THE NEGRO IN PEORIA

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 is the fourth article on "The Negro in Peoria," which 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, 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 the 1935 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 employer 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.

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

Community resistance is even more limited than employer resistance. Where it occurs it is generally limited to retail, public utility and public service firms whose employees 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 business of all sizes and cities, state and federal employers were represented.

Most had to take a special count to find out just how many non-white employees they had. Caterpillar did not come up with an exact number, but the rest of the survey accounted for 874 employees.

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 as a matter of course 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
Types of Work

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Army Gal Forgets Etiquette

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

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

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.

"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?"

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

But the Queen didn't appear bothered.

Smiling and with high good humor she replied, "Yes, of course."

There are, of course, other Negroes in vocation ranging from the professions to trades and business are these workers. Tony Rudd, extreme left, an architect employed by the Duracord-Dingle-Terry & Associates, makes a detailed drawing of an office building to be constructed in the near future. Miss

Juliette Whitaker, left, in second picture, a member of the Caribbean Theater faculty, in charge Beatroot, production is housed at Glen Oak Park pavilion. With her are Mrs. Dorothy Johnson, instructor in acting, and Norma.smith, secretary, and Marrell Walker, center picture, operator of his own business.

A crew of Negroes working for a banal. Watching are Mr. Lewis, second from left, and his granddaughter, Jeanie.

Mr. L. Taylor, second from right, a plasterer and Mr. John, right, mixing plaster for a new house being built in Creve Coeur. James Bryant, extreme right, is employed by the Lasken-Ziegler-Terry firm. — Staff photos except extreme right picture.