

# Southernaires In Radio Tribute To Robert S. Abbott: Story Of Editor's ...

Special

*The Chicago Defender (National edition) (1921-1967);* Mar 23, 1940;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Chicago Defender

pg. 20

## Southernaires In Radio Tribute To Robert S. Abbott

### Story Of Editor's Life Heard On Air

#### Founder Of Chicago Defender Is Lauded For His Work

NEW YORK, March 22—(Special)—The Southernaires, radio, recording and concert artists of the National Broadcasting System, honored the memory of the dean of Negro journalism—Robert Sengstacke Abbott, editor and publisher of the Chicago Defender, Sunday morning during their nation-wide broadcast here.

The story of the early struggles which later resulted in his success as head of the largest weekly newspaper in the world were told thousands who listen to this Sunday morning feature.

Preceding the talk, the Southernaires sang "Jesus Is Coming Soon." Then began the story which was as follows:

"Friends, in 1932, me and the boys made a concert tour of the Middle-west, going as far as Chicago. While in Chicago we visited the home of a man who used to be an old quartet singer. He loved music, especially the Negro spirituals. He had sung many of them when he was singing in the Hampton Institute quartet. I'm talking about Robert S. Abbott who lived from 1870 to 1940.

"Unlike many of my so-called educated brothers, after getting a heap of learning they can no longer see the value in the music of their own soil, but Abbott loved these old songs more each year because they come from the heart, and 'e theme of love is present in most nigh all of them.

"In 1905 he began to practice his trade by printing his own weekly paper consisting of only four pages. The first amount printed was 300 in number. He had to lay them in the sunshine till they could dry and then he would go out and sell them. He had faith and never lost courage. He said he knew if God showed the slaves light, after they had been in darkness 246 years, a period from 1619 to 1865, he knew God would hear his cries if he would work.

And from year to year the Chicago Defender, published and edited by Robert S. Abbott weekly, has grown to a 32 page paper—with a circulation of more than 100,000 and sold all ove. America by 2,970 newsboys. Thousands of students in different colleges and universities have read this week-y in order to get material for their theses. This paper has been like a Negro history book.

"The other day Robert S. Abbott was called to his final reward, leaving behind his footprints in the sands of time. A building and equipment valued at more than million dollars with 115 staff employees working for the paper.

"To the youth of this day, I encourage you to study the life and work of men like Abbott. If he won a victory, so can you. He had faith and he knew God would never turn a deaf ear to his cries. He lived 70 years but his life was packed with years of good labor.

"You must remember that our Lord does care about our ups and downs and is troubled when we have trouble. Look to him. He will show you the way."

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