

## FIRST NEGRO TO VOTE IN U. S. HONORED AT GRAVESIDE RITES

EL PASO, ILL.

The first Negro to vote in the United States after the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution was declared in effect was honored at a graveside ceremony here last week. David A. Strother of this town cast his historic ballot in a city election here on April 4, 1870. Article 15 of the Constitution was declared in effect on March 30 that year.

At the memorial service for Mr. Strother, conducted during the El Paso centennial celebration, a Freedom Caravan of 20 automobiles led by the Rev. B. N. Moore came from nearby to participate in the ceremonies. Mr. Moore is president of the Peoria branch of the NAACP.

Billy Jones, president of the Illinois State Conference of NAACP branches, also spoke at the services.

The NAACP delegation presented a plaque to the town of El Paso for erection above the site where Mr. Strothers operated a barber shop for ten years. The plaque was accepted by Mayor George W. Graack on behalf of the city.

Article 15 of the U. S. Constitution states that the rights of citizens to vote shall not be denied on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude.

Mr. Strother was the first Negro to vote when the amendment went into effect by virtue of the fact that El Paso city election was held one day earlier than most other elec-

## Harriet Tubman Pilgrimage Set For Sept. 14th

NEW YORK

The second annual pilgrimage to the reconstructed Harriet Tubman Home and Shrine in Auburn, New York will be held Thursday afternoon, Sept. 14, 1954.

More than 600 persons are expected in attendance, including Bishops, General Officers, Pastors and Laymen of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, as well as official representatives of national organizations throughout the country and the general public.

The main speaker for the occasion will be Mrs. Harper Sibley of Rochester, New York. Mrs. Sibley is the wife of the president of the Western Union Telegraph Company. Mrs. Sibley is also a leader in the Golden Rule organization which selects annually the "American Mother."

In addition to Mrs. Sibley's address, other speakers will be Congressman John Tabor of New York; Mayor Robert Nelson of Auburn, New York; and Mrs. Abbie Clement Jackson of Louisville, Kentucky; Chairman-United Church Women of

the National Council of Churches of Christ-U. S. A., consultant at the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches-Evanston, Illinois, and whose mother was the late Emma Clarissa Clement, the American Mother of 1948.

Other invited guests include Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York, and John Foster Dulles, Secretary of the State, formerly a resident of Auburn and whose wife is a native of the city.

The Program Committee announces that a large Tri-city chorus of neighboring cities in Western New York will render some of the spirituals favored by Harriet Tubman frequently used by her to convey cryptic messages to her charges on the "Underground Railroad." Mrs. Margaret May is directing the singing with music furnished by the Auburn High School Band.

## Dr. Tobias To Broadcast From League Confab

"Building for Tomorrow's Better Living," an address by Dr. Channing H. Tobias, former Delegate to the United Nations General Assembly, will be broadcast from the 1954 Annual Conference of the National Urban League in Pittsburgh, Pa., Thursday, Sept. 9, exclusively on CBS Radio. Dr. Tobias is also Board Chairman of the National Association for the Ad-



Mrs. Maggie Wiggins, 117-year-old resident of Durham County is shown with her 71-year-old son, Adolphus Wiggins. Mrs. Wiggins told a representative of the TIMES that she has another son who lives in Wilson. He is 82-years-old. Mrs. Wiggins has a beautiful garden which she attends herself and last year raised a hog that weighed over 350 pounds when he was killed. She stated that her husband died over 50 years ago. She said she was sold five times during slavery.

ancement of Colored People and he will be presented on the broadcast by National Urban League President Robert W. Dowling.



The above is the North Carolina delegation that attended the 55th convention of the IBPOEW which met recently in Chicago. Seated in the center (bottom row) is Reverend K. P. Battle, state president of the order.

## ONE MILLION PEOPLE WITNESS ELKS PARADE IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO, ILL.

The excitingly spectacular annual parade of the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World—the highlight of the 55th Elks convention—came thru to a grand finale Tuesday afternoon despite the heavy electrical and rain storm which preceded its beginning and threatened for a time to cancel, or greatly curtail its glamor.

The eight-mile long parade featuring many bands, marching units of the Antlered Guard, both women and men and military units, etcetera, took fully two hours to pass a given point as it moved from 55th Street down South Parkway boulevard past Corpus Christi Center headquarters of the convention to 24th Street where it disbanded.

A MILLION VIEWERS  
A visitor to the "Windy City" probably would have thought that most of Chicago's 600,000 colored citizens were viewing the parade since they had waited an hour and a half for it to start at 3 P.M. instead of the scheduled 1:30 o'clock. Some had been on the line in chairs and on boxes since shortly after the noon hour. An Elks parade is something not to be missed if at all convenient.

TENNESSEE ELKS

Authority for that statement is the splendid marching unit and band of the Tennessee All-Elks Band whose banner bears the inscription: "We Go Everywhere—We've Been Coast-To-Coast." They were in the latter portion of the parade following Rock Hill, S. C., whose crack high school band is considered one of the best in the two Carolinas. They were "traffic-stoppers" at the North Carolina Elks convention in May at Gastonia, N. C.

Heading the parade was an integrated National Guard unit which had two colored members, followed by the crack

O.V. Catto band and marching units from Philadelphia playing, "It's a Good Day" which was quite appropriate coming immediately after the rain storm which almost blighted the occasion. A bright sun was then shining and playing peek-a-boo with the clouds and sprinkling rain. Next in line was the Greater Chicago band and marching units in good form. Several units in the parade, unfortunately, showed a marked lack of proper training prior to the event.

The Pluribus Unum marching unit with its hip-swinging (Grand Exalted Ruler Robert H. Johnson's order banning same, notwithstanding) was quite a hit with those who liked it. The Heart of Detroit Elks band and Rainbo girls (Daughters) and other Daughters in beaver hats were quite a hit with the crowd. Progressive lodge of Brooklyn carried a banner inviting the 56th annual convention there in 55. A beautiful float bearing lovely Daughters from Florida also carried an invitation of "Welcome To Miami in 1956".

Greater Pittsburgh Bills and Daughters were among the top units in the parade, also North-side lodge of Pittsburgh. Buffalo, N. Y., had a military po-

lice unit, one of whom carried a gun. Also a motorcycle military policeman riding back and forth thru the parade lending pride and dignity to the parade in his snappy outfit. Their prancing, marching cowboy girls caused the males to turn around and look-and they were modest, too.

Grand Director of Public Relations Charles P. McClane's hometown of Steelton, Pa., and Harrisburg, Pa., both came in for honorable mention. Unity 71 marching unit in purple coats and white pants and the smartly uniformed eight color-bearing lassies in gray and maroon, from Atlantic City received only one criticism. That was only that they got out of sight too quick. They were near perfection and carried six different flags and marched with precision.

Monumental lodge of Baltimore had a girl in a "frilly" shirt who did a cross between a "shake" and a "hula" and the "shimmy" of a generation ago. She was not popular with those who wished to comply with Bob Johnson's orders against such "hip-swinging". Others enjoyed it immensely.

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