

California African American Museum

Lesson Plan

In conjunction with the exhibition presented
at the California African American Museum
March 20 – September 8, 2019

THE LIBERATOR

CHRONICLING BLACK LOS ANGELES, 1900–1914



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California African American Museum

Lesson Plan

Race, Representation, and History: Los Angeles & *The Liberator*

Overview

The Liberator is an early 20th century (1900–1914) Los Angeles African American monthly news magazine whose owner and editor, Jefferson Lewis Edmonds, was born enslaved and spent his young adulthood in bondage before Emancipation. Edmonds was educated in Mississippi Freedmen’s Bureau schools and went on to become a farmer, a teacher, and an ardent proponent of voting. In 1875, he testified before a congressional committee investigating violent incursions against the voting rights of African Americans. He moved west to Los Angeles due to threats against his family¹.

He established *The Liberator* in Los Angeles in 1900² and was an early booster of Los Angeles as a destination for African American migration. He spoke out against racism and injustice in Los Angeles while also proclaiming the city to be a haven compared to the South’s Jim Crow and constant threats of violence. *The Liberator* was one of LA’s earliest African American newspapers along with the California Eagle and the Los Angeles Sentinel in 1933.

In this lesson, students will learn to work with historic sources by reading stories from digitized issues of *The Liberator*. They will examine how the paper portrayed a community that was mostly misrepresented or ignored by larger news publications. They will discuss whether the same issues of misrepresentation and inattention still plague mainstream news outlets today.

Materials:

- *The Liberator*, Volume 9, Issue 5, November 22, 1912
- Video: The Black Press: Soldiers Without Swords³ (available free on Canopy with LA Public Library card)

Theme focus: Representation in the Media

75-90 minute lesson

Recommendation for two shorter 45-50 minute class periods: Do activities 1-3 on the first day.

On the second day, begin with revisiting what they learned on the first day before doing activities 4-6.

Activities

1. For background, watch the first 20 minutes of *The Black Press: Soldiers Without Swords*.
2. Journal prompt: Consider the quote below.

What does Vernon Jarett mean when he says, “we were truly invisible?” Can you explain a time when you felt invisible? Why? Can you identify a time when you felt visible in LA media? In what way did you see yourself represented in the news?

In the documentary, *The Black Press: Soldiers Without Swords*, the late journalist Vernon Jarett described the importance of African American community newspapers to the communities they covered.

“We didn’t exist in the other papers. We were neither born, we didn’t get married, we didn’t die, we didn’t fight in any wars, we never participated in anything of a scientific achievement. We were truly invisible unless we committed a crime. But in the BLACK PRESS, the negro press, we did get married. They showed us our babies being born. They showed us graduating. They showed our PhDs⁴.”

3. Dive into the newspaper.
Have students in groups look closely at one issue of *The Liberator*. What types of news did *The Liberator* cover? Find an example of each of the following:
 - Los Angeles political news
 - National political news
 - News about local businesses
 - Local events
 - Social news

Group discussion: Within these examples, what picture does *The Liberator* paint of LA identity?

Read the next two stories as a whole class to be able to discuss the questions that follow.

4. In the story “NO COLORED ZONE Undertaker Has Monopoly” on page 3, why were the undertakers denied a lease?
 - How does this story show the invisibility of the African American community at the time?
 - Why is it important today?
 - Have you seen examples of this in your community?

5. In the story, “Heroic Elevator Boy Saves Many Lives,” what does Jefferson Edmonds have to say about the way white-run newspapers depict African Americans?
 - The *Los Angeles Times* did print several stories related to the fire at the St. George Hotel, but it did not print any about the elevator operator. What factors might have contributed to the difference in coverage between the *Los Angeles Times* and *The Liberator*?
 - How might this story have been covered by other newspapers?
 - Do you believe that Mr. Edmonds’ opinions on the way African Americans were represented in the white-owned news media of his day are still true today?
 - What other groups might be misrepresented or underrepresented or feel “invisible” in today’s mainstream press?
6. After the group discussion, revisit the initial journal. What did you learn about how *The Liberator* made previously invisible people and experiences visible? What questions or hopes do you now have about LA media today? Optional: Invite students to share some of their thoughts on representation in media after this lesson.

