Book Review

By Saunders Redding

CAPTAIN OF THE PLANTER: The story of Robert Smalls, by Dorothy Sterling. Doubleday and Company, 575 Madison Ave., New York. 264 pp. $2.95.

Though the name Robert Smalls is memorialized in half a dozen schools in his native South Carolina, few of the teachers and probably none of the children who attend these schools have more than the most general, vague sort of knowledge about him.

Mr. Redding

Smalls has suffered the fate that certain of his contemporaries would gladly have seen him suffer during his lifetime: he is forgotten.

Perhaps Captain of The Planter will make him known to children and revitalize the memory of a man who was one of the conspicuous heroes of his day.

• • •

HIS "DAY" began in 1839, in Beaufort, S.C.

Formerly there had been talk of abolishing slavery, but by the time of Smalls' birth the cotton gin had been invented, and Sea Island cotton was selling for two dollars a pound, and to talk of abolishing slavery in S.C. was to invite jail or the violence of a mob.

Smalls was born a slave. Thanks to the bitter teachings of his mother, who took him to the pens to see slaves sold and to the jail to see them whipped, Robert soon learned to hate his condition.

At the age of ten, he committed his first rebellious act: he defied the slave curfew.

Less piqued by this defiance than hungry for ready, steady cash, Robert's master "hired him out" in Charleston. "Work hard . . . grow to be a man," Lydia Smalls told her son the day he left.

• • •

HE WORKED hard — and turned his wages over to his master. On his own initiative he moved from job to better-paying job — lamplighter, hotel waiter, stevedore, and foreman of stevedores at fifteen! — until at last he found a job with a future.

He learned sailmaking and rigging; he learned to handle boats with such skill that the master of the boatyard trusted him to deliver boats to their owners "in all sorts of wind and weather."

Gradually he came to know the waters of coastal S.C. as well as he knew his own reflection.

When the Civil War erupted and the South mobilized every available resource and every available man, slave and free, Robert was made a wheelman, "the closest a slave could come to being called 'pilot' in the Confederate navy."

He carried arms and men to the new forts the South was building.

He loved his boat, The Planter, but hated his cargo. One dawn he ran his boat past the Confederate forts and turned it over to the Union as a prize of war.

THIS, HOWEVER, was only the beginning of his remarkable career. Made pilot of a Union ironside and afterwards captain of The Planter, Smalls fought through the war.

When the conflict ended he was first a member of the S.C. Legislature, then a member of Congress.

Trumped - up charges of bribery were brought against him and he beat them down. He defied Wade Hampton; he defied Ben Tillman.

His Congressional battles for human rights won him the hard - earned praise of such political giants as Lodge of Mass., and LaFollette of Wisconsin. Full of years and honors, Robert Smalls died in 1915.

Though Dorothy Sterling wrote her book for children, she has documented it as if for scholars. Very interesting as sheer narrative, Captain of The Planter is solid enough to interest and enlighten adults.

Legal Advisor

By ROBERT WATTS
Baltimore Attorney

Is there any chance of a lifetimer getting clemency after serving 31 years with an excellent record. If so, how soon should he know the results after his case is heard by the Board of Pardon in Pennsylvania?

ANS.: First of all, you are eligible for a parole if you have a job you can go to and a home, if your record is good. The second part of your question can't be answered for different cases take different considerations of investigation.

• • •

I was in a rest hospital and after being home a year, they kept after me about coming back on visits although I was suppose to be an out patient.

On January 3rd of this year, while my husband was at work the case worker came in a pretense of visiting the doctor, got me back in the hospital, and locked me up in a ward without my husband's consent or mine.

How can I make these social workers leave me alone?

ANS.: If you are being illegally detained, then you should test this by a Habeas Corpus proceedings. Of course to do this you need an attorney.

It has been my experience however, that the Social Workers are fair people and not bothering you.

They have enough work to do and certainly would not have insisted you go back unless they were advised by a doctor.

• • •

Two years ago, I co-signed for a loan with my mother. Since then I have married and she is behind in her payments.

