—Black Olympians

(Continued from page 25)

women's competition without a doubt, has been **Wilma Rudolph** who won three gold medals in the 1960 games at Rome, Italy.

Wilma came out of Tennessee State University under Coach Ed Temple, who was developing women runners long before it became stylish for them to compete in big meets. Wilma won gold medals in the 100 meters, 200 meters and 4x100 meter relay.

Some Tennessee State's other Olympic gold medalists were **Edith McGuire & Wyomia Tyus.** McGuire won the 200 meters in Tokyo in 1964. Tyus won the 100 meter gold at Tokyo and also at Mexico City in 1968.

Besides the previously mentioned gold medal winners scores of others have made history as performers under the American flag in the celebrated Olympics.

Howard P. Drew was a sprinter in the 1912 Olympics and a favorite to win the gold, but tragedy hit him and he never ran in the finals. Drew was stricken with a leg injury after winning the semi-finals in the 100 meters. Although he suited up for the finals, he never ran as the injury was too painful.

Perhaps the most hard luck story of the Olympics happened in Munich in 1972 when Ray Robinson and Eddie Hart, then two of America's standout sprinters, were disqualified as they failed to report at the starting post on time for the second heat of the 100 meters.

Six Olympic gold medal winners were honored last year as they were among the 20 charter members of the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame. The list was topped by **Jesse Owens,** winner of four gold medals at the Berlin Olympics, and the lone boxer was **Cassius Clay,** now known as **Muhammad Ali,** who won the light-heavyweight title in Rome in 1960.

CASSIUS CLAY, now known as Muhammad Ali, as he trained for the 1960 Olympics. Ali won the gold medal in 1960 and subsequently, as Muhammad Ali, won the world heavyweight championship twice

Others include **Wilma Rudolph,** winner of three gold medals in the Olympic Women's events in 1960; **Rafer Johnson,** 1960 decathlon champion; **Bob Beamon,** 1968 long jump victor with a still standing world record of 29 feet, 2½ inches; **Harrison Dillard,** four-time gold medal winner in sprints and hurdles in 1948 and 1952.

It should be remembered that coaching techniques are imperceptibly altered as time goes on, making it impossible for any clocking to remain unchallenged. Jesse Owens, for example, was not permitted to use the modern starting block. He had to break the tape, but today the dash man need only make contact with the tape. Perhaps the Owens' 9.4 of 1936, today would be a probable 9.1.

In the historic words of Baron deCouterteu, who is considered the father of Modern Olympics: "The important thing in the Olympic Games is not winning but taking part. The essential thing is not conquering, but fighting well.

This may have been fine when the Modern Games were renewed in 1896, but the simple fact is now the athletes and the nations "go for the gold" because winners of gold Olympic medals find gold–real gold–easier to obtain once that gold medal is dangling on a ribbon around your neck.

Thus some of the gold winners have gained success, and some of them have been like Tennyson's snowflake, "A moment white on water, then gone forever," but the story of those who have survived the Olympics and moved into successful careers is a part of history--Black History particularly--that we can never overlook

SGT. EDWARD CROOK, left, of Ft. Campbell, Ky., winning the middleweight gold medal in the 1960 Olympics. tadeosz Walasek, right, of Poland won the silver medal.

HAYES JONES, formerly of Pontiac, Mich., skims over the hurdle almost shoulder to shoulder with the rest of the field on his way to victory in the heat of the men's 110-meter Olympic hurdles in Rome in 1960. His time was 14.2 seconds. Jones, now an executive with Shroh's Beer Company, finished third in the finals.

JOHN THOMAS of Boston University, clears the bar in the 17th Olympic Games in Rome in 1960. Thomas, then 19 years old and from Cambridge, Mass., had set a record of 7 feet, 3¾ inches that year. However, he finished third in the Olympics.

Lige Williams, snubbed at Drake, gains alumni honors at Emporia

This year being an Olympic Year, with the famed international games scheduled for Los Angeles in August, memory naturally swings to events which were directly connected with the Olympics or which may have changed the course of some athletes.

