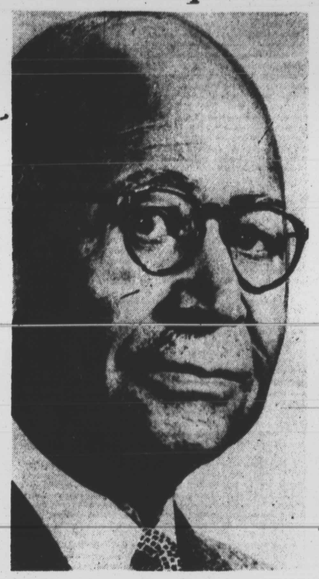
Chronology of an Arctic Explorer



Matthew Alexander Henson

For the record, here is an abbreviated list of the many accomplishments made by black explorer, Matthew Alexander Henson. Despite past contentions, including the one made as recently as Tuesday night with the airing of the television movie "Cook-Peary: The Race to the Pole," Henson was the first man to reach the North Pole 74 years ago.

(AFRO File Photo)

CHRONOLOGY OF MATTHEW ALEXANDER HENSON

AUGUST 8, 1866 . . . . Henson born on a sharecropper's farm in Charles County, Maryland

1879 . . . . Henson ships out to sea as a cabin boy at age 12

SPRING, 1887 . . . . Henson meets Lt. Robert E. Peary while working as a stock boy in a hat shop. The two travel to Nicaragua to scout for land for a U.S. canal

SUMMER, 1888 . . . . The two return to Philadelphia and Henson becomes Peary's "personal messenger"

JUNE 6, 1891 . . . . First North Greenland Expedition. Among the personnel are Cook, Henson and Peary

DECEMBER, 1892 . . . . Henson is nursed back to health after suffering snoblindness in the North

JUNE 23, 1893 . . . . Second North Greenland Expedition departs minus Dr. Frederick A. Cook

1895 . . . . Upon his return from the second trip, Henson is hired by the Museum of Natural History

1898 . . . . Third expedition party sets out to reach the Pole. Expedition lasts four years.

APRIL 21, 1902 . . . . Forced to abort the exploration effort on three previous occasions; Henson and party return to the U.S.

JULY 16, 1905 . . . . The sixth expedition departs from the N.Y. aboard The Roosevelt

DEC. 24, 1906 . . . . Roosevelt and crew return successfully to the U.S.

JULY 6, 1908 . . . . Henson and Peary set sail on their final voyage

APRIL 6, 1909 . . . . Matthew Henson becomes the first man ever to stand on the North Pole

FEBRUARY, 1912 . . . . Henson publishes autobiography, A Negro Explorer of the North

1937 . . . . Henson is granted membership into the all-white Explorers Club

1944 . . . . Congress awards a single medal to each of the five members, one black and four white, who set out with Commander Peary in 1908

1950 . . . . President Truman honors Henson during military ceremonies at the Pentagon

1954 . . . . President Dwight D. Eisenhower pays tribute to Henson at the White House

MARCH 9, 1955 . . . . Matthew Alexander Henson dies in N.Y. City

APRIL 12, 1956 . . . . Dr. H. Frisby drops Henson memorial plaque over the Pole

NOVEMBER 18, 1961 . . . . Unveiling ceremonies for a memorial plaque in honor of the state's native son is held at the State House in Annapolis

SEPTEMBER, 1963 . . . . Matthew A. Henson Elementary School opens, 1600 N. Payson St.

BNI STUDY SAYS

Blacks steered to all-black housing in suburbs

(UPI) — Although blacks can afford housing in Baltimore's three suburban counties, they are steered to black city neighborhoods when looking for new homes, a study shows.

The study by Baltimore Neighborhoods Inc. showed the population of Howard, Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties remains nearly 90 percent white although many of Baltimore's black families could afford to live in the suburbs.

The study found that one in six black city residents could have afforded median-priced homes in the three counties in 1980.

The report also indicated that half the blacks could have afforded the median 1980 rent in the three counties.

But the study showed that the city is 55 percent black, compared to 9.7 percent black populations in Anne Arundel, Howard and Baltimore counties.

The study claimed that place of employment, fear of rejection and steering blacks away from certain neighborhoods helped keep the suburbs predominantly white.

"This is not a study of discrimination per se. We conducted the study to assess affordability by black city families in various counties to buy and to rent," said Dickens Warfield, who worked on the study.

"We think steering and effects of past discrimination are the major factors keeping blacks in the city," she said. "There was discrimination in the past and to some extent it still exists. That's an interpretation of our findings."

Mrs. Warfield said black and white field "testers" for BNI posed as potential buyers in the Harford and Belair road areas as well as Reisterstown and Pikesville areas. She said although they had similar incomes, blacks were frequently sent to black areas and whites were referred to white areas.

BNI officials said the study was based on census data and the price of houses sold on the Central Maryland multiple listing service during the first six months of 1980.

Affordability was based on the formula that a house should cost no more than 2.25 times a family's gross annual income and a month's rent should be less than the family's gross weekly income.

SBA seeks small businesses to honor next year

The U.S. Small Business Administration once again is looking for outstanding small businesses and small business advocates, so they can be honored during National Small Business Week next May.

Trade associations, chambers of commerce and other types of business organizations today were urged to submit nominations and sponsor candidates. Members of SBA's Advisory Council will help select the "outstanding small business person" in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. SBA's Office of Advocacy, which coordinates Small Business Week Activities, will help select outstanding small business advocates.

