

Official Organ  
of  
Local 713  
UPW-CIO

Non-political



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UNION PAPER  
—  
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Vol. 3 — No. 1

PANAMA, R. P., JULY 25, 1947

5 cents.

# UNION CELEBRATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY

La Boca, C.Z., June 23, 1947  
—On Sunday July 27, 1947 all members of Local 713 UPW-CIO will be celebrating the first anniversary of Local 713. In the evening at 7:30 P.M. a Special Program will be held at the Olympic Stadium for all members, their families and friends. Special speaker for the evening will be Regional Director, Max Brodsky, who will be making his initial appearance to the entire Pacific Side membership. Also on this program will be many local artists who will entertain the large crowd that is expected.

Cristobal, July 23—July 22nd marks the date when Local 713 UPW-CIO came into existence. For this reason it is our duty to GIVE THANKS to God.

Every individual member of the Cristobal and Gatun Chapters and his or her family are required to attend the THANKSGIVING SERVICE to be held at the Colon Arena on Sunday, July 27, 7:30 P.M.

Let us give thanks whilst praying for blessings on our 100% membership drive.

President Enrique A. Jimenez of Panama has helped the UPW-CIO, Local 713, when the Union urgently needed help. Mr. Jimenez has always shown a sympathetic attitude toward the cause of the worker.

Today, this great Friend is ill and confined to a hospital.

We, the officers and members of the entire organization, through this medium, wish to express our regret and sincerely hope the President gets well as soon as possible.

Local 713, UPW-CIO.

## An Acknowledgment

George Washington Westerman needs no introduction to those who will read this. What many people may not know is that since May 30, Mr. Westerman has been in the United States where he is making an intensive study of the social conditions there. He is not a member of Local 713 due to the fact that his position as a non-government worker disqualifies him. Mr. Westerman, however, as everyone knows, has broken many a lance in his crusading against discrimination and its kindred evils in the Canal Zone, for these many years.

Because "Accion" welcomes a friend of labor wherever found,  
(Continued on Page 7)

## CRISTOBAL SCORES SUCCESSFUL MEETING



Max Brodsky, Regional Director shakes the hand of Jack Strobel, International Vice President at the Cristobal Chapter meeting.

The Cristobal Chapter held its monthly meeting at Club Tropical on June 26th last. The hall was packed as hundreds of members attended. The Executive Board of Local 713 was well represented as usual, by President Francisco Arauz, First Vice President Graham A. Lewis, Second Vice President Alphonso Alexis, Bro. Pascual Ampudia, Secretary-Treasurer Edward Gasikin, Local Trustee Christopher Harewood, Brother Edward Green, Sister Catalina Da Costa, Bro. Foster G. Bournes, Brother Serbio T. Rueda, Brother Ashton Parchment, and Bro. Carlyle Clark. The Executive Board of Cristobal Chapter attending were, besides those already mentioned, Bros. Wilmot N. Cameron, Chapter Steward, J. J. Jimenez and J. N. Jones, Assistant Chapter Stewards, N. P. Alexis, Secretary Stewards Council, Adolpho Lowman, Chapter Translator, J. A. Hassocks, Trustee, with Bros. Santiago Agnew, Maurice McLean, I. Walker, Erald Durant, and Arturo McKenzie. Organizers present were Bros. Nicasio Garcia, Roland Dean, Fitz Evering, Atlantic Sector, Clarence Small, Ernest Hay, Pacific Sector, International Vice President J. L. Strobel, new Regional Di-

rector Max Brodsky, and T.M. Nolan also attended. The Panamanian and American flags graced the rostrum, flanking the banner of the UPW-CIO on either side.

At 8:05 P.M., Chairman Lewis called the meeting to order. He briefly informed the audience that important factors were contained in the purpose of the Meeting, viz: The presentation of Recommendations made by International Vice-President Thomas Richardson during his recent visit, the Election to positions on two standing committees according to those recommendations, the introduction of Regional Director Max Brodsky, a farewell address by Vice President Strobel, and the submission of an important Resolution.

The Secretary Bro. G. M. Ogle was then called upon to read Bro. Richardson's Recommendations. These were, briefly:

That due to the large membership of Local 713 it was difficult for the rank and file to be contacted by the Executives as required by the policy of the UPW-CIO. The rank and file of the Union are the final determining Policy-makers. Suggestions to this end were intended to make this

idea workable in reasonable time, so that the full benefits of the heavy membership could be felt for the general progress of the Union.

That an Educational Department be established without delay, so that officers and general membership can be schooled in trade unionism and made to understand clearly what their attitude should be as Union members. He recommended that the Local engage the services of an experienced individual in the States temporarily to help train our local members.

That there was great need for a Publicity Committee. This committee would work in conjunction with the Education and Recreation Committee and so ensure that the entire membership would benefit by the Education Program. The members of these Committees should be chosen from each Chapter of the Local.

Next on the agenda was the election by ballot of representatives for Cristobal Chapter on these Committees, after Brother Foster Bournes, Vice Chairman of the Education and Recreation Committee had briefly outlined their duties.

Education and Recreation  
(Continued on page 6)



GRAHAM LEWIS  
Vice-President  
Local No. 713

The month of July is certainly one of Thanksgiving for all workers of the Panama Canal and especially for the members of Local 713, United Public Workers of America, CIO, who, by their very toil, have been more than successful in creating for themselves an instrument of justice in their own behalf. It was in this month, a year ago, that a small band of men, with hope in their hearts and faith in their ability to obtain results through hard and diligent work, began the task of organizing the Canal Zone underprivileged "silver" worker and building up friendly relations with workers in the Republic of Panama. ... Today we give thanks to the Almighty for the fruits we have gathered in such abundance that we have been able to share them with "unbelievers" as well.

## MARCANTONIO DEFENDS CIVIL SERVICE BILL

A provision in the Panama Canal Zone appropriation Bill (HR 4002) prohibiting civil service status to alien employees was defeated in the House of Representatives on July 2nd when a point of order was raised by Congressman Marcantonio.

The wording of this provision, "that no alien employed on the Canal Zone may secure United States civil service status" would, if passed, have negated the examinations taken by Panamanian citizens, and would have prohibited any such examinations in the future.

The UPW-CIO legislative bureau in Washington was well aware of the intentions of this proviso and was on the alert to secure its defeat as soon as the Bill was reported out of Committee. It was only thru the efforts of the UPW-CIO and some Congressmen who were interested in removing the provision that it was possible to have it stricken from

(Continued on Page 8)



## ACCION

Published once a month by Local 713,  
United Public Workers, C.I.O.

EUSTACE O. WILLIAMS ..... Editor

## PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

B. M. OGLE ..... Chairman  
CARLYLE D. CLARKE ..... Vice Chairman  
NATHAN A. REID ..... Secretary

## REPRESENTATIVES

A. MORRISON ..... Gamboa  
F. P. CROSSDALE ..... Red Tank  
H. E. DREW ..... Paraiso  
MAURICE McLEAN ..... Cristobal  
S. GITTENS ..... Gatun

EDITORIA PANAMA AMERICA, JULIO DE 1947

## THE STRENGTH THAT IS OURS

— A. M. PARCHMENT —

It took us forty years to found a powerful trade union but it would be a tragedy of a forty-year cycle if we await the passing of another lengthy period before we become fully conscious of the strength that is ours.

The tap root of Local 713 is imbedded deeply in a membership of 15,000 workers of the Canal Zone. Supporting our vigorous tap root are many active laterals that burrow into the fertile soil of approval by the Panamanian government, spirited backing by the International Union, and aroused interest of numerous democratic organizations throughout the world.

Our membership of 15,000 workers anchors our Local so that we can weather the storms and upheavals to which we have become heirs because of our determined fight to enjoy the good things of life. A strong membership buoys up the courage of the timid, commands the respect of our enemies, wins to our cause a host of defenders, and infuses new spirit in the rank and file. However, not until we can truthfully boast of a one hundred per cent membership will we be able to direct an irresistible force on the obtaining of our objectives.

When we fearfully made our debut on July 4, 1946, at the National Gymnasium, President Jimenez gave our infant organization a shot in the arm by attending our mass meeting in the company of his entire cabinet. This gesture on the part of the Chief Executive of Panama had an electrifying effect on our membership drive, for within a couple of weeks our enrollment soared from 4,000 to 12,000. We still enjoy the goodwill and support of the Panamanian government — a source of strength that should be protected by Local 713.

Today we are no longer babes in the woods wandering aimlessly without protection. The halls of the Congress of the United States are echoing with the stirring pleas of our International representatives who are waging an all-out campaign in our behalf. We are represented at committee hearings in Washington and the vile, chauvinistic charges of our enemies are now promptly refuted. Our representation in Congress is of the highest and most effective standard but on us rests the responsibility of supplying the fuel for the powerful machinery of representation in the Capital. That fuel is the adequate dues remittances which will condition the effectiveness of the fight. A strong membership promotes effective representation.

Two years ago the plight of the "silver" workers of the Canal Zone did not create a ripple in the United States. The average American citizen was concerned only with the fact that the Panama Canal was functioning for the benefit of world commerce. Today the average American citizen is asking questions concerning the army of "silver" workers who built the waterway and are now assisting in the efficient maintenance of this vital American investment. The queries of the average American have impelled "Time" magazine to comment on the deplorable conditions here. In brief, the lamentations of 40 years have reached the ears of millions of Americans and have been magnified into a thunderous rumble that has awakened the conscience of a nation founded on the principle of fair treatment to all.

We are moving — but our pace is governed by our membership. Maximum enrollment insures a fast approach to our goals. Let our slogan be: "Organize the un-organized!"