I am not working and the loan company has been phoning me, threatening they will garnishee my husband's pay to get the balance. I understand this cannot be done because my name is changed and he is not responsible for bills made before we married. Is this true?

ANS.: Under the law a husband is responsible for the necessities of his wife. He is reponsible for her support and this extends to emplied agency she has to pledge his credit for her necessities.

This would therefore rule out your husband.

Besides in Maryland, you can't garnishee wages ordinarily so see your attorney as to the amount of your husband's wages and he will advise if they can be garnisheed.

Our Readers Write

If you have a problem, let us help. Make letters short. Address AFRO Magazine Section, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore 1, Md.

Your Prayers Are Asked

For a respected boss that a critical operation may be successful. . . . For a beloved father and grandfather who has suffered so much. . . . For friend Maudie who is brave. . . . For a dear daughter that her mind may be healed. . . . For Daisy that she may be restored to health. . . . For Uncle Charles who has recently had a leg amputated. . . . For an only child not expected to live. . . . For Kay that her faith may be restored. . . . For Jack a polio victim. . . . For a dear mother that her suffering may be eased. . . . For young Wendy dying from cancer. . . . For Harry that he may have the will to live. . . . For husband George, about to undergo an operation. . . . For John, that his hip may be healed. . . . For Penny.

And for all sick and suffering people wherever they may be, that it may please God to heal them. And that Peace may prevail in the world.

POET LAUREATE

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — I am a tenth grade high school pupil and recently we have been studying English lyric poetry. I would like to know if America has a poet laureate, and if so what is his name.

M. JOAN ROYAL

America does not have an office of poet laureate, as does England. John Mansefield was appointed England's poet laureate in 1930.

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CONGRESSMEN

GRANTVILLE, Ga. — I am a 11th grade pupil at Central High School, Newman, Ga. I would like to know the number and name of colored members of the United States House of Representatives.

MELVIN JONES

Adam Clayton Powell, N.Y.; William Dawson, Chicago; and Charles Diggs, Jr., Detroit.

• • •

VITAL STATISTICS

ANDREWS, AFB. —In order to restore peace in our barracks, please tell us the vital statistics of Venus de Milo and Marilyn Monroe.

TANK SECTION

A pleasure. The statue of Venus de Milo measures 37-26-38, and Marilyn turns the tape at 36½-23-34.

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SECONDS

NEWBERN, N.C. — Please tell me with the aid of your little black book; how many seconds are there in a year?

ODESSA STREET

Used an adding machine instead of a black book. There are 31,536,000; for a leap year, add on another 86,400.

• • •

TOPPERS

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — I recently remarked in company that the proper height for a top hat should be 4½ inches. After some debate, and some of my friends even say the correct height is 11 inches.

Please settle this.

MYLES E. TANNER

Top hats are usually made to measure and their height depends on the build of the wearer, but the average height is 5¾ inches.

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BIRTHDAYS

BALTIMORE, Md. — People are supposed to have characteristics in accordance with the day of the week on which their birthdays fall. There is a poem about this, can you tell me how it goes in its entirety.

M. BARNET

Monday's child is fair of face,
Tuesday's child is full of grace,
Wednesday's child is full of woe,
Thursday's child, has far to go,
Friday's child is loving and giving,
Saturday's child works hard for a living,
But the child that is born on the Sabbath Day
Is bonny and blithe, good and gay.

• • •

KEEPER

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — I recently saw a newly-married woman wearing two wedding rings on her finger. On inquiry, I was told that the rings were "the wedding ring and the keeper."

Can you tell me anything about this custom?

MRS. SUSAN LANCE

The idea is that the "keeper," placed on the finger after the wedding ring (and usually being smaller) prevents the wedding ring from falling off.

• • •

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Philadelphia, Pa.—Would you please print the last verse of the Star Spangled Banner.

EARLINE GRAMMERCY

Oh thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation.
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav's rescued land,
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust!
And the star-spangled banner In triumph shall wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Looking For Someone

If you want to locate missing friends or relatives, enclose $1 in an envelope along with a description of the person, where and when he was last heard from. Send it to Missing Persons Editor, AFRO-AMERICAN Magazine, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, 1, Md.

