

Hidden History

The Unsung Saga of the Black Man

IT HAS BEEN nearly two years since the Las Vegas VOICE initiated the "Hidden History" feature in order to assist, in our small way, present day efforts to lift the curtain of silence and neglect which for centuries concealed the historical record of the black man's achievements and contributions to civilization.

Reponse to the series has been gratifying and it occurred to members of the staff that a review of events and individuals chronicled here over the past months might be welcomed as a memory refresher to readers. Happily, we are serviced by an NPI quiz feature ideally suited for this purpose. We hope this series of quiz columns will prove both informative and entertaining to followers of "Hidden History".

NEGRO HISTORY BAFFLER

By NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

People who talk about the Negro's recent political gains often forget that Negroes held more high governmental positions during the 19th century than they have held in recent years.

Thurgood Marshall's appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court is offset by the fact that Negroes served as state legislators, lieutenant governors, and even governor during the 19th century.

Compared to today's six Negro Congressmen, 22 Negroes were elected to Congress from the South in the years after the Civil War. At one time after that war, the South Carolina legislature had a Negro majority.

Today's Baffler will test your knowledge of the 19th century politicians. Scoring: 4-5: tops; 3: fair; 0-2: poor. The Bonus Question at the end counts two points. Here's the multiple-choice quiz:

1. Two Negroes served in the U.S. Senate in the years after the Civil War. They were:

--A. Frederick Douglass and P. B. S. Pinchback; B. John Jones and Richard Allen; C. Blanche K. Bruce and Hiram Revels.

2. These two men were from:

--A. Texas; B. Mississippi; C. New York.

3. In what state did two Negroes--Alonzo Ransier in 1870 and Richard H. Graves in 1874--serve as lieutenant governor?

--A. Illinois; B. Louisiana; C. South Carolina.

4. Who was the Louisiana politician who served as acting governor for 42 days in 1868, and later was elected both to the U.S. House and Senate, but denied his seat?

--A. P. B. S. Pinchback; B. Huey Long; C. John H. Smythe.

5. This South Carolina politician sat in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1875 to 1887. He was largely responsible for the passage of the 19th century Civil Rights Act. A navigator in the Union Navy during the Civil War, he was:

--A. George Washington Carver; B. Robert Smalls; C. William Still.

* * * * *

BONUS QUESTION: This 19th century leader is best remembered as his people's eloquent spokesman. But he also served for a while as recorder of deeds in Washington, D.C. and minister to Haiti.

* * * * *

ANSWERS: 1. C; 2. B; 3. C; 4. A; 5. B.
BONUS: Frederick A. Douglass.

* * *

How much do you know about the Negro's contributions to the arts? Try this multiple-

Three Negroes In Finals Of Mayoral Races

CHICAGO - (NPI)--As it presently stands, three Negroes have made it to the final hurdle in their bids to become the first of their race to be elected mayor of their respective cities by popular vote.

The trio are Carl B. Stokes, Cleveland; Hugh A. Frost, Youngstown, Ohio; and Richard G. Hatcher, Gary, Ind.

Prospects of there being a fourth Negro candidate failed in Memphis last week when A. M. Willis, Tennessee state legislator, failed to make the charmed runoff circle by finishing fourth in a field of seven.

WILLIS, 42, collected 17,908 votes in unofficial returns from 156 of 159 precincts, for fourth place in the running. Former mayor Henry Loeb led with 46,097; with incumbent Mayor William B. Ingram registering 35,494, and Shelby County Sheriff William N. Morris, 35,494.

However, it was a different picture in Cleveland, where another state representative, Carl B. Stokes, romped over incumbent Mayor Ralph S. Locher, to become the Democratic candidate for the city's chief executive post. And his supporters are confident that he will go on to become the first Negro elected mayor of a major U.S. city in this century.

Stokes' Democratic primary election victory over incumbent Mayor Ralph S. Locher stunned political observers, who had expected the mayor to win on "white backlash" support in this 60 per cent white city. But Stokes surprisingly received so much support from whites he got more than 110,000 votes, compared to Locher's 93,000.

STOKES, of course, had an almost 100 per cent Negro community united behind him. Hear-choice quizzer, and you'll find out.

Get four to five right, and you're a patron of the arts; three is fair; and less than that is culturally deprived. The Bonus Question at the end is worth two points. Here's the quiz:

1. This famous composer and arranger, known for his Negro Folk Symphony, has the same name as a leading Illinois politician. He is:

--A. Oscar DePriest; B. Jomo Kenyatta; C. William L. Dawson.

2. Known as Russia's greatest poet, this transplanted African still gets top billings in the Soviet Union, though he died in 1837 at age 38. Among his leading works are "Boris Godunov" and "Eugenie Onegin."

