—Black Olympians

(Continued from page 27)

focus on the troubled youth of Newark, New Jersey, he acquired a huge three-story vacant building at 291 Bergen St., near South Orange Ave. While much of the Hymn was gym athletics, boxing, karate, track and field, he put together a general youth program of special interest groups.

But the need of heavy funding which he could not acquire brought about the demise of the Mitt Carch Jun Youth Center, but the facility with improvements has lived on. It is now the Parent Child Center, inc. handling several hundred children daily along with organized parent participation.

Likewise, Rafer Johnson has not hit the "jackpot" but he has not been bypassed. He has had several lucrative movie appearances in his post-Olympic career.

Quite a few black Olympians in all categories were obliged to accept the rash of offers from national liquor and beer corporations as either "community relations" or "special market" representatives. They came as fast as new names emerged from the sporting ranks and new generations sprouted with new heroes and dead memories.

A sparse few hung on and became proficient in what they were doing. One of them is Herbert Paul Douglas Jr., known to the track and field crowd as Herb Douglas. Douglas, who lives in Philadelphia, has risen to vice president of Schieffelin & Co. of New York City, and has been affiliated with the importer of Scotch and fine wines for more than 20 years.

He was one of the first post-World War II Olympic medal winners when he won a bronze medal in the long jump in London in 1948. One of his teammates was the astounding Harrison Dillard who won two gold medals in 1948 and two in 1952 and was the one time holder of 11 American, Olympic, & world records.

Herb's feats that earned him an Olympic berth began in junior high school in Pittsburgh, earning letters in basketball, track and gymnastics. In 1936, the year Jesse Owens earned the "fastest human" gold medal in the 100 meters, Douglas was Pittsburgh's 75-yard dash champion. He was inspired by Owens who later met him and in subsequent years they became close friends.

In recent years, Douglas has been instrumental in keeping liaison with former black olympic stars, all of them regardless of the years in which they participated maintain a high degree of comraderie.

In recent months, Douglas has organized the International Amateur Athletic Association that is designed to keep alive the competitive spirit of the late Jesse Owens. He, too, has managed to maintain a successful career in the private sector, which he attributes to his success in the Olympics.

Andrew W. Stanfield, a former *Gold Medalist is executive director of* the Union Township Community Action Organization, headquartered at the Myra E. Kearse center, Vaux Hall, New Jersey, To Olympic followers, he is Andy Stanfield.

He has a staff of nearly 60 persons, some located in several other sites in the huge township, probably one of the biggest such areas of its type in New Jersey. It has been 31 years since he won his first Olympic gold medals at Helsinki, Finland, but around his desk are the photographic memories of an illustrious track career launched at nearby Seton Hall University.

Dispite his busy program that involves hundreds of kids in head-start, elders in senior citizen projects, plus varied community projects, he is making plans for a mammoth New Jersey marathon, "Run for the Poor" scheduled for May 1984, with a goal exceeding a million dollars.

Another gold medal winner who has made it in the business world is Hayes Jones, hurdler, who is currently manager of Market Development for Stroh Beer Company, working out of Detroit, Mich. Jones has been in his new post for more than a year, but prior to that served with American Airlines.

Jones was a third place finisher (bronze medal) in the Rome Olympics in 1960 when his parents from Michigan cheered him from the stands. Four years later, Jones won the gold in specialty — the 110 - meter hurdles — in Tokyo.

Edwin Moses, the 1976 400 meter hurdling champion, is still competing and is expected to be an important cog in the 1984 United States Olympic team. Moses now has a degree in physics and works as an athletic consultant and spokesman for a film firm doing promotions and publicity for the Olympic Games.

George Rhoden, a gold medal winner in the Masters Track Program. He is a podiatrist and resides in Oakland, California. Rhoden a former Morgan State College track star under Coach Eddie Hart in Baltimore, MD, ran in the Olympics for Jamaica, his native home.

