

Courier Magazine Section

June 13, 1959



Was Crack Negro Twirler Shunned?

By JOE HARRIS

LOS ANGELES—Citizens of Los Angeles, especially those of the Negro populace, are deeply concerned over the recent report that pretty and talented Alice Williams, recent graduate of San Luis Obispo High School where she was top majorette leader-instructor and led her drill team to two top field trophies for two consecu-

tive years, has been sidelined to an immeasurably low spot on a list of nearly two hundred aspirants by Ram-ette head Karen Ukers after waiting two hours for an audition.

After returning to Los Angeles, her place of birth, following her graduation from San Luis Obispo High, the news of Miss Williams' prowess as an ace baton twirler reached Ram band leader John Boudreau who contacted Miss Williams in regards to doing a solo spot in a road show for the El Toro Marines, twirling "fire," which calls for expert baton handling. Miss Williams could not accept because of an impending engagement to model in a fashion show at the Moulin Rouge Club. She was told to contact Mrs. Ukers, head of the Ramettes who perform between halves at Ram football games in the Los Angeles Coliseum.

IN A TELEPHONE conversation to Mrs. Ukers regarding a tryout for the Ramettes Corps, Miss Williams gave her experience and qualifications and was told to come out for an audition. There was no mention of race or color. When she arrived for the tryout, a period of about two hours elapsed before she was asked to perform. During this time she chatted with the other girls (all white) who proved to be very friendly.

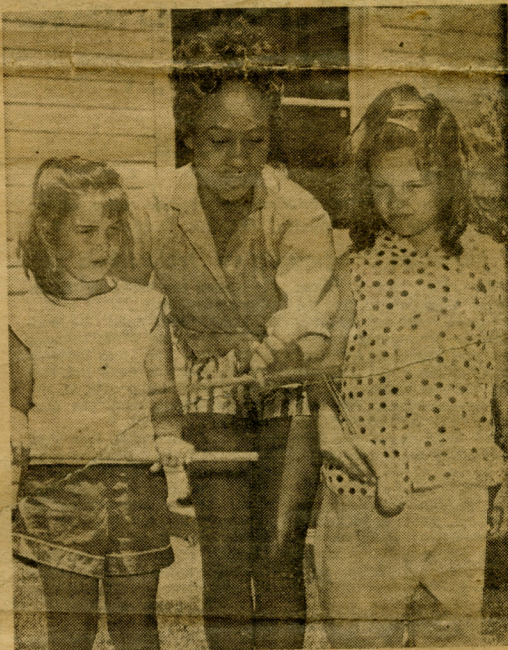
Finally Mrs. Ukers came in and greeted the aspirants. Noticing that Miss Williams was a Negro, it was reported that Mrs. Ukers' expression became noticeably disturbed. But she regained her composure and courteously asked Miss Williams to be the first to perform.

Miss Williams said: like all performers in other fields, one cannot help but be a little nervous on an audition, but that she wasn't too nervous, so she did her twirls, etc., with the baton and dropped her baton only once. Following her (Miss Williams) the white girls took their turns at twirling and several of them missed their batons four to five times.

TOP TEAM—Head majorette Alice Williams is shown in front center taking her team through their paces at San Luis Obispo High School. This is the team which won top field trophy for two consecutive years in competition.

After the tryouts were over, Miss Williams says she was told by Mrs. Ukers, that she (Miss Williams) would have to be put on a list for future reference, but that the list was so long, it would probably be a year before she would be called.

NOW, THE QUESTION is, was this statement meant to imply that Miss Williams is so far down the list that it is useless for her to ever think of becoming a member of the Ramettes? Several attempts have been made to contact Mrs. Ukers for a statement, but to no avail. Mr. and Mrs. John Boudreau, top heads of the Ramettes organization is out of the city on vacation for four



INSTRUCTION—San Luis Obispo High's head majorette, Miss Williams, is shown in her role as instructor. Miss Williams took a special course in baton-twirling at Pepperdine College for three summers.

weeks and could not be reached for comment.

This writer believes that if ability and qualifications are the right and democratic means of becoming a member of the Ramettes then surely Alice Williams, an ace twirler, leader-instructor, and top majorette, whose ability has been proven at a veritably all-white school at San Luis Obispo High, and was good enough to be asked to do a solo spot by John Boudreau for the El Toro Marines on an integrated basis, then truly it is time for integration in the Ramettes. The Rams' football team is integrated, and thousands of Negroes pay to

see them every year, then why isn't Miss Williams able to make the Ramettes?

