

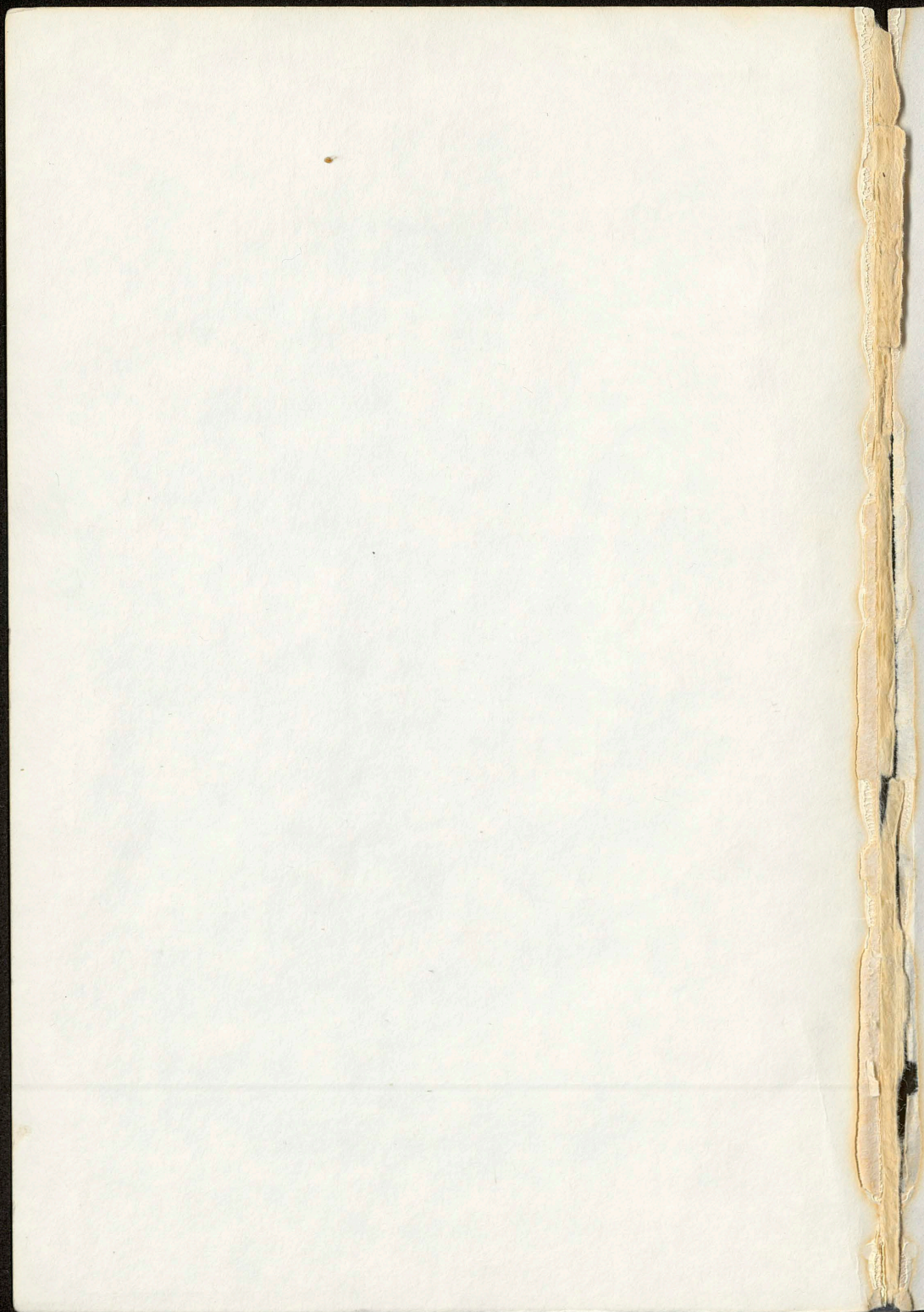
An Historical Outline  
OF  
The Negro in Travis County

AUGUST, 1940

BY  
THE CLASS OF NEGRO HISTORY  
OF  
SAMUEL HUSTON COLLEGE

EDITED BY  
J. MASON BREWER







AN HISTORICAL OUTLINE  
OF THE  
NEGRO IN TRAVIS COUNTY

BY

THE NEGRO HISTORY CLASS OF SAMUEL HUSTON COLLEGE  
(SUMMER, 1940)

Edited by J. Mason Brewer.

*J. Mason Brewer*



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Austin, Texas

Reprint Compliments of:  
The Travis County Historical Commission

Will Howard - President

Roland C. Hayes - Research Committee Chairman

1986 - Sesquicentennial of Texas Project



## DEDICATION

TO

My father and mother, J. H. and Minnie Tate Brewer, whose high ideals for, and sincere devotion to their children, have been guiding lights and bulwarks of strength in the pursuance of worthwhile and serviceable goals.



Minnie Tate Brewer and J. H. Brewer



## THE PROJECT

The availability of accurate data concerning a community's past may be second in importance for development only to a knowledge of its contemporary life. In a community where different races contribute to the total pattern woven into a single piece the Negro college cannot escape its responsibility for furnishing the Negro's part of the lacking detail to make the pattern appear complete, and the limit of that responsibility is bounded only by the reach of its resources. Professor J. Mason Brewer, long a resident of Austin, and an instructor in Samuel Huston College, is to be highly commended for being an inveterate folk-lorist and historian of the Negro in Texas. In connection with his class in Negro History, I have this summer encouraged his initiating an attempt to discover and put into permanent form what can be known of the "short and simple annals" of the Travis County Negro. This brochure expresses the hope that future classes will complete the task upon which this summer's class has made a worthy beginning.

STANLEY E. GRANNUM.  
President.

Samuel Huston College,  
Summer, 1940.



## FOREWORD

Any animal or any man who makes a track, leaves his "sign"—on a piece of land and becomes a part of its history. Historians often give undue emphasis to passers whose tracks are blotted out by the elements almost before the sand has settled in them and by whose coming and going not one feature of the land or subsequent life on it is affected. Th Negro not only made tracks in the soil of Travis County, Texas, at a date more than a hundred years ago; he remained to become a part of the land, to work it, to draw life from it, to add his dust to it, to flavor it with what in a broad sense we call his culure. His intimacy with it has, in truth, made him a much more important part of its history than ever thhe much talked-about Spanish conquistadores were.

Civilized people who have an interest in the Negroes of Texas or in that representative part of Central Texas marked out on the map as Travis County, will be grateful for the chapters of history that J. Mason Brewer and his fellow workers are bringing out. As a chronicler of the Negro legislators of Texas during the days of Reconstruction, as a character sketcher in verse of his own people, and as a collector and writer of their folk tales, J. Mason Brewer has, over a period of years, worked to record in readable and truthful form Negro life as he has known it in Texas, not going to Harlem to set his compass, but to the soil of which he is a part and which is enriched by his activities.

J. FRANK DOBIE.

Austin, Texas.  
July 29, 1940.



## INTRODUCTION

Research and the keeping of records has long been a custom in the countries of the Eastern Hemisphere. The modern world is deeply indebted to European scholars and historians of the past and present for the preservation of valuable information regarding the activities of the various races composing Europe's population. It has not been until recently, however, that Americans have realized the importance of serious investigation and study. They have been slow to grasp the significance of happenings and events vital to the welfare of the people comprising their commonwealth. The establishment of Research Foundations by wealthy philanthropists was the first incentive to scholarly research.

Many scholarships have been given to worthy individuals in order to enable them to collect and make available to the public facts hitherto unknown. Supplementing the work done through the medium of grant-in-aids is the governmental project termed The Federal Writers' Project. Through this channel pertinent facts have been gathered and assembled. Most of this data has dealt with the local community, the parish, and the county; but seldom, if ever, has the Negro been included in the surveys that have been made.

It is therefore imperative that the Negro collect and preserve those phases of his life which form his background. It is for this reason that the present project was undertaken. The materials obtained justify the effort put forth by the twenty-two members of the Negro History Class to record the life of the Travis County Negro.

Significant and enlightening are the details that have been unfolded during a two-month period of investigation. Personal interviews and documents have constantly revealed the fine part that the Negro has played in the development of Austin and Travis County.

It is the sincere hope of the instructor and the class that this historical outline of The Negro in Travis County will inspire additional research on this subject, and serve as a basis and a guide to those who may be interested in continuing this study.

J. MASON BREWER



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The editor wishes to acknowledge with grateful appreciation the cooperation and help given by the members of the class in Negro History. Without the encouragement of the Administrative Staff of the College, composed of President Grannum, Dean Deslandes, and O. G. Elliott, bursar of the college, this task would not have been so pleasant and productive.

I am deeply indebted to my sister, Mrs. Gladys K. Miles, who has been associated with me often in similar undertakings, for detailed proofreading and editing of copy. Miss N. B. Jenkins, Jeannes supervisor of Travis County, has been a source of information and help since the launching of the project. Others too numerous to mention have given freely of their time, their cars, and their energy in order to assure the success of the survey.

To those who have made financial contributions in order to make the publication possible I have nothing but thanks and praise for your generosity.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Scott Harris, my brother-in-law and sister respectively, come in for their share of thanks for having provided unlimited access to their home as a headquarters for my work during the survey.

Thanks are also due Harriet Smither, State Archivist, for unlimited access to the records of the State.

Most of all I am thankful to the old folks who have so willingly furnished the information for this study. Without them there would have been no facts.

The booklet is the evidence and the elderly people represent the source. Without the source there would have been no evidence.

J. MASON BREWER.



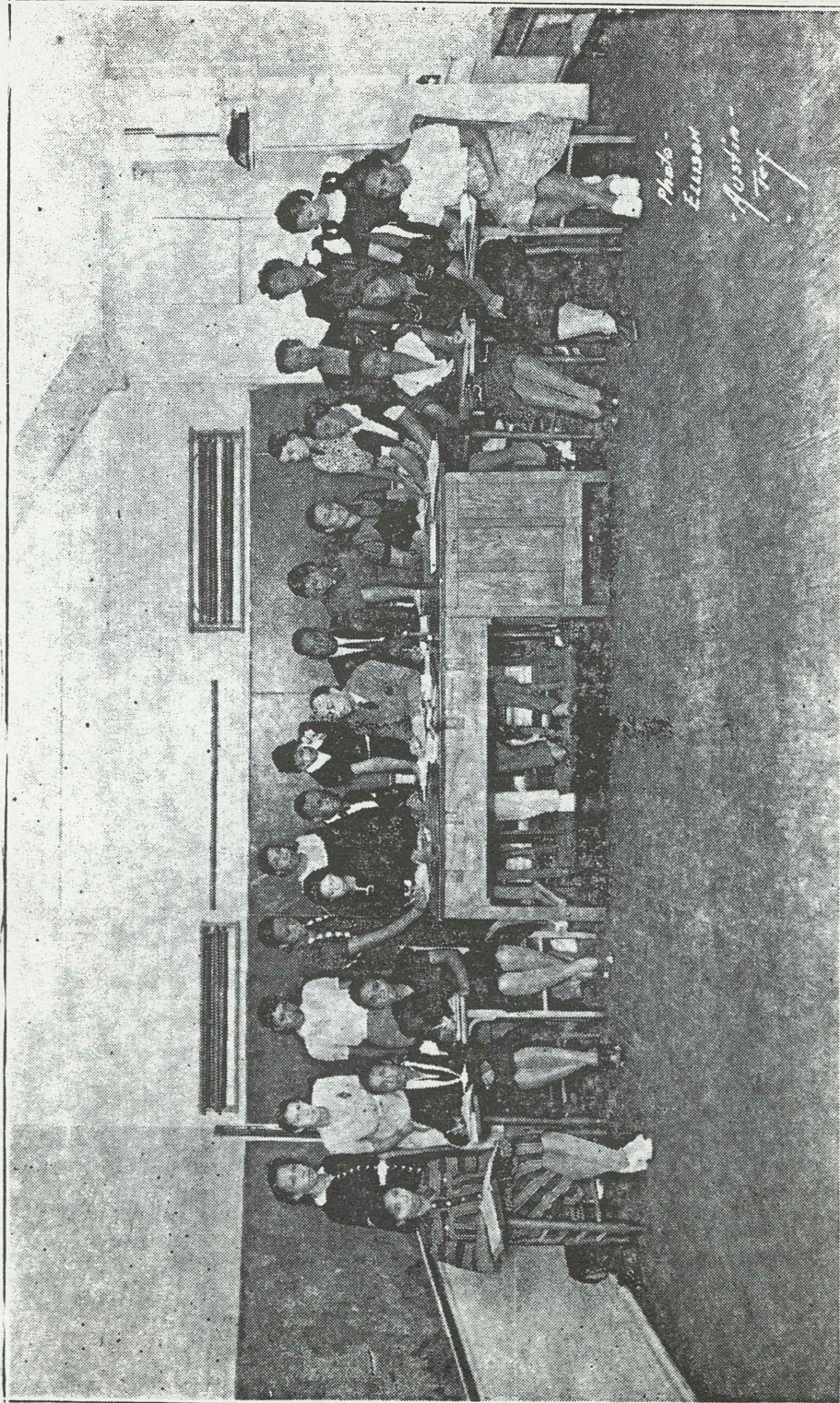


Photo-  
Eliason  
-April-  
-1940-

The Negro History Class of Samuel Huston College (Summer Session) 1940, and J. Mason Brewer, Instructor, center at desk.



## PERSONNEL OF THE NEGRO HISTORY CLASS

Bailey, Florence  
Bell, Roger  
Chase, Dolores Marie  
Cavitt, Bertha B.  
Cunningham, Ethel O.  
Edmerson, Thomye Lucille  
Isaacs, Pearl  
Jones, Mamie Lewis  
Johns, Deforest Estelle  
Heath, Sybill Lovell  
Hatch, Lucile Norman  
King, Roosevelt Hayden  
Owens, Charles Etta  
Owens, Maxine Fortson  
Pinkard, Armatha M. L.  
Polk, Wayman  
Roach, Celia Tena  
Smallwood, Hazel D.  
Smith, Roy Evelyn  
Williams, Mary Rebecca  
Watts, Lacy Lee Williams  
Watts, Lee



## PATRONS

Hull Printing and Stationery Company  
J. R. Reed Music Company  
Swann-Schulle Furniture Company  
Becker Lumber Company  
Kuntz-Sternenberg Lumber Company  
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. F. Fulcher  
Harlem Theatre  
Harrison & Wilson Real Estate Company  
American National Bank  
Austin National Bank  
Dr. and Mrs. C. R. Yerwood  
Dr. and Mrs. E. H. Givens  
Ebenezer Baptist Church  
First Baptist Church  
Wesley Chapel Methodist Church  
Karotkin Furniture Company  
Samuel Huston College Alumni Association  
Emancipation Park Association  
Driskill Hotel  
James O. Buaas & Sons  
Austin Laundry & Dry Cleaning Company  
Dr. and Mrs. U. S. Young  
King Funeral Home  
Negro Citizens Council  
Negro Junior Chamber of Commerce  
Community Welfare Association  
Girl Scouts  
The Boone Studio



## SECTION 1

SLAVE DAYS

1839-1865



**Slave Days, 1839-1865**

By Mrs. Roosevelt H. King, Mrs. S. L. Heath, Mrs. Lucille Edmerson, Mrs. L. E. Brown, Miss Chas. Etta Owens, Mrs. Lucile N. Hatch.

Travis County, in which Austin, the capital of Texas, is located, was created in 1840 and named for William Barrett Travis, one of the heroes of the Alamo. Austin, its largest city and county seat, named for Stephen F. Austin, was founded in February, 1839, while Travis County was still a part of Bastrop County.

After the founding of the city of Austin, and its being designated as the capital of The Republic of Texas, many settlers made their way into the new colony. Among these was Alexander Murchison, who reached Austin with his family June 16, 1839. He also brought with him Mahala, a 10-year-old mulatto Negro girl, who served as his wife's maid.

The first white child born in Austin was Nancy Jane Murchison, the daughter of Alexander Murchison. She was born the night of the first day Mr. Murchison and his family made their arrival in Austin. Mahala, the Negro girl, was Austin's first Negro, and lived in Austin and Travis County until her death. Mahala's mother was the daughter of an Indian chief and a Negro woman, and her father was white. The father of Mahala's children was also a white man. He wanted to buy her and marry her and asked permission of her master to do so. Mr. Murchison agreed, but Mahala chose to remain with her owners. She was the mother of six children, three sons and three daughters, one of whom was Frank Strain, with whom she lived most of the time. Frank was her second child and lived in an exclusive white neighborhood near the University of Texas. Frank's children and Mahala's other grandchildren were all cultured, upright and progressive people. Some of them were teachers, some were in government service, and others property owners and successes in various other fields of endeavor. Some of Frank Strain's children who reside in Texas at the present time are as follows: Mrs. Cora B. Monroe, of Austin; Mrs. T. A. Webster, of Waco; and Frank Morris Strain Jr., of Austin.

Mahala always told the white children that she wanted to be buried at her mistress' feet, and made them promise that they would see to this. She changed her mind later, however, at the request of her children and was buried in Oakwood cemetery, Austin.

The advent of the Negro into Austin and Travis County coincides practically with that of the white man.

The site where Mahala and the Murchison family lived was an old fort. At the present time the Becker Lumber Company is located on the spot. They lived in tents as there were only two small log houses in Austin at the time.

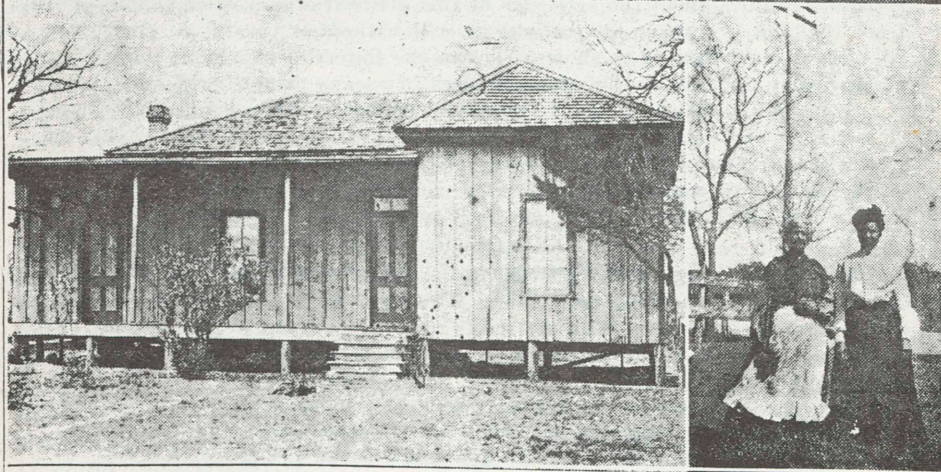
Mahala remained the only Negro in Austin until the coming to Austin of the Barton family, which settled on what is now known as Barton's Creek. Mr. Barton brought with him twenty-five or thirty slaves and settled where the present swimming pool is located at Barton Springs.

**RELIGION**

In Travis County, as in other sections of the South, there was no organized form of worship for the slaves. The usual manifestations of faith were expressed by the congregating of slaves in the woods near their quarters, where they prayed and sang praises to the Lord.

It is said that some of the masters regarded marriage as sacred and hired white ministers to perform the marriage ceremony for their slaves rather than follow the usual slave practice of jumping a broomstick.





TOP: FRANK STRAIN AND FAMILY

Front row, Left to right: Morris Strain, Frank Strain Sr., Lillie Strain, Mrs. Phoebe Strain, and Woody Strain. Standing: Cora Strain, now Mrs. Cora B. Monroe, and Effie Strain, now Mrs. T. A. Webster.



All slaves were of the same denomination as their Masters. If the Master was a Baptist, the slave was a Baptist; if the Master was a Methodist, the slave was a Methodist. Sometime they were allowed to go and listen to sermons preached by the Master's preacher. The preachers usually preached on the duty of a servant to his master. For example, on a text like the following:

"Thou who knowest his Master's will and obeys it not shall be beaten with many stripes."

Some of the Mistresses of the slave children would have the children living in the big house repeat the Lord's Prayer after them each night, but too much religious worship for the slaves as a whole was not encouraged.

#### EDUCATION

The slaves who were field hands and worked in the fields had very little opportunity to learn how to read and write, but the Travis County slaves who worked in the house were taught to read and write in most instances.

#### POPULATION

The first census of Travis County was taken in 1840. The Negro count was 294. The next was taken in 1847. Negroes in Travis County numbered 444. The first Federal census, however, was not taken until the year 1850. The census report for 1850 lists only one Negro living in Austin and that one a free negress. In the county the Negro element is listed as 791. There were also five free male Negro in the county and six free females.

#### ORGANIZATIONS

The Negro slave had no organizations of his own in his slave status, but there were organizations of white men affecting the slave. One of the best known of these was the Paterrollers. Their duty was to catch all slaves who ran away and return them to their masters. Ofttimes they would whip a runaway slave before returning him to his lawful owner.

