

From The Chicago Defender's Columns

15 Years Ago

MARCH 30, 1918

PORTSMOUTH, Va.—Col. Franklin A. Denison of the 370th Infantry, N. G., and a picked battalion were invited here by the war department, that the people of this city might see a first class set of trained soldiers. They were the first body of armed Race soldiers that the citizens of this community have ever seen. There was a storm of applause as they marched through the streets.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—Since the visit of five members of the senate committee of commerce to the Hog Island shipbuilding plant, Senator James K. Vardaman of Mississippi being one of the investigators, Jim Crow signs have been placed over the big mess hall. Senator Vardaman, in a speech before the men, urged the reparation of the races, and now things are in an uproar.

WILMINGTON, Del.—Following the announcement that segregation was to be started in the various city courts and public places, Alderman John O. Hopkins, newly elected member of the city council, backed by the leading citizens, succeeded in having an ordinance passed against the separation of races in all places. Judges were notified to wipe out the color line.

Nine Years Ago

MARCH 29, 1924

HANOVER, N. H.—More than 100 students of economics in Dartmouth college flocked into Tuck hall lecture room Tuesday to listen to one of the strangest lectures ever delivered before a student body. This was a talk on "Transportation," delivered by one who has been interested in the field for many years, J. E. Ford, a well-known Pullman porter, in charge of the Winsted express, running between New York and Winsted, Conn. The lecture was interesting from many angles. Ford appeared on the platform in his porter's uniform.

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—After being sentenced to serve 12 months in the Allegheny county jail on a dope charge, Miss Viola Brown proceeded to entertain court attaches, the judge, government and spectators by staging a "Mula dance" in the federal building. She claimed that William Brown, her common-law husband, was really the one guilty of the charge.

NEW YORK.—Friday night, members of the Writers' guild, an organization of young Race writers, gave a dinner as a kind of get-together, the occasion marking the publication of Miss Jessie Fauset's novel, "There Is Confusion." Dr. Alain Locke of Howard university acted as master of ceremonies.

Five Years Ago

MARCH 31, 1928

DANVILLE, Va.—Four car cleaners, employees of the Southern railway, were arrested Thursday by Danville police on charges of stealing a mail pouch containing approximately \$27,000 from the railway station last Christmas. It is said that \$3,600 in money had been dug up in the yard of Mrs. Alberta Vaden, who is detained as a witness.

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—A lone dollar bill, mailed anonymously from Philadelphia, was received by former Mayor Rowlett Paine Saturday, as a gift to Tom Lee, boatman, who in 195 rescued 30 persons when the steamboat "Norman" sank in the Mississippi river, with a loss of 22 lives. After his heroic rescue, Lee received contributions totaling \$40,000 as a reward. He is now employed as a Memphis street cleaner.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Dr. C. C. Hawkins was burned to death in a freak accident here Sunday, when his automobile crashed into a loaded furnace hotpot as it was being hauled through the street. The molten slag poured over his body and the physician was trapped in the congealing metal before aid could reach him. Fire companies from east and north Birmingham flooded the seething mass with water. In cooling, the slag crushed about the trucks of the pot, making it almost impossible to pull it loose.