

Across The Nation

News From Home Folks

This feature is a news compilation from more than 100 black-owned and oriented newspapers in this nation. It deals with what blacks, who are all-too-often little recognized, are doing to promote full participation in American life by black Americans. It is thus a salute from all of our readers for unsung heroes... and is designed to be a challenge for all of us to keep on doing our very best.

Jan Hawthorne, the General manager of the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania *Home-wood-Brushton News*, catches the spirit of what our black newspapers seek to do—and what this featured column reflects on a nationwide basis—in giving invaluable encouragement and recognition to “build up the best” in our local black communities. Here is what Jan Hawthorne has had to say in one such instance recently:

This publication over the years has addressed itself to being a community oriented newspaper. We have attempted to make your news our news, by printing the news-worthy and human interest information received from you, our readers. It gives me great pleasure to share with you just one of the very interesting results of our joint efforts.

In late September, 1977, Mrs. Alpharetta Callaway, one of our many readers and subscribers, visited our offices on other business and during the transaction, she talked about the recent Second Hall of Fame Banquet of the Pittsburgh Womens Bowling Association. The program had been designed in order to recognize outstanding achievements of members of that association. The recipients were Margaret “Peg” Saunders for meritorious and Louise “Lou” Fulton for superior performance. Her enthusiasm and elation regarding the program was so infectious that we prevailed

upon her to write the information for our newspaper. She did so, and on October 5, 1977 the article was published as a front page story under the title, “Second Hall of Fame Banquet.”

Alpharetta was so pleased with the results, she requested release for the article to be submitted to the 1978 National Women Bowling Writers Story Contest in the non-professional writers’ category.

The 61st Annual Women’s International Bowling Congress (WIBC) Congress Convention and 30th Anniversary Meeting and Luncheon of the National Women Bowling Writers was held in Miami Beach, Fla. The Pittsburgh Bowling Community received at that convention a prestigious “first.” “Al” Callaway, Pgh. Women’s Bowling Assn. Director, received the (tie) First Place Brunswick Award Non-Professional News Award. 152 entrants in this decision was a 111 per cent increase over last year.

We are especially proud of Alpharetta.

The Dayton, Ohio *Jet Stone News* speaks beautifully of the institution of marriage in an age where it is challenged or threatened on so many hands.

The following tribute and commentary should cause many of our readers to take heart, and all to applaud. The *Jet Stone News* story reads:

A recently missed occasion was the celebration of Mr. and Mrs. John and Arlean Ellis’ 25th Silver Wedding anniversary. In attendance were many friends and relatives from Dayton, Indianapolis, Indiana and the “Windy City,” Chicago, Ill.

They all came to give the Ellises due praise and congratulations. At a time when the institution of marriage is at a low, if not the lowest station, in our chaotic, sometimes seemingly insane soci-

ety, being together almost three decades is definitely noteworthy.

Mr. and Mrs. Ellis are “silvery shining” examples for our struggling young newlyweds, and those not so young, and not so recently wed, that are thinking “it can’t work.”

Migrants from the Shreveport, Louisiana area almost 25 years ago, the Ellises, in their own words, have moved “from one room to a whole house...our own home!” Mr. Ellis was the first to “come north in hopes of work,” on Labor Day, 1953. He began work at GHR the very next day, and worked there continuously for 17 years.

It was the week of Thanksgiving that he was reunited with his wife of seven months, in the \$10 a week, one room of “everybody share the kitchen, bathroom, ice box” style. And so the struggle began...they’re now the proud parents of three children, and grandparents, too.

It’s refreshing and fulfilling to meet people like them, who are clear-headed enough in their directions to know the stability of their marriage that has been, and will continue to be, reflective of the foundation upon which it was built.

The Winston-Salem *Chronicle* reports a high degree of recognition which that paper, along with several other illustrious black newspapers, received in a television documentary on the civil rights movement. This was a well-deserved honor, as the following story from the *Chronicle* reveals:

A bemused smirk crossed the face of Scott Henderson as he recalled the turbulent civil rights demonstrations of the early 50’s in the film documentary, “We Wish to Plead Our Own Cause.” The film explored the development and future of the black press on a special EBONY

EXPOSURES.

Henderson is a 54-year-veteran of the black press who made his name as “Afro’s roving reporter” for the Afro-American newspaper chain.

“At all the sit-ins and other demonstrations in my area, I was right there on the scene,” said Henderson. “I had my sources who would tell me the time and place and where to stand to get the good pictures.”

“I remember one time in Petersburg, all the white photographers and reporters asked me how I knew about the sit-in because I lived 35 miles away in Richmond,” recalled Henderson. “I told them, ‘I had a dream.’”

Producer Audrey Kates describes the documentary as “the most extensive treatment ever of the black press on American television.”

The documentary was produced in cooperation with the Southeastern Black Press Institute of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Institute is a demonstration project of the University’s African and Afro-American Studies Curriculum. One of the Institute’s aims is to increase public awareness of the black press.

Institute researcher John Templeton, who wrote the script, says, “Scott Henderson is a good example of the determination and spunk of the people who have been putting out black newspapers during the last 151 years.”

