

Chronicle Profile

Retired teacher is a living encyclopedia

By ALBERT NICKERSON
Chronicle Staff Writer

Joseph Bradshaw is a living encyclopedia to the history of the local black community.

Since 1957, Bradshaw has collected pictures, slides and other memorabilia about the city's black community. He has photographs of the 1930s graduating classes of Atkins High School, the city's second black high school. And, he has compiled most of the history of the Safe Bus Line Co., the only privately owned black bus company in the history of the city. It was forced to sell out in 1965 to the Winston-Salem Transit Authority because of economic and social pressure.

"If you want to know anything about black Winston-Salem, most people come to me," said Bradshaw, 69, a retired schoolteacher.

Bradshaw is hoping to get financial support to start a black history museum for his collection. He is seeking a charter from the state for starting a black historical society. In addition, he will be petitioning the federal government for tax exempt status for the museum.

By next year, Bradshaw said he wants to start a campaign to raise funds to buy a building for housing the historical data.

"The museum is important so that we will never forget our past," said Bradshaw.

Bradshaw knows the importance of documenting your own history as a result of his experience in World War II. "I have never seen a World War II picture that I liked," he said.

He served in the 49th Truck Co. in the Army in England, and Germany. His division was responsible for providing gasoline and other supplies to General George Patton's Army as it marched

across Europe.

But in the movie "Red Ball Express", Bradshaw said there is nothing documenting the role of black troops during the war. "I walked out of the movie when I first saw it," he said.

So Bradshaw is about the business of keeping accurate historical records of the legacy of the city's black community. He loaned his scrap book on Long Lance, a local black man who passed for Indian, to author Donald Smith for his 1982 book on Lance. Lance was one of the first important black public figures in the community. He was an athlete, who attended Carlyle University near Har-

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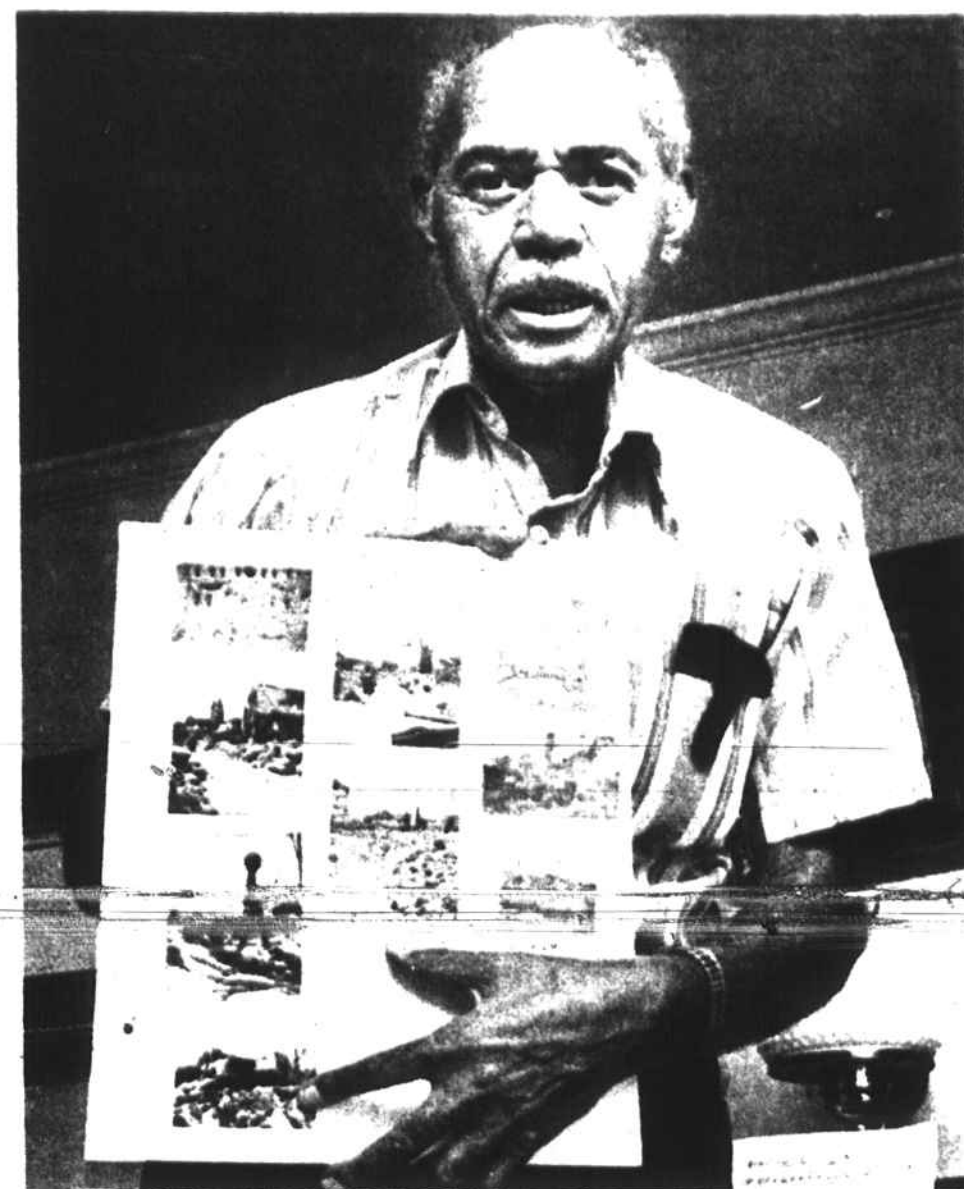
--Joseph Bradshaw

borough, Pa., where he played with basketball Olympic hero Jim Thorpe.

