

# MASONS..... (Continued from Page 14)



**Mayor Tom Bradley**



**Nat "King" Cole**



**Ossie Davis**

...With due submission to the public, our title is not St. Black's Lodge; neither do we aspire after high titles, but our only desire is that the Great Architect of the Universe would diffuse in our hearts the true spirit of Masonry, which is love of God and universal love to all mankind. These I humbly conceive to be the two grand pillars of Masonry....

[signed] Prince Hall  
Master of African Lodge No. 1  
Dedicated to St. John  
Dec. 31, 1782

The War for American Independence prevented the formal application for a full warrant from the Mother Grand Lodge of England until 1784. On June 30th of that year, Prince Hall sent the lodge's request for a warrant to William Moody, Master of a lodge in London, to be presented to the Grand Lodge. After stating that the lodge had been founded almost eight years, the petitioners requested a charter empowering them to "work according to the Ancient Usages and Customs of Freemasonry. This letter stated, in part,



**"Duke" Ellington**



**Alex Haley**



**Lionel Hampton**

...We have had only a permit to Walk on St. John's Day and to Bury our Dead in manner and form. We have had no opportunity to apply for a Warrant before now. Though we have been importuned to send to France for one, yet we thought it best to send to the Fountain from whence we received the Light....

...We hope [the Royal Grand Master and Grand Wardens and the rest of the Grand Lodge] will not deny us nor treat us Beneath the rest of our fellowmen, although Poor yet Sincere Bretheren [sic] of the Craft.

The original copy of this letter, dated June 30, 1784, in year of Masonry 5784, is reserved in the Masonic Archives in London.

A charter was granted to the African Lodge on September 29, 1784. Because it did not arrive in Boston until three years later, for more than 100 years, the charter variously was believed never to have been granted, to have been lost or stolen.



**Rep. Augustus F. Hawkins**



**Benjamin L. Hooks**



**John H. Johnson**

On April 29, 1787, Captain Scott, a brother-in-law of John Hancock (one of