

LIFESTYLES

Black roles related

By Stephen J. Lee
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GRAND FORKS, N.D. African-Americans played a surprisingly significant role in the settling and development of North Dakota, according to a new book by three researchers, including the Rev. William Sherman of Grand Forks.

It's surprising, Sherman says, because blacks mostly have been ignored in the writing of North Dakota history.

Sherman has been priest of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Grand Forks for 20 years. He's also a sociologist, teaching at North Dakota State University and writing several books on ethnic history in the state.

Sherman's book was researched and written with two longtime associates, Thomas Newgard, a former student of Sherman's and a truck driver in Moorhead, Minn., and John Guerrero of Fargo, who has worked with Sherman on other history projects.

The book is being published by the University of Mary Press in Bismarck. The price for the hardcover will be about \$30 and some of the first 1,000 printed soon should be available in college bookstores, Sherman said.

Longtime University of North Dakota history professor and author of several histories, Jerome Tweton, saw manuscripts of Sherman's book.

"There is no question this is going to be the definitive look at blacks in North Dakota," he said. "They scoured all the newspapers and all the county histories. I don't think they missed very many African-Americans."

The book focuses on North Dakota's history up to 1955. It begins with the early fur trade and points out the first baby born in the first European settlement in the future North Dakota was an African-American. The baby was born in 1802 to Pierre Bonga and his unnamed wife, who was either Chippewa or black.

Bonga had come to Pembina as part of Alexander Henry's fur-trading brigade to the Red River Valley.

African-Americans, while a minority, had a role in every facet of the state's history, Sherman said.

"They came on the steamboats, in the military, in the fur trade, building the railroad, small business, homesteading farms, and in sports," he said. "The quantities were small, but by golly, they were there."

The book is written and arranged as a source book, not a narrative history. Sherman expects it to be used by anyone who wants to take the history of African-Americans in the state further.

Much of the original research was done by Newgard. He was assigned a project by Sherman in 1973 in a sociology class at NDSU on blacks in the state, Newgard said. He came back to Sherman two weeks later and said there were no blacks in the state's early years.

"He took me by the shoulders, turned me around and faced me out the door and kind of nudged me and said, 'go find them,'" Newgard said.

During the 1970s and early 1980s, while he worked construction jobs around the state, Newgard asked people in cafes and bars and homes if

See DAKOTA on page 11A

Hairstyles come naturally again

60s looks return, but tighter

By Jeri Young
THE CHARLOTTE POST

When clothing returned to the 60s, so did hair.

African American men and women are turning in droves away from chemical processing to the age old standard, the natural.

But it is not your father's natural.

Today's natural is softer and updated for the professional roles that African Americans must fill.

And natural is not just the 'afro'. Twists, knots, braids and dreads have invaded the scene and provided styling options unheard of by 60s 'fro wearers.

"People are wearing their hair natural for a lot of reasons," said Yvette Thomas. "It is healthier for our hair, but people also have spiritual, cultural and health reasons for wearing their hair natural."

Thomas, owner of Yvettes' Hair Masters Salon has quite a few customers who have chosen natural styles over chemical styles.

Thomas specializes in natural hair styles and often works with clients who want to "switch over."

According to Thomas, men and women who want to go natural have numerous options.

"They are textured looks, afros, and locks," said Thomas. "It depends on what look the client is after."

According to Thomas, quite a few of her clients request

Nubian locks.

"Nubian locks are dread locks," said Thomas. "I prefer to call them Nubian because it is more positive and describes the style better."

Locks are formed by manipulating the hair into a style that takes advantage of the kink. Locks can be formed at least three different ways.

The first, is completely natural. After shampooing, the hair is dried without combing or brushing.

"I call this the God given lock," said Thomas. "It requires nothing and is easy to do."

Lock styles can also be created by hair stylists, either by twisting or braiding or palm-rolling the hair.

For salon locks, hair can not be shampooed for one month after initial twisting or braiding in order to give hair a chance to lock. According to Thomas, during this crucial period, scalp should be cleaned with antiseptic and a natural oil applied.

