

This Week in History

SEPTEMBER 30

Independence Day - Republic of Botswana

1935 - John Royce Mathis is born in San Francisco, Calif. He will become a romantic pop singer who will amass more than 50 gold and platinum records for such hits as "Misty." He will also have the distinction of having an album on the Billboard pop charts for the longest period, 480 weeks.

1975 - Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier square off in a fight billed as "The Thrilla in Manila." Ali will win the fight and retain his world heavyweight title when, after 14 rounds, Frazier's trainer refuses to let him continue.

1976 - Two Centuries of Black American Art opens at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The exhibit features over 60 lithographers, painters, and sculptors including 19th century masters Joshua Johnston, Edward Bannister, and Henry O. Tanner as well as modern artists Charles White, Romare Bearden, and Elizabeth Catlett. The introduction to the exhibit's catalogue asserts that the assembled artists' work proves that "the human creative impulse can triumph in the face of impossible odds, and at times even because of them."

OCTOBER 1

Independence Day - Nigeria

1851 - William "Jerry" Henry, a runaway slave and craftsman who had settled in Syracuse, NY is arrested by a US Marshall and scheduled to be returned to slavery. Ten thousand citizens of the city will storm the sheriff's office, free Henry, and aid his escape to Canada via the underground railroad.

1886 - Kentucky State College is founded in Frankfort, KY.

1903 - Virginia Proctor Powell, first female African-American librarian is born in Wilkesburg, Penn.

1945 - Donny Hathaway is born in Chicago, Ill. He will be an influential pop and R & B singer of the 1970s whose hit songs will include "The Ghetto" and "The Closer I Get to You" (with Roberta Flack).

1991 - Dr. Mary Schmidt Campbell assumes her duties as dean of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. A noted art historian, Schmidt had previously served as commissioner of cultural affairs, director of the Studio of Harlem, and chair of the Smithsonian Institution's Advisory Committee that recommended creation of a national African-American museum.

OCTOBER 2

1799 - Nat Turner is born in Southampton, Va. Believing himself called by God to free his fellow bondsmen, Turner will become a leader of one of the most famous slave revolts, resulting in the death of scores of whites and involving 60 to 80 slaves.

1898 - Otis J. Rene is born in New Orleans, LA. With his younger brother Leon, he will move to Los Angeles, Calif., and establish Exclusive and Excelsior Records in the 1930's. By the mid-1940's, the brothers will be leading independent record producers whose artists will include Nat King Cole, Herb Jeffries, and Johnny Otis.

1958 - The Republic of Guinea gains independence under Sekou Toure.

1965 - Bishop Harold Robert Perry of Lake Charles, La., is named auxiliary bishop of New Orleans by Pope Paul IV.

1986 - The US Senate overrides President Ronald Reagan's veto of legislation imposing economic sanctions against South Africa. The override is seen as the culmination of efforts by Trans-Africa's Randall Robinson, Rep. Mickey Leland, and others begun almost two years earlier with Robinson's arrest before the South African Embassy in Washington, DC.

1989 - Jump Start premiers in 40 newspapers in the US. The comic strip is the creation of 26-year-old Robb Armstrong, the youngest African-American to have a syndicated comic strip. He follows in the footsteps of Morrie Turner, the creator of Wee Pals, the first African-American syndicated comic strip.

OCTOBER 3

1856 - T. Thomas Fortune is born in Marianna, Fla. an advocate of full equality for African-Americans, he will found the Afro-American League in 1887, serve as editor of the weekly New York Globe, and founder of the New York Freeman (later the New York Age) and the Washington Sun.

1904 - Daytona Normal and Industrial School (later Bethune-Cookman College) opens in Daytona Beach, Fla. One of the leading institutions for training teachers, founder Mary McLeod Bethune will later say the college was started on "faith and a dollar and a half."

1935 - Ethiopia invaded by Italy, leading to World War II.

1941 - Ernest Evans is born in Philadelphia, Pa. Later adopting the name "Chubby Checker" after the renowned Fats Domino, his best-known recording will be the 1960's "The Twist," which will spark the biggest dance craze since the (See History, Page 16)

Funds meant for poor used by automaker

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Five million dollars in federal tax money meant to help the poorest of Appalachia's poor really built sewer lines for automaker BMW in South Carolina.

Gilmer County, W.Va., where one-third of the 7,500 residents live in poverty, hasn't received a dime.

The contrast isn't unusual, according to an analysis of grants distributed by the Appalachian Regional Commission, reported Sunday in *The Columbus Dispatch*.

From the program's inception in 1965 through 1998, millions of federal tax dollars were spent on Appalachia's wealthiest counties while many of its most impoverished communities were ignored, the *Dispatch* reported.

It analyzed 22,169 grants totaling \$16.4 billion when adjusted for inflation.

