

Types Of Work Vary—Reach To Professions

Negroes are not only laborers and housemaids. They occupy the professions, they are active in the crafts, in business and in the unions. This, the fourth article on "The Negro in Peoria," tells what Negroes do for a living in Peoria.

By BILL CONVER

With politics and education tucked safely away on the "good" side for Peoria in the Negro situation, it is time to plunge into the economic end of the thing.

Here is where there are many charges of discrimination and counter charges that non-white workers are either not educated enough or skilled enough or reliable enough to rate hiring or advancement on a strict merit system.

TAKING NEITHER SIDE of the argument, we'll fall back on a 1956 report of the Labor Relations department of the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce. This report was based on a survey of 100 companies representing a cross section of Illinois business. The conclusions reached through this survey are:

All types and sizes of firms, located in all parts of the state, have achieved success in merit employment.

There is no single method of overcoming problems. Where employe resistance is most likely to occur . . . in firms which are either large in size or employ primarily white collar workers . . . precautionary measures are most likely to be used.

Employe resistance is expressed mostly in talk, rarely in action.

Community resistance is even more limited than employe resistance. Where it occurs it is generally limited to retail, public utility and public service firms whose employes have direct contact with the public.

The problem of wage assignments is the principal problem of minority group workers, and usually is limited to the blue collar workers who are recent migrants from the rural South.

All the 100 employers interviewed considered their merit employment programs to be successful.

To balance this statewide report we have a survey here from the Council on Human Relations.

Thirty-six institutions of all types from Caterpillar through railroads down to retail businesses of all sizes and city, state and federal employers were represented.

Most had to take a special count to find out just how many non-white employes they had. Caterpillar did not come up with an exact number, but the rest of the survey accounted for 877 employes.

FEW COMPANIES or institutions had a definite policy in any written form, claiming that it was unnecessary, but not a single objection was registered to hiring Negroes or members of any other minority group.

A statement from Caterpillar said:

"Employment of non-whites has never been a problem with our company.

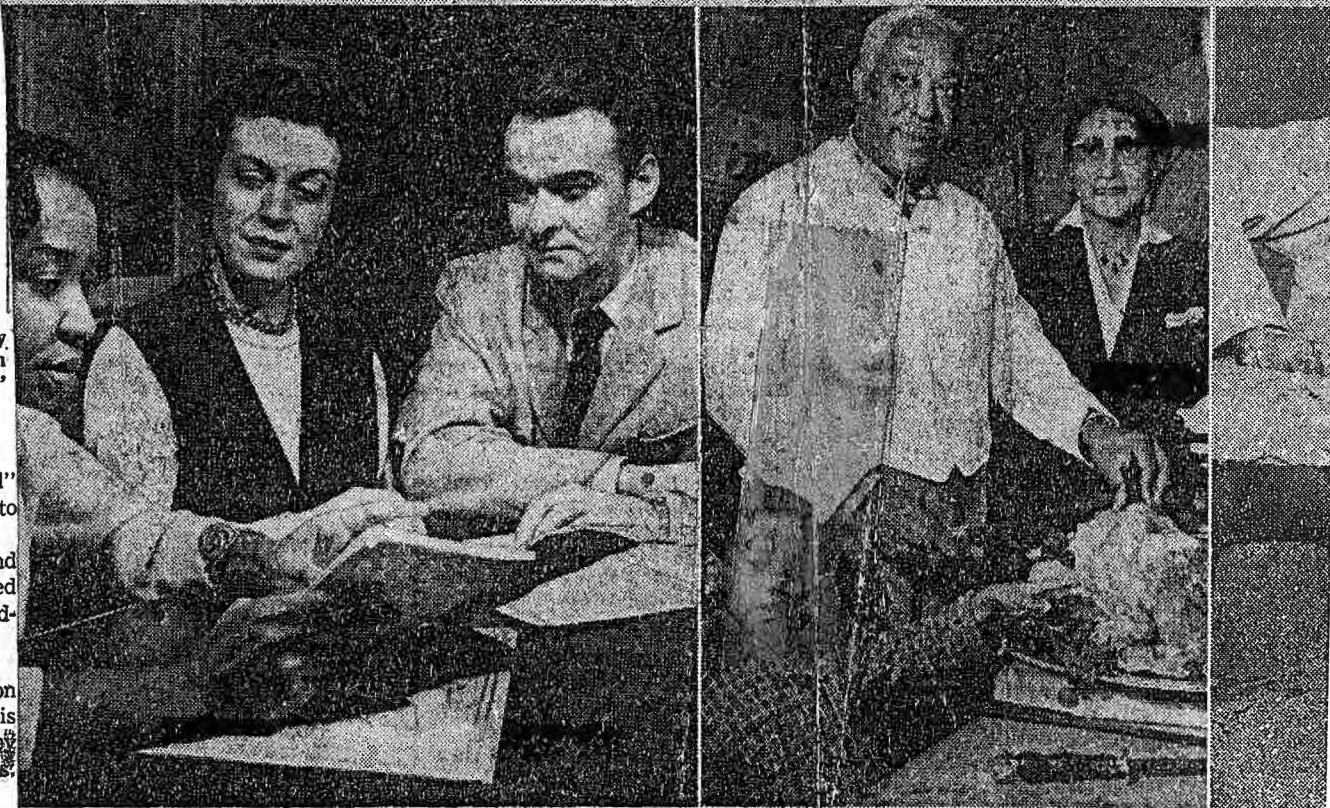
"We hire and integrate these folks on a merit basis with no reference to numbers.