THE TALENTED Miss Williams has two younger sisters still attending San Luis Obispo High, Rosa Lee and Annazette Williams. Rosa Lee is head majorette and Annazette is in class-body "tie" in the voting for head cheerleader. Accompanying photos to this story shows the capacities in which Miss Williams served and performed while attending San Luis Obispo High. She is presently attending L. A. State College at Los Angeles. —"30" J. H.



HEAD MAJORETTE — Pretty and talented Alice Williams strikes a fetching pose in her eye-appealing costume as head majorette at San Luis Obispo High School.



African Small Fry—In Kano, Northern Rhodesia, a concert to make the centenary of the foundation of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Louis was held at St. Louis Convent School. It will be put on again during the region's self-government celebrations.

John M. Thornton



Mr. Thornton

John M. Thornton is an international representative of the United Steelworkers of America, AFL-CIO, Washington, D. C.

The Negro and Organized Labor

Industries Ganging Up on Steelworkers

I AM JUST BACK from New York where for the past three weeks, negotiations have been going on between the representatives of the steel industry and the leaders of the Steelworkers Union for a new contract. The contract between the United Steelworkers of America and the steel industry expires June 31, after a five-year period.

I can report that at this stage of the negotiations things are very bad. If one is to judge the future by what is going on outside of the bargaining tables with related companies, then one is to conclude that the steel industry has made up its mind that it must have at least a 10-day strike.

HERE ARE SOME of the things that companies and institutions connected with the steel industry are doing to help to give moral aid to their companions in this "keep the profits big" campaign, and to avoid granting a wage increase or other "fringe" benefits.

1. The Institute of Life Insurance has been running full page ads which point up the fact that it is all right for the steel industry to pay out millions of dollars to the stockholders, but wrong to pay out this same money to the workers who produce the products. Higher wages to the workers will add to inflation, so they claim.

2. The National Association of Manufacturers have set up a special advisory commission

to stiffen the backs of the industry leaders.

3. The "Iron Age," the periodical for the steel industry boasts that the steel industry will share their profits, if any one of their plants are shut down.

4. The American Iron and Steel Institute which serves as spokesman for the steel industry states that not only will there be no more wage increases given, but the steel industry is now demanding that the cost of living clause that the steelworkers have had for the past three years, be removed from the contract.

IF THE STEEL industry sticks to this demand, it means the industry definitely desires and wants a shut down of the steel mills for several months. This is what they will get! This is because the history of the steelworkers is simply—once a major gain is won from the steel industry; it must never be given up. No one is more aware of this than the steel industry.

A newspaper story quoting steel officials last week said that there would be one offer, "Freeze wages as they are." The story went on to say that the only things that would change the steel corporations' minds would be a major strike or the intervention of the Federal Government. It appears that this commentator was right in my predictions of several weeks ago.

The Week's Books

Edited by George S. Schuyler

The Temper of the South

THE MOST outstanding revelation in a book fairly bursting with them is the fact that the desegregation issue is as complex as life itself. William Peters sets forth this fact with clarity and warmest sincerity in "The Southern Temper" (Doubleday, \$3.95). He does not present only the opinions of those agreeable to himself, but has done a monumental job of research into published works, in personal contacts with diversified personalities and characters, and let their progress and/or failure speak for them.

The completed task proves without doubt that fair-minded, law-abiding white people are helping the South to ease into desegregation, although not always for identical reasons. The advance is slow, but sure. Because it faces facts, because it presents the many sides of the question and proof of reasons for hope, this is an excellent book to read. You are likely to look forward to other books by William Peters (Edwina Streeter Dixon).

People in the Shadow

No subject on earth today calls for saner, well-informed, civilized thinking than sex, and there is no other that is such a victim of wide-eyed emotion. Since Havelock Ellis, Iwan Block, Brill, Kinsey and other researchers in that field, a new world of scientific information on it has been opened to us, but still to the vast majority, especially in Christian Anglo-Saxon lands, it is today as if those masters had never lived.

The belief still persists that sex is solely for propagation of the species and when employed for any other purpose is downright sinful.

