

Hidden History

The Unsung Saga of the Black Man

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ABC's "Africa" An Epic

The Hidden History chronicler takes respite this week from researching little known facts about the Black Man's history, his achievements and contributions since the earliest days of recorded history to comment on the ABC television network's brilliant four hour presentation on Africa which was viewed in the local area on Channel 13 from 5 to 9 p.m.

Preempting all of the network's prime time programming Sunday, "Africa", as the epic special was simply entitled, actually defied categorization in any accepted television format terminology.

It can neither be labeled documentary or as a travelogue. It was a superbly produced, beautifully photographed revelation of the complexities of the vast continent that has always held such a fascination for people the world over.

Narrated by actor Gregory Peck, the exquisite portrayal of the drama that is Africa detailed the lives, activities, and the heritage of the peoples of Africa.

ACCORDING TO publicity releases prior to the presentation, production of the "Africa" special utilized more than a hundred news people, and nine separate production units shooting 600,000 feet of color film over a period of eight months.

The story of Africa was simply unfolded encompassing historical data relevant to the pioneer activities today of a number of scientists engaged in a variety of scientific and technical pursuits, and touching on all eras and aspects of the continent known to man inclusive of an incisive depiction of contemporary Africa's major issues and challenges to the foreign policy of the United States.

ANY ATTEMPT here to describe or review the monumental work that was ABC's "Africa" would be sheer futility. Indicative of the overall greatness of the television Special is the fact that the four hour show held viewers spellbound.

Hidden History readers will be interested to know that in the first segment of the epic references are made that substantiates many of the stories that have appeared in this column.

It is almost a certainty that demands for a reshewing of "Africa" will be met in the near future. When it is shown again, it would be near sacrilegious to miss it.

THIS WEEK IN NEGRO HISTORY

AN "NPI" FEATURE

- Sept. 14, 1889 Bert Williams, teacher of entertainer Eddie Cantor, began successful Broadway career.
- Sept. 14, 1912 Billy Daniels ("That Old Black Magic") singer-dancer was born.
- Sept. 14, 1939 Jackie Robinson, the first Negro to be signed to play in the major leagues, entered University of California, Los Angeles, as a freshman.
- Sept. 15, 1963 The Rev. W. J. Taylor--organizer-pastor, Grace Memorial Church of God in Christ, Los Angeles, died.
- Sept. 16, 1848 Slavery abolished in French possessions.
- Sept. 16, 1889 Claude A. Barnett, founder-director, Associated Negro Press, born at Sanford, Fla.
- Sept. 17, 1955 Last public appearance of Father Divine--in Philadelphia, Pa.
- Sept. 18, 1898 The North Carolina Mutual Life

The "Mongoose" Scores Another KO LEVELS ONE-TWO PUNCH AT HATE AND BIGOTRY

A recent statement by retired light-heavy-weight champion Archie Moore appearing in the San Diego Union is typical of the soft-spoken, clear-thinking, articulate former boxing great whose amazing ring career includes the record of most knock-outs amassed by any fighter in boxing history.

MOORE HAS been a resident of San Diego, California for a number of years and his activities in civic and community affairs there are near legendary now. His great interest and concern, however, in social reforms, particularly in the areas affecting the Nation's youth, has occasioned the dedicated former champion to travel to all parts of the country initiating and working with programs and projects designed to combat the evils and consequences of economic inequities and social injustice.

It is also typical of the man to display the same fair-mindedness and objectivity that he speaks out against the philosophies and actions of all Americans who thwart achievement of the goals of a working democracy through blind passion and corroding hate.

It is further indicative of the thoroughness that characterized Archie Moore as an indomitable ring combatant, that he does not just expose the problem but offers at least one practical method toward resolving it.

Obviously, Archie Moore considers the time is past for Negroes to excuse any wrong-doing of theirs with the standard retort to whites that "There's plenty of time to get the beam out of our eyes when you get the mote out of yours". He also gives short shrift to those who sit in the gallery applauding or decrying the performances of those holding center stage in today's drama as evidenced by his expressed feeling that "Everybody must take a stand in this time of internal crisis. A man who stands neutral stands for nothing".

The VOICE recommends to its readers the following thought-provoking article by Archie Moore.