It is such an event which probably changed the course of athletic history for Elijah (lige) Williams, former world class sprinter, who now lives in retirement in Washington.

Back in the mid-twenties Charley Paddock was, regarded as one of the world's greatest sprinters. Paddock was white, and use to dominate the sprints in meets on the West Coast and at the Drake Relays.

Lige Williams was a sensational runner at Kansas State Teachers College and entered the Drake Relays where he had hoped to compete against Paddock.

Paddock refused to run against Williams, declaring he "had not reached his top form," at such an early time in the spring (April). However, he did run an exhibition race that day, but Williams was not a competitor.

Williams was Kansas Conference champion for three straight years, 1922-23-24, in the 100 and 220 yard dashes with clockings of 9.7 and 21.4 seconds around a curved track.

Recently, Williams was among three KSTC graduates honored at the Distinguished Alumni Awards dinner sponsored by the KSTC Alumni Association.

He was inducted in the Hall of Honor at Emporia State University on Oct. 22, 1983.

He is a member of the Pigskin Club of Washington and a member of Calvary P.E. Church. He was employed in the D.C. Recreation Department from 1930 to 1933.

ELIJAH (LIGE) WILLIAMS

Later he was a medical assistant in the department of bacteriology at Howard Medical School for 18 years, 1935 to 1953.

Williams was born in Burlingame in 1903 but moved to Emporia as a teenager. He attended Emporia High School and graduated in 1921. He entered KSTC in the spring of 1922 and under the guidance of Coach Bill Hargiss went on to win four letters in track.

In 1923 he ran the 220 yard dash in 21.4 seconds, breaking existing meet records and equaling the world's record on a curved track.

Lige Williams earned a life teaching certificate from KSTC and although he was a hot Olympic prospect, he decided to enter the Marquette University school of dentistry at Milwaukee where he had been offered a four-year scholarship. He enrolled at Milwaukee but because of the illness of his mother, Williams returned to KSTC where he began training for the Olympics.

A pulled tendon in his left leg 10 days before the Olympic trials kept him out of competition.

He received a one-year scholarship at Howard University in 1925 where he took a pre-medical course.

While at Howard, Williams also worked for the Washington, D.C., Recreation Department. In 1951 he became district parole officer, a post he held until his retirement in 1965.

He is still active as a member of the Advisory Council for the Department of Corrections in Washington and also is an advisor to the Homemakers Organization.

Smithsonian

Feb. 25, 2-3 p.m. — The Nubian Theatre Company will use a Griot, (master teacher) musicians, dancers and actors in a program of folk music, dance and folk tales arranged in an Afro-American style to reflect the common cultural heritage of African peoples around the world. Baird Auditorium, National Museum of Natural History, 10th St. and Constitution Ave., N.W., $4 for non-members.

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Historic dates to remember

1 - Birthday of Langston Hughes (1902-1967) Joplin, Mo. born poet and author whose popular character Jesse B. Simple of Harlem USA mirrored the average working man's inquiry into the racial injustices inherent in American life.

2 - Birthday of John S. Rock (1825-1866). Born in Salem, New Jersey he was one of the many outstanding Black leaders active even before the Civil War.

School teacher, dentist, physician, lawyer and graduate of American Medical College in Philadelphia, member of the Massachusetts Bar, proficient in Latin and Greek, Dr. Rock was one of the leaders of the movement for equal rights in the North. He used the lecture platform to challenge racist concepts that Blacks were inferior to Whites. In 1865 he became the first Afro-American lawyer accredited to practice before the Supreme Court.

2 - Birthday of jazz musician Sonny Stitt.

6 - Birthday of Benjamin Banneker (1731-1806) a free Negro astronomer and mathematician of Maryland. He published a series of almanacs such as did Benjamin Franklin. At age 23 he built the first American clock to strike the hours.

9 - Death of poet Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906) died of tuberculosis. This Ohio born poet was the first Black-American born poet to gain national recognition and publication of his works. He spent much of his time in travel reading his works throughout this country and England.

10 - Birthday of soprano Leontyne Price.

