

# NEW YORK SOCIETY

By BESSYE J. BEARDEN

NEW YORK.—Society did its New Year duties in the best possible manner, topping off a season of holiday festivities that will be a long remembered endurance record in the amount of egg nog and other drinks consumed, to say nothing of the food eaten and the hours of sleep lost. While the smart cafes and taverns (most of which remained open all night) were solidly packed with merry-makers as

the old year said adieu to the new, it was at private parties and two subscription affairs that the more fashionable members of society and the arts did their celebrating. Missing again for the second successive year was the once annual New Year's eve reception of Helene Grant and Georgia Washington. Their gay and amusing parties had become a New Year's eve tradition and were looked forward to from one year to the next with much pleasure by their many friends.

But, alas, for the past two years Helene and George, two of our most brilliant young school teachers, who are also unusually gracious hostesses, somehow for the past two years have not felt the urge to be at home to their friends. So during the New Year of 1942 we can only hope that by the time it has grown old and is fading away they will have changed their minds about it all and will once again resume their delightful New Year's eve at homes.

**Dr. Dismond Honors Future Wife**  
The much married Dr. H. Binga Dismond, who is apparently trying to keep up with Tommy Manville in the number of wives he has had, was at home on New Year's eve at his handsome residence, at 245 West 139th street (in the "Block Beautiful"), in honor of the woman who is soon to become Mrs. Dismond No. 4. She is the exotically beautiful Mrs. Cora Campbell Henderson, of Los Angeles, who was separated from her husband about two months ago and recently filed suit to obtain a Mexican divorce from him. At present she is visiting here as the guest of Dr. and Mrs. Conrad A. Edwards.

We understand that while the fashionable doctor and Mrs. Henderson were childhood sweethearts, this is their first meeting in 18 years. Meanwhile, three other women have borne the name of the doctor, who during the years when he was a medical student, was also a nationally famous athlete. The first Mrs. Dismond was the former Narka Lee, of Boston. This marriage

lasted only a short while, and soon after Mrs. Dismond obtained a divorce she remarried this time becoming Mrs. Rayford. At present she is living in Washington, D. C., and is one of the Capital City's most prominent society matrons.

During the first World War, while he was serving in the army, Dr. Dismond took as his second wife the former Geraldyn Hodges of Chicago. They were married in a colorful military wedding at the army post where he was stationed. In the early 1920's the Dismonds came to New York, where he established a practice that has since made him one of the most successful physicians in the country. Socially Gerry and Binga both became two of the most charming and valued assets to the group of society sophisticates who were reigning during the 1920's, and whose brilliant leader at the time was the late A'Leila Walker.

Meanwhile, Gerry discovered her talent as a writer, doing a column about well-known personalities called "Through the Lorgnette of Geraldyn Dismond." Later, under the title of Lady Nicotine, she became the society editor and reporter and eventually the editor for another publication. With her brilliant mind and her ability to phrase a delightful bon mot, Gerry soon had a large following of devoted readers and admirer. But aside from her talent as a writer, Gerry is a handsome, charming and gracious lady, whose reputation as one of the foremost leaders of New York society and as one of its most delightful hostesses is now nationally known. So when she finally got around to divorcing Binga in 1933 she was well equipped to face the world on her own. At present she holds a civil service position as editor of the official publication of the Department of Health of New York City.

Binga, likewise, has felt the urge to write something more than letters and notices of payments due to his patients. He has written quite a

bit of poetry, a few song lyrics, and under the name of The Hawk contributed a nightlife column to the paper on which Gerry was once editor.

Soon after Gerry obtained her divorce from him Binga married again for the third time, and to another Bostonian. The third Mrs. Dismond, who, for a number of years before her marriage to him, had been the doctor's efficient nurse, was the former Harriet (Daisy) Richardson. This marriage weathered a rather stormy course until it was recently ended when Dr. Dismond obtained a divorce. Like her former husband, Daisy is also a great lover of Haiti and during the few years of their marriage spent much of her time there, either with Dr. Dismond or alone. In fact she will make her future home there.

Gerry Dismond has been the outstanding personality so far among the charming doctor's wives, and it is interesting to note that during the years of their marriage, and since, they have both continued to remain friendly with the first Mrs. Dismond, the present Mrs. Narka Lee Rayford, often having her as a guest in their homes during her infrequent visits to New York from Washington. Still much more interesting, perhaps, is the fact that Gerry and Binga since their divorce have also continued to be the best of friends; and now that he is about to take unto himself another wife Gerry is among those who have entertained for Mrs. Cora Campbell Henderson, the soon to be new Mrs. Dismond, since the lady's arrival in the city.

But hold your seats, ladies and gentlemen, you haven't heard everything just yet. While we have always known and found much pleasure in the fact that both Gerry and Binga are two of the most intelligent and cosmopolitan members of society, rumor now has it that Gerry, of all people, is to stand with Mrs. Henderson when she becomes Mrs. Dismond No. 4 in a quiet ceremony that is to take place in New Jersey as soon as the lady obtains her divorce which will probably be sometime this month.

And now for a final word or two about Dr. Dismond's party on New Year's Eve in honor of Mrs. Henderson. Gerry Dismond, aside from the guest of honor, was the most prominent person there. While the other guests who were on hand to drink a toast of best wishes for the New Year and the future to Binga and his next wife included some of the society's toniest folk.

