

# This Harlem

By Eden Bliss

This Harlem! Mecca of the New Negro—and the old—City of Refuge—Nigger Heaven—what you will; but at all events a little section of the biggest city in America—the largest Negro city in the world—a place teeming with life—primitive, crude, vulgar, blase, sophisticated, human—life reflecting its multi-colored hues of comedy—tragedy. Intense! Alive! Magic City—this Harlem.

With summer over and the vacationists back in town, one hears at every turn the query, "When did you get back?" Meaning in nine out of ten cases "back from Atlantic City." And for many all the tragedy or joy of summer is held in the answer they must give.

## Harry Wills' Lincoln

Strutting down the avenues of Harlem one takes note of the cars in which folk ride. The Harry Wills' Lincoln, the Walker Rolls-Royce, a pretty brown girl driving a Pierce-Arrow,—Packards, Jordans, Cadillacs, Willys-Knights ad infinitum. Where are the Fords and Chevrolets and Essexes of yesterday?

## "Nigger Heaven"

Of course the book of the month is Carl Van Vechten's "Nigger Heaven." Everybody—well nearly everybody—belongs to one of two groups, those who have read the book and like it, and those who haven't and don't. Before the publication of "Nigger Heaven" all Harlem was poised ready to pounce upon it and its author and read it—

for whom asunder. But the lack of controversial material in the volume and its decidedly pro-Negro attitude left the pseudo critics stranded.

I believe many are really disappointed. Discussion now centers on the engaging them of who are the prototype of the characters. I know at least three persons who claim to have been models for Mary Love—that nice, dull girl who reads all the best books and does everything exactly as she ought. Lasea—the notorious, the gorgeous—is far more human and interesting.

## Von Vechten Cartooned

And while I'm speaking of Carl Von Vechten, I am reminded of the cartoon which Covarrubias made of him. Carl is shown holding a mirror from which his reflection shines forth—jet black. And perhaps this will surprise you—Carl thinks it is marvelous.

## Theatres

"Lulu Belle" still plays to full houses. Next week Horace Liveright presents Paul Robeson in "Black Boy." And "Deep River" comes from Philadelphia—the city of Negro premieres—on the fourth of October. Looks as if the gay white way is growing dark.

## Colored Cops

A year or so ago the black traffic officer at 135th street and Lenox avenue was in a class by himself. They began to notice the colored officers on other Harlem thoroughfares. But now one is likely to see them anywhere. Not only Harlem but New York City has got ably "cubud policemen". This Harlem!