## PRESIDENT FLAXER SENDS GREETINGS

Editor of Accion, Local 713,  
United Public Workers, Draw-  
er R. Balboa:

It gives me great pleasure to extend to you my warmest greetings and sincere congratulations on the occasion of the first anniversary of the publication of the newspaper, Accion. Accion has taken its place in the growing company of labor newspapers today. More than ever before, labor's own newspapers are needed to present unbiased, accurate and true information about people who work for a living, which

cannot be found in the commercial press. The labor press also has a tremendous responsibility in these critical times to help educate the members, and to keep them united in a program of action for the improvement of their conditions. Local 713's newspaper, Accion, has an especially important task. I am confident that it will continue to play a vital role in helping to organize a more powerful union and an informed and enlightened membership. With best wishes.  
Abram Flaxer, President

"GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS  
SINCERELY INTERESTED"—StrobelBrodsky Meets  
Navy Employees

On Tuesday July 1st the employees of the United States Navy held their monthly Job-Location Meeting at the International Hall, Colon. Those attending numbered about 150 in spite of the inclemency of the weather. Brother G. M. Ogle, Secretary of the Cristobal Chapter introduced the new Regional Director Brother Max Brodsky, after which a Chairman and Secretary were elected.

Brother Brodsky made an interesting address on being presented. He spoke forcefully of the membership drive now being started, advising members employed by the Navy to be active in it, as their problems, though different to those of the general membership, still needed representation along organized methods. He spoke about a Grievance taken to the third stage on the established Naval Grievance Procedure at Coco Solo only the day before, and every consideration was accorded Union representatives, also the aggrieved party. He ended his discourse with the statement that only by pushing the Union's drive for 100% membership and succeeding in the effort, will full returns be obtained on their demands. A complaint of general interest to all employees of the Naval Station was submitted. This referred to the hardship experienced during the rainy season by those who were forced to make use of busses to get to and from work. The It was decided to make the necessary representations to the Naval authorities. Brother Cecil R. Joseph was elected Chairman and Bro. Goldbourne Lewis, Secretary. Under communications a letter was read from the Naval Authorities in reply to International Vice President Strobel's correspondence dealing with the 5% deduction from the pay of employees of the Navy towards retirement pay. The reply outlined the method employed for the refund of such deductions after Reduction in Force. Other correspondence bore reference to regulations of interest to employees of the Navy, and circulars of the same nature were also submitted.

Reference was made to the practice of posting flysheets on Government buildings. Brother Ogle said that employees of the Navy were warned specifically against such infraction of the regulations on penalty of dismissal.

After the regular business of the meeting was concluded Pictures were shown and all present rated the proceedings as highly successful.

Local 713 UPW-CIO is launching a determined membership drive for a one hundred per cent union.

Support the drive workers! Convince everybody that you mean business

Our slogan is "100% MEMBERSHIP BY NEXT CONVENTION!"

COLON, July 13—In a stirring speech broadcast from Radio Atlantico in the city of Colon, Jacob L. Strobel, International Vice-President of United Public Workers, CIO said farewell to the thousands of "silver" workers on the Canal Zone who have grown to admire him so much. Jack, as he is commonly called by his co-workers, has spent nine short months working with the Local 713 and despite the mountainous difficulties he encountered, has fully convinced the general membership of his fine leadership and outstanding ability as a negotiator.

Following is the text of the farewell speech:

"I want to take this opportunity of saying good-bye to the members of Local 713 of the United Public Workers of America, CIO. I have spent nine months living here and working throughout the Isthmus and the Canal Zone on behalf of Local 713, the CIO Union of the long-suffering "Silver" workers. Although it goes without saying that my family and I are a little homesick and will be glad to get back to our family and friends in the States, nevertheless I want to say very sincerely that it has not only been a great pleasure to work here, but more than that I believe it has been perhaps the most profound experience of my life in the labor movement.

As an American, I have felt very deeply that the American people owe a real debt to the "Silver" workers whose skill and brawn and loyalty have made possible this great Panama Canal which is one of the wonders of the world and which has been of enormous economic and military benefit to my country. I have also felt very deeply that the American people have not adequately paid this great debt which they owe to the "Silver" workers, and it has been a source of great personal satisfaction to me that my Union has been able to make some slight improvement in the working conditions and social conditions of my Union brothers and sisters among the "Silver" workers.

When I return to Washington, D.C., next Thursday, I will be leaving the "Silver" workers but I will not forget them, and I pledge to do everything in my power to continue in the States the work that I have begun here in the fight to bring a better life to the "Silver" workers.

Our Union's first year's experience has demonstrated beyond any doubt the great value of the CIO in improving the wages and working conditions of its members. Only a beginning has been made and we have actually only scratched the surface, but I am convinced that the future will bring additional gains to the "Silver" workers as has happened during the past year, provided the Union here is maintained as a powerful and fighting organization. This will not only benefit the "Silver" workers themselves but will help all of the people of the Republic of Panama as well

indirectly. The best advice that I can give to both the "Silver" workers and the people of the Republic in general is — don't let go of your Union. Keep it strong and keep up the good fight for economic, social and racial equality.

I wish to express my appreciation to President Jimenez, to Governor Navas, and to all of the many officials and employees of the government of the Republic of Panama for all the good that they have done for us as a Union organization, and for the friendship and courtesy which they have shown me in my personal dealings with them. I know that the six million members of the CIO back home in the States will be glad to know that they have such good friends in the government of this Republic.

I decide further to pay my respects to Governor Mehaffey, Governor of the Panama Canal, to Colonel Wang, Assistant to the Governor, to Admiral Shafroth and Chief of Staff Spencer of the Navy, and to General Porter, Deputy Commander of the U.S. Army. These officials as well as many supervisors, department heads, and other subordinate officials have given us a great deal of their time, have listened with sympathy to our complaints and have taken action to improve working conditions and wages whenever we were able to present a logical and provable argument. This has been particularly true in the field of working conditions, considerably less so in the field of wages. However, we believe that the various Government officials in the Canal Zone are sincerely interested in doing something within the limits of their authority on the wage problem.

I have made many deep and lasting friendships here among the officers, Executive Board members, stewards, and rank and file members of our Union. We have not only worked together, we have also had good times together and have formed warm and lasting friendships which I know will endure for a long time. I am looking forward to the day next year when local 713 will send its own delegates from Panama and the Canal Zone to the United States to attend the International Convention of our Union in order to renew once again some of the friendships I have made here, and in my turn to play host to people who were good hosts to me here in Panama.

To all of you, I say, Good-bye, good luck, and God bless you.

You can't afford

To stay out —

Join Today!



## TODAY'S TRENDS

In a recent comprehensive study of the commissary price index it was determined that between the years 1940 and 1947 the: "Total prices of the food items have gone up 77.9% Total prices of the dry goods items have gone up 42.8% Total prices of all items have gone up 64.3%" and that during the same period (1940-1947) average monthly wages have been increased only 31% — a difference of 33.3% between the rise of commodity prices and the rise in wages. Rent excluded. It is any wonder "silver" employees have that hungry look?

From present indications it seems that Congress expects Governor Mehafeff to run The Panama Canal on a shoe string and a prayer. History is being repeated. The sacrifices of the little people and the promises of a better world are being forgotten. What price Victory?

Rumor hath it that immediately after the Hartley-Talft Bill became law certain individuals began the intimidation of "silver" employees under their supervision. This, unfortunately, is a repercussion, though not a provision of the Bill.

Is this, or is it not a statutory offense?

Congressional budget slashing has already started a depression in this area. Every time Congress says "No" to an appropriation a few hundred more "silver" families become eligible for starvation row. "Reduction of Force" figures are piling up so rapidly that

it is now a matter of conjecture as to when the breadlines and soupkitchens will become a must. Your answer is to join the Union NOW. This Union is your only hope for a better understanding of your problems; your only hope for a better tomorrow.

Your slogan is: ONE HUNDRED PERCENT ORGANIZATION BY CONVENTION!!

Governor Mehafeff has given you a clean bill of health-politically. He has expressed fully his confidence in your unswerving loyalty to the democratic way of life. This might, to some extent, mitigate the added cross of a spirited witch hunt throughout the membership of Local 713. Remember this, however:

"If your lips would keep from slips  
Five things observe with care.  
Of whom you speak; to whom you speak  
And how and when and where."

Today the "silver" employee's cup-of-woe-runneeth over. Yea, he is caught in a vise the jaws of which represent low wages on the one hand and high prices on the other. Lo and behold the soaring flight of prices while wages remain earthbound.

And the promised wage increase hangs tantalizing, like a mirage before his burning eyes. Surely, his cup runneeth over as he walks through the valley of despair. What can he do? ORGANIZE! Give his Union "ONE HUNDRED PERCENT ORGANIZATION BY CONVENTION."

## A PLACE IN THE SUN

F. CROSSDALE

Look well into the present for there is where the future is being molded. Crystal gazing may be of some comfort to the lazy individual who spends most of his life in wishful thinking, but it is pure unadulterated "bunkum" to the man who really or fully realizes that the future of his children and grandchildren is going to be just about what he himself makes it. The thinking individual knows what it takes to succeed. He chooses a goal, makes a plan and works it to the finish. That's what we have started a year ago to do. To assure the success of our Local 713 of UPW-CIO, your important moves are to help organize the unorganized, pay your dues regularly, attend your chapter meetings and other special meetings, help in the membership drive, help to stay organized 100% in order to maye for yourself "A place in the sun." Only a few moments a day of reflection and recollection of 40 years of "Jim-crowism" and viciousness are required to give you a most fascinating and stimulating effect on your attitude. Most of us wasted valuable time by not joining the Local or by not paying dues steadily as we should.

