


# NEGROES IN DRIVE TO ERECT WORLD'S LARGEST CROSS

## Muffin Wistar Gibbs


BORN IN PHILADELPHIA IN 1823, STARTED SCHOOL WHEN HE WAS SEVEN... HAD TO QUIT A YEAR LATER TO HELP HIS WIDOWED MOTHER. EVENTUALLY HE BECAME A CARPENTER'S APPRENTICE. WHEN HE ENDED HIS PERIOD OF TRAINING, HE WAS SO SUCCESSFUL HE STARTED HIS OWN BUSINESS AS A BUILDER AND CONTRACTOR. WORKED TO FREE SLAVES AND JOINED FREDERICK DOUGLASS IN AN ANTI-SLAVERY LECTURE TOUR GOING TO CALIFORNIA. HE BECAME A PARTNER IN A CLOTHING FIRM. IN 1852, HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE VERY PROFITABLE LESTER AND GIBBS, IMPORTERS OF FINE BOOTS AND SHOES. PROTESTING TREATMENT OF NEGROES, HE AND OTHERS PUBLISHED THE MIRROR OF THE TIMES, FIRST NEGRO PAPER IN CALIFORNIA. WENT TO BRITISH COLUMBIA DURING GOLD RUSH AND AMASSED A LARGE FORTUNE AS A MERCHANT. IN 1866 HE HELD A POLITICAL OFFICE WHICH HE HAD FOR 2 TERMS. HELPED ORGANIZE FIRST ANTHRACITE COAL COMPANY TO SEND CARGO TO SAN FRANCISCO. RETURNING TO U.S., HE GRADUATED FROM OBERLIN'S LAW DEPARTMENT AND PRACTICED IN LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS. IN 1873, HE WAS ELECTED MUNICIPAL JUDGE... FIRST NEGRO TO HOLD THAT POSITION IN U.S. SERVED SEVERAL YEARS AS COLLECTOR OF THE U.S. LAND OFFICE IN ARKANSAS. JUDGE GIBBS OWNED MUCH PROPERTY AND HE HAD SHARES IN THE ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY.



## Gordon Parks

PHOTOGRAPHER JOURNALIST

ACE PHOTOGRAPHER WON FIRST ROSENWALD FELLOWSHIP AWARDED IN PHOTOGRAPHY '42. PHOTO-CORRESPONDENT FOR OWI '43-45. DOCUMENTARY PHOTO FOR FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION '41-43 AND STANDARD OIL CO. '44-48. TAUGHT AT CHICAGO ART CENTER. ON STAFF OF LIFE MAGAZINE. SINCE 1944 HIS PHOTOS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN ANNUAL 'BEST PHOTOGRAPHS SELECTED BY U.S. CAMERA' COMPOSES MUSIC AND WHILE ABROAD FOR 'LIFE' HAD HIS SYMPHONY INTRODUCED BY CONDUCTOR DEAN DIXON!



## Miss Beverly Ann Wright Wins Betty Crocker Homemaker Award

The Betty Crocker Homemaker of Tomorrow in our school is Miss Beverly Ann Wright, member of the senior class of Hillside High School. She is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Howard Wright of 909 Dupree Street.

She received the highest score in a written examination which tested the homemaking knowledge and attitudes of the senior girls in the graduating class. She will be entered in competition to name North Carolina's candidate for the title of All-American Homemaker of Tomorrow. She will also receive a golden award pin, cook books for herself and the school.

The national winner in this search conducted among 187,000 young women in 8,000 of the nation's public, private, and parochial high schools will be named April 21 at an American table fete in Philadelphia.

General Mills is the sponsor of this program designed to assist schools in building in young women a deeper appreciation and understanding of the American home and the personal qualities necessary to successful homemaking.

A scholarship of \$1,500 will be awarded each state winner, and she will receive a trip with her school advisor to Washington, D. C., colonial Williamsburg, Va., and Philadelphia. Her school will receive a set of Encyclopedia Britannica.

The scholarship of the young woman named All-American Homemaker of Tomorrow will be increased to \$5,000.

The 50-minute written examination designed and judged by Science Research Associates of Chicago, which was given to all participants in this national search, consisted of multiple choice and subjective questions which tested the students' attitude and knowledge in the major areas of homemaking.

