

The melodrama of life in a city...



...One generation 'up from Montgomery,' sees few signs of rights 'movement'

By Hrold 4X
(M.S. Atlanta Bureau)

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—On Dec. 1, 1955, a mild-mannered Black seamstress, Mrs. Rosa Parks, tired from a long day's work, was arrested when she made the momentous decision not to give up her seat on a city bus to

a white man here in Montgomery, Alabama.

AN EFFORT to find historical remnants and memoria dedicated to the birth place of the civil rights movement was short-lived when it became obvious that the only thing left in Montgomery is a slight taste of "bitterness."

Some of the bitterness stems from the fact that all the big name leaders are gone. It is felt by many that they came; took charge of a movement created by the people; gained national fame, and left with the dimming of the news camera lights.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had moved to Atlanta at the time of his death in Memphis. Rosa Parks is now in Detroit. The Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, the Rev. Bernard Lee, and the Rev. Fred Taylor are in Atlanta. The Rev. Shuttlesworth is in Cincinnati, Ohio.

CORE, SCLC, the NAACP, SNCC and other

organizations that participated in the famous 1960 Freedom Bus Rides and the 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery March, are all gone.

THE MONTGOMERY Improvement Association (MIA) exists in name only. This organization which led the 382-day bus boycott gathers mostly on its anniversary so that old friends may renew memories.

MIA does have a memorial each year on the anniversary of Dr. King's birthday. Last year was the first year of any notable success, when Rev. Abernathy spoke to some 800 persons.

A year ago a group of Blacks decided to go before the City Commission to ask that South Jackson Street, on which Dr. King had lived, be renamed after him because there is not one single institution in Montgomery that bears

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...New generation of radio 'soap opera' listeners seen

By Michael L. Culbert

CHICAGO—Will kindly old Dan Taylor undergo questionable surgery and regain the use of his faulty eyesight? And will his policeman son, Calvin, solve the inner conflict of a Black policeman in a large metropolitan city? And what of Calvin's wife, Winona? Will she be able to stave off the

turmoils of middle-age, the growing indifference of a preoccupied husband and the unwholesome relationship which she develops with young doctor Lewis?

And what about these questions? Do they sound trivial to you? Well, the won't for very long if the Quaker Oats Corporation and the Black-owned UniWorld Group advertising agency have their way. Because if they're

successful, the problems listed above will daily haunt the minds of Black housewives everywhere as they anxiously await each succeeding chapter of (organ music) "Sounds of the City".

Hogwash, you say? Well, read on.

"Sounds of the city," according to its creators, is slated to revive the "Golden Age of Radio" and glue Black housewives to their kitchens

sinks as they ponder the day-to-day misfortunes of the hapless, but Black Taylor family, who experience "the problems, and joys that are typical of Black urban life today."

According to UniWorld founder and president Byron E. Lewis, the program, which is expected to be simulataneously broadcast on 25 Black radio broadcasting stations across the country, will represent "the greatest reach and coverage of Black families (by) any Black-oriented media vehicle to this day." More importantly, Lewis states, it represents the first dramatic radio series on any radio station, Black or white.

In essence, one Black observer noted, it could do the same thing for radio that

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PRINCIPALS IN the announced soap opera to be broadcast to Black audiences on radio, Shaunielle Perry, radio script author; Raymond League, UniWorld Group president and program producer, and John H. Johnson, owner of Chicago radio station WJPC which will air the series. (M.S. Photos by Emerson Muhammad)