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Abbie Mitchell . . . sang before kings

By Ida Peters

When the names of famous Baltimoreans in the field of performing arts are mentioned seldom do you hear the name of Abbie Mitchell, who was born in Baltimore in 1884 and died March 16, 1960, New York City. She was the first Clara in "Porgy and Bess" in Gershwin's opera in Atlantic City, 1935-36.

The possessor of a beautiful soprano voice, by the time she was 17, she had played her first command performance before King Edward VII in the Cole and Johnson revue, "Red Moon" in 1903 and later the same year gave a command performance before Nicholas II Czar of Russia in St. Petersburg.

Abbie Mitchell was reared in St. Elizabeth's Convent and attended Baltimore Public Schools. She was in her home one afternoon singing as she went about her household chores when a family friend, Will Marion Cook, wandered in. She was only 12. Before she knew what was happening she was engaged for the chorus in the musical play "Clorindy-The Origin of the Cakewalk 1898". Cock co-wrote "Clorindy" with Paul Laurence Dunbar.

Two years later, at 14, she married the famous composer, Will Marion Cook. They became the parents of Dr. Will Mercer Cook, Sr. the famed professor of Romance Languages at Howard University and Atlanta University.

Abbie Mitchell toured the United States and Canada and Cook's song, "Cakewalk" became a popular dance throughout the world.

Ir 1904, Abbie sang one song in a musical play "The Southernaires" which ran four months at the New York Theatre on Broadway. She told the AFRO she was the first black to have her name in lights on Broadway.

Will Marion Cook's wife, Abbie Mitchell, was discovered at age 12 in Baltimore. She starred in "In Dahomey."

She then starred for Oscar Hammerstein in an act at the Victoria Theatre in New York for three years, 1905-6-7. She was the prima donna with 26 blacks playing cello, violins, guitars, mandolins, piano and drums. They toured America and Europe.

Still in her teens, she studied voice under Harry T. Burleigh who placed her with Mme. Emilia Serrano, with whom she studied for four years. She also gained invaluable experience under her husband, Will Marion Cook, who was one of the foremost choral directors of his century.

She later studied musical theory and harmony under Melville Charlton and studied in Paris for two years under the great Jean de Reszke.

She starred with Williams and Walker "In Bandanna Land". Also, with Williams and Walker, the famed comedy team, she played London in "In Dahomey" for two years where she gave her first command performance in 1903.

She was well received on the concert stages of Europe and gave recitals in Paris, Berlin and Vienna. She did extensive radio work with Dr. Frank Black's orchestra.

Turning to the dramatic stage, she spent five years 1915-1920 with the Lafayette Players in New York. Her plays include "Madame X" "Help Wanted" and "The Pulitzer Prize Play", "In Abraham Bosom".

She spent three summers learning modern acting at the Hedgerow Theatre and School in Pennsylvania. From 1927-29, she played the role of Julia in "Coquette" at the Maxine Elliot Theatre supporting Helen Hayes.

She later played Cora in "Melatto" in New York and D.C. and from 1939 to 1941 was on the National tour of "The Little Foxes" in the role of Addie with Tallulah Bankhead.

The Negro Actors Guild honored her in 1946 for outstanding achievements for successfully pioneering for herself and fellow artists.

By this time, she had founded the Abbie Mitchell Players in New York and had a role in Canada Lee's play "On Whitman Avenue".

For three years, Abbie Mitchell taught voice and drama at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama and in later years served as executive secretary of the Negro Actors Guild.

She coached concert singers until almost five years before her death in 1960 at her studio on W. 125th St. in New York.

From a child star at 14, she became a skilled actress and a brilliant linguist in English, French, Italian and German.

(Photo by Courtney)

MAYOR Marion Barry (center) was among the city officials who came out Sunday to mark the opening of presidential candidate Jesse Jackson's campaign headquarters here on 11th Street, NW. Also shown (left to right) are: Councilmember Frank Smith, Barry Chuck Moore.

