

Great Progress Made By Negroes In Many Fields During 1958

Nix Elected First Negro Congressman; Religious, Civic Advancement Hailed

By JOHN A. SAUNDERS, Tribune Managing Editor

The election of Robert N. C. Nix, Sr., as the first Negro Congressman in the history of Pennsylvania, was by far the most outstanding event of 1958 to Negroes. For, as far back as 1933, the Tribune had been campaigning for the election of a Negro Congressman, as it crusaded for Negro judges, councilmen, police inspectors, captains and lieutenants . . . and the election of Mr. Nix as United States Representative from the Fourth Congressional District by a majority of more than 38,000 votes was the crowning point of a year which saw Negroes realize great progress in many fields of endeavor.



RAYMOND PACE ALEXANDER
Led Girard College Fight

Congressman Nix, lawyer-politician, was elected to fill the unexpired term of Earl Chudoff, now a Common Pleas Court Judge, at a Special Election in May; and then, in the General Election of November, he was elected to a full two-year term, defeating Cecil B. Moore, also a lawyer, on both occasions.

Another highpoint of 1958 was the appointment of E. Washington Rhodes, a lawyer and publisher of the Twice-A-Week Tribune, as a member of the Board of Education, succeeding the late Dr. John P. Turner.

1958 GOOD YEAR FOR NEGROES

Yes, politically, religiously, socially and civically, the year of 1958 was a good one for an overwhelming majority of the 600,000-odd Negroes living in this great city. And, yet, there were sorrow and sadness in many homes, as death took a heavy toll from all walks of life.

Councilman Raymond Pace Alexander made a determined bid for a Common Pleas Court Judgeship, and as this article was written, the issue of Alexander's appointment as the first Negro Common Pleas Judge in history was still in doubt. Nevertheless, Councilman Alexander rendered great service as a member of City Council and as the leading force in the unsuccessful fight to open the doors of Girard College to Negro orphans.

Women played a stellar role in the over-all picture. A more detailed account of the activities of women during the year will be found in an article written by Miss Esther Edwards on the woman's page, but it is quite appropriate to record here the names of a few women who made noteworthy contributions. Miss Marian Anderson, named United Nations Alternate Delegate; Congresswoman Kathryn Granahan, Mrs. Sadie T. M. Alexander, State Legislators Sarah Anderson, Susie Monroe and Mary Varallo; Ada B. Harris, executive director of the Bureau for Child Care; Mrs. Walter A. Craig, civic and social service worker; Florence Madison Hill, Regina Black, Sarah A. Collins, executive director of the Woman's Christian Alliance; Nancy Giddens, Mildred Seption, and many, many others.

Returning to the political arena, it is propitious to recall the names and deeds of Congressman William J. Green, Jr., Chairman of the Democratic City Committee; Senator-elect Hugh Scott, and Mayor Richardson Dilworth.

GREEN PRAISED

Congressman Green merits recognition because of his liberality and staunch support of Negroes elected to political office. Robert N. C. Nix would not have been elected to Congress without the unwavering backing of Congressman Green. Nor would Granville Jones, Herbert A. Lane, Herbert Holt, Samuel Floyd, Hampton Riley, Sue Monroe and Sarah Anderson have been elected to the State Legislature without the support of Green. Congressman Green also backed E. Washington Rhodes, a registered Republican, for the Board of Education, and supported and is still supporting Raymond Pace Alexander for a Common Pleas Judgeship.

Senator-elect Scott, who is highly regarded and respected by Negroes in all sections of the city, was the only Republican to withstand the Democratic sweep of November. Many Negroes who are registered as Democrats voted for Scott in Philadelphia. This is borne out by the fact that although Governor-elect David L. Lawrence won Philadelphia by a 177,000 majority, Governor Leader, Democrat, only beat Scott by 134,000 votes here.

Mayor Dilworth, long regarded as a friend of the Negro, did not veer from that philosophy in 1958, as Negroes continued to receive good city government appointments and promotions.

Not earth-shaking but significant were the following events: Samuel L. Evans launched the Coffee Concert series; Turner C. Johnson was elected president of Fairview Golf Club; Luther Dupree, president of the Fides Square Club, and James Johnson, president of the Citizens Republican Club.

MANY CHURCH EVENTS

On the religious front, Rev. H. J. Trapp was installed as president of the Baptist Ministers Conference of Philadelphia and Vicinity.

The Mt. Ephraim Baptist Church, founded by the Rev. J. Adkins, moved into a 12-year-old building at 22nd and Tioga sts.

Rev. G. N. Kenner succeeded the Rev. William H. Anderson as pastor of the 2nd Baptist of Frankford, and the Rev. Mr. Anderson organized the Northeast Baptist Church.

The Northeast Baptist Church paid for a \$500 life membership in the NAACP.

The Rev. C. M. Smith, pastor of Wayland Temple Baptist and chairman of the executive board of the Pennsylvania State Convention, was elected president of the New England Missionary Baptist Convention.

GETS HONORARY DEGREE

The Honorary Degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred by Virginia Union University on the Rev. Leon H. Sullivan, pastor of Zion Baptist Church.

Clergy of all denominations combined to boost the Youth March on Washington.

The congregation of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Germantown moved into their brand new church building constructed from the ground up at a cost of \$55,000.

The Rev. Leonard Barrett became pastor of the Trinity Church, Evangelical United Brethren, at Baynton and Duvel sts. in Germantown.

The Rev. Mahlon M. Lewis, pastor-founder of Greater St. Mat-

thew Independent Church, announced plans for the erection of a \$100,000 community center.

The Lutheran Synod gave a building on 16th St. between Tioga and Venango streets to the community for use as a community center.

