

Jackie Robinson First Athlete To Get Spingarn Award

W.M. Rich Named To N. C. Mutual Board

William M. Rich, superintendent of Lincoln hospital, was elected to the board of directors and D. C. Deans, Jr. was appointed agency director of the North Carolina Mutual Life In-



WILLIAM M. RICH



D. C. DEANS, JR.

urance company in a special meeting of the board Wednesday. Recent death of two of the firm's high ranking officers, A. J. Clement and G. W. Cox, made the selections necessary. Clement died in April and Cox died two weeks ago. Both were board members, and Cox was also agency director.

Wednesday's action brings the strength of the board up to its mandatory number of nine members.

At the conclusion of the meeting, N. C. Mutual President W. J. Kennedy, Jr., expressed complete satisfaction with the action of the board in filling the vacated positions.

Rich had no prior official connection with the firm. However, Deans has been a long-time firm official and is a member of its board of directors. He had been summoned to duty in the home office early last year to assist the then ailing G. W. Cox.

The new board member, Rich, is a native of Westmoreland County, Va. He has been superintendent at Lincoln hospital since 1934. Rich received his formal education at Hampton Institute where he earned the bachelor's degree in 1909. A year later, he returned and received an additional degree from the institution's business school.

Like Rich, Deans is also a Virginian, a native of Essex County. He received his formal training at West Virginia State College and went to work in the campaign headquarters of H. D. Hatfield who subsequently became governor of West Va. (Continued on Page Eight)

Negro Medics May Join White Society In N. C.



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Business Won't Be Hurt By Integration Progress



Twelve Durhamites were singled out for recognition by the National Recreation Association for their contributions to Durham's growth in recreation. The twelve were presented framed certificates in a special ceremony which preceded the City Council's regular meeting Monday night at City Hall. Left to

right are John Barry (back to camera), editor of the Durham Sun who presented the awards, John H. Wheeler, William Ruffin, Judge Marshall T. Spears, Rev. Miles Mark Fisher, Mrs. William A. McCarthy who received the award for her father, Fred C. Owen, Mrs. George Pyne, appearing for her mother,

Mrs. Mamie Dowd Walker, John A. Buchanan, Steed Rollins, Alena Aldrige, who received the award for his father, Dewey Seabore and W. J. Kennedy, Jr. John Sprunt Hill who was also honored for his participation to Durham's Recreation program, was not represented.

Speaker Tells Business League Competition Key

Desegregation will not be the determining factor in the failure or success of any business, declared one of the South's pioneer Negro bankers at the 10th annual North Carolina Negro Business League convention in Durham this week.

Failure or success will depend on "the individual firm and its ability to adjust and not to the progress of integration," said L. E. Milton, a former cabinet committeeman and currently president of Citizens Trust Company of Atlanta, Ga.

Milton and Harry W. Ketchum, director of the Office of Distribution of the U. S. Department of Commerce, both stressed the fact that competition remains the heart of American free enterprise system.

They were heard at the final session of the business league's two-day convention held at North Carolina College. The convention was locally sponsored by the Durham Business and Professional Chain, the Durham Housewives' League and the North Carolina College Commerce Department.

"Integration is not going to make very many of our business men more or less alert, and it is not going to give them more or less market than they have now," Milton asserted.

Milton said that business operated by Negroes fall into two classes (1) Those that exist because of or related to segregation and (2) Those which exist in spite of segregation.

"We can only hope that desegregation gradually separates the men from the boys and gives efficient units the opportunity to operate in an atmosphere not as paralyzing in psychological effects as is segregation."

Some 300 persons, including (Continued on Page Eight)



Alexander Faison, North Carolina College student who was refused permission to register at Seaboard for the May primary, will be the plaintiff in a suit filed against the registration board by Attorney James B. Walker of Weldon. Walker also revealed early this week that a suit seeking to challenge the prohibition of "one shot" voting be instituted. The suits are the result of registration troubles in eastern North Carolina prior to the May primary.