All of the slaves in Travis County feared the Paterroller and made up many rhymes and tales about the activities of this dreaded organization that kept them from roaming around in the county at will without a pass from their Master. All slaves were required to show passes to the Paterrollers when going from one plantation to another so that their chances of escape would be lessened.

Some of the slaves in order to outwit the Paterrollers would stretch grapevines across the road in order to throw the Paterrollers and their horses down. The father of Nancy Scales who gave valuable information regarding slave days in Travis County was one of those who used to help put grapevines across the road to trip up the Paterrollers and their mounts.

#### HEALTH

Although it is generally conceded to be a fact that slaves in the deep South and in Texas were treated better than they were in what might be termed the middle South, interviews with ex-slaves in Travis County fail to verify this assumption. Many of the ex-slaves approached made statements that contradict this general belief.

According to some of the information received slaves were even mistreated when they were sick. One ex-slave tells the following story: "My father and my mother lived on different farms. Father was allowed to visit mother only every six months. Mother was treated horrid. I remember seeing my mother beat all over the head and back one day as she was sweeping the floor, because she asked her mistress to let her go see my little sick brother who was in our little cabin near the big house. She swept on as the blows fell hard and fast, and my little brother lay there in the cabin all day long deathly sick until he died. He was buried in a crude coffin, made from a board pulled from an old shed. Mother was not allowed to go to the grave, but was sent to the creek to wash."



Another ex-slave tells how expectant mothers among the slaves were treated: "A hole was dug in the ground to fit the abdomens of the women. They were placed in these holes and their backs were beaten with many stripes."

Judging from these excerpts one can readily see that some slave-owners were not concerned about the health of their slaves. They seem to have been carrying out the oft-expressed philosophy: "If a mule dies, buy another one—If a nigger dies, buy another one."

Another version by an ex-slave is that if a child lived to be grown he usually remained healthy, but that the health of slave children was not a matter of much concern to those who owned them. This was probably due to the fact that the Masters felt that if they were strong they would live and if they were weak and lived they would not be worth much anyway.

#### RECREATION

The favorite recreation of the slaves in Travis County was the old ring dance. Some of the slave-owners would allow the slaves to give dances and invite others. Occasionally they gave them hours off at night and as one ex-slave expresses it: "The fiddle rung out and the pigeon wing was high. Oh, what a night!"

#### ECONOMIC STATUS

Instead of owning property, the Negro himself was property and "belonged" to someone else. Despite his adverse circumstances the Negro slave determined the economic status of the white man, for the social position of the whites was determined by the number and type of Negroes they owned. The slaves in Travis County as a whole, however, were not worked to death by their owners, and were not forced to do enough work in twelve months to make thirteen months work a year, as they were in other sections of the state. For instance, like the Brazos bottoms. It is said that one slave owner in the Brazos bottoms made the statement that the moon changed thirteen times a year and that he was going to get thirteen months work out of his "niggers." The slaves owned by this particular man were forced to go to work before sunup and to work long hours after sundown on moonlight nights. Statements from ex-slaves of Travis County show that the attitudes of most of the slave-owners in Travis County were just the opposite to those of the Brazos bottoms farmer. There were instances where the slaves were neglected when they were sick and whipped for offenses, but as far as overwork is concerned, the Travis County slave seems to have been fortunate.

#### RHYMES

The Travis County slaves like the slaves in other counties and states tried to forget their condition by thinking about things of a humorous nature. Many rhymes were created as a result of their trying to imagine that they were in a happy-go-lucky frame of mind. Some of these rhymes resulting from their attempt to make believe that they were in another world are as follows:

One of the sweetes' things in life  
Is de uncloudy welcome of a wife.  
Old Aunt Dinah went to town  
Ridin' a goat an' leadin' a hound;  
De hound he barked an' de billygoat jumped  
Threwed Aunt Dinah straddle of a stump.  
Git up, Dinah, you ain't sick  
All you needs is a hickory stick.  
It's hard to lub,  
But oh how bitter  
To lub a girl and den can't git her;  
But oh what gib de bitter pain  
Is to lub an' not be lub again.



# AN HISTORICAL OUTLINE OF THE SOURCES OF INFORMATION

## SECTION I

(1)	Mrs. Monroe	Austin	(Interview)	June 14, 1940
(2)	Mrs. D. R. McLeod	Austin	(Interview)	July 7, 1940
(3)	Sandy Meeks	Austin	(Interview)	June 23, 1940
(4)	Nancy Scales	Austin	(Interview)	June 23, 1940
(5)	E. J. Morrow	Littig	(Interview)	July 6, 1940
(6)	Julious Wilson	Burditt's Prairie	(Interview)	July 8, 1940
(7)	Sarah Coleman	Pflugerville	(Interview)	July 4, 1940
(8)	J. H. Sterling	Garfield	(Interview)	July 6, 1940
(9)	Edith Young	Manor	(Interview)	June 29, 1940
(10)	Henry Owens	Ft. Prairie	(Interview)	June 30, 1940
(11)	Lee Gregg	Union Lee	(Interview)	June 30, 1940
(12)	Crawford Walker	Hunter's Bend	(Interview)	June 23, 1940
(13)	Morris Hirshfeld	Austin	(Interview)	June 23, 1940

## GENERAL FACTS AND STATISTICAL REVIEW ON AUSTIN, TEXAS (The Austin Chamber of Commerce, 1940.)

### Population of the United States.

#### STATE OF TEXAS

White			Free Colored			Black			Mulatto		
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2,670	2,261	4,931	8	5	13	4,944	1,263	1,241	2,504	300	323
											632
											3,136

### TABULATIONS OF FEDERAL CENSUS

#### Seventh Census of United States.

#### 1850—Travis County.

White			Free Colored			Slaves		Aggregate Pop.	
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
1,309	1,027	2,336	5	6	11	404	367	791	3,137

#### Austin (City)

370	258	628	1	1				629
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Information obtained from State Library, Capitol.



## SECTION 2

RECONSTRUCTION TIMES  
1865-1879



Reconstruction Times 1865-1879.

By Mrs. P. I. Isaacs, Mrs. Bertha B. Cavitts, Mr. Lee Watts, Miss Amatha Pinkard, Mr. W. C. Polk, Mrs. Lacey Lee Watts.

After the emancipation of the slaves in Texas on June 19, 1865, the Negro in Travis County began to organize churches where he might give thanks to God for His goodness, and worship in the way that he desired. He also began to establish schools in the different communities where he resided. Not only did he build places where he might worship and construct schools where he might study, but he also purchased land where he engaged in farming. Negroes lived in twenty-four communities in the county. Garfield, Del Valle, Sprinkle, Fiskville, Pflugerville, Webberville, Union Lee, Manor, Manchaca, Pleasant Valley, Elroy, Creedmoor, J. B. Norwood, Pilot Knob, Burditt's Prairie, McNeil, Duvall, Ryna Branch, Hungry Hill, Hunter's Bend, Hornsby's Bend, Kinchenville; and one community, Littig, was composed entirely of Negroes.

Although the ex-slave was now a freedman he was still confronted with problems. One of the gravest of these problems was the nightriders organization, composed of white men who threatened to harm Negro landowners of rich and large tracts of land if they did not move out of the community.

Research on the Travis County Negro in this period brings out the fact that he was very much concerned with the worthwhile things of life and made some progress in learning, religion and in the acquisition of property.

#### RELIGION

Beginning with the Reconstruction Period we must not only take the Negro in Travis County into consideration, but we must also take cognizance of the Negro in the City of Austin and treat his activities simultaneously with those of the rural communities. Many churches were organized in the county at this time. At Sprinkle both the Baptists and Methodists conducted services at a church called Mt. Salem. This did not last long, however, for there was a conflict and the Baptists built a church at Walnut Creek. At Onion Creek a white man by the name of Chatman gave the land and building for a Negro church in this community. A school was also conducted in this church building. Churches were organized in most of the communities where Negroes lived and most of the time the Methodists and Baptists worshiped in the same church building. This was called pulpit affiliation. One group would use the building one Sunday and the other the next Sunday, and sometimes one denomination would use it Sunday morning, and the other Sunday night.

The Negro in the City of Austin as in the rural districts lost no time in establishing churches of his own. The first Baptist Church was organized in the year 1864; Wesley Chapel M. E. Church was established in 1866; and the Ebenezer Baptist Church, which sprang out of the First Baptist Church, was organized in the year 1875. The A. M. E. Church Metropolitan was founded in the home of Mrs. Tempie Washington on Seventh Street. The first pastor was Rev. Frank Green. These four churches were the leading churches of this period.

#### EDUCATION

In several communities kind and foresighted white citizens immediately realized the need for the education of the Negro, now that he was an independent citizen. One year following emancipation found Austin and Littig in this alert group. What is now the Pleasant Valley school was also organized in 1866, but it bore the name of Ryna Branch at that time.

Sprinkle organized a school in 1876 and in 1871 a school was organized at Garfield. School was held in the Comanche churches in the latter community.





Burditt's Prairie first had schools for Negroes about 1875. Some of the first teachers were: Banton, Hollis, and Stout.

Schools in some of the communities were not organized until later when Negro citizens themselves had accumulated enough to finance a school for the education of their children.

### ORGANIZATIONS

The new status of the Negro as a freedman gave him entree into organizations heretofore closed to him. Having become a full-fledged citizen he was given the opportunity to participate in civic and political movements. The Republican party welcomed him into its ranks and the Loyal Union League, a political organization invited his membership. The Travis County Negro was quick to take advantage of these opportunities. Jim Grumbles, a Negro whose mother worked for Governor A. J. Hamilton, became a political leader of this period. He served as County Chairman, and was quite influential in Republican circles. He resides at present on his farm at Fort Prairie.

Negroes were also members of the State Militia and the State Police forces. Simon Alexander, the father of Green Alexander, Jim Alexander, and the late Mrs. C. D. Peoples, was a State Policeman.

### RECREATION

The recently freed Negro continued to enjoy himself during his leisure time just as he had done prior to Emancipation. Since he had not had time to develop new types of amusement, he continued to sponsor platform dances. On each 19th of June (Emancipation Day) the Negroes at Bluff Springs would hire a Mexican orchestra to play for their dance. This practice continued until the first colored band was organized in Austin by Will Carpenter.

### ECONOMIC STATUS

With the interim of serfdom ended, the Negro set about to establish himself as an "owner of property" instead of "property owned." Most of the liberated



Negroes had small or large tracts of land. In the City of Austin, many Negroes were employed at the state capitol.

A few barber shops were operated and several Negroes were employed by the city, but farming constituted the chief means of livelihood for the freedmen, and many of them acquired valuable holdings.

Harry Hawkins was one of the most prominent Negroes in Austin during Reconstruction times. He was the first Negro barber in Austin and ran a barber shop for white people. His home was located where the Bradford Paint Company now operates its business.

### RHYMES

The rhymes of the Reconstruction Period differ in tone from those of the slave era. Freedom, which gave the Negro an opportunity to acquire property and obtain an education, developed in him a strong feeling of self-confidence. The influence of these factors on his thinking is brought out in the following rhyme:

1. I will reach de white house befo' de res'  
Fer of all de perfessions farmin' is de bes'.
2. Hickory leaves and calico sleeves,  
All dese teachers is hard to please.
3. Teacher, teacher, don't whip me,  
Whip dat boy behin' dat tree.

### SOURCES

#### SECTION II

(1) Charlie Madison	Austin	(Interview)	July 4, 1940
(2) Alice Rainey	Fiskville	(Interview)	July 4, 1940
(3) Lonnie Lewis	Austin	(Interview)	June 23, 1940
(4) Newton Collins	Austin	(Interview)	June 30, 1940
(5) Green Alexander	Austin	(Interview)	July 25, 1940
(6) James Grumbles	Ft. Prairie	(Interview)	July 17, 1940
(7) Price Alexander	Austin	(Interview)	July 15, 1940
(8) P. C. Rhambo	Austin	(Interview)	June 22, 1940

1870

Name of Place	County	Total	White	Colored	Chinese and	
					Japanese	Indians
		4,428	2,813	1,615		
		June 1, 1880				
Austin	Travis	11,013	7,407	3,587	10	9



## SECTION 3

### THE ERA OF PROGRESS

1679-1905



The Period of Readjustment 1879-1905.

By Mrs. Fortson Owens, Miss Florence C. Bailey, Miss Mary Rebecca Williams, Mrs. Ethel O. Hunter, Miss M. L. Jones.

Imminent in the history of the Negro in Travis County is this period, in which he made such rapid progress that its momentum has not been surpassed at any time preceding or following it. At this stage of development we find the Negro engaged in almost every type of profession, trade, and business. Numbered among these are intelligent ministers, teachers, physicians, machinists, blacksmiths, horse trainers, contractors and builders, dairymen, cafes, millinery shops, grocery stores, undertaking establishments, barber shops and hotels. There were also cleaning and pressing shops and a print shop. Many civic and religious clubs came into existence. Beautiful and comfortable homes were constructed and fraternal organizations thrived. Two institutions of higher learning, Tillotson College and Samuel Huston College, were established in Austin and the public school system was organized. The state also provided a school for the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind of the race, and located it in Travis County. A few Negroes had received appointments for government positions, some of them of an executive nature. The Travis County Negro's growth during this era was phenomenal.

#### RELIGION

As business and employment increased the income of the Negro population, their first thought in the several denominations, turned toward donating toward the erection of churches in which to worship God. The Metropolitan A. M. E. Church had been holding services in "Smith's Opera House"; the First Baptist Church (white) had allowed the Negro First Baptist group the use of their church for alternate services; Wesley Chapel M. E. Church was holding services in a basement; smaller groups were worshipping in homes, and so the idea of church buildings was pertinent with each group.

The result was the building of Metropolitan Church, at the corner of West Ninth and San Antonio streets, in 1882; the building of the Third Baptist Church, at the corner of East Tenth and San Marcos streets in 1884; the building of Wesley Chapel M. E. Church, at the corner of East Ninth and Neches streets and the building of the First Baptist Church, on the corner of Red River and Thirteenth street. Growing out of the Metropolitan was the Grant Chapel A.M.E. Church, Pennsylvania Avenue. Rural churches established in the county during this period numbered fifteen Baptist and ten Methodist.

#### EDUCATION

The City of Austin answered the need for school buildings, beginning in 1881. In 1681 two small schools were established. One at Wheatville and the other at the Metropolitan A. M. E. Church near where Wooldridge Park now is. The school at Wheatville has remained at the same location since the beginning of the system. The school at the Methodist Church was moved later. These were both on the west side of town.

In 1882 in addition to the two Colored schools on the west side there were two on the east side—one at the Third Baptist Church and one in "Masontown" known as the Porter Mission School.

In 1884 a four-room building was erected on Robertson Hill (East Eleventh Street) where in 1889 a high school department was organized in the same building with the elementary grades.

In 1894 when the Bickler school (white) was built, the buildings which had been moved there were moved to the present location of Blackshear school, East Eleventh Street, then called Gregory school.



About 1895 a school was organized in South Austin for Colored children. The principals in the public school system in 1903 were as follows: Robertson Hill, L. C. Anderson; Gregory, G. W. Norman; West Austin, W. T. McCall; Wheatville, A. Jackson Jr.; South Austin, Timothy Chandler.

There was also two institutions of higher learning. Tillotson College opened its doors to students in 1881, and Samuel Huston College was established in 1900.

A custom in city and county schools during this period of Negro development in Travis County was the practice of devoting the last hour every Friday afternoon to the giving of a program by the pupils of the school. Songs and recitations comprised the program for the most part, and the occasion was always looked forward to with a deal of pleasure by the children in the schools. Some of the favorite recitations recited by the pupils were as follows:

#### THE OLD MAN

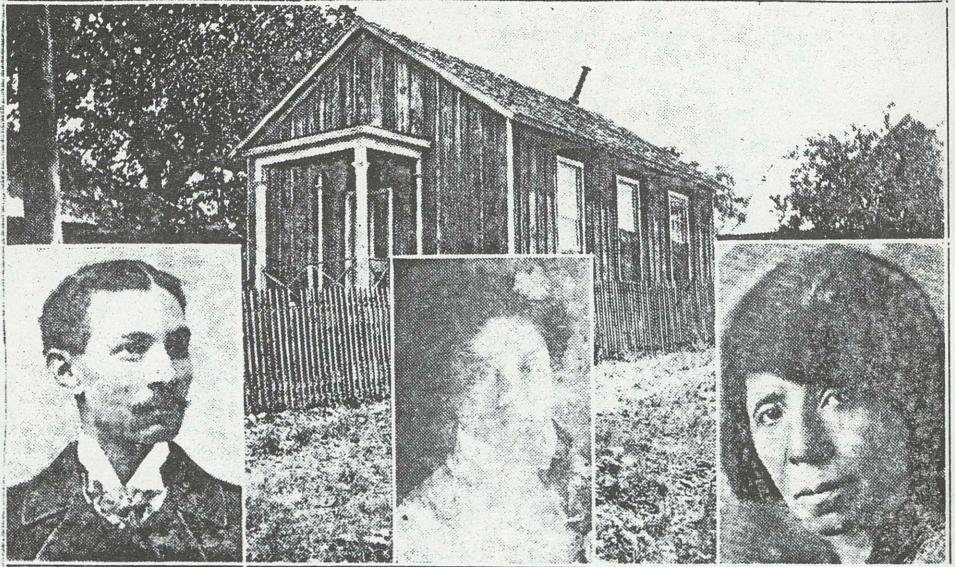
Once there was an old man who lived in the woods  
As you will plainly see;  
He swore he could do more work in a day  
Than his wife could do in three.  
"Be it so," the old woman replied  
It's all that I will allow,  
So you stay at home today  
And I will follow the plow.  
The old woman took the staff in her hand.  
She went to follow the plow,  
And the old man took the pail in his hand  
And went to milk the cow.  
But Brindle inched and Brindle flinched  
And old Brindle curled up her nose,  
And gave the old man such a kick in his face  
Till the blood ran down to his toes.  
He went to feed the little pigs  
With corn and other grain  
The old sow bit him on his arm  
And made him yell with pain.  
He went to watch the speckled hen  
For fear she would lay astray,  
And forgot to wind the ball of yarn  
That his wife spun yesterday.  
And then he swore by the Royal oak  
And the green leaves on the tree  
That his wife could do more work in a day  
Than he could do in three.

#### A YOUNG BOY'S SPEECH

Nobody knows the nerve it takes  
To rise up in a crowd  
And speak out so that all can hear  
With voice both clear and loud,  
For often men with sense have failed  
When first they tried to speak;  
And ere he could pronounce a word  
Began to feel quite weak.



So therefore you must not expect  
Great things from one so small.  
I'd rather make a little speech  
Than to say none at all.



Bottom: Thomas J. White, Clara Jackson Brown, Mrs. Mattie B. White.

Top: The first Negro high school in Austin, taught by the late  
Prof. L. C. Anderson.

### BIOGRAPHY OF THOMAS J. WHITE

Thomas J. White, founder and first president of the Emancipation Park Association of Travis County and Austin, was born March 5, 1864, at La Grange, Texas. His parents were from Virginia, but had moved to Texas prior to Mr. White's birth.

For twenty-five years he was messenger to the Governor, at the end of which time he resigned to enter business for himself. He opened a cafeteria for the Anderson High School boys and girls. Some year slater the city schools opened up cafeterias and he continued to operate a grocery store and cafeteria and expand and enlarge his business.

He has always been interested in ex-slaves and wanted to do something to honor them and give them respect and so he thought of the idea of purchasing some land to be used for the purpose of celebrating the 19th of June, the emancipation day for Negroes in Texas. Heretofore the 19th of June celebrations had been held at Wheeler's Grove, owned by whites, and Mr. White conceived the idea that the Negro slaves and their descendants should have a place owned by themselves where they might celebrate their day on property owned by their own race, so he proceeded to organize the Emancipation Park Association, feeling that



this would be an everlasting monument to the ex-slaves of the county in which he lived. The Association was organized in 1905 and in 1907, just two years later, with the help of white citizens and a few faithful Negro followers, White completed the payments on the grounds. He succeeded in doing the thing he had wanted to do most, and on October 16, 1931, he died and was buried at his church, Ebenezer Baptist Church. Many leading white citizens attended his funeral, among them Judge Cohn and several of the state commissioners. "Though he slay me, yet will I serve him," was the Bible verse that he lived by.

#### BIOGRAPHY OF MRS. MATTIE B. WHITE

Mrs. Mattie B. White was born in the early eighties in Nashville, Tennessee. Her father had been a slave in the Carolinas and her mother in the state of Tennessee. Her mother was her first teacher. She attended the public schools in Nashville and at Central Tennessee College and during summers the normal school at Fisk University. She graduated at the age of 17 years and began to teach in Tennessee county summer schools, which lasted three months each summer. After teaching two summers in Tennessee she taught in Mississippi and Texas. She then entered a competitive examination for the purpose of securing work, since her father died about this time and she was forced to get work in order to help educate the other children in the family. The examination was conducted in Madison County. The wife of the late Booker T. Washington, who was Miss Maggie Murray, and Mrs. White were the only two Negroes taking the examination. They were both successful and were given schools to teach very near each other, the schools being approximately eight miles apart. Later she taught in the Baptist Church School in Mississippi and was able to help her mother some with the other children.

