

Hidden History

The Unsung Saga of the Black Man

NEGRO HISTORY BAFFLER

By NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

MANY TEXTBOOKS give the distorted picture of the Reconstruction days in the South after the Civil War as corrupt and barbaric. This distorted view has been presented because Negroes, for the first time, gained important political and social positions in the South--for a while, at least--until they were knocked down by an earlier version of the "white backlash."

Today's Baffler will see how much you know about this era. Get four or more right, and you're a Reconstruction whiz; three is fair; and less than that is poor. The Bonus Question at the end counts two points. Here's the quiz:

1. Seven Negroes now serve in Congress. How many served during the Reconstruction era?

A. 74; B. 3; C. 22.

2. In which of these Southern states did Negroes, at one time, altogether control the government? (The majority-Negro state had eight representatives in Congress.)

A. Kentucky; B. South Carolina; C. Texas.

3. What hate organization developed during the turmoil of this period?

A. The Ku Klux Klan; B. The American Nazi Party; C. The Arab League.

4. In Louisiana a Negro became acting governor. He was:

A. Booker T. Washington; B. Frederick Douglass; C. P.B.S. Pinchback.

5. Which of these contributions to the South's development was fostered by the Negro legislators of the period.

A. The public school system; B. Liberalization of church doctrine on the hereafter; C. The invention of the cotton gin.

* * *

BONUS QUESTION: Many of the South's Negro universities and colleges--like Fisk, Howard, and Atlanta--were founded or aided substantially by a federal agency which helped the newly freed slaves. The name of the agency was _____.

* * *

ANSWERS: 1. C; 2. B; 3. A; 4. C; 5. A. BONUS: The Freedmen's Bureau.

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MOST OF THE scores of Negroes who have served in Congress did so in the 19th century, during the Reconstruction period after the Civil War. Many other political gains were achieved then. For that reason, descriptions of recent racial "firsts" often must be qualified by phrases like "in this century" or "since Reconstruction days."

For example, Sen. Edward Brooke (R.-Mass.) is the first Negro in the U.S. Senate since the Reconstruction era. He is also the first Negro ever elected to the U.S. Senate, since 19th century Senators were appointed by their state legislatures.

Today's Baffler will test your knowledge of Negro Congressmen's service to their country--both in this century and the last. Choose the correct names from the "Grab Bag" below. Scoring: 4-7: tops; 2: fair; 0-2: poor. Bonus Question counts two points. Here is the quiz:

1. The first Negro to serve in the U.S. Senate, he represented Mississippi, succeeding Jefferson Davis in 1870.

2. He is the first and only Negro Con-

EDITOR'S MAILBOX

Las Vegas Voice

Dear Editor:

We the undersigned, Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), are deeply concerned about the state of the communities in which we are involved. As newcomers entering these communities, we have made a countless number of friends though these people find themselves trapped by poverty, their generosity and acceptance undoubtedly is the most rewarding experience a Volunteer can receive. To our friends in the communities, we the undersigned, intend to continue our Volunteer work until all sources of revenue have virtually become exhausted--and then some. To those of you who have come forward in our behalf during the moments of uncertainty that lie ahead and to all those who come to our aid in the future--thank you! We believe in what we are doing, it is great to know you believe in us.

Clara Bailey
Marjorie Dudley
Mildred Fullington
Jessie Hutchins
Madge Rugg

Las Vegas Voice

To Whom it may concern with a conscience:

While reading a paper the other day, I read that the City of Las Vegas was donating land to the El Cortez Hotel for the purpose of an Alleyway.

Dear Sirs, I work at a restaurant on W. Bonanza called Margo's. I walk to and from work from 1st and Fremont St., to this restaurant.

From Margo's to Main St., on W. Bonanza is a main thoroughfare for TRAFFIC, SCHOOL CHILDREN, myself and every PEDESTRIAN. Half the route is without sidewalks. We pedestrians are forced to endanger our limbs and lives by walking on the Roadway.

I personally like the El Cortez Hotel, I donated many a paycheck there, but I can't see how the City can even consider donating land for their Alleyway when W. Bonanza is in such dire need of a sidewalk.

