

Chronicle Profile

A Fascination With Egypt And Ethiopia

By Yvonne Anderson
Staff Writer

The ancient and mysterious land of Africa holds a fascination for many people, but for Mrs. Mabel Brown, the continent, specifically Egypt and Ethiopia, is not so much a fascination as it is a symbol—a symbol of the high plateaus of achievement black civilizations attained in the past.

"I like the history of our people because it tells the story of us. All our people should know that this is where we came from, this (Egypt) is where all civilization came from," said Mrs. Brown in a tone of reverence.

The 61 year-old scholar has amassed volumes of political, cultural and social events of both countries through newspaper and magazine clippings and personal notes.

"When I run across something, and that happens a lot, that pertains to Ethiopia or Egypt, if I can't buy it I'll stand right there and copy. It doesn't matter if it's a drawing or written, I'll do the best I can to reproduce it accurately..," Mrs. Brown said with a smile.

Her house is a testament to that fact with 20-by-20

painting of King Tutankhamon, the Egyptian king of the 18th dynasty of Pharaoh whose tomb was discovered in 1922 and toured the world on display in 1980.

Replicas, pottery and sculpture of African origin grace every shelf and corner of each room. Mrs. Brown said that she felt comfortable in her home, as if her house were a little piece of Africa.

"My house is like a shrine, I love it and it breathes hope into me. I get strength from all the things I've collected," she said as she gazed proudly around the room.

Her faith in God is as strong as her attention to Egypt; in fact, the two are inseparable and Mrs. Brown speaks of them in the same tone.

"I'm a Christian but I have great respect for the Moslem religion because it is a pure religion," explained Mrs. Brown. "I've been seeking the perfectness of faith the true principles of religion."

To that end Mrs. Brown has studied the Holy Koran and the Bible and followed Father Divine. She engages in daily meditations while actively trying to educate others on the discoveries she has made.

"Sometimes I'll be playing my organ and a vision

will come to me or the Lord will tell me the things I need to do. I know the Lord loves me and directs my life," said Mrs. Brown.

Recently, Mrs. Brown had another experience which she also feels is a sign from God. Her azalea bush in the front yard of her home was stark without leaves or blossoms, as is natural for the fall of year.

But on the day of the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, Mrs. Brown said that her bush bloomed.

"When I heard the news I was saddened and grieving so I walked over to the window and I was wondering about what the state of the world was going to. Then I looked down and saw the red blossoms on my bush and I knew that the Lord had done it as a sign of the good things to come," Mrs. Brown recalled.

Mrs. Brown said that she is now optimistic about the future of black people because of the inspiring sign she received.

"I know that I must build by school and I think that we are going to once again return to our magnificent heritage."



Mrs. Mabel Brown

James Baldwin Examines Atlanta In Article

By James Baldwin
Special To The Chronicle
The person who murdered black children in Atlanta personifies what history has made of the black man in America, says black author James Baldwin in the coming issue of December Playboy magazine.

Written before the arrest of suspect, Baldwin's Playboy article came from his reporting, experiences and

interviewing in the black Georgia capitol he calls "hermetic, schizophrenic and terrified".

The murderer is, "what our history has made of us,

and we must take our children out of his hands," Baldwin says in "Atlanta: the Evidence of Things Not Seen".

"Whoever is murdering the children must, on the evidence, be dark enough to pass unnoticed," Baldwin writes, "is someone who has been driven mad by the double inheritance of house nigger and field nigger, of genuine bondage and promised freedom."

Baldwin says there is no such thing as the "New South".

"The real south (which is the real America)," he says, "flaunts itself ... just

outside Atlanta on Stone Mountain, the sacred gathering place of the KKK, dominated by the cross of the Nazarene Prince of Peace [on the cross, a trembling soul!]," and every evening, when the sun goes down, flees to the suburbs, suburbs as far removed from reality as Byzantium and paler, by far, than the celebrated Georgia marble.

"And as of this moment, when the white folks have fled, Atlanta becomes a black enclave ..."

There, Baldwin says, is an architectural insult designed for the pleasure of

tourists and white businessmen—a place he calls "a magnet for children and for those who prey on children".

"One of Atlanta's architectural triumphs is called the Omni. The name is scarcely more ambitious than the place, which is a kind of frozen, enclosed suburb. It is about five minutes away from a sprawling, poor-black neighborhood called Vine City. A child can walk here from his home in less than five minutes; some of the

murdered children were last seen in this place," he writes.

"... And, in spite of the curfew, here were the boys—utterly idle, unable to remain in their wretched homes, unable to make coherent the circumstances in which they and their flesh and blood were entangled, looking for respite and, like their more advantageously placed white brothers, looking for a narcotic, for the pinball machines, for the skating rink: looking for change.

"And, indeed, what a slap in the face, what an insult, to place this Roman excrescence in the very path of the wretched, who must daily go through it or find a way around it ..."

Right To Life Meeting Slated In Greensboro

The North Carolina Right Life state convention will be held Saturday, Nov. 14, at the Parkway Baptist

Church, 1411 Benjamin Parkway, in Greensboro. Convention activities will take place from 9 to 9 and

will be divided into a series of workshops, repeated twice each, covering various aspects of pro-life activism in America.

Main speakers at the convention will be Dr. Jean Garton, national president of Lutherans for Life and author of the book "Who Broke the Baby?"; the Rev. Kent Kelley, secretary of

Churches for Live and Liberty and Mr. Grover Rees, assistant professor of law at the University of Texas.

Registration for the convention will cost \$17.50 including a banquet at 6, or \$12.50 without the banquet. Checks for the registration can be made out and

sent to: NCRL Convention Fund, P. O. Box 3112, Greensboro, 27402.

Additional information and car pool arrangements can be obtained from Mrs. Alma Barker, at 768-5257, or Mrs. Ruth Draper, at 788-3411.

Chancellor Covington Addresses Conference

Dr. Douglas Covington, Chancellor of Winston-Salem State University, participated in a panel discussion on "The Campus and the System: Different Perspectives" during the annual meeting of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). The meeting will be held in Colorado Springs, Colorado, November 9-10.

Dr. Covington joined chief executive officers from California, Colorado,

Illinois and Nebraska. Each panelist made a brief presentation of their situation in his or her state and commented on results of a recent AASCU survey.

The survey asked officials at the system and campus levels to describe specific events in their states that indicate an appropriate and inappropriate division of responsibility and authority between the campus and system chief executive officer.

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