Realizing time's relationship to success, one year's activities and accomplishments could have been much easier, only if all the "Uncle Toms"

and "Scabbers" would recognize that their position is ut-mostly detrimental to both management and labor, which continuously causes so much hurt and very little gain.

We cannot succeed unless we organize. Our needs, such as wage increases (40 cents minimum), better retirement facilities, equality of opportunity etc., can only be acquired if we are well organized.

Time is too valuable to waste in staying divided. The recognition of the use of time is a vitally important factor for our Union, which is very, very young indeed. All anticipations and expectations of all our desires with 100% support and sacrifice to make our struggle less hard each year until that time comes.

We are not wasting time because we've just started. Let's not lose our heads now, by staying up-organized, because we would surely lose our only chance for better education, better living condition, better opportunities and our inalienable rights.

Do not forget that you must evaluate the time you are willing to spend on self-improvement and to destroy all the barriers we would encounter in our struggle for total liberation.

Use all your patience, efforts, determination and time, and fight for a healthy stimulant to your ambitions.

Confuscious say

Rich man join N A M (National Association of Manufacturers)  
Poor man join church  
Wise man join Union

Fool man join nothin'  
Boss man say "Fire"  
Wise man go Union  
Fool man go home  
Union man talk  
Boss man say "mistake"

"Re-instate" Allee samee  
Wise man go back job  
Fool man stay "Fire"  
Confuscious say:  
All Union man go Heaven  
Allee samee C I O.

## PUBLICITY COMMITTEE HOLDS INAUGURAL MEETING

This Committee held its inaugural Meeting at the Office of the UPW-CIO Cristobal on Thursday evening July 3rd, 1947.

Present: Bros. G. M. Ogle, Chairman, J. N. Jones, Asst. Chapter Stewart, Adolpho Lowman, Chapter Translator, Harold Clark, Santiago Agnew, and Sister Catalina DaCosta, Cristobal Representative, Executive Board, Local 713. Also in attendance in compliance with Circular issued was Sister Layne, who found it impossible to stay for the Meeting which was called to order long after scheduled time, also Bro. Wm. Arthur.

The following motions were adopted after due deliberation. The Overall plan of opera-

tions for the Committee. (10 points forming separate document).

Formation of the various Sub-Committees to work with the Standing Publicity Committee of the Atlantic District. These were broken down into 7 groups as follows:

Group 1. "Accion" News Gathering Committee. — Bro. Maurice McLean, Chairman.

Group 2. "Accion" Censorship Committee. — Bro. Harold Clarke.

Group 3. Technical Advisory Committee on Propaganda and its Mechanics. — Bro. W. N. Arthur Chairman. Sound Equipment Section. Bro: Chas. Gordon, Chairman, Motion Picture Section.

Group 4. Broadcasting and Announcing Committee. — Bro. Adolpho Lowman, Chairman.

Group 5. Membership Drive Committee. — Bro. Santiago Agnew, Chairman.

Group 6. Women's Auxiliary Committee; — Sister Catalina DaCosta, Chairman.

Group 7. Lady Health Visitors and Interior Decorating Committee. — Sister Layne, Chairman.

CO-ORDINATOR:

Nicasio Gar  
(Organizer).

OVERALL OBJECTIVES—

1. To publish "Accion" and to furnish news for same, also preparing it for the Press.

2. To distribute "Accion" on the Atlantic side.

3. To prepare propaganda about the Union and to see that it reached all members and "Silver" Employees in general.

4. To push the Membership Drive to the fullest extent. Spanish speaking members needed.

5. To plan advertising of Meetings and decorating of Meeting Halls.

6. To co-operate with the Education and Recreation Committee and assist it to spread its doctrine to the people.

7. To keep in touch with sick members and to give them the word, in Hospitals and Homes.

8. To use the Schools and Churches in reaching the people. (Salvation Army)

9. To be prepared to campaign for the Union by making use of Placards, posters, banners, flags, radio broadcasts, sound system, motion picture, etc.

10. To draft our female members to help the cause by giving them more responsible positions.

### PUBLICITY COMMITTEE PERSONNEL

Bro. G. M. Ogle, Chairman  
Bro. Carlyle D. Clark, Vice Chairman

Bro. Nathan A. Reid, Secretary

Bro. A. Morrison, epresentative, Gamboa Chapter

Bro. F. P. Crosdale, Representative, Red Tank Chapter

Bro. H. E. Drew, Representative, Paraiso Chapter

Bro. Maurice McLean, Representative, Cristobal Chapter

Bro. Eustace O. Williams, Editor, "Accion".

Bro. Gittens, eRpresentative, Gatun Chapter

### PERSONNEL, PUBLICITY SUB-COMMITTEE, ATLANTIC SECTOR

Bro. G. M. Ogle, Chairman  
Bro. Adolpho Lowman

Bro. J. N. Jones

Bro. Maurice McLean

Bro. Harold Clarke

Bro. Santiago Agnew

Bro. W. N. Arthur

Bro. Charles Gordon

Bro. Gittens

Sister Catalina DaCosta

Sister Layne.

## On The Education of Stewards

By Herman R. Moore

Chairman, Sub-Committee on Stewards' Education

A year ago, we understood the task of forming our local union — Local 713, UPW-CIO. we can look back with pride at our accomplishments — accomplishments which, let no one be fooled, would not have materialized without the establishment of Local 713. Although it is not my intention to dwell on our past achievements, this article would not be complete if you were not reminded of our gains.

Our local gained recognition at the very start; slight wage increases were won; individual and group grievances were settled; a grievance procedure, overtime and holiday compensation, liberalized sick and rest leave, maternity leave for our working women, and many other regulations of major importance to job security were established. All within the period of one year!

But, without your help, dear brothers and sisters, these gains would not have been possible. Yes, it was your determination to live better and more decently that made these gains a reality. And it will be your determination to continue the age-old struggle of workingmen and women that will make our ultimate goal come true — a more abundant life for the silver workers of the Panama Canal Zone.

In this connection, it is well to state here that many workers join labor unions without being aware fully of their importance and the necessity of maintaining a strong union. They are simply members because other workers are, and they see in organization a chance to get better wages. They are not interested in other benefits such as job security, old-age pension, better education, adequate housing, shorter working hours, recrea-

tion, etc. For this reason, therefore, we of the Educational and Recreational Committee, on this our anniversary, take great pride in telling you how we intend to educate the members along the lines of trade-unionism.

Our first and most important task will be the education of our stewards. Stewards, as you know, are the contact men between the members and the union officials. They are the ones that represent the workers at the first two stages of the grievance procedure. They are, technically, organizers. In short, they are the ones with whom rests the responsibility of maintaining the union. If they fail in the performance of their duties, the union fails also. You can see, therefore, the relative importance of having the rank and file union leader adequately trained.

The stewards training program consists of furnishing him with a steward's handbook which is now in preparation and which will be ready for issuance within the next few weeks, the dissemination of educational material regularly, the occasional showing of film strips, the use of posters, and weekly classes.

In this manner we hope to make our organization strong, efficient, and democratic. It is by this method, too, that we intend to educate the members. A trained steward helps considerably with the training of members.

Therefore, let us all put our shoulders to the wheel of success and work hard to make our ambitions come true. Let us be able at our next anniversary to take our place in the hall of labor fame, and be able to say: a job well done!



## PRES. JIMENEZ



EL PRESIDENTE ENRIQUE A. JIMENEZ PRESTO AYUDA AL TPU-CIO LOCAL 713, CUANDO ESTE LA NECESITABA CON URGENCIA. EL SR. JIMENEZ SIEMPRE SE HA MOSTRADO ATENTO E INTERESADO EN LOS PROBLEMAS DEL TRABAJADOR.

HOY ESTE GRAN AMIGO SE ENCUENTRA ENFERMO EN EL HOSPITAL.

NOSOTROS, LOS OFICIALES Y LOS MIEMBROS DE LA ORGANIZACION DESEAMOS EXPRESAR POR MEDIO DE ESTA, NUESTROS VOTOS PARA QUE EL PRESIDENTE NO TARDE EN RECOPRAR ENTERRAMENTE SU SALUD.

Local 713, TPU-CIO.

## MISA DE GRACIAS

La Boca, Z. C., 23 de Junio de 1947 — El domingo 27 de Julio de 1947 todos los miembros de los TPU-CIO estarán celebrando el primer aniversario del Local 713. En la tarde a las 7:30 P.M. un Programa Especial será llevado a cabo en el Estadio Olímpico para todos los miembros, sus familias, y amigos.

El orador especial de la tarde será Max Brodsky, Director Regional, quien hará su presentación inicial a todos los miembros del lado Pacifico. Varios artistas locales deleitarán a los concurrentes.

Cristóbal, 23 de Julio — El 22 de Julio marca la fecha cuando el Local 713 TPU-CIO nació. Por esta razón es nuestro deber DAR LAS GRACIAS a Dios.

Cada miembro individual del Cabildo de Cristóbal y de Gatún junto con su familia deben asistir a la MISA DE GRACIAS que será celebrada

## COSAS DE LA VIDA

Teodoro M. Nolan  
Representante Internacional

la CIO y otros grupos religiosos, políticos y obreros, ha hecho mucho con respecto al establecimiento del a justicia en todos los Estados Unidos. Este apelación debe ser considerada seriamente por las organizaciones e individuos en este país ya que da una oportunidad para asistir en tal lucha mediante cualesquiera contribuciones monetarias que puedan hacer ahora.

