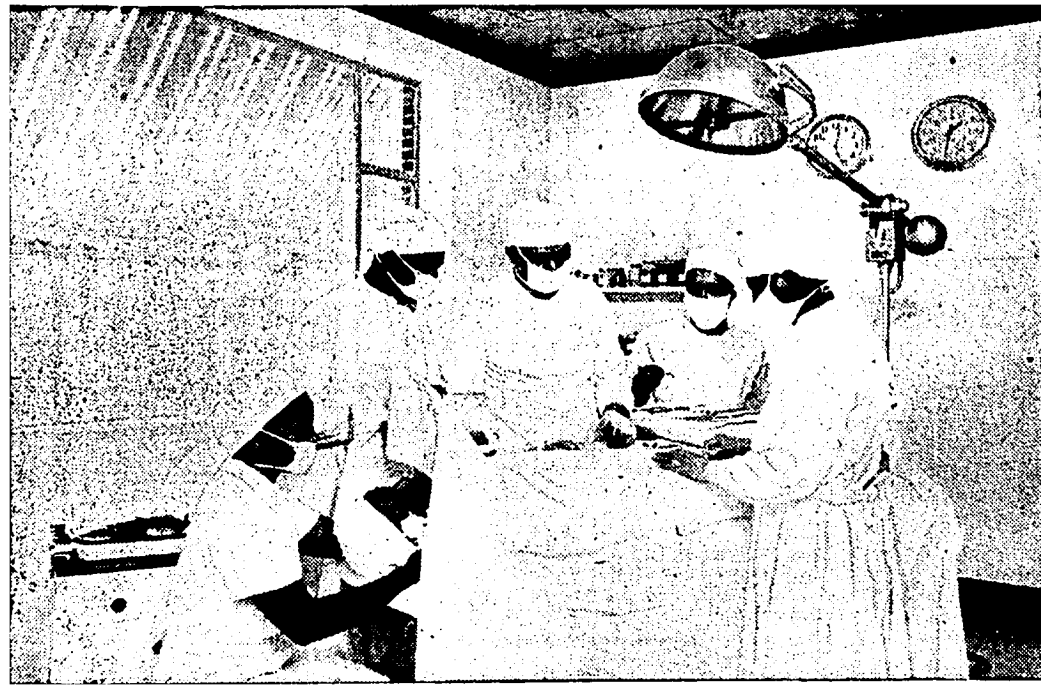


Post-War Building Boom Seen In Mound Bayou By Founders

TABORIAN HOSPITAL PRIDE OF MOUND BAYOU



Dr. T. R. M. Howard, chief surgeon of the Taborian hospital, (center) is shown with aides working over a patient in the operating room.

Over 900 major operations were performed by the staff of the hospital in the last year.



DR. P. M. GEORGE
 A native of the West Indies who has practiced medicine in Mound Bayou for 15 years and is X-ray laboratory chief and house physician at the Taborian hospital and health officer for the all-Negro town.

treatments and services is available for a three dollar annual membership.

To care for indigent and emergency cases the state appropriates \$175 monthly to the hospital. Though this helps out, it is inadequate and the real burden of the work falls on the shoulders of the members of the order. In addition the order pays sick and death claims to its members ranging as high as \$200.

Negro Stationmaster

Mound Bayou is unique in several respects. It has possibly the only railroad station in the south with only one waiting room, a white person on being caught in this town between trains would have to stand outside if he were a stickler for the law. Its stationmaster for the past eight years has been Frank B. Hood, if not the only Negro stationmaster, certainly one of very few to be found in the nation.

Another unique phase of a Mound Bayou life is his political activity. The political life of most Negroes in the South is a joke, their role being inconsequential and very often dictated by the white man.

Here, as Atty. B. A. Green, the mayor since 1919, told us, "it's a serious business." It's a one-party town, all Mound Bayou being Republicans, but factional rivalry is of greater intensity here than party fights are in some other quarters. Democrats, however, have made attempts to establish an organization here, but without success. Living here, incidentally, is Mrs. Estella Booze, only Negro woman member of the National Republican committee.

Mayor First Born in Town

Holding power at present is the Green faction headed by the mayor, who is the son of Benjamin T. Green, one of the town's two founders. He was the first child born in Mound Bayou and was educated at Alcorn college, Fisk university and the Howard Law school. After serving overseas during the first world war, he returned to

visited Memphis where one Ed Crump runs the city and having read about Kansas City during the high days of Penderghast, the political situation in Mound Bayou is certainly not unworthy.

Part of Community

But good or bad, because the people can participate, it gives Negroes living here a sense of really belonging to the community and an interest in it which only one who helps run it can have.

And this, it seems, is the greatest contribution of Mound Bayou to the Negro making his home here. He is a citizen, free to exercise the rights and privileges of every other citizen even to becoming an elected official.

Because even the little children go to the best, and not the worst school in the community, because they can run freely in and out of the stores and receive the same consideration as all other little children, they do not grow up with the idea fixed in their subconscious minds that they might not be quite as good as some other people.

