., THERE IS LITTLE KNOWN OF HER EARLY CHILDHOOD. LATER SHE WAS CARED FOR BY THE OTHER GREAT BLUES SINGER, MA RAINEY. SHE BECAME A WELL-PAID STAR OF NEGRO VAUDEVILLE--HER FIRST RECORD SOLD OVER TWO MILLION COPIES. AFTER AN AUTOMOBILE CRASH IN MISSISSIPPI, SHE HAD TO BE TAKEN ALL THE WAY TO MEMPHIS, TENN., IN SEARCH OF A "JIM CROW" HOSPITAL, SHE DIED AS A RESULT OF THE DELAY.



Dr. W. E. B. Dubois'

Reflections and Predictions

BY HOWARD JACKSON
NEW YORK (AP) — In the historic Heights section of Boston, opposite the towering Twentieth Century monuments to finance in lower Manhattan lives an equally historic figure, Dr. William Edward Burghardt Dubois. A native of Great Barrington, Mass., the dean of American Negro educators and historians finds solace in this tranquil area of a busy city and can look back on a life of many accomplishments.

While a young student at Fisk University more than 50 years ago, one is sure he did not realize that in time his parents would take him to four continents, win him numerous distinctions and cause him to write more than fifteen books containing over three and one-half million words. And it is these pursuits that he has steadfastly followed and that have guided him most of his life—namely, the study and analysis of the American "Tenth Man" and his effect upon a changing country in a changing world.

PORTRAIT OF A SCHOLAR
On meeting Dr. Dubois, one is impressed by his gentility and erudition. Without reservation, he speaks of his impressive and large library, which contains books on numerous subjects from the pre-Civil War Underground Railroad to the History of the Revolution in Hungary.

Holding an M. A. and a Ph. D. from Harvard, he stressed the need for higher education among the Negro population. In his words, "Education best suits one to know what is going on around him and thus the wisest course to take." This is no new belief of his. Dating back as far as his difference with Dr. Booker T. Washington, who stressed technical training for the Negro, Dr. Dubois rather advocated academic education, arguing that the colored man had to be taught by some of his own, even in the field of technical skills. He doubt the more than 600 Negro Ph.D.'s and 17,000 B. A.'s in the United States today have strengthened the later contention.

The distinguished sociologist first won recognition as a writer at Harvard for his doctoral treatise, "The Suppression of the American Slave Trade to the United States." Later he served on the faculties at Wilberforce and Atlanta Universities and the University of Pennsylvania.

Determined to show that, under proper conditions and with proper opportunity, the American Negro could attain as much as his fairer brother, he organized numerous bodies to study this theory, including the Atlantic Conference, a center of sociological research comprised of many influential Eastern Schools.

Features and interest in people

guided him to many world centers, including the Paris Exposition and the Races Congress in London in 1911. Undoubtedly an inspiration and symbol to other educators of his country, Dr. Dubois also made several world tours for peace.

ON NATIONAL AFFAIRS
As to the recent Supreme Court decision, which declares segregated public schools illegal, the elderly intellectual feels that it was the only course to implement ours as a Democratic form of government. "Separate but equal" is to

Dr. Dubois segregation within itself and un-Constitutional — a travesty.

The joint founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and founder of the "Crisis" spoke highly of Rev. Martin Luther King. "Honest, straight-forward, well-trained, and knowing the limits," said the Doctor of the Montgomery, Ala. civil rights crusade.

"The economic weapon" is what Dr. Dubois refers to in regards to the tactics of the participants in the recent victorious bus boycott. The power of the consumer when applied hurts those on both sides, he emphasized.

Speaking of the right to vote, the veteran writer points out that during Reconstruction up until 1865

most of the progress in the South benefiting both races was largely made possible by the Negro vote (including mixed schools and better jobs through dividing large plantations). He maintains that the Negro right to vote should not only be guaranteed now, but be accompanied by Federal means if necessary.

"Victory is essential in the production of freedom."

