

This Week in History

AUGUST 5

1763 - William Richmond is born free on Staten Island, N.Y. One of the first African-Americans to attempt winning a title in any sport, Richmond will travel to England to fight, among others, boxing champion Tom Cribb in a losing effort.

1892 - Harriet Tubman receives a pension from Congress for her work as a nurse, spy, and scout during the Civil War. She, along with Sojourner Truth, Susie King and almost 200 other African-American women, served as nurses during the war at 11 hospitals in three states.

1938 - James Cone, who will become an articulate scholar and author on black theology, is born in Fordyce, Ark.

1984 - Track and field stars Evelyn Ashford and Edwin Moses win Gold medals in Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

AUGUST 6

1965 - The Voting Rights Act is signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson in the same room that Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr., and a host of others witness the signing of the act, which suspends the use of literary tests and calls for federal examiners to ensure fair elections in the South.

1969 - The Learning Tree, directed by Gordon Parks, Jr., premieres. The film is the first directed by an African-American in modern times.

1973 - Stevie Wonder is nearly killed in an automobile accident near Durham, N.C., where he was to perform in a benefit concert. Wonder suffered severe brain contusions and a broken skull and will be in a coma for several days as a result of his injuries. He will reportedly say upon awakening, "I can see, I can see... just kidding."

1977 - Sir Alexander Bustamante, Jamaica's first Prime Minister, dies.

1988 - Once accused by African-American artists of racism, MTV, the 24-hour cable music channel, premieres Yo! MTV Raps. It will become one of the station's most popular programs.

AUGUST 7

1904 - Ralph Johnson Bunche is born in Detroit, Mich. A political and social scientist, he will achieve fame as the first African-American Nobel Prize winner (1950) for his role as UN mediator of the armistice agreements between Israel and her Arab neighbors in the Middle East wars of 1948, for which he will be awarded the Spingarn Medal (1949).

1932 - Abebe Bikila of Ethiopia becomes the first man to win the Olympic marathon twice (running barefoot).

1936 - Roland Kirk is born in Columbus, Ohio. Blind from the age of two, he will begin playing the tenor saxophone professionally in R&B bands before turning to jazz. He will best be known for his ability to play more than one instrument at once, his self-made jazz instruments, and for his creative improvisational skills.

1948 - Alice Coachman becomes the first African-American woman to win an Olympic gold medal in the high jump during the Summer Games in London.

1989 - Congressman George Thomas "Mickey" Leland, members of his staff and State Department officials die in a plane crash in the mountains near Gambela, Ethiopia. Leland, the Democratic successor to Barbara Jordan, had established the Select Committee on Hunger in 1984 and was chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus during the 99th Congress. A successful campaigner for stronger sanctions against South Africa, Leland was on a visit to a UN refugee camp at the time of his death.

AUGUST 8

1805 - The African Baptist Church is organized in Boston, Mass.

1865 - Matthew A. Henson, explorer and first to reach the North Pole, is born in Charles City, Md.

1907 - Saxophonist Benny Carter is born in New York City. He will play initially at age 23 and form his own big band in 1940. Carter will either play, conduct or write arrangements for Dizzy Gillespie, Duke Ellington, Quincy Jones, and many others.

1934 - Julian Dixon is born in Washington, DC. He will be elected to Congress representing California's 28th District in 1978.

AUGUST 9

1905 - Robert N. C. Nix, Sr. is born in Orangeburg, SC. An

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Welfare

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and a battered stove that's useless since Peoples Gas recently cut her off for late payments. While she still receives \$178 per month in Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, her caseworker has warned those benefits will end in a year under new welfare time limits.

"I don't feel the state should take care of these children—they're my children," she said, sweating in her cramped Englewood apartment, where a now-stilled window air conditioner regularly blows its fuse.

"At the same time, I'm struggling," she said. "How do you not worry? How do I feed and clothe and love my

children? You have to make more than minimum wage to make it."

Her questions and concerns come as President Clinton, Gov. George Ryan and other leaders gather in Chicago this week to tout the successes of welfare reform at a conference. At the same time, researchers around the country are raising questions about the social costs of Clinton's promise to "end welfare as we know it."

Since the law imposed work requirements and a five-year maximum on benefits, welfare rolls have plummeted to a 30-year low nationwide.

But behind the hoopla over lowered caseloads, a growing body of evidence shows the nation's poorest mothers with

children, like Clark, remain in precarious financial shape.

The number of the extreme poor, those living on an income of less than half the poverty line, rose from 13.9 million in 1995 to 14.6 million in 1997, according to an analysis of U.S. Census data by Peter Edelman, a Georgetown University law professor who resigned from the Clinton administration in a protest over welfare restrictions.

While the incomes of the poorest 3 million single-mother families rose from 1993 to 1995, they fell nearly 15 percent from 1995 to 1997 despite a booming economy, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a think tank focusing on low-

income issues.

Their study blames the "troubling" income decline on tightened welfare restrictions.

And in Illinois, roughly half of current or recent welfare recipients are having trouble paying utility and other bills, according to a survey of more than 2,100 people by the Chicago Urban League and Work, Welfare and Families, a low-income coalition.

More than half of former welfare cash recipients were wrongly cut off from food stamps at the time they were pushed off welfare, the study found, echoing a federal report released Monday.

And at Loyola University, (See Welfare, Page 14)

NOTICE

Solicitation for Nominations from Community Based Organizations for the Southern Nevada Workforce Development Board

The Southern Nevada Job Training Board is soliciting nominations for members to sit on the Workforce Investment Board as mandated by the Workforce Investment Act signed into law August 8, 1998. This board will set policy in the Southern Nevada Workforce area, consisting of the counties of Clark, Nye, Esmeralda, and Lincoln and the cities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Henderson and Boulder City. The majority of the board will be composed of representatives from local business with the balance derived from educational entities, labor organizations, community based organizations, economic development agencies, and a group of social service agencies including welfare, employment security, veterans administration, and vocational rehabilitation.

In order to insure the board functions with power and authority sufficient to fulfill the intent of the act, persons nominated "shall be individuals with optimum policy making authority within the organizations, agencies, or entities" they represent.

The Southern Nevada Workforce Investment Board has eight primary functions:

1) The responsibility for the development of a local strategic workforce investment plan.

2) The selection and certification of one-stop centers; the identification of eligible providers of youth activities, based on recommendations of the Youth Council; the identification of eligible providers of training services for adult and dislocated workers; the identification of eligible

providers of intensive workforce development intensive services.

3) The development and administration of budgets for the purposes of carrying out the duties of the local Board.

4) The conducting of oversight activities with respect to local programs of youth activities and local employment and training activities for adults and the one-stop delivery system.

5) Negotiate and reach agreement on local performance measures with elected officials and the Governor.

6) Assist the Governor in the development of the statewide employment statistics system.

7) Coordinate the workforce investment activities carried out in the local area with economic development strategies and develop other employment linkage.

8) Promote the participation of private sector employers in the statewide workforce investment system and ensure connecting, brokering and coaching activities through intermediaries such as the one-stop operations in the local area or through other organizations.

Nomination forms may be obtained from Nevada Business Services at 920 West Owens, Las Vegas or may be downloaded from the Internet at nbsworks.org. Please forward nomination forms along with the resumes of persons you feel meet this criteria by August 8, 1999 to:

**Southern Nevada Job Training Board
c/o Nevada Business Services
P.O. Box 270429
Las Vegas, NV 89127**

For questions, please call 638-8750.