It might be because the people here feel that they are a part of the government that they have responded to appeals to buy bonds and stamps with enthusiasm. No large startling figures can be quoted to prove this because farmers do not handle big sums of money, but Mound Bayou is doing its share.

Hit Army Jim Crow

However, the people here are not altogether happy about the situation in the armed services into which their young men are being drafted. They are critical of army and navy policy as it affects Negroes. A young man with whom I talked complained that he thought it unfair to draft a man into the army and then treat him like an untouchable.

"I wouldn't mind going if they would treat me like a man," he told us, "but a Negro doesn't have a chance. If they draft us because we're men and can do a man's job in defending this country, then we should be treated like all other men. If they want to treat us as they are, then they should leave to us the decision to join."

Mound Bayou is looking forward with great anticipation to the post-war era. They're planning big things. As soon as materials are available, a building program such as Mound Bayou has never experienced will be launched, and with more employment, and more life Mound Bayou will again come into its own and move back on the course laid out by its founders.

Few Pay Days

The town is governed by a mayor and a board of aldermen elected at large by the citizenry. The tax rate of \$1.60 per \$100 would be enough to adequately finance the town had not the series of disastrous fires reduced the amount of taxable property. So some of the city officials have gone without a payday for as long as two years, so that Mound Bayou might meet its outside obligations.

Its present board of aldermen consists of the following: R. W. Jones, who also serves as city clerk; S. L. Davis, A. J. Riddle, Mrs. C. A. Keys and J. F. Huddleston. Jim Shaffer is treasurer; A. G. Terrell, marshal, and Dr. P. M. George, health officer. Mound Bayou is blessed in that it cannot afford any professional politicians, all of its officers depending upon some other means as a livelihood.

On the school board are J. E. Edwards, vice president of the Afro-American Sons and Daughters, president; C. V. Thurmond, postmaster, secretary; Henry Bolton, farmer, treasurer; and Mack Hallom and Isaiah Palmer, farmers.

After having lived in Chicago,

(Second of a Series)

By ENOC P. WATERS
 (Defender Staff Correspondent)

MOUND BAYOU, Miss. — The most imposing and impressive structure in this all-Negro community celebrated its first year of existence shortly before I arrived in Mound Bayou.

It's the Taborian hospital, which opened its door to serve an exploited people on Lincoln's birthday in 1942.

The Taborian hospital is a sprawling, one-story brick structure of modern design and very well outfitted as to personnel and equipment. It has private, semi-private rooms and wards for patients, x-ray room, laboratories, nursery, operating, examination, sterilization and consultation rooms, all adequately equipped.

Built by the Knights and Daughters of Tabor, a secret order founded in 1889 by the Rev. Moses Dixon, who came south from Ohio and saw the need for an organization to weld the Negro together and thereby make his chance for economic and social success greater, the hospital draws patients from throughout Mississippi, neighboring states and even several northern communities.

Long Need for Hospital

Superintendent of the hospital is P. M. Smith, chief grand mentor of the order. Its professional staff is made up of Dr. T. R. M. Howard, chief surgeon; Dr. P. M. George, chief of x-ray and laboratory departments and house physician, and Dr. R. L. Barnett, assistant surgeon. Its nurses are Misses Mary Gary, head nurse; Marie Jackson, Alfred Thompson and Bessie Jones, operating room supervisor. Mrs. Anna Mae Riddle is night supervisor and Miss Gladys East is laboratory technician.

The need for such an institution in the delta has long been seen by Negroes. Even with the hospital there is only seven-tenths of a bed for one out of every 1,000 Negroes in this area, and 98 of every 100 babies are delivered by untrained midwives with the result that 90 of every 1000 babies are born dead. With its small but efficient staff, the hospital reported at the end of its first year of operation 900 major operations, 1600 patients hospitalized and 5,000 treated through the out-patient department.

Health Conditions

In their gallant hospital effort, the Taborians are following up the pioneering done by the Afro-American Sons and Daughters, 14-year-old hospital in Yazoo City and the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority in Bolivar county where Mound Bayou is located. Under the direction of Dr. Dorothy Bolling Ferebee, the sorority for five years struggled to improve health conditions among Negroes. On the plantations of the delta where conditions are worst, the girls had to instruct women in the basic rudiments of personal hygiene. The question that dumfounded the workers was how the people had been able to exist in spite of their ignorance of the elemental rules of health and clean living.

Dr. Howard who operates a well-equipped, modern private clinic in addition to his work at the hospital said that in addition to the scarcity of medical talent, there has been a

tendency on the part of white doctors in the delta to exploit the people.

In spite of their low incomes, he said, many of the people were, and perhaps still are, paying as high as \$10 for a simple shot or a casual examination. In some cases, he said, persons reported to him that they were being charged for free services.

Hospital Plan

It was probably the work done by the Afro American Sons and Daughters and the A.K.A. girls which focused the attention of the people on the need for medical facilities, which led the 25,000 Taborians in Mississippi to decide to build the hospital instead of a temple which had been proposed.

Through a hospital plan maintained by the order, 31 days hospitalization per year including all