

ROOSEVELT GREETES N. A. A. C. P. CONFAB

Chief Executive Urges Unity Of Purpose

DETROIT, Mich., June 30—In a message of greeting to the opening session of the 28th annual conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People here tonight, President Roosevelt stressed the problems which "must be solved if we are to go forward with the progress which we, as citizens in a democracy, have a right to expect." The President expressed the hope that the conference would help build toward unity of purpose and "so contribute toward the achievement of our common ideals and aspirations." The full text of the message:

"My dear Mr. White:

"I am happy to send greetings and sincere good wishes for the success of the meetings of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. "The time in which we live is one both of opportunity and of danger for the ideals of our democracy. For serious problems confront the world, problems growing out of the relations of individuals to the general economy, to the state, and to the other nations of the world. These problems must be solved if we are to go forward with the progress which we, as citizens in a democracy, have a right to expect.

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CORTEZ PETERS WINS 2ND PLACE FOR THIRD TIME IN WORLD TYPING CONTEST

WASHINGTON—(CNS)—C. W. Peters won second place in the finals of the world typing contest held at Chicago last Saturday June 26. He typed at a speed of 138 words per minute. First place was won by Albert Tangora, white, of New York, at a speed of 141 words a minute.

Mr. Peters who is 39 lives at 1308 W. Street, Northwest where he conducts the Cortez W. Peters Business School, specializing in speed typing and other kindred business subjects. He is a product of the Department of Business Practice, now Cardozo High School and was a pupil of the late J. C. Wright, who awakened his interest in speed typing. He has been trying for a number of years to win this championship. For the past three years he has finished second to Tangora, the difference being from one to three words each time.

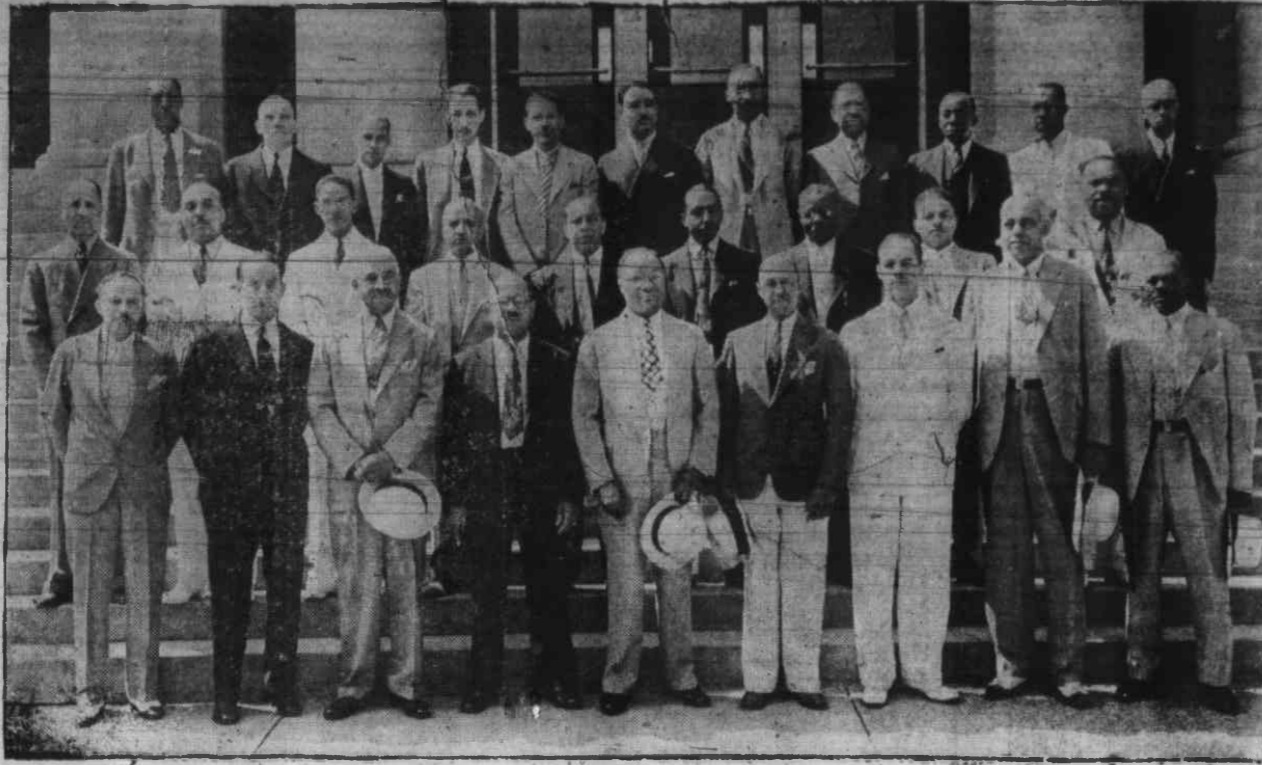
HARLEM A "DESERTED VILLAGE" FOR A DAY

NEW YORK—(C)—Harlem took on the appearance of a deserted village all day Tuesday, as most of the sporting class were out of town (in Chicago). However, the home folk filled the streets with parades, shouting and singing after Joe Louis was acclaimed champion of the world.

"It is my sincere hope that you who are planning to meet together in this conference will help to build toward unity of purpose among the people of this nation and so contribute toward the achievement of our common ideals and aspirations."

"Very sincerely yours, (Signed) FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT"

THE ROBERT T. FREEMAN DENTAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, D. C.