Our readers may wish to address congratulatory messages and messages of encouragement to the papers which report happenings of interest or concern to us. Such messages may be sent to the editors or other persons directly by addressing them, using the name of the paper, c/o Black Resources, Inc., 410 Central Park West, PH C, New York, N.Y. 10025.

□□

Media Reviews:

A CHAMPION'S LIFE
(Compelling story for teens and adults)

A review of *Joe Louis: My Life*, by Joe Louis with Edna and Art Rust, Harcourt, Brace Jovanovich, N.Y., 1978, hardcover, 277 pages, \$10.95.

Joe Louis represents, as well as any black American, the possibility as well as the need for blacks to “pull themselves up by themselves with whatever bootstraps they may possess.”

Born the son of a penniless sharecropper on an Alabama farm in 1914, Joe Louis was two years old when his father was placed in a home for the Negro insane. In spite of the frequent difficulties of blacks paying up all debts before leaving the county—a classic means of keeping sharecropping blacks in continuing bondage—, Joe Louis was able to leave his native state for a new home in Detroit.

Joe Louis’ mother sought the very best for her son and provided him with money for music lessons on the violin—money he used secretly to learn boxing instead. That

Joe Louis inspires so many black people today is due doubtless to his determination to be a winner in spite of all the roadblocks which might be placed before him.

That our benighted, unemployed black youth are besieged by a literal mountain of problems is a fact which no one can deny. But Joe Louis would say to all such unfortunate youth that mountains are for mastering and not bemoaning.

Here is the bold and refreshing story of a born fighter who serves today, as he has done for several generations, as a ready role model for blacks, all of whom must develop a championship mentality, if we are to move out of our present plight.

This book is well worth reading. After reading it, share its message with a “non-reading” and hopeless youth. In this determined way on the part of the book’s readers, we may all become champions in the spirit of Joe Louis.

BLACK POETRY

A CRIME

The ghetto is a crime; It destroys, Makes null and void A black man's mind.

—Robert Louis Jimerson

ENCOUNTER

Thru a monstrous crowd Our eyes met Our hands waved Our lips motioned.

Slowly, carefully our feet Walked toward one another.

Our minds shutting out the world

except for two (you and me)

Then we knew that we had made

OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER.

—Stephanie Thomas

Black poets, who may wish exposure to our reading public, may send copies of their poetry—for editing and with permission to use—in groups of 12 poems or more to Media Resources, Box 157, Selkirk, N.Y. 12158. Poetry selected should normally appear within 12 to 20 weeks. Because of staff limitations, no copies are returned.

BLACK EVENTS QUIZ

(This quiz is designed to accompany *History-Making Black happenings*. It can be used for classroom discussion or to help you focus your own thinking on current issues.)

1) Bishop Abel Muzorewa has apparently garnered the largest following of any group in Zimbabwe. Do you feel that the Bishop, from his approaches thus far, will use this power to encourage fair play for all or to seek to secure his own possible “single party” base of power? Most African governments have one party rule.

2) The seemingly unpredictable President Idi Amin of Uganda has been courting

American friendship. Would any renewed American relations be to our country’s advantage or disadvantage? Why?

How would you rate President Carter as to his attitudes toward blacks? As to his means of seeking advice regarding blacks? As to his actual helping to improve the status of black Americans?

4) Do you feel that the grossly unmet educational needs of blacks are going to be met best by integration? By somewhat separate or “special” programs? By the increased use of black educators? By more black-oriented schools? By any other means?

WORDS OF LIFE

Biblical Inspiration

1. Love is perhaps the world’s most confusing word. It has meanings from the most sordid to the most holy. “Love is the answer,” some are told, for everything from impotence and unimportance to world peace, social ills and ailments and malaise of every kind. What, then, is this “love (which fulfills the law)?”

2. Love is the world’s most powerful force. Practically all, regardless of their conception of love’s meaning, would agree on its powerful possibilities. The English language is, some say, perhaps the poorest language form for expressing the meaning of love. Even in the far more technical and precise German tongue, the meaning of this powerful force is not clear.

But using the German language, Martin Luther, the great reformer, once stated insightfully of love: “I may not ‘love’ my wife. But I must always ‘esteem’ my wife.”

3. Love, then, means the highest respect for another, and for his or her person, rights and possibilities. Love means reciprocity; the giving of at least as much as we receive or ever hope to receive. Love means placing others never lower than ourselves and working as tirelessly as we can for their fulfillment.

In this respect—and doubtlessly other more important ways as well—we may see how “Love is the fulfilling of the law.”

Prayer Poem

Enter every trembling heart.

Finish then thy new creation; Pure and spotless let us be: Let us see thy great salvation Perfectly restored in thee: Changed from glory into glory,

Till in heaven we take our place

Till we cast our crowns before thee,

Lost in wonder, love and praise.

Love, in God’s sight, is what God is to us. Nothing else may go by the highest name of love.

We learn of love and practice in it by helping each other grow in the fellowship of our church. Take your rightful...and loving...place in the congregation of God’s people.

Charles Wesley’s hymn, “Love divine, all loves excelling,” appeared originally in a book entitled quaintly but still aptly, *Hymns for those that seek, and those that have great redemption in the Blood of Jesus Christ* published in 1747. The hymn is perhaps the best-known poetic piece relating to God’s love for man.

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,

Fix in us thy humble dwelling, All thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love thou art:

Visit us with thy salvation,