En la Zona del Canal hemos sido algo afortunado en que la Ley opera ental manera que impide o suprime cualquier deseo paar linchar a las personas de color. Pero de vez en cuando es evidente que tales deseos salvajes existen en los elemntos blancos aquí .Y vindo más allá encontramos que pensamientos similares existen en las mentes de la gente contra personas de la misma raza pero basados en otros perjuicios.

El Local 713 tiene como su fin principal la eliminación de discriminación en todas las fases de vida en la Zona del Ca-

nal. Pero el Local se da cuenta de que muy poco se puede lograr por el mero establecimiento de reglamentos. Los reglamentos so'n meramente guías que muestran el camino. De más imporancia es el mismo camino, o sea, en este caso, la conducta actual de cada trabajador y capataz en el sitio de trabajo. Así es que el Local, mediante su Comité Educador, difunde su doctrina de relaciones conscientes y cooperación completa e inflexible entre todos los trabajadores del rol de "oro" y de "plata."

Tenemos una invitación para los poderosos de cada lado quienes se burlan de tal idea. A ellos les decimos: venid a los hospitales, los refugios para los locos y los cemenerios para ver el proceso igualador de la Naturaleza reduciendo a los ricos y poderosos a un estado humillante de idiotez que inspira lástima, a un estado de inutilidad física y de muerte final. Una manera de pensar sensata por parte de los poseedores de orgullo insoponible y el complejo de superioridad les convencerán, sin duda, de la futilidad de las prácticas de la discriminación.

## VISTAS DEL DESFILE DEL DIA DEL TRABAJO



Los letreros cuentan la historia de las injusticias sufridas mientras pasa el desfile por las calles de Balboa Heights.

## FELICITACIONES DE ABRAM FLAXER AL LOCAL 713, TPU-CIO

En este gran día de su primer aniversario me es muy grato felicitar cada miembro del Local 713 así como a los oficiales por la magnífica labor que han hecho en la fundación de tan poderosa Unión en tan poco tiempo, la cual les han traído numerosas victorias en Panamá.

Estas victorias deben ser miradas como un pago inicial pa-

ra las mejoras que han de tener en cuanto a un standard de vida mejor, para obtener igualdad de oportunidad y para mejores condiciones de trabajo.

Estos fines más importantes se pueden lograr a punto de trabajo unido y por medio de una Unión fuerte. Para realizar estos objetos les prometo

toda la ayuda y cooperación de la Internacional. Nos sentimos muy orgullosos de su éxito hasta la fecha y estamos seguros de que con sus esfuerzos unidos no tardarán en resolver los problemas graves que confrontan todos los trabajadores de su localidad.

Un saludo sincero de

Abram Flaxer

## FELICITACIONES DE ABRAM FLAXER AL DIRECTOR DE ACCION

Me es sumamente placentero felicitarles muy sinceramente con motivo de su primer aniversario de la publicación de su periódico "ACCION". ACCION ha ocupado su puesto entre el crecido número de periódicos obreros. Se necesitan estos órganos obreros para presentar las noticias de una ma-

nera exacta, libre de prejuicios de las personas que ganan su vida por medio del trabajo. Esto no se puede conseguir siempre de la prensa comercial.

La prensa obrera además tiene una gran responsabilidad en estos tiempos críticos de educar a sus miembros y de

mantenerlos unidos con el fin de mejorar sus condiciones. ACCION tiene una labor especial que cumplir. Estoy seguro de que seguirá organizando hasta realizar una Unión más poderosa con miembros instruidos e inteligentes.

Abram Flaxer

## PLAN DE 100% DE MIEMBROS.

Todos los trabajadores en todas partes del mundo, saben que deben pertenecer a una Unión Obrera.

Si usted está fuera, afíliese

hoy mismo y ayude al plan del C.I.O.

La Unión es una cosa buena. Todo lo bueno merece un sacrificio, así pues afíliese a nuestro plan de 100% de Organización de miembros.

## UN MENSAJE

DEL PRES. ENCARGADO

El mes de Julio es ciertamente un mes de Acción de Gracia para todos los empleados del Canal de Panamá, especialmente para los miembros del Local 713, Trabajadores Públicos Unidos de América, CIO., quienes por sus esfuerzos han obtenido más que un éxito en crear un instrumento de justicia en bien nuestro. Fué en este mes, hace un año, que una pequeña banda de hombres, con esperanzas en sus corazones y fé en sus potencias de cosechar frutos de sus labor, comenzaron a organizar los empleados pisoteados del rol de "plata" de la Zona del Canal, y aumentaron sus relaciones amistosas con los empleados de la República de Panamá.

Hoy día damos gracias Al Todo Poderoso por las frutas que en gran abundancia hemos cosechado y que hemos podido repartir con los incrédulos.

## UN MENSAJE

COMPAÑEROS:

La Unión de Trabajadores de la Zona del Canal afiliada a la C. I. O. de los Estados Unidos de América seguirá en pie firme eternamente para luchar y mejorar las condiciones de vida del obrero en general. Nuestra Unión cumplió seis meses de lucha continua, con el favor de la Divina Providencia ha logrado varias victorias y obtendrá más victorias después que los miembros la mantengan firme.

Todo empleado de la Zona del Canal como el Army, Navy, Panamá Canal y compañías particulares están en el deber de ser miembro para fortalecer el poderío obrero y que sea respetado como seres humanos, y no tratarnos como hombres inferiores.

Ya es tiempo que el individualismo se acabe para siempre. Lucharemos como hermanos sin tener en cuenta que uno es blanco y el otro es negro. Todos luchamos por la misma causa, de otra manera no adelantaremos.

Su dinero que todo miembro paga no está ni estará perdido. Nuestra Unión tendrá representación en el Congreso de los Estados Unidos de América.

Toda organización a comenzado como la nuestra, todo coje su tiempo, nada es posible de hoy a mañana como piensan muchos, no debemos perder la fé de nuestra Unión ahora ni nunca. Seguiremos compañeros en pie firme. E nesta era de civilización la unificación del obrero en general es inminente.

Nuestros enemigos oprimidos tarde o temprano tendrán que darnos igual oportunidad porque las leyes democráticas lo exigen y el derecho del hombre también.

La Victoria será nuestra en un futuro no lejano. Unión. ACCION compañeros.

SOMOS UNIDOS



## UN RECONOCIMIENTO

No es necesario presentar a nuestro público a George Washington Westerman. Es muy conocido por todos nosotros. Lo que muchos pueden ignorar es que el Sr. Westerman se encuentra actualmente en los Estados Unidos, a donde hace estudios extensivos de las condiciones sociales de ese país. El no es miembro del Local 713, debido a que no trabaja en la Zona. Sin embargo este joven se ha distinguido como luchador incansable en la cruzada contra discriminación y otros males hermanos, en la Zona del Canal desde hace muchos años.

"Acción" se complace en reproducir extractos de la pluma eficaz de este valiente escritor porque reconocemos los amigos del trabajo donde quiera que se encuentre.

"...Tommy Richardson me llevó a la oficina de Abraham Flexer... una vista de cerca de las actividades legislativas de la Unión me ha dado una idea de la inmensidad de esta labor. Solamente la viveza y vigilancia del representante legislativo de la CIO salvo, aunque sea por ahora, la ley de Servicio Civil. La oposición había figurado una estrategia que prohibía que se pagara a ciudadanos no-Americanos por su trabajo con apropiaciones del Congreso. Esto que parecía ser tan inocente en verdad era dinamita que no tardaría en producir una explosión violenta entre la gente en la Zona del Canal."

NUEVA YORK — Comentando sobre la organización del gran ejército de trabajadores no-Americanos empleados en la Zona del Canal, Jorge Wester-

man, escritor panameño, promovedor de asuntos culturales que llegó a Nueva York hace dos semanas, dijo: "Después de que los empleados federales de la Zona, llamados "silver" trataron en vano de afiliarse con la AFL por fin se afiliaron a la CIO en Julio del año pasado."

Esta organización, declaró el Sr. Westerman, cambió rápidamente las políticas económicas y sociales del Gobierno de la Zona con referencia a los más de 35.000 ciudadanos no-americanos de los cuales más del 75% son panameños, pero ya era tiempo.

Casi toda albor progresiva emprendida a favor de estos empleados encontraba oposición amarga por parte de la Central Labor Unión de la AFL.

### Crítica la CZCLU

Mencionó que la CZCLU, un grupo pequeño de Americanos egoístas e intolerantes (blancos) habían sostenido una batalla tan implacable contra el mejoramiento general de las condiciones de trabajo, las casas y facilidades de educación que se les dan a los llamados trabajadores de "plata" que la llegada de la CIO ha constituido el comiendo de una nueva era para estos maltratados empleados tropicales.

Se nombró lo siguiente como ganancias de la CIO: (1) Reconocimiento de la Unión por las autoridades del Canal, el Ejército y la Armada; (2) Establecimiento de un procedimiento para quejas que aumenta grandemente el grado de Democracia y justicia para el empleado; (3) aumento de sueldo para más de 400 empleados de totales que llega a un su-

## La visita a Panamá durante Mayo del Vice-Presidente Internacional, Señor Thomas Richardson

Todos los miembros de la Unión saben que el Hermano Thomas Richardson visitó al Local 713 en Mayo. También saben que él es un Ejecutivo de color de la CIO quien está en los Concilios de los Trabajadores Públicos Unidos de América. Pero cuántos de nuestros socios saben que vino para resolver unos problemas de nuestra querida Unión? Vino por eso y es muy bien que sepan también, que, "Vino, vió, y conquistó" a casi todos. Eso es la clase de hombres que la CIO tie-

ma anual de \$48,000; (4) Mejoras en los reglamentos de licencia por enfermedad y descanso; (5) aumento automático para más de 5,000 empleados del 2% por hora.

