

**(HISTORY, from page 2)**

owners.  
THE MUSIC of the Negro ranges from folk, which requires no formal training but a lot of emotion, to light compositions, full of mockery, and humor.

William A. Dawson, Nathaniel Dett and William Grant Still are only a few of the noted Negro composers.

To the field of music the American Negro has contributed rhythm, pitch and harmony.

The Negro spirituals rank among the classical for expression, simplicity, originality and universal appeal.

No essay could be complete without comment on one of the most beloved of all Negro entertainers, Nat King Cole.

Nat King Cole was a man of many talents. Not only was he an accomplished singer and actor, but a great pianist, second only to Art Tatum, which is still considered unbeatable.

Nat King Cole was one of the few Hollywood stars whose career was not marred by scandal. Nat King Cole was not only a giant, but a legend in his own time. Nat King Cole was one of the few men to ever attain stardom and continue as such with a large fan club ranging from 10 to 110. Though his fans out-grew their teens, they never out-grew him or left him behind.

The singer's voice was described in many ways, husky and warm, pussy-willowed, and even likened to an evening breeze whispering to each individual listener solely.

NAT KING Cole was extremely particular about his dress to the point he was considered one of the best dressed men in America. Many of his musical works are well known, among them are: Rambling Rose, Mona Lisa, and Nature Boy.

Nat King Cole knew greatness from the very first, and associated with such famous personalities as Julie London, John Barrymore, Billy Daniels, Eartha Kitt and many more.

Along with such personalities, though few in number, Nat King Cole did more to further the Negro in the field of show business than any other man.

**POETRY**

THE POETRY of the Negro expresses child-like simplicity, with consummated artistry. Their poems are fervent expressions of Christian belief, therefore it is not strange to find that much of our poetry comes from a Biblical background.

We read in the Bible and we understand  
That Samson was the strongest man.  
Samson went out at one time  
And killed about a hundred Philistines.  
Delilah fooled Samson this we know  
Because the Holy Bible tells us so.  
She shaved off his head just as clean as  
your hair  
And his strength became as any other  
man.

This was the Bible for a majority of the Negroes since many could not read or write. The poetry of the Negro expressed his trials and hopes for freedom. There is also bitterness expressed:

We raise de wheat, Dey gib us de corn;  
We bake de bread, Dey gib us de crust;  
We sif de meal, Dey gib us de huss;  
We peel de meat, Dey gib us de skin;  
And dat's de way, Dey take us in;  
We skims de pot, Dey gib us de liquor  
And say dat's good enough for a -----.

IN HIS poetry the Negro expressed his legacy, will, and all he aspired to.

James Weldon Johnson was one of the many Negro poets with formal training. Johnson's poem "Black and Unknown Bards" is often considered as being an explanation of the origin of the Negro spirituals.

Oh black and unknown bards of long ago,  
How came your lips to touch the sacred fire?  
How, in your darkness, did you come to know  
The power and beauty of the minstrel's lyre?  
Who first from midst his bonds lifted his eyes?  
Who first from the still watch, lone and long,  
Feeling the ancient faith of prophets rise  
Within his dark-kept soul, burst into song?

Here is clearly illustrated the difference between the formal style of Johnson and the in-



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formal style of the authors prior to this time. What prompted Johnson to compose this poem no one knows, but here is a bit of speculation. Johnson had uncanny foresight showing the Negro standing ready for any fate, achieving and pursuing his goals with silent patience, and hard labor. Waiting...Waiting...For the time he would be seen as he truly is...An American first and foremost.

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**(THIS WEEK, from page 2)**

Negro Baptist congregation in the United States, was organized in Philadelphia.  
June 20, 1858 Charles W. Chestnut, noted author and teacher, was born in Ohio.  
June 21, 1937 Death of Henry O. Tanner, internationally famous painter.