This year's support rate for wheat in North Carolina is \$2.21 per bushel.

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20th Year Marked By NC Welfare

Twenty years ago this month North Carolina put into effect the public assistance program provided for in the Federal Social Security Act.

The financial aid given under this program, begun in 1937, was made available to needy old people and to dependent children (ADC) and to dependent children through aid to dependent children (ADC). At a later time, in 1951, the program of aid to the permanently and totally disabled (APTD) was added. The three programs provide help to persons too old to work, too young to work, or too disabled to work.

The State Board of Public Welfare is the agency responsible under North Carolina law for the supervision of these programs thru the cooperation, administration, and services of county welfare departments. Dr. Ellen Winston, Commissioner of the State Board, states that approximately three-fourths of the current cost of public assistance grants is paid by the Federal government, over one-eighth by the State, and one-tenth by the counties.

Amendments in 1954 to the Social Security Act have given emphasis to non-financial services and to research and training in the public welfare field. Both of these emphases have been a strong part of the North Carolina program for several years. The non-financial services rendered financial services rendered public assistance cases help in many instances to keep the payment lower than they would otherwise need to be.

Since the State law did not become effective until July 1, 1937, in effect full calendar year of operation was that of 1938. In 1938 there were approximately 32,000 needy persons 65 years of age or older receiving old age assistance (OAA). About 200 persons in 1,000 of that age segment were receiving aid. The number of old persons in the State was estimated to have been 148,000 in that year.

The number of persons receiving OAA over this 20 year period has fluctuated from year to year for a variety of reasons. At the present time the number of recipients is remaining remarkably constant despite the fact that the number of older persons in North Carolina is being increased by some 8,000 per year. The beginning benefits of the old-age and survivors insurance program (OASI) has been a major factor in stabilizing the number of recipients of old age assistance despite the rapid increase in persons over 65 years of age.

The high point of the two decades in the number of recipients of old age assistance was reached in 1950 when 65,000 persons were receiving aid.

In April of this year the number of recipients was 51,700, who were receiving an average payment of \$53 per month, or 85 per cent of minimum need. The rate of recipients in the population of older people has dropped from a high of 273 per 1,000 in 1950 to 187 per 1,000 in 1957. The population of older people in the State has risen in the 20 year period to almost double what it was in 1937. The population of persons 65 years of age or older is now estimated to be 235,000.

There were nearly 13,000 needy children receiving aid to dependent children (ADC) 20 years ago when that program was first begun in this State. A number of amendments to the Social Security Act over the years have broadened the program to provide essential food, clothing, and shelter for needy children. In 1953 an amendment added a responsible adult to care for the children in each home receiving ADC.

In April of 1957 there were 84,000 children receiving ADC and the monthly grant was \$17.35, which actually provided for only 73 per cent of minimum need. An average of only thirty-four children per 1,000 currently receive ADC.



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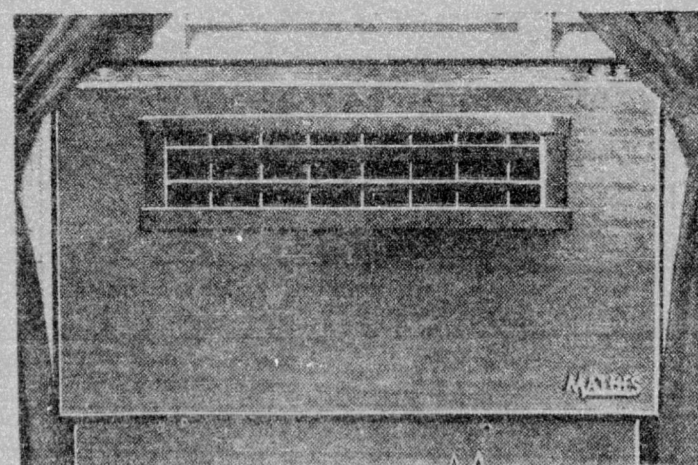
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