

# 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, The Negro Handbook, (Ebony).

1952  
University of Tennessee admitted first black student, January 12.

Congressional Medal of Honor awarded posthumously to Army Sgt. Cornelius H. Charlton, Bronx, N. Y., for Heroism in Korea, February 12.

Death of Canada Lee, actor, New York City, May 9.  
Tuskegee Institute reported that 1952 was first year in 71 years of tabulation that there were no lynchings, December 30.  
Death of Fletcher Henderson, arranger and band leader, New York City, December 29.

1953  
Supreme Court ruled that District of Columbia restaurants could not legally refuse to serve blacks, June 8.  
Albert W. Dent, president of Dillard University, elected president of National Health Council, June 19.

Bus-boycott began in Baton Rouge, La.  
Movement of black families into Trumbull Park housing project in Chicago started a virtual continuous riot which lasted more than three years, and required assignment of more than 1,000 policemen to keep order, August 4.

President Eisenhower established 15 member Government Contract Compliance Committee to supervise anti-discrimination regulations applying to employers with government contracts, August 13.

"Take a Giant Step," drama by Negro playwright, Louis Peterson opened on Broadway, September 14.  
Rufus Clement, president of Atlanta University, elected to Atlanta Board of Education, December 2.  
Hulan Jack sworn in as Borough President of Manhattan, December 31.

1954  
President Eisenhower nominated. Ernest Wilkins of Chicago to be Assistant Secretary of Labor, March 4.  
Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. (Now 22 years hence, school systems are still trying to get around the law with phony issues of forced busing, neighborhoods schools and what have you. In the meantime, many black people have been unable to secure a decent education in the midst of such harassment by teachers, other students and administrators at many levels. Drop out rates have been unusually high among black young people in the public school arena. At this time (1976) some litigation has been started to slow down this type of harassment. With the decision carrying "with all deliberate speed", most of the traditional states of forced segregation of schools and those in areas with "de facto" school segregation appeared to have used these years to build opposition to the law.

Dr. Peter Murray Marshall installed as president of the New York County Medical Society, first black to head component unit of American Medical Assn. May 24.  
First White Citizens Council unit organized in Indianola, Miss., July 11.

Death of Mary Church Terrell, outstanding educator, civic and community worker, Washington, D. C., July 14.  
J. Ernest Wilkins represented Labor Secy. James P. Mitchell at weekly Cabinet meeting, August 18.

School integration began in Washington, D. C. and Md. public schools, September 7-8.  
B. O. Davis, Jr., became first black general in Air Force, October 17.

Defense Dept. announced complete abolition of black units in armed forces, October 30.  
Charles C. Diggs, Jr., elected Michigan's first black Congressman November 2.

1955  
Marian Anderson made debut at Metropolitan Opera House as Ulrica in Verdi's Masked Ball, January 7. She was first black singer in the company's history.

Death of Charlie Parker, one of the founders of modern jazz movement, March 12.  
Bandung Conference of leaders of colored nations of Africa and Asia opened in Indonesia, April 18.

Death of Walter White, New York City, March 22. Roy Wilkins succeeded him, as NAACP executive, April 11.  
Death of Mary McLeod Bethune, Daytona Beach, Fla., May 18. The national founder of National Council of Negro Women will be remembered as one who helped bring all black women's groups together in unity of purpose. Supreme Court ordered school integration "with all deliberate speed" E. Frederick Morrow appointed administrative aide to President Eisenhower, July 9.

Emmett Till, 14, kidnapped and lynched in Money, Miss. August 18. Supreme Court in Baltimore case banned segregation in public recreational facilities, November 7.

Interstate Commerce Commission banned segregation in buses, waiting rooms and travel coaches involved in interstate travel, November 25.  
Bus boycott began in Montgomery, Ala. December 5.

A. Phillip Randolph and Willard S. Townsend elected vice-presidents of AFL-CIO.

# MAGAZINE WEEK

Sherwood Ross

The racist government of South Africa has spawned a new monstrosity for its black citizens -- concentration camps disguised as "mental hospitals" but which are no more than slave labor camps where workers toil until they drop.

