

Hidden History

The Unsung Saga of the Black Man

NEGRO HISTORY BAFFLER

By NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

The black slaves were released from bondage in 1865--but they were not really set free. For they were as economically dependent as ever upon their former masters for employment and sustenance.

The way this country freed its slaves stands in sharp contrast to the more benign treatment accorded freedmen in other countries.

When Russia emancipated its serfs at the time of the Civil War, it gave them land to work. And when Brazil freed its slaves in the late 19th century, it did so gradually and in a way that would not suddenly uproot the freedmen's personal stability, economic security and family ties.

On the other hand, the United States released its slaves without substantially helping them to build a new life as free men.

While former slaveowners in the British West Indies received more than \$100 million for the loss of their workers, the United States, indirectly, perpetuated slavery conditions by not compensating former slaveowners.

The result, in this country, was the continuance of slavery in the form of the sharecropper system and farm tenancy, in contrast to the integration of former slaves into other nations' economic and social life.

In today's Baffler, identify some of the upshots of the American sharecropper system. Scoring: 4-7: excellent; 3: fair; 0-2: poor. Bonus question counts two points. Here's the multiple-choice quiz:

1. Arising out of American slavery was the sharecropper system, in which:

--A. Former slaves were paid a share of the crop instead of a fixed wage.

--B. Former slaves gained possession of their masters' plantations.

--C. Black and white people shared the South's abundance.

2. The actual result of the sharecropper system was:

--A. Nineteenth century integration of the races.

--B. Peonage (holding people in economic bondage).

--C. Development of black pride and enhancement of community life.

3. There wasn't much black people could do to rectify the abuses of the sharecropper system, because:

--A. The white landowners kept the books, and the sharecroppers had no legal power to demand fair treatment.

--B. It was the Negro's own fault for establishing the sharecropper system.

--C. Booker T. Washington had told the sharecroppers to "cast down your buckets where you are."

4. One of the unfortunate by-products of the sharecropper system--still felt today--is:

--A. Development of the black power movement.

--B. The system's perpetuation of improvidence, lack of independence, and ignorance among sharecroppers.

--C. Bringing white and black people together, when they should have been segregated.

ANSWERS: 1. A; 2. B; 3. A; 4. B;

CURRENT EVENTS BAFFLER

By NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

In today's Baffler, identify some of today's major news developments by filling in the missing words in each statement. The words will be found in the "Grab Bag" below.

Scoring: 8-10: excellent; 6-7: good; 4-5: fair; 0-3: poor. Bonus Question counts two points. Here's the multiple-choice quiz:

1. Mayor Richard J. Daley of Chicago angered the city's black community when he declared that looters and arsonists should be

2. Tensions were eased in Memphis, for a while, at least, when the city decided to give its sanitation workers.....

3. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy is getting a head start in his efforts to be elected President by, which could make or break him in November.

4. So eager is Kennedy to win support that he has named to promote his campaign in Indiana slum areas.

5. Comedian-philosopher Dick Gregory isn't going to picket. after all. The reason: Chicago's not safe.

6. The 1968 Civil Rights act, which President Johnson recently signed, doesn't affect housing developments until

7. The Urban Coalition helped cool tempers at controversial Intermediate School 201 in Harlem by

8. has been freed from jail, after being denied an earlier appeal for release on bond pending completion of his legal fight to avoid extradition to Maryland.

* * *

GRAB BAG (Some words don't go with any statement.):

--A. SNCC Chairman H. Rap Brown.

--B. 1984.

--C. A two-step 15-cent-an-hour raise.

--D. Having the air-conditioning equipment fixed.

--E. Run out of town.

--F. Emphasizing the issue of his brother's assassination.

--G. 1970.

--H. Adam Clayton Powell.

--I. Mayor's office.

--J. Time off for "June teenth" celebrations.

--K. Having the school turned over to the students.

--L. Shot.

--M. Former SNCC Chairman John Lewis.

--N. Democratic National convention.

--O. Former CORE Director James Farmer.

--P. Wooing the black vote.

* * *

BONUS QUESTION: The recent sit-in at Howard University, Washington, helped prompt what developments?

* * *

ANSWERS: 1. L; 2. C; 3. P; 4. M; 5. N; 6. G; 7. D; 8. A.

BONUS ANSWER: The remedying of defects in the university along with plans to double its enrollment and size.

THIS WEEK IN NEGRO HISTORY

AN "NPI" FEATURE

May 2, 1885 Nannie Rice Burroughs, founder of the National Training School for Women and Girls, Washington, D.C., was born in Virginia.

May 3, 1845 Macon B. Allen, first Negro to practice law in the United States, was admitted to the Massachusetts bar.

May 3, 1851 Ralph Waldo Emerson, American essayist, philosopher and poet (1803-1822) joined anti-slavery movement.

May 3, 1920 Birth of Ray "Sugar" Robinson, the "best fighter pound for pound," in Detroit, Mich.

May 4, 1921 Oldest Negro lawyer in Washington, D.C., slave-born John A. Moss, died at age 92.

May 5, 1865 The Rev. Adam Clayton Powell, St., father of the former Rep. Adam Clayton Powell (D.-N.Y.) and pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church, born in Franklin (Va.) county.

May 5, 1941 Emperor Haile Selassie, exiled for five years and 3 days in London after being forced out by the Italians returned to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

May 6, 1790 The "Almanacs" of Benjamin Banneker (1731-1806), mathematical and mechanical genius and one of a three-man team who planned and surveyed the site for the city of Washington, D.C., were published. Banneker, an astronomer and inventor of the first striking clock, was a noteworthy American scientific pioneer. His "Almanacs" were widely used throughout the United States in the 1790's.

May 6, 1812 Martin R. Delaney, co-editor with Frederick Douglass of the North Star newspaper (launched in Rochester, N.Y., on Dec. 3, 1847), was born.

May 6, 1931 Birth of Willie Mays, San Francisco Giants' possible contender for the home run honors held by Babe Ruth, in Westfield, Ala.

May 7, 1789 Thaddeus Kosciusko, a Polish Revolutionary War hero, provided for the education of Negroes in his will.

May 7, 1845 The African Methodist Episcopal Church organized in Louisville, Ky., by Southern Methodist Episcopal Conference.

May 7, 1857 Dred Scott Decision of the U.S. Supreme Court handed down, which held, "Negroes have no rights which white men are bound to respect."

JOIN THE NAACP TODAY

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