

This Week in History

SEPTEMBER 2

1833 - Oberlin College is founded in Oberlin, Ohio.

1902 - *In Dohomey* premieres at the Old Globe Theater in Boston, Mass. With music by Will Marion Cook and lyrics by poet Paul Laurence Dunbar, it is the most successful musical of its day.

1914 - Romare Bearden is born in Charlotte, N.C. A student at NYU, the American Artists School, Columbia University, and the Sorbonne, Bearden's depiction of the rituals and social customs of African-American life will be imbued with an eloquence and power that will earn him accolades as one of the finest artists of the 20th century and a master of collage. Among his honors will be election to the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the National Institute of Arts and Letters, and receiving the President's National Medal of Arts in 1987.

1928 - Horace Ward Martin Tavares Silver is born in Norwalk, Conn. He will become a jazz pianist, bandleader and composer who will initially lead the Jazz Messengers with drummer Art Blakey before forming his own band in 1956. A pioneer of the hard bop style, he will attract to his band the talents of Art Farmer, Donald Byrd, and Blue Mitchell, among others.

1966 - Frank Robinson, black baseball player, named M.V.P. of American League.

1975 - In Tallahassee, Fla., Joseph W. Hatcher is sworn in as the state's first African-American Supreme Court justice since Reconstruction.

1957 - Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus calls out the National Guard to bar African-American students from entering a Little Rock High School.

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1783 - Richard Allen, founder of the AME Church, purchases his freedom with his earnings as a self-employed teamster.

1838 - Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey escapes from slavery disguised as a sailor. Eventually arriving in New York City, he will take the name Douglass, after the hero of Sir Walter Scott's poem *Lady of the Lake*.

1868 - Henry McNeal Turner delivers a speech before the Georgia legislature defending African-Americans' rights to hold state office.

1919 - Lincoln Motion Picture Company, owned by African-Americans Noble Johnson and Clarence Brooks, releases its first feature-length film, *A Man's Duty*.

1970 - Representatives from 27 African nations, the Caribbean nations, four South American countries, Australia, and the U.S. meet in Atlanta, Ga., for the first Congress of African People.

1990 - Jonathan A. Rodgers becomes president of CBS's television stations division, the highest-ranking African-American in network television. Rodgers had been general manager of WBBM-TV, CBS's Chicago station.

SEPTEMBER 4

1781 - Of the 46 settlers of California's second pueblo, *Nuestra Senora la Reina de Los Angeles de Porciuncula* (later known as Los Angeles), 26 are recorded as blacks or mulattoes.

1848 - Lewis Latimer is born in Chelsea, Mass. A onetime draftsman and preparer of patents for Alexander Graham Bell, he will later join the U.S. Electric Company, where he will patent a carbon filament for the incandescent lamp. At his death, he will be eulogized by his coworkers as a valuable member of the "Edison Pioneers," a group of men and women who advanced electrical light usage in the U.S.

1865 - Bowie State College is established in Bowie, Md.

1908 - Richard Wright, who will become the author of the best-selling *Native Son* and *Black Boy*, is born in Natchez, Miss.

SEPTEMBER 5

1859 - *Our Nig* by Harriet Wilson is published. It is the first novel published in the U.S. by an African-American woman and will be lost to readers for years until reprinted with a critical essay by noted African-American scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr. in 1983.

1916 - Novelist Frank Yerby is born in Augusta, Ga. A student at Fisk University and the University of Chicago, Yerby's early short story "Health Card" will win the O. Henry short story award. He will later turn to adventure novels and become a best-selling author of the 1940's and 1950's with

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School chief envisions middle-class in inner city

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — When the president of Savannah State University looks at the black and poor residents in an area filled with dilapidated and abandoned homes, he sees what could be.

"People bemoan the brevity of African-American middle class and why African-Americans leave the city," said Carlton Brown.

"If you're looking for a pre-existing thing to do, it's not here. So what you do is invent."

With the help of Savannah State students, the university's business school and the community, Brown hopes to invent a thriving black middle class built on entrepreneurship.

When Brown assumed the helm of the oft-troubled school in fall 1997, he challenged the faculty to make "town meet gown," involving students to work on Savannah's social and infrastructure woes.

