

Dates to Remember During Black History Month February '89

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1865-John S. Rock, 1st Negro to practice before U.S. Supreme Ct.	2 Groundhog Day 1776-Geo. Washington answered letter from Phillis Wheatley.	3 1868-John Mercer Langston spoke at Ala. capitol.	4 1867-Peabody Fund established to aid black education.
5 1934-Hank Aaron born.	6 New Moon 1961-Jail-In Movement began in Rock Hill, S. C.	7 Mardi Gras 1867-Frederick Douglass and Negro delegation called on Pres. Johnson.	8 Boy Scouts Day Ash Wednesday 1951-Pvt. Edward O. Cleburn, Memphis soldier, awarded Dist. Service Cross.	9 1965-President Johnson and Dr. M. L. King met at White House.	10 1780-Seven Negroes challenge taxation without representation.	11 1933-Lois Gardella was the original "Aunt Jemima".
12 First Quarter Lincoln's Birthday 1909-NAACP founded.	13 1746-Absalom Jones, first black Protestant minister, born. 1895-Death of Frederick Douglass.	14 St. Valentine's Day 1867-Augusta Institute, later Morehouse College, opened in Atlanta.	15 1957-Southern Christian Leadership Conference organized. 1967-Adam Clayton Powell stripped of seniority.	16 1874-Frederick Douglass elected President of Freedmen's Bank & Trust Co. 1866-W. E. B. DuBois born. Died 1963.	17 1950-Thomas L. Griffith admitted to L. A. Bar Association.	18 1688-First formal protest against slavery—Quakers.
19 1790-George Bridgetower, musician, made London debut.	20 Full Moon Washington's Birthday (observed)	21 1965-Malcolm X assassinated.	22 Washington's Birthday (traditional)	23	24 1811-Daniel A. Payne, educator, born.	25 1870-Hiram Revels elected 1st Negro in U.S. Senate.
26 1930-"Green Pastures" opened in N. Y. C.	27 1844-The Dominican Republic established.	28 Last Quarter 1842-Charles Lenox Remond testified before Mass. House Committee.				

Literature



CHESTER HIMES
Novelist
1909-1986

Chester Himes began his career as a writer of popular material and later moved to writing satiric fiction.

Born in Jefferson City, Missouri, Himes was educated at Ohio State University, lived in France and Spain.

In 1945, he completed his first novel, "If He Hollers Let Him Go," the story of a black working in a defense plant. His second book, "The Lonely Crusade" (1947), was set in similar surroundings. Since then, Himes has written many other books, among which was "Cotton Comes to Harlem," made into a movie. Shortly before his death, he published "The Quality of Hurt: The Autobiography of Chester Himes," and "Black on Black: Baby Sister and Selected Writings."

Himes suffered a stroke that confined him to a wheelchair for several years. During this period he returned to New York with his wife, Alicante, for the publication of the concluding volume of his autobiography, "My Life of Absurdity." At that time, in answer to a question about his work habits, he told a reporter: "I do a little writing after breakfast and I think about what I would write if I had the strength." Yet, Himes continued to write until his death.

Negro literature in America has been inextricably linked with the complex racial realities which have surrounded the black writer. With few exceptions, the major literary efforts of the American Negro have stemmed—directly or indirectly—from the existential facts of life for the black man in "white America."

In the U. S., Briton Hammon was the first black prose-writer-of-record with "A Narrative of Briton Hammon, A Negro Man" in 1760. The first poet was Lucy Terry with "Bars Flight" in 1746.

One of the most prolific poets of the 18th Century was Jupiter Hammon, a slave. Phillis Wheatly published her first poem in 1770.

An important body of literature in black America is very recent. In centuries past, however, notable contributions were made to the literature of the Negro's respective culture. Jacques Captein in Holland; Juan Latino in Spain; Alexander Pushkin in Russia; and Alexandre Dumas in France were writers of color whose skill placed them in the history books. The American writers and works mentioned here have been selected for their historical and/or aesthetic importance. The list can only be minimally representative but it serves as a tribute to American Negro writers and to the literary experience.

The birth of a real Negro literary tradition dates from 1853 when Wm. Wells Brown wrote "Clotel", the story of the hardships of a mulatto family.

Charles Waddell Chestnut was the first to give serious consideration to the artistic requirements of the short story and novel. His works were published as early as 1887.

W. E. B. DuBois and James Weldon Johnson commanded a national audience when Du-

Bois wrote "Souls of Black Folks", 1903, and Johnson produced his "Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man", 1912. Countee Cullen carried poetry to new heights; Langston Hughes commanded attention and became known as the most durable of the Negro Renaissance.

Hughes opened the thirties with "Not Without Laughter". George Schuyler wrote "Black No More", and the prolific Arna Bontemps published "God Sends Sunday". Jesse Redmond Fauset appeared as probably the leading woman author of the Renaissance. The period also produced George W. Lee, Waters Turpin, George Henderson, Wm. Attaway and Zora Neale Hurston, a prolific author who wrote "Jonah's Gourd Vine". Gwendolyn Brooks was winning a following.