### ACUSADOS DE SER COMUNISTAS

Cuando se le preguntó acerca de la acusación de comunismo que se hizo contra la Unión en la Zona del Canal, el Sr. Westerman declaró enfáticamente que esta acusación es la maquinaria que emplean las fuerzas reaccionarias para acabar con una fuerza liberal. No hay nada que indica comunismo, dijo, y se permita el desarrollo de semejante cargo, puede acabar con el sistema de empresa libre; mejores condiciones de trabajo, mejores condiciones de vida, oportunidad para educación avanzada, mayor seguro para el futuro; estas cosas forman la base de las demandas que hacen los empleados de "plata" por medio de la CIO.

Agradecemos al señor Westerman su contribución a nuestra CAUSA.

ne como los sobresalientes. Tipos quienes se especializan en ciertas clases de actividades de la Unión—hombres que poseen el saber—y cómo lo dan. Hermano, lo hacen, y eso es lo que el Vice-Presidente Richardson hizo. Dió a la Junta Ejecutiva las recomendaciones necesarias para conducir los asuntos a la manera de la CIO. Dió al Departamento de los delegados la manera de conducir su parte del asunto sin cruzar líneas. Dió a los Oficiales del Cabildo los puntos para el funcionamiento de los Cabildos para evitar un cruce con la Junta Ejecutiva y los Concilios de los Delegados, y les dió la técnica para que los socios funcionaran de la manera como deben, así como una entidad importante de un gremio de oficios. En otras palabras, el Vice-Presidente Richardson viajó a Panamá y clarificó las dificultades de la Organización conocida como el Local 713. Ahora, la Junta Ejecutiva sabe cuales son sus funciones con respecto al resto de la Unión. Los cabildos saben sus deberes en relación al cuerpo de la política; los Concilios de los Delegados saben muy bien su posición en la Unión. Faltan los socios saber lo que les toca hacer y hacerlo. "Uno por todos, y todos por uno," debe significar exactamente lo que las palabras dan a entender.

Cada uno debe sentir y actuar como un Organizador para traer ese non-miembro. El o ella debe sentir como un hombre en la Campaña de la Organización de los socios, y sentir así siempre. El Hermano Richardson dió mucha importancia al punto de que los socios deben, tan pronto como sea posible, tomar una parte activa, y debe ser factor impor-

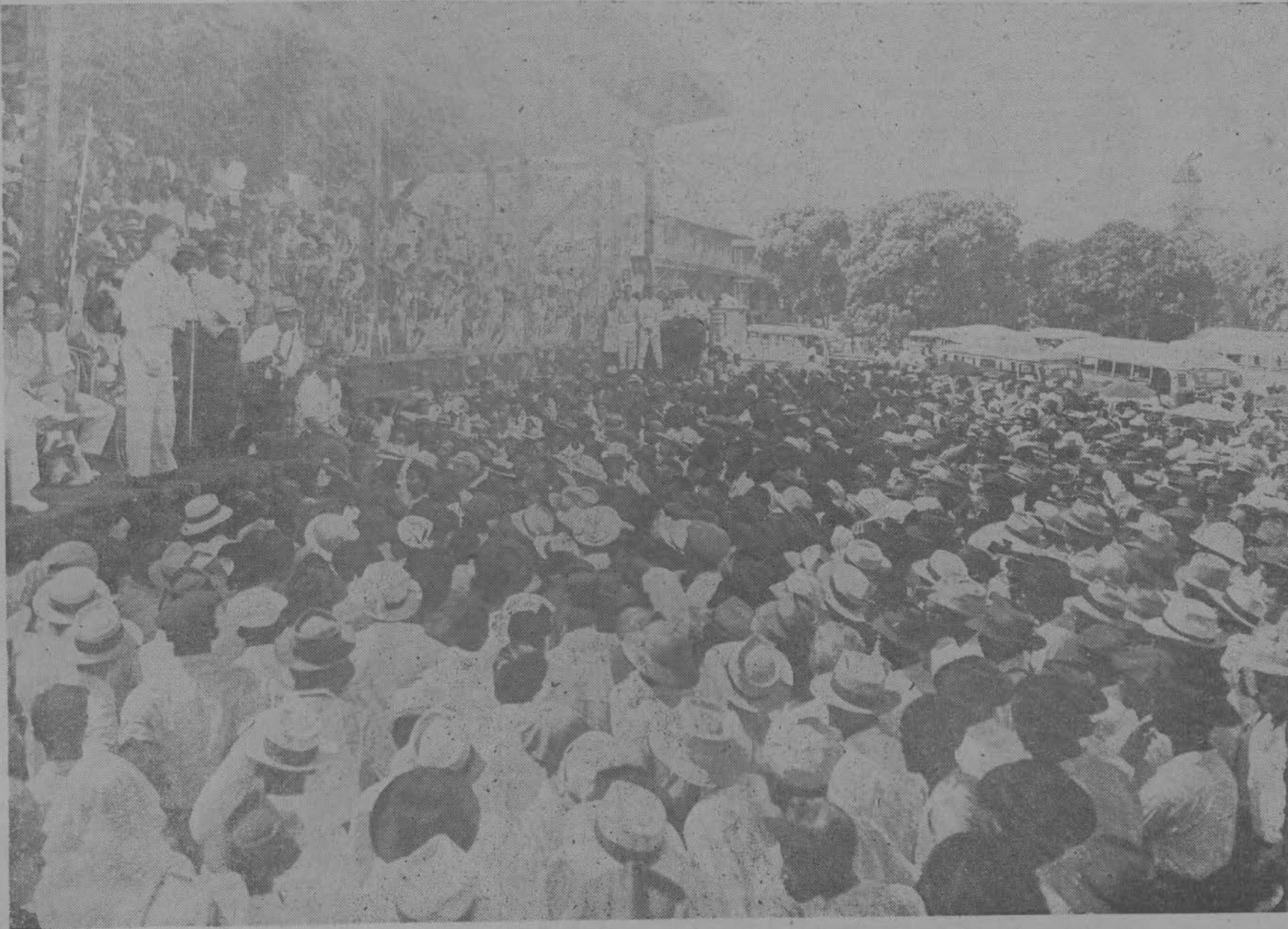
## El Mensaje de Paul Robeson

Saludos a los miembros del Local 713, T.P.U.-C.I.O. Ustedes, los trabajadores del rol de "plata" en la Zona del Canal han hecho algo grande. Por organizarse en un grupo bajo el estandarte de los Trabajadores Públicos Unidos de América, C. I. O. ustedes mismo se han cubierto con la dignidad humana. Reciben el respeto de su jefe—el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos, y sus Agencias, los oficiales de la Zona del Canal. Por esto han obtenido el apoyo moral de los altos oficiales del Gobierno de la República de Panamá. Los millones de miembros de la C.I.O. en los Estados Unidos y el lejano Hawaii apoyan a ustedes y a sus hermanos de los Estados Unidos del Sur de América tienen sus ojos fijados lo mismo como los millones de nuestros afinidades en el mundo entero.

Es para ustedes, pues, seguir la lucha para su franquicia económica, y no cese hasta que obtenga su fin. Mientras tanto, aumenta el número de la unión e incluye cada trabajador individual de su grupo en la Zona del Canal; insiste para tener el rol de los socios de la T. P. U. C. I. O.

tante en las sesiones de los Cabildos. Deben elegir oficiales y delegados del Cabildo para su convención. Después el Local 713 estará seguro, porque los socios en general estarán en contacto con sus oficiales y después los oficiales estarán también con el Concilio de los Delegados y la Junta Ejecutiva.

Así pues, la Organización funcionará mejor—como una sociedad de obreros y de una manera democrática. Esto es solamente una parte de las ejecuciones del Vice-Presidente Internacional, Thomas Richardson.



Una parte de la tremenda concurrencia en el parque de La Boca



# THIS IS A GREAT DAY

This is a Great Day! Yes, such a Great Day in the lives of Workers on the "Silver" Roll of the Canal Zone Government that the song entitled, word for word to the opening sentence of our message, can fittingly be adopted as the theme song of Local 713. Brothers and sisters, today ushers in the first anniversary of Local 713, UPW-CIO, and to cap the climax, the announcement is presented to you through the medium of "Accion", your own official organ for the dissemination of news concerning yourselves in a significant way. Can anyone truthfully say, that we the members of this Union do not have much to be thankful for? No not one — hence it is in order that the Executive Board should have recently gone on record to hold Thanksgiving Services on both sides of the Big Ditch on July 27th, service on the Pacific side to be conducted at the Olympic Stadium, and on the Atlantic side at the Colon Arena. This arrangement will enable not only each individual member of the Union to give thanks, but every worker on the "Silver" Roll, even the non-member on the outside can join in giving thanks to the Giver of all things, in keeping with his sharing equally in benefits gained by the organization, free, gratis and for nothing.

Just to recount a few of the blessings bestowed on us — First and foremost comes — the fact of our being able to organize at all — Second, the privilege of affiliation with the

United Public Workers of America, and through this connection securing association with the Congress of Industrial Organizations, that liberal Champion of the Workers' cause; next in order comes the Me-haffey Grievance Procedure, the December epoch-making Parade, the visits of Director of Organizations Weinstein, International Vice President Thomas Richardson, the concerts by Paul Robeson, the renaissance of "Accion" — "ad infinitum" — Yea verily, we do have things to be thankful for, and we should show our gratitude by humbly taking part as Christians in the Union's Mass Thanksgiving ceremonies on Sunday 27th, thus marking in appropriate manner, the arrival of Local 713 at its first milestone. Yet let us not, in singing praises to the Creator, forget, in very devoutness of spirit, to appeal to Him for strength — not the strength of the body, but strength of organization, which strength leads on to power. So Brothers and Sisters, whilst singing paens of praise to the Almighty, remember to ask His blessing upon the coming Drive for 100% membership by the coming Convention.