ENDNOTES

1. Lonnie G. Bunch, “The Greatest State for the Negro: Jefferson L. Edmonds, Black Propagandist of the California Dream,” in *Seeking El Dorado: African Americans in California* (University of Washington Press, 2001), p 132.
2. Douglas Flamming, *Bound for Freedom: Black Los Angeles in Jim Crow America* (University of California Press, 2005), P. 106.
3. The Black Press: Soldiers Without Swords is available for free from Kanopy.com through Los Angeles Public Library with a library card. <https://www.kanopy.com/product/black-press-soldiers-without-swords>
4. The Black Press: Soldiers Without Swords - Transcript,” accessed April 8, 2019, <https://www.pbs.org/blackpress/film/fulltranscript.html>

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FIVE KILLED IN PANIC AT EARLY MORNING FIRE.; ST. GEORGE HOTEL TOTALLY ...
Los Angeles Times (1886-1922); Nov 19, 1912; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Times
pg. 11

Wild Scene.

FIVE KILLED IN PANIC AT EARLY MORNING FIRE.

*St. George Hotel Totally Destroyed by
Flames of Unknown Origin.*

*Guests in Hostelry Hurl Themselves from Windows of
the Six-Story Building to Death or Injury on Pavements—Heroic Work of Firemen Unavailing in Sub-
duing Blaze, but Many Lives Saved.*

AT LEAST five persons and per-
haps several more were killed and
a dozen others seriously injured,
some perhaps fatally, in a fire which
at midnight destroyed the St. George
Hotel on East Third street between
Los Angeles and Main streets. The
building loss is \$20,000; insurance
\$18,000; total loss may be \$75,000.

THE DEAD.

MRS. CHARLOTTE HARRING-
TON.

ELLA MORAN, 26; actress.

JOSEPH MARTIN, 38, single, jew-
elry clerk, No. 151 South Main street.

YEAR-OLD CHILD OF MRS. MO-
RAN, body found burned to crisp.

MRS. ——— ARTHUR, jumped and
was crushed on pavement.

FATALLY INJURED.

Julius Malone, 38, engineer St.
George Hotel. He was asleep when
the fire broke out and is severely
burned. Will die.

Frank J. Bock, 31, sprained back.
Jumped from fourth floor.

Mrs. Frank J. Bock, 23, broken
back. Perhaps will die. Jumped
from sixth floor.

OTHERWISE INJURED.

Miss Fern Melrose, leading lady of
the Century company, 35; contusion
of left arm.

E. Lesser, proprietor St. George;
slightly burned.

Mrs. Alice Lesser, 15; right arm
fractured.

Frank J. Bock, 31, employed in
Southern Pacific yards at Sacramento;
sprained back.

Mrs. Frank J. Bock, 23; sprained
back.

R. E. Harrish, 21, roller skater, con-
tusions of nose and back.

Mrs. Anna Harrish, 21, roller
skater, severely sprained back.

Jefferson Osborne, pictorial actor,
severely burned about face and arms.
Harrington baby, slightly burned on
right side of face.

Unidentified man, severely burned
about face and body; possibly injured
internally.

Eddie Webster, contusion of head
and slight burns.

Unidentified elevator boy, severely
burned about head, limbs and body;
in critical condition.

Frank J. Bock, 31, sprained back.
back.

Petty Blair, actress, Adolphus; right
hand badly burned; suffering from
shock.

George Fellows, actor; sprained an-
kle, received in jumping from second
story. Slight burns about face and
neck.

Lew A. Ward, comedian with Lew
Fields's "Delicatessen Shop" at Em-
press; slightly burned; was overcome
by smoke and rescued by firemen on
the third floor.

Fred Wells, traveling salesman,
jumped from second floor; slightly
bruised about head and body.

G. W. Wolfalk, broken leg.

Two of those killed met death by
jumping. They missed the outspread
firemen's nets and were crushed on
the pavement.

A year-old baby was found on the
third floor, burned to a crisp. Evi-
dently some mother, blindly groping
and but half-conscious, dropped the
little one in her flight and was too
dazed to know what she did.

Women and men did not wait to
use the elevators or fire escapes, but
leaped out of windows and some were
caught in nets of the firemen.