Mal Andrews, a 1956 Olympic broad jumper, is now a teacher at Cal-State at Hayward, California, and George Brown, 1952 teammate of Rhoden's is living in Sacramento.

Dave Albritten, who has been a coach, a 16-year legislator and a businessman in his home town of Dayton, won a silver medal in the high jump in the Berlin Games in 1936. Albritton and the late Cornelius Johnson, then of Compton College in California, dueled inch by inch with Johnson getting the edge. Johnson, incidently, died in 1947.

Perhaps the biggest winners in post- Olympic careers are the athletes who win gold medals in boxing. At least two of them have become millionaires and scores of others have gained economic security through turning their boxing talent to the professional field.

The two who gained millionaire status in the boxing ranks after Olympic triumphs are Muhammad Ali (known as Cassius Clay when he won the Olympic gold medal in Rome in 1960) and Sugar Ray Leonard, then of Palmer Park, Md., who won a gold medal in the boxing ring at Montreal in 1976. Both are on the sidelines as far as their fighting careers are now, but there is little doubt that Olympic boxing provided their pathway to pro boxing's highest spot and economic security.

All, who has a street named for him in native Louisville, Kentucky, began his pro boxing career shortly after winning the title at Rome. All is a two-time winner of the world heavyweight championship and has been a participant in several of the richest fight purses in history.

He is in retirement now but keeps active and on the trail of the gold by commercializing his fame, appearing in television advertisments and making personal appearances. He travels around the world with his promotional work but resides in Chicago.

Sugar Ray Leonard, who became the darling of the Olympic crowd in Montreal where he won a gold medal in the lightweight division, turned pro several years later and quickly moved into the big-time class. He gained millionaire status when he fought Tommy Hearns in a match that was hailed as the "richest purse" in fight history. Leonard's pro career came to a brilliant height with the 14th round technical knockout of Hearns.

Five world heavyweight champions have been graduates of the Olympic experience: Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay as an Olympian), 1960; Joe Frazier, 1964; George Foreman, 1968; Leon Spinks, 1976; and Floyd Patterson, 1952 who won an Olympic championship as a middleweight but moved into the heavyweight class when he turned pro.

Since Frazier's retirement he has been acting as trainer for his son, Marvis Frazier. Marvis seeking to emulate his father's ring prowess, as stopped by Larry Holmes in his first bid for the heavyweight title in November, 1983.

Patterson is retired and residing in New York while George Foreman, also retired from the ring, is a preacher in Houston, Texas.

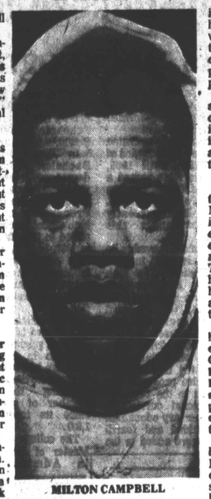
The Spinks Brothers are still battling for the cash in the pro ranks while, for the most part the others have retired or just called it quits after a brief stint as a professional.

Ray Seales, who won a gold medal in the 1972 Olympics and attained the North American Boxing Federation middleweight title in 1981, has had probably the worst luck of an ex-Olympic boxer.

A former middleweight champion, he is now legally blind with no vision in his left eye and only 10 percent in

(Continued on page 25)

RALPH BOSTON of Laurel, Miss., shown setting an Olympic broad jump record of 26 feet 7¾ inches at the 1960 Games in Rome.



MILTON CAMPBELL

JESSE OWENS is shown competing in the long jump (formerly broad jump) in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin in which he won four gold medals. He won the gold medal in the long jump. Owens died of lung cancer at the age of 66.

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—Black Olympians

(Continued from page 24)

his right eye, according to his ophthamologist in Tacoma, Washington. Only thirty, Seales early last year announced his retirement because of his vision problems. He had three operations for detached retinas before making the decision to call it quits.