"Back the Attack" with everything you have, for the power that will flow from your Union consisting of a membership of 100% "Silver" Roll employees will make your past achievements appear as nothing. You will receive as your reward everything you now lack, and that's a plenty.

## CRISTOBAL COMMISSARY HOLDS JOB-LOCATION MEETING

The Cristobal Commissary Division held their first Job-Location Meeting since the Convention on Wednesday evening July 9th at the International Club, Colon. All the various sections or divisions were represented. The Chair was occupied by Bro. J. A. Hassocks, Chief Steward of the Mount Hope area, and the Hall was crowded to standing room, there being several hundred employees, present. Organizer Nicasio Garcia, who was responsible for the arranging of the meeting, acted as Translator. The International Union was represented by International Vice-President J. L. Strobel and Bro. Max Brodsky, our new Regional Director.

Elections were held for the positions of Chairman of Meetings and Secretary. Bro. Harold Clarke was elected to the former position while Bro. Arthur Beatty was the successful candidate for Secretary. The membership decided to hold Meetings once a month, fixing the second Wednesday until further orders.

Many problems peculiar to employees of the Commissaries were deliberated at more or less length, and grievances of a similar nature dealt with in the same way. Brother Brodsky outlined the procedure to be followed in each case.

An item on the Agenda that lent color to the night's proceedings was a presentation to Vice-President Strobel prior to his departure. This took the

nature of a gift, and in the words of Chairman Hassocks and Sister Idalia Layne who made the presentation, it was a small token of the high regard held for him on the part of Commissary employee members. Bro. Strobel replied feelingly in suitable terms. After both Bros. Strobel and Brodsky had addressed the meeting, Pictures were shown — one of the innovations introduced by Local 713 for the education and recreation of its members.

## A MESSAGE

The United Public Workers of America CIO will forever remain firm to continue the fight for better working and living conditions for the worker in general. Our Union has just completed 12 months of existence and with the aid of Divine Providence has obtained several victories. We will accomplish much more if we remain united.

It is the duty of all civilian workers of the Army, Navy, the Panama Canal to affiliate so that we may be treated as human beings and not as sub-humans.

It is time that we do away with individual struggle forever. We must fight as brothers regardless of nationality, language, or color. After all we are fighting for a common cause and this is our only chance. The money you pay

(Continued on Page 8)

## Cristobal Chapter...

(Continued from Page 1)

Committee Bros. A. J. McKenzie and J. J. Jimenez were duly elected unopposed.

Publicity Committee Correspondent, Bro. McLean was declared elected in proper form.

### Introduction of Regional Director Br. Brodsky.

Bro. Strobel introduced the new Regional Director giving a brief talk on the qualification of Bro. Brodsky, among them his service in the Pacific with the armed forces of his country, adding his War Veteran's experience to his Trade Union technique.

Bro. Brodsky was given an ovation on facing the "mike." He opened his remarks by presenting the greetings of the International Office, from the thousands of UPW members and the tens of thousands of the CIO members in the States. He extended congratulations also on their behalf for organizing on the Canal Zone and for achieving what they had within such a short period. They had made and still were making Trade Union history. He made reference to the introduction on their behalf of Legislation before Congress, to the Taft-Hartley Bill against Labor, to the fact that the CIO intended to fight tooth and nail for its repeal, to the selfish policy of the other Labor Organizations on the Canal Zone, to their opposition to the inclusion of Panamanian citizens in taking the Civil Service Examinations, to the lack of discrimination in living up to take these examinations (a subject which is a most important plank in the platform of the CIO), to grievances in general, to unreasoning complaints of some individuals about progress made. He stressed the fact that everything cannot be measured by dollars and pennies and that Trade Unionism posed a much broader view.

### Drive for 100% membership by next Convention.

"You can't buy equality, peace and contentment of mind, dignity nor respect. You can only get these things when all the "Silver" Employees join the Union" he said. Sacrifices were necessary and the responsibility of Local 713 was a heavy one. "Your responsibilities though great are minor ones compared to those borne by Unionists 50 years ago. They sacrificed life and limb those days. You are called upon to make sacrifices of small sums of money." He concluded his address by declaring that hopeful eyes were turned in their direction by the colored people of the United States and of the world; it was the responsibility of Local 713 not to let them down.

The next speaker was Bro. Romero of Puerto Rico, a member of the National Maritime Union. He spoke in his usual fiery and impressive style referring to the fact that two of his sons had given their lives for Democracy and he had lived to see the Congress of the United States make laws to hurt Labor which had fought for Democracy. Brother Pascual Ampudia followed and addressing himself to non-members told them to go home and think of the CIO.

"Americans join Unions," he said, so "silver" employees should likewise join in the fight for what they want. He mentioned also that school children are already interested in the CIO and are asking intelligent questions about it. Their parents should all show their interest by joining up until every "silver" employee is in 100%. President Arauz in his greeting said that Rome was not built in a day. Roman history says that on Holidays they killed slaves for fun. We should join the fight to repeal the Law just past by supporting the CIO. He called upon delinquent members to return and new members to come in.

The Chairman remarked that representation will be made to the Executive Board to support President Phillip Murray, offering the support of Local 713 in fighting for the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Bill. He then introduced International Vice - President Strobel as the principal speaker of the evening, remarking before doing so that his duty in saying good-bye was an unpleasant one, but it could not be avoided.

Brother Strobel, in the course of his remarks, stated that he had made many friends here. That he had learnt much on this strategic spot of the world. He had met here the great Paul Robeson, and was proud of this meeting. He had had the opportunity of discussing over a period of 10 days the problem of the West Indian and of the Panamanian and of Local 713 in general. Had he not come here he would not have had this great experience. He had become a better organizer and would be more valuable to headquarters. Congress was squeezing Labor. Referring again to the benefits he had derived from his stay here, Bro. Strobel stressed the fact that he was of more service to the International Office today than he had been before. He is yet another official of the International who has first-hand information of Panama. Brother Weinstein had been here twice. As a result he could now represent them far better before Congress than he could have done before. Now he was in a position to advise on matters concerning Local 713.

### ADVICE:

The coming year would be a difficult one for the Organization. In comparison he could not refer to his year as difficult. Through the enthusiasm of the membership at that time organizational work was easy. Brother Brodsky's job was more hard. Enthusiasm was waning — complaints were being made. Congress was destroying gains made by Labor for the past ten years. It was trying to destroy Labor itself. They were not to lie back and take it, but fight back. That was the way to answer Congress' cutting the Canal Zone appropriation. It was a difficult job they had to face. "For God's sake don't let go this instrument for your very lives. It is the only organization you have." They had received some benefits but needed many more — their problem here is impatience. The payment of dues was a real sacrifice considering the average wage was

\$57.00 per month. But it had to be made. The Trade Union Movement was no joy-ride, he said. Lives were lost for it 50 years ago. Meetings such as the very one they were privileged to attend were then illegal. A 100% membership would make the job easier. 25,000 would give much better results than 17,000. "Hold it, have no misunderstanding what will happen to you if it goes smash. You can't picture the consequences." Brother Strobel then called upon them to support Brother Brodsky in the same manner he had been supported, for a man from the States would be helpless without their wholehearted support. He will return some time in the future he hoped, but since they had to send delegates to the International Convention he would meet them there and have the pleasure of shaking hands, and of introducing them to other Americans which would prove to them that there are real men, white men who are altogether different to those they have been dealing with on the Canal Zone.

After Bro. Strobel had spoken, the following Resolution was presented by Bro. G. M. Ogle, Chapter Secretary.

The Resolution was adopted unanimously by standing vote. Pictures were taken and the meeting adjourned.

### RESOLUTION

INASMUCH AS we, the officers and rank and file members of the Cristobal Chapter of Local 713 UPW-CIO in meeting assembled experience a deep sense of confidence and appreciation towards International Vice President J. L. Strobel, and

WHEREAS he by his ability and personality has

(a) Successfully re-opened negotiations on behalf of Local 713 with the Canal Zone Government resulting among other things in the establishment of an effective Grievance Procedure and divers other gains and benefits;

(b) Compiled a scholarly BRIEF outlining by statistical data a true picture of the Silver Worker's economic plight plainly before Congress, the American people and others in a position to ameliorate said condition

### BE IT RESOLVED

THAT a standing vote of CONFIDENCE AND APPRECIATION be tendered the said International Vice - President Strobel for MERITORIOUS and OUTSTANDING SERVICE whilst covering his difficult assignment to "Operations Panama". AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

THAT a copy of this RESOLUTION be forwarded to the International Office at Washington D. C., together with a covering letter expressive of appreciation for the high standard of Representatives chosen to cover this field of operations.

ORGANIZE  
the  
UNORGANIZED



## Dr. and Mrs. Yergan Sends Thanks

Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Fuller are the recipients of a letter from Dr. and Mrs. Max Yergan telling of their safe arrival in New York after a brief stop-over in Guatemala; and thanking them for "the fullness of the hospitality and the warmth of the kindness and friendship" extended not only to them but to Mr. Robeson and Mr. Brown. "That part of our stay there," con-

tinues the letter, "will always remind us of the delightful, interesting and rewarding visit which we made to Panama."

The Yergans, remindful of their other friends here, conclude, "we wish also to express our appreciation to all of the others who contributed to the pleasure of our stay there. We shall be grateful to you if you make this known to them."

### AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

(Continued from Page 1)

it takes great pleasure in reproducing excerpts from the trenchant pen of this capable young writer.

"-----Tommy Richardson took me to see Abraham Flaxer.... from my close-up on matters at this end the legislative work of the Union is something tremendous. Only the alertness of the C.I.O. legislative expert in the Capital saved—at least temporarily—the Civil Service Bill from being doomed. The opposition had worked out a strategy whereby no appropriations would be granted for payment of work performed by non-Americans. This innocent bit of wording was dynamite-laden and would have caused a terrific explosion among the people back on the Canal Zone."

NEW YORK.—Commenting on the organization of the vast army of non-American workers employed on the Panama Canal Zone, George W. Westerman, Panamanian writer and promoter of cultural activities who arrived in New York two weeks ago, stated that "after several attempts to gain affiliation with the AFL had failed, the employees of the Federal Government on the Canal Zone known as 'silver' workers, became affiliated with the CIO last July."

This organization, he declared, speedily changed the economic and social policies of the Canal Zone Government towards more than 35,000 non-American citizens, over 75 per cent of whom were citizens of the Republic of Panama, but it was long overdue. Almost every progressive act undertaken on behalf of these employees had for more than a decade been bitterly and often successfully opposed by the Canal Central Labor Union of the AFL.

### HITS CZCLU

He mentioned that the CZCLU, a small group of bigoted and selfishly disposed white Americans, had waged so relentless a fight against the general improvement in the working, housing and educational facilities being extended to the so-called "silver" workers, that the advent of the CIO on the Isthmus of Panama was hailed as the dawning of a new day for the future of these underprivileged tropical employees.

The following were cited as gains of the CIO: (1) union recognition from the Panama Canal, U.S. Army and Navy; (2) establishment of a grievance procedure ensuring enormously increased degree of democracy and fair job treatment; (3) increased wages to more than 400 hotel employees to total an annual increase of \$48,000; (4) improved sick and leave regulations; (5) automatic increases of 2 per cent per hour for nearly 5,000 employees.

### RED CHARGE

When queried about the charge of communism hurled against

the union on the Canal Zone, Mr. Westerman strongly declared that this charge is the machinery of reactionary forces to crush a liberal force. There is nothing which indictates communism, he said, and if this charge is permitted to grow it will mean the end of a free enterprise system. Improved working conditions, better living facilities, advanced educational opportunities, greater future security form the basis of demands being made by the Panama Canal Zone "silver" employees through their affiliation with the CIO.

—"Pittsburgh Courier."

NEW YORK. — "Truman's speech on civil rights and human freedom, given last Sunday at the thirty-eighth annual conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, must invite special attention from the non-American peoples living on the Canal Zone, the five-mile strip of land leased by the United States from the Republic of Panama," was the opinion voiced by George Washington Westerman, Panama writer and civic worker making extensive researches in this country.

Mr. Westerman declared that although Panama is intimately associated with the U.S. and is now one of its closest friends in this hemisphere, relations between these two countries, through the Canal Zone Government, have been cordial but not altogether satisfactory in the past decades.

He stated that the "gold" and "silver" standard of the Panama Canal organization has been one of the most crucial and fundamental issues confronting the working people in that territory.

### "TERRIFIC BLOW"

The President's statement, "we must not tolerate such limitation on the freedom of any of our people and on their enjoyment of basic rights which every citizen in a truly democratic society must possess," will be regarded by Panamanians as a terrific body blow to the present policies of the Canal Zone Government which fosters discrimination of the most vicious character against non-Americans, was Westerman's opinion.

Through the Canal Zone "gold" and "silver" standard, citizens in their own country are designated as "aliens," and this term has been employed to deprive people on their native soil of economic and social opportunities as American citizens on territory leased by the U.S.

### TESTS OF FAITH

Mr. Westerman concluded his comments by offering suggestions to the U.S. as tests of the democratic faith. First, a closer cooperation with Panama as a sovereign State in mat-

### Teodoro M. Nolan International Representative

There is in circulation a "Dear Friend" letter signed by Bishop Francis J. McConnell on behalf of the "Committee of 100" in which an appeal is made for aid in the fight against anti-Negro terrorism in Southern United States. The letter describes the acquittal of twenty-eight self-confessed lynchers on May 21 as a license issued by the Greenville, South Carolina jury to white men in the South to kill Negroes, and further informs us that within a few hours after the acquittal another mob in North Carolina attempted to lynch another Negro.

It is understood that The "Committee of 100" sponsors the 1947 Appeal for \$100,000 of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., and is comprised of leaders of various colors, creeds and professions all over the United States. This committee has dedicated its services to "the Creation of an America of Justice and Equality for Our Negro Fellow Citizens."

It is no secret that the NAA-CP has done creditable work in the eradication of anti-Negroism. It has been long evident that this group, like the CIO and several other labor, religious and political groups, has done much towards the establishment of fair-play for all throughout the United States. The appeal should be taken seriously by local organizations and individuals as it provides them with an opportunity to assist in such a fight through whatever financial contributions they can make now.

On the Canal Zone we are somewhat fortunate in that the Law operates in such a fashion as to discourage or suppress any desire to lynch Negroes. But once in a while it becomes evident that such savage desires do exist in the non-Negro elements here. And looking further down the line we find that similar thoughts exist in the minds of people against persons of their own race but based on other prejudices.

Local 713 has as its chief goal the elimination of discrimination in every phase of

life on the Canal Zone. But the Local is aware of the fact that very little of this can be accomplished through the mere establishment of regulations. The regulations are merely guides which point the way along the road. The item of most importance is the road itself, which in this case is the actual conduct of the work on each job. So it is that Local 713, through its Educational Committee, diffuses its doctrine of full and uncompromising cooperation between "gold" and "silver" workers in every phase of the operation of the Panama Canal.

For the high and mighty on either side who disdainfully scoff at such an idea we have an invitation. To them we say: come with us to the hospitals, insane asylums and cemeteries and see Nature's leveling process reducing the rich and powerful to the humble status of pitiful simple-mindedness, physical helplessness and final lifelessness. A little smart thinking on the part of the possessors of overbearing pride and superiority complex will no doubt convince them of the futility of discriminatory practices.

## Letter to Edward Cheresch

Dear Ed:

I wish you were here! You know, today your "baby" is one year old. Local 713 has completed one full year of operation and what a year!

Looking back at those 365 days, one cannot help but remember the many incidents, the heartaches, the sweat, the disappointments, and the sweetness of success.

You know, they have decided to publish an anniversary number of ACCION and from the looks of things, the emphasis seems to be on activities and not on individuals, but of course, everybody knows and even as the Congressman said, "... if there were no Edward Cheresch, there would never have been a Union". Eddie, that says a lot, doesn't it?

I bet involuntarily, your mind wanders back to those first nights at No. 52, 17th Street when we met in strict secrecy and drafted up the plans for a "a union of a couple hundred members"! You must remember the fear, the caution, the furtiveness of those first hundred members. And then those uncertain days

ters affecting both Governments; second, the Canal Zone educational institutions which are all under Federal control, should take an active part in fostering greater interest in and respect for Panama's people and peoples of Hispanic culture; third, the Government in Washington should examine the policies of the Central Labor Union, affiliate of the AF of L, with a view of correcting undemocratic practices on the Canal Zone which are injurious to the relations of the United States and the Republic of Panama.

—"Pittsburgh Courier."

We are indebted to Mr. Westerman for his contribution to the CAUSE.

when everything seemed to go wrong and everybody kept looking for the coup de grace from the "unseen enemy" whose tentacles reached out to every one of our meetings, to every corner of our blue-print for unity. Ah, those were days! Remember the inauguration at the Stadium? Len Goldsmith was colossal but many people still remember the little man filled with emotion as he told the 17,000 down-trodden human beings what the initial organizing phase had cost them in sweat and tears. Ed, it was you, and you were a happy man.

Remember the Labor Day parade? President Jimenez was very frank and earnest in his speech to the young union. He certainly gave us new hope and a chest-full of courage to go on. Dr. Ricardo Alfaro too, boosted our hopes at De Lesseps, remember?

Of course, you have snapshots of the 6th-month parade to Balboa Heights. They depict even better than I can remind you of that feeling that we had gone over the top.

Then those hard, unpromising days of negotiating, those slight gains, inch by inch as we moved forward and upward. Every responsible officer and member contributed in the fight for better working conditions.

Do you remember what we thought of the Governor and his administration? How good it feels to know that the Governor is a fairminded man; that during those days, he was working under tremendous pressure from that labor lodge.

Well, hope you spend a pleasant July 23 and remember all your 17,000 friends as they are remembering you now. Unity! Action!

Sincerely yours,

Stas

## AS I SEE IT

by Chris E. Harewood

First, allow me to express my sincere thanks and congratulations to the members of the Publicity Committee which was appointed by the Local's Executive Board at a recent meeting to supervise all matters pertaining to publicizing the Union's activities for the interest of the Union members and the general public as well. I make particular mention here of the fact that the committee has thought of the most important and several way of making the members know of their Union — the Union's newspaper, "ACCION". I hope there will be no more temporary obscurity of this newspaper, the Union's official mouthpiece.

The overall consensus of the situation presently existing in the Canal Zone in regards to the "silver" workers and his employment is one that is being observed not only by persons concerned, but the general public as well.

