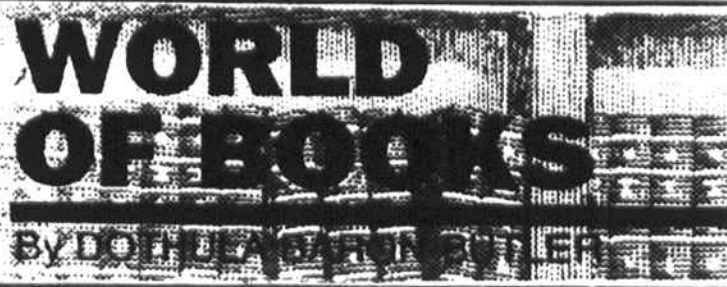


Between You and Me -- Pearl's pearl

Pearl Bailey must have known that *Between You and Me* (Doubleday, 1989) would be her last book,

While browsing through the store, her head started to spin. She asked two clerks for help. They ignored



for it seems to compile her final thoughts, ideas and creative pieces. It covers her time at the United Nations, her college years at Georgetown, family joys, reflections and VIPs.

Everyone who ever saw Pearl Bailey or read her books knows that she was a very warm, loving, spirited being. People were a joy to her. Her life was spent in making people smile. In the chapter entitled "Just Thoughts..." she wrote about an experience in a prominent New York store that made her "long for a lick by my cocker spaniel Charlie."

her. She asked three times before she got their attention. "Sir, could I please have some water? I feel faint."

They told her water was in the basement. After she stumbled to the basement, she again encountered rude clerks. It was only when she proceeded to leave the store that someone recognized her and asked, "Is something wrong?" Ms. Bailey was not only angry, she was saddened. "When I look back on it, I don't know what hurt me more: having to beg for water, or my pain for these uncaring, uncivilized peo-

ple who just didn't give a damn."

It is no surprise that Pearl Bailey was hurt by this inhumanity, for she herself was touched by everyone who was ever in need. She wept for the elderly, the poor, the ill, the hungry. In *For Those Who Have Nothing Left*, she bemoaned the plight of the homeless. As in *Hurry Up, America, and Spit*, she attacked an American system that could allow people to live on the street and gather their meals from the leftovers in trash bins. She beckoned people to get involved. Her concern was that too many people were griping or singing songs or doing charity benefits, but blaming everyone else. "America is slipping away into darkness," she wrote, "losing our people in the fast hardening cement of times."

Ms. Bailey includes among her altruistic tales, one of "great, gentle, sad, strong: Africa." One of the most powerfully written chapters in the book, this one describes the heart and soul and strength of a

great people who are yet strong because of their determination to hold on to their faith in God. Pearl Bailey's prayer was for a free America. Her final thought was "Africa, weep no more. God shall one day dry your tears."

While an advisor to the United Nations and at times, overwhelmed by its inhumanity she wrote:

Where is the light at the end of the tunnel?

Is it out? Is it dim? Did it exist? Are the keepers of the light alive? Dead?

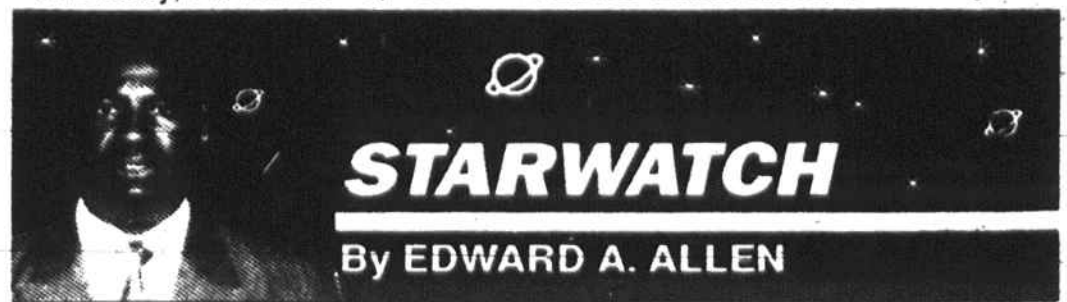
I think we'd better go back from whence we came.

It's dark, that light is gone.

We're trapped in our own darkness.

