

The St. Louis Story Retold

C. Denny Holland

A few years ago there appeared in the AVE MARIA magazine an article entitled: "The St. Louis Story." It dealt with the progress made in interracial relations in the City of St. Louis, Missouri, that centered in and developed from the official opening of the doors of St. Louis University to Negro students in the Spring of 1944. It is such a good story that it bears repeating.

During the summer of 1943 a historic call was made at St. Malachy's Rectory in St. Louis by a Catholic Negro mother and her daughter. Both had a problem to discuss. The daughter had graduated from St. Elizabeth's parochial school in St. Louis. To continue her Catholic education she was compelled, due to racial segregation then existing in the City and State, to pursue her high school studies at Mother Katherine Drexal's school for girls at Rock Castle, Virginia. Having graduated from high school she returned to St. Louis where she desired to continue her education in a Catholic college. How to do so was the problem confronting the mother and daughter. The priest undertook to solve the problem and the final and successful effort to integrate the student body of St. Louis University was under way. The first step was to consult with the President of St. Louis University and various members of the faculty to get their views on the possibility of integration. This resulted in the President agreeing to call a formal meeting to discuss the matter, with two priests from St. Malachy's Parish being invited to be present. A future date would be announced for this meeting. It was finally called and then postponed to a later date. The President of the University had decided first to

feel out the Alumni by sending to them a form letter presenting the pros and cons of integration and enclosing a ballot on which they could register a "yes" or "no" vote.

Meanwhile, the priest who had undertaken to solve the problem, on a casual trip downtown, stopped at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch Building to congratulate Mr. Pulitzer on a campaign his paper, was waging against racial segregation at the University of Missouri. Mr. Pulitzer being out of the City, the priest delivered his message to the City Editor. He then mentioned the
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Noth CHRIST CHILD CHATS

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The North Christ Child Center's Neighborhood Council held its April meeting at a luncheon at the Center on Monday, April 10. A report was heard from a special committee on voter registration and information. The meeting was well attended, and it was the consensus of opinion that luncheon meetings would be more desirable to the group. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 8, at noon.

The Duke and Duchess Teen Club elected permanent officers at its meeting on April 6. Those chosen for office are Lola Jones, President; Carl Allison, Vice-President; and Mary Cecil, Secretary. This lively group has several projects planned for spring; we will go bowling one evening, swimming another evening, and on Sunday, May 21, we will have our club picnic. Club members who helped at the Spaghetti Dinner on March 16 received a note of thanks from the grateful staff members at the Center.

Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors in High School who would like to belong to a group that goes places and does things are invitea to join us at the Center on our new meeting day, Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m.

Come one, come all, to the Great American Tour presented by Baton students of all three Christ Child Centers. The big shew" will be given at the Main Center, 1248 So. 10th St., on Sunday, April 23, at 2:00 p.m. Highlights of the tour will include many interesting locales found in our 50 States. Parents and friends of the North Center are invited to see some of our twirlers "do us proud." Tickets are now available, get them at the Center or from any of the Baton students, and don't miss

the "Great American Tour." Members of the Variety Club (boys 8-10 years old) will have a special treat in April when they visit Mr. Brown's Pet Shop, 2522 Cuming Street, to see puppies, kittens, and monkeys. Club members may obtain more information about this tour by contacting their group leader, Mrs. Dorothy McClain, at the Center.

The 8-10 year-old girls in the Solden Rule Club have taken on a very worthwhile project: They are in a Mother Goose Style Show. Watch this column for more news of our May Festival, and be sure to mark the date on your calendar—May 7, 1961 from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

The Golden Years group enjoyed getting together on Thursday, April 6, especially since their last meeting had to be postponed. They were delighted to find that both Mrs. Griffin and Mr. Phillips are champion checker players. Much fun was had in playing anagrams and dominoes. The group showed their hidden talents in dramatics when they came before the movie camera of Mr. Brannon, and are quite sure that they will be thrilled to view the results at a later date. Members expressed their interest in a film about peacetime use of atomic power, and commented that the film was very educational. Their future plans show that they have an enjoyable program and they wish to share it with other interested Senior Citizens.

Last Sunday, April 9, the "Gadabouts" had a delightful afternoon at Joslyn Memorial Art Museum's third annual gala Open House and Punch and Cookie Party. The program included puppet shows, art demonstrations, art class, and viewing the permanent collections and exhibitions, and the group did not miss anything! The affair was a nice start for the spring program

planned by the group, and a number of other events are on the agenda. If you are interested in our program, please let us hear from you. Our next meeting will be Sunday, April 23, at 2:00 p.m.

WOODSON CENTER ELECTS BOARD MEMBERS

The Woodson Center, 3009 "R" Street recently elected its new board members. Miss Henrietta Kieser, Vice President of Bozell & Jacobs Advertising Agency, was elected as President of the Board. Rev. Curtis A. Brown, Pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church was elected as 1st Vice President.

Other officers elected were:

Dr. Willis Grey, Mr. Henry Greenberg and Mrs. Elizabeth D. Pittman.

Members elected to serve three year terms:

Mr. James Lane

2322 Cuming Street, to see puppies, kittens, and monkeys. Club members may obtain more information about this tour by contacting their group leader, Mrs. Dorothy McClain, at the Center.

The 8-10 year-old girls in the Golden Rule Club have taken on a very worthwhile project: They are making booklets for the patients at Children's Hospital. The girls will deliver the gifts and visit the hospital later this month.

A tour of the "Life of the West" section of Joslyn Memorial Art Museum is on the Junior Miss Club's agenda for Friday, April 28. Club officers are Maxine Turner, President; Pamela Patterson, Secretary; Gale Branch, Treasurer; and Sheila Stearns, Sergeant-at-Arms. Henry Redd and his combo will play for the group at their weekly meeting on April 21.

The Spring session of Play School got off to a good start with some seventy boys and girls registered for the two sessions. We are happy to have many new pre-schoolers and a lot of new toys to keep our little tots busy. The children enjoy the quiet games that are played shortly after their arrival in the morning. However, when it comes time for the supervised free play in the gym, this is the most popular time of the day. Christ Child is happy to have back with us Mrs. Blanche Davis, who handles our music department in Play School. Sweet notes are heard echoing through the building, and it is quite amazing to learn that these lovely songs are coming from boys and girls ages 3-5! Who will be crowned the May Queen of Christ Child? This is the question being asked around the Center. The answer to this question will be revealed on May 7, 1961, at our May Festival. Spectators will also see a May Pole Dance given by some of the

girls in our Physical Fitness group. The boys and girls from our Play School will be the moderators. Rev. Surts IE BOWA, Pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church was elected as 1st Vice President.

Other officers elected were:

Dr. Willis Grey, Mr. Henry Greenberg and Mrs. Elizabeth D. Pittman.

Members elected to serve three year terms:

Mr. James Lane

Mr. Van Johnson

Miss Marge West

Mrs. Calvin Newman

LaVonne Gilmore, South Omaha Reporter.

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