Smithsonian

Feb. 18 — Tour and Concert — The famed Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore will be the setting for a performance of rarely heard works by black composer for the musical theater. Edward Polochick will conduct the Peabody Chamber Orchestra, accompanied by the Morgan State University choral ensemble and a solo vocal quartet.

The concert concludes a three-day symposium on black musical theater in America. Before the concert, participants will have a catered supper in the board room of the Peabody's Shapiro House together with guests from the symposium. The tour will also include a talk by Thomas Riis of the University of Georgia on black musical theater.

AFT says teacher salaries up by 8 %

The average salary for teachers increased 8.5 percent last school year, twice the rate of inflation, to $30,547, the American Federation of Teachers have reported.

The District has the second highest pay scale with an average salary of $35,610.

The 580,000-member union said in a study that despite the rise, the size of teacher paychecks "in terms of real or constant dollars" dropped 3.6 percent since 1979 and 10.6 percent since 1974.

AFT President Albert Shanker attributed the 1982-83 gain to "the catch-up period we are experiencing in teacher salaries."

Teachers' pay has been a focus of a mounting campaign to upgrade public schools, which the National Commission on Excellence in Education last April found engulfed by "a rising tide of mediocrity."

The commission's report and reports by several other groups said salaries must be substantially increased to attract and keep the best and the brightest in the teaching profession.

Currently, the average salary for teachers is far less than that for other professions, such as engineering, law, medicine and business.

The AFT study, based in part on figures obtained from state education departments, also found that Alaska, where the cost of living is one-third higher than the national average, has the highest average teacher salary at $35,297 while the lowest average teacher salary was $14,320 in Mississippi, followed by Arkansas, at $15, 029 (see copy for remainder.

The AFT said its report contains "the most up-to-date facts and figures on U.S. teacher earning."

James Ward, AFT research director, said 1983 teacher salary figures released last month by the education department were "misleading and inaccurate."

He added while the department reported that the average teacher salary in 1982 was $17,360. That figure actually is an estimated average for the 1981 - 82 school year.

Medal of Honor recipient buried at Arl. Cemetery

Fog shrouded the solemn ceremony for retired Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence Joel, the first black medal of honor holder of the Vietnam War buried at Arlington National Cemetary.

After ceremonies earlier this week—attended by 54 members of his family and 25 retired and active-duty soldiers from the army's 173rd Airborne Brigade, with which he served—Joel became the 223rd medal of honor hero to be interred at Arlington, whose rolling hills overlook the Potomac River and the Nation's Capital.

Heavy fog enveloped the rows of small white tombstones on the hillsides and blurred the outlines of a lone bugler sounding the haunting notes of "taps." A chilling, fine mist soaked turf and condensed on the white marble stones.

Joel died of diabetes at 55 in Winston-Salem, N.C., Feb. 4.

Retired April 30, 1973, after 27 years in the Army, Joel was a specialist 5th class and a medic when his unit was ambushed by the Viet Cong Nov. 8, 1965, north of Saigon.

Although twice injured, he tended to the wounds of his fellow soldiers while ignoring the intense fire that erupted around him.

"Completely ignoring the warnings of others and his pain, the citation accompanying his medal of honor said, "he continued his search for wounded, exposing himself to hostile fire; and, as bullets dug up the dirt around him, he held plasma bottles high while completely engrossed in his life-saving mission.

"After being struck a second time, and with a bullet lodged in his thigh, he treated more men before his supplies ran out. With a new pack, he crawled through an intense hail of gunfire to continue to treat the wounded until his own evacuation was ordered," the citation said.

"I knew during those few hours that there was no greater man who walked on earth," eulogized Lt. Col. James Hutchens, a chaplain now with the National Guard in Washington, who had been a chaplain with Joel's unit in Vietnam.

"He was bigger than life," he told the mourners adding that Joel was "absolutely indestructible."

It was as though there was a shield around him," he said.

There is no special place in Arlington for Medal of Honor winners. Joel was buried in section 46 alongside a Medal of Honor winner. Cmdr. Willard Miller, who died in Vietnam on Feb. 19, 1959.