According to a report in the May issue of ATLAS WORLD PRESS REVIEW, the slave camps house at least 8,000 blacks by official count, and probably thousands more. In one camp, the infamous Rand West Sanatorium, at least one inmate is murdered every day.

I use the term "murder" deliberately, because in some cases a prisoner may be killed by electric shock "treatment" given without anesthetics, a practice that leads to convulsions which can break the spine, the arms and legs, or the skull bones themselves.

That other inmates die of malnutrition and disease does not mean that they are not "murdered." They are -- only slowly, rather than quickly, by the company known as Smith Mitchell, which has set up the extermination camps for the South African government, and which clears a profit of \$13.7-million a year for its troubles, before taxes, of course.

In one of the 10 slave camps set up by Smith Mitchell, at Rand West, author Wastberg writes in ATLAS, that "The men have their heads shaved and wore ragged uniforms. They work outdoors, even in pouring rain, and the barracks are emptied during the day. In the middle of the sleeping hall are the toilets. The dirty windows are tightly locked, leaving only a narrow crack open for air."

The inmates subsist on a diet of raw food, "soybeans, potatoes, and cabbage, occasionally chopped meat, and cold tea without sugar. Coffee is served out of trash cans into which the men dip plastic cups. There is no trained cook. The inmates sleep on the floor. The real mental patients who are mingled with the forced laborers defecate in their clothing. Their excrement is flushed away each morning with hoses," Wastberg writes.

The author of the ATLAS article, the distinguished Swedish editor of the Stockholm daily DAGENS NYHETER, put together his report from a variety of sources, including a nurse who worked at one of the "sanatoriums" and who gave out the information at great personal risk. He points out that at a time when modern drugs are emptying beds in mental hospitals around the world, and the population of asylums is declining, the inmate population in South Africa is suspiciously increasing.

How does one get to be an inmate in South Africa? Apparently, the procedure is not much different from Russia, where dissidents are routinely clapped in asylums and treated with drugs until they are driven mad. In South Africa, a black who has offended a white in some way can be picked up off the street by a cop, who then calls in a white doctor. After a hasty examination the victim is deported to Rand West or one of the other human warehouses, never to be seen again.

The misery and agony of these blacks no doubt cannot be put into language. Language is literally too weak to paint a picture of their suffering at the hands of the South African government's leadership.

Short of bloody revolution, there seems to be no way that the white leadership in power will be removed, since it has effectively stifled not only its black opposition but the voices of white opponents defiant of its totalitarian rule. One would hope that the South African government would proceed down the path of racial moderation toward the kind of evolutionary equality being hammered out slowly but steadily in the United States. But that hope is fading fast and for millions of Bantus in South Africa, any change will

come too late. The plight of the South African blacks, tragically, is no longer unique. All over the world, the fires of liberty are being extinguished by totalitarian governments. Torture is employed in Iran, Russia, Cambodia, the East European nations, and by a half dozen governments in Africa, as well as over half of Latin America. Frequently, the funds and techniques used are supplied by the United States. Each year, millions of people who once lived in freedom, are turned over to butchers by the crazed politicians who have taken power.

Rights to protect themselves from it. But if the public continues to allow these documents to be eroded by Nixon-type leadership, "benign neglect" could turn into something a good deal worse. If this country wishes to keep its democracy, while nations around the world are losing theirs, the public will have to insist on upholding the rule of law in the face of growing government autocracy.

(To obtain copies of the ATLAS article on South Africa, write to ATLAS WORLD PRESS REVIEW, 230 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10017.)

## TURN ON



PLEASE WRAP WHAT IS LEFT FOR THE DOG.  
OH, GOODIE! WE'RE GOING TO GET A DOG!

People who think it cannot happen in the United States are mistaken. A country which perpetrated Cambodian bombing, the My Lai massacre, which dropped the atomic bombs on Japan, and which even kills its own recruits in Marine boot camps, is capable of making the same tragic mistakes as other governments. The Founding Fathers feared despotism and created the Constitution and the Bill of



## PROFILES

These silhouettes belong to Jackie Webb and Deborah Alston, both students at North Carolina Central University.

Widows and widowers of veterans who died as a result of service connected disabilities are eligible for education assistance from the Veterans Administration.

We make our fortunes and we call them fate.

