

Researchers say Ali had Irish roots

DUBLIN, Ireland — Irish researchers said Friday they have found that former world heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali has Irish roots in the soil of County Clare.

"We would like to honor Ali as one of the heroes of the 20th century and invite him here," said Michael Corley, a local council leader in the small town of Ennis, where, genealogists say, a great-grandfather of Ali was born 160 years ago.



Ali

Ali's publicist Jill Siegel, reached in New Jersey, said the ex-champion was aware of his Irish ancestry.

"That has been known for some time," she said. But she wasn't sure if the researchers had turned up new details.

Researchers at the County Clare Heritage Centre in the southwest of Ireland say they have unearthed documentation to show that Ali's forebear Abe Grady emigrated to the United States in the 1860s, settled in Kentucky and later married an African-American woman.

They say one of his descendants was Ali's mother. "Through research being carried out for the Irish-language TV station TG4 on Ali, we established that Ali's great-great-grandfather, John Grady, the father of Abe, rented a house and a small garden in Ennis ... in 1855," said genealogist Antoinette O'Brien. "There is no doubt that Abe Grady was Ali's great-grandfather."

MSNBC apologizes for misspelling analyst's name as a racial slur

NEW YORK — MSNBC has apologized for a typographical error that turned the name of an interview subject into a racial slur. The network on Monday aired an interview about the Enron case with Republican consultant Niger Innis. The on-screen graphic identifying Innis, who is black, had an extra "g" in his first name.

Shortly after it appeared, correspondent Gregg Jarrett offered Innis a "profuse apology."

"Oh, God, I thought you guys thought I was a rapper or something," Innis replied. "Media bias continues. Just kidding. It's not the first time it's happened, but hopefully it's the last."

It was strictly a typographical mistake, network spokesman Mark O'Connor said Thursday. He wouldn't say whether any disciplinary action was taken against the person who made the blunder.

Store says it's sorry for fried chicken special in honor of Black History Month

HARRISBURG, Pa. — A supermarket advertised a sale on fried chicken in honor of Black History Month, prompting the company to issue an apology after a customer complained.

Giant Food Stores customer Lance Sellers brought the ad to the attention of the manager of the store in Union Deposit east of Harrisburg. The sign read: "In honor of Black History Month, we at Giant are offering a special savings on fried chicken."

"I showed it to a few of the other customers ... and they all were stunned," Sellers said. "When I approached the store manager about the problem he had the nerve to ask me why it offended me so much."

Giant Food Stores apologized on Wednesday and said the sign was not meant to be offensive. "It did happen. It was at that one store only," said Denny Hopkins, Giant's vice president of advertising. "We had a customer bring the sign to us and complain and we immediately took it down."

Paula Diane Harris, president of the Greater Harrisburg Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said the sign reinforces racist stereotypes.

"Not all African Americans eat fried chicken, greens and chitlins. We like salad, roast beef, low-fat chicken, just like everybody else," she said.

Giant is sponsoring several programs for Black History Month, including having jazz bands and soul food samples at its Kline Village Plaza and Union Deposit stores, Hopkins said.

Sellers said the sign wouldn't keep him from shopping at the store. "We laugh about it," he said. "How could they put something like that out there?"

Former KKK organizer files for office

GREAT FALLS, Mont. — Cascade County Republicans are denouncing a former Ku Klux Klan organizer's candidacy for the Montana Legislature.

GOP Chairman James Parker Shield said the local party "will not aid him in any manner and will actively recruit a candidate to defeat him in the primary election."

John Abarr, 32, a motel worker, has filed for the Republican primary in the House district now represented by Democrat Tim Callahan. He said he has already rejected the party's request that he withdraw.

Shield cited extraordinary circumstances for the party's decision to get involved in a primary election. He said Abarr has served as an organizer for the KKK, wrote fliers encouraging the deportation of homosexuals and Jewish Americans to create an ethnically pure "Realm of Montana" and tried to raise public concerns over a gay pride event in 1997 in Bozeman.

Abarr said he was a KKK member and organizer as recently as 1997, when he put out fliers denouncing a gay rights rally. He said he drifted away later because he no longer believed the group could accomplish anything.

Abarr said he no longer believes deportation is a solution to the country's social ills because "there would be just too many people to deport."

Clyburn hints at class-action lawsuit

Congressional Black Caucus has taken an interest in issue of black land loss and theft

BY ALVIN BENN
THE MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER

TUSKEGEE, Ala. — Tony Haygood hasn't lost any of his land, but he knows black farmers who have, and he shares their concern over that growing dilemma in the South.

The problem hit home several years ago when he learned of two elderly sisters who were about to lose their land when a relative in another state decided to sell his share.

He contacted state forestry officials, explained the problem to them and then came up with a plan to buy out the relative and allow the sisters to continue living on their property.

The sisters were involved in an impending partition sale that could have been disastrous for them. Although only one piece of property was to be sold, the laws required that the entire acreage be kept intact within the family to avoid the sale of individual parcels, Haygood said.

