

# "The Confessions Of A Ham Singer"

BY CHARLES JACOB HARRIS  
(Continued from last week)

After all of these pleasant features, I went to A and T College in Greensboro and did a vocal "flop". The director of music there at that time was Dr. Fuller, now of Jefferson City, Mo. He came to my room early in the morning and awoke me from deep sleep. I got in late the night before; hence, needed the sleep from which he had robbed me.

His intentions were good, nevertheless. I knew I was handicapped for the recital. I had a peculiar case of neurosis back in those days. I could not sleep any more during the day when once I had been disturbed. Dr. Fuller was the best accompanist I had had on this tour, but you can put turpentine in jail in so far as my singing was this December night in 1926.

After my first group of songs, I could just as well have done another Einstein-I was through. Furthermore, this was the end of my tour.

The next morning I motored into Durham to see my family, having been away eight months. My wife despaired of ever seeing me again when first I left for Oklahoma. She said I would get shot. When I had been in Langston just eight days, I came near it too. I was on a small golf course playing with a young woman.

There was an ROTC at Langston. Every afternoon the Major took his boys out for target practice. They were a scant half mile from where we were—I inquired of my partner the direction they were firing. She told me the opposite direction. She had hardly gotten the words out before a bullet zinged by a few inches over my head.

I fell flat on the ground and stayed there. When I got up, I said, "Let's go, this is no place

for a 'bird' from North Carolina." I have often wondered if someone was out to pick me off for being there with this good looking "honey". I spent about a month getting in some good rest in the "Bull City."

I also got in a bit of moderate exercise by chopping wood and washing dishes. While here, I heard Marian Anderson for the first time since the phenomenal increase of her vocal range.

When I first heard her in 1918, she could barely get to "E" in the fourth space of the staff. It had no potency, but this night in 1927, there was a voice of another timbre, power and range. I just sat and marveled at such a contralto; never had I heard anything like it. Thirteen years passed before I heard Miss Anderson again. This time it was in Charleston, W. Va., in 1940. Her voice was still magnificent.

It was now January, 1927. I made my way to Summerville, S. C., and did two programs. One in the Pine Forest Inn Hotel; the other in the Carolina. The one in the Carolina was the better of the two. I attributed this to the beef I had for supper in the home of Mrs. Mary Alston, widow of the late Dr. J. H. Alston. After this, I went back to Augusta and spent several weeks with my mother.

Whenever the rainy, cold days of winter came, I spent them in bed. I did not even get up for food. I did another of my health experiments during this stay. For a period of three weeks, I fasted every other day. This experiment was not so

'hot'; I ate too much when the "eat" days came around.

I did two recitals while in Augusta. One in my own little church, Rock of Ages, where I got that monthly stipend of twenty-five cents; the other recital was in Trinity Methodist Church.

I went to Atlanta and did four programs—one in Butler Street and Holsey Temple Methodist Churches; one in St. Paul's Episcopal Parish House; and the other in the home of Charles H. Candler, son of the late Coca-Cola king.

I spent several months in training as though I were a real track man. Sometimes I did a five mile jaunt and sometimes took a six or seven mile walk. I took a course from the Milo Bar Bell School of Physical Culture. This course did much for me.

I could do more with my hundred pound bar bell than some men 20 to 25 years my junior. If I had known the things about food then like I think I do now, all of my recitals would have gone as well as the one in Cordelle, Ga. (Continued next week.)



COMING TO RALEIGH—Billy Ward and his World Famous Dominoes who will appear at the Raleigh Memorial Auditorium on

Monday night, July 5th. On the same bill will be featured Paul Williams and his famous Huckle Buck Orchestra.

## State-Wide Principals Workshop Opens At North Carolina College

The Summer School of North Carolina College at Durham is sponsoring a special six week principals workshop which began June 21 and ends July 31 under the auspices of the North Carolina State Department of Southern Education Foundation.

The SEF awarded some 30 scholarships to selected principals who will spend the six week period studying several "leadership competencies".

Safety Patrol, accepted the honor certificate for the school.

According to Dr. J. C. Finney, professor of education at NCC and director of the workshop, the emphasis will be in

developing competencies in the areas of "leadership in the community, in the school, and in policy-making".

Dr. Finney presided at the opening session in the Law Building. Dr. Barksdale, assistant to the dean of the NCC Graduate School, welcomed the principals.

Other participants at the opening meeting are: Dr. G. H. Ferguson, director of the Division of Negro Education, State Department of Public Instruction, Raleigh; Dr. Rose Butler Browne, chairman of the NCC Department of Education and two staff assistants, H. E. Brown, and A. H. Anderson.

Among the other participants who will appear at the work-

shop's sessions are Drs. Percy Young and W. H. Brown of the NCC Department of Education; Dr. W. Carson Ryan, UNC; Miss Ella Stephens Barrett, state supervisor of Guidance Services, Raleigh; Dr. Daniel R.

Davies, coordinator, Cooperative Program in Educational Administration, Teachers College, Columbia; and Dr. Avid J. Burke, director of studies, New York State Teachers Association.

## Hillside Gets Honor Award

Hillside High School of Durham was among thirteen schools' organizations, and individuals presented regional awards by the Freedoms Foundation over the Charlotte television station recently.

Recipients from North Carolina and South Carolina were present to receive medals and certificates. H. M. Holmes, principal of Hillside, and T. M. Davis, advisor to the School

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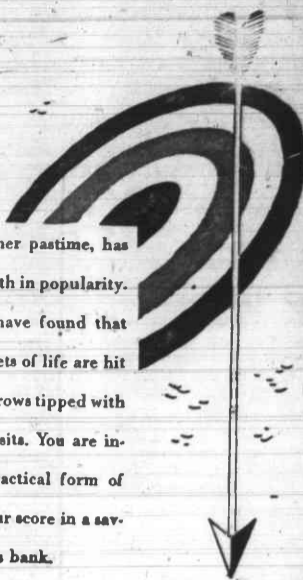
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