It was at this time that the state of Texas sent out inquiries for teachers who were willing to teach for the salaries offered. Feeling that she could better her condition and help her mother more she accepted a position in the schools of Tyler. She was called home, however, because of the illness of a sister who died but she returned to Texas later to teach again. She was employed to teach in the City of Austin in October, 1888. She taught in these schools for five years and then resigned to marry Thomas J. White. They purchased a home in East Austin. To this union two sons were born, Thomas Jr. and Wells Robinson White. Thomas Jr. completed his music course at Tillotson College and his literary work at Samuel Huston College. Wells Robinson attended Tillotson. He also attended Paul Quinn College, where he assisted in editing the school paper. He took a commercial course at Paul Quinn. Both of the sons served their country during the World War, Thomas Jr. at Camp Travis and Wells Robinson at Columbus, New Mexico with the regular army. He saw active service on the Mexican border. Both were honorably discharged from the United States army. Thomas Jr. has resided in San Antonio for the past fifteen years, where he has been engaged in the teaching of music, while Wells Robinson has been and is still working in the State Treasurer's Department. Mrs. White has been employed for the last forty years at the State Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Institute. She is regarded as one of the best artists in the state of Texas, regardless of race or color, and has gained quite a bit of distinction and honor in her chosen field. A remarkable thing about her teaching career is the fact that during the entire forty years of service at the state school she has not been absent a single day. She has a certificate of honor and qualification from St. Mary's Academy of Austin and last year a painting by one of her students was placed in the show window at Austin's leading depart-



ment store—Scarbrough's. This was the first time that any Negro had been so honored and brought forth very favorable comment in the newspapers of the city and state. Mrs. White has to her credit several beautiful landscape oil paintings of scenes in and around Austin that are regarded as masterpieces. She has the honor also of having organized the first Girls' school in the City of Austin. A highly cultured and competent woman, she is an asset to her community.

#### MRS. CLARA JACKSON BROWN

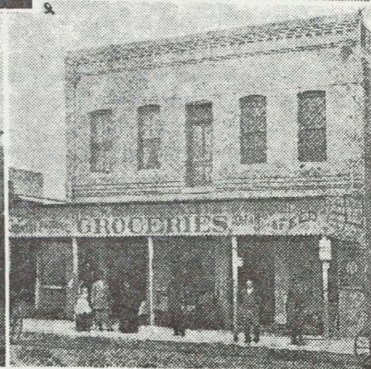
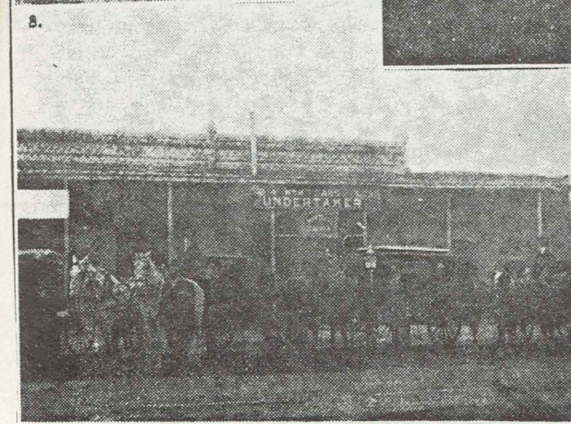
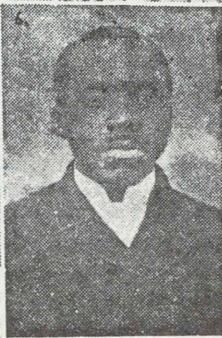
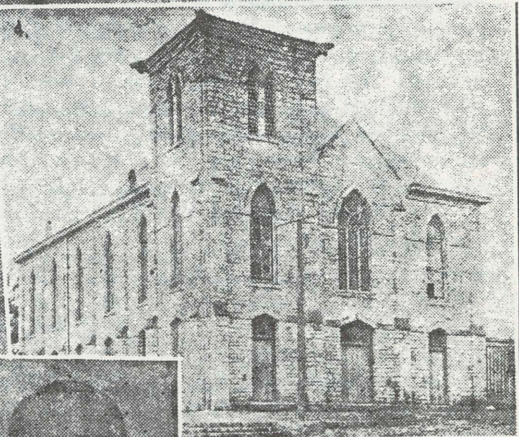
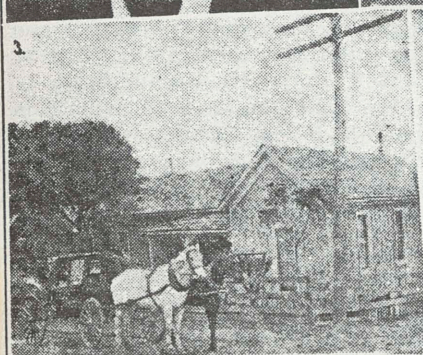
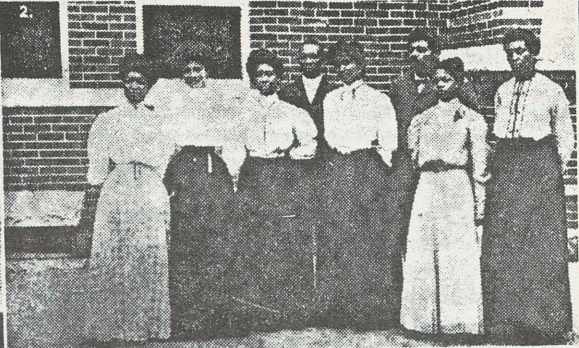
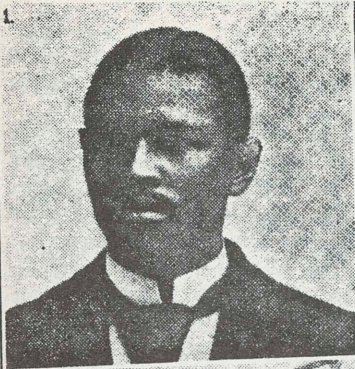
Mrs. Clara Jackson Brown attended school in the Austin Public Schools. After studying in the city schools of Austin she went to Mary Allen Seminary, Crockett, Texas, where she graduated from the normal department. She studied music while at Mary Allen, and also at Tillotson College. For a short while she attended Wiley College at Marshall.

She is considered one of Austin's most talented musicians and has trained more musicians than any other teacher of piano in the city. Some of Austin's most capable musicians were given their first lessons by Mrs. Brown. She has taught both at Tillotson and Samuel Huston Colleges, and plays at present the organ for the Wesley Chapel choir. Mrs. Brown has done advanced study at the Chicago Music Conservatory. She was the first person to have charge of the department of music at Samuel Huston College. She still has her music studio and today as ever, is giving the children of Austin basic training in music.

#### ERA OF PROGRESS LEADERS

1. Bob Majors, who was appointed chief mailing clerk at the Post Office in 1887 and served in this capacity until his death.
2. Prof. G. W. Norman and the Gregory School Faculty in the year 1905.
3. Mr. New Green's Hack and Horses in the year 1905.
4. Old Wesley Chapel M. E. Church.
5. The First Baptist Church as it appeared in 1905.
6. Prof. R. G. Purcell, who was one of the leading teachers in the county in 1900.
7. Isaiah Hamilton's Blacksmith Shop—as it appeared in 1905.
8. Wm. M. Tears' Sr. Undertaking Establishment in 1905.
9. E. H. Carrington's Grocery Store in 1900. Mr. Carrington is seen standing beside the post in the center of the picture. He was Austin's leading grocer during his lifetime.







## HENRY WESLEY PASSON

Henry Wesley Passon came to Austin from Bryan, Texas, at the age of 10 with his parents. He began teaching in Travis County at the age of 15. Later he was employed in the city schools of Austin.

He finished his normal and commercial work at Tillotson College in 1914 and received his A.B. degree from Samuel Huston College the summer of 1939.

At the beginning of the school session of 1931, Mr. McCallum, superintendent of the city schools, thought it advisable to appoint a supervising principal over the two largest elementary schools of the city. The climax to Mr. Passon's promotions came when he was named by Mr. McCallum as supervising principal. In making the appointment Supt. McCallum remarked that he had to have a great deal of confidence in a man to appoint him supervising principal. Mr. Passon, however, proved himself equal to the task and did the job assigned him in a very acceptable manner. He was a man who kept up with the trends of education and constantly studied means to improve himself as well as the teachers with whom he labored. His first marriage was to Miss Mattie T. Carr. He was the father of four children, only two of whom are living. Fred, the son, has a tailor shop in Washington, D. C., while Myrtle, the daughter, who is Mrs. Dancer, is a trained nurse living in New York City. His third wife was Mrs. Orwillie Brown Passon, who is now employed in the city schools of Waco, Texas.

Mr. Passon departed this life June, 1933, at the age of 73. He had lived a serviceable life.

## R. G. PURCELL

R. G. Purcell was born in Robinson County, North Carolina, November 9, 1854. He was influenced by his brother William to study at an early age, that is to say about 17 years of age which at that time was considered early for a person to begin his study. Having received a taste of learning he had a desire to learn more and so he continued to go to school and in 1872 took an examination and made a third-grade certificate. His first school was taught for \$25 a month and the term was six months. Feeling that he needed to go to school some more he started to work for thirty cents a day and would go to school three days at a time. He would work three days and go to school three days. A little later he was elected to teach another school at a salary of \$20 a month. This was in the year 1877. After teaching at Santee and several other places he went back to school at the New Whidded normal school. He then started teaching again at Antioch, Elizabeth, and several other places. These schools paid him \$40 per month.

In 1885 he was influenced by Judge Z. T. Fulmore to come to Texas. He arrived in Austin, Texas, in September, 1885, and was elected to teach the Fiskville school in the suburbs of Austin. He taught later at Waters Station, Kyle, and several other rural schools. In 1893 he was elected to teach in the Austin public schools, and was assigned to teach at the Gregorytown elementary school with the late Prof. G. W. Norman. He had the reputation of being the best speller in the state, and practically knew the old blueback speller by heart. He was one of the best-informed teachers of his times. He reared a fine family of children, among whom is A. B. Purcell, one of Austin's fine Negro citizens.



## HEALTH

Several Negro physicians were numbered among the residents of Austin by this time. Within three decades of freedom competent doctors were at the services of their people, living in beautiful residences and having downtown offices, well equipped and comfortable, for the accommodation of those needing medical attention or advice.

Dr. John Henry Stevens, one of the outstanding physicians, built up a splendid practice and remained in Austin in service to the Negro community until his death.

Dr. E. W. D. Abner had at this time a well-equipped office composed of three departments: Reception room, private office, and examination room. For a needed type of examination Dr. Abner owned an X-ray machine. It was the only X-ray owned by a colored physician in Austin and one of the largest in the state.

Dr. T. A. Webster was another of Austin's splendid doctors who, with his wife and family lived in their beautiful home on Speedway, a restricted white residential section.

In cooperation with the physicians, this period can boast of the drug store owned by and operated by J. J. Jennings at 424 East Sixth Street.

## RECREATION

The gatherings of joyful dancers seemed to lessen during this period; or, if there should be a gathering there tended to be a discrimination between those not dancing. The Church was partly responsible for this change in its attitude to tighten upon morals and "taboo" certain acts by terming them "sinful." And so, the club activities of the churches became the chief occasions for entertainment and social gatherings, and you could "march" at the church gatherings.

## ECONOMIC STATUS

There is a law of evidence. Evidences of financial progress among Negro citizens was everywhere—churches, homes, and business.

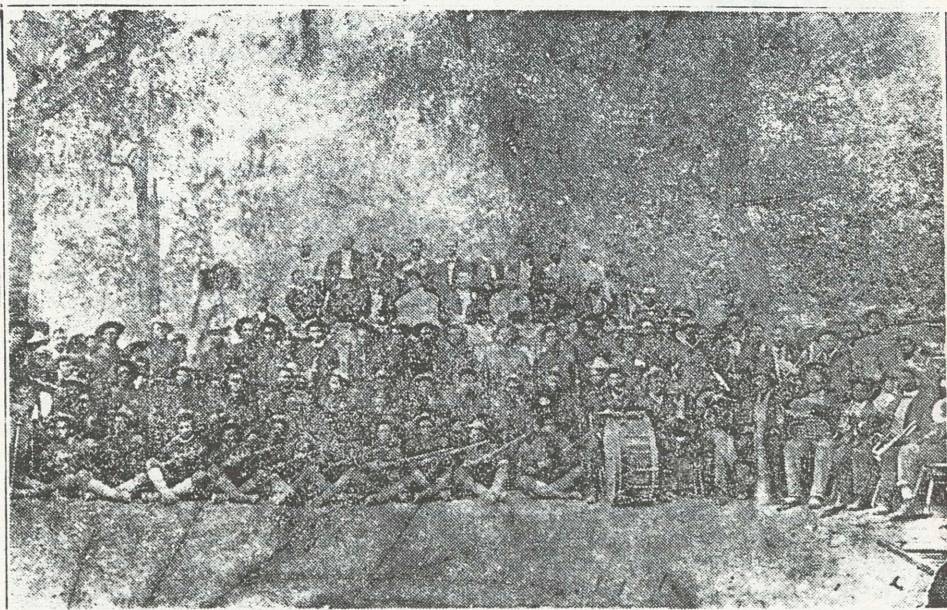
Among the businesses were: The Herald Publishing Co., East Tenth Street, edited by Rev. L. L. Campbell; Grand Central Hotel Building and Barber Shop, L. W. Franklin, 211 West Sixth Street, was proprietor; J. J. Jennings Drug Store, 424 East Sixth Street; a millinery and dressmaking dry goods store operated by Mrs. A. W. Rysinger, 516 East Sixth Street; the Kirkpatrick Cafe and Ice Cream Parlor; James Cofield's Barber Shop, East Sixth Street; grocery stores of Mr. L. R. Watson at 311½ East Sixth Street and Mr. E. H. Carrington, East Sixth Street; Matthews and Perry Barber Shop; the blacksmith shop of Mr. Albert Shaw and the business of W. H. McKinley who also has horses and buggies for hire, besides his feed business; the restaurant of Mrs. Mattie Hudson, East Sixth Street; Mrs. James Duncan, East Fourteenth Street, dealing in pianos and organs; the undertaking parlor of W. M. Tears Sr.; Wesley & Guest, tailors, cleaning and pressing shop, East Sixth Street; the well-equipped office of Dr. E. W. D. Abner, East Sixth Street; Jas. H. Hayes, contractor and builder, West Tenth Street; and A. L. Moore, contractor and builder.

Beautiful homes were not only owned by the business and professional leaders but also by the laboring class of Negroes. Surrounding the homes were well-kept lawns and clean back yards. Those owning some of these homes were: R. S. Lovinggood, J. W. Frazier, E. H. Carrington, Dr. E. W. D. Abner, Dr. J. H. Stevens, Dr. J. A. Webster, W. D. Jones, J. W. Madison, Rev. Jas. H. Haynes,



Mrs. C. D. Peoples, Mrs. J. E. Lampkin, Rev. D. C. Lacy, N. W. Rhambo, Wm. M. Tears Sr., Wm. Smith Sr., T. J. Clark, W. G. Washington, Emzy Harrell, A. E. Hill, N. J. Johnson, Frank Strain, D. R. Woodard, L. M. Mitchell, Mrs. Alice Glass, E. F. Toliver, James Duncan, J. A. Walker, A. L. Moore, Ewing Edmonds, J. H. Keys, J. H. Winn, J. R. Thomas, C. H. Perry, Morris Givens, W. H. Harrison, Robert Harrison, H. L. Troop, Geo. W. Smith, Mrs. Millie Phillips, and T. W. Walker.

The Emancipation Park Association worked toward adding to the wealth of the group, the emancipation park, a delightfully shady spot for recreation and the celebration of freedom. The president of the Association was Mr. T. J. White. Working diligently with him were Dr. E. W. D. Abner, Robert Harrison, and J. Vernon Mitchell, Harry Lott, George Coleman and others.



Morris M. Givens' Band and Negro National Guard at 19th of June Celebration at Wheeler's Grove. Among those on the platform were such leaders of the early 1900's as R. S. Lovinggood, then president of Samuel Huston College; L. C. Anderson, then principal of the Negro High School; and Rufus Meroney, who became the first dean of Samuel Huston College.



AUSTIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Enrollment by 10-Year Periods—		May 27, 1904	
May 29, 1896.			
Anderson High School	28	Robertson Hill	177
Robertson Hill	84	Gregory Town	606
Gregory Town	603	West Austin	445
Clarksville	47	Wheatsville	97
Wheatville	60	South Austin	99
South Side	47	Total	1424
Trinity Street	182		
Total	1051		

COUNTY SCHOOLS—1892

Notation: "County Judge Von Rosenberg completed his report of the schools for last term yesterday and the following figures are from it."

Colored—

Number districts—21

Number schools taught—28

Number graded schools—4

Number ungraded schools—24

Average School Term in Months—

Number who cannot read—54

Number who cannot write—165

Number school buildings in county—14

Number school buildings rented—15

Amount paid teacher from Public School Fund \$8,401.78

Amount paid teacher from private tuition 70.89

Average monthly salary, male 50.36

Average monthly salary, female 39.58



## SECTION III

- (1) C. W. Abrington, "The Historical and Biographical Souvenir and Program of the 25th Anniversary of Metropolitan A.M.E. Church, Austin, Texas, 1882-1907. (Austin, 1907) pp. 1-102.
- (2) Mrs. M. White Austin (Interview June 16, 1940
- (3) J. W. Frazier Austin (Interview June 16, 1940
- Executive records, City Public Schools, 1881-1905.
- (4) Mrs. Thomas J. White Opportunity and Responsibility of the Negro, (Austin, 1907).
- (5) Isabella Johnson Austin (Interview June 27, 1940

1900

Negroes	Whites	Negroes	Total Pop.	Percent Negroes
15,473		7,478	29,860	25%



## SECTION 4

### THE MODERN AGE

1905-1940



### The Era of Progress—1905-1940.

By Mrs. D. Speed Chase, Mrs. H. D. Smallwood, Mrs. DeForest Smith Jones, Miss Celia T. Roach, Miss Roy E. Smith.

The precedent that had been set by the foregoing era was an inspiration to later generations. The Negroes of Travis County continued to improve and advance. During this period they experienced prosperity, success, failure, need and occasionally a break in the fine race relationships that existed. They had more to feel proud of, however, than they did to feel sorry about. From 1905 to 1929 Negro business in Austin reached its peak. At no time in the history of the city was the business man as prosperous as he was at that time. Progress was also made in religion. New church buildings were erected by the older churches and new churches were founded in the various Negro communities. Wheatville, Clarksville, South Austin and East Austin were all the scenes of additional church sites and buildings. Education, too, was on the upward trend. The enrollment in the two institutions of higher learning—Tillotson and Samuel Huston Colleges—reached well over the half thousand mark. An orphan home was established in the county by the St. John's Association under the leadership of Dr. L. L. Campbell and the public schools witnessed rapid changes in personnel and in the expansion of the building program. Sanitary conditions in the Negro neighborhoods were greatly improved and free hospitalization provided by the city and county. Civic clubs and fraternal organizations increased in number and in influence. Privately owned amusement centers were developed in the earlier part of this epoch and later the city established a recreational center for Negroes that has no equal in the state of Texas.

In the year 1929, simultaneously with the inauguration of the City-Manager form of government, the Negro began to approach the place where he obtained better consideration from the city. The mayors of the city and their associates were fairer and more just in their dealings with Negroes. Especially has this been true under Mayor Tom Miller's administration. This gave the Negro a chance to improve his status and acquire greater influence than he had previously possessed. The Negro's progress in Austin may also be attributed in a large measure to the absence of church fights in the latter part of this era, and to the lack of littleness on the part of the civic and denominational leaders of the city. The Negro leaders have been able to overcome the smallness that formerly existed at the beginning of this regime. Relationships among Negroes in Austin have improved greatly, so that today Austin Negroes present almost a solid front in things pertaining to race welfare.

In the county where the race has no part in the election of the officials the Negro is still discriminated against, to the point that he is almost entirely disregarded, but in spite of this fact he has been able after ten years effort, to get a County Home Demonstration Agent. All efforts to secure a County Farm Agent for the race have thus far proven futile. The signs of the times, nevertheless, point to brighter days for the Negro in Travis County, for Negro civic leaders in the City of Austin are beginning to take greater interest in their brothers in the rural districts. This forecasts greater consideration in the future for the rural Negro.

### RELIGION

In 1940 the Negro churches in Austin number 36. This includes not only the Baptist, Methodist, and other Protestant churches, but also the Church of Christ churches, and one Catholic church for Negroes. Twenty-four of these churches are Baptist, four of them are Methodist Episcopal, two are A. M. E., and five are Apostolic.