## The Town Was Really Jumping

As for some of the other New Year's Eve celebrations, things were going on all over the town. The smart set let go with everything they had and by the time the first day of the New Year had reached the early morning hours, boys and girls, the town was really jumping. It would have required the agility and endurance of a marathon runner to have gotten around to all of the parties that were going on, but by beginning early and taking the evening and early morning in a somewhat leisurely manner we somehow made it.

Ruth Ellington, Duke's lovely sister poured egg nog for the younger set at her apartment in 409 Edgecombe avenue. Mr. and Mrs. Sol Johnson Jr., had a party for a small group of their friends, and it was nice seeing Sol's charming sister, Katherine, whom we hadn't seen in years. She was doing the town with handsome Harold Jackman. Ruth Walls Martin, who was at one time one of society's most beautiful and popular figures, but for sometime has been partly out of the picture, invited a few of her old friends in for the evening for a toast to the New Year. Miss J. Clarice Brooks, of 43 West Sixty-sixth street, invited several of her friends in for dinner before they started out on their New Year's eve rounds.

That exceedingly popular couple, Millicent and Robert J. Dorsey were at home for their annual New Year's party in their handsomely decorated modern apartment at 305 West 149th street. Unlike most of

the party givers, Millie and Bobby always invite their guests to come after the mid-night hour.

A few of those whom we recall, who were there to celebrate the New Year with the Dorseys were Linda and Pierre (Ray) Garrette, the Lawrence (Larry) Richardsons (Mrs. Richardson is the noted pianist, Margaret Bonds), Miss J. Clarice Brooks, Gladys Stoner, Winnie Johnson (she was at one time married to the movie actor, Stepin Fetchit), Mable Hart, Ethel Evans, Helen Morris, Sally Denson, Margot Franke, Edna Bedford, William Anthony Hill, William C. Chase, Edward G. Perry, McCleary Stinnette, Dr. Fred Carter, Kelsey Pharr, Randolph Sawyer, Hubert Hemmingway, James Nepero, Smalls Boykin, Samuel A. Hawkins, Francis Thompson, William Morris and Myer Tinsdale.

In between the parties where the drinks were on the house or were to be had for the asking, there were two subscription affairs, both of which drew many of the popular members of the arts and their followers. Down in Greenwich Village, at Bill Madden's studio, at 69½ Jane street, the American Negro theatre had its second annual New Year's Eve party; while Ruth Attaway and her acting company in association with Allison Burroughs had a grand blowout at the latter's Associated Schools, 303 West 125th street.

## Holiday Breakfast

While every one was giving egg nog parties and other drinking festivities during the holiday season, the Dodson's—Lillian, Edith and Owen,—of Brooklyn, did the unusual thing when they invited quite a large number of their friends in for a breakfast on Sunday morning, December 28, at their beautiful home in the City of Churches, at 469 Quincy street. Getting over to Brooklyn is always a rather trying task, but when three friends such as the very gracious Dodson sisters and their exceptionally charming brothers invite one to partake of their wonderful hospitality it is most imperative that one should be on hand, and so we were.

Owen, of course, was home for the holidays from Atlanta university, in Atlanta, Ga., where he is one of the teachers and directors in the university's drama school. While his eldest sister, Lillian, a teacher in the Brooklyn public school system, has been ill for some time, she came down to spend a few moments with her guests and was as radiant as ever.

Some of those who were there for the breakfast were Mr. and Mrs. Countee Cullen, Dr. Alain Locke, of Washington; William Stanley Braithwaite, noted poetry anthologist and professor of literature at Atlanta university; Ann Cooke, director of the Atlanta university drama school; Miss Ivy Jackman, Edward G. Perry, Harold Jackman, Edgar Clark of Atlanta, Ga.; Ollie Harrington, Phillip Quiny and Edward Atkinson.

## Party In Hotel Suite

Mrs. Charlotte Ford was hostess at an egg nog party in her suite in the Theresa Hotel on Saturday evening, December 29. There was apparently a never-ending supply of the wonderful holiday nectar, and Mrs. Ford's guests who were there to sip it through the evening included Dr. Muriel Pettioni, resident physician at the Alabama State college; Miss Florence Johnson, a teacher in Summer high school; St. Louis, Mo.; Mrs. Beatrice Walker, of Atlanta university School of Social Work; Mr. and Mrs. George Weaver, of Chicago, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Wells, Miss Genevieve Gaines, Miss Elvah M. Waters, Miss Esther Davis, William Anthony Hill, Robert Robinson, Robert Weaver, Williams Eubanks and George Taylor.

The Misses Florentine Farrar of Portsmouth, Va., and Thelma Taylor of Petersburg, Va., were charming visitors in the city during the holiday season. The popular teachers were visiting Miss Alvenia Taylor of 114 West 143rd street.

Among those to entertain for the visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Richardson, Mrs. Sue Brady, Mrs. Catherine McBride Swett, Mr. and Mrs. James Maynor and Thomas Williams.

Mrs. E. Odessa Young, organizer of the Business and Professional Women's club, was at home to the club members on Sunday, December 14 from 4 to 6 o'clock. Ill health forced Mrs. Young to give up active duty with the club eight years ago. At that time Dr. Gertrude Curtis became president and carried on the splendid work done by Atty. Ruth Whaley, the organization's first president.

On October 27 the New York chapter was host to the national group and Mrs. Young sent timely greetings at which time she made it known she would be soon leaving the city for Atlanta, Ga., where she will make her home with her eldest daughter, Miss Henri Mae Young, popular teacher at the Booker T. Washington high school in Atlanta.