Perhaps the situation today, no doubt, is due to the slash Congress recently made in the requested appropriations for the operation of the Panama Canal for the next fiscal year. This may be true, but the writer fails to see why, when appropriations previously asked for and were granted, methods were not instituted that would have made the present situation in regards to operation of the Canal and the welfare of its workers a little more alleviating. There is no doubt that the sub-conscious minds of the persons who are the ones to work the whole thing out to the satisfaction of all workers, and more so to themselves, are wondering and pondering as to what changes can successfully be effected for the benefit of all "silver" employees of the Panama Canal. Inasmuch as the authorities know that

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## AS I SEE IT

(Continued from Page 7)

whatever changes are made won't eliminate the pressure on the depressed "silver" worker, they will with all their power, effect methods more to their satisfaction regardless of whatever sacrifices they have to make. To face this and the things to come, if we are lucky enough to live them through, is a test that confronts the lowliest worker.

The only visible salvation for the "silver" worker is his joining the UPW-CIO, Local 713. These facts are known by every member and non-member of this Union. If you have followed the trend of the operation of our Union during the past year, you will agree we can confront certain human devotions with a little more pride and human dignity. The success of our Union rests in the hands of the workers — "UNITY" with a united effort of the 20,000 odd "silver" employees of the Canal, our ultimate objectives can be achieved. If you are not a member, join now. Our slogan on our first anniversary is 100% membership by August 31st. We have operated a whole year with all our bilingual and labor difficulties. Let us unite to operate a lifetime. Success is ours. Long live Local 713 UPW-CIO.

## MARCANTONIO.....

(Continued from Page 1)

the Bill.

It is interesting to note that the printed record of the Appropriation Bill hearings shows that the AFL representatives, testifying before the committee, requested precisely the wording on Civil Service Status that later appeared in the bill. Evidently the AFL had failed to get either the House or Senate Civil Service Committees to propose legislation preventing the opening of civil service exams to Panamanians.

The UPW-CIO legislative bureau is watching the Bill which is now in the Senate and will expend all effort in preventing the inclusion of any provision such as the one in the original House Bill.

## MESSAGE.....

(Continued from Page 6)

into your Union is not lost. You will have intelligent representation in the Congress of the United States.

I want to remind you not to expect miracles overnight. You must have faith and patience. A new era is dawning for workers everywhere. The oppressors will have to yield sooner or later because Democracy and human rights demand it. Stand firm brothers and complete victory will be ours in the end. UNITY, ACTION!

Juan V. Espiazzano

## UNITED AND FIGHT

WANT JOB SECURITY?  
JOIN UPW-CIO

GET OFF THE FENCE!

## ON THE SICK LIST

Organizer Ernest Hay, who has been confined in Colon Hospital from Tuesday July 8th, was discharged from that institution on Tuesday 15th instant. Brother Hay was stricken suddenly on July 8th while on a visit to the office of the UPW-CIO, Cristobal, to attend a meeting of the Education and Recreation Committee. He was rushed to the hospital where his case was diagnosed as an acute attack of ptomaine poisoning. That he was well enough recovered to be discharged as stated above

Name	Ward	Bed	Admitted	Place of Employment	Steward
Bro. Edwin A. Maynard	5	25	7/7/47	Bld. Division	
" Geo. Knight	5	23	6/27/47	Gatun Locks	Coulson
" Hugh Davis	5	22	7/7/47	Washington Hotel	Johnson
" Wellington Moody	5	8	7/7/47	Washington Hotel	Johnson
" Antonio Leon	4	49	7/7/47	R. & F. A.	Lucas
" Jose Barrios	5	37	7/24/47	Machine Shop	
" E. Rowe (Past Officer)	5	33	6/29/47	R. & F. A.	I. Edwards
" G. E. Clarke	4	5	6/29/47	Mt. Hope Bakery	Foster
" A. Ford	4	21	7/4/47	R. & F. A.	I. Edwards
" Laurel C. Richards	4	22	7/4/47	W. S. Cold Storage	E. Durant

Also among those visited was Bro. Wilson Benjamin, a member of the National Maritime Union, CIO who was cooccupying bed 29 in Ward 5. This Brother is a crew member of the SS "Cristobal" and was admitted to Colon Hospital suffering from a liver ailment. He is doing well. His home is at 2026 Seventh Avenue, New York City. He hopes to be discharged soon. Retired Em-

ployee will be well received by his co-workers, members of the Union, and his hosts of personal friends.

Brother Cecil R. Joseph, Steward, Naval Air Station, Coco Solo is an out patient of Colon Hospital, having been confined to quarters from Friday July 11th.

## Visit to Colon Hospital

On Sunday July 13th the following members and non-members of Local 713 were visited by a representative of the Cristobal Chapter:

Name	Ward	Bed	Admitted	Place of Employment	Steward
Bro. Jos. Bowen of Municipal Division			Admitted June 19th.		
Bro. J. A. Campbell, of the Mechanical Division			Ward 5 Bed 24.		
Edward Sprauve of the R. & F. A.			in Hospital 4 months.		

ployees visited were Bros. Clement Marshall, late of the R. & F. A., Bed 1, Ward 5, Admitted June 20th.

Bro. Jos. Bowen of Municipal Division, Admitted June 19th.

Bro. J. A. Campbell, of the Mechanical Division, Ward 5 Bed 24.

Edward Sprauve of the R. & F. A., in Hospital 4 months.

## GATUN BIDS FAREWELL

GATUN, July 15—The Gatun Chapter of Local 713 United Public Workers of America pulled off a very enthusiastic Meeting on Monday night July 14 to say farewell to International Vice-President J. L. Strobel and Mrs. Strobel. The Meeting which was under the chairmanship of Brother Edward Green, Chapter Chairman and member of the Executive Board had for its object the presentation of several gifts to the Strobels made by the Chapter, the Stewards Council and members. Opportunity was also taken to present at the same time a souvenir on behalf of the Executive Board, as was done in the case of International Vice President Thomas Richardson on the eve of his departure to the United States. It drew from Chairman Green the mark that history was repeating itself at Gatun.

Among those present were: Bro. J. L. Strobel, International Vice President and Mrs. Strobel, Guests of honor, Bro. Francisco Arauz, President of Local 713, now on vacation, Bro. Graham A. Lewis, his locum tenens, Bro. Edward Green, Chapter Chairman presiding, Bro. William Kirton, Chapter Secretary, Bro. Vernon Harper, Trustee of Local 713 and Representative of Gatun on the Executive Board, Bro. Pascual Ampudia, member Executive Board, International Regional Director Max Brodsky, Bro. Edward Gaskin, Financial Secretary-Treasurer, Bro. Sydney Harewood, Trustee and representative of Red Tank

Chapter on the Executive Board, Bro. Foster G. Bournes, Cristobal representative on the Executive Board, Bro. U. G. Ayres, Chapter Steward, Gatun Chapter, Bro. Wilmot N. Cameron, Cristobal Chapter Steward, Bro. N. P. Alexis Secretary Cristobal Stewards Council, Bro. E. B. Nish, Cristobal, Bro. Vincent Swaby, J. Shoy and several of her members from Cristobal, Miss Thelma Thompson of the International Union and late of the Cristobal Chapter Office, Sisters Maida Bolivar and Edith Harper of the Balboa Chapter, Bros. Asthon Parchment and Carlyle Clark, members of the Executive Board and representatives of the Balboa Chapter, all the members of the staff of the Cristobal Office, and others too numerous to mention.

Various presentations to International Vice - President Strobel and little Marguerite Strobel were made by Brothers Small, Jones, Bournes, and Sisters Brown, Mitchell and Bonnick in the forms of gifts, bouquets and musical numbers.

Vice - President Strobel was in fine form in his acceptance speech, while Mrs. Strobel was not one whit behind in expressing thanks for herself and daughter. After the usual run of snappy speeches by several officers of the Union, the proceedings were brought to a close at 10:10, everyone expressing themselves as having spent a most enjoyable evening.

## RICHARDSON VISITS PANAMA

All members of the Union know that Brother Thomas Richardson paid a flying visit to Local 713 in May. They also know that he is a colored CIO Executive who is well up in the Council of the United Public Workers of America. But how many rank and filers of our Union are aware of the fact that he came down here to solve many knotty problems of our beloved 713? Well, that is what he came for and it is well for them to know also, that "He came, he saw, and he conquered" all of them. That is the kind of men the CIO has as the top flight men. Men who specialize in certain types of Union activities—men who possess the know-how and do they give? Brother they do, and that is just what Vice President Richardson did. He gave to the Executive Board the recommendations needed to conduct their affairs the CIO way. He gave to the Steward's Department the right "dope" to run their part of the business without crossing lines. He gave the Chapter Officers the wherewith to run the Chapters without tangling with the Executive Board or the Stewards Council, and he gave them the technique to get the general membership to function the way they should as an important entity in the fabric of Trade-Unionism. In other words, Vice President Richardson took a flying trip to Panama and clarified the intricacies that beset the Or-

ganization known as Local 713 like nobody's business.

The Executive Board now knows what its functions are in relationship to the rest of the Union. The Chapters know what their duties are to the membership the Stewards Councils know just where they fit in on the overall picture. It is now left to the membership to know where they come in, what they have to do, and to do it. "One for all, and all for one" must mean just what the words convey. Each one must feel and act like an Organizer to bring in that non-member. He or she must feel like a one-man team in the membership Organizational Drive, and feel that way all the time. Bring them in and bring them back. Bro. Tom Richardson stressed the point that the membership must, as soon as possible take an active part, and be an important factor in Chapter meetings. They must elect Chapter officers and delegates to their convention. Only then will Local 713 be safe, because the general membership will be in contact with their officers, the officers in turn will be in touch with the Steward's Council and the Executive Board, and the Organization will function from top to bottom in the Trade Union way and in accordance with the real Democratic scheme of things—and that's only a fractional part of the achievements of International Vice President Thomas Richardson.

## REMEMBER THIS?

