Black artists featured in Series

Madame C. J. Walker

Phillis Wheatley

Marian Anderson

Josephine Baker

Harriet Tubman

Fannie Lou Hamer

Josephine Baker who was known as the "Black Venus" and "Toast of Paris" was born to a poor family in St. Louis, Mo.

The theme of the 1980 National History Month is "Heritage for America," and in keeping with that theme the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson in 1915, features eight of the portraits from "The Great Black Women Collection" presented by Johnson Products Co.

The Great Black Women Collection, includes portraits of Josephine Baker, Fannie Lou Hamer, "Madame" C.J. Walker, Marian Anderson, Phillis Wheatley, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Tubman.

JOSEPHINE BAKER

She began her career performing in the black musical "Shuffle Along." She also performed as a dancer in New York City. She appeared in Ziegfeld Follies in 1936 and was featured in the film "Siren of the Tropics" in 1938.

She soon departed for Paris where she became an overnight sensation as an exotic dancer in the Folies Bergere and the Casino de Paris.

She was awarded a Legion of Honor for her assistance during the war. Her humanitarian spirit led her to adopt 12 children. She and her French husband purchased a huge chateau for their family, but expenses and stresses and strains on the large family soon broke up her marriage. As a result she was evicted from the chateau. Princess Grace of Monaco provided a house for Mrs. Baker and the children.

In 1973 she returned to the United States at the age of 67 and was a sellout in every house across the country. In 1963 she flew to America to participate in the "March on Washington" to demonstrate her concern over racial discrimination. She died in 1975.

FANNIE LOU HAMER

Fannie Lou Hamer was born in Rulesville, Miss. in October 1917. She founded the Freedom Farm Cooperative, a garment factory which provided food, clothes and jobs for the residents of Rulesville.

She also waged a voter registration campaign. Her courageous struggle to win rights for her people resulted in arrests, evictions, phone calls, abusive letters and beatings.

Her efforts however, achieved a new sense of dignity, pride and outlook for the black people everywhere. She died in 1977.

"MADAME" C.J. WALKER

"Madame" C.J. Walker, the millionaire cosmetic manufacturer, was born in Louisiana in 1869. Her ex-slave parents died when she was six years old. She was married at fourteen and became a widow at twenty. She took in laundry to earn a living.

She experimented with oils to condition the hair and developed the hot comb, which product she marketed. Because of the popularity of the comb she employed 2,000 agents to demonstrate the "Walker System" of hair straightening and cosmetics. She advertised in black publications and made headlines because of her social activities.

She bought a $250,000 mansion at Irvin-on-the-Hudson in New York and gave $100,000 to help establish a school for girls in West Africa. She also donated large sums of money to black institutions and charities in America. She died in 1919.

MARIAN ANDERSON

Marian Anderson was born in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1908. At the age of six she began singing in the choir of her neighborhood church.

In 1925 she was chosen from among 300 competitors to sing in the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. She received a Rosenwald Scholarship which allowed her to study in Germany. She also received an invitation to visit the Scandinavian countries and there she sang in Swedish and Finnish. Upon returning to the United States she performed in concert from coast to coast.

In 1930 the Daughters of the American Revolution denied her permission to perform in Constitution Hall; but that did not stop Marian. She sang on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on Easter Sunday to a crowd of 75,000.

Some of the awards she received were the Spingarn Medal, a medal from Liberia and the Bok Award for $10,000.

PHILLIS WHEATLEY

Phillis Wheatley who received acclaim as a poet at an early age was brought from Senegal as a child and sold in 1761 to a man named John Wheatley.

His wife taught the young girl to read and write. In her early teens she wrote many verses. She published the book Poems on Various Subjects in 1773. She was given her freedom and traveled to London. Poetess Wheatley died in 1784.

SOJOURNER TRUTH

"The Lord gave me truth because I was to declare Truth to my people" these are words of Sojourner Truth who was born a slave by the name of Isabella in Hurley, New York. After getting that revelation she rejected the name Isabella and became Sojourner Truth.

Slavery had been outlawed in New York in 1827. Previous to that date Sojourner had been a mother of five children but was separated from her husband before slavery became illegal.

HARRIET TUBMAN

Harriet Tubman, renown conductor of the Underground Railroad, was born a slave in 1820, in Dorchester County, Md. She married John Tubman, a free black man but still remained a slave.

