

If It's Any News To You

BY TED YATES

ODE TO A HANGOVER.
Here I sit'n wonder what in the thunder is your game, Far's you're concerned in this life I've learned You have no actual claim to fame;

O, yes! That ill feeling that sets my head reeling Might make me tell folks that you're to blame,— But what I wouldn't do to get rid of you. The mornin' after, feller, 'twould be a shame.

A REPORTER AT LARGE

So the story goes: Several well-known Harlemites were gossiping like a lot of old maids at a sewing circle the other evening and someone upped and mentioned Calvin's Newspaper Service. Said one yokel, "Aw, ther gent put in, 'Sure thing, ther gent put in, 'Sure thing, you know Ted Yates is a publicity hound. A nite club mawk." Gee! I didn't know ours was the topic of every conversation. Whatever happened to ANP and, the fact all the other news services? You feller's oughta stop advertising Calvin's Newspaper Service and Ted Yates free. Haw!

They were gabbing about the theatre at one of the brighter spots the other early dawnin' when an erstwhile reporter (I should have said alleged reporter) told of how he broke stories on the front page of the Pittsburgh Courier. That's nothing City Editor Bill Nunn would have billed us for twenty-five dollars for the release that Nina Mae McKinney was to lead an orchestra. But Nunn's Courier, like all the other newspapers, ran that one about Nina McKinney getting 'plugged' in a coffee pot shop below the Mason-Dixon line on the front page. And, if that wasn't publicity glory! 'Tain't watcha do it's hotcha do it.

The Yash Man! Club which was recently re-opened by 'Jock' Miller is getting lots of publicity these days—besides it is becoming exceedingly popular with diversion seekers. Looks like old times to run into some of the crowd there. Ross Haymes, I learned a while back, has turned end there. The boss of Harlem's popular frequented is also a rival to Floyd Smith of 'Andy Kirk's Band. In fewer words Haymes is aguitar player. And a pretty good one too! Buieset booking office these days in Bernard Buritt's on West 125th St. where talent good and talent bad gets its hearing and—well, yes, airing! Johnny Greco at the Elkford Restaurant is a congenial sort of a feller. The other day he informed us that he'd never been given a write-up in a Colored newspaper. So since we felt that his courteous service merited it—there 'tis. One of Harlem better meat market is Booser's up on Eighth Avenue at 151st Street. The proprietor is the hubby of newspaper woman Thelma Berlack-Booser. I like that twiddle-like saying, "I'll twiddle my thumbs until my good ship comes."

The police in Louisville, Kentucky, it would seem, have little or nothing to do until the running of the Derby. Recently they harassed Editor Frank H. Gray of the LOUISVILLE DEFENDER who was out seeking info about an auto accident. Gray was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. To my mind the incident is the sum total of a five letter word—silly. If Gray was disorderly reporting an auto mishap what would the police term the motorists involved in the case???

The Reds have a new game. Now that Germany kissed Italy and Italy swooned; Japan doing an accidental (according to the war correspondents) by making an exit from her ally Germany, and, lest we forget Germany's bargain with Russia which netted Hitler's Reich with a good kick in the pants, the Communists have plenty fun ribbing Uncle Sam for his aid to Finland. One of the reporters were saying, "Just because the Finns paid their debt to the U. S. is no reason why we should have to pay it back." I suppose Browder's four year sentence is the Communistic way of paying up a debt. Tee, hee!

New York welcomed Harlem's favorite cinema stars James Gagney and Pat O'Brien one day last week. The two appear in the pix, "The Fightin' 69" Now if Oscar Micheaux actually would WANT TO DO SOMETHING BIG he could film the story of THE FIGHTIN' 15th. I would not mind writing it for him. He owes me that much in more than one occasion used our name, column and character in his films. Howdy' prxy?

Colonel Faunleroy Julian, aviator, adventurer and the world's greatest publicity hound, made Father Divine take a back seat and most recently stole the show from one of the country's leading motion picture producers—the very business like Oscar Micheaux. Julian somehow gets in and out of the news and rates the push-onal okay of your N. Y. correspondent as a definite news-copy type. But, on the other hand, with all his publicity it does not net him one cent. This very great and true personality with a monacle in one eye clowns before the press and the press in turn clowns with him. It worries me. How come Julian CANNOT sell all that lickie he is supposed to have brought back from France? And just what ever happened to that deal that Julian was to have made for the French government? You know, the one which was to have meant the purchase of canned foods and meats. It is true, too, that Fox Film Corporation offered THE GREAT JULIAN \$750 per week? Say what you will, Julian is a help to the writers like me who need something to fill space. A little birdie told me that Julian thrived on an apple and a chocolate bar on a recent return trip from Washington, D. C. because it is alleged he had eight cents in his pocket that was NO-GO-MONEY because, after all, one can't ride the subway "home to Harlem" free!

