oodson: Father

By Loretta Manago Post Staff Writer

'if man has no history, if has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and ds in dan

Carter G. Woodson, who is often referred to as the father of Black History, evolved into what is now celebrated as Black History Month.

Since 1925 a certain span of time has been set aside annually to recognize the

of time has been set aside annually to recognize the achievements and achievers of Black America. That first celebration which was known as Negro History Week, was expanded during the sixties and became Black History

The impact of such ar. event then and now remains tremendous. As far ed it wa achievements of persons of African blood."

More credits are given Yoodson than for creating natic study of Bla History began with Wood-son." He was also the founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life

Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History and the "Journal of Negro History."

Who was Carter Woodson? He was a man who had a vision. What he accomplished he did without the assistance of white philanthropy. He was a man who sacrificed his personal life and dedicated all of his time to ensuring that blacks did not become a "negligible factor in world thought."

Woodson was the son of former slaves James Henry and Anna Eliza Woodson.

Although his skills were in constant demand on the farm, those around Woodson somehow sensed that his life would extend far beyond the farm. His first taste of education was given to him by his two uncles. His brother assisted his efforts to attend high

mines and studying Latin and Greek, Woodson, at 22, attended Berea College, He attended Berea College, He then went on to receive his bachelor's and master's grees from the Univer sity of Chicago. He re-ceived his doctorate in history from Howard University. After such an arduous education, Woodson dedicated his entire being to the cause of black people. It is because of his tireless efforts that black

to celebrate in February.

Analyzing Woodson and his work, W.E.B. DuBois, perhaps, said it best: "He literally made this country, which has the slightest respect for people of color, recognize and celebrate each year, a week in which it studied the effect which the American Negro has

upon life, thought and ac-tion in the United States. I know of no one man who in a lifetime has, unaided, built up such a national celebration."

Reference: Bennett, Lerone, "Chronicles of Black Courage," EBONY, XXXVIII, No. 4 (February, 1983), 32-34,

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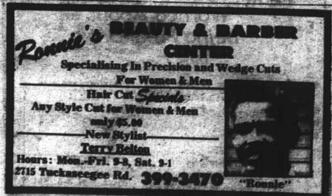
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