Each girl who took the test received a 24-page homemaking guide which will assist her in pursuing the career of homemaking.

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## Spring Clean-Up Campaigns To Promote Safety

NEW YORK

Throughout America each year, a period usually a week, is devoted to Spring Clean-Up. Some communities conduct a campaign in March, others may prefer to do so in April. But whatever the time, the campaigns result in greater fire safety and better looking and healthier communities.

According to the National Board of Fire Underwriters, these campaigns do much more than promote fire safety. For instance, they help foster community spirit. Streets are cleaned, homes are beautified and repaired, and accumulated waste and rubbish (a cause of fire) disposed of. In addition, public buildings often are renovated and vacant grounds improved.

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A fund drive aimed at raising \$3,000,000 and supported by the General Federation of Women's Clubs, of which Mrs. Theodore S. Chapman, Jerseyville, Illinois, is President, was initiated in Washington on the first of March to provide for the construction of a mammoth, 50-foot cross, the world's largest, dedicated to greater unity of Christian thought and effort, atop Bald Knob mountain in southern Illinois near the population heart of America.

THE CROSS is a project of the Bald Knob Christian Foundation, Inc., Makanda, Illinois, a state-chartered, non-profit, non-denominational group whose sole purpose is to create better understanding and greater tolerance between different religious and racial groups. It will be erected on a 187-acre site now marked by a fifty-foot neon cross in the Shawnee National Forest. In it will be a central chapel, meditation rooms, display rooms for religious articles and documents, and an observation tower for visitors. Illuminated at night, THE CROSS will be visible over a 7,500 square-mile area.

Among those participating is a negro group headed by James Deal, "The Village Blacksmith" of Murphysboro, Illinois, a member of the Board of Governors of the Foundation. A graduate of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, Deal is

well known through the area. He established his business in Murphysboro in 1923.

His interest in the project dates back to 1951 when he recognized that the Foundation's primary aim was to bring about a better relationship between religious and racial groups, and to develop brotherhood and fellowship among all men. He personally contributed \$100 towards this symbol of religious faith, and devoted himself to enlisting support from personal friends and associates, an effort that has brought contributions totaling more than \$1,500. Donations ranged from fifty cents from a domestic to \$50.00 from a business man.

Deal and his wife, the former Ida Josie Dunn, are members of the Missionary Baptist Church of Murphysboro where he is deacon, Sunday School superintendent and choir member.

For almost two decades the Foundation has been holding Easter sunrise services on Bald Knob, and attendance in recent years has been running in excess of 10,000. It is expected that this year's service, being a highlight of the fund drive, will establish a new attendance record.

Mrs. Chapman has urged that all who have no affiliation with the women's clubs mail their contributions direct to: THE CROSS, Cairo, Illinois.

## A WORD ABOUT SCOUTING

By HENRY G. GILLIS

While the parent relationship is different in Boy Scouting, your son's successful experience still greatly depends upon your interest and encouragement. This is after your son has graduated into Boy Scouting from Cub Scouting. He needs you, but in a different way. Try to understand this change in his make-up, and fit into it in the best way you can.

You can help and encourage him in his Boy Scout Advancement. While he can be a Scout without advancing, he will miss much of the value of the new experience if he does not. This is the basic change from Cubbing to Scouting.

You can see that he attends his Unit meetings regularly, and that he wears and cares for his uniform. You can encourage him to take advantage of his new opportunity to go camping.

Dad can offer his service to

the Unit Leader. He may become a member of the Troop Committee. This is not a time-consuming job, but without a strong committee the Troop cannot thrive. Your boy's Troop is led by your neighbors, just as your Pack was. These folks need your help and encouragement.

Visit Troop meetings occasionally, take advantage of Boy Scouting as a means of continuing the boy-dad relationship de-

veloped in Cub Scouting. There will be occasional special meetings for parents, and Court of Honor, when your boy will receive his advancement awards. You should be there to see him move forward.

Next week we will have another word about Scouting in this same column, be on hand. Volunteer Training Courses began Wednesday March 9th at the Hillside High School All Durham Divisional Personnel were present Thursday night at the S. L. Warren Library on Fayetteville St. at 7:30. A picture was made.

