

The following include six images in a series of rather curious cartoons / caricatures in the 1927 issues of The Messenger, earlier a prominent American black communist periodical and by 1927 mostly a literary and arts journal, tho with some pro union / pro labor sentiments.

This series titled "African American Snapshots", and was drawn by Wilburt Holloway.

I also include a seventh image, from the February 1928 issue of The Messenger, titled "Nauseating Nordics", drawn by George W. W. Little, for it seems done artistically, stylistically, and with a similar wicked, dark sense of humor.

Perhaps these appear more odd to me, a 71 year old white man viewing the material almost a century after it was printed, than they did to the primarily black readership of The Messenger back in 1927 and 1928.

These cartoons lampoon not only white racism, but also the complacency and snobbery of the black bourgeoisie of the time.

Technical note:

All but the Nauseating Nordics page are scanned at 1200 dpi resolution, single bit BW (bi-tonal) mode. For various reasons I elected to scan the Nauseating Nordics cartoon using 600 dpi 8 bit gray scale mode. Thus it looks slightly less bright and high contrast than the other images.

---marty

November 2021 San Pablo, CA

American Snapshots



Upper Left: The Amalgamated Negro Undertakers Association receives news of the decline in the Negro death rate. Center: Negro sheiks afford horseflies a new source of amusement and exercise. Lower Right: The assembled citizens of Flipflap, Miss., alarmed by reports of the prevalence of social diseases among darker brethren, pass a resolution not to eat the body of a Negro who has just been broiled. Upper Right: Negro politicians meet in secret conclave and discuss ways and means of evading new law against selling offices. Lower Left: Photograph of Mr. Moe Ronn emerging in triumph from the meeting hall of the Knights and Daughters of For-Crying-Out-Loud where he has won a point of order on the dotting of an "i" after a strenuous debate of four hours' duration.



AFRAMEERICAN SNAPSHOTS

BY WILBERT HOLLOWAY

Upper Left: Mr. and Mrs. Johnson endeavor to spend a quiet Saturday evening at home in spite of the radios, phonographs, player-pianos and the youthful exponents of the Charleston and Black Bottom.

Upper Right: Mr. Henry Cole returns home after a two-year trip abroad and has difficulty in recognizing his wife and daughter who have undergone the celebrated whitewashing process.

Center: Snapshot of Brother Elias Whamm, prominent Sunday School Superintendent from the hinterland, three hours after delivering a stirring lecture on Salvaging Modern Youth at a church conference in New York City.

Lower Left: Rev. Imus Yelp, noted itinerant evangelist, inadvertently breaks the A.A.U. High Jump record during the heat of his sermon.

Lower Right: Portrait of Dr. N. Fernal Bore, PDQ, SOS, SOL, prominent social worker who has just completed the collection of data on The Sizes of Left Feet Among Negro Domestics in 257 Urban Centers, triumphantly indicating the fruits of his indefatigable research to the Hon. I. Shakem Down, prominent white philanthropist, whose hobby is subsidizing social work. Dr. Bore, it is said, is also President of the Kom Bea Moron fraternity.

AFRAMEERICAN SNAPSHOTS

Drawn By WILBERT HOLLOWAY



Upper Left: Harlem bootleggers present loving cup to Hon. Fred R. Moore, editor of the *New York Age*, for free advertisement given their establishments in his campaign to make Harlem dry.

Upper Right: Emperor Marcus Garvey, erstwhile lord of the African continent, reduces his waistline by vigorous exercises.

Lower Left: Scene at fashionable Harlem ball when it is an-

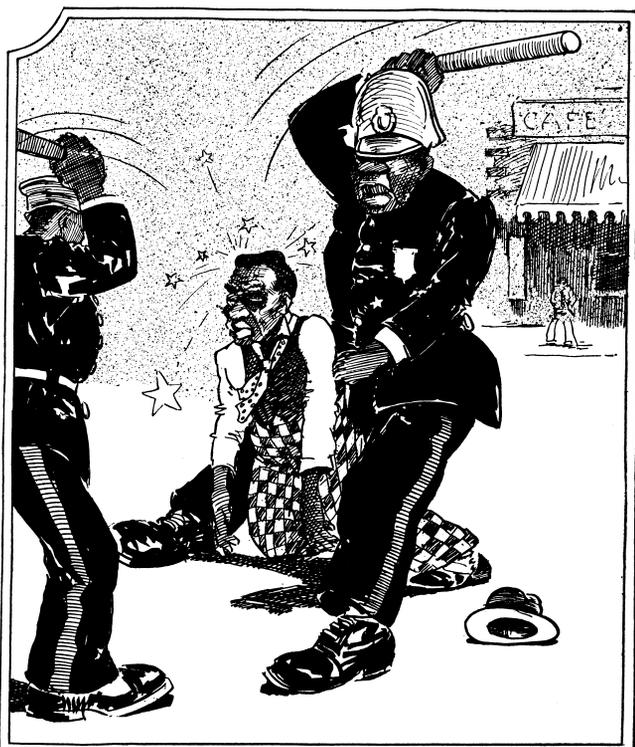
nounced that detectives have arrived in search of "hot" (stolen) finery.

