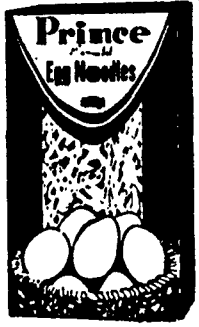


# Hey, Mrs. Brown



Wednesday is Prince Spaghetti Day... that leaves oodles of time for noodles.

A POP PRODUCT

12

Courier-Journal - Friday, August 9, 1968

## Tanzania Observes Church Centenary

Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania — A week of prayer and celebrations commemorated the centenary of the Catholic Church in this country.

Church dignitaries from the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Austria and the U.S. and from a number of countries in Africa, came to this tropical capital on the shores of the Indian Ocean to participate in ceremonies held to mark the arrival of missionaries in this part of Africa.

An editorial in Tanzania's Sunday News listed a number of the results of the apostolate such as 2.25 million Catholics, a large number of schools and hospitals, over 400 local priests, but added: "What the figures do not reveal is the intensity of simple brotherly love which has enabled the Church in Tanzania, one of the younger churches of Catholicism, to be so successful."

## Negro Cowboys Got Cut Off at Pass

Hollywood — (CPF) — The creation of a Negro Hopalong Cassidy or a colored Gene Autry or a black Boy Rogers would strike most Americans as nothing more than falsifying American history for the sake of racial justice. But what very few fans of paperback, movie and TV Westerns know is that the Negro cowboy was shot in the back before he ever had a chance.

"We discovered an unimagined number of Negro cowboys who had been dropped from the history of the West," reported two historians, whose book, "The Negro Cowboys," is but one of several recent efforts to uncover and publicize the lost heritage of the American Negro.



Otis Young will portray a Negro cowboy in a new TV Western. There were thousands of Negro cowboys in the old West, but they were erased from Western fiction, movies and TV series.

Negro cowboys "numbered thousands, among them many of the very best riders, ropers and wranglers," wrote historians Philip Durham and James Ley Jones. "They had ridden through the real West, but they found no place in the West of fiction."

Although several efforts are being made to put Negro cowboys back into the Western scene, among them a new TV series this fall that will feature a Negro cowboy, creators of such programs will face a credibility gap that has been produced by an unusual set of circumstances.

"Ignorance of history is the most important reason that the Negro cowboy does not ride in fiction," Durham and Jones reported. "And Americans have assumed that because Negroes have not been in Western fiction they were never in the West."

Writers and casting directors have feared "that the accurate representation of the Negro's role in the opening of the West would paradoxically seem to be a falsification of history," they concluded.

But there were Negro cowboys, some of them much more fiction-worthy than any of their white counterparts who made it into the pages of Zane Grey novels or the old "Republic Studios" one-reelers.

There was Bill Pickett, described by one white cattleman as "the greatest sweat-and-dirt cowhand that ever lived — bar none" and whose specialty was wrestling a steer to the ground by taking its nose in his teeth. "Thornton Biggs, who was the best 'top hand' on the Laramie Plains" and who "taught a

whole generation of future range managers, wagon bosses and all-around cowpunchers the finer points of the range cattle business."

There was Henry Clay, who helped Will Rogers perfect his roping tricks; Adam Rector, "a Negro who could ride and rope with the best," James Beckett, a mountain man whose exploits "rival those of Kit Carson and Jim Bridger, with both of whom he associated."

Not to create the impression that all Negro cowboys were "good guys," the first man ever jailed in Abilene was a Negro, whose trail crew, made up of Negroes and whites, became so infuriated that they shot up the town and staged Abilene's first jail break to rescue their buddy.

Few early histories took note of the cowboys' color, since a mixture of Negroes, white Texans and Mexicans was common. The president of the Old Time Trail Drivers Association once estimated that between 1868 and 1895 "fully 35,000 men went up the trail with herds" and of this number "about one-third were Negroes and Mexicans."

The Negro cowboy's exclusion from the pages of Western fiction—and, subsequently, movie and television Westerns—is laid at the feet of Owen Wister, whose 1902 novel, "The Virginian," is regarded as the prototype which set the pattern for thousands of Western short stories, novels, movies and TV programs that followed.

Wister, an Easterner "who shared the racial prejudices of his time and class," according to Durham and Jones, created a novel that was not so much anti-Negro but expressed, as did most of Wister's work, "an admiration for the Anglo-Saxon, for the conquering white man, for the noble Nordic."

Zane Grey, a New York dentist, picked up Wister's formula, an important part of which was the "Saxon pluck of the hero" and thus was born a white folk hero — the American cowboy.

But just as Westerns have evolved from simple "good guy and bad guy" confrontations into what is known as the "adult Western," where the good guy may have improper motives and the bad guy emotional problems, the Western may be finally ready to give the Negro cowboy a fair shake.

"Americans need to remember that the West once nearly approached the democracy that they are still striving to achieve," Durham and Jones wrote, referring to the fact that Negro and white cowboys tamed the American frontier by working together.

### Society for Blind Expands Services

New York — (NC) — The Xavier Society for the Blind, which operates the National Catholic Press and Library for the Visually Handicapped here, has launched its program of bringing current Catholic periodicals on cartridge-type cassettes to the blind throughout the U.S. and Canada.

The Society, in addition to providing the visually handicapped with taped periodicals, is expanding its program to provide library books on the newly developed cassette tape cartridge.

Six Catholic periodicals — three weeklies (America, Ave Maria and the National Register) — were selected.

