

Angelo Herndon Edits New Negro Quarterly

By Beth McHenry

Friends of Angelo Herndon, the youthful editor of "The Negro Quarterly," whose first issue has just come off the press, have a favorite story they tell about him.

Back in 1935, when his time on bail expired and he returned to Georgia to serve the 20-year sentence he had been given for organizing hungry

white and Negro people, those close to him were anxious and worried and heartsick to see him go.

Angelo, with the marvelous patience that comes with deep understanding and great perspective, bucked them up.

"Good heavens," he said, "you'd think I was going to serve the sentence."

He always knew he wouldn't have to. And when the Supreme Court decision releasing him was made known to him, he just smiled quietly and got ready to leave prison.

Publishing a Magazine Without Capital

That story is so typical of Angelo Herndon.

When the idea of "The Negro Quarterly" was first launched lots of people scoffed and refused to believe that a magazine of its calibre could be launched without capital.

But Angelo Herndon doggedly went about the business of organizing the Negro Publication Society which publishes the Quarterly.

He knew that a thing which should be done could be done.

Today the Quarterly is reaping high praise from many quarters.

Before its appearance there was no publication in the country devoted entirely to the review of Negro life and culture.

Its Job Is To Help Win War

In its initial issue the Quarterly dedicates itself to the great task that faces all freedom-loving mankind: the winning of the war. The Quarterly is out to help destroy the barriers that now hinder an all-out war effort.

Angelo has a way of phrasing it.

"Negroes, you see, love freedom perhaps even more than most other people. Our people have fought for freedom with their lives and they know what it means to live in slavery. A Hitler victory would return them and all mankind to that slavery. They know what is at stake."

A good example of the "war tone" of The Quarterly is a splendid article by Doxey Wilkerson, Howard University professor, in the first issue. Mr. Wilkerson's article, titled "Negro Education and the War" points up the problem by stating "victory over fascist aggression—this is the supreme criterion by which we now must appraise all aspects of our social, economic and political life."

A year ago today Angelo Herndon and a few others began organizing the Publication Society. Today the Society has offices at 1 West 125th St. and scores of members are pledged to buy the books which will be published by the Society and subscribe to the Quarterly. ♦

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ANGELO HERNDON

Hammett and Arthur Huff Fauset and many others.

Angelo says that what he likes best about the Society is that it makes possible the publication of Negro literature on a practical basis.

"There is none of the 'philanthropy' that has shadowed all previous ventures in the publication of Negro literature," he said. "The Quarterly belongs to the members of the Society and we have greater scope because of it."

Angelo also spoke of the role of the Quarterly in combatting Japanese propaganda which is concentrating on the Negro people today—trying to use the just grievances of 13,000,000 Negro Americans to divide the country and defeat democracy's cause.

Angelo is confident that the Negro people are entirely on the side of democracy, yet he wisely says that "we need sound and basic arguments to combat the fascist propaganda and it is the purpose of the Quarterly to supply such arguments to our people."

"We've got to lick Jim Crow in order to lick Hitler," he said. Turning the pages of the first issue of the Quarterly he paused at a short poem by Waring Cuney, which says in part:

"If Harriet Tubman walked this land
If old Harriet Tubman walked this land
She'd say don't forget the Negro is a man.

"If our dead heroes could see us in '42

If our dead heroes could see us in '42

They'd say we did our part what are you going to do?"

"The Quarterly sprang into being to help the Negro people 'do their part,'" Angelo Herndon said.