

# Jehovah's Witnesses Jam Harlem But Bring No Business Boom

NEW YORK — Hotels, rooming houses, and private homes in Harlem absorbed their share of the 125,000 Jehovah's Witnesses who came here from all parts of the world to attend the eight-day International Convention of the religious sect. Meetings were held at Yankee Stadium in the Bronx. Months ago, members of local congregations canvassed their neighborhoods in an effort to find lodgings for some of the expected visitors. In addition to the thousands quartered within the city, many thousands more were housed in trailer camps in New Market, New Jersey.

The visitors attending the world assembly represented 96 foreign countries, and came from all over the United States. Included in this number were 6,000 foreign missionaries. Since the sect is well integrated, it was hardly possible to obtain figures as to the number of Negroes here for the meetings, or to determine how many Negroes are members of the sect. In visiting the Yankee Stadium, it was obvious that the vast majority of the visitors were white, but in the throngs of Witnesses that jammed the Harlem streets, the vast majority were Negroes.

These throngs of people meant very little in terms of increased business in the Harlem area, however. Unlike fraternal and social organizations, and even other religious conventions, the Witnesses maintain a strict schedule of attendance at meetings, or canvassing and missionary work in the community. Delegates have been housed as inexpensively as possible, and the

Witnesses themselves cooperated in cooking and serving thousands of meals every day right in the Yankee Stadium grounds.

Consequently, places of amusement, taverns and restaurants have not felt the upsurge in business usually felt when such conventions come to town. Even sight-seeing and visits to educational institutions and points of historical interest, are kept to a minimum.

The Jehovah's Witnesses report that the movement of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society is steadily expanding all over the world. One of the most interesting revelations was that the movement is being carried on underground in Siberia despite Communist persecution.

The story of the underground movement was told Konstanti Swirid of Cleveland, who is of Russian origin. He said that a former military secretary of the Soviet government favored the Jehovah movement, and when Russian members of the religious sect refused to salute the Communist flag or serve in the Russian army, he put them to work on railroads in Siberia, rather than send them into Siberian mines. This leader eventually lost favor with the Communists, and he, too, was sent to Siberia where he joined the underground Jehovah movement.

While Yankee Stadium was filled each day to its capacity of approximately 80,000, the other faithful members of the sect participated in the day's events by direct telephone line to their New Jersey trailer camp.



DR. MADDEN



DR. DANIEL



DR. HARRIS

**DIRECTORS ARE NAMED AT VSC** — Appointment of three members of the Virginia State College faculty as Directors of Schools and Divisions was announced recently by Dr. Robert P. Daniel, President of the College. The new

area heads are pictured above. From left to right they are, Dr. Samuel A. Madden, formerly Director of the Audio-Visual Center, who becomes Director of the Division of Field Services; Dr. Reuben E. McDaniel, former Head of the

Department of Mathematics, who was appointed Director of the School of Arts and Sciences; and Dr. Albert T. Harris, previously Director of Field Services, who becomes Director of the School of Education.

## Connectional Council And Board Of Bishops To Meet At St. Paul Church In Cleveland August 1

NEW YORK — Two Bishops of the A. M. E. Zion Church, well versed in world affairs and dedicated to a wholly Christian approach to the solution of world problems, will deliver keynote speeches at the Connectional Council and Board of Bishops meeting scheduled for July 28 to August 1 at St. Paul's A. M. E. Zion Church, Cleveland, Ohio.

They are Bishop William Jacob Walls of Chicago, member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, and Bishop Daniel Carlton Pope, resident bishop of Africa. Bishop Walls will speak on "A Christian View of the World Situation" and Bishop Pope, who will return to Africa in September, will speak on "Our Opportunity and Challenge in Africa."

Highlighting the opening night of the conference will be an address of welcome, "The Best Location in the Nation" by Cleveland's mayor, Thomas A. Burke, and a greeting from Judge Perry B. Jackson, one of the first Negroes to be elected to a judgeship in Cleveland.

Dr. Albert L. Fuller, pastor of Saint Paul's Church, will preside. There will be messages of welcome from the congregation of St. Paul's, the Youth of the church, the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, the Business and Professional Men and Women, and remarks by the host Bishop, John W. Martin of Chicago. A reception by the pastor and members of St. Paul's will follow.

A parade of more than 40,000 persons will march down Peachtree Street, Tuesday, August 25th headed by Georgia Governor, Herman Talmadge and Mayor William B. Hartfield. Rev. C. W. Peters is general chairman of the convention.

## Shaw University To Enlarge Its Opportunities For Ministers

RALPH — President Strassner announced that Shaw University will enlarge its opportunities for ministerial training offered to in-service ministers during the ensuing school term, 1953-1954, through the organization of two night classes.

The first class will be organized for ministers who are college graduates working toward the Bachelor of Divinity degree. A course will be offered dealing with some phase of pastoral leadership. The class will meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 o'clock and will yield 3 semester hours of credit. Three ministers have already pre-registered. Others desiring to attend should file application in the Office of the President. These students should report for registration on Tuesday, September 22. The first class will be Thursday evening, September 24.