A. A. Ambrosiewicz

(Ed's note: AND considering the dire circumstances of the City's finances, it is near impossible to give credence to a report that the City would consider giving away what should be sold.)

.....
gressman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in the 20th century, he took his seat on April 15, 1929. A Republican from Chicago, he served in the 71st, 72d, and 73d Congresses.

4. Born a slave, this Mississippian served in the U.S. Senate from 1875 and 1881. He later was appointed registrar of the U.S. Treasury and twice was named recorder of deeds in Washington, D.C.

5. Elected to Congress in 1942, he is chairman of the House Committee on Government Operations. He has served in Congress longer than any other Representative.

* * *

"GRAB BAG" (Some names don't go with any description): A. Charles C. Diggs, Jr.; B. Augustus Hawkins; C. Hiram R. Revels; D. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.; E. Robert N.C. Nix; F. Oscar DePriest; G. William L. Dawson; H. Arthur Mitchell; I. Blanche K. Bruce; J. P.B.S. Pinchback.

* * *

BONUS QUESTION: One of the men mentioned above served as acting governor of Louisiana for 42 days. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and named to the Senate but was denied his seat both times.

* * *

ANSWERS: 1. C; 2. B; 3. F; 4. I; 5. G. BONUS QUESTION: P.B.S. Pinchback.

Increase In Urban Slum Deterioration Analyzed

WASHINGTON - (NPI)--A federal study of Negroes' social and economic conditions has found that urban slums are increasingly deteriorating as their more successful residents move out after getting bigger paychecks.

The report, presented to President Johnson by the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, disclosed neither the overwhelming despair often talked of, nor the widespread housing gains about which bureaucrats frequently boast.

Instead, life for a large number of black people in urban slums is said to be deteriorating. Others "remain trapped in the poverty of the slums, their living conditions either unchanged or deteriorating," according to the report.

But the study did not go on to "confirm the diagnosis of bleakness and despair" so often found in surveys of low-income areas. And the findings supported "neither of the extreme positions that emerged in the wake of the summer disturbances."

While acknowledging that "the gap between Negro and white levels of living in America is still large," the report disclosed that 23 per cent of the nation's nonwhite families earned \$7,000 or more in 1966, compared to 6 per cent in 1947.

OUTSIDE THE South, 38 per cent of all nonwhite families had incomes of more than \$7,000 in 1966, it was found.

Part of the deterioration of slum areas is attributable to the fact that the "most successful people move to better neighborhoods, leaving behind the most impoverished," according to the survey.

"Millions of Negroes have uprooted themselves in search of better jobs, greater freedom, and wider horizons," the report added.

THIS WEEK IN NEGRO HISTORY

AN "NPI" FEATURE

- Nov. 16, 1873 William Christopher Handy, musician-publisher-composer of "St. Louis Blues" and "Memphis Blues," was born in Florence, Ala.
- Nov. 16, 1904 Dr. Nnamdi (Zik) Azikiwe, president, Republic of Nigeria, was born.
- Nov. 17, 1828 Rev. Lott Carey, early missionary to Africa, died in Liberia.
- Nov. 17, 1955 Yolande Denise King, daughter of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., was born.
- Nov. 18, 1863 War Department ordered enlistment of Negroes for Civil War service.
- Nov. 19, 1921 Roy Campanella, former star catcher of the Brooklyn (now Los Angeles) Dodgers, was born in Philadelphia, Pa.
- Nov. 19, 1963 Date of Abraham Lincoln's famous Gettysburg address.
- Nov. 20, 1895 Sallie Martin, pioneer singer and organizer, born.
- Nov. 20, 1866 Howard Theological Seminary, now Howard University was founded in Washington, D.C.
- Nov. 21, 1966 San Diego (Calif.) Lighthouse celebrates 28th anniversary of publishing. Paper owned by Mr. and Mrs. N. M. Young.
- Nov. 22, 1958 Rev. N. H. Jernagin, president, National Baptist Sunday School and BTU Congress, died.

LAS VEGAS Voice

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