

# Down our way

by frances sampson

A NEW LEADERSHIP is charged with improving the civic and economic life of Pine Bluff. This leadership is composed of young, aggressive, and determined business and professional men. The Pine Bluff Branch of the National Negro Business League will be an organization of ACTION. We must forget the struggle to get power; and now must use the opportunity to prove to the people of this community that we can use that power to the betterment of our city.

OLD MEN have by their own action consigned themselves to a back seat. So far as their record is concerned, they are not even eligible for counsel. We are pioneers and we must realize our role and come to the place where the old men now are and then have the common sense to retire gracefully and die with dignity.

In giving you the names of the newly chosen leaders we ask you to support these men, and may they be enabled to conduct themselves so as to become symbols of inspiration for the young people who are coming after them. E. M. Moore, a successful business man, who is engaged in sodas, employs a number of men; he has heavy construction

equipment, and that alone in this area of limited economic opportunities shows what can be done where one possesses the tenacity to fight. He has been a resident of this community for a brief while, but daily we see that he is becoming a citizen of vested interests. He deserves as president of the organization our unstinted support.

Dr. G. C. Taylor, vice president, is a successful practicing physician and at present is serving on the faculty at the A. M. and N. College. With inherited leadership possibilities from his late father, who was for a number of years president of Philander Smith College, he brings ability to the group. W. Harold Flowers, as executive secretary is qualified for the job which he has held for seven years, and has associated with his office an aggressive and promising young man, who at present is doing a splendid job with the Department of Education -- Horace G. Barnett. The watchdog of the treasury for a long number of years was retained by the organization. Ivey Anderson, well known church and civic worker, and proprietor of a modern filling station at Barraque and Mulberry, will use his years of successful business

experience in guiding these young men who have a rendezvous with destiny . . .

In the ranks and serving on committees will be the best brain of our city. Our program adopted at the meeting will be announced to the people of the community as soon as the committees have been appointed. We must not and we will not fail in proving ourselves worthy of the confidence which the people have reposed in us. Too long our people have been unable to keep themselves together. Personal bickerings, petty quarrels, and jealousies must be done away with. In the words of the popular song, "ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE -- ELIMINATE THE NEGATIVE -- DON'T MESS WITH MR. IN-BETWEEN."

THE DIE IS CAST -- The few young men who united their brain and influence to throw an election at a recent meeting of the Pine Bluff Branch, NNBL, will use their power in the months ahead to stimulate action in the Pine Bluff Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People . . . The people who support this organization have done so because of the noble accomplishments of this nationwide organization. As members of the local branch, they have not known for a long time of any action taken by the local group pertaining to local problems. The members know that there are certain undemocratic

practices in this community which need to be acted upon. And, before I forget it, any action is better than NO ACTION . . . Then, too, the editor of this newspaper is putting on the mailing list the names of white officials of government that they might have a chance to read our side of the story . . . We believe in action . . . we believe in RIGHT and MAY GOD EVER KEEP US IN THE RIGHT . . . Back to the local NAACP, we need a new leadership. Everybody with any opinion about the conditions which are anticipated upon the return of the Negro veterans from the battlefronts of the world, realize that we have miserably failed here on the homefront to promote facilities which will make the soldier

feel that they have not gone to the war in vain . . . DEMOCRACY MUST BECOME A LIVING FORCE . . . We are not engaging in personalities in this fight but from time to time we are going to present the issues in this struggle to rid our group of this all too prevalent reaction and backwardness. So, if you want to help in this struggle, INVEST A DOLLAR NOW: JOIN THE NAACP. THE SPIRIT OF THE NEW NEGRO -- was manifested by Winston T. Alexander, proprietor of my grocery, "THE COLLEGE GROCERY" on North Cedar, when he came out to a meeting of the Pine Bluff Negro Business League at the church where only six hours previously he had been present at the funeral rites of his

infant daughter, Julia Alexander, who died on Saturday evening. Our sympathy to the bereaved family; and best wishes to the Alexanders.

A MEETING PLACE for the Negro Business League will be the home of the Christian Community Club across the street from Merrill High School. The property was purchased by the club some years ago. It represents a tangible achievement and shows what can be done where unity of purpose and action abide. One half of the home is rented out for dwelling purposes; and the club maintains one side for the holding

of its meetings. Surely, the league will find inspiration to move forward and achieve something that will be a monument to united effort on its part. SCHOOL GYMNASIUM -- We understand that a drive is underway to raise funds for the purpose of erecting a gymnasium at the Merrill High School. Certainly we must again congratulate the school administration for starting such a drive. Yet, we pause and provoke a discussion of the campaign in behalf of those who have contributed money and for those who are now considering giving to the cause. We believe

that the principal of the school, R. N. Chanay, should give to the people a statement of the plans and what part the Pine Bluff Board of Education has assumed toward the accomplishment of the objective.