

Literary Column



SUNSET'S REWARD

Far from the wild and garish town,
Where naught but noise and rush we meet.
To watch the flaming sun go down
Rewards the soul with something sweet;
Our minds with joyous thoughts are thrilled,
Our souls are wrapped in sweet content,
For every moment there is filled
With happiness serenely spent.

There's something in the setting sun
That asks a question pert and trite.
It seems to say, "What have you done
To help make some wrong matter right?"
It's good when we can truly say,
With conscience clear and joyous pride,
That we have done no ill today
To those we've worked or walked beside.

—GEORGE H. MACON

A Negro 'Renaissance'

(Continued from page 1)

Gwendolyn Brooks and Owen Dodson in poetry.

Ellabelle Davis, Camilla Williams, Carol Brice, Philippa Schuyler, Josh White and Jean Dixon in music.

Pearl Primus in the dance.
Romare Bearden in art.

Bucklin Moon, Doubleday editor and author of the forthcoming "The High Cost of Prejudice," and Arthur B. Spingarn, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, both point out that this is not the first Negro renaissance. Two earlier ones came after freedom from slavery, and after World War I.

The first American Negro novelist able to earn a living out of fiction was William Wells Brown, who published a book just 99 years ago.

In the last century there were such noted singers as Elizabeth T. Greenfield and Blindtom. Later came Poet Paul Lawrence Dunbar and Novelist Charles W. Chestnutt.

The second renaissance, in the 1920's is remembered best, perhaps, for "The Fire in the Flint," by Walter White, NAACP executive.

The Negroes have various explanations of the renaissance. The war, more money, a new freedom within American communities and increased receptivity by the whites. Here is what they say:

Miss Davis: "One reason why the Negro artist has produced more and better work is that in recent years he has had more money. More Negroes attend more concerts by Negroes, read more books by Negroes, and that's an important kind of encouragement."

Mr. Dixon: "The creative urge was always there, but it was hampered by a lack of education, and the lassitude due to poor food and living."

Miss Peiry: "If this last ruinous war is the factor that has stimulated creative activity among Negroes, then shouldn't it have affected other minority groups (Nisei, Indians) in the same way? I don't know whether we ever succeed in explaining the creative urge in a people—or the lack of it—right now I can only say that I honestly don't know for I keep poking holes in every ready-made answer that comes to hand."

Omaha World-Herald

Heads Los Angeles Council



Mrs. Frederick D. Jordon, recently named president of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Council of the National Council of Negro Women, prominent in civic and religious affairs on the West coast

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