

National GRAPEVINE

By CHARLEY CHEROKEE

THE PRESS, chum, is all-important. It makes, or it breaks. Comes the hectic post-war, and the white daily Press will feature lurid scareheads: "Negro Demands His Share!" But right now it studiously ignores news about "Negro Does His Share!" You know where this puts us with the average white reader.

However, liberals in the white Press want to help. Recently, with permission of the Negro Publishers association, they ran a few reprints from the Negro Press—accounts by Negro War Correspondents of combat exploits of the doughty 24th and 93rd in the South Pacific. Other daily papers picked it up. Whites found out for the first time that Negroes were actually fighting, killing and being killed, doing their share. It was swell.

This, My Dear John Henry, Is the Army

NEGRO SOLDIERS have been marrying white girls in various spots of the British Empire where they are stationed. And the good old U. S. Army which seems to be about 98 per cent Texans, doesn't like it worth a damn. So far no official orders against it, but the dear little English and Australian white gals are being warned their lives will be hell and their babies apes.

The Col. Noel Parrish (Commandant of Jim Crow Tuskegee Air Base) case is amusing and confusing. Since Charley chided him, he has been to Chicago looking for Charley, and to Washington to complain that Major Homer Roberts or somebody is tattling. Now comes more mail from Negro officers and privates at Tuskegee, most of it praising Noel. Here's where it gets confusing. Some say that if Charley makes him out a race baiter, he won't get the promotion he wants. Others say that if Charley exposes

that Noel really fights for Negro rights, then Air Chief Gen. Arnold who doesn't care for Negroes, won't like it, and no promotion. (Hell, chums, make up your minds.)

Non Commissioned officers, darklings, of the 633rd QM. Truck Co., at Ft. Dix, N. J., have asked Gen. B. O. Davis to investigate. Seems records were padded so enthusiastically to give the white company commander a good score that the company will be sent overseas. The men say they have had no training and definitely ain't ready. They want overseas, but they want a new commander and some training first.

Navy is about to pull a boner. Instead of picking out a good newsman and commissioning him to fill proposed spot as Negro Press Relations Officer, it is considering a professional man who will be expected to be a sort of go-between and know-it-all around the Navy Dept. A political appointment, more or less. War Dept gave 'em the idea.

Quit Shoving!

IN ENGLAND, when U. S. southern cracker soldiers tell the average Englishman not to invite Negro soldiers to his home, and not to treat them as equals, the Britisher gets stubborn and goes out of his way to pass up white boys and to invite every darkling he can find. He shows 'em nobody can shove him around.

Down in our lynch, cotton, and bible-belt, rich Republicans poured in plenty of cash to promote a Negro-and-New-Deal-Hate Campaign to defeat Senators Pepper of Florida, and Hill of Alabama. But the average cracker proved as stubborn as a Britisher, refused to be shoved into race hate by any damyankee rich Republicans, and voted Hill and Pepper back in. Moral—people don't shove so easy.

On the Primary front the CIO Political Action group showed the way and defeated Negro-hating Rep. Joe Starnes in Alabama. . . . Bill Hastie and Thurgood Marshall told assembled white and colored newsmen that denials of right to vote in Southern Dem. Primaries will be prosecuted as criminal instead of civil cases. . . . Negro leadership sprang up from somewhere in the South and is not only directing voting but discriminating and voting only for those who will at least spell "nigger" with a big "N." . . . As some Negroes voted and some were denied in Florida, Georgia and Alabama Primaries, darklings closed in on Atty. Gen. Biddle and reached for their pocketbooks to finance a fight to a finish. Oh, Happy Day!

"Ye Shall Know the Truth"

ROOM 1039 in Dept. of Agriculture is closed and locked. Sam Greer who used to do the FSA "Negro advising" there, has left for the Navy. With Herb Henegan, eminently qualified, and already in FSA, the spot is unfilled and will remain so until you and the poor Negro farmer holler, and loud. Over in Agriculture proper, Tom Robert's personnel spot is also vacant. Some darklings close to Sec. Wickard have some ideas about filling both of them, and chum, you better get some, too.

Washington officialdom and the arty set assembled at the exhibition of 21 oil portraits of Negro celebrities. Present were 6 of the celebs in flesh—Gen. B. O. Davis, Judge Bill Hastie, Dr. Alain Locke, Charley Houston, Charley Drew and Mordecai Johnson. Southern crackers were crossed up, when out of

hundreds of news pictures, taken, both white and Negro papers used one showing merely Vice Prexy Wallace, Eleanor Roosevelt, white artist, Betsy Reyneau and Oscar Chapman of Interior. Nobody will be able to use it in November to show Eleanor associating with Negroes.

Colored Artist Laura Waring painted 6 portraits, white artist, Reyneau the others. Among Reyneau's is the one of Lt. Robert Deitz in his aviation togs. You remember it was made into a war bond poster. Treasury didn't want to use it, and when Reneau sent it in they conveniently "lost" it. Reyneau crossed them up by painting a duplicate from a photo she had thoughtfully made before she shipped it. Treasury couldn't think of any more good excuses, so made the posters.

Here We Go Again

WHITE HOUSE had to express an interest before OWI censors would clear a story on Negro workers in shipyards showing startling figures, but now thanks to this intervention, it goes to both daily and weekly press. . . . Friends want to push the issue of hiring Negroes on D. C. cars and buses, but before any action, Ira Reid may be brought in from Atlanta to study D. C. race tensions. FEPC meanwhile is stymied, awaiting action on budget. . . . Latest whispering campaign is that Eleanor Roosevelt uses up lots of gas gadding about the country (Nuts!). . . . Read May 8 issue of New Republic which has another voting record of all Congressmen. (Incidentally, Editor Thomas Sancton is one white southern liberal who gave up friends, position and a lots else rather than compromise with honor and tradition. He's tops. John Temple Graves, Mark Ethridge, Jonathan Daniels, please note. . . . Emmer Lancaster, Black Cabineteer in Commerce, discloses the 11 Negro banks have advanced their assets from 11 to 15 millions. C. C. Spaulding in Durham will be unhappy to know D. C. Industrial Bank has outstripped his institution. . . . The boys want to know what's colored Farm Agent Tom Campbell doing over in Brazzaville Belgian Congo. Lend-lease stuff? . . . New list of Black Cabinetees is being prepared for political use. . . . Jack Goldberg of New York and Elder Lightfoot Solomon Micheaux of D. C. have secured an injunction to stop showing of film "The Negro Soldier" until their own goshawful film "We've Come A Long, Long Way" is distributed. . . . Whites in D. C. have secured an injunction against Micheaux to keep him from moving in a house fringing white neighborhood. . . . Lt. Earl Strayhorn writes to say reports of friction between new colored officers of 92nd who came from 930th and 931st were screwy. (O.K. Earl, your word's good with Charley.) . . . The boys commenting on the tameness of Walter White's reports on England and North Africa say, he can't cut loose or his trip to South Pacific will be canceled. (O.K., Walt, we'll be a-waiting. . . . A character purporting to be a representative of the Negro Publishers is around D. C. offering newsmen Harry McAlpin's White House Correspondent job, because he doesn't like Harry. What about this? . . . BUY ANOTHER BOND, MISTER, but until Army and the News Reel Companies stop passing the buck about who leaves the decent shots of Negro soldiers on the cutting room floor, KEEP 'EM SQUIRMING!