After her master died in 1899 it was rumored that the slaves would be sold in to the Deep South. Harriet decided to escape, with the North Star as her guide she made it to Philadelphia. Two years later she returned for her husband but he had married another woman.

In December of 1859 she rescued her brother and sister and in 1851 she led 11 people to Canada. She died in 1913.

The portrait, the work of Paul Collins, a nationally known artist, is being shown in selected cities throughout the United States.

Black Firsts

The first successful heart surgery was performed by Dr. Daniel Williams. Williams was a graduate of Chicago Medical College. He entered private practice upon graduating but later helped in the founding of Chicago's Provident Hospital, the first interracial hospital in the United States. It was there that he performed the operation that made him famous.

SouvenirBanneker stamp kit offered

A special souvenir envelope with a first day cancellation of the new Banneker commemorative stamp, is being offered by the Black History Observance Committee of Washington, D.C.

Each envelope, featuring an actual stamp and a profile of Banneker, will be cancelled Friday, Feb. 15 in Annapolis, Maryland where the new commemorative will be issued.

The Banneker souvenir envelope is the third in a Black Heritage cover series, offered by the Committee, which also includes a 1978 Harriet Tubman and a 1979 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. cover.

The cost is $1 per each single cover and $2 for a combination cover —the Banneker envelope with the Tubman, King and Banneker stamps cancelled February 15 in Annapolis.

Headed by William D. Cunningham, the Black History Committee is composed of community volunteers who support the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History.

Mail orders for the various souvenir envelopes should be sent to: Black History Committee, Afro-American Association. 1401-14th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

Area nursing school molded pioneer nurses

Black nurses, in America, have made outstanding contributions to this country's development. The results of their labor are interwoven into the fabric of political, social, and economic segments of the nation's history.

Careful study of the lives of selected black nurses shows that they initiated changes by conducting tasks that made a difference in the quality of individual lives as well as in the instrinsic fibre of the entire country.

They created methods for keeping nursing a viable career for black people and thus added another dimension to the country's health care capabilities.

Among the countless ranks of black nursing pioneers are two women whose work and dedication brought changes to Washington area hospitals.

ALIENE CARRINGTON EWELL

Aliene Carrington Ewell is best known as the founder and first supreme basileus of Chi Eta Sorority Inc., a predominantly black nursing professional and social organization.

Mrs. Ewell, a Freedmen's Hospital Nursing School graduate, also attended D.C. Teacher's College, Columbia University, and Catholic University. The sorority's scholarship program is aptly named in her honor.

MABEL DOYLE KEATON STAUPERS

Mabel Doyle Keaton Staupers, another Freedmen's Hospital Nursing School graduate, probably served the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses more intensely, in times of crises, than any other NACGN official.

Benson & Hedges Menthol

"B&H, I like your style."

100's and Lights

Lights: 11 mg "tar" 0.8 mg nicotine av. per cigarette, by FTC method
100's: 17 mg "tar" 1.1 mg nicotine av. per cigarette, FTC Report May '78

Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health.

Will psychic's 'vision' find missing man?

See column 3 this page

Mitchell wants 'johns' prosecuted also.

See page 14

Baltimore Afro-American

WE ARE NOW IN OUR 88TH YEAR

88th Year No. 56

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LOOK FOR THE COUPON INSERT IN THIS ISSUE

$500,000 stolen from Social Security

Woodlawn worker held in computer swindle

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

A 29-year-old Woodlawn Social Security worker was charged Feb. 19 with manipulating a computer at the headquarters by ordering it to pay herself and two accomplices $500,000 in disability benefits.

Charged is Mrs. Janet Elizabeth Bartee Blair, of the 900 block of Rosedale St., who has been employed at Social Security since 1973 as a $16,451 a year benefit authorizer.

Another defendant, Ms. Stella M. Abrams, 31, of Philadelphia was arrested Tuesday on a charge of conspiracy to defraud and the defendan's brother, Malcolm Blair, 29, was also charged. He is now confined to a federal prison on unrelated charges.

The AFRO has learned Mrs. Blair's husband is serving two consecutive life sentences in California for killing his lawyer and his lawyer's wife nearly two years ago.

