

# Hidden History

## The Unsung Saga of the Black Man

### NEGRO HISTORY BAFFLER

By NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Today's Baffler is a "time and place" quiz featuring events in the lives of heroes of our past. On the basis of the clues given, select the correct names in the "Grab Bag" below.

Scoring: 4-7: tops; 3: fair; 0-2: poor. Bonus Question at the end is worth two points. Here's the quiz:

1. The time is 1919. The place: Rutgers University. This man, later to become a famed singer, has just graduated with a Phi Beta Kappa key after winning 12 athletic letters in four different sports during his college career:

2. The time is June 12, 1936. The place: West Point. Later to become the nation's only Negro general on active duty, he has just graduated after enduring the taunts of his white fellow students.

3. The time: Oct. 16, 1859. The place: Harpers Ferry, Va. This man, joined by 18 others, including five Negroes, has seized the armory of the U.S. arsenal in an effort to set up a refuge for slaves. Martyrdom was in his future.

4. The time: April 6, 1909. The place: The North Pole. He and Commander Robert E. Peary have nailed the Stars and Stripes to the Pole after an arduous expedition.

5. The time: 1934. The place: Chicago. This man has been elected as the nation's first Negro Democrat in Congress and the second Negro to sit in the U.S. House of Representatives in the 20th century, succeeding Oscar DePriest.

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"GRAB BAG" (Some names don't go with any description): A. Pinkney B.S. Pinchback; B. Carter G. Woodson; C. John Brown; D. Mathew A. Henson; E. George Washington Carver; F. Arthur W. Mitchell; G. Crispus Attucks; H. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.; I. Paul Robeson; J. W. C. Handy.

\* \* \*

BONUS QUESTION: One of the persons mentioned above, who initiated Negro History Week, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, in Washington, D.C. He died in 1950 at age 75.

\* \* \*

ANSWERS: 1. I; 2. H; 3. C; 4. D; 5. F. BONUS: Carter G. Woodson.

\* \* \* \* \*

DURING THE Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s, our people developed a prolific literature. Searching for their identity through their writings, black intellectuals came up with many self-images but no conclusive statement of purpose.

In so doing, they were acting in the American tradition, which resists formal categories and rigidly defined philosophies. And thus, they were typically "American" while they were pouring forth their "Negritude."

In today's Baffler, identify the black writers of a few decades ago who flourished in Harlem. Match the five samples of writings with the names given below:

Scoring: 4-7: tops; 3: fair; 0-2: poor. Bonus Question counts two points. Here's the quiz:

#### WRITINGS

1. "What is Africa to me:/Copper sun, a scarlet sea,/ Jungle star and jungle track,/ Strong bronzed men and regal black/ Women from whose loins I sprang/ When the birds of Eden sang?/ Spicy grove and banyan tree,/ What is Africa to me?"

2. "The Negro woman, with her rich color-

## Negro Solons Pledge "Fair" Administration

CLEVELAND - (NPI)--The black mayors-elect of this city and Gary have promised to give all racial groups a say in running governmental operations--even though Negroes have not always been accorded this opportunity.

Carl B. Stokes of Cleveland and Richard G. Hatcher of Gary both pledged "multi-racial governments."

Stokes' interracial stance was most evident. He named a white police chief, Michael Blackwell, 67, and appointed white citizens as safety director (policymaker for fire and police departments) and chief prosecutor. He also urged representatives of 10 white ethnic groups to help him run the city.

Hatcher, whose election had been in doubt, said both whites and Negroes would have a hand in running the Steel City.

At first, the county election board refused to certify Hatcher as the winner over Republican Joseph B. Radigan. Later, however, the board grudgingly acknowledged Hatcher's 1,389 vote margin over his opponent--and Radigan said he would challenge the results.

Radigan charged vote fraud in Negro areas in favor of Hatcher. However, any investigation of irregularities would probably turn up even more fraud in white areas in favor of Radigan.

DESPITE RACIST attacks on him, Hatcher pledged equal treatment for all Gary residents, under his administration. He did note that only 28 per cent of city jobs are held by Negroes in

the predominantly black city. He pledged to change this, but without imposing a racial quota.

He will, however, have to work with a predominantly white city council. The number of black councilmen increased from three to four after the election, but whites remain in the majority on the nine-member body.

