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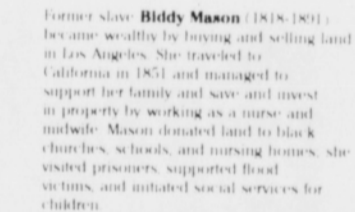


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BUSINESS



Before becoming the first female Black American millionaire, **Madame C.J. Walker** (1867-1919) worked for 18 years as a washerwoman. In 1905 she invented the "Walker Method" for treating hair and a line of cosmetics which became so popular that the Madame C.J. Walker Manufacturing Company was established, eventually employing 3,000 workers. Walker supported the NAACP and homes for the aged, she provided scholarships at Tuskegee-Palmer Memorial Institute, and founded an academy for girls in West Africa.



Former slave **Biddy Mason** (1818-1891) became wealthy by buying and selling land in Los Angeles. She traveled to California in 1851 and managed to support her family and save and invest in property by working as a nurse and midwife. Mason donated land to black churches, schools, and nursing homes, she visited prisoners, supported flood victims, and initiated social services for children.



Barbara Gardner Proctor is the president, founder, and creative director of Proctor and Gardner Advertising, Inc. in Chicago, a company specializing in marketing to black communities. A leader in many professional and service groups, Proctor has received numerous industry awards for her achievements.



Well known in Jacksonville, Florida, as the "angel of mercy," **Eartha M.M. White** (1876-1974) helped finance her extensive social service work with profits from a series of small businesses and real estate investments. White was a charter member of the National Negro Business League and served as its historian. With A. Philip Randolph she helped organize the 1941 march on Washington, a protest against job discrimination. In 1928 she founded the Clara White Mission which became the headquarters of several agencies and provided relief services to thousands of black people during the Depression.



When Blacks were breaking into the fashion industry in the 1960s, **Naomi Sims** (b. 1939) was one of the first successful black models to appear in major fashion magazines throughout the world. Sims retired from modeling in 1973 to write her best-selling book on health and beauty for black women and to establish a wig manufacturing company. She started another company in 1980 to produce a line of fragrance products known as "Naomi."

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