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Defender

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FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 1967

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Pictured Above Is Mrs. Dennis Reed, who is taking Training For Waterloo's First Negro City Hostess.

Taking Training for City Hostess Position

As of next Monday, the bitter pill of a parking ticket may be eased by the fact that the "city hostess" giving you the ticket is a Negro. Mrs. Dennis Reed, Gwennetta to her friends, is now taking orientation training and will be out Monday morning as the first Negro city hostess.

Mrs. Reed is very enthusiastic about the job. She says the only qualifications are that you are 21, (which she is just), tall and like to meet people. Gwenneta not only fills those qualifications, she is also very pretty, enthusiastic about her home city, has the ability to put strangers at ease.

Mrs. Reed lives in an apartment with her husband, who is employed at John Deere, and her year and a half old daughter, Aunice.

"I want to make a good showing for my race, and make it easier for other Negro girls to get jobs," said Gwennetta. She is very much aware of the responsible and vulnerable position she will be in, and welcomes the chance to show what a Negro can do given equal job opportunity. She says "I hope to break the ice for colored girls and I will do my best in my job."

Gwennetta had applied for the position in April, and has known she would be employed since three weeks ago. Mr. Jim Wilson, City Clerk, will be her boss. Mr. Wilson has been very interested in hiring members of minority groups for city jobs.

Cox To Meet Gross and Miller In Washington

In a broadening effort to win equal opportunity for Negroes in Iowa, Mr. Herb Cox will be meeting with Rep. H. R. Gross and Sen. Jack Miller in Washington next week. Leaving Washington, he will meet with NAACP President, Roy Wilkens, in the New York office. Mr. Cox will represent the Black Hawk Co. Branch NAACP on the trip, and will discuss local progress in the fight for equality for minority groups.

Herb Cox is well known for his never ending fight for freedom, especially for his fantastically successful fund raising efforts for churches and organizations.

Tribute Tea For Miss McKinnis; Welfare Worker

Mrs. Cuba Tredwell is Chairman of a group planning a tea to honor Ruth McKinnis for her contribution to our community and to express our appreciation for her for this. Miss McKinnis has resigned her position as Director of Social Welfare in Black Hawk Co. to take a new responsibility as Associate Professor of Social Work at Wartburg college.

The tea will be held at Payne Memorial AME. church, 1044 Mobile Street, on Sunday, June 11, from 3 to 5 p.m. A brief program at 3 p.m. will be followed by a time of refreshments and fellowship.

Serving on the committee besides Mrs. Tredwell, are Judge William Parker, Rev. Eugene H. Williams, Dr. Robert Harvey, Mrs. Roy Baker, Sylvester Haughton, Miss Glenda Mabrey, Mrs. Willie Allen, Mrs. Russel Lowe, and George McGee.

Need For Qualified Employes Increases

Today approximately one third of Iowa's labor force is made up of workers forty or over. As competition for qualified employes has increaded, more and more employers have reviewed and changed their age restrictions.

Ability is ageless. The facts agree with you. Unfortunately in every occupation and industry we find age restrictions banning the hiring of workers over forty, and sometimes even thirty-five. And yet a look around at our leaders in government, business and industry proves that a very few people between forty and sixty-five and even older, are incapable of doing a job well because of their age.

A worker over forty who is working is generally considered the cream of the crop in a company. However, if he becomes unemployed for any of a great number of reasons, he suddenly changes in our eyes. No longer does any one hire him. His loyalty, maturity, productivity and experience disappear and we label him too old. Instead of looking at his individual abilities and qualifications, we check the number of candles on his birthday cake.

Today we say that forty is the prime of life, with one tragic exception - unemployment. Some say they are not productive. The facts disagree. Studies have shown that the productivity of workers over forty compares favorably with that of other age groups. Many workers over fifty-five had output rates that are actually higher than the average rate in groups with peak production rates. Productivity like many traits depends on the individual rather than an age.

We hear, "They don't meet the physical requirements." What are physical requirements? Certainly our physical activity decreases as we become older. But how much physical activity is require? Too often physical job requirements are geared to a person capable of running the hundred yard dash, rather than managing an office or selling a product. Employers say that over-forty workers are stable, reliable, responsible, loyal, and able to get along with other people.