Robert (Pappy) Gault now 61, who coached the U.S. Olympic Boxing Team in 1968 at Mexico, declares all Olympic fighters "try to get the gold (medal) because it is the path to the real gold." Boxers, as Gault sees it, have learned this is the way to make big money fast so if they are fortunate enough to win in the Olympics, they invariably seek the "big payoff" in pro ranks. This has been the trend for most of the ring champions since television scaled the pro purses for title fights to such lofty heights.

Gault, who now operates a training gym on Georgia Avenue in Northwest Washington, D.C., known as "The House of Champions," recalls that the 1968 team of 11 members won nine medals in Mexico. The 1976 team at Montreal, highlighted by Sugar Ray Leonard's victory, won more gold medals but the '68 team set a team mark.

Pappy Gault also recalls the exciting episode in Mexico City when Foreman won the heavyweight Olympic title and he handed George a tiny American flag to hold over his head on the victory stand.

The incident came several days after Tommie Smith and John Carlos,medal winners in the 200 meters, had used black-gloved, clenched-fists to give a Black Power salute as the Star-Spangled Banner was played and they stood on the victory stand.

Gault said he simply felt that "That was not the time or place to wash our dirty linen...I had compassion for Smith's and Carlos' feelings, and they understood it, but it was just the wrong place."

Carlos, who is now working in Los Angeles as a member of the Olympic Organizing Committee for the 1984 games is still a friend and frequently calls him, Gault says.

The first black Olympic competitor to win the light-heavyweight championship did not cash in on his boxing talent. He is Washingtonian, Norvell Lee, former Howard University boxer, who captured the light-heavyweight Olympic crown at Helsinki Finland, in 1952.

Significantly, Lee was awarded the Val Barker Trophy, as the outstanding performer in boxing division, winning over such fighters as Davy Moore, Floyd Patterson and Sweden's Ingemar Johansson, who later became world heavyweight champion.

Prior to his Olympic triumph, Lee had been CIAA champion in 1949, and scored big wins in the Golden Gloves in 1950-52 and the National AAU tournaments in 1950-51.

Lee did keep up with boxing activities, however, as he served as a member of the District of Columbia Boxing Commission for 14 years, and utilized his spare time to serve as coach of several community teams in the amateur ranks.

Currently Lee is employed in the Radiology Defense Office of the District of Columbia and resides in Northwest Washington.

Another Washingtonian was on the team with Lee. He was James (Jim) Braddock, who competed in the weightlifting class, winning a runner-up medal. Braddock works at the Library of Congress.

Other Olympic gold medal winners in the boxing competition include Nat Brooks, flyweight, 1952; Leon Randolph, flyweight, 1976; Rudy Harris, featherweight, 1968; Howard Davis, lightweight 1976; Chuck Atkins, 1952, Ray Seals, 1972, welterweight, and the Spinks brothers, Leon & Mike, 1976.

While boxing and track and field have produced the bulk of Black Olympic gold medalists, other sports, especially basketball, has produced some of the more popular athletes who have signed lucrative professional basketball contracts.

Perhaps the best known is Bill Russell, the great Boston Celtics player and coach. Russell, now 49, last year completed a four-year run with CBS-TV during which he was a regular announcer with Dick Stockton covering NBA games.

Russell, who was the standout member of the Olympic winning U.S. basketball team in 1956, dominated pro basketball after his collegiate days and Olympic experience. He starred as a player and coach for the Boston Celtics and was known as a student of the game as well as a teacher. He proved to be both a coach and an outstanding sportscaster. He led Boston to 13 world championships as a player/coach, and now devotes his time to a variety of business interests.

Also on that victorious Olympic team as a teammate of Bill Russell was K.C. Jones, the current coach of the Boston Celtics. Jones who played in the NBA with the Celtics had a previous coaching experience with the Washington Bullets for three seasons beginning in 1974.