Some of the leading churches are the Ebenezer Baptist Church, the Metropolitan A. M. E. Church, the First Baptist Church, and the Wesley Chapel M. E. Church, as well as the recently established Roman Catholic Church, which is gradually making its influence felt in the community.

#### WESLEY CHAPEL M. E. CHURCH

The Wesley Chapel M. E. Church was founded March 4, 1866, in the basement of the White Tenth Street M. E. Church South. Two hundred seventy-five joined the church the first day. The first church building was constructed by all colored workmen. The church was built of white rock and was 40 by 60 feet. The floor was of dirt and the benches were made of slab board. Lamps fastened to the walls were used for lighting. The first preachers at this time received about \$900 a year for their services.

Later on the members of this church realized the necessity of erecting a larger structure in order to take care of the growing membership, so they sold the first edifice to the City School Board, and after worshipping for a short time in a tabernacle on Hackberry Street, built a new church building at the cost of approximately \$50,000. Rev. C. E. Whitiker, progressive, devout, and competent minister, is the present pastor. Under his leadership the church has been able to weather the storm of depression and continue to render efficient Christian service to its membership and the community.

#### THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Before the organization of the First Baptist Church the members of the White First Baptist Church were kind enough to allow the colored people to worship in their church. Services were held in the church alternately for the convenience of both races. This was done until some objections arose among the colored people about being baptised by the white minister.

The white people saw the necessity of a separate organization and therefore gave the colored people a sum of money to the amount of \$800 which was spent for the first property purchased on Tenth and Fifth streets. Preceding this organization of the church it met in a colored barber shop in the year of 1864 with Rev. Jacob Fontaine, who served as pastor at this time.

Later property was purchased at the corner of Red River and Fourteenth streets, and plans were made for the erection of a building by Rv. Massey, who served as pastor for two years. The late Dr. D. A. Scott carried out the plans of Rev. Massey by erecting the present building, which was dedicated in the year 1896. He served as pastor two years and was called to Houston, Texas, to serve as President of Houston College, an institution that was supported by the Baptists of Texas. Ted Wilkins was then called as pastor. After him came Rev. J. B. Pius, who served eighteen years as pastor of the church and saw fit to remodel it. It is the oldest colored church in the city.

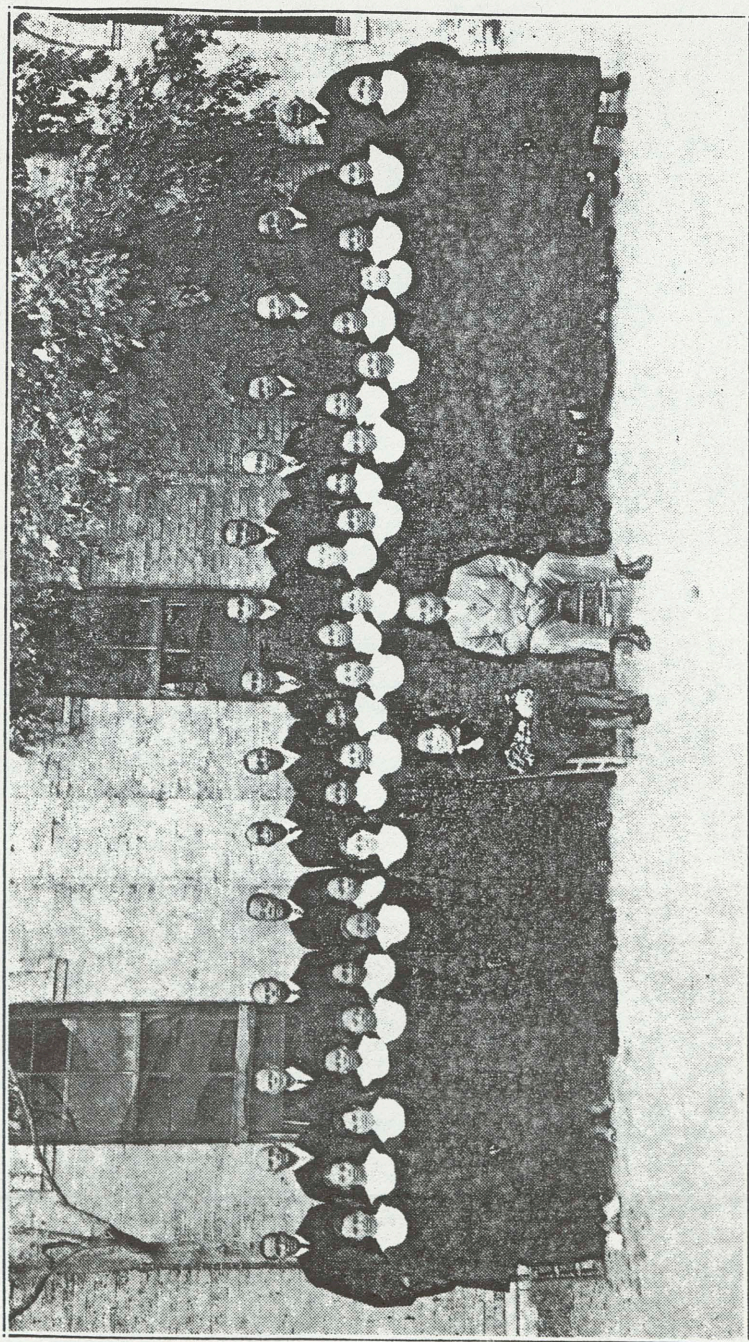
#### THE EBERNEZER THIRD BAPTIST CHURCH

The Ebenezer Third Baptist Church was organized in 1875 at the residence of Eliza Hawkins, on the corner of Ninth and Colorado streets, with seven members, namely: Robert Burditt, Eliza Hawkins, Isabella Johnson, Martha Pollard, Martha Carrington, Maggie Buckner, and Betsy Johnson. Only one of the original members is still alive—Mrs. Isabella Johnson, who resides at 804 East Tenth Street.

A list of the pastors and the order in which they served follows:

Rev. S. E. Corn, two years; Rev. A. C. Herbert, seven years; Rev. C. H. Anderson, two years; Rev. C. P. Hughes, three years; Rev. A. W. Moss, two years; Rev. L. L. Campbell, thirty-five years; Rev. J. C. Lott, present pastor serving thirteenth year.





THE EBENEZER CHOIR—TEXAS' LARGEST AND NATIONALLY KNOWN BROADCASTING GROUP OF SINGERS



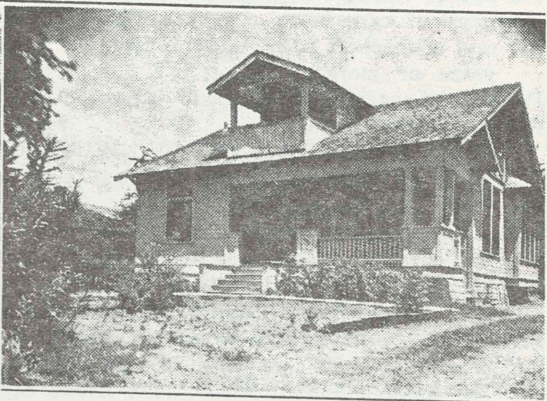
The present membership of the church is 3000 and the value of the property and buildings is estimated at \$100,000. The officers of the church are:

Deacons, W. H. Fuller, chairman; trustees, W. B. Campbell, chairman; Woman's Home Missionary Society, Mrs. M. D. P. Herbert, president; Sunday School, U. S. Fowler, superintendent; ushers, Virge Oliver, president; music department, Mrs. V. M. C. Dewitty, directress; layman, Jessie Terrell, president; clerical department, A. W. Herbert, head.

### THE EBENEZER CHOIR

The Ebenezer Choir, the largest and best Negro Choir in Texas is Nationally known, having broadcast over the Texas Quality Network each Sunday morning from September through June, for a period of two years, 1938-40. The hour of broadcasting was from 8:00 to 8:30 Sunday morning. It was employed to advertise Bright and Early Coffee, by the Duncan Coffee Company of Houston, Texas. The Officers of the Choir are as follows:

Jesse Terrell	President
Charles Lee	Vice President
Everette Rhambo	Secretary
Margaret Medlock	Assistant Secretary
F. S. James (deceased)	Was Librarian
Mrs. V. M. Dewitty	Directress



### REV. J. W. WARREN

Rev. J. W. Warren, who is district superintendent of the Austin district of the Methodist Episcopal Church, is one of the most devout and scholarly ministers in the West Texas Conference. Born at Oakland, Texas, he early came under the tutorship of cultured and refined teachers, among them being R. L. Smith, former member of the Texas legislature.

J. W. Warren over a period of thirty-six years has maintained the respect and admiration of the people he served. His length of service as a district superintendent and as a pastor coincide. He has served eighteen years in each capacity. He has pastored only five churches, some of them being St. Paul, San Antonio, Andrew's Chapel, Fort Worth, Wesley Chapel, Austin. True to his faith, his people, and to the school of his conference, he sees the good in everyone and in everything and forgives the bad. It is these attributes that have made him one of the outstanding ministers of the Gospel in Texas.



## EDUCATION

The public schools of Austin have increased physically, in number of buildings and equipment; and the quality of curriculum study has increased with the lessening of crowded conditions and addition of teachers.

The elementary schools have the departmental system of instruction beginning with the third grades and this type of instruction is used in the junior and senior high schools. All schools have separate departments for physical education, music, and art. There are well equipped social studies and science departments in many of them.

The teachers are well prepared and keep abreast of new trends in education. Each teacher is required to attend a summer session every third year of his employment.

The county also employs Miss Nannie B. Jenkins as Jeannes' supervisor of Negro county schools.

Samuel Huston and Tillotson Colleges are continuing to move forward in spite of economic conditions which would tend to affect the attendance. The N. Y. A. gives assistance to some who would otherwise be unable to attend.

COMPARISON OF TEACHER PERSONNEL RATING OF TRAVIS COUNTY  
WITH THAT OF THE STATE AS A WHOLE

	Travis County		State as a Whole	
	White	Colored	White	Colored
Per cent of teachers with college degree	59.8	64.85	44.4	32.1
Per cent of teachers with five years or more of experience	71.5	71.3	69.4	73.4
Per cent of teachers with tenure of five years or more	53.8	50.9	40.3	48.7
Per cent of teachers with college degree	59.8	64.85	44.4	32.1
Average annual salary	\$1032	\$612	\$899	55.7

## THE PRESENT STATUS OF NEGRO SCHOOLS IN AUSTIN—1940

There are eight schools for Negroes in the City of Austin—one high school, one junior and six elementary schools, four of which are constructed of brick with all modern equipment. Each school has a physical department.

The curriculum embraces all athletics, basketball, football, and track, which are effectively practiced because of the recently constructed gymnasium and stadium. The Anderson High School is located on Comal Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. Grades from nine to twelve. There are twenty-six teachers, a registrar, and principal, W. B. Campbell; 767 pupils are enrolled.

The Kealing Junior School, 1176 Leona Street, seventh and eighth grades. There are sixteen teachers at this school. The principal, I. Q. Hurdle, and 462 pupils enrolled.

Blackshear Elementary School, 1716 East Eleventh Street. There are twenty-four teachers, a supervising principal, F. R. Rice, and 889 pupils are enrolled.

Brackenridge Elementary School, 419 West Elizabeth. Supervising principal, C. L. Moore. Two teachers and seventy pupils enrolled.

The L. L. Campbell Elementary School is located on Chicon Street at Seventeenth. The school was built in 1939. Supervising principal, C. L. Moore. Seven teachers and 320 pupils enrolled.

Clarkville Elementary School, located at 1807 West Eleventh Street. Principal, Mrs. Josephine Kavanaugh, one other teacher and seventy pupils enrolled.

Olive Street Elementary School. Supervising principal, C. L. Moore. Nine teachers and 349 pupils enrolled.

Rosewood Elementary School is located on Hargrave and Rosewood avenues. Supervising principal, F. R. Rice. Nine teachers and 332 pupils enrolled.



Total enrollment of all schools is 3259. There are eighty-nine teachers in the public school system, one school nurse, and 494 adults enrolled in the evening schools.

## SCHOOLS IN TRAVIS COUNTY AT PRESENT DATE

There are thirty-one schools in Travis County. One thousand and sixty-eight plus those enrolled in the school at Manor. Twenty-five one-teacher schools, four two-teacher schools, and two four-teacher schools; grades from one through eleven are taught in only three of these.

Travis County is one of the few counties in Texas to have a Jeannes supervisor—Miss Nannie Bell Jenkins, who is doing a remarkable piece of work. The Home Demonstrator is Jessie L. Shelton, who has 4-H clubs organized throughout the county, as well as adult clubs.

## SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS OF TRAVIS COUNTY

Names of Teachers	Pupils Number of	District and Schools
Della Lee Sauls		8 Summit
Della J. Phillips	54	11 Fiskville
Eula Rivers		16 Gregg
Elnora Ake		17 Sprinkle
Maggie B. Crump		22 New Sweden
Annie Mae Henry		24 Carlson
Mildred Hall	42	25 Lund
Ollie M. Stokley		27 Richland
Charles Etta Nelson		28 Kimbro
Ruth Ella Gregg	30	Elm Grove
Annie M. Baker	54	29 Cotton Wood
Vera Fowler		30 Gravel Hill
Roosevelt H. King	31	
Etta Roach	25	32 Webberville
Lucile Dobbins		33 Hornsby-Dunlap No. 2
J. E. Clayton	129	Hornsby-Dunlap No. 3
F. D. McClure		34 Littig
Lonnie J. Anderson		
Eloise Pierre		
C. H. Yancy		35 Garfield
Cleo Luckett		
R. E. James	44	36 Lamar
A. E. Smith		Montopolis
M. D. Moore		38 Pleasant Hill
S. A. Upshaw	24	39 Bluff Springs
Dora Alice Henry	25	40 Carl
Marjorie Johns	36	41 Creedmoor
Mary James Doyle	38	44 Manchaca
Evelyn Johns		
Minnie Lee Rhodes	37	61 Pecan Springs
Vida M. Miller	30	64 Elroy
Georgia Bell		66 J. B. Norwood
M. E. Grant		67 Pilot Knob
Stella Darden	26	
Minnie C. Overton		68 Maha
		Independent School
Manor High School		Four Teachers



## AN HISTORICAL OUTLINE OF THE

## Record 1914—June 5

## Enrollment

Anderson High	424
Gregory High	807
Olive Street	469
West Austin	286
Brackenridge	169
Wheatville	177

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Total 2332

## Record 1924

## Enrollment

Anderson High	325
Brackenridge	88
Clarksville	69
Gregory	362
Olive Street	287
Wheatville	44

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Total 1175

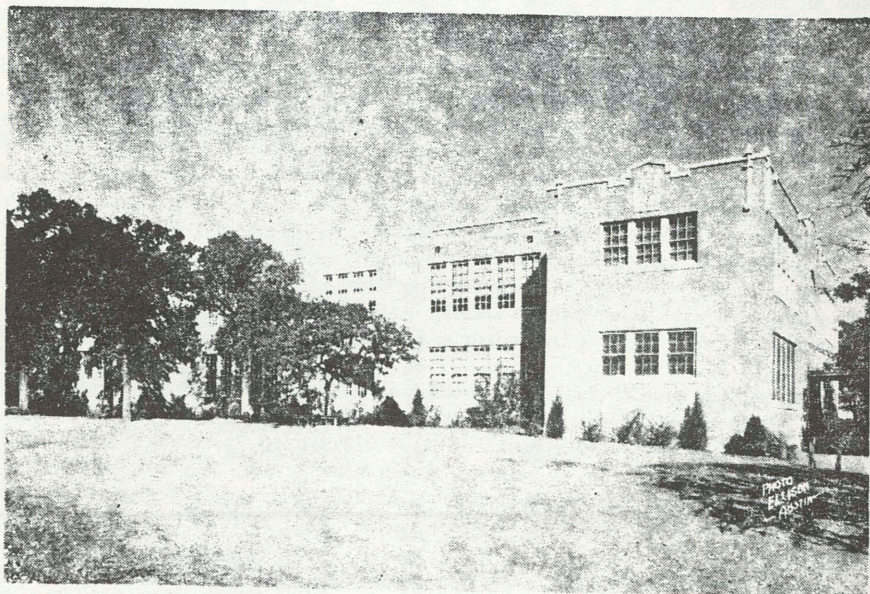
## Record 1934

## Enrollment

Anderson High	474
Kealing Junior	309
Brackenridge	67
Clarksville	66
Gregory	630
Olive Street	463
Rosewood	70

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Total 2077



KEALING JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL



F. R. Rice, supervising principal of Blackshear and Rosewood schools, noted for his influence on progressive education in Austin, Texas, was born at Jackson, Tennessee. He attended the city schools and graduated from the A. R. Merry High School with honors. While attending the city schools he worked as domestic servant, hotel porter, cook, chauffeur, and barber. Immediately after graduation he entered Lane College, Jackson, Tennessee, where he did two years of college work. In the spring of 1929 he came to Texas to visit his brother, C. W. Rice of Houston, Texas. During the summer of the same year he worked as short order chef and earned enough money to enter Prairie View. He did the other two years of his work there while working the first year as waiter in the teachers' cafeteria and the second year as the college barber. He received a B.S. degree from Prairie View in 1931. Having successfully performed



F. R. RICE

his duties there, Principal W. R. Banks recommended him to the position of assistant principal in the Austin Public Schools. He was elected assistant principal of Gregory School under the principalship of the late Prof. W. H. Passon. He held this position two years. After the passing of Prof. W. H. Passon, he was elected principal of Gregory School. While in this position he began to exert his influence on schools and curriculum improvement with a staff of fourteen teachers. During his first year as principal he obtained a C.W.A. appropriation of Eleven Hundred Dollars (\$1100) for beautification purposes, the only C.W.A. project that got an O. K., white or colored, in the city school system. With this appropriation a beautification project consisting of rock drinking fountain, fish pond, rock fences, completely landscaped front, rock flower beds and all types of choice shrubbery was completed at the cost of Fifteen Hundred Dollars (\$1500). This made Gregory School one of the scenic spots of Austin. During the second year of his principalship the old Gregory School was completely renovated with an addition of twelve rooms and an auditorium and the name of the school was changed to Blackshear School in honor of the late Prof. E. L. Blackshear. The attractiveness of the school along with curriculum improvements increased the enrollment from 630 to 850, which necessitated the addition of seven additional teachers and a school clerk. He created several departments and renovated all the rest of them, among which are: well-equipped science room with a full-time science teacher, auditorium activities with a full-time teacher, music department with a full-time teacher for intermediate and primary grades, two art departments with full-time teachers, pre-primer department now known as Junior Primary department, and an elementary library equipped with modern furniture and 1037 volumes of new books suited to the needs and levels of the pupils. He started the functioning of the elementary library idea in the colored schools of Austin. All during this time he kept abreast of the times by pursuing graduate work at



Columbia University, New York City, in the field of Elementary Education, majoring in administration and supervision, and attending national and state educational conferences. He was promoted in 1936 to the position of supervising principal. He received the Master of Arts degree in the summer of 1938, from Columbia University.

The Rosewood School library was started in 1937 with the addition of a full-time librarian and at a total of 875 volumes. The music and art departments have grown with the increase of more teachers. The faculty consists of nine teachers.

He was sent as a representative of the elementary department of the Austin Public Schools to the National Association of School Administrators conferences in New Orleans, La., 1937, and St. Louis, Mo., 1940, respectively. He was an attendant of the National Education Association meetings in Detroit, 1937, New York City, New York, 1938, and San Francisco, Calif., 1939.

He sponsored a W.P.A. project feeding underprivileged children from December 14, 1939, to May 30, 1940. At Blackshear one hundred forty, and at Rosewood ninety children, respectively, were fed daily.

As of June 1, 1940, the personnel under his supervision were as follows:

Blackshear—		Rosewood—	
Enrollment .....	886	Enrollment .....	324
Teachers .....	24	Vice Principal .....	1
Full-Time Secretary .....	1	Janitor .....	1
Vice Principal .....	1	Cafeteria Helpers .....	3
Janitors .....	2	Matron .....	1
Cafeteria Manager .....	1		
Matrons .....	4		

Educational philosophy—First teach boys and girls to do better those desirable things that they will do anyway. Secondly reveal those higher activities and make them both desired and maximally possible.

Personal philosophy—Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.

