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VOL. IV, NO. 9

JULY, 1949

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## CONTENTS

<b>ENTERTAINMENT</b>	
Showcase Of Harlem.....	13
<i>Apollo is bread-and-butter mecca for Negro show world</i>	
How To Do The Bop Hop.....	23
<i>Benny Goodman band introduces new dance step on its tour</i>	
I'm Cured For Good By Billie Holiday.....	26
<i>Singer tells how narcotic agents, dope peddlers harass her</i>	
Night At The Pops.....	42
<i>Top drawer Boston elite turn out for unusual symphony concert</i>	
Lost Boundaries.....	51
<i>New film tells story of New England family that "passed"</i>	
<b>WOMEN</b>	
Women Leaders.....	19
<i>Their fight for emancipation of sex and race is historic</i>	
<b>RECREATION</b>	
Summer Resorts.....	34
<i>Many new country spots put out attractive lure for customers</i>	
<b>FAMILY</b>	
Like Father, Like Son.....	39
<i>Dad sets pace in achievement but Junior attains fame too</i>	
<b>SPORTS</b>	
Dixie's First Mixed Baseball Team.....	45
<i>Negro-owned Lexington Hustlers sign white players</i>	
<b>OVERSEAS</b>	
Ex-GI's In Italy.....	49
<i>Few who return find success in professions and business</i>	
<b>RELIGION</b>	
Top Radio Ministers.....	56
<i>Negro preachers, on air in every big city, have audience of 7,000,000</i>	
<b>MEDICINE</b>	
Radioactive Gold.....	63
<i>Melchary uses atomic by-product to help child leukemia victims</i>	
<b>DEPARTMENTS</b>	
Letters And Pictures To The Editor.....	4
Date With A Dish: Pinafore Party.....	48
Photo-Editorial: Yesterday's World Of Tomorrow.....	55

## COVER

Billie Holiday, more familiarly billed as "Lady Day," has been a top-ranking favorite of jazz audiences for more than a decade. But because of a jail sentence for using heroin, she has of recent been the victim of both narcotic agents and dope peddlers who have harassed her constantly. Trying to reach out for a new life, to have a decent home, Billie has not had much luck. She tells her story in the revealing article on Page 26. Kodachrome by Werner Wolff of Black Star.



## EBONY PICTURES

The following is a page-by-page listing of the sources of the photos in this issue. Where several sources are credited, the listing is from left to right, top to bottom:

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| 23 to 25—LARRY BARBIER  | 45—ACME  | WERNER WOLFF—B.S., ACME   |
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| 27—WIDE WORLD, HERMAN LEONARD                                     | 47—P. L. GUTHRIE, ACME                                 | 63 to 65—HENRY DODDY—B.S.   |
| 29, 30, 31—HERMAN LEONARD   | 48—DORSEY & PETERS                                     |   |
| 34—JOE COVELLO—B.S.   | 49—MIRIAM WEST   |   |
| 35—CLAYTON RYERS  | 50 to 53—FILM CLASSICS, INC.                           |   |
|   | 54—INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTOS                           |   |
|   | 55—MICKEY PALLAS, ACME, SKIPPY ADELMAN—B.S.            |   |

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## EDUCATOR

**Mary Church Terrell** has been a distinguished teacher and battler for women's rights for half a century. For 11 years she was a member of Washington's board of education, first Negro woman ever to hold such a post. In 1904 she created a sensation at the International Council of Women in Berlin when she spoke to the body in German, French and English. She wrote her autobiography in 1940 with a preface by her friend, world-famed H. G. Wells. Last year her alma mater, Oberlin College, gave her a degree of Doctor of Human Letters. She is a charter member of the NAACP.



## ORGANIZER

**Daisy E. Lampkin** has covered thousands of miles around the nation in crusades for equal rights. For 19 years she was an NAACP organizer. As field secretary, her fund-raising exceeded \$100,000 annually. Last year she resigned her post to become a vice-president of the Pittsburgh Courier. A prominent Republican, she was the only Negro woman elected a delegate-at-large to a GOP national convention—in 1928. At that convention she voted for Herbert Hoover's nomination, says: "I have never stopped apologizing."

# WOMEN LEADERS

**Their century-long pilgrimage for emancipation of their sex and their race is a historic battle**

**F**OR NEGRO WOMEN in the U. S. it has been a long, harrowing trek from the time when Phyllis Wheatley, first Negro woman poet in the New World, wrote her first verse in 1770 to the day when a Mary McLeod Bethune could shake her finger in the face of a U. S. President in a dramatic plea for Negro rights. It is a journey marked by many defeats and many successes, a pilgrimage for emancipation of race as well as sex that has never ceased despite wars and depressions. But out of the century-long upward climb to freedom has come a brand of leadership among today's modern colored women that can rightly claim an everlasting place in Negro history.