The second class will be organized for ministers who may or may not be high school graduates. There will be no academic qualifications for admission. The course offered will be one in the series of "Biblical Studies" and will not yield college credit. However, the course will be creditable toward the Shaw University Certificate of Award from the Department of Religious Promotion. Ten ministers have already pre-registered. Other ministers who plan to attend should file a written statement

in the Office of the President. The class will begin on Tuesday evening, October 6, at 7:30 o'clock, and will meet regularly at that time on Tuesdays of each week during the first semester.

## N. C. Families Have Large Buying Income

NEW YORK — North Carolina's 1,025,100 families — with an average annual buying income of \$4,200—own 920,200 automobiles and trucks, more than 678,400 refrigerators, all own radios, 479,900 television sets and over 826,200 vacuum cleaners, according to a special study just completed.

North Carolina's high standard of living, like that of every other state, has been made possible to a large extent by the sound use of consumer installment credit, the study indicated. Taking automobiles as an example, the study shows that 98 out of 100 Tar Heels are excellent credit risks, making their payments on time and completing obligations on their con-

tracts promptly. The study was conducted by C. I. T. Financial Corporation, the nation's largest independent financing institution. C. I. T.'s principal subsidiaries in the fields of automotive and industrial financing have several offices and representatives serving North Carolina.

"This study showing the mass ownership of expensive durable goods," said Arthur O. Dietz, president of C. I. T. Financial Corporation, "emphasizes the fact that mass financing is the fundamental support of the American system of mass production and mass distribution."

## "Booker T." At Elks Confab

PHILADELPHIA, PA. — The new "Booker T." cigar, which is daily gaining a stronger foothold in the tobacco market, looms to be one of the most popular brands to be smoked at the Elks Convention in Atlanta during the week of August.

Plans have already been made for the Atlanta Cigar Company, exclusive distributor of the "Booker T." in that metropolis, to have boxes of the new cigar prominently displayed on every refreshment stand and concession where tobacco products are sold.

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## UNCF Awards Fellowships

NEW YORK — W. J. Trent, Jr., executive director of the United Negro College Fund, announced today that the 1953 Florida Lasker Fellowships for Negro women were awarded to an honor graduate of each of the two women's colleges associated in the Fund.

The winners are Miss Bettye Jean Washington, valedictorian of this year's graduating class of Bennett College in Greensboro, N. C., and Miss LaJune McDonald, who graduated with honors from Spelman College, Atlanta, Ga., this June.



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## Elks Plan Gay Festivities For 1953 Convention At Atlanta, Ga.

ATLANTA, GA. — Destination, Atlanta, Elksdom. Signposts point to the gayest, largest and most fun-filled convention in history during Aug. 23-28.

Celebrities, name bands, sports events and a brilliant array of summer social functions have been planned to entertain visitors to the 54th national meet of the I. B. P. O. E. W.

Highlights of the Elks cavalcade of entertainment will be a gospel singing festival, a giant outdoor jazz concert in Morris Brown's Herndon Stadium, an all-star boxing and wrestling card, two formal balls, and a giveaway of a \$17,000 house.

Bolstering this lineup of entertainment will be imported Broadway shows which have been booked for the Gate City's Royal Peacock and Poinciana night clubs. Lesser clubs that abound around Metropolitan Atlanta will feature name bands and top-starring vocalists.

Visiting Bills will start the ball rolling Saturday night, August 22, with a Cabaret dance, fashion review, and bathing beauty contest at the City Auditorium. Oratorical contests, bathing beauty pageants, cabarets and assorted merriment will prevail throughout the convention.

Rhythm and song will be on a 24-hour schedule. On the Elks convention entertainment calendar will be a gospel singing show Sunday, August 23, featuring the Ward Singers, Angelic Gospel Singers, The Dixie Hummingbirds, and the Atlanta Aires.

B. B. Beamon, Atlanta dance impresario, is staging the biggest show in history Tuesday night, August 25th at 7:00 P. M. Morris Brown's Herndon Stadium with the Big Rhythm and Blues Show including Ruth Brown, the Clovers, Dusty Fletcher, the Edwards Sisters, Lester Young, Stuffy Bryant, Nolan Lewis, Ella Johnson, Buddy Johnson and his famous orchestra.

On the same night at 10 P. M., Hillman Hanley is in charge of staging the Antlered Guard Ball at the City Auditorium. A famous band has been signed for this event. Festivities continue

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Wednesday night, August 26th at the City Auditorium with the Elks Sport Night Show. Four nationally famous wrestlers, Babe Wingo, Kathleen Wimberly, Louise Green, and Katherine Johnson, will appear. There will also be 36 rounds of boxing and other sports offerings.

A mammoth barbecue is scheduled for the New Lincoln Country Club, Thursday afternoon, August 27th.

Thursday night, the formal Grand Ball will be held at the City Auditorium. A "name" orchestra will furnish the music along with a galaxy of Atlanta acts. Prior to this, Judge William C. Hueston will be honored at a testimonial at Big Bethel A. M. E. Church.

Grand Daughter Ruler, Nettie Carter Jackson, I. B. P. O. E. W., will have a big hand in the entertainment doings. Her organization will make a big contribution to the sixteen social events planned for the visiting Bills.

Grand Exalted Ruler Robert Johnson will lead the expected turnout of 30,000 Elks into Atlanta.

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