K.C. Jones carried the Bullets to the finals of the NBA against Golden State after a 60-22 season after compiling a 47-35 mark in his initial coaching year. He had a 48-34 record, the year the Bullets let him go. He had been an assistant coach with the Celtics before he was elevated to his present post.

There are scores of other Olympic basketball stars now playing in the National Basketball Association, others who have played are now retired (Oscar Robertson, for instance), but only a few of them were gold medal winners.

Robertson, the three-time All-American, who was a member of the Olympic Championship team in 1960, signed a contract with the Cincinnati Royals one day after returning from Rome and went on to become one of the great stars in the NBA before his retirement four years ago.

Some of the others would include Carl Gain, who was with Russell and K.C. on the victorious team at Melbourne; Walter Bellamy, 1960 team; Walter Hazzard, 1964; Spencer Haywood and Adrian Dantley, the latter still active in the NBA.

Among other gold medalists who are still active in sports although not on the cinderpaths or in the boxing ring, are John Woodruff who dominated the 800 meters as no other runner has in his heyday. Woodruff won the 800 meters at Berlin, being a member of the same Olympic team with Jesse Owens.

Woodruff, formerly of the University of Pittsburgh, set world records indoors and outdoors, was three-time champion and a spotlighted figure at the annual Penn Relays where he led Pitt to four championships in 1936. He annually returns to the Penn Relays to serve as a finish judge.

Charley Jenkins, a track star at Villanova in his collegiate days, won the 400 meters in the Olympics at Melbourne in 1956, and is doing what few Olympians get an opportunity to do. Jenkins, after teaching and traveling abroad as a track coach, is back at Villanova as head track coach, seeking to maintain the high record the wildcats achieved under his old coach Jumbo Elliott.

Red Milburn, who earned a gold medal in the hurdles in 1972 at Munich, is still competing and may be a candidate for the 1984 team. Last April, Milburn breezed to victory in the 110 meter hurdles in the open competition of the 25th annual Pelican Relays in Baton Rouge, LA., in 13.3 which is an indication he is still in shape.

Bob Hayes was another of the famed Olympic gold medal sprinters. Bob won the 100 meters at Tokyo and turned to pro football upon his return, playing with the Dallas Cowboys in the National Football League for several years.

One of the great track and field stars of the Olympics whose record has stood the pressure of time is Bob Beaman, who set a world record long jump of 29 feet, 2½ inches, in October, 1968, at Mexico City. The record still stands although experts think Carl Lewis, the current cinderpath comet, may break it before his career fades.

Beamon is 37 now and works as director of sports development for Lade County Parks and Recreation in Miami, Florida. Recalling his 1968 jump, he said he merely wanted to jump "As far as I could with little thought about breaking a record."

A lot of viewers emphacized that Beamon was lucky as he did his jump in the "thin mountainous air of Mexico City." But they completely forgot that everybody else competed in that thin air too.

It also must be remembered that Beamon's mark was two feet longer than the record 27 feet 4 3/4 inches set by Ralph Boston in 1965. Beamon was competing against Boston and Igor Ter-Ovanesyan, a Soviet long jumper, who had tied Boston's record in 1967.

In 1932 when Los Angeles hosted the games, 127 women competed in 14 track & field, fencing, & swimming events. Since then 13 additional sports categories have been added to broaden the scope of female participation.

In the span of time since the 1932 games, women and Black women in particular, have provided outstanding performances in all events they participated in.

The most dominant figure in

(Continued on page 26)

The writer

Art Carter is a former sports editor of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, the first editor of DAWN Magazine and currently publisher-editor of the Washington AFRO-AMERICAN. Carter's journalistic career spans four decades and includes service as a war correspondent in North Africa and Italy. He has attended two Olympics—in Rome and Montreal.

Contributions to this article include Al White, Ric Roberts, Bob Queen, Bill Brower and Huel Washington.

CARL LEWIS, right, and Calvin Smith participating in a 400 meter relay in Helsinki last summer. Both Lewis and Smith are favored to win gold medals in Los Angeles this summer in the sprints and long jump.