There is light—so the digging must begin.

Between You and Me is Pearl Bailey's final appeal to reach out in love, rally for peace, seek quality of life. She makes a dynamic statement but is anybody really listening?



The genius of Banneker

Benjamin Banneker was a self-taught mathematician and inventor. He was born near Baltimore, Maryland, in 1731; he was the only child of a free mulatto mother and African father, who purchased his own freedom from slavery.

Banneker lived all of his life on his parent's farm on the Patapsco River in Baltimore County. Young Benjamin attended integrated private schools; he obtained an eighth grade education by age 15, and excelled in mathematics. He took over his parents' farm and became an excellent farmer.

Josef Levi, a traveling salesman, showed Banneker a pocket watch. He became so fascinated over the watch that Levi gave it to him. In 1753, using the watch as a model, Banneker produced the first wooden clock ever built in the U.S.A. It was made entirely of wood, and each gear was carved by hand. His clock kept perfect time, striking every hour, for more than forty years. People came from all over to see it, and the genius who made it.

During the revolutionary war, George Ellicot, a neighbor, introduced Banneker to astronomy. His aptitude in mathematics and astronomy enabled him to predict the solar eclipse that took place on April 14, 1789.

In 1792, Banneker began publishing an almanac that was widely read and became the reference for farmers in the Mid-Atlantic states. It offered weather data, recipes, medical remedies, poems and anti-slavery essays.

This almanac was the first book that can be called scientific, written by a Black American, and was published annually for more than a decade.

Banneker's major reputation stems from his service as a sur-

vveyor on the six man team which helped design the blueprints for Washington, D.C. President Washington had appointed Banneker, making him the first Black presidential appointee in the United States.

Banneker helped in selecting the sites for the U.S. Capitol building, the U.S. Treasury building, the White House, and other federal buildings. When the chairman of the civil engineering team, Major L'Enfant, abruptly resigned and returned to France with the plans, Banneker's photographic memory enabled him to reproduce them in their entirety. Washington, D.C., with its grand avenues and buildings, was completed and stands today as a monument to Banneker's genius.

In a twelve-page letter to Thomas Jefferson, Banneker refuted the statement that "Blacks were inferior to whites." Jefferson changed his position and, as a testimonial, sent a copy of Banneker's almanac to the French Academy of Sciences in Paris. Another was used in Britain's House of Commons to support an argument for the education of Blacks. Banneker was living proof that "the strength of mind is in no way connected with the color of the skin."

Banneker's predictions were constantly accurate, except for his prediction of his own death. Living four years longer than he had predicted, Banneker died on October 25, 1806, wrapped in a blanket observing the stars through his telescope.

NOTE . . . My calculations give a possible solar eclipse on the 25th day of April, 1789. The moon was new about 8 a.m. (EST). The above statement does not give the type of eclipse or where it was observed from.

What's in a name? African-American pride

A cursory review of children's picturebooks from the African-American experience demonstrates an increased pride and acceptance of old-fashioned, "cultural" names. For years supersensitive authors and illustrators, possibly remembering the "little Black Sambo" era, have seemed to stray from using "typically" black names, possibly for fear that superconscious "black folk" would object, reject and maybe even censor the titles. My, haven't we (all of us in the "super" categories matured!!!)

Recent picturebook titles for younger children demonstrate how names that might be identified with the African-American community are returning to acceptable status. Jimmy Lee gets away with all kinds of brotherly mischief and Flossie outsmarts a seemingly clever fox. Liza Lou wins out over the "yeller belly swamp monster," and Tamika becomes frightened at the change in her actor-grandfather's facial expressions. Willie has trouble accepting hugs from well-meaning family members and Jamaica tags along behind her resentful brother until she experiences her own "tag-along" friend. Two sisters, on a train trip to visit Grandmother Lulu, enjoy their first independent adventure.

Names have always been special in the Black community as evidenced by the current imaginative names of children and youth, and often their parents. (Even my own name was a special creation of my godmother). Now more and more, these children are feeling more comfortable as they hear

familiar names in their literature. Of course, we still have Susan and Cassie, Gemma and Philip, Peter, Julian, Justin and Everett, all names that defy

CHILDREN'S CORNER

By SATIA M. ORANGE

specifically cultural traditions. Fortunately the story lines in all the above represented titles allow children to experience historical or everyday episodes from either culturally ethnic or generic themes.