Negro Doctors Hear News In Convention

CHARLOTTE

Negro physicians and surgeons will be admitted to "scientific" membership to the previously all-white, North Carolina Medical Society before the year has past.

At least, this is the opinion of Dr. Donald B. Koonce, Wilmington, president of the NCMS received by the Old North State Medical Society in annual session here at Johnson C. Smith University June 12-14. Dr. Koonce, in Chicago, attending the annual meeting of the American Medical Association, stated that only a "technical question was holding up the final announcement. He explained, in a telephone interview, that certain word changes in the constitution of the NCMS first, had to be cleared up by a committee charged with the assignment.

The news came as a surprise to delegates in attendance at the meeting of the Old North State group, who had received no news following the last annual meeting of the white group held in Pinehurst in early May. News sources were silent on the passage, this year, on second reading, of the original decision to admit Negroes introduced at the 1954 meeting of the group at Pinehurst.

The telephone interview also revealed that the site of the meeting of the 1957 convention of the North Carolina Medical Society has been switched from Pinehurst to Asheville. Observers stated that Pinehurst was not too receptive to entertaining conventions which included Negro memberships.

The latest development brought the Old North State Medical Society a step nearer the goal in its efforts begun some six-years ago. Dr. Murray B. Davis, High Point, had served as chairman of a liaison committee, working on the project during the entire period.

Along with members of the Old North State Medical Society, the latest decision was hailed by another leader in the medical profession. Dr. Roy B. McKnight, Charlotte surgeon and president of the Tri-State Medical Society, comprising Virginia, North and South Carolina, who presented a scientific paper at Wednesday's session of the Old North State group, commended the action.

"Both Negro and white physicians will gain by the admission of Negroes to the NCMS," he said. He told the group that extremists who might term the action a defeat or victory are all wrong. "No one is victor," he concluded, "for all will gain."

Dr. J. W. V. Cordice, Durham, was presented the "Doctor of (Continued on Page Eight)

Speaker Tells Kittrell Class To Defend Ideas Of America

KITTRELL
 Dr. Frank R. Veal, newly elected president of Allen University, told the graduating class of Kittrell Junior College at the school's 89th commencement, "Whenever a people permit that in which they believe to die, they die—they become extinct."

"Whatever you believe in, your faith and your foundations, your aspirations and desires, will have to be defended constantly," Dr. Veal told the graduates.

He warned that "anything that is alive is in constant jeopardy. Where life is present, death lurks about. Life and the essential values of our way of life—the basic things that America stands for—are being threatened," Dr. Veal cautioned his listeners.

The speaker called upon the graduates to be ready and willing to stand up and defend the ideals and the spirit of America. "That which you sincerely believe in you will fight to preserve," he said.

In conclusion, Dr. Veal ad-

monished the young graduates not to let others have more concern and more faith in the future of the Negro than they have. He said that the graduation ceremony signified that the graduates have had the right answers for many questions, but pointed out that it is even more important that they have the right answers in the future.

"The right answers, a fireproof faith and the determination and courage to defend your convictions are the values which make men in life's no-man's-land," Dr. Veal stated.

The commencement was presided over by president R. W. Wisner. Bishop Frank Madison Reid, chancellor of the school and prelate of the Second Episcopal District of the AME Church, spoke about plans to revitalize and rebuild the junior college which he said is so vitally needed in this critical period of educational transition in the South.

Dean Nathaniel Gaylord assisted President Wisner in the presentation of diplomas, certificates and awards.

Dentists Fight To Get On State Policy-Making Body

CHARLOTTE
 Present efforts of Negro dentists in North Carolina to gain admittance to the all-white North Carolina Dental Association is not an attempt to crash into a social fraternity of white Tar Heel dentists, the retiring president of the Old North State Dental Society said here last week.

Dr. Reginald A. Hawkins who stepped down as head of the state organization of Negro dentists explained that the white dentists' group, the North Carolina Dental Association, is virtually a state agent and makes

state policy controlling the practice of all dentists within North Carolina.