Churches in the Nicetown-Tioga area helped the Nicetown Civic League in its fight for a better and more commodious school at 18th and Ontario sts., and also in combatting further laproom intrusion in the residential area.

The Rev. R. A. Bennerman of Lynchburg, Va., became pastor of the Nineteenth St. Baptist Church when the Rev. E. L. Satchell transferred to New York.

The Rev. L. G. Carr, pastor of Vine Memorial Baptist Church, the most widely-traveled Baptist pastor in the East, adding 6,000 miles in a trip through the Middle and Far East.

The Rev. J. S. Wilson, former pastor of Zion Baptist Church of Holmesburg, became pastor of the New Thankful Baptist Church, succeeding the late Rev. Roscoe Devereaux.

Bishop George W. Baber, of the 1st Episcopal District of the AME Church, appointed the Rev. Dr. Mansfield Jackson, a presiding elder and brought the Rev. Dr. John A. Alexander to the Mt. Pisgah Church.

APPOINTED PRESIDING ELDER

Also appointed a presiding elder was the Rev. D. W. Tull, who was succeeded at the Allen AME Church by the Presiding Elder, Rev. K. G. Keays.

The Rev. J. A. Wright, minister of Grace Baptist Church, Germantown, was hospitalized for weeks in the Lankenau Hospital.

The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith at 27th and Beaubridge sts. was burned to the ground in a spectacular Sunday morning fire which resulted in the death of an eight year old girl, Bishop Sherrod C. Johnson, pastor of the fire-gutted church, immediately announced his plans to rebuild a new \$500,000 church amid the ruins of the old one.

The Delaware Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, meeting at Tindley Temple Church, approved the transfer of a Negro congregation in New York to a white conference.

The sad note of 1958 was the demise of the following persons and others:

The Rev. Moses Johnson, associate pastor of the Thankful Baptist Church, 15th and Dauphin sts., (now located at 16th and Allegheny, ave.).

Dr. Tanner G. Duckrey, who for many years served as District 2 Superintendent of Public Schools.

Lester O. Dunning, of the Swarthmore College Maintenance Department.

Mrs. Ruth Sellars Kilson, a lifelong resident of Germantown.

Mrs. Susie A. Thomas, treasurer of the Allen AME Church and prominent in Masonic circles.

The Rev. W. H. Jernagin, pastor of the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church and president of the National Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Congress.

Mrs. Elizabeth Duncan, wife of Henry E. Duncan, owner of the Duncan's Grocery Store at 18th and Susquehanna ave.

LaBarr Potts, former secretary of the State Athletic Commission.

Forrest W. Woodard, publisher of the Philadelphia Independent.

Wallace W. Cerney, who was active in fraternal circles.

The Rev. John and Lilley Gray, of Darby, Pa., whose deaths followed within a week of each other last March.

Mrs. Adelaide Robinson, widow

of Dr. John Mudgett.

Mrs. Julia Hamilton, mother-in-law of the Rev. Leon Sullivan.

Dr. George W. Harmon, of Camden, N.J., son of Bishop D. M. Harmon, Prelate of the 2nd Episcopal District of the UAME Church.

Rev. M. Cunningham, of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

The Rev. George A. Fisher, rector of the Church of the Crucifixion.

The Rev. John P. Henderson, pastor of the Beulah Baptist Church, Elmwood.

Miss Mary S. Beckett, school teacher and sister of Walter and Handy C. Beckett, prominent mortician.

Mrs. Mable Brodie, wife of Fletcher Brodie, local photographer.

Jimmy Hackney, welterweight boxer.

The Rev. Roscoe B. Williams, assistant pastor of the Gibson Memorial Baptist Church.

Esther Edan Hardy, prominent retired teacher.

Dr. John P. Turner, first Negro member of the Board of Education.

Dr. Percy Irvin Bowser.

Mrs. Nanny P. Smith, school teacher at the Reynolds School.

Bernard H. Nichols, 60, a Municipal Court officer.

Brad Laws, who headed a public relations firm.

Herbert Sidwell, former official of the Fairview Golf Club and retired postal worker.



ROBERT N. C. NIX
Elected To Congress



MISS MARIAN ANDERSON
Elected Alternate Delegate To U.N.



CONGRESSMAN GREEN



BISHOP GEORGE W. BABER
Headed First District Of AME Church



MAYOR DILWORTH



FLORENCE M. HILL



REV. M. M. LEWIS
Religious leader, pastor of West Philadelphia's Greater St. Matthews Independent Church, and outstanding civic worker.



KATHRYN GRANAHAN
Congresswoman from the Second Congressional District, where thousands of Negroes live, and outstanding worker for civic good.



MRS. MARY VARALLO



MRS. S. T. ALEXANDER



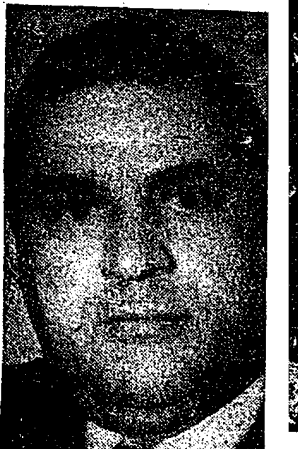
DR. GENE JONES



MRS. NANCY GIDDENS



E. WASHINGTON RHODES
Elected To Board Of Education



REV. C. M. SMITH



REV. L. G. CARR



REV. LEON H. SULLIVAN
Given Honorary Degree By Virginia Union



HUGH SCOTT
Senate elect of Pennsylvania, whose victory in the November election despite the Democratic sweep, was one of the year's big surprises.



ADA HARRIS
Executive Director of Bureau for Child Care, indefatigable worker for the Tribune Charities and famed for her work with foster children.