--A. Leo Tolstoy; B. Alexander Pushkin; C. Russ De Bow.

3. One of America's best novelists, he gained fame in 1945 with publication of his autobiographical "Black Boy." His novel, "Native Son," told of the life and death of Bigger Thomas in Chicago.

--A. Roland Black; B. Crispus Attucks; C. Richard Wright.

4. She spent 30 years on the stage, in such plays as "Blackbirds" and "At Home Abroad." In 1950, she starred in the Broadway play, "The Member of the Wedding," which was made into a movie.

--A. Ethel Waters; B. Phillis Wheatley; C. Madam C. J. Walker.

5. Called "The Father of the Blues," he is best known for his "St. Louis Blues," along with his "Memphis Blues." A park in Memphis is named after him.

--A. Louis Armstrong; B. W.C. Handy; C. Duke Ellington.

* * * * *

BONUS QUESTION: These were this famous poet's lines: "Be proud of my Race, in mind and soul; Thy name writ on Glory's scroll in characters of fire. High 'mid the clouds of Fame's bright sky, thy banners' blazoned folds now fly, and truth shall lift them higher."

ANSWERS: 1. C; 2. B; 3. C; 4. A; 5. B.
BONUS: Paul Laurence Dunbar.

ing of his victory on election night, thousands of his supporters danced in the streets.

The state representative's election triumph was so stunning that Mayor Locher felt obligated to appear at Stokes' headquarters, where he conceded defeat and congratulated the mayoral candidate.

Stokes will face Seth P. Taft, a Republican lawyer and grandson of President William H. Taft, in the November general election. As the winner of the Democratic primary usually goes on to become mayor, Stokes' supporters are already counting on his election victory.

Stokes, however, could face a difficulty similar to that experienced by Richard Hatcher, winner of the Democratic primary in the Gary (Ind.) mayoralty race.

HATCHER HAS been denied support by the local Democratic organization. At the same time, he gained national sympathy from Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and other top politicians, while rallying the Gary Negro community behind him.

Similar rumblings have been heard in Cleveland's Democratic circles. But Stokes' considerable support in white areas may dissuade party officials from spurning the candidate on racial grounds.

(Be sure to read Puddin Head's observations on Cleveland's upcoming general election.)

THIS WEEK IN NEGRO HISTORY

AN "NPI" FEATURE

- Oct. 12, 1492 Pietro Alonzo, "il Nigro" (the Negro), was one of the pilots on Christopher Columbus' voyage to America.
- Oct. 12, 1911 Ann Petry, writer-graduate, University of Connecticut College of Pharmacy, was born.
- Oct. 13, 1863 War Department ordered enlistment of Negroes for Civil War service.
- Oct. 13, 1950 Ed Bolden, one of the all-time greats of Negro baseball, owner of the Philadelphia Stars, died.
- Oct. 14, 1964 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., president, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), awarded Nobel Peace Prize.
- Oct. 15, 1870 The Colored--now Christian--Methodist Episcopal church (CMW), organized in Jackson, Tenn. Name was changed in 1956.
- Oct. 15, 1949 The then-Governor of Virgin Islands, William H. Hastie, named by President Harry S. Truman to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Third District, in Philadelphia.
- Oct. 16, 1859 Sherrard Lewis Leary, Negro follower of abolitionist John Brown, killed at Harper's Ferry, Va., (Now West Virginia). Brown's raid took place on the same date. Five members of the original party with Brown were Negroes.
- Oct. 17, 1806 Jean Jacques Dessalines, emperor of Haiti, assassinated at Pont Rouge, Haiti.
- Oct. 17, 1888 The first Negro savings bank established in the U.S. capitol.
- Oct. 18, 1898 North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company organized in Durham, N.C., by Dr. A. M. Moore and John Merrick.

LAS VEGAS VOICE

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER (Published every Thursday) DEDICATED to the INTERESTS and ASPIRATIONS for a BETTER LIFE for NEGRO CITIZENS of the STATE of NEVADA

CHARLES I. WEST, M.D. - Publisher
ALICE KEY - Executive Editor * DOROTHY WEST - Treasurer
RAY FEASTER - Adv. Production * CARITA HARBERT - Ofc. Mgr.

DOROTHY JOHNSON - Food Forum * EDDYE KIM - Society

EDITORIAL, ADVERTISING & CIRCULATION OFFICES
900 West Bonanza Rd., Suite A-B (Moulin Rouge Hotel)
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106 * Telephone: 384-3117

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED UPON REQUEST

Price per copy - 15¢ * One year - 7.50 * Two years - 12.50
(Application for 2nd Class Mailing Permit pending at Las Vegas, Nevada)