Communication in Black Culture.

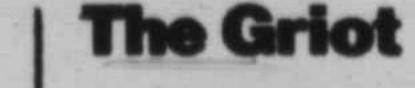
In the beginning, Afro-Americans had little else to sustain themselves but their cultural heritage. This heritage served as art, as emotional release and as a means of communicating the hopes, needs and fears of a despairing people.

The Oral Tradition

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The oral tradition is probably the most pervasive of all African cultural traits the slave brought with him.

make up this art are found in dance and music as well as the



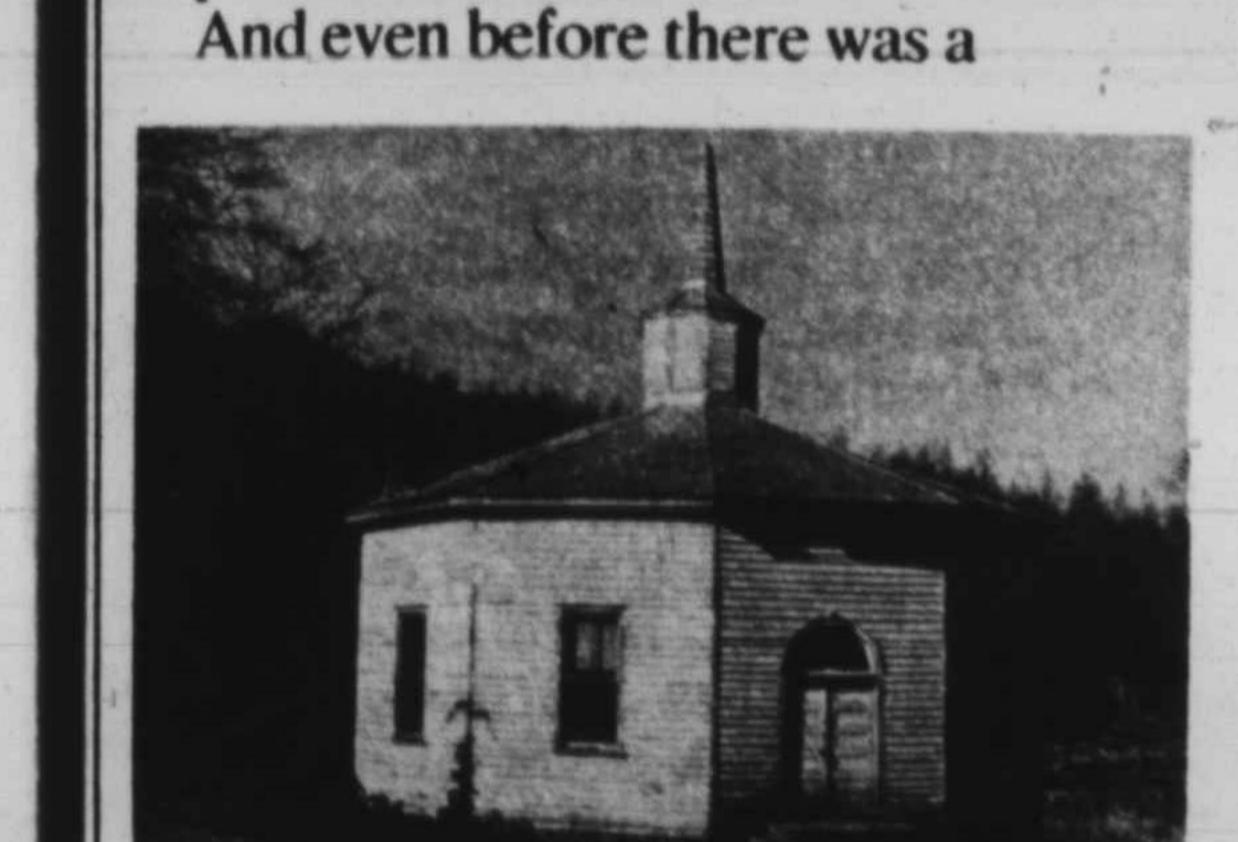
The history of many African societies has been preserved for centuries by men called griots. These men are living archives of oral history...masters of eloquence, repositories of secrets, preservers of the customs, achievements, philosophies and traditions of African kingdoms.

The griots are a significant part of the universal oral tradition by which people all over the world have passed on their cultures.

Griots train for many years to perfect their skills as teachers of history, as storytellers. The sons of griots usually take up the charge and become griots in turn. It is their duty. So important was their task in ages past, there was often

risk of death for

inaccuracy.



These men stand as an amazing

example of the capacity of human

memory. And if we are ever to fully

understand the roots of America's

great cultural heritage, we must

come to know all the ancient

secrets which are locked within

The Religious Experience

of the Black church, because it

In America, the history of Black

people can be told largely in terms

was the major source of all cultural

their memories.

expression.

The Black Church is still a major source of cultural expression. .

formal church, the Black preacher was a leader who communicated a sense of pride, determination and racial history to his people.

Like the griot he relied heavily on the oral tradition. In both their hands this form of expression becomes 2 an art. They are

PREACHER by Charles White Collection of Whitney Museum of American Art. N.Y. 1952.



The oral tradition must have been comforting to generations past. It must have made history seem more personal, more vibrant and alive...for this is the impact of the spoken word.

Communication and **Bell Technology**

Today, the Bell System is still relaying the spoken word. And we're using some of the most sophisticated technology in the world to do it quickly and efficiently. We're always looking for new and better ways to

> service you. That's why we look for employees like H. R. Stevens who works for Mountain Rell

to the Bell System his special understanding of the community. Understanding he has developed as a minister in the Church of Christ, Denver, Colorado. As a Bell System community liaison, he helps both business and the community keep in touch with each other's needs.

This is how the Bell System continues working to make telephone communication as convenient and affordable as possible...for everyone, everywhere.



communication is what we're all about.

