

# This Month In Black History

Research by Marion Crowe

**February 4, 1904**

Thomas Mundy Peterson, the first black to exercise his right to vote under the 15th Amendment, died in Perth, Amboy, New Jersey.

**February 5, 1947**

John L. Howard became the first black man in almost a hundred years to graduate from Princeton University. Howard entered the Navy while taking a pre-medical course at Columbia University. He was transferred to Princeton under an Armed Forces program. After studying there for a short time, he received a full scholarship until graduation. Dr. Howard then entered Cornell University Medical School and interned at Great Lakes Naval Hospital, Great Lakes, ILL. Princeton graduated one other black in the mid 1800's, John Chavis, a free man, who was sponsored by a group of students to settle a bet as to whether or not a black could absorb a higher education.

**February 6, 1900**

Melvin B. Tolson, educator, author,

and poet, was born in Moberly, MD. Dr. Tolson's first poem was published in 1914, his early books included "Rendezvous with America" and "Dark Symphony" which won the national poetry prize at the Negro American Exposition in Chicago. He was elected Poet Laureate of Liberia for his *Libretto for the Republic of Liberia*, published in 1953.

**February 8, 1944**

Harry S. McAlysin became White House Correspondent for the National Negro Press Association and became the first black newsman admitted to the White House Press Conference.

**February 9, 1906**

Paul Laurence Dunbar, also known as the "Poet of His People" died of tuberculosis in Dayton, Ohio, his birthplace. Dunbar wrote his first poems as a child. After graduation from high school, he was unable to go to college and began working as an elevator operator. Dunbar continued to write poems in Negro dialect, such as "When Melindy Sings." In 1893, the great poet published his first volume of poems, *Oak and Ivy*. With the publication of his third volume, *Lyrics of Lowly Life*,

Dunbar became a national literary figure. In addition to his poems, Dunbar published four collections of short stories and four novels.

**February 10, 1780**

Blacks protested against taxation without representation. Seven blacks in Dartmouth, Mass., including Paul Cuffee and his brother John, protested in a petition to the Revolutionary Legislation of their state, against the fact that they were subjected to taxation without the right to vote. In 1783, by court decision, blacks subject to taxation were declared to be entitled to vote.

**February 12, 1865**

Rev. James Henry Highland Garnet, pastor of the 15th Street Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C., became the first black minister to deliver a sermon in the House of Representatives. Dr. Garnet's sermon was in memorial of the triumph of the Union Army and the deliverance of the country from slavery.

**February 12, 1926**

Black History Week was initiated by Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Largely through his efforts, the nation today celebrates Black History Month every February. He organized the campaign to dramatize the achievement of black people. Later he said, "The creation of Black History Week exposed the bias in textbooks, based the prejudice of teachers and compelled treating black people in history as other people are treated." Woodson taught many white scholars to shed chauvinism and many more black scholars to shed their feelings of inferiority.

**February 14, 1817**

Fredrick Douglass, a slave, was born in Tuckahoe, MD. In 1838 he escaped from slavery, settled in New Bedford, Mass., changing his name later from Fredrick Augustus Washington Bailey to Fredrick Douglass. In 1841 he addressed the anti-slavery convention in Nantucket, Mass. and became an agent for the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. He published his autobiography *Narrative of The Life of Fredrick Douglass* in 1845. After spending two years in Great Britain and Ireland lecturing on the abolition of slavery, he purchased his freedom and settled in Rochester, N.Y. In 1847 he founded and edited the "North Star" an abolitionist paper. At the outbreak of the Civil War he helped recruit black regiments and was consultant for President Abraham Lincoln. In 1877 President Rutherford Hayes appointed Douglass as U.S. Marshall for the District of Columbia; he was appointed Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia in 1881 and U.S. Minister to Haiti in 1889.

**February 15, 1905**

Ernest E. Just, brilliant investigator of biological phenomena relating to the structure of the cells, was awarded the first Spingain Medal by the NAACP. After graduating with high honors from Dartmouth, Dr. Just earned his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. He was author of two major books in his field: *Basic Methods for Experiments of Marine Animals* and *The Biology of the Cell Surface*, both published in 1939. Also during Dr. Just's career he had 60 papers published in several leading scientific journals. Dr. Just served as vice president of the American Society of Zoologist and member of the editorial board of *The Biological Bulletin* and *The Journal of*

*Morphology*; was the first black man ever to have a star placed beside his name (denoted distinction) in the authoritative American Men of Science. Dr. Just was born in Charleston, S.C. in 1883. He died in 1941.