Layton Brothers long time part of Va. history

Benjamin Thomas Layton is a busy man, going throughout the city for speaking engagements during Black History Month.

All of these programs are related to Black History Month. Layton, who is a civil rights specialist with the the Department of Agriculture, has been, along with his brother, Bill, a constant speaker on such occasions.

The Layton brothers, William Wendell and Benjamin Thomas, have been a two-man team for a long time. Both of them were born at the Hanover Learning Center (formerly the Virginia Manual Training School), a Virginia State Correctional Institution for boys, where their father served as superintendent for nearly 22 years.

Older brother Bill wrote his first poem at nine years of age and continued writing poetry as well as prose throughout the depression years of the 1930's. But it was Ben who not only memorized all of Bill's poetry but gave numerous recitals of it in and around Richmond, Va. at the same, time distinguishing himself as a popular speaker on the depression and the New Deal, winning a number of oratorical contests.

Ben's musical talents even overshadowed his oratorical ability, because he founded and directed the Swing Orchestra, "Benny Layton and his Rhythm Kings", which in the 1930's and 40's was one of the more popular dance orchestras in Virginia. At one time the world famous Billy Taylor played piano with the Rhythm Kings.

Bill, who retired from the official staff of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in 1977, has resumed writing poetry.

He also has an outstanding collection of original abolitionist movement and Civil War letters and documents which he exhibits and lectures on. In 1981 he presented programs in 6 states and the District of Columbia.

Ben, who retired from military service with the rank of Lt. Colonel, is a civil rights specialist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Each year he fills numerous engagements presenting his original orations, which he has updated, and selections from his brother's poetry. In addition, he has contributed numerous artifacts to the Smithsonian Institution and to Virginia Union University from which he graduated in 1939.

BEN AND BILL LAYTON TODAY

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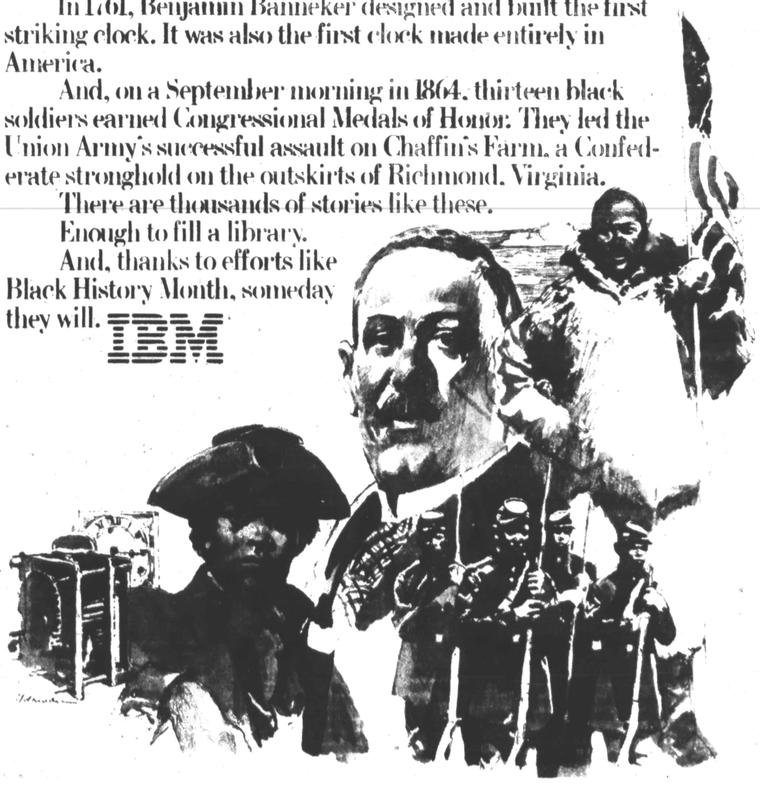
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