

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 WPA in Virginia, Hampton Institute Sponsored).

Henry Blair of Maryland was probably the first Negro to receive a patent for an invention. He took out a patent on a corn harvester on October 14, 1834. Equally inventive was Norbert Rillieux, a New Orleans machinist and engineer, who invented and got a patent on a vacuum cup which revolutionized sugar refining methods of his day. Between 1872 and 1920 Elijah McCoy of Detroit received over 57 patents for inventions on automatic lubricating appliances and other devices pertaining to telegraphy and electricity. Many of his inventions were used on locomotives on the Canadian and Northwestern railroads and on steamships on the Great Lakes.

Jan E. Matzeliger is often called the greatest inventor. He created the first machine for attaching soles to shoes. His was called the first appliance of its kind capable of performing all the steps required to hold a shoe on its last, grip and pull the leather down around the heel, guide and drive the nails into place, discharging the completed shoe. Matzeliger's patent was bought by the United Shoe Machinery Co. of Boston which became a multi-million dollar corporation. Matzeliger died in 1889 in obscurity.

1835

A Negro Convention, meeting in Philadelphia, advised Negroes to remove the word African from the names of their institutions and organizations June 1-5.

Anti-Slavery pamphlets taken from mail at Charleston, S. C. and publicly burned, July 29.

Noyes Academy, an integrated school at Canaan, N. H. closed by mob violence, August 10.

1837

Elijah Lovejoy murdered by pro-slavery mob while defending his press in Alton, Illinois, November 7.

Seminole Indian force defeated by American troops at Battle of Okkeechobee, December 25. Negro Chief, John Horse, shared command responsibilities with Alligator Sam Jones and Wild Cat.

1838

MIRROR OF LIBERTY, first Negro magazine, published in New York City by David Ruggles, a Negro Abolitionist, August.

Frederick Douglass escaped from slavery in Baltimore, September 3. Charles Lenox Remond began his career as antislavery agent. Remond was the first Negro lecturer employed by an anti-slavery society.

1839

Samuel Ringgold Ward, Presbyterian minister employed as lecturer by American Anti-slavery Society Seminoles and their Negro Allies shipped from Tampa Bay, Fla. to the West February 25.

Robert Smalls, Civil War hero and Reconstruction congressman, born at Beaufort, S. C. April 5. Camp Robert Smalls Naval Training Center is named for him. Located near Waukegan, Illinois, Great Lakes Training Center.

Liberty Party, first antislavery political party, organized at convention in Warsaw, N. Y., November 13. Two Negro abolitionists, Samuel Ringgold Ward and Henry Highland Garnet, were among earliest supporters of the new political party.

1841

Blanche Kelso Bruce, only Negro to serve full term in U. S. Senate, born a slave at Prince Edward County, Va., March 1. Frederick Douglass hired as lecturer by Massachusetts Anti-slavery Society, August.

Slave revolt on slave trader "Creole" which was en route from Hampton, Va., to New Orleans, La., November 7. Slaves overpowered crew and sailed vessel to Bahamas where they were granted asylum and freedom.

1842

Robert Brown Elliott, Reconstruction congressman, born in Boston, Mass., August 11. Capture of George Latimer in Boston precipitated first of several famous fugitives slaves cases which embittered North and South, October. Boston abolitionists raised enough money to purchase Latimer from his master, November 7.

1843

Soujourner Truth, the first Negro woman to take the platform as an anti-slavery lecturer, left New York and began her work as an abolitionist, June 1.

At the national convention of colored men in Buffalo, N. Y., Henry Highland Garnet made controversial speech in which he called for a slave revolt and a general strike, August 22.

Negroes participated in national political gathering for the first time at meeting of Liberty party convention in Buffalo, N. Y., August 30.

Samuel R. Ward led convention in prayer, Henry Highland Garnet was member of nominating committee; Charles B. Ray was one of the the convention secretaries.

1845

First Negro formally admitted to the bar, Macon B. Allen, passed examination at Worcester, Mass., May 3.

Workshop —

(Continued From Page 1-B)

Harris, Medill School of Journalism; Dr. Berkeley G. Burrell, president of the National Business League; David Harper, president of the National Bankers Association; C. Mack Higgins, assistant administrator of the Small Business Administration.

Samuel J. Cornelius, deputy director of Office of Minority Business Enterprise; George Norford, senior vice president, Westinghouse Broadcasting; Ms. Brenda Joyce, Washington representative of Gulf Oil; Maceo Sloan, president of the National Insurance Association; and Copy X.

One of the concluding features of the program will be the presentation of plaques to the longtime sponsors of merit awards for publishers and staffers of NNPA member newspapers. Companies that are to be honored are: Aluminum Company of America; American Tobacco Company; Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp.; Carnation Company; Coca-Cola USA; Exxon Oil and Refining Company; General Electric; Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company; Gulf Oil Corporation; Heinz U. S. A.; J. C. Penney Company; Miller Brewing Company; Pepsi-Cola Company; Phillip Morris, Inc.; PPG Industries; Sears, Roebuck and Company; Sterling Drug; and U. S. Steel Corporation.

The other feature is a beach picnic on Saturday, Jan. 24, at Magen Bay. Workshop host is Ariel Melchior, Sr., publisher of the Daily News of the Virgin Islands.

The wide-ranging program reflects the theme of the workshop: "Developing New Approaches for the Black Press to Successful Publishing and to Serving Black America."

All of the activities will be held at Frenchman's Reef, except the president's reception, which is set for Bluebeard's Castle, and the concluding beach picnic at Magen Bay.

The first time you buy it
for its reputation.

The second time you
buy it for its taste.



IMPORTED FROM ENGLAND BY KOBRAND N.Y., N.Y., 94 PROOF, 100% GRAIN NEUTRAL SPIRITS