Hawkins said that the North Carolina Dental Association, chartered in 1898, has been empowered by the State legislature to elect the North Carolina board of dental examiners, assess taxes and approve or reject applications for license to practice.

In view of these state powers, Negro dentists contend that the North Carolina Dental Association controls the practice of dentistry in the state.

The Negro dentists' organiza-

tion has indicated that it will take legal steps to force the white dentists' group to admit Negro dentists.

Court action appears as the only alternative, Dr. Hawkins said, revealing that negotiations between the two groups on the matter for past eight years have met with no success.

"We have exhausted all remedies," Dr. Hawkins said, "and the courts seem to be our only way out now."

Dr. Horace Thompson, president of the white association, said that no Negroes were in the white association because none had applied for membership.

Hawkins explained that in order for a dentist to apply for memberships in the state association, he must first be admitted to a district or county unit of the state organization. District and county units require that all applicants must be approved by two white members before their applications can be acted on.

In the past, Hawkins indicated, white society members have been instructed not to sign applications of would-be Negro members. In some cases, Hawkins revealed, white dentists have been told that if they vouch for a Negro applicant, they would probably be repudiated or forced out of the organization.

This procedure, Hawkins said, works to eliminate Negro dentists in the South from membership in the merican Dental Association, because membership in a state organization is a requirement for affiliation with the national body.

A full rights and privileges committee proposed the court action as the next step by the group to gain admittance to the North Carolina Dental Association. Its recommendations were approved unanimously by the 85 dentists who were in attendance.

The committee is composed of (Continued on Page Eight)

Presentation To Be Made To Dodger Star At Season's End

NEW YORK
 For the first time, the coveted Spingarn Medal, awarded annually to a Negro American for distinguished achievement, will be presented to an athlete, the Jackie Robinson of the Brooklyn World Champion baseball team, Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, announced here last week.

The medal was awarded to Jackie for "his superb sportsmanship, his pioneer role in breaking the color bar in organized baseball, and his civic consciousness," particularly his work in the efforts to curb juvenile delinquency. Joining the Brooklyn Dodgers as an infielder in 1947, he became the first Negro major league baseball player.

Customarily, presentation of the award is made at a public meeting during the NAACP annual convention. However, due to the Dodger schedule, Mr. Robinson will be unable to attend the convention which meets in San Francisco, June 28 through July 1. Presentation of the award will be made in

New York at a later date, probably after the close of the baseball season.

The Spingarn Medal was instituted in 1914 by the late J. E. Spingarn, then chairman of the NAACP Board of Directors. It is a gold medal awarded "for the highest or noblest achievement by an American Negro during the preceeding year of years."

Since Mr. Spingarn's death in 1939 the medal has been continued under terms of his will which set up a trust fund "to perpetuate the lifelong interest of my brother, Arthur B. Spingarn, of my wife, Amy E. Spingarn, and of myself in the achievements of the American Negro." Arthur B. Spingarn has been president of the Association since 1939.

The award to Jackie Robinson is the 41st. Among previous Spingarn Medalists have been Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, Marian Anderson, Judge William H. Hastie, A. Philip Randolph, Thurgood Marshall, Carl Murphy, Dr. Channing H. Tobias, Roland Hayes, the late Walter White and the late Dr. Louis T. Wright.



Frank G. Burnette, right, recently appointed Imperial Deputy for North Carolina Shriners, is shown here receiving a plaque for meritorious service from L. B. Frasier, illustrious Potentate of Durham's Zeta Temple No. 176. Burnette served as Potentate of the Durham Temple from 1950 through 1955. He was succeeded in the post by Frasier.



Principals in Kittrell College's commencement exercises are pictured here. Left to right are Dr. Frank Veal, newly elected president of Allen University who delivered the final address, Bishop Frank M. Reid, and Kittrell College president R. W. Wisner. See story this page.