Also more acceptable are more identifiable illustrations, plot development and characterizations of the African-American experience as included in many contemporary titles. Children's literature professionals, as well as teachers, parents and concerned "others" must continue to insure the availability of progressive and responsible culturally ethnic representation in books for children and youth. The next step, of course, is mandating that ALL young people be exposed to these titles, available at your Forsyth County Public Library or your neighborhood bookstore:

- Jimmy Lee Did It!* by Pat Cummings (Lothrop, 1985)
- Flossie and the Fox* by Pat McKissack (Dial, 1986)
- Liza Lou & the Yeller Belly Swamp* by Mercer Mayer (Four Winds, 1976)
- Grandpa's Face* by Eloise Greenfield (Philomel, 1988)
- Willie's Not the Hugging Kind* by Joyce Durham Barrett (Harper, 1989)
- Jamaican Tag-Along* by Juanita Havill (Houghton Mifflin, 1989)
- Train to Lulu's* by Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard (Bradbury, 1988)

Trendy ideas from our past

For some families the coming holidays require lots of entertaining. Along with this comes the question of the proper procedure for gracious entertaining.

Many of the gracious traditions of the past are being forgotten. Gracious entertaining is still an important element even in today's formal living and "do-your-own-thing" society. Our young people should be exposed to all forms of entertaining so that they might hold on to some of the nice traditions of the past and adapt them to today's living.



Falls

Simplicity and economic factors are major concerns in most entertaining today. Women are continually searching for the easiest and least expensive refreshments. In selecting refreshments we must take care to combine items which do not compete with one another in taste and color.

I. Selecting Menu
When two beverages are to be offered, plan so that every item of the menu will be appropriate with either beverage, inasmuch as you can never be certain that a guest would select the items most pleasing with the chosen beverage.

Plan so that there will be differences in the texture of the items offered with some being soft and others being crisp or chewy.

Plan so that there will be some color interest in the plates and trays of dainties.

Plan so that more than one tongue taste is evident. The beverage may introduce bitter, as in coffee, sweet, as in punch, or sour, as in tea served with lemon. The foods served introduce either salty or sweet. Plan to introduce a variety of flavors and ingredients. Unless reminded of this, one can plan a menu in which chopped nuts appear in every cookie.

II. How To Serve With Ease

Have foods up to the point of serving when guests arrive. Serve hot foods hot and cold foods cold.

Use plates ample in size to accommodate the food you offer.

Provide all tools essential for comfortable and refined eating.

Whenever you provide a plate and a cup and saucer, be sure there is ample space for guests to put one or the other down while eating.

Do not fill serving dishes to the brim. It makes the service difficult, and food may be spilled.

Do not crowd small items onto the serving plates or trays, a guest should be able to remove one item without touching another.

III. Finger Food

Do provide a saucer or plate along with the beverage container. This underliner of the beverage container holds the foods and frees the right hand for eating and the use of the napkin. Most people appear both baffled and annoyed when they attempt to manage a cup of punch, a napkin, and even one tidbit, except when tidbits are passed after people are seated and napkin lays on the lap, or when they gather around the table on which tidbits are offered as at cocktail parties.

Keep food tidbits in scale with the underliner of the beverage container. Have them bite-size when using the saucer or bread-and-butter plate but somewhat larger when using the dessert plate. It is quite important that the factor of size not be overlooked, for accidents occur if the cakes and sandwiches served are larger than the saucer or plate can accommodate. If they are too small, the food looks lost on the plate.

Use linen or linen-like tablecloths or mats and coordinated napkins for formal entertaining. For family meals, napkins and mats may be paper.

For family-style meals, the main dish is set in front of the host; other dishes are set where table space permits. The host offers the main dish to the person on the right, who helps herself and passes it on around the table. The hostess and others pick up serving dishes in front of them and pass them to the person on their right until everyone has been served.

For a big crowd or in a small dining area, a buffet is the best way to entertain. You can serve buffet-style from a sideboard, the dining table, a living room table or, for a casual meal, from the kitchen counter.

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