



**PUSH STARS:** A galaxy of superstars invaded Chicago recently to appear at a sensationally successful S. R. O Push Benefit at the city's Orchestra Hall. Amid the glittering roster of celebrities and performers were (L-R) Tony Bennett, RCA Records' Lena Horne and Zulema with PUSH President. Jesse Jackson, Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Count Basie, Barbara McNair, War, Ray Charles, Quincy Jones and Wolfman Jack, among many others, helped to make the affair the huge success it was.

## Historic Milestones

by Elva P. DeJarmon

(Brief anecdotes of Negro History from BEFORE THE MAYFLOWER, by Lerone Bennett, Jr., and THE NEGRO IN VIRGINIA, writers Program of WPS in Virginia, Hampton Institute Sponsored).

1661

Virginia council passed a fateful act. Legislation was directed at the white servant class but a casual phrase gave legal status to the lifetime enslavement of freedom-seeking Negroes. The act seemed to imply general acceptance of slavery as the Negroes penalty for running away and a hesitancy to define the status of black men and women. In 1662, the general assembly was more definite. It said that the child of an Englishman and a Negro woman borne in this country shall be held bond or free only according to the condition of the mother. (The common law of England gave a child the status of the father). In spite of the penalties, some white men took advantage of the act to breed slaves. Some children of the Negro women were freed by grateful masters. Free Negro women were also held to be taxable. The Act also gave greater support to slavery than to Christianity.

1663

First serious slave conspiracy in Colonial America. September 13. Servant betrayed plot of white servants and Negro slaves in Gloucester County, Va.

1664

Maryland enacted first anti-miscegenation law to prevent marriages of Englishwomen and Negroes, Sept. 20. Virginia banned interracial marriages in 1691; Massachusetts, 1705; North Carolina, 1715; South Carolina, 1717; Delaware, 1721; Pennsylvania, 1725.

1667-1682

The Act of 1667 was followed in 1682 by a supplement that defined as slaves "imported servants who were not Christian." A large proportion of Dutch and New England ships, however, found it more profitable to bring blacks from the West Indies, where many Negroes were Christians. Finally a third Act made slaves of "those servants who native country was not Christian." Turks and Moors having been excluded. Sanctioned by State and church, life servitude became the "proper" status of Africans, and Virginia consciences were reconciled to baptism as freeing the soul but not the body.

1688

First formal protest against slavery in Western Hemisphere made by Germantown Quakers at monthly meeting, February 18.

1700

Edward Teach, better known as 'Blackbeard' was captured and his crew included 14 Negroes as regular members of his pirate band. Prisoners taken to Williamsburg and were hanged at the Callows Road.

1704

School for Negro slaves opened in New York by Elias Neau, a Frenchman.

1712

Slave revolt, New York, April 7. Nine whites were killed. Twenty one slaves executed. In the sporadic wars waged against the Indians, Negroes, slave and free, fought along with the colonists. The slave Ismael Titus served with General Braddock as "rider" of one of his supply wagons and Samuel Jenkins, who belonged to Captain Broadwater of Fairfax County, served heroically during Braddock's disastrous campaign against the French in the Upper Ohio Valley.

The courage of Levisa Smith Bowen and her over-sized Negro woman, name is unknown, is said to have prevented in 1776 a slaughter of women and children in Tazewell County.

1723

Massachusetts governor issued proclamation on the "fires which have been designed and industriously kindled by some villainous and desperate Negroes or other dissolute people as appeared by the confession of some of them" on April 13.

Slave conspiracy discovered in Norfolk and Princess Anne Country, Va. Governor ordered white males to carry arms with them to church.

1739

Slave revolt, Stono, South Carolina, September 9. Twenty-five whites killed before insurrection put down.

1741

Series of suspicious fires and reports of slave conspiracy led to general hysteria in New York City, March and April. Thirty-one slaves, five whites were executed.

1750

Crispus Attucks, hero of American Revolution, escaped from his master in Framingham, Mass., September 30.

1760

Richard Allen, founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church was born a slave, in Philadelphia, February 14. Jupiter Hammon, New York Slave who was probably the first Negro poet, published SALVATION BY CHRIST WITH PENITENTIAL CRIES, December 25.

TO BE CONTINUED.