"They thought they'd be forced to move, and we were lucky to develop a strategy to save their land for them," said Haygood, who attended Tuskegee University's 110th annual Farmers Conference on Friday.

"Not all black farmers are as fortunate as they were."



S.C. Congressman James Clyburn takes the oath of office after his mosy recent win.

KRT Photo

Several speakers at the conference addressed the growing problem of black-owned land loss during the concluding sessions.

U.S. Rep. James Clyburn, D-South Carolina, said the growing black congressional caucus has been acutely aware of the problem and is working to preserve black-owned land.

"We have documented 2,000 instances where land has been illegally and unfairly taken from black farmers," Clyburn told hundreds of delegates to the conference. "Some land was taken through eminent domain, others through partitions."

Saying it was time "to light

some candles" instead of "cursing the darkness," Clyburn indicated that a class-action lawsuit may be filed on behalf of those black farmers who have lost hundreds of thousands of acres in past decades.

Clyburn, filling in for U.S. Rep. Sanford Bishop of Georgia, said he has had questions about possible reparations payments for black Americans as a result of slavery. He said he has no such reservations when saving black-owned farmland is involved.

"With reparations the question is who pays, how much is paid and who gets the money," he said. "In the case of black land loss, we know who got the

land, so we know who to sue. What we need now is to find a way to fund a lawsuit."

Besides using most of his 175 acres to grow timber, Haygood also is president of Southern Community College in Tuskegee, a small two-year school. He said he divides his time between his white collar academic job and his blue collar farming operation.

"Owning this land has given me a sense of appreciation as well as great enjoyment," he said. "My two children can see the benefit of owning their own land one day. They have a real attachment to it. They love to walk through it."

Blacks make Academy Award history

FROM STAFF REPORTS

For the first time, two black men will compete for the best actor award at next month's Academy Awards. Will Smith and Denzel Wash-

ington made history Tuesday when the nominees for this year's Oscars were announced.

Smith was nominated for his role in the bio-pic "Ali." Washington won his nomina-

tion for his role as a tough cop in "Training Day."

This year also marks the first time since 1972 that three African Americans have been nominated in the top two acting categories, best actor and best actress.

Halle Berry was nominated for her performance in "Monster's Ball." Berry is the first black woman to be nominated in the lead actress category since 1993 when Angela Bassett received a nomination for her performance as Tina Turner in "What's Love Got to Do With It."

No black woman has ever won the Oscar for best actress and only a handful have been nominated in the category in the history of the Academy Awards. Only one black man has won a best actor Oscar.



Smith

Sidney Poitier holds that honor for his performance in "Lilies of the Field."

There have not been as many blacks nominated for top awards since 1972, when Paul Winfield and Cicely Tyson for "Sounder" and Diana Ross for "Lady Sings the Blues" were in the running.



Denzel Washington as LAPD Detective Sergeant Alonzo Harris in 2001's "Training Day."

LOUISE E. HARRIS
Attorney at Law

- Bankruptcy
- Consumer Problems
- Traffic Tickets & DWI
- Divorce
- Social Security

12 Years Of Experience
102 West Third Street, Ste. 485
Winston-Salem, NC
Call 24 Hours
(336) 761-0222

WWW
wschronicle.com

Triad Tack Shop

20% Off
Store Wide
(Excludes Special Items & Warmers)
Roping Saddles \$360
Oil Skin Coats \$63.96
Snake Boots \$93 and up
Elephant Skin Boots \$113.40
Snake Print \$42.00

Come and Compare our Prices
1212 Waightown St.
(336) 784-1565
Mon-Sat 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Welcome to ...

St. Peter's Heritage Place

Do you want to chase away those mid-winter blues?
Let us help you! Announcing a new apartment complex for SENIOR CITIZENS

Apply Now for Residency at St. Peter's Heritage Place (located off Old Lexington Road) Winston-Salem, NC. NEW APARTMENT COMPLEX FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, AGE 62 AND OLDER One bedroom, one bath apartments feature Carpeting, Electric Heat and Air Conditioning, Range and Refrigerator, Handicap Accessible Units are available. Rent based on income. Additional features at St. Peter's include Day Room, Tenant Storage, Multipurpose Room, Craft Room, Courtyard, On-Site Laundry Facilities, Public transportation within walking distance.

For application or information
Call: 336-765-0424
Hearing Impaired: 1-800-735-2962
or write:
St. Peter's Heritage Place
Community Management Corporation
P. O. Box 25168
Winston-Salem, NC 27114-5168

Equal Housing Opportunity

The Chronicle (USPS 067-910) was established by Ernest H. Pitt and Ndubisi Egemonye in 1974 and is published every Thursday by Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co., Inc., 617 N. Liberty Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101. Periodicals postage paid at Winston-Salem, N.C. Annual subscription price is \$30.72.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
The Chronicle, P.O. Box 1636
Winston-Salem, NC 27102-1636

INDEX

OPINION.....A6
SPORTS.....B1
RELIGION.....B5
CLASSIFIEDS.....B10
HEALTH.....C3
ENTERTAINMENT.....C7
CALENDAR.....C9