The courage, persistence and pioneering of bold women leaders has meant long uphill strides in the Negro's tortuous climb from the depths of slavery to present-day status as a dynamic entity in American life. Today colored females of the species are doing things undreamed of by their grandmothers. Along with the New Look and Gregory Peck, they have acquired an avid interest in sports and

literature. Their mature conversation is as liable to range the gamut from the Marshall Plan to bebop as to the merits of soap brands and the price of round steak.

Their contribution to a fuller, richer life in the American tradition has been two-fold: they have aided in no small way the general fight of Negroes for integration in a living democracy and they have battled against the traditional enforced inferiority to the U. S. male. In both works, they have had a hard row to hoe. In race relations they have had the handicap of being women and in the struggle for equal rights for their sex, they have carried the crushing burden of color as well.

The final emancipation of their race and their sex remains to be completed, but what has been accomplished thus far comprises a saga of toil and valor unmatched in modern times.

Today's stout-hearted women who stand at the head of the onward march appropriately look back with pride to the glowing traditions handed down by such sterling heroines as Harriet Tubman, illustrious "conductor" on the

Underground Railroad, and Sojourner Truth, who never accepted the myth that women belong to a weaker sex.

There never has been another Harriet Tubman, known as "The Moses of Her People" for her exploits in invading the South 19 times to bring out to freedom more than 300 slaves. No one has stepped forward to claim the mantle of the gnome-like woman who said: "On my underground railroad I never ran a train off the track and I never lost a passenger."

The pilots of today's train of progress for Negro women, bedeviled by left-versus-right partisanship, find it difficult indeed to stay on the track, much less steer a middle course through present-day confusion on possible solutions to the twin spectres darkening their lives: the women's problem and the race problem. But they have acquired a solemn maturity and a heavy sense of responsibility to their sex, their race and their country. On these pages is pictured a cross-section of typical Negro-American womanhood as caught in the camera of Edward Burks.



### PUBLIC OFFICIAL

**Jean Murrell Capers** is assistant police prosecutor of Cleveland, was appointed to the post three years ago by Mayor Thomas A. Burke only a year after passing her bar exam. In her post she represents the city in police court. A public school teacher for five years, she decided to turn to law and studied at the Cleveland Law School. She is active in politics, being vice-president of the Young Democrats of Cuyahoga County, is active in the NAACP and Urban League.



### BUSINESSWOMAN

**Gertrude E. Anderson** built a \$15,000 Birmingham candy business out of a lobby during the depression years. Spelman College graduate employs 11 people in candy manufacture, distributes her Nanette Homemade Candies throughout the South. Before starting business in 1934, she was a teacher in Birmingham high schools. She is active in local civic and religious circles and is a member of Iota Phi Lambda sorority. New venture for her is finance company she organized.

## INFLUENCE SPREADS IN NATION

**Y**ESTERDAY'S Negro woman was a bruised, downtrodden and helpless human, moving wearisomely to shake loose the chains fastened on by race prejudice and the arrogance of the male ego. Illiteracy among Negro females was shockingly high, job careers painfully restricted and their political strength untested and largely dormant. The Negro woman was

a drudge, a peon and a benighted stepchild of industry and the farm.

Today's Negro woman is a much more liberated being, not only in terms of her thinking but also in actual rights enjoyed. Hobbled by Jim Crow, she still manages to keep up with the pace of advance set by her less-encumbered white sister. She is more independent.



### EDUCATOR

**Arenia C. Mallory** has been a teaching pioneer in Dixie. Although Northerner by birth, she helped found Saints Industrial School at Lexington, Miss., 23 years ago and built it from a small frame schoolhouse to present \$250,000 plant on 350-acre campus. She is now president of institution.



### LAWYER

**Elsie Austin** has held top-level legal jobs for number of years. Now on staff of National Labor Relations Board, she served as Ohio assistant attorney general for two years. Former head of Delta sorority has practiced law in Cincinnati, was a delegate to United Nations organizing conference.



### WRITER

**Sue Bailey Thurman** is official historian of the National Council of Negro Women, was first editor of its Aframerican Journal. Wife of famed co-pastor Howard Thurman of San Francisco's mixed Fellowship Church, she is currently working on a book about church. She has contributed to several anthologies.



**DEMOCRAT**

**Jeanetta Welch Brown** was the first Negro woman to stand for any political office in the state of Michigan, polling 213,000 votes as a candidate for the legislature in 1946 and barely being defeated. A Tennessee State graduate, she has been a teacher, newspaperwoman and lobbyist and was formerly a deputy state chairman of Michigan Democratic women's organization as well as a state central committeewoman. She is executive director of National Council of Negro Women.