These attributes are the logical outgrowth of their desire to work, their maturity, and their past employment history.

Do pension and insurance costs rise when the older worker is hired? Any slight increase, if there is one, is well repaid because of less turnover, absenteeism, and other advantages the mature worker brings to the job.

NAACP To Meet In Des Moines

Members of the Executive Board of the State NAACP will hold a meeting Saturday, June 17, at 1 p.m. at the YMCA in Des Moines. Robert A. Wright, State President, has notified the Board members, and urged them to come prepared to discuss arrangements for the National Convention to be held in Boston, July 10-15. The letter also states that attainment of Membership Drive and organization of administrative areas and other matters presented at the Region IV Leadership Conference will be discussed.

The Iowa State Conference of Branches will also begin to make plans for the State Conference to be held in October at Sioux City.

The Housing Bill And Mr. Bowin

The Housing Bill that the Legislature of Iowa has passed is not perfect yet. With Mr. Bowin and our support to him, we could make this bill a little bit better. - I believed before and I believe now that my money should buy the house of my choice and not what someone else would like me to have. Mr. Don Bowin seems very urgent to this extent and we should all help and support him If you are like me, your trust can only go so far. If something is found wrong with Mr. Bowin, with our votes we can correct it. (Providing, of course, you do vote.) But as long as he is doing his present work, Mr. Bowin, I would be one-hundred percent behind. We can support until we find wrong but now there is no wrong, but if there be, we have a choice. . .I will support him, I think it is right. Only time will tell, but I want to live in a home of my choosing and if Mr. Bowin can help, as I said before, I would be one-hundred percent behind him.

Dorsie L. Cooper Jr.

Don't Miss The Article
"Ronald James Speaks"
Back Page This Issue!

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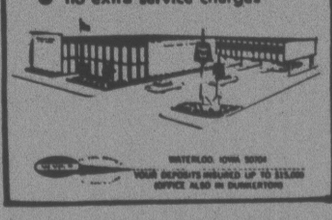

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A Wonderous Thing I Hope To Write

Let us picture something, let's say, like a floor of marble, slick as ice and glossy as the brightest sunshine. Then let us try and walk on it. Let's see if you can walk on this while I am speaking these words.

A CAREFUL STEP
By
DORSIE L. COOPER, JR.

This step I am going to take,
This step is something I have to make.
When I make the next step, what is going to become of me,
I'm coming to a corner, I don't know what I'm going to see.
But now I'm there and it's straight and long,
It's as smooth as ice and it's thick and strong.
Dare I walk upon this street?
It's possible I could even fall from my feet.
Dare I think while I walk?
Dare I think to even talk?
How bright this street and what a terrible gloss,
If I slip the wrong way, my life could be lost.
But I'm going to walk it, I'm going to straighten up,
This glossy street will not make

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FLORIDA BEAUTY—One glimpse at Bennye Langley, a sophomore student at Bethune Cookman College and a native of Jacksonville, is enough to demonstrate why Florida is called the Sunshine State. Miss Langley, 18 years old, is one of those rare beauties who makes going to the beach

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Ronald James Speaks

This is a tragedy, but it can happen here -- I recommend to you to see that it is a tragedy which is being socially taught by the inability of this society forthrightly to come forth with victories for the dispossessed in order that they can maintain their faith in this nation, maintain their faith in law and order, and maintain their faith in the cement of society, which is nonviolent action.

Just to reassure you that there is no misunderstanding -- the real danger is not violence, but something deeper . . . a sense of permanent alienation from American South.

Assuming that everything I have said is wrong, it can never be too early to save a city, but it can be too late!

Others are saying -- tell us something good, something wonderful. But the criteria is not how far we come, but how far we have to go, and what have religious leaders have brought to the Civil Rights Movement is financial support and letterhead support.

But the white minister cannot commit his supportors to a real basic racial program and he knows it, and the Negro leadership know it. The great mass of Christians are not ready for basic and sustained assault on the racial status quo -- Why aren't they ready? Because their leaders have not prepared them. Because their leaders don't dare to make an issue of racism in the ranks of organized Christians. White ministers who join demonstrations -- white ministers who go up to Harlem to lift up the despairing people -- white ministers who send letters to Congress -- they serve a purpose ---- but something more is also needed. Something more basic. The creation of a concerned white public.

