

Buffalo Soldiers' history uncovered

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two cavalry regiments of about 1,000 men each.

The men helped settle the West, fought in 32 "skirmishes" during the so-called Indian Wars and were nicknamed "buffalo soldiers" by the Cheyenne Indians because of their dense, black hair.

Many, like Addison Taylor, were former slaves looking for work, and the Army paid \$13 a month.

Bell, a retired educator, not only is delving into history but is bringing it to others. He shares his heritage by dressing as a buffalo soldier and telling tales of the soldiers, in classrooms and libraries. He has organized 25 others into Buffalo

Soldiers of the American West Inc., who perform military drills at parades, educational shows and rodeos throughout Colorado, Nebraska and the West.

They've even appeared in a couple of lesser-known movies — an educational piece for the Colorado Historical Society and a pilot on Teddy Roosevelt for TNT Enterprises. The "Rough Rider" about Teddy Roosevelt will be shown on television as a mini-series later this year.

Horses play a major part in the presentations.

That's why Trooper Wayne Lewis of Denver got involved last month. He met Bell at the National Western Stock Show in Denver. "I love horses and am good with them," Lewis said. "I

wanted somebody to teach me to be better."

Bell is known for training horses — in fact, a lot of his interest in the buffalo soldiers stems from their cavalry adventures and expertise as horsemen.

"White soldiers got horses first," Bell said. "The buffalo soldiers got the ones that weren't wanted or unbroke."

Bell's group doesn't see itself as entertainers.

"We see ourselves as educators and don't consider ourselves reenactors," said Mike Price of Louisville, Bell's sidekick. The two met when they taught in Westminster; they decided to start Buffalo Soldiers three years ago as an educational project. "We are trying to raise the

level of history, the history of minorities in this country. We are trying to tell the complete story."

Price, a social studies teacher, is white and an officer in Bell's re-created cavalry regiment. "Which is authentic," Bell said. "The officers were white."

That reflects the segregated post-Civil War Army.

"General (George) Custer was offered the command of a black regiment and turned it down," Bell said, referring to the cavalryman killed at the famous Battle of Little Big Horn. "And, we're sure glad he did."

College uses AMEZ Church to recruit

By Brian Powell
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

SALISBURY — Livingstone College has launched a new recruiting campaign with the school's oldest friend, the A.M.E. Zion Church.

The college has formed two new scholarships designed to attract members of the international church. Livingstone, recently set a goal of bringing in an additional 250 students by the year 2000.

The historical black institution enrolls 750 students. School officials believe that a boost in enrollment during the campaign can increase the number to 1,000 by the turn of the millennium.

Majorie Kinard, director of enrollment management, told The Salisbury Post that it's time the school looks towards the obvious places first, and Joiner brought that to everyone's attention.

"I don't think we've done this for a long time, really looked within for what we need," she said. "We are reaching out to AME Zion churches all over the

country with additional scholarship opportunities and visits to the campus."

The church, which has approximately 2 million members and over 6,000 churches worldwide, is said to have more than enough collegiate prospects for the school to meet its ideal goal.

Of the school's 750 students only 150 members are from the AME Zion Church.

"We really need to improve on that," Kinard said.

"This the first time we've had an all-out campaign to recruit the students from the AME Zion Church. That's Dr. Burnett Joiner's credit," the 1964 Livingstone graduate said. "He's shown us the word is out there, but not to the extent it needs to be."


School officials believe that with most of the church's Bishops, general officers, and top pastors being former graduates of Livingstone, recruitment could be relatively simple.

With the combination of alumni and church-affiliated contributions, the school has organized two scholarship programs keenly designed to attract

Zionites.

A \$1,000 scholarship will assist AME Zion Church members who enroll.

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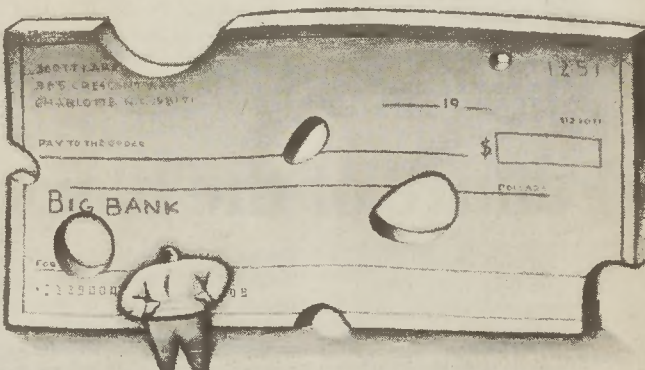
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