Bradshaw also has pictures of Walter Lance, the city's first black detective and brother of Long, sparring with the first black heavyweight champion, Jack Johnson.

When Atkins High School was closed, the class pictures of the second black high school lay gathering dust in the basement of the school. Bradshaw took those pictures and now he has collected all the original pictures from the graduating classes of the 1930s.

Also, he has pictures of the Depot Street School, the first black elementary school, built in 1887. It was eventually replaced by the Woodlawn Avenue Colored Grade School. Both schools only went to the eighth grade. The schools were replaced by the Columbian Heights Colored School, built in 1913, the first black high school that was replaced by Atkins.



Local historian Joseph Bradshaw reminisces about his Army days during World War II (photo by James Parker).

Bradshaw is proud of Atkins because it produced many prominent black citizens. Kenneth R. Williams, the city's first black alderman and president and chancellor of Winston-Salem State. Please see page A8

Local Urban League meets \$550,000 challenge

Thomas J. Elijah Jr., president of the Winston-Salem Urban League, has announced that the \$550,000 goal of the organization's Challenge to Achieve campaign has been met.

"We are very pleased to have met our goal," Elijah said. "As soon as some outstanding pledges come in, we will know our final total."

Funds from the campaign will be used to construct a new employment training center in the Urban League's buildings at the northwest corner of Fifth and Trade streets. Renovations are scheduled to begin this month.

I.L. Long Construction Company has been selected general contractor.

Robert A. Emken, executive vice president at R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., served as general campaign chairman. At a kick-off breakfast in January, Emken announced gifts of \$150,000 from R.J. Reynolds, \$75,000 from the Hanes Group and \$50,000 from Wachovia Bank and Trust.

Emken noted that the Urban League has a proven track record in training and retraining the unemployed, but that inadequate facilities have hampered local ef-

forts.

"The League will be moving from about 4,000 square feet in the Pepper Building to nearly 13,000 square feet when the Fifth and Trade facility is completed," Emken said.

Located in the heart of the downtown redevelopment area, the Urban League will be highly accessible and visible, he added. "It is an ideal location for their offices and training center."

Elijah noted that the Urban League's primary goal for the center is to help the disadvantaged break the poverty cycle.

"Many of our clients have

been unemployed for years," he said. "They are seriously disadvantaged in today's job market. They not only lack job skills, they also lack job search skills. The training and retraining they will get in this expanded program will enable them to find and keep the jobs they need."

The former Wachovia Bank branch and several small adjoining buildings were acquired by the Urban League in 1980. One building was renovated more than a year ago to house its Senior Citizen Center.

Construction on the training center is expected to be completed in early 1985.

Around Town

Break dance duel scheduled here

Fourteen year-old Omar Risdon, his brothers Keir Risdon, 16, and Kyle Risdon, 17, say they hope to show Los Angeles native Ernest McIntyre how it's really done when they go up against the tiny youngster at a local nightclub here in October.

The Risdots moved here two-and-a-half years ago with their mother from the Bronx. Their brand of break dancing is the original cement acrobatics you only see in the movies.

The limber teenagers formed their own break dancing group, **The Untouchables**, and invited Winston natives Darryl Brown and George Cheek to join them.

Omar, spokesman for the break dance team and the \$100 first place winner of this year's break dance competition at **Spanky McMane's**, describes his upcoming duel with McIntyre as "light work."

"It's all in fun, though," says Omar. "We have an agreement. Me, Little Richard Scales and Ernest don't talk junk about each other..."

... Marguerita Marsh, a receptionist by day and by night the owner of a new photography shop, **AM Studio** at 1610 E. 14th St., says the shop hours of 7-6 p.m. are really much more flexible for her and her photographer-partner, **Al Brown**.

"We're really open 24 hours," she says.

Marsh's studio specializes in weddings, portraits and advertising.

Local hair stylist and one of this summer's hottest socialites, **Jim Conrad**, and his staff of **Conrad's Hair Design** and **Conrad's Beauty World** returned last week from the National Beauty Show in Atlanta at the Hyatt Regency there. The **Pineapple**, a

new hairdo created at the show, will undoubtedly catch on in the Twin City, he says. "You gotta try it," he says. Some of the

other local hairdressers spotted at the show were **Minnie Ervin**, **Dwight Jones** and **Curtis Carpenter**.

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