

which was held in Paris. He was one of the prime organizers of the other Congresses. The Fourth Pan-African Congress was held in New York City in 1927.

For 10 years Dr. Du Bois was the chairman of the Department of Sociology at Atlanta University. He represented the NAACP at the San Francisco Conference where the United Nations was born in 1945.

Dr. Du Bois left the United States in 1961. He became a citizen of Ghana. He died there on August 27, 1963.

PAUL ROBESON

PAUL Robeson was best known as a singer and actor. He was also a lawyer and an outstanding athlete. He was a star football, baseball and basketball player. He was a civil rights activist.

Paul Bustill Robeson was born on April 9, 1898 in Princeton, New Jersey. He was the son of a poor minister.

He graduated from Rutgers University in 1919. He was an honor student and a 12-letter athlete. He was a football All-American in 1917. He earned a degree in law from Columbia University Law School in 1922.

In 1921, Robeson decided to try acting. He played the start role in "Emperor Jones" in 1925. This was when his career as a great singer began. That same year he gave his first concert of Negro spirituals.

On May 19, 1930, Robeson first played the part of the Moor in the play "Othello" by William Shakespeare. A London newspaper said that there

had never been an Othello to compare with Paul Robeson. "Othello" opened on Broadway on October 19, 1943. Robeson played Othello 296 times before the play closed on July 1, 1944. It was the longest-running Shakespearean play in the history of Broadway.

Paul Robeson made over 300 records. He learned nine languages. He was able to sing and converse with many different people in their own languages.

Paul Robeson won many honors and awards. He won the Spingarn Medal in 1945. He was elected to the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame in 1974.

Robeson's political beliefs led him to make several trips to Russia, to speak out against Nazi Germany, to entertain Loyalist troops during the Spanish Civil War and to become chairman of the Council on African Affairs.

After World War II, Robeson was a staunch civil rights activist. He was also affected by the anti-Communist sentiment in the U.S. at the time. He was denied a passport and barred from concert halls. After a favorable Supreme Court ruling, his passport was reissued.

Robeson lived in Russia for several years. In 1963, he returned to the United States and retired from an active stage career.

ROSA PARKS

ROSA Parks was born in Tuskegee, Alabama in 1913. Her early life is not as important as her life which began on December 1, 1955. Mrs. Parks worked as a dress-

maker in Montgomery, Alabama. On her way home from a hard day's work, she boarded a bus. She took a seat in the section reserved for White people.

As the bus went along, more and more people got on. Soon the bus was very crowded. A White man told Rosa Parks to get up and give him her seat. She refused. The bus driver stopped the bus. He demanded that Rosa Parks move to the back of the bus and give her seat to the White man. Again she refused. She did not make a scene. She did not scream. She did not move from her seat.

Rosa Parks was arrested. She was put in jail. She was accused of breaking the law of Alabama.

Two young Black preachers of Montgomery—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rev. Ralph Abernathy—organized a boycott against the public buses.

To run the boycott, Dr. King and Rev. Abernathy formed the Montgomery Improvement Association. The first day of the boycott was December 5, 1955. The same day Rosa Parks went on trial for breaking Alabama's segregation law.

The Montgomery Improvement Association set up car pools so the people could get to work. Some of the Black people of Montgomery walked to work. Some used the car pools.

The Montgomery boycott lasted 381 days. In December 1956, the Supreme Court declared segregation on public transportation unconstitutional.

When the Black people of Montgomery returned to the city buses they could sit wherever they wanted. Black bus drivers were hired to drive the buses in the parts of the city where most of the Black people lived.

Rosa Parks and her family paid a high price for her courage. Her husband, a barber, became ill because of the strain of fighting for civil rights for Blacks. The Parks family moved to Detroit, Michigan.

In Detroit, Rosa Parks worked with Black youth. She helped them find jobs and things to do after school.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called Rosa Parks, "The great fuse that led to the modern stride toward freedom."

MALCOLM X

MALCOLM Little was born in Omaha, Nebraska on May 19, 1925. He was the seventh child of Rev. Earl Little, a Baptist minister from the West Indies and his wife Louise Little.

When he was six years old, Malcolm's father was killed by a group of White men. Shortly after his death the family began to have problems. Three of his brothers also suffered violent deaths.

While in his teens, Malcolm went to New York City to find work. He liked the way people lived in New York's Harlem, but he made the wrong kind of friends. He committed crimes which put him in jail.

This period of incarceration proved to be the turning point in Malcolm's life. It was while he was in jail that he first heard of the names Elijah Muhammad and the Nation of Islam.

After being released from prison, Malcolm learned about the Nation of Islam and the history of Black people from Elijah Muhammad himself. Soon Malcolm changed his last name to X. The X means unknown in the Nation of Islam, because Black people had their African names taken from them when they were brought to these shores as slaves.

Soon Malcolm X was ordained a Muslim minister. He became the best known of all Muslim ministers. He also became the National Representative of Elijah Muhammad and the Nation of Islam. He spoke to Black people all over the country. He wanted to teach Black people how to live better, cleaner lives. His first lesson was that Blacks should learn to do for themselves. He felt that Black people had talents and abilities which should be used for the good of all. Blacks should not beg favors. By hard work, Black people could get what they needed.

Malcolm X became the head of the Harlem mosque. He also organized temples from Connecticut to California. He helped to build the number of Muslims from 400 to 10,000 registered members.

In 1963, Malcolm X had differences with Elijah Muhammad and left the

My personal trials have also taught me the value of unmerited suffering. As my sufferings mounted I soon realized that there were two ways in which I could respond to my situation—either to react with bitterness or seek to transform the suffering into a creative force. I decided to follow the latter course.

—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