The Devil is at work in America, and it is up to us to drive him out. Snipers and looters, white or black, deserve no mercy. Those who would profit from their brother's misfortunes deserve no mercy, and those who set fellow Americans upon each other deserve no mercy.

I'll fight the man who calls me an "Uncle Tom." I have broken bread with heads of state, chatted with presidents and traveled all over the world. I was born in a ghetto, but I refused to stay there. I am a Negro, and proud to be one. I am also an American, and I'm proud of that.

The young people of today think they have a hard lot. They should have been around in the '30s when I was coming up in St. Louis. We had no way to go, but a lot of us made it. I became light heavyweight champion of the world. A neighbor kid down the block, Clark Terry, became one of the most famous jazz musicians in the world. There were doctors, lawyers and chiefs who came out of that ghetto. One of the top policemen in St. Louis came from our neighborhood.

We made it because we had a goal, and we were willing to work for it. Don't talk to me of

- Insurance Company was founded in Durham, N.C., by Johnson Merrick.
- Sept. 18, 1850 Second Fugitive Slave Act voted into law by Congress.
- Sept. 18, 1960 Judge Armond W. Scott, Municipal Court, Washington, D.C., died.
- Sept. 19, 1814 Gen. Andrew Jackson acknowledged heroism of colored troops in Battle of New Orleans and decorates them.
- Sept. 19, 1949 Jackie Robinson named "Rookie of the Year" by St. Louis Sporting News.
- Sept. 19, 1905 Eddie (Rochester) Anderson, radio comedian, was born.
- Sept. 20, 1830 First National Negro convention held in Philadelphia, Pa.
- Sept. 20, 1891 Joseph D. Bibb, lawyer, retired newspaper editor, and former director of public safety, had held the highest appointive post held by a Negro in Illinois.

your "guaranteed national income." Any fool knows that this is insanity. Do we bring those who worked to get ahead down to the level of those who never gave a damn? The world owes NOBODY--black or white--a living. God helps the man who helps himself!

Now then, don't get the idea that I didn't grow up hating the injustices of this world. I am a staunch advocate of the Negro revolution for the good of mankind. I've seen almost unbelievable progress made in the last handful of years. Do we want to become wild beasts bent only on revenge, looting and killing and laying America bare? Hate is bait, bait for the simple-minded.

Sure, I despised the whites who cheated me, but I used that feeling to make me push on. If you listen to the professional rabblers, adhere to this idea of giving up everything you've gained in order to revenge yourself for the wrongs that were done to you in the past--then you'd better watch your neighbor, because he'll be looting your house next. Law and order is the only edge we have. No man is an island.

Granted, the Negro still has a long way to go to gain a fair shake with the white man in this country. But believe this: If we resort to lawlessness, the only thing we can hope for is civil war, untold bloodshed, and the end of our dreams.

We will have to have a meeting of qualified men of both races. Mind you, I said qualified men, not some punk kid, ranting the catch phrases put in his mouth by some paid hate-monger. There are forces in the world today, forces bent upon the destruction of America, your America and mine. And while we're on the subject, do you doubt for a minute that Communism, world Communism, isn't waiting with bated breath for the black and white Americans to turn on each other full force? Do you want a chance for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in the land of your birth, or do you want no chance at all under the Red heel?

There are members of the black community who call for a separate nation within America. Well, I do not intend to give up one square inch of America. I'm not going to be told I must live in a restricted area. Isn't that what we've all been fighting to overcome? And then there is the element that calls for a return to Africa.

For my part, Africa is a great place to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there. If the Irishmen want to go back to Emerald Isle, let them. If the Slavs want to return to the Iron Curtain area, OK by me. But I'm not going to go to any part of Africa to live. I'm proud of my ancestry, and of the country that spawned my forefathers, but I'm not giving up my country. I fought all my life to give my children what I'm able to give them today; a chance for development as citizens in the greatest country in the world.

I do not for a moment think that any truly responsible Negro wants anarchy. I don't think you'll find intelligent--no let's rephrase that--mature Negroes running wild in the streets or sniping at total strangers. God made the white man as well as the black. True, we haven't acted as brothers in the past, but we are brothers. If we're to be so many Cains and Abels, that's our choice. We can't blame God for it.

Something must be done to reach the Negroes and the whites in the ghettos of this country, (See MOORE, page 3)

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