The winners will be invited to Washington for Small Business Week activities, scheduled for May 6-12.

The "outstanding small business person of the year" will be selected from among the 52 state winners.

Each year, the President designates the second week of May as National Small Business Week, to note the contributions of all small businesses and to honor small businesses which have been especially successful in their areas.

Nominations for state small business entrants should be submitted to SBA district offices, located in 65 cities around the country. Deadline is November 15. Details on submission requirements are available at all SBA offices.

Outstanding advocates will be chosen in the categories of accountant, banker, media, minorities, veterans and women in business. Special advocacy awards will be presented to a small business exporter, a large business that has supported small business, a successful young entreprenuer and a small business owner who has promoted innovative technology. Nominations should be submitted to the nearest SBA office by November 15.

SBA's Office of Advocacy also is sponsoring a contest to select the 1984 National Small Business Week poster. Students, artists and professional designers with graphics, printing and advertising firms are encouraged to enter the contest. A $2,000 contract for final preparation and design of the winning poster will be awarded to the winning entry. Posters entries must be submitted by December 20 to the Office of Information, Office of Advocacy, U.S. Small Business Administration, 1725 Eye Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20416.

Entrants for state outstanding small business awards will be judged on employee growth, sales increase, current and past financial reports, innovativeness of product of service, response to adversity, community contributions and the firm's "staying power."

City unveils new cable TV attempt

(UPI) — City officials have unveiled details of their second attempt to attract a cable television franchise, a plan that would offer fewer channels and cost less than their first proposal.

Mayor William Schaefer said the city is seeking a cable firm to build a 74-channel system to be completed in four years. Under the plan, approximately 25 percent of the system will be reserved for minority control and 15 percent for public access.

A 1982 request for cable franchise bids, which was scrapped earlier this year, called for more than 100 channels with 20 percent of capacity to be reserved for the public use.

A 74-channel system is expected to cost about $75 million to build, compared to the $100 million pricetag on the original proposal.

City students fail state writing test

(UPI) — Nearly three-quarters of the city's public school ninth graders failed the state's functional writing test, school officials announced Wednesday.

Baltimore School Superintendent Alice Pinderhughes said the city's 71 percent failure rate compared to a 52 percent rate statewide. The test was administered on a trial basis last spring to Maryland's 53,000 ninth graders.

Although Mrs. Pinderhughes said she was not pleased with the results of the state test, she noted the findings compare closely with the city schools' own proficiency testing program in which only 30 percent of ninth graders achieved a passing mark.

The statewide writing test will be administered to all Maryland ninth graders once again in 1984, with students being required to pass the test before they can graduate from high school.

Baltimore County Branch of the NAACP is supporting the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers in its efforts to expand its distribution in Baltimore County.

HEALTH EXPERT SUGGESTS

Before you go on holiday eating binge, consider the consequences

By Steven Humphreys

Before you gnaw that turkey thigh, gulp another eggnog or otherwise prepare your chops for a holiday ritual of glorious feasting, a health expert suggests you consider the consequences.

Holiday eating — usually overeating — is among the time-honored traditions of the season. On the holiday agenda it ranks with peace on earth and football, and is the most personal way to achieve the spirit of giving — by giving to yourself.

"You make everybody feel good by overeating," says Dr. Judith V. McLaughlin, a University of Maryland Assistant professor who has made her life's work the study of obesity.

"Holiday eating is really just an exaggeration of all the usual urges a person has," she said. "The meal is embellished — like with 10 desserts.

"The only thing is that if we do overindulge we pay for months after, trying to get it off."

In an interview, Ms. McLaughlin said the holidays are trying times for people who have struggled valiantly to control their weight during one year.

Pressured by relatives to dig into a lavish holiday spread, and tempted by a barrage of signals to salivate, even the most hardened dieter can succumb and go on a month-long binge of eating.

"There is a feeling that you deserve it during the holiday time," she said. "There's more of a justification, an almost tacit legalization to overeat."

A pediatric endocrinologist and director of the University of Maryland Hospital's Pediatric Obesity Clinic, Ms. McLaughlin specializes in treating children whose overeating habits threaten their health.

At holiday time, she said, adults become children and their problems are much the same.

Her prescription for the holiday child in everyone ranges from using a smaller plate to asking your host or hostess to wrap up the food they want you to eat, taking it home and promptly disposing of it.

The key to overcoming peer pressure to overeat lies in "controlling your portions," she said. "You be the one who slices the pie. Take a small piece and emphasize how delicious it is. Stress that it's the quality and not the quantity that impresses you."

She said drinking 8 ounces of water before meals and eating as many vegetables and as much salad as possible will reduce space in the stomach for the potatoes, meat and gravy.

Prolong your eating by putting down the fork between bites, she said. And she advised it is "very important" to keep from skipping meals because "you inevitably overeat that way."

"When you go to a party where there's a lot of food, help the hostess in kitchen," said Ms. McLaughlin. "Do anything to make sure everyone else gets their fill before you do.

"If the party is at your house, make sure people take food with them."

She also suggests an alternative to the traditional holiday goodies of cookies and candy — have plenty of bananas, grapes, sliced apples, nuts and cheese on hand.

"Do anything to decrease the temptation," Ms. McLaughlin said.

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December 23, 1983

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