The real missionary area is not Africa and in America it is not Harlem, but White Plains' not the South Side of Chicago, but Evanston; and not Watts but Waterloo. The real missionary area is not the NAACP but the white Christian church. It is there in the heart of the white ministers camp, particularly those that call themselves liberals, that he must make a last stand for the first task of this white minister is to force good people congregation to recognize their silent complicity in a systems of evils. Such congregation cannot be created but by a bare-knuckled fight within the ranks of organized Christianity. It is something to send money to Birmingham after the bombings, but it is more to give Negroes jobs in Chicago and even more to fight for open housing in your native land and in the city of Waterloo. It is something to march on a picket line, but it is more to march through the heart of the church. Let's not deceive ourselves -- there is no easy way out. The ministry must stand now whereever they are -- in their offices, in their churches and in the neighborhoods and declare what God they serve and what visions they have seen. I believe some of you sincerely want change, but almost all of you expect to achieve it without the cost of paying -- but it is going to cost -- everybody is going to have to pay something so the only real consulation is that it will cost a great deal more if men decide that they would rather confer now and pay later.

Some men are saddened, but I feel we should rejoice. In fact, let's rejoice that it has come to this that at last there are no easy ways out and that men's duties lie before them as stark and as uncompromising as the cross.

I submit the cause of the Negro in American and in Waterloo would be more than half won if only his friends in the ministry brought to the battle field half the passions that his enemies brought. To be quite precise, if white and Negro bishops were as impassioned about assassins of the spirit as they are about adultress victory would be real. If white men of power hated illicit hate as much as they hate illicit love, it would be all over. If the church loved brotherhood as much as it fears sex, we would now be celebrating -- not wishing for -- the kingdom of man.

But if we are to write a different ending --

Let us not deceive ourselves -- the problem before us now is not the Negro, but ourselves. Not civil rights, but the city. Not love, but the creation of that American in this community -- which could have been and should have been and never was.

The question is not whether in theory or in the abstract Negro schools can be as good as white schools. In a society free from prejudice in which Negroes were full and equal participants, the answer would clearly be "Yes." But we are forced, rather, to ask the harder question, whether in our present society, where Negroes are a minority which has been discriminated against, Negro children can prepare themselves to participate effectively in society if they grow up and go to school in isolation from the majority groups.

Also ask whether we can cure the disease of prejudice and prepare all children for life in a multiracial world if white children grow up and go to school in isolation from Negroes.

A SPRING PARTY PIE guests will shout your praiseswhen you serve Coffee Pastel Party Pie. Made with instant decaffeniated coffee, orange flavor gelatine, and vanilla ice cream, this party dessert will soon head your list of favorites

A SPRING PARTY PIE

One of the best ways to shake the doldrums of the season past is to plan and have a gay spring party.

Instant decaffeinated coffee goes right to work to make your planning easier. It may be served as the beverage AND used as an ingredient in your party desert.

Coffee Pastel Party Pie, smooth and creamy, is so easy to prepare you'll want to make two or three to satisfy the requests for second helpings.

The pie is a delicious combination of flavors. Instant decaffeinated coffee combines with orange flavor gelatin and vanilla ice cream to provide a cool creamy pie filling.

Aside from tasting just plain Good Coffee Pastel Party Pie is extremely attractive.

Dress your table with a bouquet of gay spring flowers and your prettiest china, don your gatyest party frock and the mood is set. You'll be so proud of yourself when your guests exclaim over this lovey, delicious party dessert.

Coffee Pastel Party Pie

1 pkg. orange flavor gelatin
1 1/4 cup boiling water
1/2 cup sugar
2 tablespoons instant decafeinated coffee
1 pt. vanilla ice cream
1 baked 8-inch pie shell, cooled.

Dissolve gelatine in boiling water in 2-qt. saucepan. Add sugar and instant coffee and stir until dissolved. Add ice cream by spoonfuls, stirring until melted. Then chill until thickened, but let set 15 to 25 minutes. Spoon into pie shell. Chill until form - 20 to 30 minutes. Garnish with prepared whipped topping or whpped cream, if desired.

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