

BLACK HISTORY

Black Wings

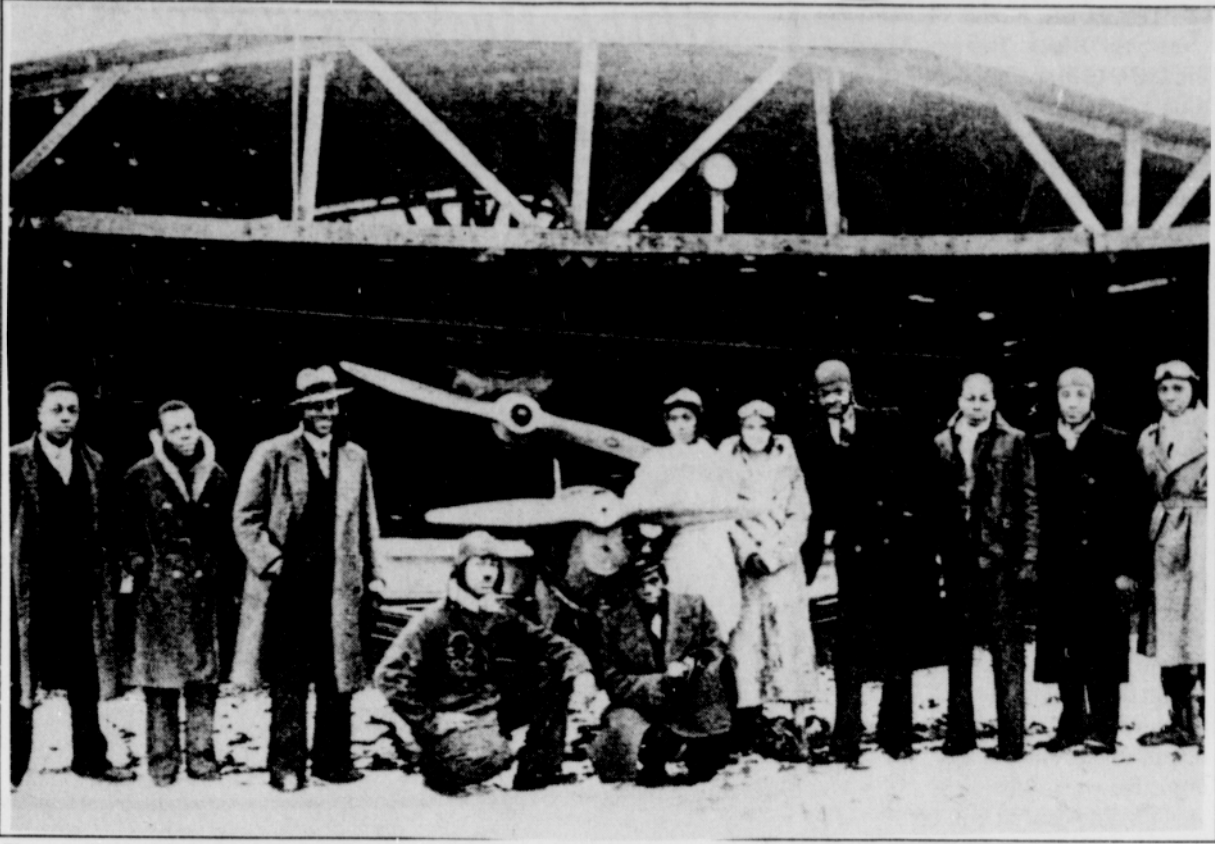


Photo by Black Wings and Harold Hurd
BY 2ND LIEUTENANT
BRAIN A. HILL

The United States of America, for the 68th year, has chosen the month of February to recognize and celebrate the contributions of African-Americans to its rich and storied history. Each of us, regardless of skin color, realizes that our present history and future are shaped by the past. Though many of us are unaware of this fact, an overwhelming number of career fields in today's society have a history and tradition that spans decades and generations. The celebration of Black History Month presents a great opportunity to share some of the tradition and history that continues to shape not only black America, but our entire American cultural society.

As a young pilot in the United States Air Force, it is clear to me that I have joined a long line of courageous Americans dedicated to superior service to their country through military aviation. As a young black pilot in the United States Air Force, it has become apparent to me that I am a descendant and beneficiary of courageous black Americans who struggled and at times suffered in their sustained efforts to serve America in the field of military aviation. These outstanding citizens are greatly responsible for the increased opportunities and successes black aviators have experienced in the latter half of the 20th century. This, the first installment of a four part series, will herald the enduring contributions made by America's black aviation pioneers.

American interest and enthusiasm of aviation was ignited in 1903 with the historic flights of the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. A racially discriminating society in the early 1900's forbade black Americans the opportunity to realize their dreams of soaring among the clouds. The breakthrough for black America's entrance into aviation

came after Charles Lindbergh's historic transatlantic flight in 1927.

