

Black Contributors Have Been Ignored

By Lillie Vaughan

For a long time little or no recognition was given to the many black contributors to the growth of science and technology in America. Now in the midst of a new black awareness and pride, research in these areas continue to reveal a surprising number of contributions by blacks. New history books need to be written to include this vital information, especially during these times when the major focus is on low achievement levels by black students.

Let me mention some of the contributions blacks have made to give you some idea of the power of a black mind.

Check out Norbet Rillieux (1806-1894), the brother who cut cost and energy in refining sugar. Thanks to him your coffee probably tastes sweeter for less.

Ever hear of Thomas Edison? Well right along

with him should go a brother named Lewis H. Latimer (1848-1928). He did research in the development and commercialization of the electric light.

What would America be like without bridges and other dynamic structures we see all across the nation? Well, a brother named Archie Alexander (1888-1958) did excellent work in engineering bridges, power plants, and major structures across our nation. Thanks brother, we needed that.

Frederick M. Jones (1892-1961) held more than 60 patents in a variety of fields, but refrigerator for long-haul trucks was one of his specialties.

"McDonald's," where would you be without him?

For you ladies who are still crying equal rights, did Katherine Johnson (1918-); she is liberated and smoking. Her brilliance was in pioneering research in the

field of trucking manned and unmanned space missions. How about that ERA?

O.S. (Ozzie) Williams (1921-) was the first black aeronautical engineer

to be hired by Republic Aviation, Inc. during World War II. Presently he deals from rockets to solar and wind energy from Africa.

Ingenuity and an inborn thirst to get up and do something prompted J. Ernest Wildins, Jr. (1923-) to break through and get his Ph.D at the age of 19. He works in the area of research and development of nuclear power. Heavy..

Meredith Gourdin (1929-) is known for his pioneering work in electrogasdynamics, a way of producing high-voltage electricity from natural gas. Now can you handle that?

A sister by the name of Annie Easley (1932-) develops and implements computer codes used in

solar, wind, and other energy projects.

Ever heard of "Occustat"? No! Well, it is a system for monitoring and controlling energy conservation. It is designed to reduce energy waste in temporarily vacant homes and other buildings. Brother Clarence L. Elder (1935-) designed it. Excellent for dormitories during Easter vacation and other breaks, right?

Crodele Reed (1938-) is the brother responsible for the engineering design of all nuclear projects. Concerned about energy physics research at three Federal agencies - the Atomic Energy Commission, the Energy Research and Development of Energy. The brother is even deeper than that, during a year as visiting Professor at Stanford University he became director of the summer science program for gifted disadvantaged college

students. Three cheers for brother Coleman!

The list does not stop here, it goes on and on. The records of much of our written history shied away from many contributions blacks made for so long, but do not think for one minute the oppressed people is substantial when doors are trying to be opened for them and their children in obtaining a better understanding of self.

If you ever hear someone shouting out blacks lack of contributions to science and technology, stick a stopper in their mouths and tell them to get a free copy of "Black Contributions to Science and Energy Technology" from the United States Department of Energy, Washington, D. C. This pamphlet (made available to other science and technology departments by our office of Public Information) was really an "eye-opener" for me.

Elizabeth City State University

1891

Elizabeth City, North Carolina

1979

Events of the Eighty-eighth

COMMENCEMENT SEASON

1979

Sunday, May 13

* Commencement 10:30 A.M.

Sports Arena

Speaker, Dr. Raymond H. Dawson

Other Events

* Sunday, April 29 - 8:00 P.M. Band Concert

* Friday, May 4 - 7:30 P.M. Kindergarten Commencement
Moore Hall

* Sunday, May 6 - 8:00 P.M. Choir Concert

* Wednesday, May 9 - 8:00 P.M. Class Night Program

Friday, May 11 - 4:30 P.M. Chancellor's Dinner for Seniors
Lawn - Chancellor's Residence

Saturday, May 12 - 10:00 A.M. Briefing Session
New Gymnasium

Saturday, May 12 - 10:00 A.M. Alumni Meeting

* Sunday, May 13 Reception

University Center (Immediately following Commencement)

*The public is invited to attend.

Dawson Speaker for Commencement

Chancellor Marion D. Thorpe announced that the Eighty-Eighth Commencement at Elizabeth City State University is scheduled for Sunday, May 13. The commencement address will be given by Dr. Raymond H. Dawson, Vice-President for Academic Affairs of the University of North Carolina System.

Dr. Dawson has served as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and General College at UNC - Chapel Hill. Dr. Dawson holds degrees from the College of the Ozarks, Vanderbilt University and UNC - Chapel Hill, and has formerly participated in the Fulbright Lectures at the University of London. He is currently a member of the American and Southern Political Science Associations and of the International Institute for Strategic Studies. He began his professional teaching career in 1951 at the Presbyterian Junior College.

Following the address by Dr. Dawson, Chancellor Thorpe will confer degrees on approximately 310 undergraduates of the arts and sciences, slightly up from last year's total. President Willie B. Spence will then induct the new graduates into membership in the ECSU General Alumni Association.