Especially is this true of what are considered abnormal expressions such as homosexuality and even certain heterosexual practices, some of which when practiced by the legally wed are against the law. In view of this, "They Walk in the Shadow" by J. D. Mercer (Comet, \$5.95) is very timely. Its 573 pages discuss sexual variations with emphasis on the ambisexual and homosexual components in relation to our contemporary sex laws. It is significant, as the author points out, that the once so rigid English law has taken a more liberal view on homosexuality. The works of early and present authorities as examined and discussed make this one of the most sane and competent works on the subject (J. A. Rogers).

Better Looks for Teen-agers

The staccato-like style of Elsie Archer's "Let's Face It" (Lippincott, \$2.95) is established by her immediate projection of a series of questions which may arise in the mind of any teen-ager, or on the other hand may be implanted in the teen-ager mind by the impact of such questions. She then proceeds with bullet-like precision to provide a series of relevant answers in a wealth of short and pointed sentences aimed directly at the target of the teen-ager mind, particularly it would seem, to the teen-agers who have had the benefit of limited parental guidance and direction.

The author's emphasis is on creating an awareness of SELF and the self-potential as these relate to personal grooming,

physical fitness and acceptable social behavior. She presents a series of well-known and well-documented suggestions on personal care, especially applicable to the skin and hair of Negro girls.

The book is graphically written in the lingo of the teen-ager and is carefully indexed, providing a convenient reference for daily use. It should be of much use to young girls in coping with many of their "growing-up" problems (Beatrice Wright).

Sia Lives on Kilimanjaro" (Macmillan, \$2) by Anna Riwkin-Brick and Astrid Lindgren. One of the loveliest, pre-teen books published this year. Especially recommended for colored children. Simple, appealing text and gorgeous photographs portraying native life in Tanganyika, East Africa.



Reassigned—Both the Revs. Seymour H. Barker and J. L. Dandridge, standing left to right, at the closing session of the 143rd annual Philadelphia AME Conference, heard Bishop George W. Baber reappoint them to their respective pulpits. Barker returned to Jones Tabernacle, Diamond St., near 21st, and Dandridge to Zion AME, 21st and Tasker Sts., in South Philadelphia.—Courier Photo.

Coats, Overcoats on Cars

DETROIT — The enclosed cross-section view shows the five protective coats applied to the exterior of every 1959 Dodge car.

The clean body metal first is given a coat of a special chemical surfacer and bondizer. This cleans the metal and provides a surface with excellent "paintability."

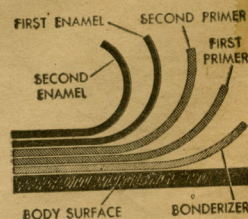
Two coats of Epoxy base primer then are sprayed on

this specially prepared surface. These layers are oven baked and then are wet sanded. As a guide for the precision wet sanding, the inner primer coat is pigmented red and the outer coat gray.

THIS COLOR key removes the possibility of sanding through the primer coats. The sanding operator stops before he sees red.

Over the primer coats, two color coats of super-quality "Lustre-Bond" enamel are sprayed and oven-baked. The second color coat assures durability, long wear-proof life and gives depth and richness characteristic of modern exterior finishes.

The five coats provide a finish that may go for two to three years before waxing is necessary.



Courier Magazine Section

Sunnyside Up

By GLADYS GREEN

A BASEBALL fan was telling outfielder Willie Mays about the time he and some friends visited a farmer who boasted that he made the best hard cider in the county.

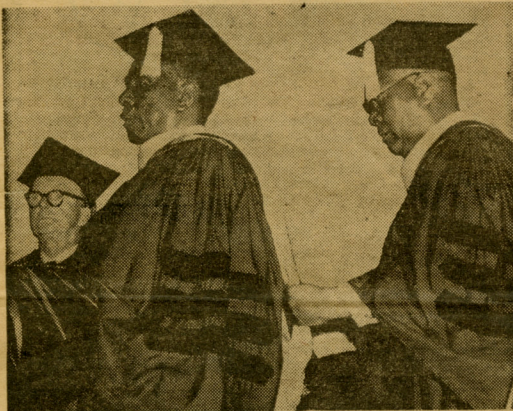


Willie Mays

The visitor tried a few drinks and found it pretty heady stuff. In fact, they thought they had better leave while they could, and suggested so. Then they asked the farmer what they owed him.

