

THE LATE
July 25, 1940
NICK AARON FORD
1904-1982

The late Nick Aaron Ford was a man of many talents and notable achievements. He was an excellent teacher and a successful administrator; a fine scholar and the author of an impressive list of scholarly books and articles; and a perceptive literary critic, whose disciplined and penetrating mind was capable of finding and analyzing immediately the core of meaning in works of pure literature and literary criticism. Also, although this was little known because he did not give much attention to its development, he possessed some talent for creative writing and produced at least one volume of poetry and a number of short stories.

Born on August 4, 1904, in the small, rural town of Ridgeway, South Carolina, about twenty miles from the capital city of Columbia, Nick Aaron Ford died in Baltimore, Maryland, on July 17, 1982, a mere eighteen days before his seventy-eighth birthday.

Nick Aaron Ford received the Bachelor's degree from Benedict College and both the A.M. and Ph.D. from the State University of Iowa, and he was awarded the honorary Doctorate in Literature by Benedict College in 1964.

NEWS AMONG THE COLORED

Professor N. A. Ford, who was born and reared near Simpson but for several years has headed the department of English in Oklahoma State college, Langston, Oklahoma, is visiting his mother. Prof. Ford is deeply interested in his work. He himself is a profound student not only in his field but in all phases of education and social uplift. Since the state in which he resides gives considerable latitude to all races in political affairs, Prof. Ford has educated himself in the political affairs of his state and discusses them with ease and a deep note of sincerity for good government in all phases of our economic, social, and industrial activities.

In the course of his long and distinguished career as educator, Nick Aaron Ford held many positions, bringing to each a large measure of dignity and distinction: as principal of Schoefield High School, followed by seventeen years in teaching and administration at Florida Normal School. He moved on to St. Phillips Junior College as Dean, to Langston University, and to Morgan State College as Professor and later English Department chairperson for twenty-six years. He served as Visiting Professor of English at the University of Massachusetts, was named Alain Locke Professor of Afro-American Studies at Morgan State College for one year and finally, for the last years of his active career as teacher, remained busy as Coordinator and Professor of the Ph.D. Program of the Union Graduate School's Center for Minority Studies.

When Nick Aaron Ford finally retired and stayed at home to write his autobiography, he had been an active teacher and administrator, scholar, critic, and author of fifty-three years. During all of this time, teaching, for which he had a real genius, remained his first love. Nothing pleased him more, over the years, than to see many of the thousands of students, taught by him, blossom into well educated, cultured men and women. He had an understanding way with students, for he considered teaching to be an art which one should constantly practice to develop and perfect.