Center: Senator Lynch of Mississippi, whiles away an hour or so with his children after a strenuous fight in the legislature for the passage of his racial integrity bill.

Lower Right: Full Dinner Pail Lodge No. 1, recruited from the cast of *Lulu Belle*, worships statue of David Belasco as God of Plenty.

AFRAMEERICAN SNAPSHOTS

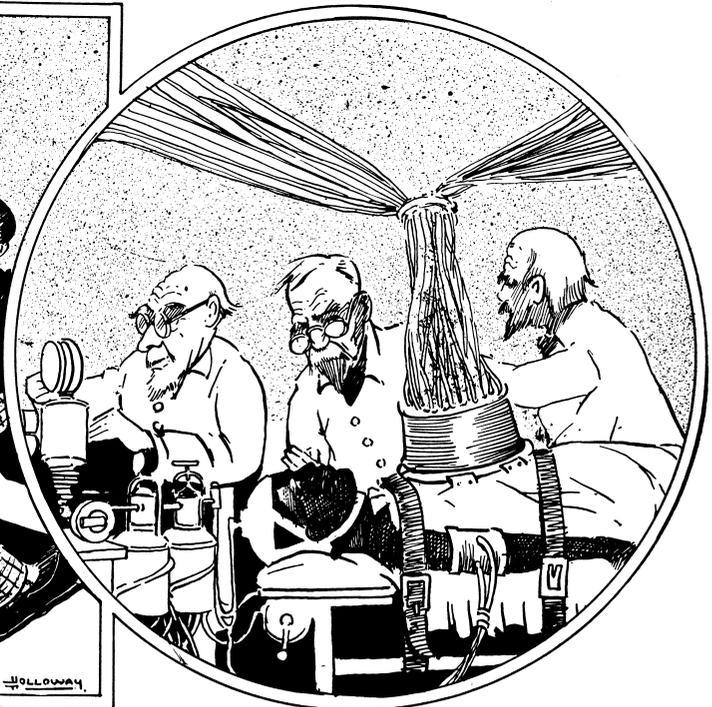
Drawn By WILBERT HOLLOWAY



Upper Left: Prominent business men of Negro Ghetto meet in conference. Left to Right: Isadore Clappowitz, pawnbroker; Giovanni Cuckoldi, bootlegger; Jerry Poppawhoziss, restaurateur; Joseph Shurttale, grocer; Hugo Bachhaus, butcher; Mose Moronowitz, clothier. Upper Right: Select group of blue-vein "Negro" ladies in Washington, D. C., are thrown into panic by the arrival at their afternoon tea of a real Negro woman. Lower Left: College graduates discover new brain-twister in attempting to decipher the Latin on their diplomas. Lower Right: Aframerican, who has always doubted ability of Negroes to measure up to whites in the various fields of endeavor, is convinced, by a brace of black "bulls."

AFRAMEERICAN SNAPSHOTS

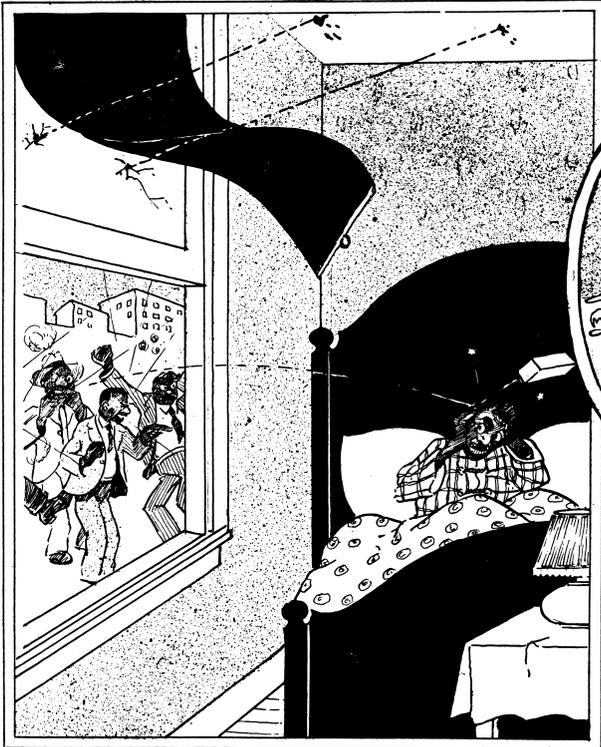
Drawn by WILBERT HOLLOWAY



1. Members of the Inter-State Tattler Staff at wit's end trying to find new descriptive title with which to incorporate magazine and thus dodge sheriff. 2. Rev. Holloran Yelp, prominent Harlem divine, gives out hymn numbers, and number-playing congregation immediately takes note. 3. Doleful scene in office of professional Negro protestants upon receiving news of new lynching. 4. Group of distinguished white scientists making elaborate laboratory tests in effort to prove that unadulterated Negro youth who won scholarship over 10,000 white students is not really a Negro.

