

Rose Love's Brooklyn



SECOND WARD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION/AN AFRICAN AMERICAN ALBUM

A view of homes along East 8th Street in Brooklyn.

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library's Carolina Room collection. "It was presented to us after her death. It is published as she put it together."

Adams said the library decided to publish the book because of the interest by students and members of the community.

"It has been so useful," Adams said. "The manuscript has been consulted by people who have used it as a resource, by people who have written dissertations, but students and others. A large audience of people have found it useful. And since the neighborhood has disappeared, we thought it would be a good idea to publish it now. It describes the neighborhood."

Love dedicated her book "To all who loved Brooklyn and to George, who asked me to write down my memories."

George was her son, George Leary Love, a photographer, last known to live in Brazil.

"The Brooklyn that we loved will soon be no more," Love wrote. "Men and machines have erased the old churches, the ancient trees, the homes (whether loved or unloved), the multihued flowers, even many boundary lines."

"But as I look at this open land which will one day be rebuilt with new buildings,

laced with new roads, and peopled with new faces, I remember honeysuckle vines that climbed over fences and purple lilacs in an old-fashioned flower garden.

"Brooklyn, my home, can never be erased from my memory or the memory of many others who once called this section home as long as we remember trailing honeysuckle vines and lilacs in early spring."

Playwright Ruth Sloan based her play about Brooklyn, in part on Love's work, including Love's delightful account of the antics of a goat named Billy whose escape and capture by Brooklyn children and adults is part of community's lore.

Brooklyn sprang up and thrived south of Trade Street and east of Tryon as African American established themselves in one of the south's new cities.

United by Jim Crow and economic interdependence, it became a community whose artistic, entertainment, educational and business achievements rivaled such areas as New York's Harlem.

Many believe its Brooklyn name was established when the AME Zion Church moved its publishing house from New York to Brooklyn and pro-

duced The Star of Zion newsletter there.

The publishing is one of the few remaining business operations from the Brooklyn still discussed affectionately by those who lived there.

Other remaining structures include the MIC building and Grace AME Zion Church at the corner of Third and Brevard streets. The MIC building was built by a group of African American professionals, who designed and erected it.

A portion of the Second Ward High School gym is used now by the Metro School, on Second Street, across from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Education Center.

But, in the '60s and early '70s, urban renewal led to the total destruction of Brooklyn, some 1,500 homes and dozens of businesses were relocated and replaced by government

offices, the Adam's Mark Hotel and First Baptist Church.

But the spirit of the community lives on.

In her play, Sloan says of Love's writings, which included poetry, books and stories, "She wanted (children and their parents) to be able to claim a heritage they could be proud of — a southern renaissance that could walk and talk and stand on its own."

She writes poignantly, in a simple lyrical style.

Describing the escape by a group of boys from police raid on an afternoon skinny dip in a local swimming hole, Love writes:

"Several of the boys managed to get out in a mad scramble, grab a piece of clothing and get away, but one small boy was so frightened that he forgot to try for a single piece of clothing. He departed for home in his birthday suit. He ran down the road as if every demon in the world was after him. He did not stop until he was safely in the confines of his mother's house. Other boys reported that he ended up under his mother's bed where he remained for what he thought was a sufficient period of time to ensure his safety before he dared come out to face the world again."

And, her memoirs ended: "My hope is that in our memories, we, who experienced a happy home life in this section, will always keep alive the memory of a Brooklyn which once was blessed with shade trees, red roses and lilacs that bloomed in early spring. To all who might inquire about the section's past, we can proudly and truthfully say, 'There once was a wholesome, happy spot called Brooklyn.'"



Second Ward high school basketball team in the 1940s.

SECOND WARD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION/AN AFRICAN AMERICAN ALBUM

The sacred wisdom of ancient Egypt

MELODYE MICERE STEWART

In the spirit of Ma'at



"Follow in the footsteps of your ancestors, for the mind is trained through knowledge. Behold, their words endure in books. Open and read them and follow their wise counsel... Multiply the people whom the city shelters, then God will be praised for your donations. And the people will... give thanks for your goodness and pray for your health." This passage from "THE HUSIA -

The Sacred Wisdom of Ancient Egypt," aptly demonstrates and underscores that the intersection of our spirituality and our heritage is the sacred thread of our existence. African people, as God's first people, have always been a spiritual people. Our relationship with the Creator begins with our beginning and is evident in every episode of our history, from the creation of civilization and the building of the pyramids to the concept of Ma'at, the highest expression of excellence from the people of ancient Kemet/Egypt. As an expression of the divine, as well as a reflection of the heritage of African people, Ma'at means truth, justice, righteousness,

harmony and balance. Ma'at is a foundational value system for correct living and remains a guidepost for African Americans to internalize and actualize in everyday life. The spirit of Ma'at rose up to stand on the world's center stage on October 16, 1995. The Million Man March/Day of Atonement was an event which captured the intersection of faith and history. For those of us who know, its advent not only signaled the opening of the millennium window, but the beginning of an intense period of preparation, through study of the history in combination with careful strategic planning for the future. "The Husia" says we must become "the vanguard

and rearguard of the people. One who finds the solution where it is lacking... A leader of the land through active assertion." Before we can create solutions and actively assert them, a critical understanding of our historical lessons is absolutely required. Every African American man, woman and child must be about the business of absorbing the knowledge. Read Lerone Bennett's "Before The Mayflower: The History of Black Americans." Begin, renew and/or continue the journey into the history, culture, struggles and achievements of our ancestors by first reading the history. The future of our people is at stake.

IBM grant value is questionable

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ships without demanding special treatment for their children.

"What's to say some other corporation won't come into the area and want to buy into public education. What do you say to them? Do you say no? I don't think so."

Dunlap said the \$2 million grant involves no direct exchange of money and is much more favorable to IBM than to county taxpayers who

are paying \$84 million for the schools and have already paid IBM \$6 million for the land on which the Education Village is being built.

"The \$2 million equals \$500,000 for each school," Dunlap said. "Only 25 percent, or \$125,000 per school was to be in cash. The rest of the money is in-kind services valued at what IBM says its valued at. And, if IBM develops something they can market, the school system

doesn't get anything from that."

Burgess said she IBM insisted in January it didn't care how the students were assigned to the school, but then made an issue of the revised assignments.

"After a period of public comment, the board realized the community did not want to give preferential treatment to this \$84 million school complex to select companies," Burgess said.

And school board member Arthur Griffin said he sees no reason to change the assignment plan to please IBM since other businesses, large and small, have formed partnerships with schools without making demands.

"Specifics of this 'agreement' were never voted on by the previous board of education," Griffin said. "There was no formal agreement. That's how business was handled under the previous board."

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