"The ones who work here encourage us to continue to consider these folks for employment on a merit basis and for better opportunities when their qualifications merit this consideration."

Better opportunities . . . these are eagerly sought by the minority groups, but the list of jobs

The ARTS

BUSINESS



Juliëtte Whittaker, left, in second picture, a member of the Corn Stock Theater faculty, teaches theatrical production to classes at Glen Oak Park pavilion. With her are Mrs. Dorothy Bublitz, instructor in acting, and Norman Endean, fencing instructor. Murrell Walker, center picture, operator of his own catering

service, prepares a huge turkey for a banquet. With Mr. Lena Metlock, chief cook, and her granddaughter, Mrs. Raymond Thorn, second from right, a plasterer in business for himself, mixes plaster for

in the survey shows few of them holding the supervisory or more responsible positions.

In the replies to questions we can find two Negro doctors, two dentists, one optometrist, two pharmacists.

THERE ARE 10 NEGRO teachers in the Peoria school system and one at Bradley University. From the rest of the list we find

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Now the rule book says no one speaks to the Queen until she speaks to them and no one ever, ever asks the Queen a question.

But the Queen didn't appear bothered.

Smiling and with high good humor she replied, "Oh, no. I'm not always that lucky."

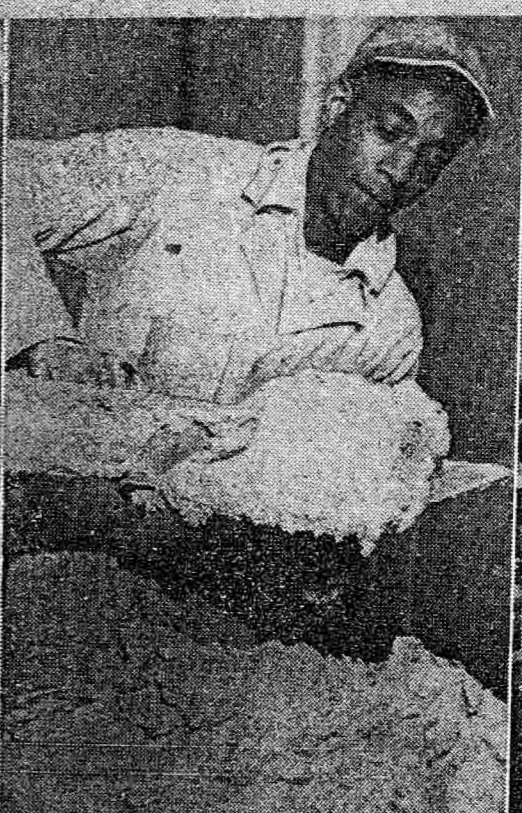
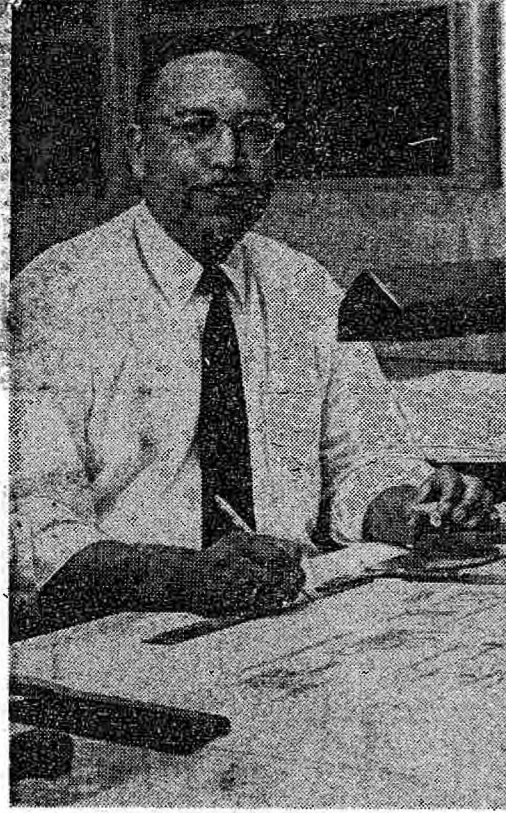
The PROFESSIONS