A majority of the councilmen, both black and white, back his programs, however.

Both Stokes and Hatcher revealed ambitious plans for their cities.

Stokes was expected to receive a flow of federal money which stopped when incumbent Mayor Ralph S. Locher delayed in having cleared land developed. Stokes said he would get the money coming in again by having the necessary work done.

He added there would be no "recriminations" against his political foes, and he called for a unity of effort among the city's population.

A bit more specific about his plans was Hatcher. He singled out four areas for vigorous action: Housing, crime and vice, the school board and human relations.

Pledging updating of housing, he noted that only 10,000 of the city's 33,000 dwelling units meet city code standards.

Both organized and unorganized crime will be attacked, and dedicated school board members will be appointed, he said.

Above all, he vowed, all Gary residents will be treated equally.

## GRANDMA BACKLASH?

BOSTON - (NPI)--Backlash votes cost Mrs. Louise Day Hicks the mayoral election, even though she herself courted such votes.

That's the view of election analysts, who noted that Mrs. Hicks, a foe of school busing, lost only by 12,000 votes--despite combined opposition of state and local political leaders, both Republican and Democrat.

Mrs. Hicks' election chances were hurt by some opposition to her white backlash appeal, but she was set back even more by "backlash" objection to the fact that she is a woman, proposed pay hikes for city employees at taxpayers' expense, and reminded many voters of their grandmothers.



ing, her gayety, her laughter and song, her alluring, undulating movements--a heritage from the African jungle--was a more beautiful creature than her fallow, songless, lipless, hipless, tired-looking, tired-moving white sister."

3. Although she (America) feeds me bread of bitterness,/ And sinks into my throat her tiger's tooth/ Sealing my breath of life, I will confess/ I love this cultured hell that tests my youth!"

4. "Hey boy!/ A bright bowl of brass is beautiful to the Lord./ Bright polished brass like the cymbals/ Of King David's dancers,/ Like the wine cups of Solomon./ Hey, boy!/ A clean spittoon on the altar of the Lord./ A clean bright spittoon all newly polished,/ At least I can offer that./ Com'mere, Boy!"

5. Black people are "an everlasting song, a singing tree,/ Caroling softly souls of slavery,/ What they were and what they are to me,/ Caroling softly souls of slavery."

\* \* \*

NAMES: A. Claude McKay; B. Jean Toomer; C. Countee Cullen; D. Langston Hughes; E. James Weldon Johnson.

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BONUS QUESTION: One of the above writers is well-known for his poem, "If We Must Die," in which he declares: "Like men we'll face the murderous, cowardly pack,/ Pressed to the wall, dying, but--fighting back!"

\* \* \*

ANSWERS: 1. C; 2. E; 3. A; 4. D; 5. B. BONUS ANSWER: Claude McKay.

## THIS WEEK IN NEGRO HISTORY

AN "NPI" FEATURE

- Nov. 23, 1870 Robert Sengstacke Abbott, founder, Chicago Defender, was born in Georgia.
- Nov. 23, 1880 National Baptist convention organized its foreign missionary board in Montgomery, Ala.
- Nov. 24, 1950 Dr. Percy L. Julian, noted Negro scientist, received the Decalogue Society of Lawyers' merit award.
- Nov. 25, 1874 Joe Gans, one of the all-time great lightweight boxing champions, was born in Baltimore.
- Nov. 25, 1912 John H. Sengstacke, present publisher, Chicago Defender, who launched the Daily Defender in 1956, was born in Georgia.
- Nov. 26, 1883 Sojourner Truth, race leader, died in Battle Creek, Mich.
- Nov. 27, 1949 Atty. William R. Ming, Jr., Chicago, became the first Negro to be elected vice-chairman of the American Veterans committee.
- Nov. 28, 1908 Former Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Manhattan-Democrat and minister, Abyssinian Baptist church, New York, was born.
- Nov. 28, 1950 Ethel H. Lyle, founder, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, died in Philadelphia.
- Nov. 29, 1811 Wendell Phillips, abolitionist- orator, was born.
- Nov. 29, 1895 William V. S. Tubman, president of the independent West African nation of Liberia, was born in Liberia, the oldest republic in Africa.
- Nov. 29, 1905 The Chicago Defender newspaper began publication.
- Nov. 29, 1921 Pearl Primus, dancer, was born in Trinidad.

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