

BILLY ROWE'S Note Book

STORIES WORTH TELLING

The Black Experience at the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. started in 1870 with the first Black entry who did not finish. It wasn't until 1877 that one did graduate from the Point. His success did not cause the bias walls to come tumbling down. Through the next 23 yrs only three blacks were allowed to join the "Long Gray Line." However, that's another story for another "writehand" session. This is a follow-up of the dramatic story of the first Black cadet to win a commission from that historic institution on the banks of the Hudson River. He was Lt. Henry Ossian Flipper whom we wrote about last issue and said that his story would make a fine meaningful movie. The commission he was awarded June 15, 1877 was a milestone in the life of a young man born in slavery.

Henry O. Flipper was born into a world of slavery of March 31, 1856 in Thomasville, Ga, the son of Festus Flipper and Isabella Buckhalter. One of five children he was raised in Atlanta and educated by the American Missionary Association. Appointed to the Point by James Crawford Freeman of Griffin, Ga in 1873, he spent four yrs a virtual outcast at the military academy before graduating in '77. His white schoolmates gave him the silent treatment all the days and nites of those yrs. In spite of it all, he mastered his studies and successfully fought and won his battle against ostracism. Assigned to the outside military world his career was fraught with challenges. While serving as a commissary officer at Ft. Davis, the "man" laid an embezzlement charge on him. Though found innocent, he was nonetheless adjudged guilty of carelessness with his bookkeeping and delinquency in filing reports. As a result, he was dismissed from the service for conduct unbecoming an officer. This perhaps would have done an ordinary man in, but not Lt. Flipper who had won his commission through four difficult yrs as an outcast, alone in a house of many.

Out of the Army he spent the next 37 yrs of his life as a civil and mining engineer in the Southwest and Mexico. By 1900 he had won professional respect along the border, to become the first of his race to gain international prominence in the engineering profession. In 1921 he reached the zenith of his fight-back with another first when he was appointed assistant to the secretary of the interior. This is only a partial history of the dramatic life of Lt. Henry O. Flipper whose 84 yrs of living is a model of hope for any Black man in the world. The medal of this man transcends color and race and should be retold for those of our time to view and glory in. He died at the age of 84 in 1940 in Atlanta, Ga. As reported in our last issue, he does have a grand nephew, Cadet Lloyd J. Austin III, at the Point who's expected to graduate with the class of '75. Forty-three other Blacks are expected to be commissioned at the same time.

NEWS WITHOUT VIEWS- Emma Bowen's CBS-TV challenge is expected to get more than a passing glance from the FCC. Questions are being asked as to why no "Black Show" has replaced the eye-viewer which Dr. Roscoe C. Brown Jr. hosted for one yr. The NYU prof said his show was cancelled because it was without the old stereotypes and sans finger-poppin' foot-pattin' music...Making his only concert appearance here in the park, Erroll Garner had even the critics standing at applause attention.

LICENSE PLATES, from page 7

where the vehicle will not be used as regular transportation. If the owner wishes to use the vehicle for normal transportation and also have "Old Timer" license plates, he will be required to pay annual regular registration fees.

"An enlisted or commissioned member of the Nevada National Guard" Little stated, "may obtain an application from the Guard unit to which he is assigned for the issuance of a set of special license plates bearing the inscription "Nat'l Guard" followed by four numerals. The application must be signed by the applicant's commanding officer and bear proof of the applicant's enlistment. Regular fees will apply to this license and there is no additional fee for the

special Guard plates. Guard members must surrender their special plates 10 days before being discharged or retiring from the Guard. Credit will be given toward purchase of regular license plates for unused portion of the special National Guard plates surrendered."

One of the few original artist in the spotlight, his music is unclassifiable, inventive, and spontaneous. More of his wax works are classified as classics than any other recording artist, and he has been dubbed "The Picasso of the Piano"...Pete Long's instant recovery from open heart surgery has caused a great deal of happiness in many quarters...The passing of J. Hugo Warren, one of the first of the great ad-salesman and later publisher of the Washington Observer, caused the opposite effect throughout the nation. The manner of death chosen by Dr. Dunbar McLaurin, whowas one of the guys in any circle, was as shocking as it was sad. A man whose educational ability was certified by a Ph. D. with an inborn knowledge which enabled him to grab the future just as it arrived at the present. An impatient human being, sensitive to the bias barriers of the system, he just got tired of walking through the wreckage of too many dreams denied.

Rachel Robinson, who's successfully heading the construction company of her late spouse, will be adding a new dimension to the Jackie Robinson firm next month. She has just been awarded an H.E.W., O.E.O. grant to start a training program for youth in the field of property management of low and middle income housing. The grant was in excess of 200G's...Betty Shabazz, charming widow of Malcolm X, is planning a trip to Switzerland to meet with a couple of Africans on natural territory...Randy Watson and his son, Azzedin, shook up a noon-day rally crowd in the shadow of the U.N. with a piano-bongo original, "Sidi Mousse." Randy is in from Morocco trying to dig enough US cash up for a cultural invasion of Africa...Rev. Jesse Jackson in "Fun City" to beat the bushes for food and cash for the drought devastated people of West Africa, and covenant signing with Avon Products, added enough words to agree with Dr. Ralph Abernathy about the plight of SCLC...Publicist Vincent Tubbs got the best assignment of his brilliant career. He's accompanying statuesque Tamara Dobson on tour of hi-lite "Cleopatra Jones" in which she stars. They're expecting some kind of opening in Baltimore, her home town...James Brown has opened a posh nitery in Alabama and is calling on his big time friends to star...Teddy Powell is reputed to have anted-up 500G's for a downtown theatre in DeeCee. The former rock promoter plans to go big time with first run films and super-stage stars. Just so he won't run out of gas hitting the road with his Elderado, he bought into a 700C's gas station in Newark...Veteran sports-caster Art Rust, whose success as co-owner of Rust-Brown imbibing-eating emporium gave him the courage to nix a none to happy spot with NBC-TV news, is doing sports via WINS radio...For reasons of his own deejay Reggie Lavong is leaving his "Just John" slot with WNBC's all nite music show...Coke has taken a pause that isn't refreshing to Hal Jackson's "Miss Black Teenage America" and there's a teevee commerial opening for some smart thinking corp...STAY LOOSE.

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