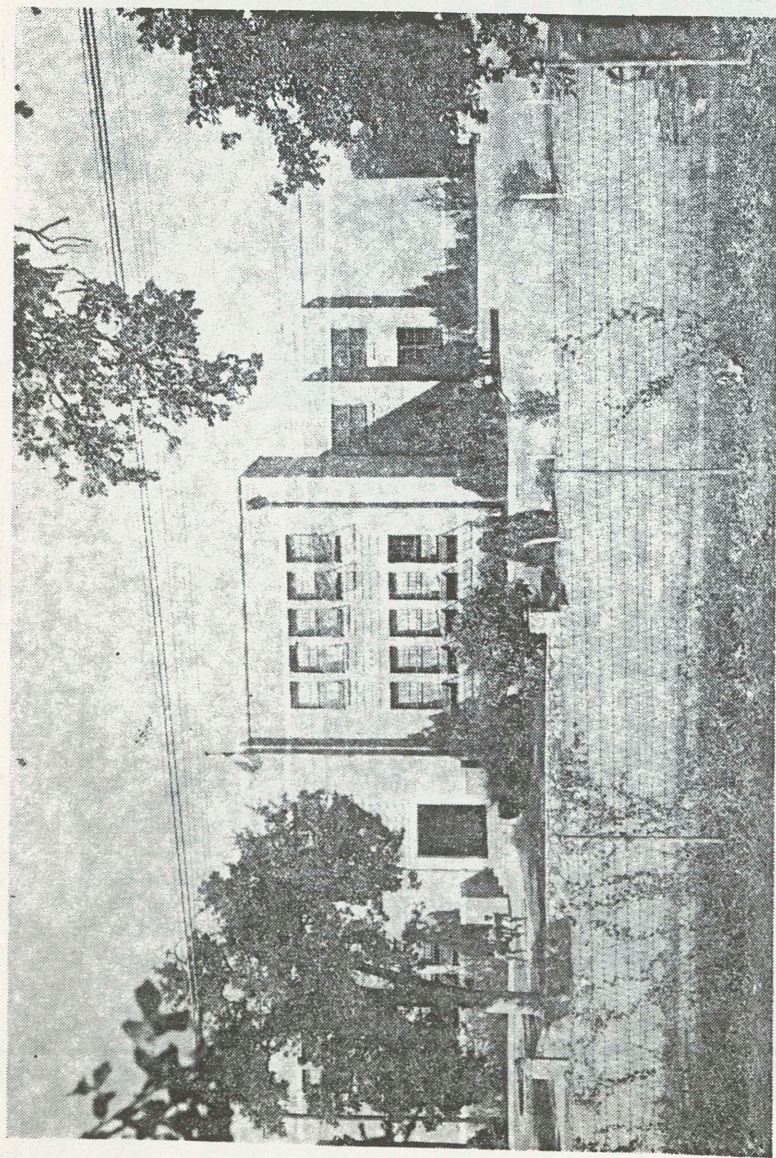
Mr. Rice was married to Miss Johnnie Mae Yates of Houston, a graduate of Bishop College, August 20, 1930. Mrs. Rice is the daughter of one of Houston's leading printers.

#### ADULT EDUCATION IN TRAVIS COUNTY

The Adult Education Program in Travis County sponsored by the United Government includes schools in the City of Austin and in the county. There are eleven teachers employed in the City and one hundred fifty-five pupils enrolled. There are five schools for adults in the county in which one hundred twenty-four pupils are enrolled.

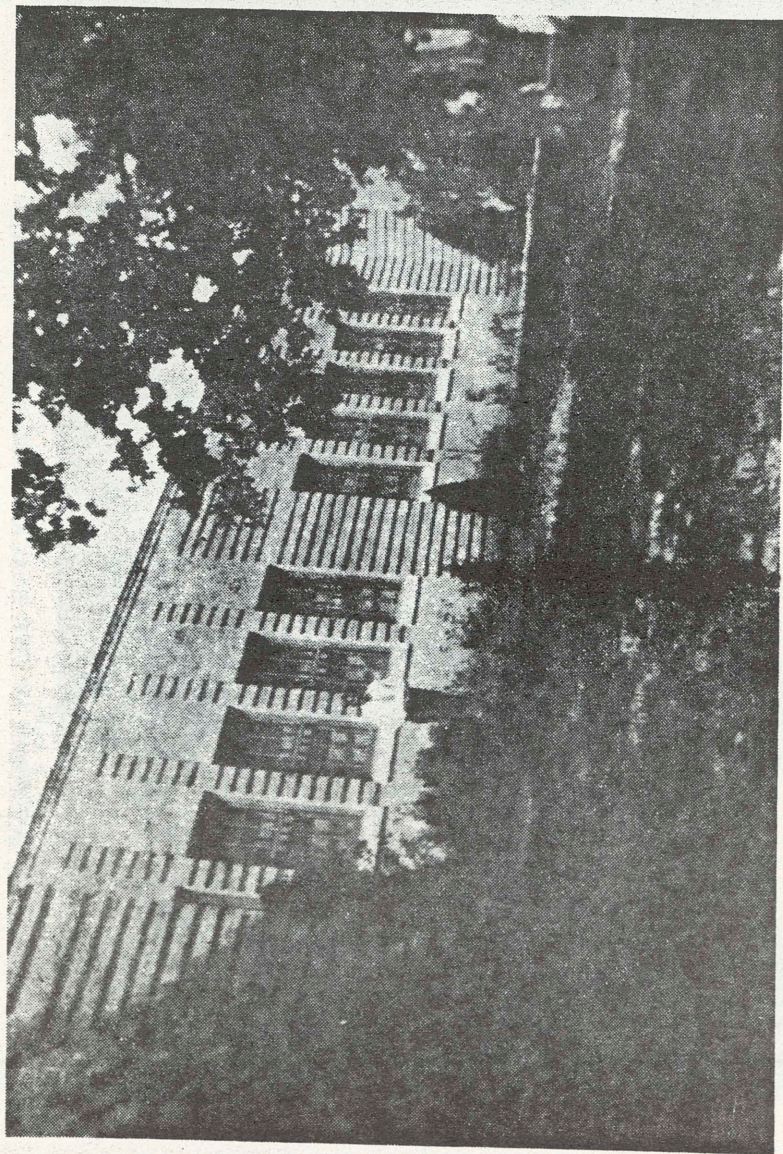
One of these schools is a nursery school, and one is an N. Y. A. school. The remainder of them are under the supervision of the W. P. A.





THE BLACKSHEAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL—F. R. RICE PRINCIPAL





ROSEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



## SAMUEL HUSTON COLLEGE

Samuel Huston College, Austin, Texas, was founded in the basement of St. Paul's M. E. Church, Dallas, Texas, in February, 1876, by Rev. George C. Richardson of the Minnesota conference, who became its first executive.

In the year 1900 it was moved to Austin and R. S. Lovinggood, professor of Latin at Wiley College, was appointed president of the college. The story of R. S. Lovinggood's development of the college is almost as romantic as that of Booker T. Washington and Tuskegee. Mr. Lovinggood found in the basement which represented the college, chickens roosting and hogs wallowing.

On the first day school opened he was unable to accommodate the young men and young women who came to enroll in the school. He and his wife, nevertheless, worked hard to provide shelter and food for these young people and succeeded somehow in doing so.

The ministers and laymen of the West Texas Conference labored hard to help Dr. Lovinggood and the school grew by leaps and bounds. First, a normal school, like most of the early colleges, it finally added college courses to its curriculum and offered work leading to the A.B. degree. As time went on it kept pace with the times and was always prepared to meet the requirements of educational standardizing agencies.

Located near the state capitol building, on a beautiful paved boulevard, it has one of the best locations of any college in the southwest. It has always maintained high standards of scholarship and morality and has employed teachers of outstanding merit and service.

Dr. Stanley E. Grannum is the present president of the college, and has done a remarkable piece of work during his administration, in not only steadily advancing the financial status of the school, but in improving the teacher personnel and in beautifying and improving the buildings and grounds as well as instituting new and modern ideas in the general administration of the college.

Samuel Huston graduates are among those who have succeeded in all walks of life and wherever they are found, they are, for the most part, living upright and serviceable lives in the communities in which they reside.

## PRESIDENTS OF SAMUEL HUSTON COLLEGE

George C. Richardson.....	1876
R. S. Lovinggood.....	1900-1916
M. S. Davage.....	1916-1920
J. B. Randolph.....	1920-1922
R. N. Brooks.....	1922-1926
T. R. Davis.....	1926-1930
Willis J. King.....	1930-1932
Stanley E. Grannum.....	1932-





DR. STANLEY E. GRANNUM

Stanley E. Grannum was born October 17, 1891, in the City of New York, New York. His parents were William and Sarah Grannum. He was reared in a fine Christian home under the direction of devoted Christian parents who endeavored to instill within him from childhood principles of strong character. He was converted at an early age and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church where he was a conscientious, active, and dependable Christian.

He finished his public school education in the Dewitt Clinton High School, in the city of his birth, with honors. He has been studious and scholarly from a youth. His A.B. degree was secured from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut; but, realizing his call to the ministry of Christ, he felt that he needed a thorough, systematic course in Biblical and religious ethics, he therefore matriculated at Boston University, where he finished his theological course. He has done graduate study at Howard University.

Dr. Grannum served as assistant pastor of St. Mark's M. E. Church in the City of New York for two years. Other churches where he has successfully pastored are: Church of All Nations, Boston, Mass., three years; Mt. Zion, Cincinnati, Ohio, four years; and Cary M. E. Church, Cleveland, Ohio. He accepted the position as president of Samuel Huston College, Austin, Texas, in 1932, and under his administration the school has put on new life and is growing by leaps and bounds.

Dr. Grannum is a man of recognized ability, fine judgment, keen thinking, deep reasoning, wonderful executive ability, and possesses a dynamic personality.

He is unassuming in manner, wise in action, definite in purpose, and slow in conclusions, yet firm in decisions, and Texas is proud to claim him as her adopted son.



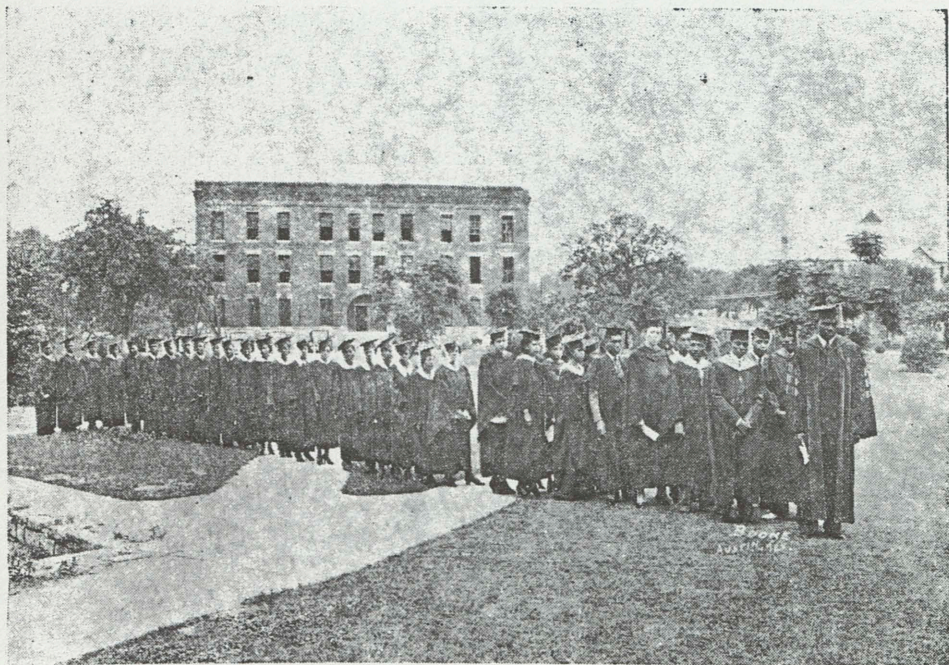
## C. W. DESLANDES

C. W. Deslandes, dean of Samuel Huston College, was born in Paris, Texas, January 7, 1905, the son of Rev. G. A. Deslandes and Lillie Vanetta Deslandes.

He attended the public schools at Paris, Texas, and in many other Texas cities wherever his father happened to pastor. In 1925 he graduated from the academic department of Samuel Huston College. The following fall he enrolled in Kansas University, completing his work leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree at that institution in 1929.

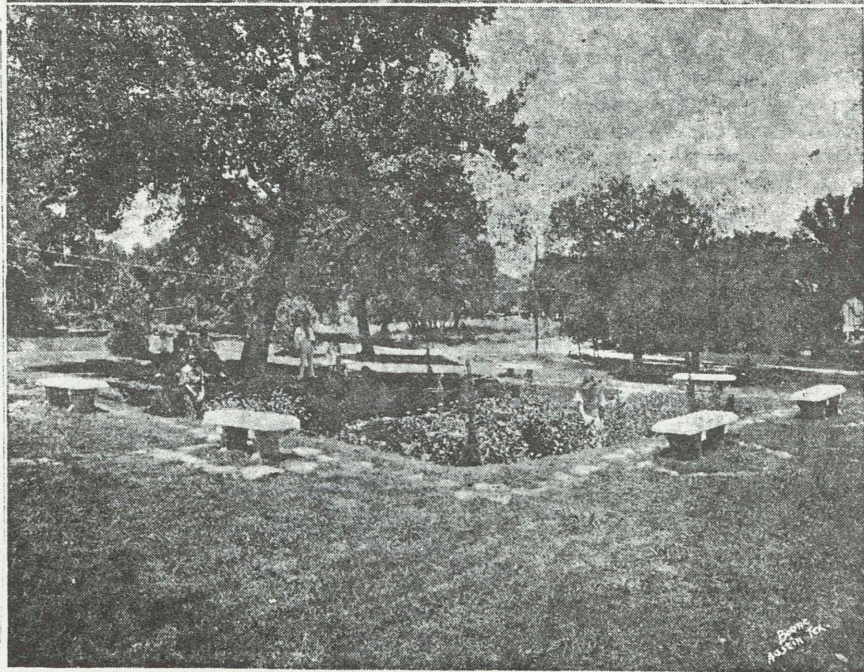
In the year 1929 he was employed to teach at Samuel Huston College. From 1929 to 1935 his rank was that of associate professor, and from 1935 to 1938, professor. In the year 1938 he was appointed acting dean of the college and a year later he was made dean.

During his tenure of service at Samuel Huston College he has had several leaves of absence and in 1935 he was awarded the M.S. degree from Northwestern University. He is modest and unassuming in his manner, but thorough and efficient in whatever capacity he is called upon to serve.



SAMUEL HUSTON GRADUATES AND LOVINGGOOD HALL IN THE BACKGROUND



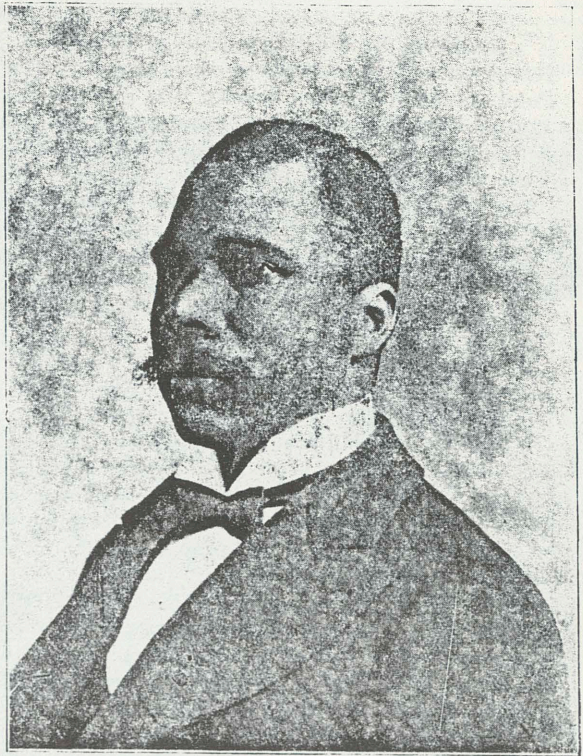


Above: The west campus with the State Capitol in the distance.  
Bottom: Beautiful sunken garden to the left of the College main entrance.



J. W. Frazier, veteran educator of Austin and Texas, is one of those who has meant most to Texas education. He was born at Stokesdale, North Carolina. His parents were David and Fannie Frazier. His mother taught him his A, B, C's and a little spelling and reading.

His early training was received under the tutelage of white teachers. His later schooling was received at the hands of colored teachers. In the year 1880 he entered Bennett Seminary, Greensboro, North Carolina. He graduated there in 1886. It was during the same year that he came to Texas and secured a teaching position at Victoria, Texas.



After teaching at Victoria for fourteen years he was appointed to teach at Samuel Huston College, Austin, which was opening its doors to the public for the first time in its new location. At Samuel Huston he worked faithfully with President R. S. Lovinggood in an effort to develop Samuel Huston College. He was regarded as the most loyal helper R. S. Lovinggood had. He served this institution for twenty-eight years and there is no one more highly respected or devotedly loved by ex-students of the college than is Professor Frazier. He and his wife, Mrs. L. A. Frazier, are traditions at Samuel Huston College, and are destined to always be. They have one son, Mason Frazier, who is principal of the Denison, Texas, High School.

#### E. F. DENNIS

E. F. Dennis, born in Fayette County, Texas, has had much to do with giving guidance and counsel to the editor of this publication, not only in his high school days, but even during college and in after life. To have known him as classroom teacher and friend has been a privilege and a most gratifying experience, for it is he who first suggested and made it possible for the editor to secure his first teaching position.

Mr. Dennis, scholarly and efficient was at one time principal of the Anderson High School and assistant to the Supreme Clerk of the American Woodmen with headquarters at Denver Colo. For a number of years he has been employed as teacher in the San Antonio public schools, where he is working at the present time.



### ISAIAH Q. HURDLE

Isaiah Q. Hurdle is a native of Greenville, Hunt County, Texas. He was reared on a farm and was of slave parents. His education began in the Center Point rural school, Hunt County. He received the B.A. degree in Education from Prairie View College in 1927 (summer). He is a graduate student of Colorado University and visited the Latin American school in the University of Texas Summer School.

He organized the Kealing Junior School and has served as principal the past ten years. (Admitted as Kealing Junior High School 1939). Sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. He has served as teacher and principal in the Austin public schools from 1920 to the present. He is probably the best informed man on Austin Negro scholastics, having been the census director for the Austin scholastics for the past ten years.

He is past president of the Colored Teachers' State Association of Texas; was the national representative for 6000 Negro teachers of Texas, to the American Teachers Association in Tuskegee in 1938. He was coordinator and chief sponsor of the State Aid bill for Texas Negroes (\$50,000 for the present biennium), for graduate study. He is division commissioner for the Boy Scouts of America, Capital Area Council (Colored), and is a prominent Christian and fraternal leader. He is charter secretary of the Austin Negro Citizens Council. He is a friend to boys and girls, and a well-prepared school man of noble character. He has a wife and three children.

### ORGANIZATIONS

The modern age presents all types of organizations in many fields: Political, religious, social, economic, civic, educational, and fraternal.

Some of the outstanding organizations are: The Negro Citizens Council, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Ministerial Alliance, the King's Daughters, the Douglas Club, the Community Welfare Association, Parent-Teacher Associations, and Fraternal organizations, including the American Woodmen and Masonic Lodge. The colleges have organized Greek letter fraternal organizations inspiring their youth toward higher scholastic and moral attainments. These include fraternities and sororities, namely: Phi Beta Sigma, Alpha Phi Alpha, and Omega Psi Phi fraternities, and Delta Sigma Theta, Zeta Phi Beta, and Alpha Kappa Alpha sororities. There are also on the campus other scholastic and social organizations, all striving toward instilling firm principles and a progressive attitude within Negro youth.

Through the cooperation of the varied organizations much has been accomplished.

### THE COMMUNITY WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Few people know how often the question is asked: "Why was the Community Welfare Association organized?" In attempting to answer that question a review of its short history must be made.

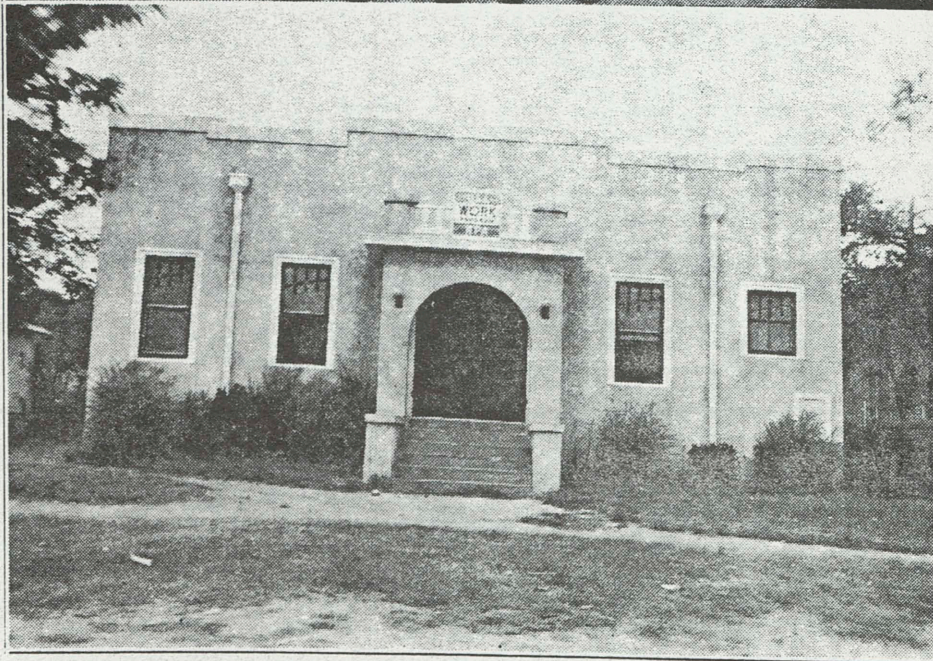
Many pressing community needs among the Negroes of Austin prompted seven of the nine Federated Clubs to unite themselves to form an organization. To them the most vital needs at that time, were first, a suitable building where clubs could meet and carry on their activities, and second, a health center for Negroes.