Persons with information concerning these missing people address all correspondence to Missing Persons, c/o AFRO-AMERICAN, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore 1, Md.

L.A. of Bridgeford, N.J., is looking for any information about a Dr. Miller who once lived at 13 N. Percy St., Philadelphia.

• • •

Mrs. Hazel Drew, of Norfolk, Va., is looking for Charles Samuel Powell, formerly of Norfolk, Va. He is believed to be in Baltimore, Md. He was last seen Nov. 22, driving a '52 blue Ford.

• • •

Freddie Ferrell of Philadelphia, Pa., is looking for Robert Griffith. He left New Castle, Del., in the 1920's and is originally from Barbados, B.W.I. His mother's name was Mary E., father's name John D. Griffith.

• • •

Mrs. Agnes Ruth Brown Fisher of Washington, D.C., is looking for her two sisters who she has not seen in 30 years. One sister, maiden name Anne Elizabeth Brown, might be in Elliot City, the other, LaVinia Brown, was last heard from in the Glen Burnie area. Their parents, Hattie and Langston, formerly lived at 230 N. Bond St., Baltimore.

• • •

Mrs. Maggie McCrae of Midlothian, Virginia, is looking for her son, Mr. William H. Carter.

He has a brown complexion, and is about 5 feet 9 inches tall. He was last heard from on May 8th 1932, and he gave the following address, 722 S. 18th St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

• • •

Mrs. W. H. Warfield is looking for Clara Casey a native of Evansville, Ind. She moved Indianapolis, Ind., in 1927. She is short, medium brown-skin, long hair and probably about 65 or 70. She has a well known brother who lives there. He is known for his paper hanging. Her last known address was 346 Cora St.

The Bridge Table

East-West vulnerable
North dealer

NORTH
♠—9 7
♥—7 6
♦—A K Q 7 5 2
♣—8 7

WEST
♠—5 4 3 2
♥—5
♦—8 3
♣—K J 10 6 3 2

EAST
♠—9 7
♥—7 6
♦—A K Q 7 5 2
♣—8 7

SOUTH
♠—6
♥—9 8 4 3 2
♦—J 10 9 6 4
♣—A 5

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
2 ♦	2 ♠	3 ♦	Pass
Pass	4 ♠	5 ♦	Pass
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening lead: Ace of club.

Beware the weak two-opener. It is a tactic often used by duplicate players to disrupt communication between opponents with powerful hands.

In this week's hand, culled from the weekly duplicate match of Baltimore's Double Finesses bridge group, East-West fell victim to the deception.

The North-South team employs a modified Roth-Stone bidding system, which was properly announced at the beginning of the round.

For the benefit of the uninitiate a two-opening bid serves much the same function as the opening pre-emptive bid of the more common bidding systems.

Fully aware of this East allowed himself to be sucked into the trap.

With a 24-point hand, he chose merely to overcall. (He later confessed that he was attempting to lure the North-South partnership into a doubling situation.

Too late, East realized what was happening, and tried to pull the fat out of the fire by a jump to four spades. Non-plussed, South nonchalantly carried on to five diamonds, and the bidding was signed off at five spades.

The correct procedure, of course, was for East to make a diamond cue bid immediately, or jump shift to three spades as his original bid.

Needless to say, the slam was an ice-cold laydown, and a resounding bottom score for the East-West pair. The spade slam was reached and made at every other table.

AFRO
MAGAZINE SECTION
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HERE IS MILDRED

On Raising Children

Our girl Mildred has a few choice words to say to child psychologists who insist that a "child must be made to feel wanted." All she wants to be told is how to do it in this mixed up world.

By Alice Childress

Marge, I served a luncheon today. . .

The folks gave the affair in honor of a man who is very expert at raisin' children in the proper way.

I tell you, I could hardly keep my mind on what I was doin'!

I never knew there was so much to raisin' kids!

It seems like the very worst thing that can happen to a child is for him to feel unwanted. . . .

That's right, he must feel welcome, loved and needed.