The group pictured above are hosts to the National Dental Association meeting in Washington, August 10-13, 1937.

From left to right, front row: M. D. Wiseman, J. E. Washington, C. C. Frye, R. M. B. Wilson, Jackson L. Davis, W. T. Grady, C. T. Ferebee, J. C. Nicolson, C. S. Godden; Second row; Fletcher Barber, Leo S. Holton, W. C. Claytor, R. C. McMurdock, G. M. Browne, E. T. Mavritte, Millard Gould, S. J. Cole, Gilbert A. Cole, J. E. Bowman, H. C. Edwards; Third row; B. H. Early, W. O. Lor and J. C. Carr.

Fleming Describes Magic Rise Of Negro Press In America

About six hundred thousand Negroes, in hundreds of cities in the United States, every week buy copies of the 150 Negro newspapers published in America, these copies to be read by some 4,800,000 people. Some of these papers come to life in metropolitan cities and are circulated and wide; others are printed in small towns for purely local circulation; some are bright and prosperous-looking, others seem struggling and are unpretentious, some have most modern plants, others have only humble facilities, some employ hundreds of newsboys and scores of editorial and business office help; others employ only a few people.

going? Why do people buy them? Voltaire said that if the people didn't have a God they would make one and just so, if there were not the Negro Press—Negroes would at once create one. So it has been with people and nations, with all special interest groups, with all civic and political units. All these groups and factions have figured in great political, social and military conflicts and crises, crises both ordering them and being ordered by them—and these crises of life and death can be held responsible for the important part that journalism—the printed word—plays in the life of all people.

What are these papers? How did they start? Where are they? The first printed periodicals of England's domestic news, grew out of the struggle between Chas. I and Parliament, culminating in the Civil War of 1641. As the questions out of which the American Revolution sprang began to engross the colonists, it came to be seen on all sides that the several colonies had a common cause and that the press was a most valuable and indispensable auxiliary of this cause, and the newspaper was recognized as "the instrument most potential to secure unity of opinion and concert of action among the colonies." Even the best equipped armies could not win the war against England if the colonies had not been whipped into a united front by the newspapers of the period.

It was social crisis—the struggle for the abolition of slavery—which also brought the Negro newspapers into being. The Negro Press, as Roy Wilkins, editor of the Crisis, well puts it, was "born of a need for voicing protest against wrongs and proscriptions, first devoting itself to the task of making Negroes free men and citizens and from that day to this fighting the battles necessary to securing for them the enjoyment of the rights of citizenship."

- First Negro Paper**
- When the first Negro paper was published 110 years ago, the Negro in America found himself in a class by himself because he was:
- (1) Slave and still held in bondage;
 - (2) Negro and noticeable different from the dominant group;
 - (3) Held inferior and discriminated against whether slave or free.
- Today he is a special interest group, because:
- (1) He is still economically enslaved—denied job opportunity everywhere and still barred by the rank and file of American organized labor.
 - (2) He is still noticeably different in color from the dominant group.
 - (3) He is ghettoed in residential districts and discriminated against, by both government and private enterprise, by organized religion, and by other minority groups; he is denied the full rights to protest personal and collective wrongs in some parts of the country.

All these factors—in their countless outward and visible manifestations—have been and are responsible for a racial press. "Negro-Did-It" Crimes

Those of us who know the history of "Negro-Did-It" crimes, how black men and women have been headlined throughout the country, charged with crimes they did not commit, know how indispensable the Negro press has been in making Negroes themselves to know that they are not as vicious and hopeless as the headlines.

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line writers would have them. Those who know how difficult it generally has been to get significant news favorable to Negroes in the daily papers, know how very necessary Negro newspapers have been in giving balance to the journalistic diet of the Negro reading public. Those who remember the fight put up to keep Judge John J. Parker off the U. S. Supreme Court bench and the fight to outlaw lynching, can realize what an important part these papers still play in the every day struggle of getting for Negroes full citizenship and all the protection and privileges due all Americans.

Russwurm Attracted

The first newspaper owned and published by our people was Freedom's Journal, first issued in New York on March 30, 1827, by John B. Russwurm and Samuel E. Cornish, free Negroes. These names themselves perhaps can mean little here, but is significant, I think, to know that the first editor of a Negro paper, Russwurm, was also the first Negro college graduate in America, getting his degree from Bowdoin College in 1828. Not the ministry, or teaching, or law, attracted him but the newspaper field where he could join the forces working for abolition of slavery. What daring!

It took to fight, ever guardedly for freedom at this time can be pictured when we recall that this first Negro newspaper came on the scene even before Garrison's Liberator and at a period when any opposition to slavery was still dangerously unpopular. Although only a two-page effort, it "met with more and greater obstacles than did any other paper ever published on the continent," one historian records, it changed its name in 1828 to the "Rights of All," perhaps because "freedom" was too provocative a term, and in 1830 it ceased publication.

Other papers were started and again we find other freed Negroes of distinction—native born and foreign-born—putting their necks out to fight in the interest of their enslaved brothers, rather than to enjoy freedom themselves while three million other black men and women were enslaved.

The Weekly Advocate was started in 1837 by James McCune Smith, a "distinguished graduate in medicine from the University of Glasgow, a practitioner in the city of New York," and a welcomed lecturer before leading literary societies.

The Pittsburgh Mystery Continued on page four

THE MAN AT THE THROTTLE OF THE 20TH CENTURY LIMITED

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