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AFRO Photos by Roman Hankewycz

PARK HEIGHTS PEOPLE — Members of the Park Heights Reform Council wait in vain for a meeting with the director of the Park Heights Community Corporation, Melvin Jackson. An assistant director of the PHCC, Charlotte Hall, is shown in this AFRO photo refusing to let the delegation consisting of, from (L to R), Percy Pair, Joyce McKoy, Gay Lewis and Claudette Chandler, met in a group with Jackson.

PORTER HAD AIRED RACIAL COMPLAINTS

Crusading Md. trooper on trial for misconduct

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

A black state trooper who brought to public attention discrimination charges within the Maryland State Police is now on trial for alleged misconduct.

Arthur T Porter, 36, who has been employed with the department for six years, claims he would not be on trial if it had not been for his criticisms of the department.

Porter, who is still on active duty, is charged with violation on non-payment of debts, writing bad checks and reporting false information to the department while a member of the state police force.

"None of the charges have anything to do with my job, they are all dealing with my personal life," Porter told the AFRO.

In a statement of charges released by the department, Porter is cited with giving false information about his education. Police prosecutors said Porter stated on Oct. 27, 1978 that he received a bachelor of science degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1967. In trial testimony, prosecutors introduced evidence to show that no one by the name of Arthur T. Porter ever attended the school.

Arthur Porter

However, Porter testified he did attend the school. Assistant Attorney General Alfred L. Scanlan Jr. asked Porter, "Isn't that a lie, Trooper Porter, you never attended University of Pennsylvania?"

Porter testified he had financial problems when he was charged with writing bad checks. In 1979, Porter had 95 checks returned for insufficient funds.

Scanlan asked Porter, "Do you know the difference between truth and falsehood?"

Porter said he did know the difference.

The prosecutor asked Porter why he said he was not married. Porter replied that he has not been married since he has lived in Maryland.

Charges against Porter said he claimed he was not married. He

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Park Heights residents want answers from PHCC board

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

An angry group of Park Heights residents were turned away from the door of the Park Heights Community Corporation Wednesday, Feb. 20, as they sought an open meeting with Melvin Jackson, executive director of the PHCC.

The residents, all members of the newly formed Park Heights Reform Council, had requested a meeting with Jackson to discuss several grievances.

According to Joyce McKoy, head of the PHRC, the delegation was upset with what they termed the lack of response to community needs they feel the PHCC has evidenced.

"All of this is an outgrowth of the Leo Burroughs firing," said Mrs. McKoy. "We've finally decided to stand up to the practices of the board of directors of the PHCC."

Mrs. McKoy, who is also head of the Hillsdale-Cotwood Community Organization, said that the PHCC has failed to improve conditions in her section of Park Heights, as well as the entire area.

"I feel a strong dedication to this community. The board of directors owes the community consideration and concern. They should be the nucleus of the community, but the results coming from the PHCC are null and void. The community is not receiving its share of federal funds, it's being starved for money."

McKoy refused to attend the scheduled meeting with Jackson because Jackson did not allow anyone other than Mrs. McKoy to be present.

The day after the delegation was turned away, Jackson defended his actions in a telephone interveiw with the AFRO.

"I can't understand why she would not discuss any of her concerns with me. Once I had met with her I would have been prepared to meet with the entire group, but I think her intentions are suspect when she shows up with five people, plus two news reporters." (Two AFRO staff members had accompanied the delegation.)

Mrs. McKoy stated that she did not want to meet with Jackson alone because "I wanted witnesses there. Otherwise, it would have just been my word against his."

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Free school breakfast program stalled—what's gone wrong?

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

Hundreds of children around the state are going to school hungry each day despite the federal and state funds that are available to implement school brekafast programs.

A legislative committee will hold hearings in Annapolis next week to determine whether the school breakfast program should be mandated in systems throughout the state.

The hearings were prompted by a bill introduced by House of Delegates member, Lucille Maurer, D-Montgomery County, which would require that all Title I Schools provide the program. Schools are designated Title I if the majority of the students are economically or educationally disadvantaged.

School officials support the program but state that the staff needed to manage the program is not available.

Patty Crouse, a member of the Maryland Food Committee who has worked toward passage of the bill, stated, "Students can't function at an optimum level if they are not nutritionally prepared. Some of children come to school who had very little to eat the night before. They just aren't prepared to learn."

Money's available but some schools aren't participating

Ms. Crouse pointed out that several schools in Baltimore city have voluntarily adopted the program including 57 Title I schools.