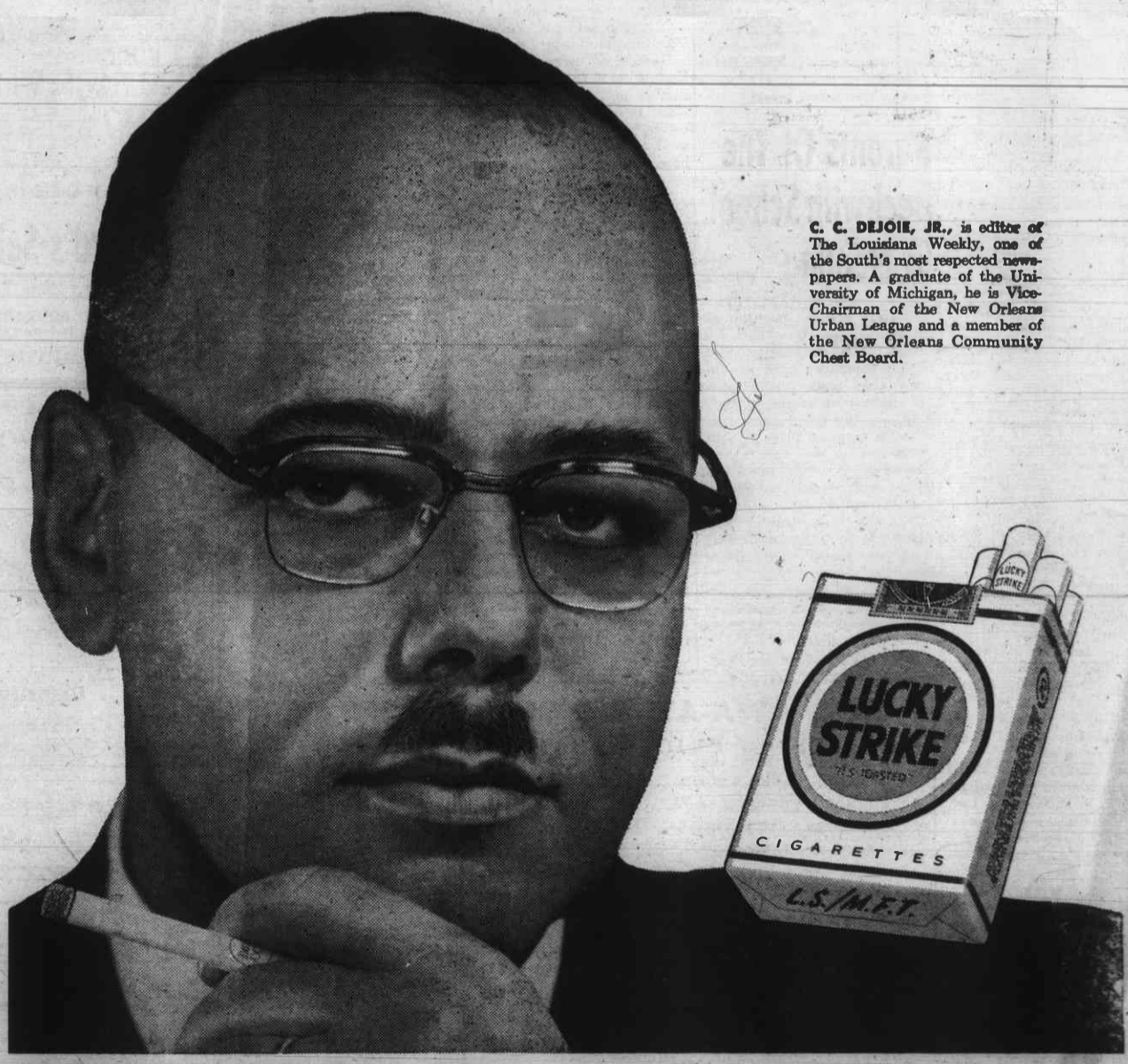


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C. C. DEJOIE, JR., is editor of The Louisiana Weekly, one of the South's most respected newspapers. A graduate of the University of Michigan, he is Vice-Chairman of the New Orleans Urban League and a member of the New Orleans Community Chest Board.

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