**February 17, 1865**

The Ku Klux Klan was organized at Pulaski, TN.

**February 18, 1885**

Jonathan Jasper Wright, the first black to be elected to the State Supreme Court of South Carolina, died in Charleston, S.C. Wright was born in Lancaster, PA., attended college in New York, and was the first black admitted to the bar in Pennsylvania. After the Civil War he went to South Carolina as a legal advisor to the Freedmen's Bureau. He took an active role in the Constitutional Convention of 1868 and was elected state senator of South Carolina, to fulfill the term of Solomon L. Hoge who had resigned to run for Congress. Later that year he was re-elected for a full six year term where he served until 1877 as an Associate Justice.

**February 19, 1919**

The first Pan-African Congress, organized by W.E.B. DuBois, met in the Grand Hotel in Paris simultaneously with the Peace Conference at Versailles. The congress, attended by 57 delegates, called attention to the fact that blacks in various parts of the world had an interest in the peace conference, and they were seeking for themselves the democracy for which they had fought.

**February 23, 1868**

Dr. W.E.B. DuBois, one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, founder of the Niagara Movement (forerunner of the NAACP), the first black elected to the National Institute of Arts and Letters and a lifetime member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, was born in Great Barrington, Mass. DuBois founded *Crisis Magazine* and *Phylon Quarterly Review* and authored numerous books including *The Philadelphia Negro* and *The Souls of Black Folks: Then and Now*. He was recognized as one of the most incisive thinkers in the United States and among the most profound scholars of his time and generation. Dr. DuBois died in Ghana in 1963.

**February 23, 1870**

Hiram Rhodes Revels, a Republican legislator from Mississippi, became the first black senator in the U.S. Congress. After he retired from politics, he was elected President of Alcorn University near Lorman, Miss. He died in 1901.

**February 24, 1811**

Daniel A Payne, clergyman and educator, was born a free black in Charleston, S.C. He served as a bishop of the A.M.E. Church and later was elected President of Wilberforce (Ohio) College (now university), thus becoming the nation's first black college president. Payne died in 1893.

**February 24, 1949**

The signing of the Israeli-Egyptian armistice ended nine months of alternating war and truce in Southern Palestine. It was reached after six weeks of direct negotiation which were guided, and often saved from failure, by Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, UN mediator, who won a Nobel Peace Prize in 1950.

**February 27, 1853**

The first black YMCA Chapter was organized in Washington, D.C.



## NEWS OF BEAUTY

Today's Woman Chooses Her Own Style

There are no strict edicts of do's and don't's for an "in" look in today's fashion. Rather, women are now aware that physical beauty is enhanced by their own self-confidence and awareness of individual value.

More than ever, women are choosing their clothes, their makeup and their coiffures to fit their own tastes and lifestyles. That's the word from Renee Jordan, cosmetic and beauty specialist for Johnson Products, a leader in black hair care and beauty products for more than 30 years.

A desire to help black women realize their full beauty potential has led to continued research resulting in a wider range of products geared to their special beauty needs. For instance, Johnson now offers 18 Moisture Formula™ foundations to complement the many skin tones of black women.

Other new products such as conditioning relaxers allow black women to create wardrobes of hair-styles, ranging from very straight to a head full of casual curls.

With relaxed hair, styling possibilities become almost endless. The span runs from "wash and wear," blow-dry, roller-set for volume or pin-curl for loose curls or waves.

Styles for '83 will make news with a "textured" look—spikey bangs with soft, straight hair framing the face. Another popular look will give relaxed hair a finger wave off the face and curl it under like a page boy at the nape.

A preview of these new styles was glimpsed by



Sarah Stavrou of Chicago, winner of the first annual Great Model Search, receives congratulations from the president of Johnson Products, sponsor of the search.



Beautiful Sarah Stavrou, whose face will be seen nationwide this year in fashion and beauty photographs.

beauty professionals at a recent New York City event that culminated Johnson Products' Gentle Treatment™ Great Model Search, soon to become an annual affair.

The winner, Sarah Stavrou, a student at Illinois State University, is expected to be the face for '83, appearing in national ads for Johnson Products and featured in beauty/fashion layouts for leading women's

magazines. More than 7,000 young women competed in the Great Model Search, developed by Johnson Products as a way to seek out new talent and underscore the spectacular growth of the black beauty care industry. Plans for next year's Search are already underway and aspiring models should watch for announcements in the May, 1983 issues of major black magazines.