Broadwater lobbies in order to save job

Former Maryland State Sen. Tommie Broadwater is telephoning his one time colleagues from prison to ask them to kill a bill that would prevent him from running for his old seat in 1986.

Forty Broadwater supporters came to a Senate hearing earlier this week to testify against the bill, which would require all candidates for office to be registered voters.

Broadwater, a Prince George's County democrat, lost his right to vote when he was convicted for food stamp fraud, a felony. He lost his state senate seat when he was sentenced to six months at a minimum security prison in Petersburg, Va.

Broadwater has made more than six of the calls in recent days, many of them collect at taxpayer expense, according to early news reports. The warden at Petersburg said calls by prisoners must be placed collect.

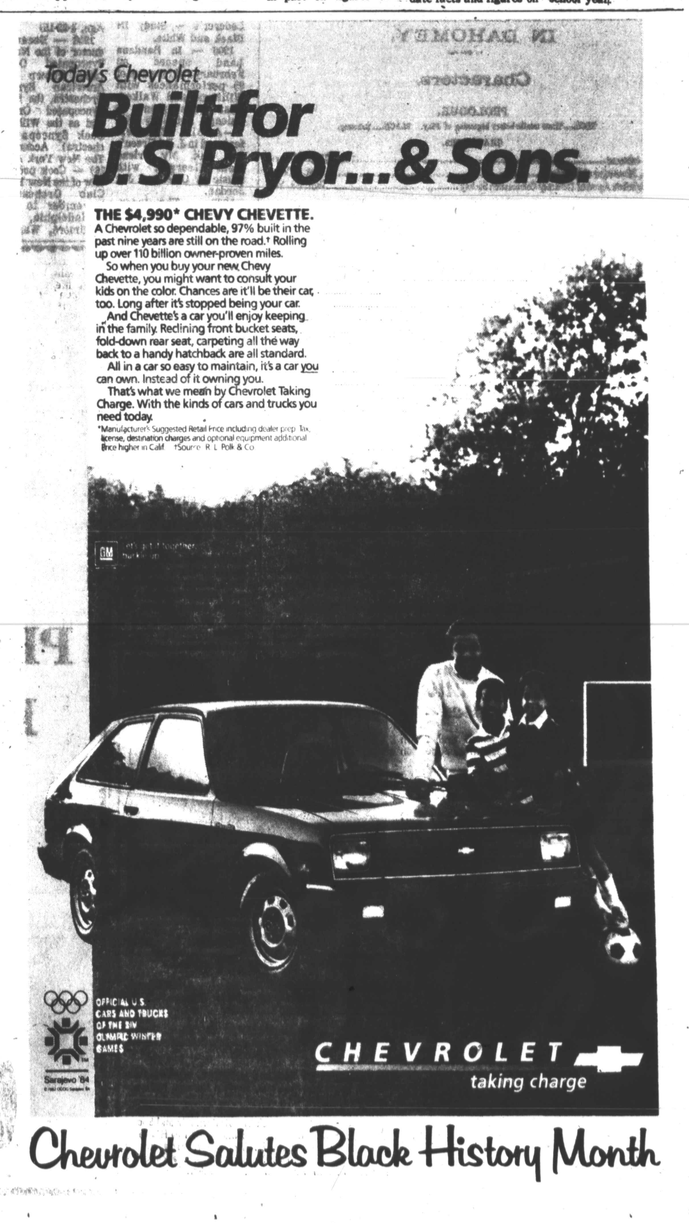
Opponent of the bill testified that the measure was racist and aimed specifically at Broadwater.

Sen. Clarence Mitchell III, D-Baltimore, said no legislation to restrict candidates was introduced following federal political corruption charges against Baltimore County executive Dale Anderson.

Anderson, who served 13 months in prison in the mid-1970s, is a member of the House of Delegates.

"You know you struggle and you fight," Broadwater said. "I intend to keep on fighting, though it's difficult to do it from here."

Senate Majority Leader Clarence Blount, chairman of the Black Caucus, said he talked to Broadwater twice.



Chevrolet Salutes Black History Month