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'Green Pastures' Star And Wife Romance Split

IVAN SHARP AND FORMER SHAW UNIVERSITY PROF. CALL IT A DAY; COUPLE FOUNDED COSMETIC FIRM

ROMANCE ON THE ROCKS

NEW YORK, (C)—Seven years ago he was the star in Marc Connelley's "Green Pastures." That is, he was one of the bright stars in the Pulitzer Prize play that ran for a number of years on the Gay White Way and then toured the U. S. and Canada for almost the length of its Broadway run. In the last six years Ivan ("The Prophet") Sharp has been identified with a profitable business on West 125th Street the shopping center of New York's Harlem. He and his wife, the former Bettie Esther Parham, founded the Esther Miracle waterproof products which had come from their own formula and had reached a successful standing in the beauty culture industry. The Elizabeth Esther Laboratories, a registered company, is known nationally to beauticians, druggists, cosmeticians and the trade. But, the Ivan Sharps have come to the parting of their devotional and business like contract. Their romance is one of the rocks, and that's news.

To the Sharps actually went the distinction of being the first Negro merchants to establish contact and a business on West

125th Street. At one time they both successfully operated four concessions in department stores on the main thoroughfare. Beauty and popularity contests were staged in conjunction with promotion of their business. The Miracle wave products waved products long and loud in the eyes of the buying public. Now, a number of friends have indicated the business will be re-organized. Whether Mrs. or Mr. Sharp will continue independently is unknown. Sharp claims, "My marital rift in no way will interfere with the business. It shall continue along the same lines and I am sure that my customers willingly will cooperate with me. They have said as much."

Bettie Esther Parham is a well known product of the South having been professor of economic departments at Shaw and Dillard Universities. She is the daughter of the Reverend S. L. Parham of Richmond, Virginia. The Parham are a distinguished Southern family in High Point, North Carolina. The Sharps were wed after a year of partnership in business. Sharp for a number of years has been working for a gigantic organization to aid him in the accomplishment of his industrial dream. With the slogan, "It Can Be Done" Sharp intends keep the Miracle Wave waving. Mrs. Sharp could not be reached at her home at 850 East 229th St. in Williamsbridge.

Bennett To Hold Home Making Institution

GREENSBORO, N. C.—Consumer Education and Economics will be the theme of the Fourteenth Home Making Institute at Bennett College, to be held this year February 18 to 25.

Speakers during the week will include Miss R. Arliner Young, graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania, formerly of the Howard University faculty, and Miss Charlia V. Cole, assistant professor of home economics at Tillotson College, Austin Texas. Dr. Channing H. Tobias, General Secretary of the YMCA, New York City, will close the Institute on Sunday.

Although the Home Making Institute, over a period of years, has been a beacon to the womanhood of Greensboro and adjacent communities, the scope of its program necessarily includes problems common to both men and women. It has pointed the way to better living and family

relations, as well as greater efficiency and skill in the mechanical operations of the home.

Seeing the need for a closer contact with parents and others who guide youth, recently there has been organized the Greensboro Parents Council, an outgrowth of the Institute, in which both men and women participate.

This year in addition to carrying out the theme in the annual Fashion Revue, through drama, addresses, and community projects, there will be an exhibition sponsored by local merchants, of recommended brands of food. Attention of those in attendance at the Institute will be called to labels and the meaning of various terms used on them. This will be in cooperation with the pure food and drug act, which went into effect January 1st, 1940.

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CROPPERS TO HOLD SESSION

NEW YORK CITY, (Special)

Sixteen noted leaders of Negro thought and action have joined with 69 other distinguished Americans in the sponsoring of the fourth annual National Sharecroppers Week which will be observed in 1940 from March 4th through 10th it was announced this week by Miss Paul Murray, secretary of the Week.

