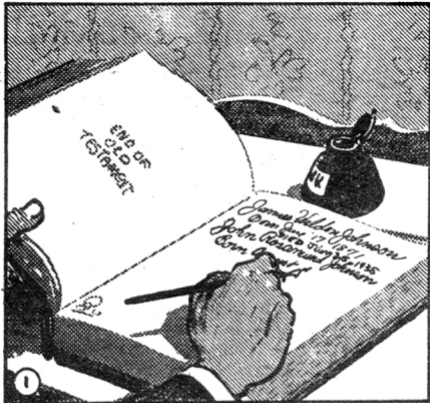
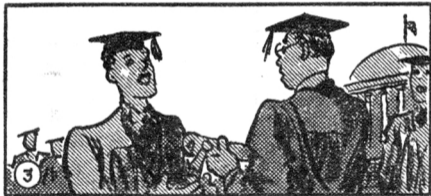


ST. PAUL RECORDER

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA, FRIDAY, JULY 22, 1938



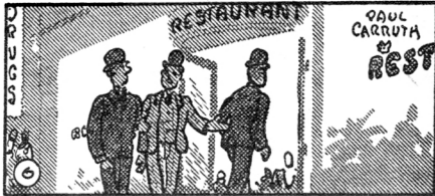
THE recent tragic death of James Weldon Johnson separated brothers, who had been composing songs for two generations. The elder was, besides, an outstanding lecturer and leader of his race.



They were born in Jacksonville, Florida, educated in Atlanta University, Atlanta, Ga. J. Rosamond went to Boston to study music, James Weldon became principal of the Stanton School in Jacksonville.



The summer of 1899, they left for New York City to interest producers in some songs they had written. They were taken up by many celebrities, including the famous vaudeville performer, Bob Cole.



They soon formed a partnership with him and created many songs and frequently made the rounds together.



Walking up lower Broadway, J. Rosamond hummed a negro spiritual, and Bob Cole was quick to see that it had popular possibilities.



They wrote the song, but the publisher didn't like it, and kept it in a drawer until Marie Cahill sang it to success.



The Johnsons and Cole were the songwriting sensations of the world in the first decade of the century.

When the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers was formed in 1914 the brothers were able to protect their copyrighted songs against infringement by commercial users of music.