**REPUBLICAN**

**Eunice Hunton Carter** has been prominent in New York GOP politics for 15 years since joining the staff of ambitious Thomas E. Dewey, when he was New York's district attorney in the 30's. In her job as assistant D.A., the former social worker spent ten years under Dewey helping to uncover and smash the city's biggest rackets. Holder of a Fordham University Law degree, she practices from a Fifth Avenue office today and is the wife of Dr. Lyle S. Carter.

healthier, better educated, intellectually more aware and culturally more alive than her counterpart a generation ago.

Recognized and wooed by advertisers and politicians alike, the Negro woman is a powerful influence pervading the nation. This influence has spread out beyond the Deep South cabin and the urban home into the whole wide

range of professional work and the arts, where Negro women have made small but significant progress. Before World War II Negro women comprised 4½ per cent of all women professional and semi-professional workers. In 1947 6½ per cent of these workers were Negro women.

Negro women have demonstrated academic

capabilities in a score of learned sciences and professions. Thus between 1941 and 1943, some 38 Negro women earned Ph.D's. The rate of progress can be seen in the fact that in the preceding 66-year period (1876-1940) only 26 Negro women won the coveted doctorates. In colleges, both Negro and white, they are professors, instructors and administrators.



**LECTURER**

**Henrine Ward Banks** has been telling audiences around the nation about her travel experiences since her return from Europe and Africa last year. She tours with British-born husband Edward Banks, whom she met while in wartime work with the Red Cross. She has taught at Fisk and Bethune-Cookman.



**SERVICEWOMAN**

**Harriet West** was the second Negro woman to reach the rank of major in World War II, has served in the WAC for six years. Graduate of Kansas State College, she worked as one of Mary McLeod Bethune's secretaries for seven years prior to entering service. She is now in Adjutant General's office in Washington.



**SORORITY HEAD**

**Alice P. Allen** of Birmingham is national president of Iota Phi Lambda which has 2,000 members in 80 chapters. Graduate of Knoxville College and the University of Chicago, she is currently assistant to the president of Miles College and heads its division of business administration.

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## FIRST LADY

Mary McLeod Bethune is acknowledged First Lady of Negro America. She has become a national figure by virtue of extraordinary wisdom in both education and politics. Once a lowly cotton picker, she founded what is now Bethune-Cookman College in 1904 with five girls and \$1.50 treasury. She rose to become a trusted advisor to President Roosevelt. While her White House visits are not as frequent as in New Deal days, she makes periodic calls on President Truman to consult on racial matters and politics.

# WOMEN ORGANIZE TO WIN EQUALITY

NEGRO WOMEN have been organizing for various causes since Emancipation, but not until 1935 was a national Negro women's movement formed with the backing and leadership needed to win status and recognition. Organized under the leadership of Mary McLeod Bethune, Mary Church Terrell and Lucy Diggs Slowe, the council speaks now for over \$50,000 women belonging to 22 organizations.

Founder-President Mary McLeod Bethune directs the council from its Washington headquarters, a three-story house on Vermont Avenue; but she dreams of the day when Negro women can unite to build a permanent center in the nation's capital to serve both as command post for the council's far-flung activities and a monument to the American Negro woman.

The pledge which forms the basis of the program of the National Council of Negro Women could well be said to epitomize the goal of Negro women in America ever since the first faint stirrings of freedom began to beat inside them: "To make a lasting contribution to all that is finest and best in America, so that her heritage of freedom and progress will be infinitely enriched by the integration of Negroes into the economic, social, cultural, civic and political life of this country and thus achieve the glorious destiny of a true and unfettered democracy."

At its 13th annual convention held in Washington, D. C., last October, the NCNW lived up to its creed in drafting a series of resolutions covering its position on problems which President Bethune pointed out "concern us as women, as members of a racial minority group, and as Americans in a sorely troubled world."

Perhaps unknowingly they were fulfilling a role into which they were cast 25 years earlier when renowned scholar W. E. B. DuBois saw Negro woman as a triple-threat battler for freedom—"as a worker tending to emancipate all women workers; as a mother nursing the white race and uniting the black and white races; as a conspirator urging forward emancipation in various sorts of ways."

Negro women have always been in the forefront of agitation throughout the country for women's rights. Women like Sojourner Truth were present at historic conventions of the suffrage movement, struck telling blows for feminism, but reminded white women that "free and equal" should include Negroes, too.



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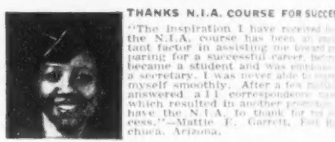
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