(Continued on Second Page.)

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ing ablaze he fought his way to the open air where he was picked up and placed in the ambulance.

INCIDENTS OF FIRE.

Patrolman F. E. Walker caught a baby which was thrown from a blazing third-story window. The child was burned about the feet and was so badly shaken up by the shock that she is not expected to live.

Frank Bernard, who is with the Delicatessen company at the Empress theater is greatly alarmed on account of his associates who were staying at the hotel. He was unable to locate them up to a late hour.

Twelve members of Pantages's theater company were stopping at the hotel. All are said to be accounted for.

Officer Robinson was one of the first to arrive and he rescued several men and women from the third and fourth floors. He was slightly burned and almost suffocated. Sergt. Hoover was the first to turn in the alarm at Third and Broadway. He rushed to the hotel and found it a mass of flames from the second story up. He rescued three women and helped two men to the fire escape.

Mort Schaffer, an actor with the Elenore Odia Company at Pantages, says he was awakened by cries of fire. He rushed to the door and saw a bellboy, his clothes ablaze running along the corridor and yelling "Fire" and arousing the guests. Schaffer escaped down a fire escape and jumped from the second floor and was uninjured. He saw the boy fall as he was making his way upstairs.

RESCUES HIS DOG.

Charles Hepler, a bicyclist appearing at Pantages Theater, was one of the first to leave the building, coming down the elevator from the fourth floor. He was fully dressed. Twenty minutes after he reached the street

Deaths in Panic.

(Continued from First Page.)

Of a number of women and men who leaped from upper stories of the building the theatrical girls were especially hurt. They were rushed to different hospitals.

The cause of the blaze is undiscovered. It originated on the lower floors of the six-story building and completely gutted it.

Fifty persons are understood to have been killed in the blazing area, but most of them escaped.

A general fire alarm brought all downtown paraphernalia to the scene but the fire had gained such headway the firemen could do little save prevent a spread of the blaze, which in itself was a herculean battle.

Rooming-houses and small business places for a half-block on each side of the burning structure, which faced East Third street at Wharton place, were threatened and the proprietors and inmates fled in a panic, dragging household effects, trunks and boxes after them.

It is understood the St. George Hotel property is owned by Thomas Higgins, and Vanderslice & Troll are proprietors of the business. A. L. Troll is manager.

Loss in the Pacific Coast Billiard Table Company's store is believed to total \$25,000.

WILD EXCITEMENT.

No fire in recent years has been as spectacular as was this. The sky over the entire part of the business section downtown was lurid from the reflection of the flames.

Employees of the hotel risked their lives in an attempt to save books and papers from the office on the first floor and police had to threaten them with arrest before they would desert the building although they were groping in the dark under a deluge of water from upper floors and falling debris.

The hotel was one of the most popular of the cheaper class downtown hostilities and was crowded with theatrical folk. When the blaze had gained such headway it was seen the house was doomed and no time could be spent in stopping for valuables or even wearing apparel a score of chorus girls understood appearing in productions here this week fled into the street in tights and flimsy wraps. Evidently they had just returned from the playhouse and were preparing to retire.

So far as could be learned in the confusion the fire was discovered in a rear room on the second floor. Firemen said they believed some theatrical woman was preparing a meal over a gas or oil stove and the curtains caught fire. It was, however, impossible to verify this.

CITY AROUSED.

Excitement reigned downtown as it has not since the Times Building disaster and little could be ascertained in the chaos. The hotel register was missing and names of roomers in the house could not be verified.

Police had great difficulty controlling the crowds and a number of fights and several arrests occurred between officers and spectators who tried to force their way through the line. One man who wore a deputy sheriff's star struck a patrolman over the head with a hand-billy and a miniature riot ensued directly beneath the toppling, flaming walls of the burning structure.

BRAVE ELEVATOR BOY.

An elevator boy, who lies on a cot in the Receiving Hospital a mass of burns from head to foot heroically stuck to his post and in saving many lives nearly gave up his own. He made four trips from the fourth floor when the shaft was a seething caldron of smoke and flame.

When exhausted and dazed, blinded by his burns and unable to ascertain if any more remained above he sought to escape himself. He fell to the floor at the elevator door and struggled vainly to rise. Slowly and painfully every scrap of his cloth-

he recalled that his prize terrier, Dad, had been left in the room.