"By gosh, I wouldn't think of charging you for the cider," the farmer replied. "That would be bootlegging and I ain't come down to that level yet. But that head of cabbage will be a dollar and a half."

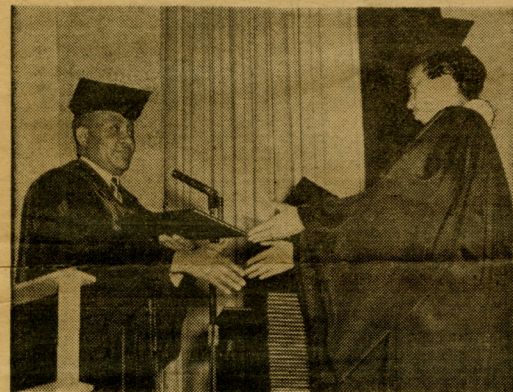
Colleges in Annual Graduation Rites



CITED—Dr. Howard Thurman, dean, Marsh Chapel, Boston University, is shown above receiving the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities. The occasion was the 74th commencement exercises at Virginia State College, Petersburg. Left to right: Vice President J. H. Johnston, VSC; Dr. Thurman, and Dr. J. A. Moore, VSC.



DOCTOR OF LAWS—President Rembert E. Stokes, left, Wilberforce University, confers Doctor of Laws degree on Lawrence E. Spivak, center, moderator of television show "Meet the Press." The popular TV personality appeared at Wilberforce University in a special assembly program at which time he submitted to questioning from a four-member panel. Dr. Milton S. J. Wright, right, dean of the college, assists in the ceremony.



CUM LAUDE—Nell Louise Sadler, who was graduated summa cum laude, receives her degree from Dr. Nabrit, TSU president. The occasion was the 12th annual commencement exercise at Texas Southern University.



SPEAKER—Bishop Richard H. Baker, chairman of the board of trustees; the Right Rev. Thomas H. Wright, commencement speaker, and Dr. James A. Boyer, president, participated in graduation exercises at St. Augustine's College.



SISTERS—Ruth and Ruby McLaughlin of Bushnell, Fla., were recipients of bachelor degrees at the 55th annual commencement exercises at Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Fla.

WHAT COURIER READERS THINK

Lynching Weakens U. S. Position

The news which was flashed around the world on April 26 shocked the conscience of mankind. The wanton kidnaping and lynching of M. C. Parker by a vicious, irresponsible mob has caused irreparable damage to our cherished ideals of freedom and equal justice under law, which are cardinal principles of our American democracy.

The American position of democratic leadership among nations of the world cannot absorb the continued occurrences of such unjustifiable inhuman acts, no matter where they may occur. Such action on the part of irresponsible people constitutes a drain on our American prestige in the councils of world government. **MINISTERS COOPERATIVE AND CIVIC COMMITTEE** Chicago

Courier Should Hit Unemployment of Negroes

I am writing to let the entire staff of the Courier know that it is doing a fine job in exposing discrimination against Negroes in the unions and in industry.

As a result, things are beginning to pop in the St. Louis area. The job picture of the Negro is very serious, when three times as many Negroes as whites are out of work. I think that if the Courier keeps the heat on the unemployment situation as it did on unions, something will be done about it.

S. D. COLLINS
St. Louis, Mo.

Labor Aligned With NAACP

Secretary of Labor Mitchell's speech before the convention of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union in Miami recently made the headlines, but it is important to note that the convention took action by resolution to demand a strong Federal Fair Employment Practices Law with enforcement powers. This shows how the

progressive and honest elements within labor—which are opposed to economic exploitation and injustices—are aligned with such organizations as the NAACP, which has long been fighting against racial segregation, discrimination and injustice.

Before going to Miami for its convention, union leaders got from an important number of hotels and restaurants a pledge not to discriminate in providing service and accommodations for Negro union delegates. I have never heard that the U. S. Chamber of Commerce or the National Association of Manufacturers has taken similar action to protect the rights of Negro Americans.

—FRANK R. CROSSWATH,
Chairman, Negro Labor Committee, New York.

Appeal for Leprosy Victims

May I request your cooperation in publishing this worldwide appeal to the hearts that respond to those who need love's healing.