The result was the Midtown/Savannah State Project, an effort to use entrepreneurship to encourage Savannah's youth to stay at home rather than flee for opportunities elsewhere.

Scott Sells, a social work professor, and his students have been the impetus for much of the development so far.

They worked with an active neighborhood association to obtain the community center in an abandoned building in

the neighborhood.

A groundbreaking for the center is expected to be held early next year.

Savannah State must ensure that the Midtown Community Center project gets up and running before it can jump into the next step, Brown said.

"We must prove it can work," he said. "Once that is done, the rest of it can happen."

The next step is to get Savannah State's business school involved in finding people with skills and the work experience and help them invent and manage their own business.

The new entrepreneurs would then serve as mentors for apprentices from an

underused local labor pool.

"There's no effective internship or apprenticeship programs here.

"There are some crying needs in the community," he said.

Brown said he sees opportunities in Savannah's hospitality industry and historic preservation area, since many inner-city residents make most of the beds, cook most of the food and lay concrete.

"Can we actually rebuild communities and make them viable again? Can we take these same people in the same places and create growth? You cannot do it alone, (but) you have to start somewhere," Brown said.

Rematch

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The official announcement will be made at a news conference Tuesday.

The fight will be held at the Thomas & Mack center on the UNLV campus, and will be the feature attraction of a multifight card to be run by King and casino operator Park Place Entertainment.

Holyfield and Lewis fought to a controversial draw March 13 in a fight many ringsiders felt was won by Lewis.

Each fighter is expected to make about \$15 million for the fight, which will be televised on pay-per-view.

Opportunity Day

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their awareness and show what they have to offer," said Nita Lopez-Tongson, event organizer and coordinator for the county Business Community Relations Department.

"(Business Opportunity Day) exposes them (small businesses) to the people that do the buying in the county," county business development director Debbie Conway said. "(It) helps them to get contracts and make contacts. We here at the county encourage all small businesses."

Tables were set up and made available to business reps free of charge for the placement of brochures, products, and other materials to best showcase their niche.

"I'm a reflexologist and our whole purpose is good health," said Gye Nyame of the Wellness Centre, 310 E. Lake Mead Blvd. "This is my chance to show off my trade."

"You meet people you wouldn't ordinarily meet," said Basil Clay of International College Funding, 1951 Stella Lake



Sentinel-Voice photo by Jonathan Olsen/Front Row Photos

Flanked by promoter Don King, heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield answers questions during a press conference announcing a rematch with champion Lenox Lewis.

Drive, Suite. "Trying to meet people one-on-one is a task."

Wayne Wedlow, a county purchasing analyst, said Business Opportunity Day benefited county employees charged with procuring services for the county. In many cases, he said, the county didn't know some of these small businesses existed.

"As a community we have the potential to grow together in the business of networking," said Denisa Byas, vice-president of the Nevada Association of Female Executives and Entrepreneurs, 3233 W. Hacienda Suite 307.

Vendors appeared satisfied with the booth arrangements and encouraged the county to consider making Opportunity Day a semi-annual event.

"More is always good," said Cornelius Eason of Priority Staffing, 2110 E. Flamingo Road. "If they (Clark County) want to do more, that's great."

On Sept. 15, from 9am to 12pm at the Las Vegas Business Center Incubator on 1951 Stella Lake Street, Suite

30 the Clark County Business Development in conjunction with the City of Las Vegas, and Small Business Administration will be

hosting a 1999 Outreach Training Workshop to help businesses use the internet to solicit customers. For more info please call 455-4432.

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA DID YOU KNOW...

... THAT IMPORTANT INFORMATION RELATED TO THE PURCHASING PROCESS AT CLARK COUNTY IS AVAILABLE 24-HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK? HERE'S WHERE YOU CAN FIND THIS VALUABLE INFORMATION:

FAX ON DEMAND SYSTEM

This fully automated system allows you to request and receive hard copy purchasing information electronically.

To access the system, dial (702) 455-5428 from any touch tone telephone and follow the voice prompts to request/receive the desired information.

The information available from the system includes our bidders list application, schedule of current projects, frequently asked questions, staff information, our workshop schedule, as well as other important and useful purchasing related information.

INTERNET

Similar purchasing information can also be found in the Clark County Purchasing and Contracts Division's website at:

www.co.clark.nv.us/gensrv/paindex.htm