• • •

OH, THEY DISCUSSED lots of things and I got to turnin' all of them over in my mind.

I wish that I had not been doin' the servin,' because there were a gang of things I wanted to talk about . . . but I guess they wouldn't have been able to deal with my questions, or hand me any kind of sensible answers.

I say that because their problems were pretty small compared to ours.

• • •

GIRL, IF feelin' loved and needed is the biggest thing in a child's life, how have we been able to bring up our kids and keep 'em going?

How do you send a colored child out to school and keep them from feelin' unwanted?

I'm tellin' you, you'd have your work cut out for you!

Almost everything they see, hear or read makes him feel not only unwanted but in-the-way.

ALMOST EVERY magazine, movie and comic strip tells 'em that they don't fit in with the general pattern of life.

In a thousand and one ways they are told that they don't look right.

They are always bein' told about "bad" hair and dark skin and a lot of stuff like that!

• • •

IT IS high time that some expert should put out a book on how to raise colored children so that they will feel loved and needed!

How do you explain to a five-year-old, why she can't go to the bathroom, when you make a stop to buy gas for the car?

How do you take a little girl right on past the restroom and make her squat in the bushes?

Well, I'm sorry if that sounds vulgar, but I'm talkin' about facts!

• • •

HOW DO YOU tell a child, why he can't take a seat at the soda-fountain in the local five and dime?

Is there an easy way to tell a four-year-old he can't stand in line with the other children to meet Santa Claus?

How do you teach children to look for the sign which says "COLORED" before they are old enough to even read?

How do you explain to a little one on the first day of kindergarten, why somebody might spit at him?

How do you tell your child, why he must pass right on by a pretty school with a playground and a swimming pool, in order to go to one that's got next to nothin'?

• • •

THESE EXPERTS have got some questions to answer!

Is there a proper way to tell a youngster he can't go to the public library, try on clothes in a certain store, buy a sandwich in a shop, sit down in a big, airy waiting room, sit in the front seats on a bus or even walk in a certain church?

How do you tell him these things, and at the same time keep him feelin' loved and needed?

• • •

IS THERE A good way to teach a child to recognize a "white" face and act a certain way everytime he sees one? You got to be awful clever to train little ones to say "Mister" and "Mam" to white folks whilst rememberin,' that white children can call his colored folk by first name!

How can a black man tell his child why he's called "boy" by a stranger?

What do you tell a tot about the words aunty, d---y, n---r, spook, burr-head, cannonball and jig? How can you explain, patience, gradually, take-low-bide-your-time and stuff like that to a CHILD?

• • •

MARGE, WHAT did you say! . . . Well, maybe you do explain something else, maybe you teach your youngster just the opposite . . . but then you've really got a big job on your hands!

How do you tell the kids, that if they don't go along with the notion that they're less than other folks; they may get beat up, have the house burned, go to jail, get shot or killed in some other terrible way?

I defy you to teach that and leave him feelin' secure!

• • •

THAT EXPERT kept talkin' about the dangers of "frustrated feelin's." . . .

Marge, that is just a high-soundin' word which means that you're walkin' around with so much misery bottled up inside of you, that you're ready to bust wide open!

I want someone to tell us how to raise our kids so that they will not feel frustrated, will be able to look to their parents for protection and will feel whole, normal, needed and loved!

Hmmmmmmmmmph!

Basketball Players

(Continued from Page 1)

There's also Cal Ramsey of NYU, a 6-4 Violet, who became varsity last year in his sophomore campaign, and who was rated a third - team All-America prospect by Sport Magazine even before he reported for practice last November.

Of him, New York Knickerbockers' president New Irish says: "We've already established territorial claims for the NBA (pro) draft in 1959."

• • •

OTHER possibilities for the fifth slot in our All-America Univac, are Johnny Green of Michigan State, Tom Hawkins of Notre Dame, Nolden Centry of Iowa, Corny Freeman of Xavier (Cinn.), Boo Ellis of Niagara, Earl Robinson of California, and Bobby Joe Mason of Bradley, to name a few.