After the hair is locked, which takes from 4-6 months for course hair and as long as a year for wavy or straight hair, Thomas recommends using a natural shampoo, not a detangling or moisturizing



Natural shapes popular today.

one and becoming thick and matted." Afroed and textured styles are the easiest to care for. Afros simply need shampooing with a moisturizing, detangling shampoo and a conditioning oil.

Thomas said: "After shampooing, you must also make sure hair is popped. Separated to keep them from meshing

"new natural," Thomas recommends a consultation with an experienced hair stylist to determine what style and process to use to expunge permed hair.

"Many women opt to just cut down to new growth," said Thomas. "But there are other options."

Hair can be grown out several months, trimmed at least 2 inches monthly to allow for style flexibility. This process allows women to have longer hair while waiting for permed hair to "grow out."

"It is important to remember to moisturize," said Thomas. "A lot of hair breakage can occur where the permed hair meets the natural hair."

Thomas offers the following tips for keeping natural styles healthy.

- Shampoo weekly using a shampoo appropriate for your style.
- To maintain sheen, use a natural moisturizing oil.
- Sleep in a satin cap, to keep in moisture and to keep locks and braids from getting linty.
- For textured hair, spray on oil sheen to keep hair shiny.

Thomas also recommends using natural hair care products like shea butter, a natural African product that can be used on both hair and skin, as well as natural shampoos and conditioners.

By following these tips, as well as consulting your hair stylist, hair can be healthy and beautiful no matter what the style.

Film screened

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Flattering is how WBTV news reporter Steve Crump described the screening of his documentary on African American photographers by the Smithsonian Institution.

Crump's work, shown in February on WTVI public television, was aired as part of the Smithsonian's 150th anniversary celebration two weeks ago. His documentary was included an exhibit on African American photographers.

In the documentary, "Exposures of a Movement," Crump spotlighted four regional photographers, including James Peeler of Charlotte, who still maintains a studio on LaSalle Street.

"They started shooting back in the 30s," Crump said. "We talked about everything they went through. How they were treated like protestors."

"They opened doors of newsrooms across the country and covered stories that would have been otherwise ignored."

"It's flattering...absolutely flattering to be a part of the celebration of such a prestigious institution," Crump said of the Smithsonian screening.

"It is nice when people from different parts of the country, who didn't know about a lot of these people and their talents and crafts, become enlightened. A lot of people realized that there were a lot of wonderful pictures that came out of the civil rights movement, but didn't know what some photographers endured to tell those stories."

"Exposures of a Movement" was Crump's fourth documentary since he returned to the Charlotte market seven years ago. He'd worked here three years in another stint.

The other three shows were done in Africa, including South Africa and Charlotte's Sister City in Ghana.

Crump, 38, graduated from Eastern Kentucky University in 1980.



Crump

Top Cats purrrrrrrfect



PHOTOS/ CALVIN FERGUSON

Joetta Talford and members of the Top Cats, cheerleaders for the Carolina Panthers kept the crowd entertained in spite of the team's 24-0 loss to the Bills. Talford, second from right, is the former production manager for The Charlotte Post.

Tuskegee airmen depicted in paintings

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS, Ohio - A World War II veteran wants to share the courage of his fellow Tuskegee Airmen with a local high school.

Leon Page, 70, of Columbus, has painted scenes of the first black airplane unit in battle and

displayed the artworks in galleries across the state. He said his watercolors convey a history lesson and offer a morale booster to black students.

So he's asking that they be displayed in suburban Gahanna High School, where black students faced racial tension last year. Racial graffiti was spray-painted on the school

building.

"I wanted them to know they shouldn't feel down," Page told The Columbus Dispatch for a story published Saturday. "They shouldn't be intimidated. We weren't."

Eleven paintings and two photographs showing the airmen's most famed unit, the 332 Red Tails, and portraits of members are on

display at Gahanna City Hall. Page was one of two black Army Air Corps aircraft electricians who flew with Red Tails on maneuvers.

Despite the attention they received in the 1995 television movie "The Tuskegee Airmen," Page believes the airmen still

are relatively unknown.

"When they saw the HBO movie, they just saw actors. But there are real people who played a big role," he said. "Most of the war movies don't show black pilots. Many years ago, it was unheard of."

Several Tuskegee Airmen live in Ohio and get together every other month, Page said.