David Alroy

The Library of Congress holds on its 336 miles of shelves some 17 million books, about eight million photographs, more than three million maps, 31 million manuscripts, and four million pieces of music.

# Woolworth

Satisfaction Guaranteed • Replacement or Money Refunded

## GIVE MOM OUR BEST

FIND TIMELY BUYS FOR HOME AND FAMILY TOO!  
6 DAYS ONLY! Prices Effective thru May 8, 1976

<p><b>MOTHER'S DAY MAY 9th</b></p> <p>Accent your wardrobe with a new handbag</p> <p><b>\$4.88 to \$6.88</b></p> <p>New selection of off-white bags. Some with shoulder straps. All lined. Also, straw bags with floral appliques.</p>	<p><b>Frosted look yarns in Acrilan® acrylic/nylon</b></p> <p><b>\$1.76 Reg. skein \$1.99</b></p> <p>7 oz. brushy tweed or 8 oz. frosted lustrous yarn. 50% Acrilan® acrylic, 50% nylon. Many colors. © T. M. of Monsanto</p>	<p><b>Give Mom a lovely watch by Timex</b></p> <p><b>\$12.95 to \$21.95</b></p> <p>Choose from water-resistant, luminous dial, colored face, and sweep-second styles. 1-yr warranty. A fabulous gift!</p>
<p><b>New Northern Brawny scrub strength towels</b></p> <p><b>2 for \$1 Reg. 69¢ roll</b></p> <p>100 scrub strength paper towels to each roll. Great for tough clean-ups. Stock up now and save!</p>	<p><b>4 rolls of Northern bathroom tissue</b></p> <p><b>74¢ Reg. 83¢</b></p> <p>Northern - the super-soft bathroom tissue. 1-ply, 650 sheets to the roll. Now's the time to buy!</p>	<p><b>Photo album with Can-Vex covering</b></p> <p><b>\$3.99</b></p> <p>Beautiful full-color, durable Can-Vex cover. 10 self-adhesive pages, refills available. 14 1/2 x 4 x 12 1/2"</p>
<p><b>Hanging baskets filled with fresh Spring flowers will delight Mother</b></p> <p><b>\$5.99</b></p> <p>Choose from this magnificent selection of healthy basket plants in a rainbow of glowing colors. Brightens up every room and patio.</p>	<p><b>Flowering potted mums</b></p> <p><b>\$3.99</b></p> <p>For Mother, long-lasting loveliness, flowering chrysanthemums. Wide selection. In foil-wrap pot.</p>	<p><b>carnations</b></p> <p><b>2.79</b></p> <p>Mother's Day corsages. Exotic orchid, gift boxed - or ribboned, fragrant carnations. Lovely!</p>
<p><b>Blooming potted azaleas</b></p> <p><b>\$4.99</b></p> <p>Give Mother a splash of color for home or garden. A gift that will please. Foil-wrapped gift pot.</p>	<p><b>African violets</b></p> <p><b>99¢</b></p> <p>For Mother, potted and in basket, African violets with lush leaves, delicate blossoms. Charming gift.</p>	<p><b>Fabulous LP and 8-track stereo tape selection</b></p> <p><b>\$1.97 LPs \$2.97 Tapes</b></p> <p>LP's: Friends (E. John), Greatest of Nat King Cole, more Tapes H. Belafonte, Rock Power, more</p>
<p><b>Mom'll love a handy Clutchretary</b></p> <p><b>\$3.88</b></p> <p>Fabulous for holding checkbook, credit cards, currency, coins. Lined and some with zippers. Fine buy!</p>		

# KNOWLEDGE IS POWER...

but only when it is used effectively. People who know themselves, their community, their people, and the political, social, and economic forces that control them are valuable. They are powerful if they can translate this knowledge into something meaningful for their community.

**Be a powerful force in your community. Be a Black Librarian.**

SPONSORED BY:  
NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY  
DURHAM TECHNICAL INSTITUTE  
DURHAM COUNTY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
DUKE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

For further information on library careers, scholarships, job opportunities, membership trends and library education programs, complete this tear-off and send it to:

Black Librarians Office for Library Personnel Resources  
American Library Association  
50 E. Huron Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
I am in:  Grammar School  High School  College  Working