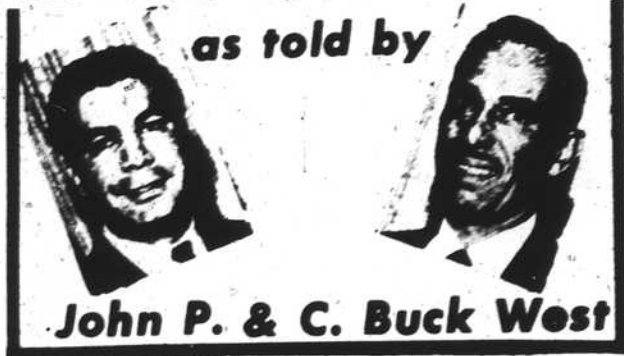


# Hidden History

The Unsung Saga of the Black Man  
as told by



John P. & C. Buck West

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## Culture Of The American Negro

By PATRICIA ANN GEORGE  
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(Submitted as entry in the VOICE-sponsored Negro History Essay Contest.)

IT WAS NOT until the late nineteenth century that the Western World realized, that the primitive art of Africa was sophisticated. How then did the Negro come to lose his heritage? The abrupt transplantation disassociated the Negro from his culture, language, changed his habits, and placed him in a totally different culture, all at the same time.

African artists were remarkable in the work with wood, metal, ivory, bone, weaving and pottery.

Slavery placed the Negro in a position where manual labor alone was needed, with only the meanness of tools, thereby limiting his chance to develop technical skills.

Alexander Jacovleff, a Russian artist once commented on Africa as a "continent of beautiful bodies, but above all, of beautiful hands." Many may think this a strange statement until one stops to realize the fact that to survive in primitive Africa required, and to some extent still does require, almost perfect co-ordination of nerve, and muscle.

THROUGH THE years, the American Negro has made many contributions to the American Culture. The stirring spirituals that we are all familiar with were born of the sweat and hardships and hope to which they aspired.

Another musical form equally well known throughout the world is jazz. Two of the greatest ambassadors of jazz are Louis 'Satchmo' Armstrong and Edward Kennedy Ellington or 'Duke' Ellington as we all know him.

### LOUIS 'SATCHMO' ARMSTRONG

AT THE tender age of 13, Louis Armstrong was sent to Waifs Home for Boys, where he got his start in music under Mr. Davis, the band director.

Joe Oliver, one of the all time greats, became a close friend of Armstrong and taught him all he knew of the trumpet. Louis Armstrong, or Satchmo as he is better known, held various jobs with such famous personalities as: Fate Marable, Joe Oliver, and Smack Henderson.

It was with Henderson that Armstrong developed his own style to the fullest. The main philosophy that can be attributed to Armstrong's success is his belief in playing a song the way he felt it. This is what today is commonly called "soul". The ability to literally "put yourself" in the song.

### EDWARD KENNEDY ELLINGTON

Edward Kennedy Ellington was always an exceptionally well inclined child in the field of music.

J. P. Johnson was one of the people imitated by Ellington. After hearing 'Duke', Johnson commended him but he also gave advice that eventually made Ellington famous, "Have your own style."

ELLINGTON WAS one of the first to take his music from life. To him, music was life. For Ellington, the written score talked, it soar-

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# EDITORIAL

## Dying Voters League Must Be Saved

"INTELLIGENT USE of the ballot is the most potent weapon available to Negroes in their fight for full freedom and full opportunities." This premise gave birth to the Nevada Voters League nearly a decade ago.

The Voters League (there is Only One, THE NEVADA VOTERS LEAGUE--All others are fraudulent) was created with the prime purpose of organizing the voting power of the Negro voters, and later utilizing that power as the wedge which would open all doors closed to Negroes.

The Nevada Voters League is potentially the most effective weapon available to Nevada Negroes in winning the Civil Rights struggle. The Nevada Voters League is also the most potent implement available to the local NAACP, which is "the General" of all Civil Rights Forces.

The NAACP must have a halo of organized votes before it can flex its muscles. When its muscles bulge with ballots, the NAACP can find more ears willing to listen and more hearts in sympathy with reason. The NAACP wins its battles on the field of reason, but it must have the umbrella of organized black votes, hanging over it like a black cloud, before it can lure the enemy into the field of reason.

THE NAACP must have a strong political ally before it can muster its full potential in the battle for equality. The Voters League is the ally so essential to an effective campaign.

The total Negro community must concern itself with the fate of the Voters League, if members of the Community are concerned about themselves. The League is the key that will open the doors to better life, as well as all other doors which open into the mainstream of this great Nation.

Those doors which remain closed to us will not be opened easily, but they will be opened when we put all of our individual strength to-

gether. The ballot is our strength. We must use it. We must use it collectively, and we must use it intelligently.

The Nevada Voters League is the means to that end. The intelligent, united use of black votes is Black Power! But, the League has been a sickening failure. Instead of growing stronger, it has grown weaker. A few short years ago, three years to be exact, the Voters League was a political power--today, it is a political pun--it is a joke.

THE LEAGUE is not dying for lack of people with self-interest. The League is decaying because of lack of leadership. It has no plan because it has no planners within its leadership structure. It has no active members because it has no active program. It has no followers because it has no leadership. It has no strength because it has no unity. It has no unity because it has no organization! It is a tragedy! It is the weak point in our battleline! It must be strengthened if there are to be any new victories in the battle for rights.

The Negro community must demand that an emergency meeting be called immediately for the purpose of accepting the resignations of the present officers, and for the purpose of selecting a nominating committee to suggest names of persons to be elected to run the organization as it should be run.

The Nevada Voters League is dying rapidly. We cannot stand on the sidelines and wait for death. We must draw new blood from the ranks, bring the League back to life, and return the League to a position of powerful political influence.

We cannot progress without a strong, well-organized Voters League.

(Editor's note: We urgently request our readers to write to the VOICE on this matter.)

### JAMES BALDWIN

ONE OF THE most controversial figures in Negro Literature is James Baldwin. Baldwin has shown himself to be one of the few persons capable of putting the emotions of everyday life into fiery passages of dialogue. His literary works, though realistic, are shockingly to the point, and can be very cruel and cutting to those who are proud.

### MUSIC

THE MUSIC of the slaves on the plantations was not merely to pass away time but a source of release for the frustrations and pent-up emotions. Oddly enough, the music of the Negro has had a greater effect on Southerners than they care to admit.

By nature the Negro is spontaneously musically inclined and, for this reason, was thought to be less than civilized and in need of the "benevolent" protection of slavery.

We must also try to understand the background of the colonists that settled the American continent. Basically of Anglo-Saxon stock, their musical inheritance was very weak and extremely plain. Coupled with the Puritan ideas that music and dancing were sinful and traits of the devil, it is of little wonder that the Negro with his frantic movements and pulsating rhythm were thought to be pagan by the plantation

(See HISTORY, page 11)

## THIS WEEK IN NEGRO HISTORY

### AN "NPI" FEATURE

- June 15, 1881 Booker T. Washington, following his graduation from Hampton Institute, Va., arrived in Tuskegee, Ala., to take charge of the small school which he later developed into the world famous Tuskegee Institute.
- June 16, 1866 The Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving former slaves the right of citizenship, was proposed in Congress.
- June 17, 1775 The Battle of Bunker Hill, in which many Negroes saw action and died, took place.
- June 18, 1941 George Washington Carver was awarded the honorary doctor of science degree by the University of Rochester for his research at Tuskegee Institute.
- June 19, 1809 The First African Baptist Church, believed to be the first
- (See THIS WEEK, page 11)

## LAS VEGAS Voice

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