

PROJECT

Negroes in New York

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700

George L. Brown, Jr.

REWRITE:

SOURCE MATERIAL:

1. June 20, 1939. Article by Thelma Boozer
Society editor of N.Y. Amsterdam
news
2. 1931 article by Floyd Calvins special
feature writer.
3. Article by Schuyler, Dec. 18, 1929
4. Jan. 11, 1933 N.Y. Amsterdam news
5. Interview with "Bill" Power of
the Pittsburg Courier Sept. 5, 1939.

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George Schuyler, nationally famous Negro lecturer, writer, and satirical author was born in Providence Rhode Island and reared in Syracuse New York. Schuyler has been married for eleven years to Josephine Lewis. Although Mrs. Schuyler was born in Texas where intermarriage is not tolerated and limitedly grants racial equality, the marriage has to date been most successful. They have a seven year old daughter Phillipa who astounded scientists and others with her amazing ability to spell, compose and play the piano. Her parents have raised her with great success on a raw food, fresh fruit, and pure dairy product diet. (1)

He was the author of the first Negro novel in 1931, "Black No More". And while supposedly basking in the glory of European celebrities of this same year; he was making a bid for leadership of the Negro race in America.

Schuyler had sailed quietly on the Cunard Liner, Scythia to spend three months studying the co-operative movements that were taking place in London, Liverpool, and Manchester England. (2)

The gist of the program which he wished to make effective for the Negro race was outlined by George S. Schuyler, under the name of The Young Negroes Co-operative League. The League called for 5000 charter members by March 15, 1931, at one dollar a member, a forum in each community where there was five or more members. There was to be a co-operative enterprise where each council was in ex-

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instance March of the following year; and a co-operative wholesale establishment in each state by 1933; a co-operative bank in each community where there was a council by 1934; factories to produce such necessities as clothing, food and shelter by 1935.

It was in 1929 that this same Schuyler wrote that the profoundest difference between Negro society in 1909 and then, was the position of the black girl. While there existed supposedly a Negro society, the crow complexioned damsels were persona non grata except as the piece de resistance for humorous anecdotes. Though not entirely excluded from the ranks of the four hundred, they were frequently condemned to the status of wall flower. (3)

Disguising himself as a laborer and in the company of Roy Wilkins, Assistant Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; they spent three weeks in 1933 in the south.

He investigated the conditions in the Mississippi Delta region for the Association. One of his most vivid mementoes was his incarceration in a Vicksburg jail and a narrow escape from a stretch on the Mississippi chain gang. He wrote a vivid picture of the oppression, terrorism and exploitation of Negro laborers, coupled with forced prostitution and chain gang sentences for the Negro women.

His findings substantiated the report of Helen Boardman. Miss Boardman a white, former Red Cross relief worker. She had

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conducted an original investigation for the N.A.A.C.P. in the summer of 1932.

The results of these investigations were used as the basis by the organization in calling for the Mississippi Flood Control Investigation Bill. This bill was introduced by Senator Robert F. Wagner. (4)

Accounting for the great stamina of the man may be his early training. George S. joined the United States army when very young. He was sent to Hawaii, the South Seas for seven years, Japan, the Philippines and China. He served in the World War as a first Lieutenant. Since then he has spent four months in Africa.

He still proclaims that all Negro movements for advancement have failed because they had white psychology and advice to solve black trials and tribulations.

Today (1939) George Samuel Schuyler is business manager of the Crisis Magazine, official organ of the N.A.A.C.P. and a columnist for the Pittsburg Courier, an outstanding Negro newspaper. He is a prolific writer, and writes fiction for the pulp magazines under other names. (5)

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