With these objectives in mind, the Community Welfare Association of Austin was organized Feb. 15, 1927, with membership of the following Federated Clubs: Silver Leaf Art Club, Dramatic Social Club, Dunbar Art Club, Central Art Club, Ladies' Unity Social Club, Junior Unity Club, and Elite Club, with Mrs. Dean Mohr, president.



### THE OFFICIAL BOARD

Mrs. M. E. Durden, president; Mrs. E. E. Yerwood, secretary. Mrs. C. L. Woodard, treasurer; Mrs. C. H. Christian, chairman of Trustee Board; Mrs. S. L. Dedrick, trustee; Mrs. C. B. King, vice-president of Douglas Club; Mrs. M. A. B. Fuller; Mrs. T. A. Hardwell, president of King's Daughters; Mrs. M. H. McCauley, president of Douglas Club; Mrs. T. H. James, secretary of DePriest Club; Mrs. U. S. Fowler, president DePriest Club; Mrs. Bessie Williams, president of Silver Leaf Club; Mrs. L. J. Bailes, trustee; Miss L. O. Love, president of Dunbar Club.



COMMUNITY CENTER, 1192 ANGELINA STREET, AUSTIN, TEXAS



The organization was incorporated and chartered August 6, 1929, under the name of "The Community Welfare Association of Austin, Texas." The purpose for which is the support of benevolent, charitable, educational, or missionary undertakings, to-wit: To purchase a lot and to erect thereon a building to be used for a baby clinic and health center and to be interested in any activity that pertains to the civic welfare of the community, to engage in other benevolent and charitable work that the organization may see fit to do.

The first objective was the purchasing of a lot and the erection of a suitable building to care for such activities as the clubs at that time could sponsor.

On March 26, 1927, the trustees of the seven clubs, acting under the direction of the organization, purchased a lot at 1186 Angelina Street for the sum of \$500, paying \$300 cash with a note for the balance within one year. On June 18, 1928, the note was paid in full. In September, 1928, Mrs. Mohr resigned the presidency and Mrs. M. E. Durden was elected to fill her place.

Plans to raise funds to finance the erection of a building began at once. This was almost about the beginning of the world depression. The organization had no financial backing. Each club pledged a quota of \$8.50 each quarter, donations from friends, proceeds from dinners, plays, etc.

The Douglas Club and King's Daughters, the two other clubs of the City Federation, each had a cherished project of its own.

Realizing the insecurity of an unincorporated body the president, Mrs. Durden, urged that the Association become incorporated and chartered under the name of The Community Welfare Association of Austin. This made it much easier to establish a business record as an organization.

On August 19, 1929, the contract for the erection of a one-story stucco building was let. The cost of the building was \$5,555, with a cash payment of \$725 and \$275 at the completion of the job. Terms were agreed upon for the balance.

The depression brought many hardships and at one time murmurs of giving up were heard. Members were engaged in affairs of their own. A meeting was called and a committee of five appointed to see what could be done. A white friend of the city made an appointment. On that day only three of the five members were present, namely: Mrs. C. A. Hamilton, Mrs. C. L. Dennis, and Mrs. M. E. Durden. This friend became interested and made a loan of several hundred dollars with no other security than the names of the three women. Later, when times were very much harder the president went to Mrs. Howson, laid before her the bare facts and she became even more interested and gave the challenge of a gift of \$2100 if a like sum of \$2100 was raised. This challenge created interest, not only among the club members, but the citizenry as well. Combing the Negro population for its pennies, dimes, and dollars and by borrowing \$250 of the sum finally \$1000 was raised. Again in 1932 when the depression was at its height, Mrs. Howson was so interested that she gave the \$2100, accepted the \$1000 on the \$2100 and loaned \$1100 without interest, to be paid in quarterly installments of \$50 each, with the understanding that they were to be met promptly or all would fall due.

These notes were paid. Not always did the club honor their obligations, but there were members who felt the obligation too keenly to falter and the notes were so promptly cared for that on April 4, 1940, the final note was paid, three months before it was due.

The total cost of the Community Center, located at 1192 Angelina Street, Austin, Texas, including land, erection of building and furnishings, was \$7,050. This does not include interest, repairs, insurance, and general upkeep, all of which have been kept up with no outstanding debts against the organization.



The community Center is uniquely located for serving the Negro population as a health, educational, and recreational unit for small children and older people. It is easily accessible to most of the schools. At present the following activities are sponsored there:

1. Nursery school under Federal supervision, which employs five people aside from girls and boys doing N.Y.A. work. The Community Welfare Association is a co-sponsor of this school and through its efforts has interested the Austin Public Schools, the Community Chest of Austin, the county and city, and the numbers of non-federated clubs in the city so that they contribute either money or service to its needs.

2. A well-baby clinic meets every Saturday from 8 to 10 o'clock. This work is under the supervision of a child specialist from the City Hospital with our own Negro nurses, as well a swwhite.

3. A regular meeting center fo rall following activities:

- A. The Negro Citizens' Council
- B. Girl Scouts
- C. City Federation of Women's Clubs
- D. The Davis Baptist Church, until their building is completed
- E. The American Woodmen
- F. The Brush Burners
- G. A Class in Art

Three times a week milk is given to families on the roll, with illness or underprivileged children.

The nursery school is used for student observations by the Home Economics students of Texas University, Tillotson College, Anderson High School, and Kealing School.

The Community Welfare Association was accepted as an agency of the Community Chest of Austin in 1936 because of its charitable work among our people.

The recognition of its work by the city and county frees the building and grounds of all taxes, water and light assessments.

Other activities that have been carried on there are:

1. A kindergarten school maintained by the Public School Board of Austin, until there was available space in the public school buildings.

2. Girl Reserve groups under the supervision of the Y. W. C. A.

3. Parental educational classes.

4. Sewing units of the Negro women employed on F. E. R. A. projects.

The Community Welfare Association holds its own place with the business firms of the city. It has many interests relative to civic uplift and benefits of the people. It was very active in securing the services of a city nurse, offering the building for her activities, if the city paid the salary. Again, when the city promised a Negro library, if the bond issue passed, the women of the Community Welfare Association came forward and pushed the project.

The playground and recreational activities for Negroes were brought to the attention of the city through the operation of a playground for Negro children on Tillotson campus, sponsored by the Community Welfare Association.

We do not hesitate to ask, "Has the Community Welfare Association served the Negro population as a benevolent, charitable, health, and educational organization?

The Community Welfare Association has kept the Federation motto ever uppermost in its work: "For God and humanity we are lifting as we climb."



## MRS. M. E. (HOLMAN) DURDEN



The little village of Refugio, better known in Texas history as the "Lady of Refuge," is the birthplace of Mrs. Mattie E. H. Durden. Her early school training was about like the usual child's education at that time. There was one teacher in a one-room building with all duties to perform.

Mrs. Durden was the first Negro to go from Refugio to a school for higher training. She attended Tillotson College between the ages of 15 and 19 years, going as far as the tenth grade. Economic conditions then caused her to stop school. She attended a summer normal and was successful in making a Second Grade Teacher's Certificate, after which she taught two terms in her home town. At this time she was married to G. F. Durden, a former schoolmate at Tillotson College. For three years they lived in Corpus Christi where Mr. Durden was in business. During this time one son, Franklin, was born.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Durden had withdrawn from Tillotson before having completed their high school work, and the desire for more education led them to move to Austin, where Olive, the second child, was born.

In 1907 Mrs. Durden registered again at Tillotson College. She did not know then, but since has been informed that at that time the attendance of married people in school was so unpopular, a conference of the faculty was called to determine whether or not it would have a tendency to lower the morals of the school. Dr. Agard, then president, said: "Let her attend. She will not be here long, with two children to care for." In 1909 Mrs. Durden finished her high school course, as valedictorian of her class. For a time the entire family was in school. Things were not always smooth for them. The one great tragedy in their lives was the loss of their son.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Durden have their A.B. degrees from Tillotson College. Mrs. Durden also has an A.B. degree from Samuel Huston College and a B.S. degree in Home Economics from Tillotson. Mrs. Durden was the first woman to be graduated from the college department at Tillotson College. She also has had training at Tuskegee.

Mrs. Durden taught eight years at Tillotson College and for the past twenty-two years she has taught home economics at Anderson High School in Austin, and is chairman of the Home Economics Committee of Colored Schools in Austin. She is president of the Community Welfare Association, chairman of the advisory board of W.P.A. Nursery School, chairman of Travis County Child Welfare Board No. 2, staff member of the Child Section of the Council of Social Agencies of Austin, a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church, and at one time a member of the Interracial Committee of Austin.



## THE NEGRO CITIZENS' COUNCIL

About six years ago thirty or forty men met at the Community Center on Angelina Street and organized themselves to do civic, social, and recreational work in the city and county. As a result of this meeting a Men's Council was brought into existence. Later on the name was changed to the Negro Citizens' Council. The present organization is now in existence and is considered one of the foremost organizations among our group. O. R. Lott was elected president, Dr. E. H. Givens vice-president, I. Q. Hurdle secretary, and Charles Meroney treasurer.

The purpose of the organization is to seek better economic conditions and to do work that might fall under the following committees: Steering, Relief, and Charity; Streets and Public Safety; Education; Public Health and Sanitation; Entertainment; Employment and Publicity.

The present officers are: E. A. Johnson, president; F. R. Rice, vice president; I. Q. Hurdle, secretary; M. M. Ownes, treasurer.

The Negro Citizens' Council has done some very outstanding work in our city, namely, improved sanitary conditions in our section of the city. Police additions, city library, some recent and substantial improvements to our municipal park and many other things too numerous to mention.

Our male citizens make up the membership and new members are coming in monthly. The motto of the Council is: "To make Austin the Mecca of Texas."

The present officers of the Negro Citizens' Council are:

E. A. Johnson, president; F. R. Rice, vice-president; E. M. Swisher, secretary; M. M. Owens, treasurer. Committee chairmen: Education, W. H. Fuller; entertainment, B. E. Lott; amusement, C. J. Shackles; relief and charities, I. Q. Hurdle; sanitation and public health, Dr. C. R. Yerwood; recreation and parks, W. M. Tears; streets and public safety, D. R. Woodard; steering, Florence Clark; publicity, L. M. Hosea.

Past officers: O. R. Lott, president; Dr. E. H. Givens, vice-president; I. Q. Hurdle, secretary; Chas. Meroney, treasurer.

## THE AUSTIN NEGRO JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

On April 5, 1940, a group of young met in the Negro branch library and organized the Junior Chamber of Commerce. The officials were: Kenneth R. Lamkin, president; Vernon B. Fowler, first vice-president; Oliver B. Street, second vice-president; Howell Bunton, secretary; Murray Owens, treasurer; James R. Shannon, executive secretary.

The members of the board of directors are: Howard Wynn, Oliver Street, Vernon Fowler, Eddie Hill, E. M. Swisher, Everett Rhambo, J. C. Colvin, Elbert Van Dyke, and Ira Marshall.

Among some of the projects these young men are considering at the present time are: An investigation of Negro homicide in Austin and the establishment of a local R. O. T. C. among Negroes.

Composed of some of the most intelligent young leaders to be found anywhere in Texas, the organization has succeeded in rendering distinctive service to the Negro citizenry of Austin and vicinity.

## MRS. J. E. JOHNSON

Mrs. J. E. Johnson was born in Calhoun County, at Longmott. She received training at Prairie View College and at Tillotson College, where she took her B.S. degree.



Mrs. Johnson has always been intensely interested in her race and in pointing out, especially to young women and girls the right way of living and the rewards to be received for so doing. Responsible for the existence of the Negro Girl Scout troops in the City of Austin and an ardent worker with Parent-Teacher Associations, Mrs. Johnson is constantly thinking of ways and means of being helpful to Negro youth. She is the mother of three well-reared boys and she and her husband, E. A. Johnson, have proven themselves model parents.

### COLORED GIRL SCOUTS, TRAVIS COUNTY

Seeing the need for a character-building organization in Austin Mrs. J. E. Ross Johnson, president of the Kealing School P.T.A., pioneered with the idea of organizing a Girl Scout group, a P.T.A. project for Colored girls of Austin, Texas.

When she approached the subject to the leader of the white Girl Scouts, she was reminded that there were no Negro Girl Scouts and was turned down. At the expiration of a year Mrs. Johnson, with a strong desire to do some good for girls, again approached the leader and plead with her for acceptance into the Girl Scouts organization. She was told that it required a study of the Scout course and Mrs. Johnson gave assurance that this could be done.

Spreading the news about the course among the schools, churches, and P.T.A.'s resulted in the finding of twenty-three women to study the course. These twenty-three women worked long and hard on the course given by Mrs. Fred Spiller, local director, in 1936, and all received Girl Scout certificates and pins.

In 1936 a troop of about eighteen girls was formed at Kealing Junior School. Miss Onie B. Conley was selected by Prof. I. Q. Hurdle as leader, and Miss Theresa McCall was appointed to help her.

The committee women for this first Negro Girl Scout troop were: Mrs. Helen McCauley, Mrs. Madeline Moore, Mrs. J. E. Johnson, and Mrs. Wm. H. Jones.

There had to be a council of women to take care of the business side of this growing organization, and Mrs. W. H. Jones was appointed president of the first council. She held this position until 1939. At this time Mrs. J. E. Johnson was elected president of the council.

A second troop was asked for in Anderson High School, with Miss Bessie Lomax as captain and Miss Bessie Stewart as lieutenant of this troop. Mrs. W. B. Campbell, Mrs. Cora James, Mrs. Irma Hurdle, and Mrs. Helen Howell were appointed as committee women. There are now troops at Blackshear, Rosewood, L. L. Campbell, and Olive Street schools.

### MR. THEODORE YOUNGBLOOD AND MRS. JEWEL DEANES YOUNGBLOOD

Mr. and Mrs. Youngblood are two of Austin's most progressive young people. Graduates of Samuel Huston College and married now for thirteen years, they have steadily accumulated property.

On September 25, 1939, they opened a modern and up-to-date lunch room known as Jewel's Lunch Room. The business has prospered from the date of its opening and is still progressing. The Youngbloods are the parents of two fine sons, Theodore Jr. and Alvin Lee, 11 and 12 years old, respectively. Youngblood is an employee of the Stephen F. Austin Hotel. Mrs. Youngblood is a graduate of the Home Economics department of Samuel Huston and operates her lunch room in a manner befitting her training along this line.

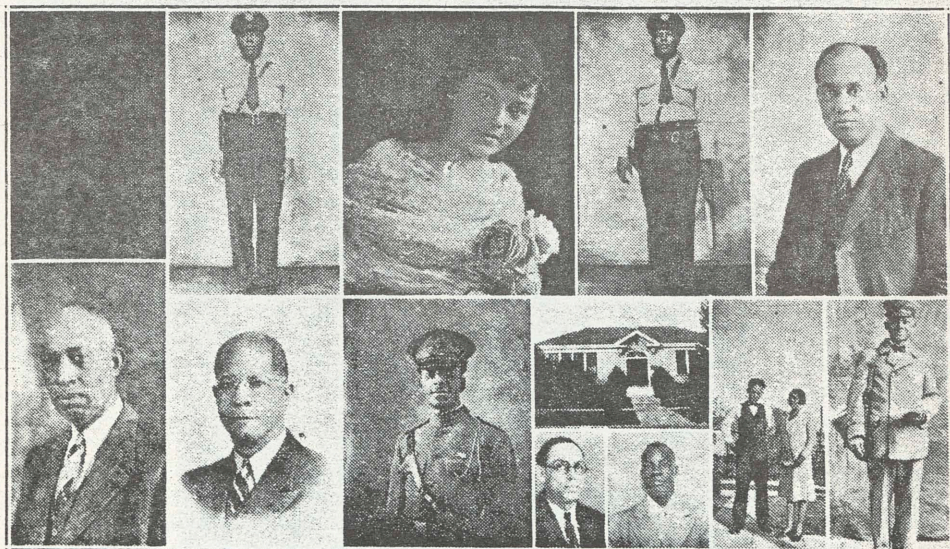


## AUSTIN GIRL SCOUTS AT CAMP



Top left: Girl Scouts, at leisure; top right: worshipping; center left: Mrs. J. E. Johnson and the camp pony; center top: Mrs. H. McCauley preparing the eats; center: Boy and Girl Scouts hand in hand; right: first Girl Scout; bottom left: Games in camp; bottom center: Scout bus; bottom right: Three honor Scouts.





Top row, left to right: Uncle Steve Samuels, sage of East Sixth Street; Officer Aninias James, ranking Negro policeman from standpoint of service; Mrs. J. E. Johnson, prominent teacher and welfare worker; Officer Moore, newest addition to Negro section of police force. Bottom, left to right: O. R. Lott, first president Negro Citizens Council; E. F. Dennis, scholarly teacher; John C. Creasy, founder American Colored Veterans; E. A. Johnson, president Negro Citizens Council; the Colored branch library; Roger Bell, Samuel Huston senior, first to major in music; Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Youngblood; Harry Lott, veteran mail carrier and boys' leader, soloist Ebenezed choir; I. Q. Hurdle, principal of Kealing School.



## E. A. JOHNSON

E. A. Johnson was born in Port Lavaca, Texas. He completed his college work at Prairie View College, from which institution he holds the B.S. degree. His first work was at Marlin, Texas. Later he was employed at the State Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Institute for the Colored. After a short time at that institution he was appointed to teach at the Anderson High School in Austin, and has been connected with that school since that time.

Mr. Johnson has always been civic minded and interested in helping to improve the status of his race and open up new opportunities for them. It is for this reason that he was chosen to direct the Negro Citizens Council. Very systematic and sincere in whatever he does Mr. Johnson is well liked and highly respected by both the white and colored citizens of Austin. He has done graduate study at Prairie View College, and has demonstrated his ability to do research on Negro life. Some of the most valuable information included in this study is the result of Mr. Johnson's studies made of Austin Negroes.

## O. R. LOTT

Mr. O. R. Lott Sr. was born and reared on a farm in Cologne, Texas, in Goliad County. In his later years he attended Samuel Huston College and Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, majoring in construction work, where he later entered in the contracting and real estate business in Austin on Jan. 1, 1914, with Mr. J. E. Mosby Sr., and formed a partnership known as Mosby and Lott. They have sold and built some of the most outstanding homes and business places in the city. In 1928 they went into the lumber business. This being the only Negro business of its kind in the state. In the year 1936 Mr. Lott purchased from Mr. Mosby the latter's half interest in the business. The firm is now known as the Lott Lumber Co., dealers in all kinds of building material. Mr. Lott has taken great interest in organizations and is interested in racial uplift and was elected the first president of Austin Negro Citizens Council. He also served as a trustee of Samuel Huston College.

## JOHN C. CREASY

John C. Creasy, who was born in Austin August 21, 1892, attended the public schools of this city and later entered Samuel Huston College, where he received his early business training.

He has served successfully during his lifetime as porter, chauffeur, and insurance man. During the World War he was a sergeant and served with the American Expeditionary Forces.

In the year 1924 he went to San Antonio, Texas, and engaged himself in the insurance business, at which he made good. Since that time he has held many executive positions with insurance companies. He is at present collector and director of the King Funeral Home Burial Association.

Mr. Creasy's most outstanding contribution to Negro progress has been the founding of an ex-soldiers' organization known as the Colored Veterans of America. This organization was chartered under the laws of the state October 19, 1937. There are eight posts organized and operating at the present time and the membership is still increasing. He is a notary public and an official of the Boy Scouts.



## HEALTH

According to Dr. Primer, City Health Officer, Negroes are to be commended for the general way that they take care of their health. He states that by far the Mexicans present the most serious health problem, because of their living conditions, surroundings, and food. Most common among Negroes are nephritis, heart disease, and kidney trouble. Tuberculosis does not present a special problem among Negroes, as is commonly thought. The urge is for Negro women to have more pre-natal care.

In 1939 maternal deaths showed five out of every ten were Negroes. Proper pre-natal care where the prospective mother was put under the care of a physician would have reduced the percentage of this rate. During the year 1939, 401 Negro babies were born. Out of these, there were twenty-three stillbirths, leaving a total of 378 live births. Of the remaining, twenty-five died in less than a year's time, and sixteen in less than a month. These figures are for the county.

In the City of Austin seventy-four persons died from tuberculosis in 1939. Sixty-four whites (Mexicans included in whites) and ten Negroes.