The ARTS

BUSINESS

The TRADES

The CRAFTS



REPRESENTATIVES OF PEORIA NEGROES in vocations ranging from the professions to trades and business are these workers. Tony Rudd, extreme left, an architect employed by Lankton-Ziegele-Terry & Associates, makes a detailed drawing of an office building to be constructed in the near future. Miss

Juliëtte Whittaker, left, in second picture, a member of the Carr Stock Theater faculty, teaches theatrical production to classes at Glen Oak Park pavilion. With her are Mrs. Dorothy Lublitz, instructor in acting, and Norman Endeau, fencing instructor. Murrell Walker, center picture, operator of his own printing

service, prepares a huge turkey for a banquet. Watching are Mrs. Lena Murrell, left, and her granddaughter, Joanie Murrell, center, and Mrs. Murrell, second from right, a painter and plasterer. Murrell, far right, mixes plaster for a new house

being built in Creve Coeur. James Bryant, extreme right, is engaged in "on the job" training as a lithographer and is employed by the Lankton-Ziegele-Terry firm.—Staff photos except extreme right picture.

Types of Work

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Army Gal Forgets Etiquette

one licensed architect, one building superintendent, one mason, a few carpenters in the crafts classifications, no electricians listed as such, six chemists, several nurses, one counselor in the Illinois employment Service, one superintendent of service at a hotel and one department head in a marketing department of a department store.

Paris (AP) -- An Ohio girl broke all rules of royal etiquette Wednesday and breezily struck up a conversation with Queen Elizabeth II.

She was Maj. Ann Duffy of Cleveland, Ohio, stationed here with the U. S. Air Force.

Otherwise the jobs fall in categories of laborers, service and maintenance employes, clerks and typists, housekeeping and laundry workers, elevator operators, porters, janitors, foundry workers, truck drivers, firemen, machine operators.

The major, smart in her blue Air Force uniform, was at the Standard Athletic Club in Suburban Meudon when the Queen inspected it during her state visit to Paris.

THE CITY OF PEORIA now employs about 25 Negroes, scattered through several departments, but including several police patrolmen, a couple of detectives and a policewoman.

"You're certainly lucky, your Majesty," said Maj. Duffy with a smile, "To have such wonderful weather. They're calling it 'Queen's weather' here and they say you have it at home whenever you appear. Is that true?"

Several firms added comments to their replies. None stated an objection to hiring on merit.

Now the rule book says no one speaks to the Queen until she speaks to them and no one ever, ever asks the Queen a question.

A large department store personnel man said, "We probably employ about 50 Negroes. They are all service or maintenance workers. Thus far we have not

But the Queen didn't appear bothered. Smiling and with high good humor she replied "Oh no I'm