Heppler raced past the guards at the entrance to the hotel, climbed the stairway to the fourth floor and passed along a corridor of flames, guided to his room by the barking of the dog. When he opened the door the dog jumped into his arms, and the two started down the corridor.

Heppler fell five times in making his escape, holding the dog tightly in his arms. When he reached the street he fainted from exhaustion. His hands and face were badly burned. The dog was blistered about the face. And after he had risked his life for the dog it wiggled from his arms and was lost in the crowd.

SAVED BY AN AWNING.

One girl's life was saved by an awning, which after a jump from the third floor a moment after her companion was crushed to death by a leap into and through a net. Whirling headforemost through the air the girl struck the awning and bounded into the waiting arms of a blanket of firemen and police. She was uninjured.

"Lord! I haven't a stitch on!" she said, scrambling into a fireman's great coat.

She was but one of a score of girls who rushed to the streets only clad in undershirts.

PATIENT HEROINE.

Mrs. F. J. Block, who jumped from the sixth floor was taken to the Receiving Hospital where it was found she had sustained a broken back. When Dr. Carter leaned over and asked her if she was hurt, Mrs. Block said:

"Not very much, doctor; attend to that woman, I hear moaning in the next cot, she needs you more than I do."

Dr. Carter thinking that Mrs. Block was only slightly injured, looked after the other woman. When he went to examine Mrs. Block a few minutes later, he found her back broken.

"She showed wonderful heroism," said Dr. Carter. "I never heard of such nerve before." She will probably die, if she lives she will be paralyzed from the waist down.

REGISTERED GUESTS.

Josie de Neville.
Charlotte Harrington.
Harold Thomas.
Frank Bernard.
O. Schroder, Chicago.
R. L. Hanna.
J. S. McClellan, Pomona.
L. J. Sweeney, New York.
Joseph Williams, New York.
Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Davis.
Mr. Long and wife.
C. Lytton and wife, San Francisco.
Mr. and Mrs. Wood, San Francisco.
M. R. Walton and wife.
Paul Hunter.
John Womini.
Miss J. Doyle.
H. Spanier.
Mr. Dunham.
Clark and Georges.
Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Block.
C. O. Wolfast and wife.
Mr. and Mrs. R. Ward.
H. Torring.
Pecsy de Forrest.
Emil E. Miles.
Oliver Stewart.
Frank Bernard.
Charles Heppler.
Lew A. Word.
Al Ward, San Francisco.
Ford Johnson.
Lew Patterson.
Musical Sproguella, San Francisco.
Miss Fena Melrose.
Frank P. Collins, city.
George H. Ford and wife.
M. I. Blackeney and wife.
Eleanor Otis, Chicago.
Josie Otis.
Mrs. Scheffer.
Jack Bean, All-Star Trio.
Bob Millard, "Africa."
Mlle. Esmerald, London, Eng.
Betty Millard, Detroit.
Fred Clayton, Selig Company.
C. F. Gibben, San Francisco.
C. M. Burke and wife, city.
Louise Lean, New York.
Cecil Eason.
Ed Thompson and wife, San Pedro.
H. S. Schultz and wife, Washington.
Joseph Collins.
John W. Gregory and wife, Vancouver, B. C.

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THE LIBERATOR

A Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Cause of Good Government and the Advancement of the American Negro

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LOS ANGELES, CAL., NOV. 22, 1912

\$1.50 a year

No. 5

Downfall of the Good Government Administration.

The so-called Good Government administration which was elected a short time ago by false pretenses; or in other words, by claiming to be what it was not; has been weighed in the balance and found wanting. Instead of giving the citizens the Good Government, they were led to believe they were to receive, the Good Government administration is one of the most inefficient in the history of the city. It has been a failure in everything except in the propagation of scandal. In this particular, it is without a rival. In order to cover up the scandal, of all scandals, the moral censor scandal, a number of the Good Government's shining lights are charged with attempting to blast the life of officer Lloyd. Although the mayor is said to have known all about the arrangement for Lloyd's arrest, in order to bolster up his tottering administration he fires his private secretary Anderson and officer Choate.