Please send postage stamps to a "shut-in Stamp Club" with letters from children as well as elderly bearing good wishes to a leper colony on a little island in the South Pacific. The sorting and general procedures in stamp collecting provide hours of happy entertainment. Self is forgotten and perfection is reborn, for a happy mind creates a healthy body.

Love knows no barriers. Universal love heals. Help these unfortunates find their way back to happiness.

May I humbly ask for your immediate aid in so worthy a promise? Please mail your stamps to the Stamp Club, Kalapapa, Molokai, Hawaii.

ARTHUR C. MARKS

More Crimes Against Negro Women?

I read the account of the Tallahassee (rape) "incident." I was a student at Florida A. & M. University and was graduated in 1952. This "incident" is not the first that has

happened, but only one of those which reached the national news services unintentionally.

If inquiry is made, I am sure that several similar incidents will become evident, provided the people will tell about them. I don't believe in emotional sensationalism, but with this act it is time that something be done to insure the prosecution of those individuals who perpetrate "that" crime against Negro women.

—CURT L. STEVENS,
USAF Academy, Colo.

Pleased With Courier Labor Crusades

I have been quite pleased with the Courier's editorial crusades setting forth with irrefutable logic the need for Negroes, in the trade union movement, to follow the examples of the Jewish Labor Council, the Italian Chamber of Labor, etc.

I thought you might be interested in knowing that Negroes in the metropolitan Detroit area have organized such a movement. Membership in the Trade Union Leadership Council is confined to Negroes in the same way that membership in the Jewish Labor Council is confined to Jews, or that membership in the Italian Chamber of Labor is confined to Italians. However, the TULC is not an ultra-nationalistic group and we do not anticipate charting any boats for a "back to Africa" movement. The fact is that we enjoy the widest possible cooperation and support from all liberal non-Negro elements in this area.

We have received a number of inquiries about the TULC from all over the country since John M. Thornton's (Courier labor writer) column dealing with our organization appeared in the Courier (March 21). They all indicate an awareness that there must be some unity of purpose among us if we are to achieve any real stature in the labor movement.

HAROLD L. SHEFFIELD
Executive Vice President
Detroit

BOOTSIE

By OLLIE HARRINGTON



"... An' when your patients' bereaved families sue you, I can be your lawyer; an' when my clients get my bills, you can treat 'em for heart attacks!"

SUNNYBOY SAM



JOHN HENRY JOHNSON



Remember
ROM.12:2
And be not fashioned according to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.
CONTINUED NEXT WEEK!

MD

DR. EARL B. SMITH

"M. D." is a weekly, informal appointment between a physician and the people at which time he will discuss medical topics which may be beneficial to each of you, regardless of age, sex or position in life. Your questions and comments will be appreciated.

IVY!! IVY!! POISON IVY!!

CONTACT dermatitis caused by poison ivy can be an incapacitating disease for thousands of people in this country. The most common offending agent is a weed known as poison ivy. It may be found as a climbing vine, shrub or bush. Its characteristic three leaflets generally have smooth edges, a shiny surface and often green but may be red in the spring and fall. There is a Pacific Coast form of poison ivy, a Southeastern form of poison oak and a type of poison ivy found in swamps and marshes. Approximately 50 per cent of all individuals develop contact dermatitis from "ivy" after contact with the sap of bruised ivy, oak or weeds. It should be remembered that repeated exposure to ivy can sensitize most individuals. Where there is casual exposure to ivy the sensitivity may decrease with time and advancing age.



Dr. Smith

SENSITIZATION and resultant dermatitis can occur only if the skin makes direct contact with the oily sap released by a bruised or crushed portion of the Rhus weed because the canals in which the sap resides do not reach the surface of the leaf. Animals, clothes, shoes, utensils and other material may become contaminated with the sap and spread it on to the human by contact.

QUESTION: What are the symptoms of poison ivy?

ANSWER: The symptoms are redness, itching which develop in a few hours or days after contact. Later swelling and vesicles appear. If secondary infection does not occur, the blisters and other lesions may disappear in two to four weeks.

QUESTION: What is the best treatment for poison ivy dermatitis?

ANSWER: There are no specific measures to combat this type of dermatitis and occasionally simple measures can be more effective than complex or complicated forms of therapy.

Preventive measures for this disease can be effective in some cases but the protection is temporary and not lasting.

By W. HOLLOWAY

By JOSH HOLMES