From tuberculosis deaths distributed according to races, the rate and figures are as follows:

	Rate
White 16 .....	60 to every 100,000
Mexicans 30 .....	350 to every 100,000
Negroes 6 .....	90 to every 100,000

Total deaths according to races: Whites 455, Mexicans 159, Negroes 217.

Negroes are taking advantage of hospitalization more and more. The city provides a Negro nurse for Negro school children, in Negro schools—Mrs. Eleanor Russell Sims, and Miss Abbie Suel, another Negro nurse, is employed by the city-county Health Unit.

## DR. B. E. CONNER—PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON

Dr. B. E. Conner came to Austin October 17, 1938, to occupy the office of the late Dr. C. H. Christian. He was born in Texas and received the degree of B.A. at Fisk University and the M.D. degree at Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tenn. He served his internship at Kansas City General Hospital No. 2. He is interested in civic and church activities, and is a lover of music. He is chairman of Troop 101, Boy Scouts and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. He belongs to Ebenezer Baptist Church. He was married to Miss Willie R. Kneeland, and has a daughter, Georgia Eugenia, 11 years old.

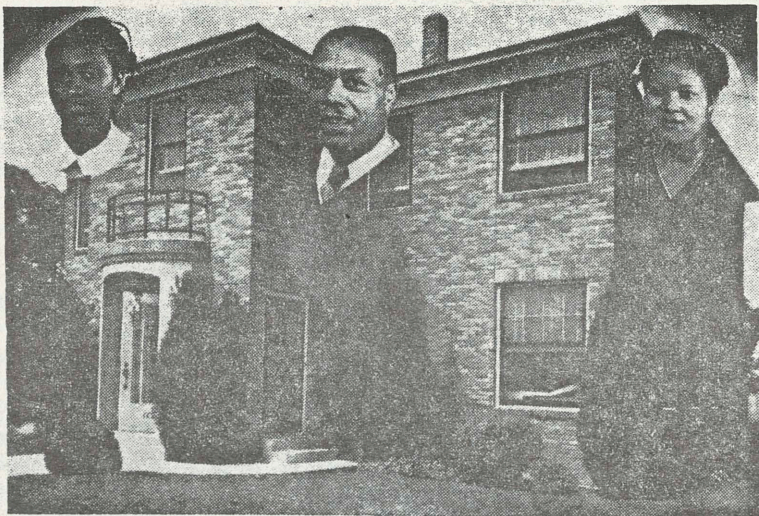
Dr. Conner is a hard and conscientious worker and has great faith in the ability of the men of his profession. He sees a brighter future for those coming on. Blessed with a congenial personality he is rapidly gaining favor with Austinites.

## A REPORT OF THE HOUSEKEEPING AIDE PROJECT

The report of the Housekeeping Aide project (formerly the Home Hygiene project) was changed during the past year by Mrs. Selma R. Mamz, project superintendent. The project has a dual purpose. In the first place the workers are taught the essentials of good housekeeping, including personal and family health, and secondly they render housekeeping service in the families of relief and W.P.A. people who are in need of such service on account of their difficulties. The following is an abbreviated report of these activities:

Number of different families serviced .....	966
White .....	463
Mexican .....	463
Colored .....	214



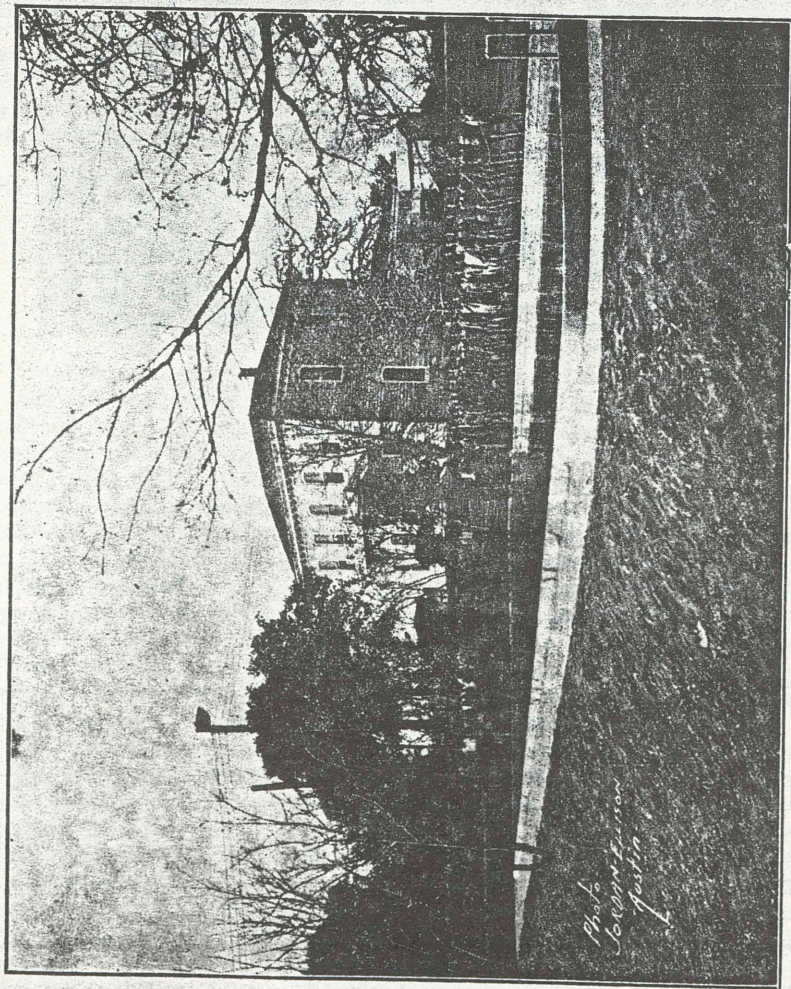


#### DR. E. L. ROBERTS

E. L. Roberts, M.D., is a graduate of Meharry Medical College, 1931. He did his intern work at John A. Andrews Hospital, Tuskegee, Alabama, 1931-32. Dr. Roberts came to Austin November 25, 1932. On August 27, 1937,, he moved to his present location, where he conducts the only clinic of its kind in the southwest, owned and operated by Negroes. He employs trained and registered nurses. At the present time there are 250 patients in his clinic, which is equipped for major operations.

He married Miss Mary C. Ridley in Chicago August 11, 1932. She is a native of North Carolina, although her home at the time of her marriage was Bluefield, West Virginia. She has been of immense help and assistance to her husband. Dr. Roberts, realizing the need of hospitalization of a high type for his people, organized a hospital association whereby individuals may receive hospitalization at a low cost. He believes not only in being able to go to the patient when he is sick, but also in bringing the patient to him, where the patient may receive every advantage of the services of a well-trained physician, clean and sanitary quarters, and registered nurses. It is fortunate for Austin Negroes that an institution of this type exists.





ROSEWOOD PARK COMMUNITY HOUSE AND SWIMMING POOL—  
FINEST IN SOUTHWEST FOR NEGROES



## ECONOMIC STATUS

The Travis County Negro was more prosperous during this period than at any other time in his history. This was true in the county as well as in the city. The Negro farmer reached the peak of his accumulation and so did the Negro in the City of Austin. This spurt of increased business and prosperity was halted, however, in the year 1929, and in Travis County as elsewhere business has been on the decline among Negroes and many of them must depend on the government for support. Of the 2025 families on relief in Travis County 841 of them are Negro, 720 are white, and 464 are Mexican. Five hundred and one of these families are within the city limits and 340 of them reside outside of the boundaries of the city. The Relief authorities estimate that the average Negro family is composed of four. This means that approximately 3364 Negroes are on relief in Travis County.

There are 2500 farms operated in Travis County. Between 30 and 35% of these farms are operated by Negro farmers. In other words, about one-third of the farmers in the county are Negroes, one-third whites, and one-third Mexicans. Approximately 830 farms are operated by Negroes, most of them in the vicinity of Littig, Texas, where there is a concentration of the Negro population, and where there is a Negro post master, general store, etc. Eight per cent or about sixty-seven of these farms are owned by Negroes. A survey of Negro life conducted in 1936 reveals the following facts:

GENERAL FACTS ABOUT AUSTIN, TEXAS, THAT PERTAIN TO  
NEGRO LIFE

Total population: 70,000.

Negro population: 14,000.

Percent of Negro population: 20.

Where they live—centralized in the east part.

Value of property: \$2,000,000.

Seventy-five per cent of Negroes own their own homes.

Average wages paid Negroes: \$80 per month.

Number of scholastics in elementary schools: 2,112.

Number of scholastics in high schools: 623.

Total number of scholastics: 2,735.

Total number of scholastics: 2,735.

In the last five years 1,307 have graduated from the high school.

Approximately 60% of our people have radios.

Approximately 7,000 (50%) have their own cars.

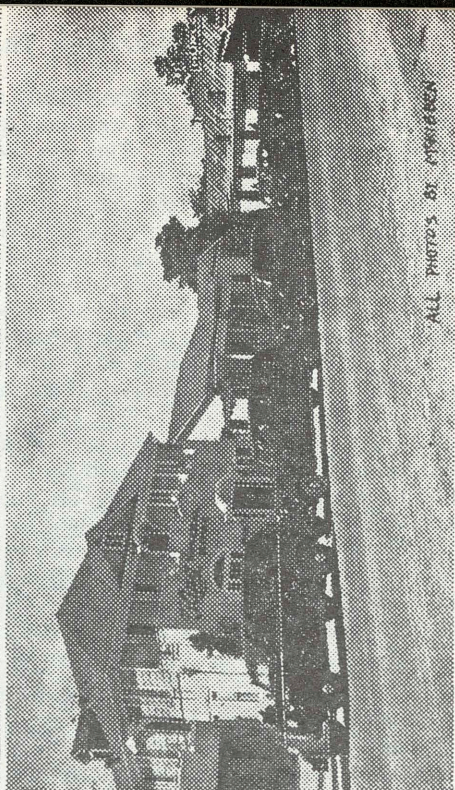
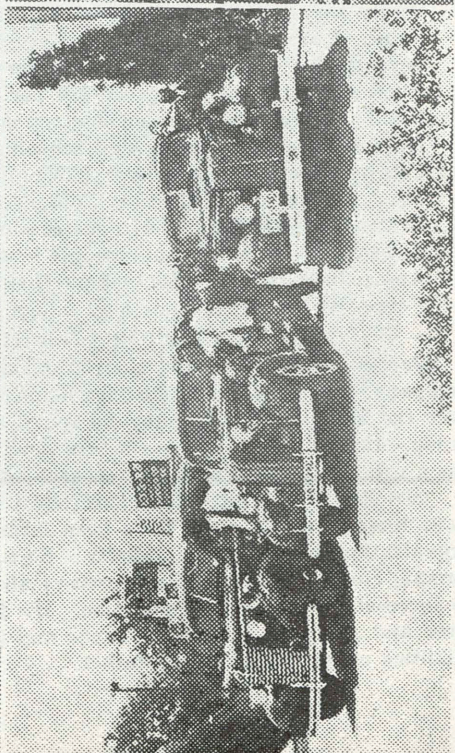
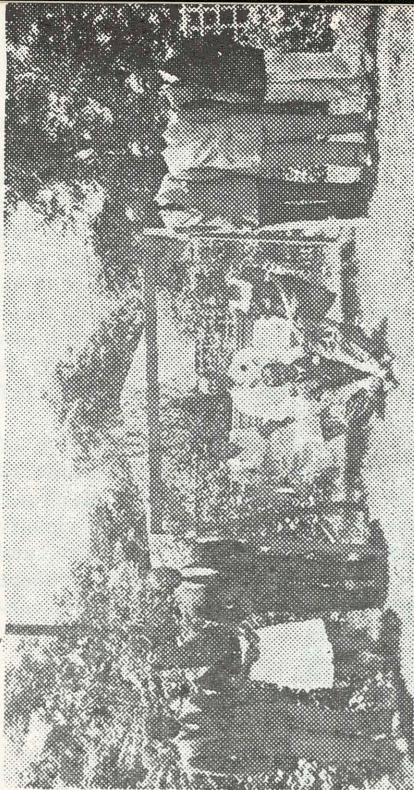
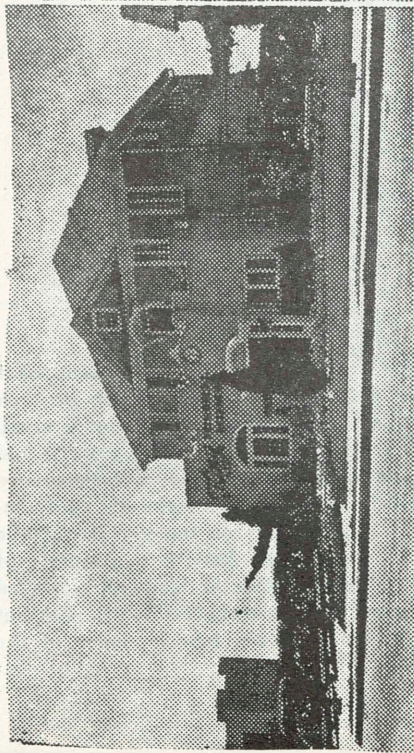
Forty-five per cent of our high school graduates go to college.

## THE EXCELSIOR LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

James L. Reed, present district manager of the Excelsior Life Insurance Company, was installed as district manager February 29, 1939. When he took over the reins of the company he found a small district supported by a small group. In less than two years he has doubled the membership in this district and has a greater increase than any other company in the city.

Mr. Reed's fine attitude toward those with whom he works and his conscientious interest in his work have been largely responsible for the growth of the organization in Austin and vicinity. Born in Austin, Mr. Reed is a graduate of Samuel Huston College. He possesses all of the qualities of leadership needed to successfully pilot an organization. His father is state treasurer of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Texas and the son no doubt inherits some of the qualities of leadership of his father.





ALL PHOTOS BY APPELSON

Top left, Funeral Home Buildings; top right, staff of owners and employees; bottom left, \$15,000 motor fleet; bottom right, emergency car ambulance, funeral coach and crews.



## THE KING FUNERAL HOME

The King Funeral Home was established by C. B. King in October, 1932.

Purposes: To give to the Negroes in Austin and vicinity a modern funeral service of the highest type through the facilities of a well-equipped funeral home and expert mortuary knowledge.

It was the first of its kind in Austin, Texas.

Pledge of Service: In order at all times to maintain a high type of service, the owner pledged to use a part of the earnings derived from the business each year in improving its service. This pledge has been kept in the improvement of the building and fixtures now valued at \$20,000, also in its fleet of late type motor equipment consisting of emergency service car, de luxe ambulance, funeral coaches and family coaches valued at more than \$15,000.

A burial aid and welfare plan is maintained whereby members pay from 10 cents to 50 cents monthly for aid in burial purposes. Its general welfare purposes embrace many other charitable objectives including free ambulance service to members and non-members.

Ten persons are regularly employed, all of which except the owner are natives of Austin or Travis County, and all of which spent their apprenticeship with the business and were regularly employed after receiving their Embalmers and Funeral Directors licenses. The owner takes more pride in this than any other achievement.

Aside from the knowledge of the funeral business, the founder, C. B. King, has had a wide range of experience in finance and life insurance, having been officially connected with the leading Negro insurance companies for more than eighteen years. His astute knowledge of the life insurance business has been a great aid to his patrons in getting the values and benefits to which they were entitled at death as policyholders.

The establishment has placed Austin on a par with any other city in the United States in class of funeral service afforded Negroes. Its motto is: "Service with sympathy that does not cease at the grave."

In 1940 increases have occurred in the majority of these fields of endeavor, but perhaps the most noticeable increase has been in the field of insurance. The insurance agents now number twenty-seven, rather than ten, as in 1936.

One member of the firm not only holds a certificate of mortuary science, but also a certificate in restorative art. L. L. Hodges did his work so well in the Southern School of Embalming that he was given a life scholarship to do research in this school, at any time he wishes to.

Staff: C. B. King, owner; Alice T. King, secretary; Mrs. C. M. Watkins, cashier; John C. Creasy, collector and director of burial association; Edwina King, assistant clerk; C. L. Watkins, funeral director; B. G. Fucles, embalmer; L. L. Hodges, embalmer; John T. King, B. Earls, assistant funeral directors.



## DR. U. S. YOUNG

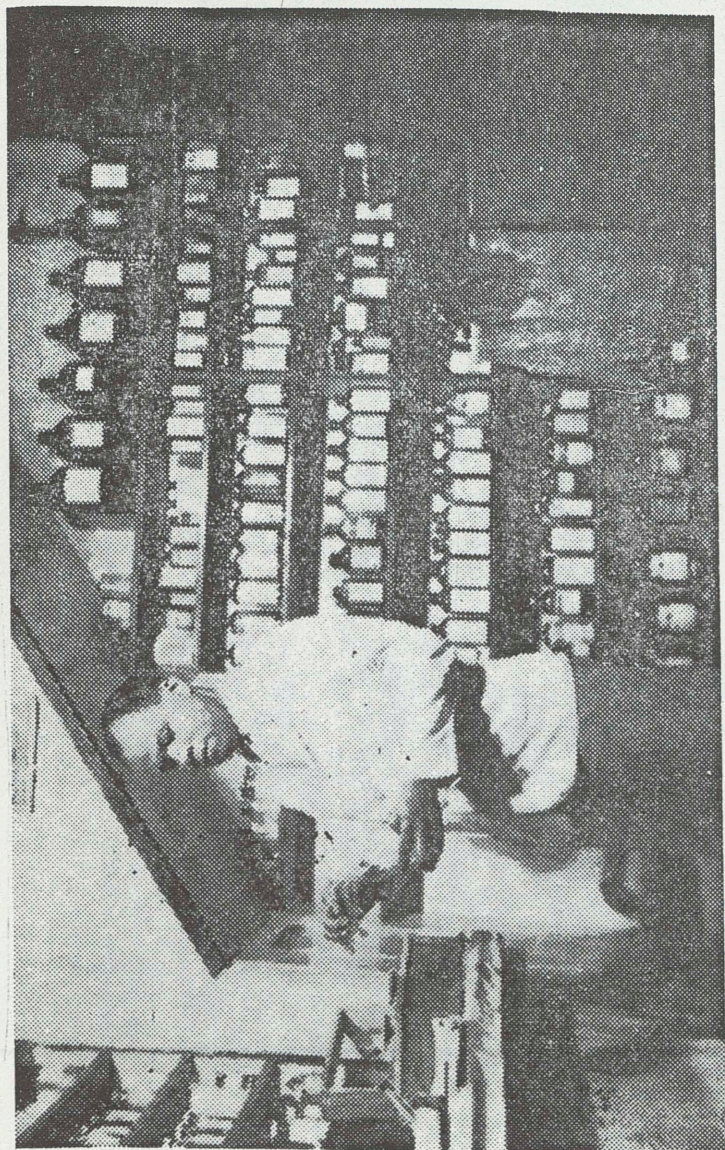
Dr. U. S. Young, the proprietor of Austin's only Colored drug store, was born in Cameron, Milam County, Texas, March 12, 1898. Both his father, R. L. Young, and his mother, Agnes E. Young, were the children of landowners in Milam County.

Dr. Young first attended the public schools in Milam County and later enrolled in Paul Quinn College at Waco, Texas. He remained there from 1917 to 1922. After completing his college work at Paul Quinn he went to Nashville, Tennessee, and entered Meharry Medical College, where he pursued courses leading to the degree of Phc. After finishing his course in pharmacy he worked for a year at the South Side Pharmacy in Nashville. Leaving Nashville in 1927, he returned to Texas and worked at a Dallas, Texas, drug store. A year after coming to Dallas he heard that the Negro druggist in Austin, Dr. T. L. DeLashwah, was contemplating a change of locality, so he, in company with his father, came to Austin to look into the matter. The result was that they purchased the drug business formerly operated by Dr. DeLashwah.

Dr. Young, seeing the need for keeping in step with modern ideas in the drug business, has changed the location of his business so as to be better equipped to serve the public. He has a complete stock of drugs in his prescription room as well as in his drug store proper, and has filled more than 100,000 prescriptions successfully. He is a member of the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity and the Metropolitan A.M.E. Church and has a congenial and winning personality.