AFRAMEERICAN SNAPSHOTS

Drawn by WILBERT HOLLOWAY



The Northern Negro agitator who has vociferously urged black plantation workers to come North, is roused from his Sunday morning slumber by the celebrating of recent migrants.

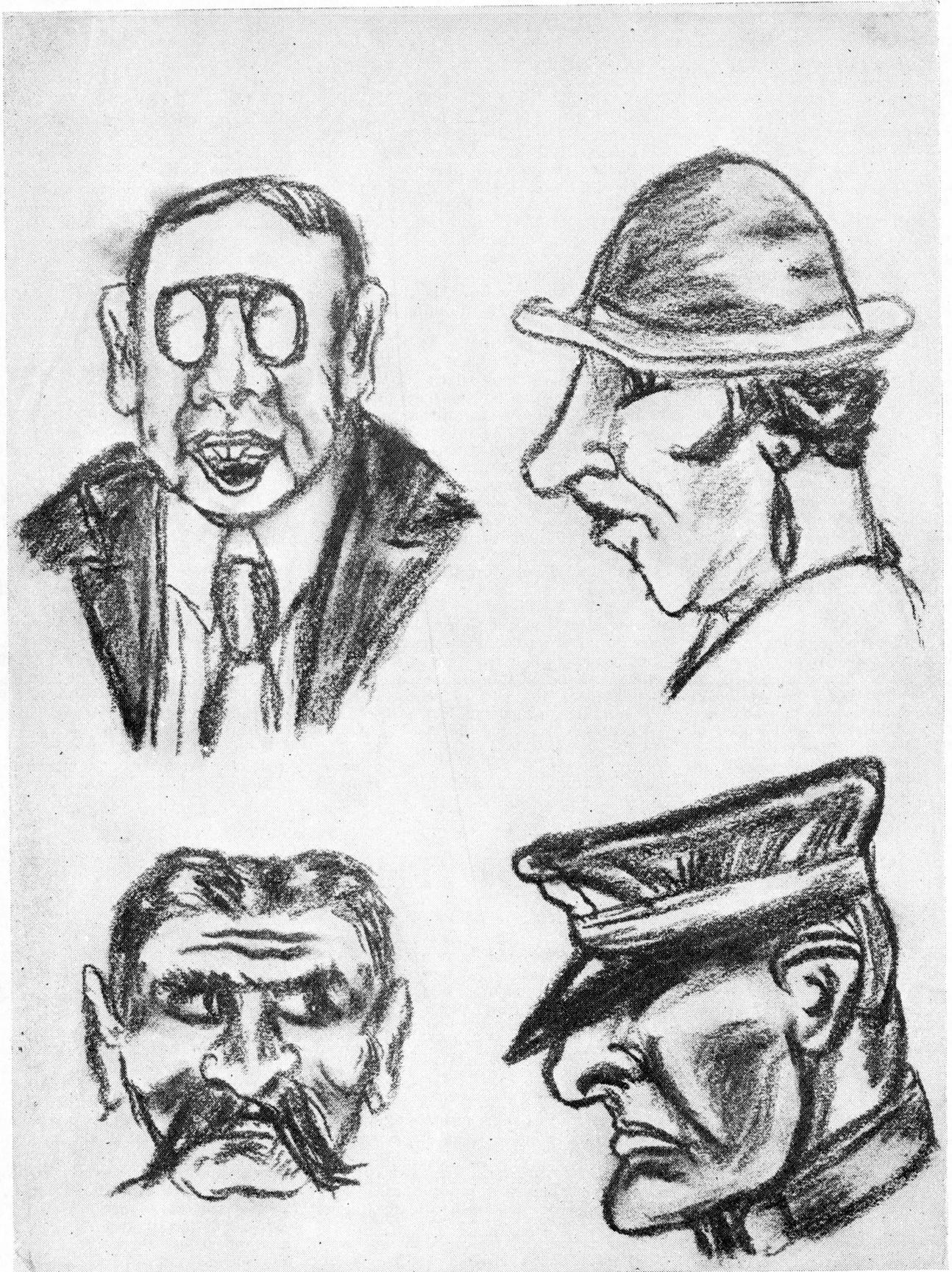
Lucinda Coalbucket, a prominent church worker, earning the last two dollars on her twenty dollar pledge to help make up the four thousand dollars her congregation has promised the pastor for his vacation in Europe.

Two collegians who had assured each other they were going abroad for the summer meet in a Maine Hotel.

Mrs. Suffern Tripe, prominent Darktown matron, emerges from a club meeting where she has delivered an eloquent address on the care of children.

NAUSEATING NORDICS

By GEORGE W. W. LITTLE



Upper Left: The moron who addresses colored audiences with a feeling of self-righteousness, tells them that they are just as good as he is and thinks by saying this that he is passing his audience a compliment. *Upper Right:* The sex-starved female who is always being "attacked by a brutal Negro." *Lower Left:* The dark-hued Sicilian who opens up a restaurant business, enriches himself on Negro trade, and then draws the color line. *Lower Right:* The legally deputized thug who considers every Negro a criminal—likes to handcuff them carefully and then beat them up.