Feeling that the people in their wrath will recall him, the mayor rushes into print with the statement that he does not fear a recall. In fact, he dares any one to start a recall. If the mayor really believes what he says, he certainly does not understand the temperament of the people. If the mayor's friends hope to keep him from being recalled, their success depends upon keeping recall petitions from being started. This whole miserable fiasco is the attempt to run a great city by placing small men at the head of it and the sooner the whole bunch is recalled and their places filled with broad gauged men of affairs, the better it will be for all concerned.

Should a recall be ordered 98 per cent. of the colored voters would very likely be registered in favor of putting the whole Lissner-Johnson Goo Goo machine out of business. As the entire Negro voting population has been basely betrayed and humiliated by the said machine. Having inflicted severe punishment upon that machine on Nov. 5th the Negro voters are simply smarting for another opportunity to scourge them.

SCOURGES CITY ADMINISTRATION

Gesner Williams, City Attorney of Vernon, and a resident of Los Angeles, issued this formal statement regarding the fatal accident last week:

"The direct cause of the killing at Ninth and Tennessee streets early this morning is the inefficiency, senility and hypocrisy of the present city administration of Los Angeles. Vernon city is well patrolled by efficient motorcycle police in the interest of public safety, morality and health. No accident of any nature whatever has occurred in the city of Vernon.

"On the contrary, many accidents are occurring constantly in the city of Los Angeles, directly traceable to the fact that the city of Los Angeles, through its present administration spends the taxpayer's money on moral censors and an attempt to patrol the city against those things which it cannot stop.

"In other words, if less money were spent on tainted women, to entice citizens and purists into

rooming-houses, and more on patrolling the streets and suppressing genuine crime, the city would be better off."

HEROIC NEGRO ELEVATOR BOY SAVES MANY LIVES

The burning of the Hotel St. George which resulted in the loss of three lives and the maiming of twenty other persons, is one of those catastrophes that could have been avoided. The fact that the death roll did not reach 50 or more was due to the heroic efforts of the Negro elevator boy, who at the risk of his life, visited each of the floors and ran along the halls, arousing the sleeping inmates by crying fire. Returning to the elevator he kept it in operation rescuing guests until the flames took possession of the shaft. With his clothes all aflame he fled to the streets where the fire of burning clothes was extinguished and he sent to the hospital suffering from numerous burns.

In recounting the deeds of heroism displayed there, the newspapers have little to say of the heroic elevator boy because he is a Negro. Had he been suspicioned of a theft of a ring or some trifle, the tale would have been told under big headlines. When a Negro is charged with a crime, the white newspaper men, regardless of section or politics, lose their heads in their eagerness to let the world know about it; but haven't the moral courage to tell the world when the Negro does a commendable thing.

TWO

THE LIBERATOR



J. L. EDMONDS

Editor J. L. Edmonds, through the columns of his paper *The Liberator*, has caused the Negro voter to decide two of the greatest political questions recently put before the voters of California.

When the question was before the people whether the women of this state should be allowed to vote, he took up their cause and made the fight that they should have the ballot, and the count of the votes on that question in the Negro precincts, these being the ones in which this paper is most read and in whose interests it is published showed that they went 3 to 1 in favor of the amendment for woman's suffrage.

For the majority in those precincts in favor of the amendment were 2000 votes.

In the Presidential campaign just closed, Mr. Edmonds supported the ticket headed by Woodrow Wilson, and his experience brought on by more than sixteen years in the Democratic party based upon the belief that it was the best way to help the Negroes' civil, political and economic interests, he made a fearless fight on the machine of this State for its unmanly treatment of the Negro voters, and so great was his fight on it that the result shown in the heavy voting Negro precincts which gave more than 40 per cent. of its vote to Wilson.

The effect of his work can be better understood when a comparison of the votes of these same precincts at the last Gubernatorial or Presidential election, on both the former occasions the Democratic vote was five per cent. in the last election the vote for the Democratic ticket in the same precincts was forty three per cent. In precinct 232 which contains not a white vote, and which has 200 registered voters, but one Democratic vote was cast in the last gubernatorial election. In this same precinct Wilson received 80 votes.