Among the expenses: — \$75,200 for a bronze statue of Olympic track star Jesse Owens in Alabama.

— \$500,000 to expand an intersection leading to a Pennsylvania amusement park.

— \$5 million for sewer

lines and worker training at BMW's plant at Spartanburg, S.C., listed among the nation's "booming locales" that same year by *Money* magazine.

The city of Pittsburgh received \$70.4 million in the commission's first 32 years, one of the largest chunks of Appalachian Regional Commission grant money.

"That money should be targeted to the most needy areas, to the most needy people.

"I don't understand those priorities," said the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

He visited southeast Ohio last year to draw attention to Appalachia's struggles.

Jesse White Jr., federal co-chairman of the commission since 1994, acknowledged problems with the grant process.

The commission's spending decisions are improving, he said. He pointed to Pittsburgh's Allegheny County, Pa., which hasn't received money from the commission since White took the helm.

The commission's \$516.4 million budget for fiscal 1999 represented its highest funding level ever, White

said. Congress also set aside \$2.3 billion to continue work on Appalachian highways and it formally renewed the Appalachian Regional Commission through 2001.

The commission was created during President Lyndon Johnson's "war on poverty" to help build highways and improve education, health and standard of living in Appalachia.

The region's mountains and foothills run through 13 states, from New York to Mississippi.

About one-fourth of the 406 counties are considered economically distressed — most in West Virginia, eastern Kentucky and southeastern Ohio — meaning they have unemployment over 8.5 percent, poverty rates above 19.6 percent and average incomes per-capita of \$12,934 or less.

All 406 counties qualify for federal grants.

Nonprofit groups, colleges, governments and health-care providers submit the requests, and the governors of the 13 states help the agency director choose the grant recipients.

Nothing requires them to award the bulk of the money to projects in the neediest counties.

The *Dispatch* study found more than one-fourth of the grant money, nearly \$4.6 billion, had gone to Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania and South Carolina — states with few, if any, counties labeled economically distressed by the commission.

Critics of the agency, such as former U.S. Rep. Scott Klug of Wisconsin who tried to kill the commission in the mid-1990s, say the grants aren't working and no amount of tax money can solve the region's problems.

"Most of these communities have had money thrown at them," Klug said. "Do they need another 35 years?"

Tamara Cooper, 39, who grew up in Portsmouth, Ohio, believes they do.

"You see people from Appalachia on TV in houses that you wouldn't let your dog live in," she said.

"Those people need help. Why spend money in New York when it's needed in southeast Ohio or Kentucky or West Virginia?"

Cuts

(Continued from Page 3) research at the National Institutes of Health, \$1.1 billion more than Clinton requested.

It also would outspend Clinton for community health centers, and maternal and child care grants to states.

But it would trim Clinton's requests for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and literacy programs.

And it would combine favorite Clinton programs for hiring new teachers, training teachers and improving local education standards into grants that states could use as they choose, but with \$400 million less than the president requested for the three initiatives.

With days to go before fiscal 2000 begins, Congress has sent Clinton only four of the 13 annual spending bills that keep federal agencies functioning.

With veto threats facing seven of the bills and lawmakers moving slowly through internal disputes, leaders planned a stopgap measure that will keep government open for three additional weeks as problems are addressed.

City of Las Vegas

1999-2000 Action Plan for the Housing and Community Development Consolidated Plan

You are invited to participate in important community meetings to discuss major funding sources used to:

- Construct community facilities
- Provide public services
- Extend housing opportunities
- Advance economic development

For further information, please call Tim Whitright of Neighborhood Services at 229-2300 (TDD 386-9108). If you know of a neighbor who has not received this notice, please share this information. If you need to have a sign language interpreter at the meeting, please call at least 48 hours prior to the meeting you plan to attend. All meetings are handicapped accessible.

The City of Las Vegas is committed to improving your neighborhood through:

- Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)
- HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)
- Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA)
- Emergency Shelter Grant Program (ESG)

SCHEDULED PUBLIC MEETINGS:

<p style="text-align: center;">EAST LAS VEGAS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, October 12, 1999 6:30-8:30 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rafael Rivera Community Center 2900 E. Stewart Las Vegas, NV 89101</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WEST LAS VEGAS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, October 14, 1999 6:30-8:30 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">West Las Vegas Library Conference Room 951 W. Lake Mead Boulevard Las Vegas, NV 89106</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">MEADOWS VILLAGE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, October 19, 1999 6:30-8:30 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Culinary Union Local 1630 S. Commerce Street Las Vegas, NV 89102</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DOWNTOWN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, October 28, 1999 5:30-7:30 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Arturo Cambeiro Senior Center 330 N. 13th Street Las Vegas, NV 89101</p>