Green is generally credited with putting the spark in the Michigan State five that climbed from seventh place in 1956, to the Big Ten title and a berth in the 1957 NCCA playoff.

Hawkins commands attention as a result of breaking all - time scoring records at Notre Dame last season in his sophomore year. He earned honorable mention on numerous mythical teams last March.

• • •

THE SAME is true of Gentry, who paced the point-getters on last year's Hawkeye quint, and of Freeman who, likewise, was top man on a fine Xavier five.

Ellis was second in the nation (to Elgin Baylor) in rebounding (with 522) and boasted a 23.9 scoring average in 1956-57.

Robinson is rated second only to Baylor as an individual standout on the West Coast, the sparkplug of a highly efficient California Bears [illegible].

And Mason is held out as the key man of Bradley's National Invitation Tournament (NIT) defending champions.

• • •

TOPS perhaps among the small college performers is Jimmy Smith, the clever all-rounder at little Steubenville (Ohio) College.

Although he doesn't often make the headlines, the 6-foot-6 senior is on the tongue of every pro scout in the country.

A 220 - pounder, Smith tallied 3,967 points in his first three years, having played as a freshman.

And his 519 rebounds last season must give him serious reckoning.

• • •

THE ALL-AMERICA electors do not pretend, even to themselves, that what comes out as a consensus of their screenings, can be considered infallible.

They know full well that it is not humanly possible for them, with all their numbers and their varied points of observation, to reach into the huge melting pot of college basketball and pull from it the one - two - three - four - five best players in the nation.

Who can say for example, that the five leading basketball players of the U.S., are restricted to the major colleges?

Or, for that matter, to the major colleges and smaller schools of predominantly white student bodies?

Chamberlain, Baylor, et al are in the limelight because of their sensational records and undeniable ability. But neither is it to be denied that being at two of the larger colleges has helped them get the attention they deserve.

• • •

ON THE other hand, what about the young men in predominantly colored schools? Who can say that they don't belong; that the All-Americas won't overlook them?

Wait now, don't shush that off as AFRO propaganda.

The pro league has discovered that there is worthwhile talent in the so-called "colored" colleges. Why shouldn't the All-America selectors?

Earl Lloyd, a product of West Virginia State, is in his sixth season in the National Basketball Association. And the big Syracuse Nationals' veteran is not alone.

The world champion Boston Celtics plucked Sam Jones from North Carolina College. The Philadelphia Warriors are happy over their acquisition of Woody Sauldsberry who did his collegiate cage chores at Texas Southern University.

And the same Syracuse team which employs Lloyd, has Bob Hopkins on its roster. Bob was known as "Lil Abner" when he was performing on the court for Grambling University.

• • •

ALTHOUGH he had many years of campaigning with tan pro outfits before entering the NBA in 1950, Nat (Sweetwater) Clifton calls Xavier University (New Orleans) his alma mater.

• • •

THERE HAVE been previous All - America teams with as many as three tan choices.

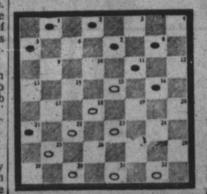
Bill Russell K. C. Jones and Wilt Chamberlain were named last year. Dick Ricketts, Si Green and Maurice Stokes were picked the season before, and Ricketts, Stokes and Wally Dukes the season before that.

Consequently, it is not unreasonable to visualize four on this year's squad. Five, though, may be a little different.

In a year in which tan athletes won the world championship in tennis (Althea Gibson); copped most valuable honors in baseball (Hank Aaron); acquired the all - around (decathlon) title in track (Charley Pratt), and gained recognition as champion and runner - up in ground gaining in football (Jim Brown and Tom Wilson) a five-man All - America in basketball might be too much to expect.

Besides, there are some pretty good white boys playing, too.

Spanish Pool Checkers



WHITE MOVES AND WINS!

Here's how:

23-19 plus 27-17! WW!

SPANISH POOL CHECKERS

Book 11, $2.50. Mail directly to Archie Waters. Spanish Pool Checkers, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore 1, Md. (Copyright, 1958 by Clyde Black and Archie Waters).