NEGROES BUILDING BUSINESS BLOCKS

Until a short time ago the enterprising colored citizens of this city have devoted their attention to purchasing lots upon which elegant modern residences were built. This have been carried on so persistently for the past 15 years that the colored citizens of this City are the best housed of any similar city in the United States.

Now that the colored men have commenced the erection of business blocks a new epoch is being made which means that the Negro here is settling down to business. Following the erection by Mr. R. C. Owens of a splendid business block on Fourth Street near Central Avenue, Mr. Dan H. Adams, a well known and popular hotel man, is just completing a small but neat block at 845 East 9th Street, which will soon be occupied as a first class ice cream parlor and delicatessen. Mr. Adams has already had many calls from persons desiring to secure long lease on the property, but has decided to conduct the place himself, thus securing first class accommodations for all classes of patrons.

MR. O. E. BROOKINS WILL BUILD

Mr. O. E. Brookins, for many years custodian of the Germain Building, and who in the meantime invested his earnings in real estate, will erect immediately a \$40,000 business block. With his present real estate holdings Mr. Brookins is amply able to successfully carry his new enterprise to completion. This new departure on the part of the colored men is a movement in the right direction and means that they have decided to make use of their idle capital, which has been used for years by other men in promoting enterprises that passed the word down that Negroes were not wanted. There is a large and ever increasing number of business and professional men who are suffering for permanent locations which should be

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THREE

supplied by colored men, by the erection of a suitable office building. The colored men have plenty of capital for such an enterprise which will be forthcoming as soon as the initiative is taken.

The Negroes of this city have some \$200,000 invested in church property, which not only furnishes them no financial income, but is a source of continual drain upon their limited resources. Should an amount like the above be invested in office buildings and other real property it would not only furnish employment for scores of Negroes, but would pay the stockholders at least 10 per cent. on the investment.

NO COLORED ZONE

Undertaker Has Monopoly

The proposition to create a colored zone for undertakers in order that a firm of colored men could open an establishment at Eighth and San Pedro streets, which is five blocks outside the present general zone for establishments of that kind, brought out a strong protest from property owners in the block affected. After a lengthy debate, the protest was sustained and the colored men will have to find a location within the present zone. The vote was five to three against them.

It was shown during the hearing that there are 20,000 colored people in the city, with but one undertaker to bury their dead. One of the colored men stated that they had been working on the proposition for eight months, during which time they had written three leases for a location within the zone, but when they were presented for signature, neither of the parties would close, having discovered that the lessees were colored men. There are two colored churches within one block of the location desired, and a third one within two blocks, and many colored people live in the neighborhood.

A. M. E. ZION CONFERENCE
ADJOURNED

The A. M. E. Zion Conference for 1912 has passed into history, and the pastors have all returned to their respective charges for the coming years work, with the determination to do more and better work for the cause of religion and the advancement of the church. Rev. W. J. J. Byers, pastor of the Los Angeles church is again at his post of duty for another year. He says that he will carry to the next conference to be held here a better report than that carried to San Jose. The membership reception held last Wednesday evening was a grand success and well attended. Rev. Byers is delivering a series of sermons on the decalogue. The public is cordially invited to hear these sermons.

The only transfers to this conference this year was Rev. Mr. Clarence A. Adams from the North Arkansas conference and assign to the work at Monrovia. Rev. Adams arrived here in the early part of October and with his little wife who preceeded him about six months are fairly settled in his new field. Rev. Adams is a young man and comes from a family noted for its able ministers, his father is Presiding Elder in the North Arkansas Conference. With some experience as a pastor we are quite sure that success will attend his labor here on the coast. Rev. Adams is a constant reader of *The Liberator* and is lost when he fails to receive it. *The Liberator* extends its best wishes for his success as pastor here where faithful Christian pastors are greatly needed.

THE PRICE IS 30 CENTS

The price of the Negro year book sent out from Tuskegee is 30 cents instead of 25 cents as announced some time ago in this journal. It is a valuable encyclopedia of the Negro and can be purchased from Mr. Noah D. Thompson 55th and Long Beach Avenue, this city.

Harry M. Mitchell, real estate agent and McDowell & Barnett, lawyers, announce the removal of their offices to rooms 36-37 Canadian Bldg., 432 South Main St. Phone Main 4525—Advertisement.

