

THE JACKSON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION --

THE RECORD-- *Clipped From The Kansas City American*

Some 35 years ago when the idea of jim-crowing this state was big in the minds of a certain class of politicians representatives in the legislature from Jackson County not only killed the measure, but made it forever impossible for such a measure to ever again get farther than the committee room.

And for more than 60 years Jackson County Democrats have been battling for the social and economic betterment of Negroes not only of Jackson County, but of the whole state.

The Jackson County Democratic organization, for 60 years, voted for the appropriation of funds so that Lincoln Institute, the first state school for Negroes could carry on.

Jackson County Democrats took the lead in the measure which, when it became a law advanced Lincoln Institute at Jefferson City into a University at an expenditure of millions of dollars, a university whose bright light now shines over all the known world.

It was a Jackson County Democrat, Senator M. E. Casey of Kansas City, who under Governor Parks' administration, got the funds for the purchase of ten additional acres of ground for the university and the erection of a girls dormitory. He also championed the measure that enabled the state to purchase ground upon which to build that fine Industrial School for Negroes at Dalton, Missouri, with an administration building, the cornerstone of which just has been laid. Through the efforts of Senator Casey a home for incorrigible Negro girls at Tipton, Missouri was obtained, a tubercular home at Mt. Vernon, and the two recently completed dormitories for feeble minded Negro boys and girls of the state at Marshall, Missouri, finest of their kind in America.

And the Negroes of Jackson County took notice. Out of these acts of kindness came the conviction that it now behooved them to cast their lot with the party of deeds, rather than remain with the party of promises.

So in 1924 the idea of bringing Negroes into the Democratic fold was sold to the late Hon. W. T. Kemper, a Jackson County Democrat, and a state national committee- man; and Mr. Kemper in turn, sold the idea to the national committee—and that committee was the first national Democratic committee in the history of American politics to take notice of the Negro vote.

And in 1930 the Negroes of Jackson County who went as delegates to the state Democratic convention which met in St. Louis were the first Negroes to sit in a state

Democratic convention anywhere in the United States.

The first Negroes ever to serve as Sergeants-at-Arms in a Democratic National convention were from Kansas City, selected by the Jackson County delegates at Houston, Texas —1928.

Jackson County Democrats built the first and finest hospital for Negroes in America—and manned it with Negroes from superintendent down—and today, doctors who interned there, and nurses who graduated there may be found in responsible positions in the Health Departments of nearly every city in the United States.

Jackson County Democrats built, and today maintain, a home for aged and infirm Negroes, an elegant home with modern equipment, and presided over by Negroes.

Jackson County Democrats built and maintain a home for wayward Negro boys: The Boys' Home—and that home, too, modern in every sense, is presided over by Negroes; also a home for incorrigible Negro girls, officered entirely by Negroes.

Jackson County Democrats have already bought the ground, and plans now are rapidly underway for the construction of a modern playground for Negroes, with a swimming pool, tennis courts and the like, second to none in the city.

And there are the Negro Boy Scouts, the first and only organization of its kind in all America, organized and fully equipped by Jackson County Democratic policemen, with headquarters at Station No. 6, whose work not only make the policemen glad, but who now enjoy opportunities they could not otherwise have had.

And there is Judge H. F. McElroy, a Jackson County Democrat, and city manager, who wants young Negro girls —high school graduates—to know that if they desire further training, but their parents are unable to assist them, all they have to do is write a letter to the Board of Health or call on him in person and he will see to it that they are put through his full course in nurse training out at General hospital No. 2 without any cost either to them or their families.

Such is the record, plain as day, and so boldly written that he who runs may read.

We Jackson County Negroes are making an appeal to every Negro in the state to join us August 2, primary election day, to go to the polls in your community and tell the Democratic Judge there that you want to vote for Judge James V. (Josh) Billings for Judge of the Supreme Court, that we may prove to the Jackson County Democratic organization our loyalty, and Forever Keep Their Respect.

Signed:

Central United Democratic Committee

Mrs. Thomas Clark

Charley Bryant

Dr. L. M. Tillman

Dr. D. M. Miller

Dr. L. W. Booker

Rev. T. H. Wiseman

Rev. J. W. Booker

Mrs. Mamie Penn

Mrs. Tressio Banks

Garland Lee

Walter P. Brown

George Golden

Nellie Young

Louis Hudson

Mazel Washington

Douglas Gregg

Edward Ramsey

Lenwood White

W. A. Moran

Heresia Davis

Fannie Cavanaugh

Rosetta Gibson

Quanetta Ricketts

Lizzie Williams

Leon H. Jordon

John Reynolds

Sam Royston

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Dr. Geo. W. Hedgepeth

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