In addition, school systems in Harford, Queen Anne, St. Mary's and Dorchester counties have total, voluntary participation while Baltimore county totally opposes the program.

Breakfasts vary from each school depending on whether the school has in-house preparation facilities but must meet federal guidelines that require a grain product and a fruit or juice and milk. Such meals as scrambled eggs and toast to hot cereal or grilled cheese sandwiches are served.

Depending on a child's family income level, the meals are either served free of charge or at a reduced rate of five cents. Students not eligible for the free or reduced meals can still purchase a meal for about 35 cents.

School systems who are participating in the program are reimbursed 63 cents for each free meal and 58 cents for a reduced meal.

But several schools involved in the program report that parents have volunteered to help service the breakfasts.

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10 city workers nabbed on fuel fund thefts

Ten employees of the Urban Services Agency's winter fuel aid program face disciplinary action because they allegedly helped themselves to the program's benefits.

Four will be fired and six will be suspended, an agency official said.

The workers must pay back about $1,400, most of which was used for home heating oil or to pay utility bills. The fuel money was allocated from federal funds to help low-income city residents pay for heat this winter.

Nineteen Urban Services Agency employees were investigated. Eight have been cleared of any wrongdoing, said Elva Edwards, associate director of the agency. One person is still under investigation.

Several of the accused employees applied for energy assistance after it became available Dec. 3, she said. Their applications were processed faster than those of the public.

The investigation revealed:

—The four employees who will lose their jobs and must re-pay the fund received up to $250 in energy payments filed "clearly fraudulent" applications because their incomes were higher than those stipulated by the program's guidelines.

Three of the employees had worked for the agency for at least 13 years. One earned a salary of $14,000 per year.

—Five women received fuel or utility credits who were not eligible but whose applications were not complete "fabrications," according to agency spokesman James Miller.

One woman, an intake worker for the fund at the agency headquarters, will be suspended for 30 days and the other four will be suspended for two weeks each. All four will have to reimburse the program.

—One woman applied for the fuel benefits under her maiden name to pay her gas and electric bill. She will be suspended for two weeks but will not have to pay any money.

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World falls apart for man who shot 16-year-old

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

Robert G. Little is one of the so-called "new breed" of Baltimoreans. A young white man, he has bought and renovated several houses in a predominately black area of West Baltimore.

But Tuesday, Feb. 19, his world began to fall apart.

A youth who had been employed by him previously, according to police reports, attempted to break into Little's house. Little shot the youth, who later died in surgery at Baltimore's Institute For Emergency Medical Services.

"Before this happened," Little told the AFRO, "I guess I had the attitude that I was sick and tired of being robbed. I can only say for myself now that I wish I had never shot him. You don't know what something like that does to you."

Remorse isn't the only problem Little has had to deal with since the incident, which has inflamed several area residents. He says that the family of the slain youth, Theodore Allan Johnson, "poured out of the house, and would have lynched me on the spot."

Since the incident, Little said that he has had to pack up his belongings and move to Columbia to stay with freinds. He said he is still afraid to go back.

"I've put my life into fixing up those house, (he owns several houses in the 1800 block of West Baltimore Street), and now I can't go back. I made my home up

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Did psychic 'see' his fate?

Will psychic impressions and dreams help police solve the mysteries of a missing postal worker and a missing boatyard owner?

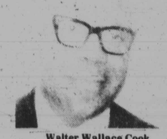
And who is the man police found in the Chesapeake Bay when they were looking for the postal worker?

Walter Wallace Cook, a 63-year-old postoffice employee, was reported missing Feb. 11 by his wife, Mrs. Dorothy Cook, when he did not return to their Braddish Avenue home after checking his 25-foot boat docked at the Waterview Marina.

A nationally-known psychic appearing on a local television talk show Thursday, Feb. 21, told the audience she had a vision of a violent struggle in which a man was injured by a man in his 20s. She said the crime had already been committed and at the time of the vision, she felt the sensation of a rocking boat, which she said indicated the crime took place near a body of water.

City police have dragged the water near the marina three times recently attempting to find Cook's body. Their search did not turn up Cook, but they did find another body.

An unidentified man wearing a yellow and brown striped shirt and red print underwear was found floating in the Chesapeake Bay Feb. 19. Police report the unidentified man is about 5 feet 9 inches tall, 193 pounds.


Walter Wallace Cook

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