Richard Wright's "Native Son" is often considered the beginning of the present stage in the evolution of the Negro literary tradition. He reached hundreds of thousands of readers of all races both in America and abroad. Willard Motley with "Knock on Any Door", Chester Himes with "If He Hollers, Let Him Go", and Ann Petry's "The Street" preceded Ralph Ellison who received the National Book Award in 1952 for "Invisible Man". A year later James Baldwin wrote "Go Tell It On The Mountain".

In the sixties, the number of black novelists increased enormously. Among the notables were: John O. Killen, Margaret Walker Alexander, Robert Dean Pharr and Wm. Melvin Kelly. Gwendolyn Brooks continued to be heard (in poetry), and Eldridge Cleaver was acclaimed a powerful essayist with his "Soul on Ice."

While the current crop of young writers is promising, thus far in the seventies, nothing has come near to Alex Haley's "Roots" and it is unlikely that anything will for a long time in the future.

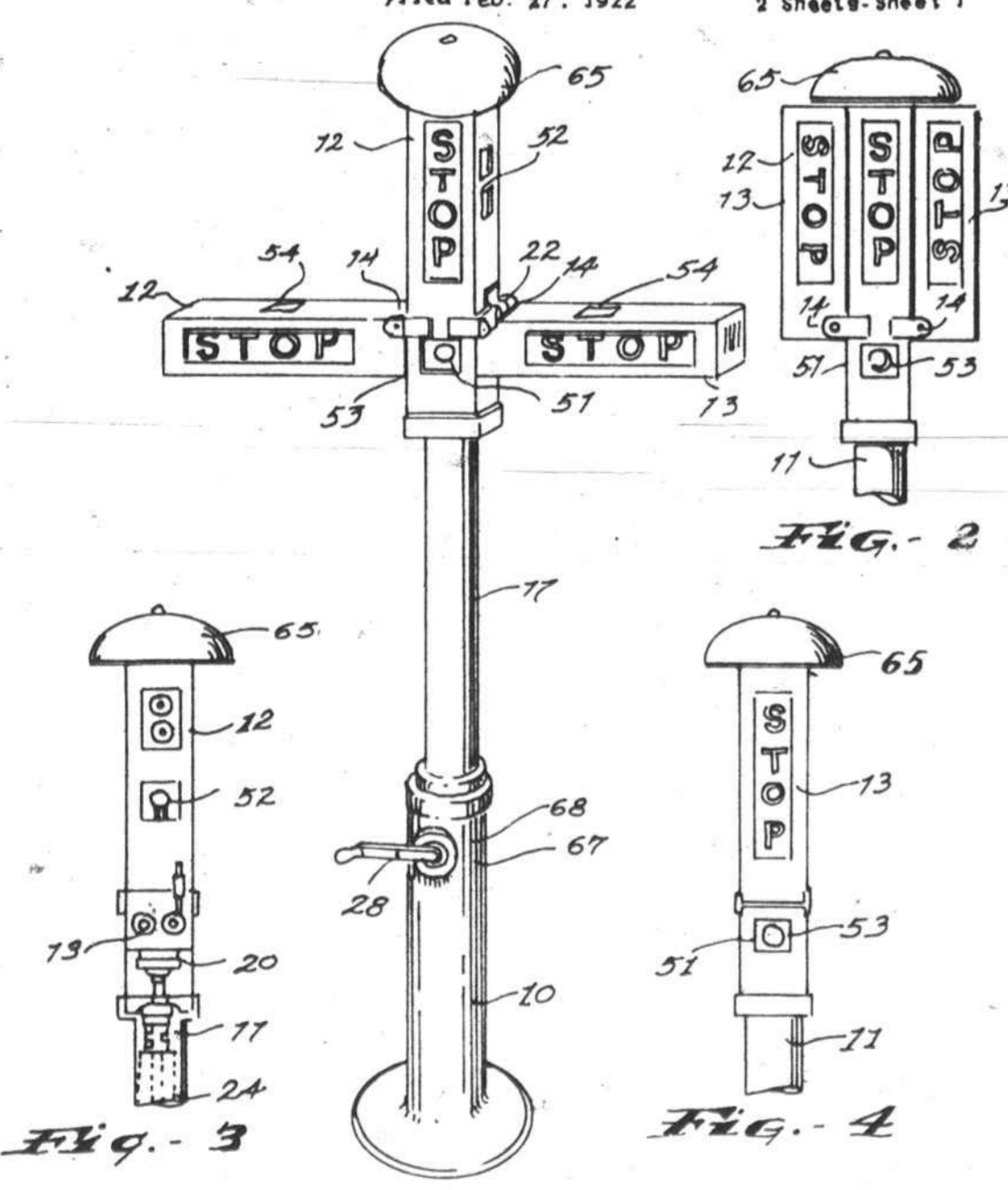
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INVENTOR
Garrett A. Morgan,
BY *Rube N. Martin*
ATTORNEYS:

Garrett A. Morgan

TRAFFIC SIGNAL

In November, 1923, Garrett Morgan invented the first traffic signal. This safety device eliminates traffic jams and accidents on our busy city streets. The General Electric Corporation purchased the rights to Morgan's traffic signal for \$40,000.

