

COMMUNIQUE

From The Middle West

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KANSAS CITY, Kans.—More food than 21 hearty eaters could dispose of was the order of the "Turkey Day" feast held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Omar Pennell, widely known grain farmers and ranchers of Troy, Kan., for descendants of the Gee family, an historic group of early Kansas

KANSAS CITY, Kans.—More than 21 hearty eaters could dispose of was the order of the "Turkey Day" feast held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Omar Pennell, widely known grain farmers and ranchers of Troy, Kan., for descendants of the Gee family, an historic personality traits, some of the original members gave themselves such Christian names as Bird, Smith, and Greenberry.

Born a slave, Greenberry escaped into Highland, studied by night, worked, and saved funds necessary to secure transportation for other members of his family into free Kansas by underground passage, then taught them so well that a sister, Sallie, passed examinations for entrance into the highest institution of learning in Highland but was denied admittance because of color after much controversy between leading white citizens in the community.

Bird became one of the largest single landowners in Guthrie, Okla. and Oklahoma City, but being unversed in the chicanery of the "powers that be," lost his holdings through improper recording and unprotected investments.

Similar experiences were shared by Smith who grub-staked a gold-miner in Colorado who later was able to evade sharing his rich find with Smith, though to do so was an unwritten law.

Patriarch among the recent assemblage was "Charlie" Starr whose personal estimate of his age is 76 though his children believe him to be much older. His fine physical bearing was in keeping with the traditional family longevity.

Other descendants present were: Blanche and Barbara Washington, Stella Pennell, Emma, Faye, Inez and Graham Hayes, Fred, Bernard, Charlie and Grace Starr, Juanita and George Goodman Jr. The rest of the family were, Omar Pennell, Rev. L. E. Hayes, L. H. Washington, Sr., and Ann Drew Starr. Visitors were, Mr. Claggett, Mr. and Mrs. E. Bowles, and John Williams.

PHEASANT HUNT

Still vivid are the recollections of

light in Kansas City, Mo., this week with the awarding of a 30-year service pin, diamond inset, to Forest S. Smith, acting executive secretary of the Paseo branch Y.M. C.A. thus climaxing a career begun November 30, 1915, and embracing services as janitor, office secretary, dormitory and cafeteria manager, boys' work secretary, physical director, and finally, in 1926, promotion to executive secretary. He voluntarily resigned in December, 1943, but consented to serve temporarily upon the resignation of his successor in July, '45. Smith has been an outstanding religious worker, fraternity man, and supporter of other civic activities.

"BETWEEN YOU AND ME"

Joy and regret were closely intermingled in the hearts of a great many Kansas citizens this week because of the departure of the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Miller, who left to establish their home in Los Angeles. The many social courtesies extended as farewell gestures were sincere testimonials to the many years of religious and civic service constantly rendered by the couple and to the many deep and ever-abiding friendships they had made and sustained.

To those of us who knew them best, their life together and in the community is a beautiful saga of love, devotion, and courtesy to each other that exists in such large measure that it just overflows into all of their relationships with the rest of us. From people like these, the rest of us can draw courage to go on living our daily lives to the best of our abilities with the complete assurance that honest-to-goodness living does bring its own reward.

In a purely personal way, there is a rich joy in knowing that these were the people who "stood up" with mother and dad when they were married 40 years ago, November 29 and that their friendship has become more deeply entrenched with the passing of each year. So it is that we are reluctant to have them leave though we realize that it means the fulfillment of a dream