Among the sponsors are Prof. W. E. B. DuBois of Atlanta University, T. Arnold Hill of the National Urban League, Prof. Abram L. Harris of Howard University, A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, J. Finley Wilson, Grand Exalted Ruler of the Independent Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks, and Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Miss Murray described National Sharecroppers Week as an annual effort to acquaint the public with the sharecropper problem and to raise funds to finance a program of remedial action. She explained that it is conducted under the auspices of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, the sharecropper labor organization, and the Workers Defense League its official defense agency. Howard Kester, secretary of the Fellowship of Southern Churchmen, is acting as treasurer; offices have been established at 112 East 19th St. New York City.

Other sponsors of the "Week" include Mayor F. H. LaGuardia of New York City, Carrie Chapman Catt, Theodore Dreiser, David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, President Frank P. Graham of the University of North Carolina, Carey McWilliams, the noted authority labor, William Allen Nellson, president emeritus of Smith College, Bishop Edward L. Parsons of San Francisco, Norman Thomas the Socialist leader, Oswald Garrison Villard, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise and William Allen White.

Miss Murray also announced that Paul Muni, the distinguished screen and stage star, had accepted the chairmanship of the Theatre Committee for the Week and that Mr. Muni would be assisted by artists and impresarios of the rank of Tallulah Bankhead, Angna Enters, the cele-

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House Tories Extend Life Of Dies' Committee

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

WASHINGTON, (CNA)—By a vote of 446 to 61 the House of Representatives this week extended the life of the Dies Committee for one year and ordered it to continue its inquiry branded by prominent liberals and progressives as "the great un-American witch hunt." Funds for the committee will be voted at a later date.

Simultaneously, Edward E. Strong, Executive Secretary of the Southern Negro Youth Congress sent a letter to Dies accusing him of smearing the youth body and lashing his committee for "making statements which he knows are untrue."

The overwhelming vote for the committee was attributed to the strong support given by administration leaders. Speaker of the House Bankhead, Majority leader Rayburn and Democratic whip Boland spoke and voted for the committee. It was reported that Bankhead and Rayburn had actually put pressure on Rules Committee Chairman Spath to rush the Dies resolution to the floor.

In a two-hour debate marked by intense heat and emotion, reactionary Congressmen shouted and snarled the names of progressive individuals and organizations, most of them noted for their friendly attitude toward the Negro people, and demanded the

House liberals fought stubbornly to defeat the resolution. In a speech that was inserted into the Congressional Record, Representative Lee Geyer, Dem. Cal., declared he had "grave fears" because of the failure of leaders of my party, the Democratic Party, to voice their unqualified opposition to the committee.

Representative John Coffee of Washington stated that he was unequivocally opposed to granting the Dies Committee a new appropriation at a time when relief appropriations are being slashed one-third.

Pointing out that she voted against the Dies committee last year "because of the un-American activities of the committee itself," Representative O'Day of New York said that for the same reason she finds herself unable to vote for its continuation now. Domination of the committee by an "anti-labor clique" was charged by Congressman Keller of Illinois. Keller declared these

forces wished to "smear" the liberal leaders of the country through the Dies Committee.

Writing under the fire of the liberals, supporters of the resolution sought to squelch the progressives' exposure by mildly criticizing the Dies Committee themselves. They proposed it be enjoined from using tactics which have resulted in nationwide condemnation of the committee.

The move brought a slashing attack from Representative Vito Marcantonio, Laborite, N. Y. "My opposition is based on a basic principle, not a matter of procedure," Marcantonio declared.

"The Dies Committee is a menace to the civil liberties of the American people. Its work is part of a general offensive against the Bill of Rights. Take away the rights of the dissident minorities and you have nothing left of the Bill of Rights," the New York Congressman warned.

Should Demand Davis Head of 9, 10 Regiment

CHICAGO, (ANP)—America's Negroes should unite and demand that Col. B. O. Davis to be named by the army to command of either the 9th or 10th Cavalry particularly since these regiments are on the verge of being reorganized, believes Levi Pierce former soldier whose exposes of discrimination and injustices suffered by Negro soldiers have thrown the war department into a turmoil and brought about eradication of several of these evils.

Not only would such an appointment of Col. Davis cause an increase in efficiency of the 9th or 10th when it is reorganized but it would do away with much of the petty internal politics created under white officers and colored enlisted men Mr. Pierce declares.

Please turn to page six

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