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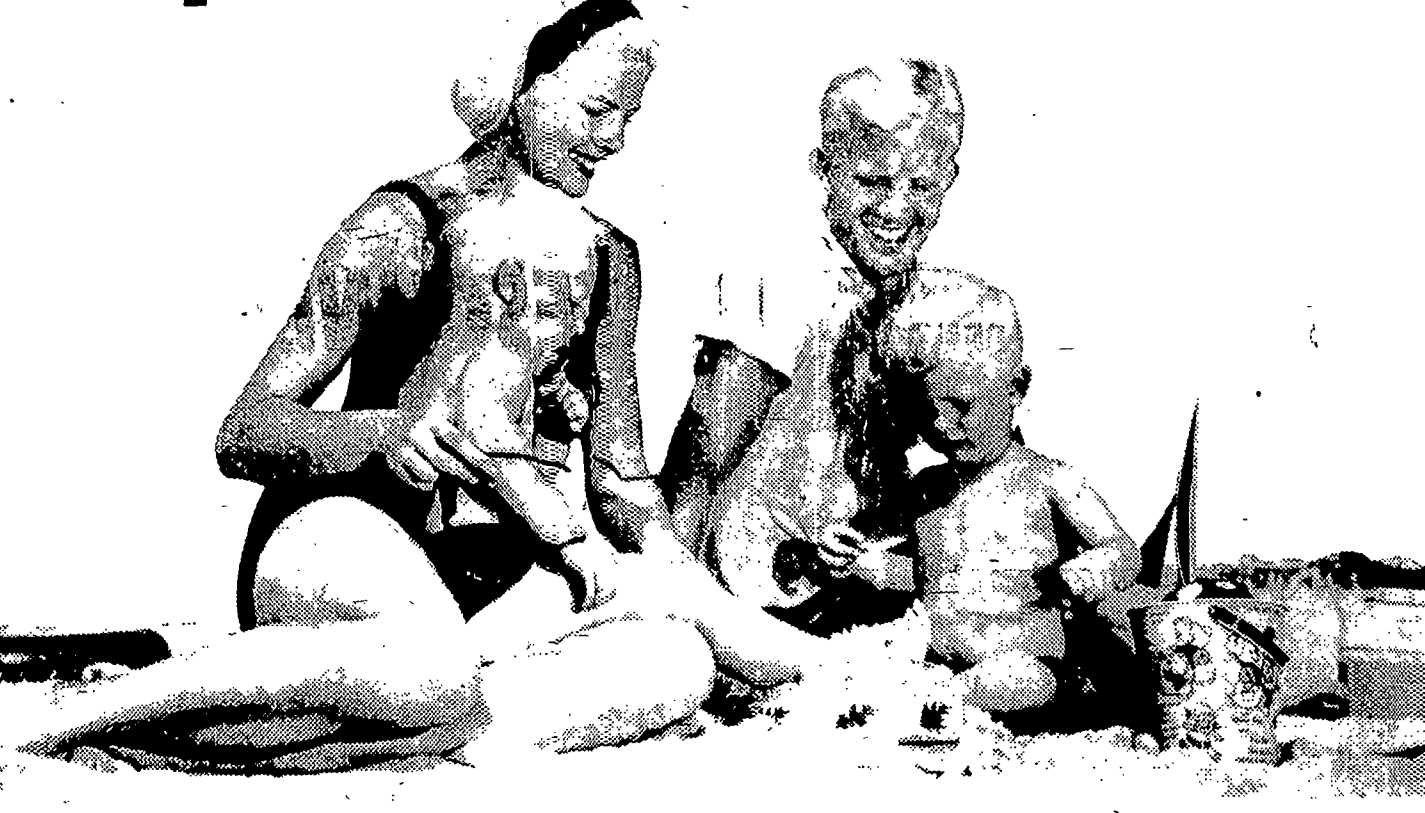
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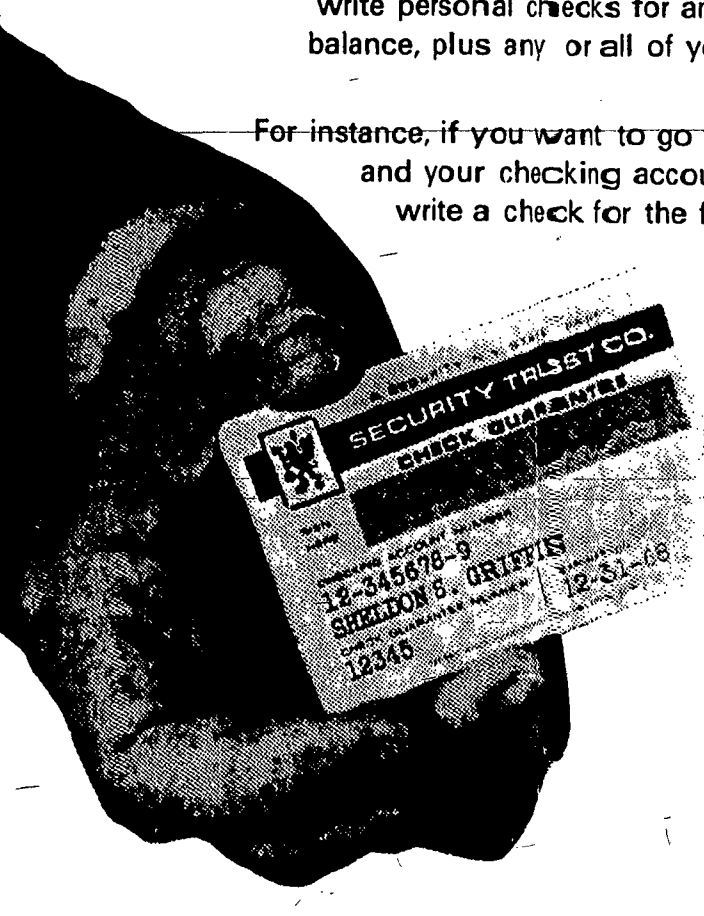
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