FOR SALE—6 ROOM COTTAGE
A SNAP

I have for sale a modern 6 room cottage 1535 W. 37th Street, price \$2,600, \$1,500 cash, balance in three years. This fine piece of property consisting of large lot and cottage is located in one of the most cultured sections of the city. Go out and examine the property then call at room 210 Thorpe Building. Phone Main 2051, J. L. Edmonds.—Advertisement.

WILL ALLOW YOU TWENTY
CENTS ON EVERY DOLLAR

If you will cut out "Dean Drug Co.'s" ad on page 5, and present it at their store on 3rd and Main Street, they will allow you 10 cents on every 50 cents worth of drugs purchased.

Morris & Snow Seed Co., Inc.

SEEDS AND PLANTS

Everything New—The Highest Quality
Money Can Buy

425 S. Main St. Los Angeles, Cal.

FOUR

THE LIBERATOR

THE LIBERATOR

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JEFF L. EDMONDS, JR., Assistant Editor.

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How to Write for The Liberator.

Write only on one side of your paper.

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Residence Phone Main 157 J12

NEGRO PRECINCTS TELL THE STORY

That something like 43 per cent. of the Negro vote was cast for Wilson is shown by the Wilson vote in the heavy Negro precincts. In precinct 232 with a registered vote of 200, Roosevelt received 109, and Wilson 80. This same precinct in previous elections never polled more than one Democratic vote.

In the contest between Mayor Alexander and Geo. A. Smith, Mayor Alexander received 2 to 1. In the campaign for woman's suff-

rage in 1911, the suffrage amendment carried that precinct 3 to 1. In the campaign between Mayor Alexander and Geo. A. Smith, Mr. Smith beat Mayor Alexander in all of the Negro precincts; the Afro-American Council having charge of Smith's fight in the primaries. The struggle at that time being whether the town should be open or closed.

The editor having advocated independent voting as the best means of securing good government was invited by the Alexander campaign managers to take a hand in the fight and prevent if possible the lining up of the colored voters with the machine backed by the whiskey element of the City. After a consultation with a number of prominent gentlemen among whom were Atty. G. W. Wickliffe, G. Walter Snell, and S. Oliver, we called the attention of the colored voters to the fact that their vote at the primaries indicated that they favored an open town, and that as the political lines were then drawn, they could not afford to take such a position. And that as all the slum precincts showed a plurality for Smith, the Negro voters must make a different showing at the election. With that argument put in the hands of every colored voter, the election which followed changed a plurality for Smith, to 2 to 1 in favor of Alexander in 232. The Alexander vote in every Negro precinct was similarly increased showing beyond a doubt that he had received the Negro vote.

Saves the Day for Woman's Suffrage.

In the campaign for Woman's suffrage in 1911 *The Liberator* was the only Negro paper in the State that came out for that amendment. And every Negro organization that took any hand in the campaign save one, fought woman's suffrage. The one exception was The Lyceum, which indorsed the movement, the editor of this journal being one of its members. The Woman's Suffrage campaign

managers did nothing towards securing the colored vote but left them in the hands of the antis, who made desperate appeals to the prejudice of the colored voters from start to finish of the campaign. It was only during the last two weeks of the campaign at our urgent request, that the ladies in charge of the campaign agreed to assist the editor of this journal, in making a final appeal to the colored voters, to go on record for equal suffrage for every citizen. The ladies announced that the appeals made by *The Liberator* for woman's suffrage were among the most powerful made during the campaign. These appeals were made through 6000 copies of this journal and sent freely to the home of every colored person in the city and to the centers of the colored population throughout the State.

Precinct 232 which contains not a single white voter went 3 to 1 for woman's suffrage, this too, in the face of the fact that the leaders there were opposed to the measure. When this is contrasted with a white precinct which contains not a single Negro voter and which went 5 to 1 against woman's suffrage, shows that appeals to the intelligence of the Negro voter is never in vain.

Precinct 232 is no exception to the rule among the colored precincts, it is merely used from the fact of its segregation. The colored voters throughout the city being equally intelligent and equally susceptible.

BE READY

In another column the attention of the readers and friends of this journal has been called to its financial needs. Therefore be prepared for a call from our agent at any time.

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