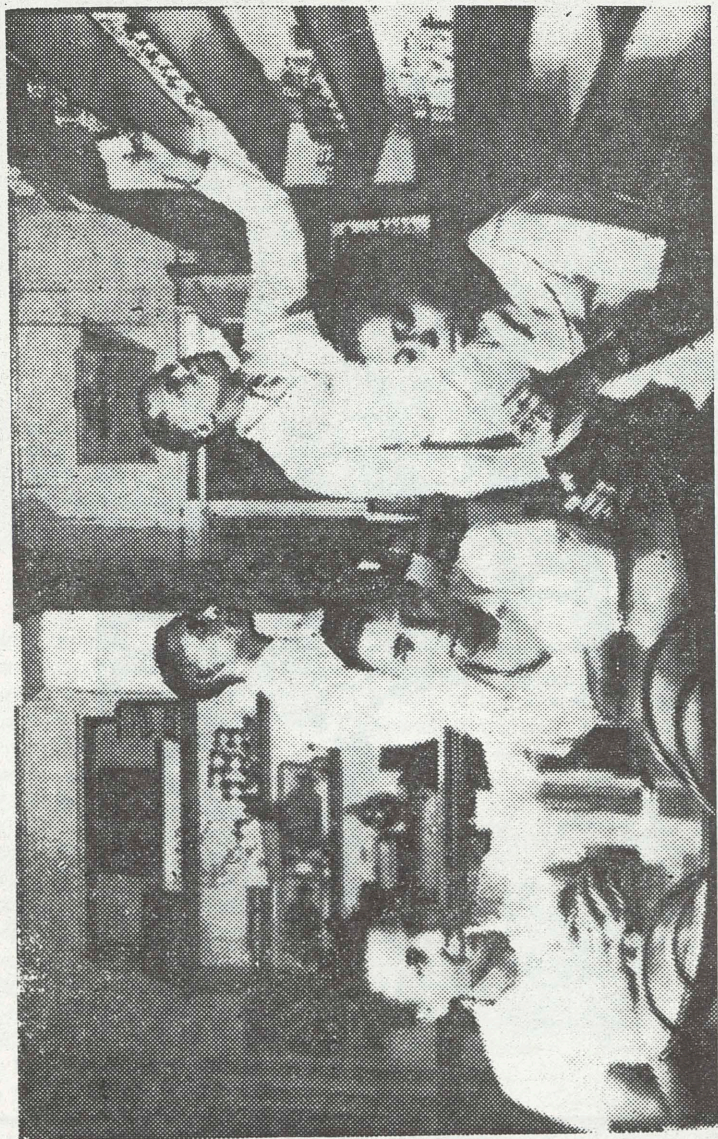
Mrs. Young, the former Miss Veola Hicks of Waco, Texas, is a graduate of Samuel Huston College, and is a teacher at Leander, Texas. Dr. and Mrs. Young are the parents of two fine children, Yvetta, II, and U. S. Jr., aged 7. Dr. Young is a fine example of a sensible, sane, and capable young business man, and is not only an excellent pharmacist, but has proven his ability over a period of fourteen years to succeed in continually enlarging his business.





MR. YOUNG FILLING A PRESCRIPTION IN HIS FULLY STOCKED PRESCRIPTION ROOM





A GROUP OF YOUNG AUSTINITES ENJOYING SOFT DRINKS AT THE HILLSIDE PHARMACY



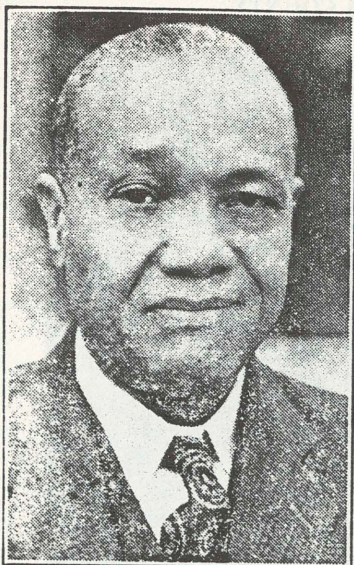
## MRS. M. A. B. FULLER

Mrs. Maud A. B. Fuller was born at Lockhart, Caldwell County, Texas. She received her public school education in the city schools of Lockhart and her college training was pursued in Tillotson and Guadalupe colleges, Austin and Seguin, Texas, respectively. She taught in the public schools of Texas for eighteen years. Her Christian career has been serviceable, brilliant, and spectacular. Mrs. Fuller has filled positions of honor and trust in her denomination and otherwise. She was corresponding secretary of the Guadalupe Association Training School, Guadalupe College, from 1907 to 1924, and during this time she toured Texas in the interest of this school, raising money to pay teachers' salaries, furnishing the buildings, and helping needy students. She was elected corresponding secretary of the Women's Auxiliary National Baptist Convention of America, 1916, served ten years and was immediately elected directress of all the work of the women's Auxiliary of the National Baptist Convention of America, a position she relinquished after she was elected president of the above-mentioned convention, a position she now holds. Mrs. Fuller has proven to be a great executive and a fine leader of the fairer sex.



Mrs. Fuller has filled every office she ever had with dignity, credit, and honor. Dignity to herself, a credit to the race, and honor to God. She has been editress of all missionary literature of the Woman's Auxiliary National Baptist Convention of America since 1916. She is styled as a great organizer, financier, and lecturer. She has reared fifteen boys and girls, only six were relatives, and attempted to educate them all. Most of them are now successful in business and in various professions. Aside from being interested in missionary work, she takes an active interest in her husband's business, the Fuller Funeral Home. It was through her planning that the Fuller Funeral Home has now become one of the most beautiful institutions of its kind in the state. She is an active member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, and is interested in the civic welfare of her home city. She is frequently called upon to meet the city council in the interest of her race. She is a member of the King's Daughters Club which maintains and supports the Old Negro Women's Home for the aged of Austin, Travis County, Texas. She is truly interested in charity. Her hobby is missionary work. She is the author of Guides for Home and Foreign Missionary Societies, Young Women and Junior Mission, Girls and Boys Organization, Secretary's Books, Playlets, Recitation and Dialogue Books. Her address is 1105 Angelina Street, Austin, Texas.





MR. W. H. FULLER

Mr. W. H. Fuller was born near Troy, Alabama, March 8, 1874. From a child he had an inquiring mind and wanted to know things. Coming in from the country to town, at the age of 10, he was examined and assigned to the fourth grade on the first day he ever saw a school. Later he took correspondence courses from Pennsylvania and Ohio institutions. He has been often asked where he got his college training, and readily answers that he had been a lifelong student of "Swamp University" (beginning in the piney woods of South Alabama) and a post-graduate in the "University of Hard Knocks."

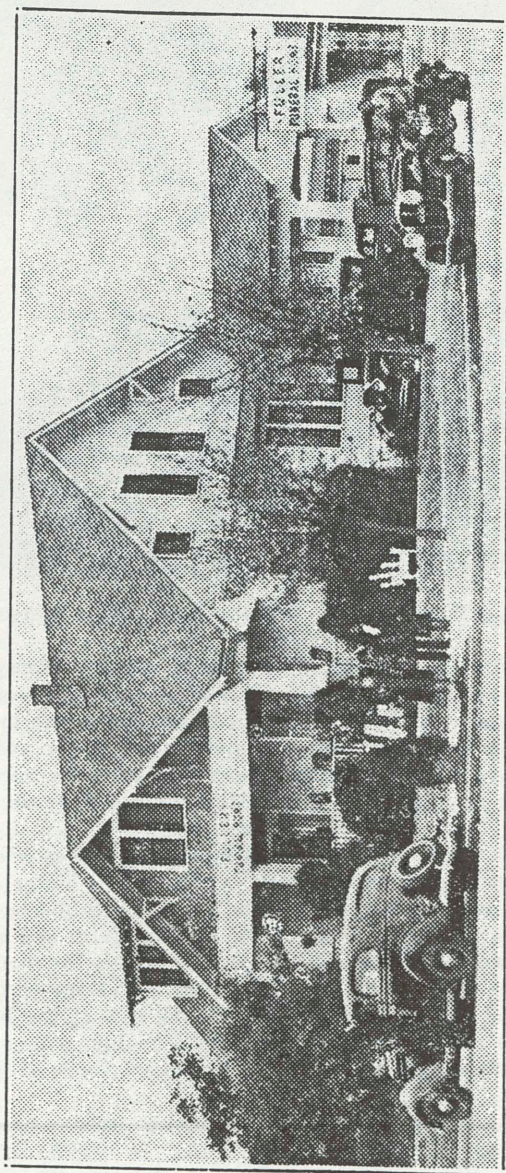
Mr. Fuller came to Texas, landing at Cameron in his early boyhood. He engaged in business and continued his studies. He moved to Kansas in 1898 and became editor-in-chief of the Coffeyville American, a widely circulated weekly. He served in that capacity for two years. Returning to Texas, his interest in religious activities and civic movements gave him local, statewide, and national recognition.

In 1902 Mr. Fuller was elected Recording Secretary of the Missionary Baptist General Convention of Texas (more than 1000 members), resigning after eight years. In 1905 the Educational Board of that organization was formed and he was elected Financial Secretary, which position he held for twenty-one consecutive years. The growth and influence of this board, under his leadership, was remarkable. In his first statewide campaign for funds for Baptist schools—Guadalupe College, Central Texas College, Boyd Institute, and St. John Institute—conducted by letters and newspapers, resulted in the office receiving the large sum of eighty cents. The second year \$24 was received; the third year \$88; the fourth year \$201; the fifth year \$488; the sixth year \$8000; the seventh year \$14,000. It continued to grow year by year until it reached a maximum of \$72,000.

Mr. Fuller resigned the secretaryship of the Baptist General Convention of Texas again in 1923 to enter business. He purchased the funeral parlor of the late N. W. Rhambo and has built one of the most beautiful homes in the southwest. He organized a Mutual Aid Association, under the supervision of the Texas Insurance Commission, in 1935, and has given employment to a number of men and women. He was the first undertaker in Austin to join hands with the minister to cut out Sunday funerals. He also urges his employees to attend some church each Sunday.

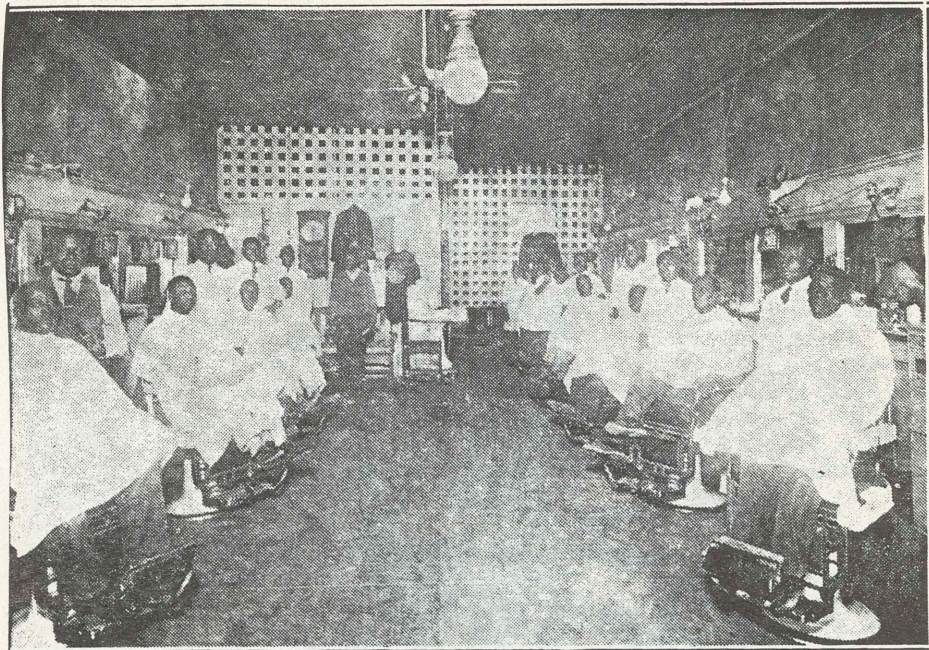
At the present time Mr. Fuller is chairman of the deacon board at the Ebenezer Baptist Church. He is also active in civic and educational work—in fact he is interested in every movement pertaining to the uplifting of his race and people. He is president of the Laymen's and Minister's Conference of the Missionary Baptist Convention of Texas, and since 1928 he has served as president of the layman's department of the National Baptist Convention of America.





FULLER FUNERAL HOME





Rhambo's Barber Shop, the Only Uptown Negro Shop in Austin.

P. C. RHAMBO

Born January 1, 1875, the son of O. H. and M. M. Rhambo, Perry C. Rhambo has constantly and consistently acquired possession of real estate since he was 13 years of age. Starting in at this early age he began work for a private family at the small salary of \$6 per month and room and board. At the end of his first year's work he had saved \$72. The second year he worked he purchased a lot on East Seventh Street in Austin for \$100. He let his mother and father live on the place.

In the year 1896 he began work at an oil mill. He worked here until 1900 and then quit to accept a position as porter at the Sutor Hotel on Congress Avenue. He worked here for twenty-four years and not only did he do his work well at the hotel, but he also raised hogs on the Rhambo farm and would go out each night to the farm and feed them, after getting off from his regular job. He sold hundreds of hogs each year and supplemented his salary and tips at the hotel with the additional money he received from the sale of his hogs until he had accumulated twelve rent houses. He also saved enough money to purchase the building in which his barber shop, the only uptown Negro shop in Austin, is now located.

In 1924 he resigned his position at the Sutor Hotel in order to accept a similar position at the newly erected Stephen F. Austin Hotel. In 1926 he left the employ of the Stephen F. Austin Hotel and went into business for himself, opening up the barber shop he now operates, one of the best in the state.

His holdings today are way up in the thousands. His philosophy of life is "Make every day count; make every day make you more than it takes to live." During his early career he attended Tillotson College.

Mr. Rhambo is a lover of home and was one of the first of his race in Austin to own a beautiful home with all of the most modern conveniences. Modest about his accomplishments, he is one of the most serviceable leaders in Austin, affording employment for a large number of men.



**MATTHEW EDWARDS**

Bronze Mayor of Austin.

Matthew Edwards operates one of the few Negro businesses in Austin that has been operating successfully over a long period of time. The Edwards Transfer Company was established in the year 1918 by its present owner, who was then a young man with a family of four to support. He started off his business with one truck, but found it difficult to earn a living for himself and family with just one truck. Realizing the necessity of sticking to a task, however, young Edwards continued to forge ahead until in 1928 his company boasted of four trucks rather than one. His business had developed to the place that he had been able to buy a new truck every two years. At this time he was the only Negro in Texas authorized to make long distance trips.

Shortly after this, however, another slump in business came, due to the depression, and Edwards again had trouble in keeping his business going as he liked. He demonstrated his powers of tenacity and business genius again, however, and today he operates four trucks and employs from eight to ten men daily.

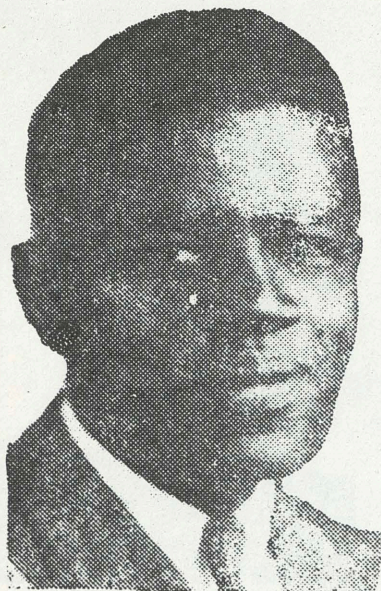
Due to his success as a business man the loyal colored citizens of Austin saw fit to elect him bronze mayor of Austin for 1940. He is deeply grateful for the honor they have bestowed upon him and says that he hopes to be able to justify their faith in him by fulfilling the duties of his office in an efficient manner. Unassuming and constantly busy, Mr. Edwards manages one of the largest Negro transfer businesses in the state. It is his earnest desire that his life and work will be inspiring to younger men and will cause them to strive to attain greater heights in the field of business.

In the year of 1936 the distribution of Negro business and professions in Austin was as follows:

3 Physicians	2 Blacksmiths
2 Letter Carriers	16 Cafes
5 Tire Shops	17 Grocery Stores
9 Tailor Shops	1 Fish Market
1 Creamery	1 Theater
2 Furniture Repair Shops	3 Pharmacists
10 Insurance Agents	2 Policemen
2 Rooming Houses	1 Printer
2 Meat Markets	3 Undertakers
1 School of Beauty Culture	3 Shoe Shops
2 Real Estate Firms	7 Garages
4 Dentists	1 Hotel
4 Railway Clerks	8 Wood Yards
6 Filling Stations	3 Vegetable Stands
1 Lumber Firm	10 Beauty Shops
	1 Loan Agency







## MURRAY OWENS

Murray Owens, local young man of exceptional talent in mechanics, is one of Austin's foremost and successful business men. He is competent, industrious and honest, and is the treasurer of both the Negro Citizens Council and the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

## DISTRIBUTION OF THIRTEEN WHITE BUSINESSES ACCORDING TO:

Number	Name	White Employees	Negro Employees	Total
1	Paint Store-- No information given			
1	Public Service	114	5	119
1	General Tire Company	30	1	31
1	Glass Appliance	8	0	8
1	Music and Electric Company	42	8	50
1	Lumber Company	24	3	27
1	Lumber Company	55	20	75
1	Lumber Company	35	3	38
1	Dry Cleaning Company	11	5	16
1	Dry Cleaning Company	4	2	6
1	Dry Cleaning Company	42	3	45
1	Department Store	49	3	52
1	Department Store	183	24	207

## DISTRIBUTION OF THIRTEEN WHITE BUSINESSES ACCORDING TO:

Type	Number
Paint Store	1
Public Service	1
General Tire Company	1
Glass Appliances	1
Musical and Electrical Appliances	1
Lumber Companies	3
Department Stores	2
Dry Cleaning Companies	3



## SOURCES SECTION IV

- |     |  |                     |               |
|-----|--|---------------------|---------------|
| (1) | Mrs. M. E. Durden  | Austin (Interview)  | July 2, 1940  |
| (2) | Mrs. U. V. Christian   | Austin (Interview). | July 1, 1940  |
|     | "Austin Defender," Sept. 26, 1931.   |                     |               |
|     | "Voice of Gregory," November 20, 1933.                                       |                     |               |
|     | Executive Records, City Public Schools, 1905-1940.                           |                     |               |
|     | County School Records, 1905-1940.  |                     |               |
|     | Annual Report, City Health Department, 1939.                                 |                     |               |
| (3) | Dr. B. M. Primer   | Austin (Interview)  | July 2, 1940  |
| (4) | Bessie Lomax   | Austin (Interview)  | June 28, 1940 |
| (5) | Mrs. M. A. Starks  | Austin (Interview)  | July 17, 1940 |
| (6) | Dr. E. H. Givens   | Austin (Interview)  | July 17, 1940 |
| (7) | Nannie B. Jenkins  | Austin (Interview)  | June 22, 1940 |
|     | Histories of Travis County Negro Schools, Co. Supt. Office (Austin, 1939).   |                     |               |
|     | Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D. C.              |                     |               |
|     | Charles E. Hall, Negro in U. S. A., 1930-1932, (Washington, 1935).           |                     |               |
|     | Population of U. S. A. Federal Census, 1850-1930. (Archives, State Library). |                     |               |
| (8) | E. A. Johnson, "Vocational Opportunities for Negroes in Austin, Texas."      |                     |               |
|     | (Bachelor's Thesis, Prairie View College Archives.)                          |                     |               |

### POPULATION CITY OF AUSTIN—1940 CENSUS

The total population of Austin according to the 1940 Federal census was 87,878. Detailed statistics of population by sex, color, age, could not be obtained. A reply from the Bureau of Census at Washington regarding a request made for these statistics stated that these figures would not be available until sometime in 1941. If, however, the Negro population continues to maintain its former percentage of 20% the Negro population would be approximately 17,400.

## I N D E X

- |                                       |                              |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Alexander, Simon, 19                  | Guard, National, 30          |
| Alexander, Green, 19                  | Givens, Everett, Dr., 60     |
| Association, Community Welfare, 52-57 |                              |
| Abner, E. W. D., Dr., 29              | Johnson, Julia E., Mrs., 62  |
| Anderson, L. C., 24                   | Johnson, A. E., 62           |
| Brewer, J. H. and Minnie Tate, 3      | King Funeral Home, 68        |
| Brown, Clara Jackson, 24              | Marshall, S. C., 61          |
| Blackshear School, 41, 46             | Majors, Bob, 27              |
| Creasy, John C., 63                   | Masons, Lodge of, 61         |
| Commerce, Junior Chamber of, 57       | Norman, G. W., Prof., 27     |
| Dobie, J. Frank, 5                    | Organizations, 34, 52, 62    |
| Deslandes, C. W., 45                  | Population, 16, 24           |
| Durden, M. E. (Mrs.), 52, 55-57       | Religion, 18, 22, 35, 36, 37 |
| Economic Status, 67, 78               | Rhymes, 15                   |
| Emancipation Park Association,        | Recreation Center, 66        |
| 24, 25, 30                            | Recreation, 15               |
| Ebenezer Choir, 36                    | Rice, F. R., Prof., 41       |
| Edwards, Matthew, 77                  | Slave Days, 11, 12           |
| Ebenezer Baptist Church, 35           | Slaves, 14                   |
| Education, 38, 39, 50                 | Strain, Mahala, 12, 13       |
| Fuller, W. H. and Mrs. M. A. B.,      | Strain, Frank, 12, 13        |
| 73, 74, 75                            | Travis, County of, 1-80      |
| Grannum, Stanley E., 4, 48            | Tears, Wm. M. Sr., 26, 27    |