In 1929, the Bessie Coleman Aero Club was established in Los Angeles, California. Aviation enthusiasts in the Los Angeles community founded the club to promote and foster an aviation consciousness among black Americans. The club was named after Bessie Coleman, the first licensed black pilot in the United States. Coleman trained in France and then returned to America to pursue a career in stunt flying. Her life tragically came to an untimely end in a 1929 aircraft accident. Her name became a symbol of inspiration to other young black Americans seeking to enter aviation careers.

The legacy of Bessie Coleman was carried on in Chicago, Illinois when the Challenger Air Pilot's Association was formed in 1931. The mission of promoting an aviation consciousness was the same as that of the 1929 Bessie Coleman Aero Club, but one distinguishing trait of

the Chicago club was the formation of the first nationwide organization for black aviators, the National Airmen's Association.

Early inroads for black America's participation in aviation were made primarily through performances in air shows. Black stunt pilots and parachutists gained widespread notoriety while performing daredevil aerial feats for predominantly black audiences across the Midwest. This spawning fame eventually gained the attention and peaked the interest of the United States military through its fledgling Army Air Corps.

(2nd Lieutenant Brian A. Hill is a 1991 graduate of the United States Air Force Academy. He received his pilot wings from United States Air Force Undergraduate Pilot Training in November 1992. Lt. Hill is currently the Chief, Advertising and Promotion Branch for the 361st United States Air Force recruiting Squadron in Seattle, Washington.

Air and Ground Show

Second Annual Colored Air and Ground Show
SUNDAY SEPT. 24th
at 2 p.m.
Featuring:

Miss Dorothy Darby of Cleveland America's Only Professional Girl Parachute Jumper
Major George Fisher Veteran Daredevil of Chicago, in a sensational delayed parachute leap from a Giant Plane 10,000 feet up. Airplane Ride & Stunt Flying
Peter Conder of Mobile in a death-defying dash on a Motorcycle through a flaming wooden wall of fire.
Ray Rodgers of Olathe, during aerial performance, and others
Thompson Brothers Balloon and Parachute Company

LOCATION: Westchester Airport, Hillsdale, NJ
Westchester Elevated train at Adams Street. Auto Route: West at Roosevelt Road to Hillsdale, direct to Westchester Airport. Free Parking Space.
Come Early Refreshments
Music By
Capt. CURRY'S CONCERT BAND M.O.G.U.S.A.
Music in case of Rain. Event will be held Sat. October 16.

ADMISSION Adults 35c
Children 10c

MAMMOTH AIR-SHOW

SUNDAY, AUG. 28, 12:30 P.M.
SPECIAL FEATURE
WILLIE JONES SUICIDE
BRING WORLD'S RECORD for Darkest Parachute Jump to America
ADDED MOTORCYCLE ATTRACTIONS
THRILLS GALORE

MARKHAM AIR FIELD
167th and So. Western Ave.
AERIAL ACROBATICS
ROLLS, TURNS, SPINS
RIBBON CUTTING
CRAZY FLYING
KEN HUNTER
of the famous Hunter Bros.
Endurance Record Holders
Arranged to Pilot his Ship
for the Show

ADMISSION: FIFTY CENTS
Representatives of the Aircraft Industry and N.A.A. to be Present.
No admission charge for children under 12.
Hillsdale, NJ

Minority Students Interested In Medical Degree May Apply

Minority college students and graduates interested in pursuing a medical degree may apply for a six-week summer program held at Baylor College of Medicine and Rice University, both in Houston. The national program, funded in part by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is designed to increase minority representation in medicine by enhancing the participants' competitiveness in the medical school application process. Admission is based on academic achievement and interest in medical careers. Participants must be African-American, Mexican-American, mainland Puerto Rican or American Indian. Participants spend mornings in a medical setting paired with physicians and afternoons in science and communications classes at Rice.

College credit, housing and a stipend are provided. Application deadline is March 5, 1993. For more information, call (800) 633-6445.

African American Reflections

ANOTHER YOUNG BLACK MAN

Another young Black Man
That's laid in the sand.
Cut down by the hand,
of another young Black Man.

The Monday morning news headline,
Pictured the face of man number 9,
Who had to be put on ice,
Cause somebody took his life.
It just doesn't make sense
Destruction of life over a
silly argument.
How many more young Black Men
Will be sent from their earthly home,
Before we learn that by getting along,
We can become strong?

Another young Black Man
That's laid in the sand.
Cut down by the hand
Of another young Black Man.

Neomia R. Kendrix
Portland, Oregon

BLACK IS:
Black is a color
Not a crime
Black is a song
With rhythm and rhyme
Black is a culture
With contents and pride
Black is a feeling
You don't have to hide
Black is the future
My world to be
Black is a character
And black is me.

Riga Brant
Ockley Green Middle School
Portland, Oregon

Presented by



Black History Month

Afro-American Scholars:

Black History Month Activities

Opening Month Celebration*
3rd Floor Conf. Rooms A, B, H, & J
Date: 2/2, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Speaker: Dr. Wyatt T. Walker
Featuring: MLK Elementary School Choir

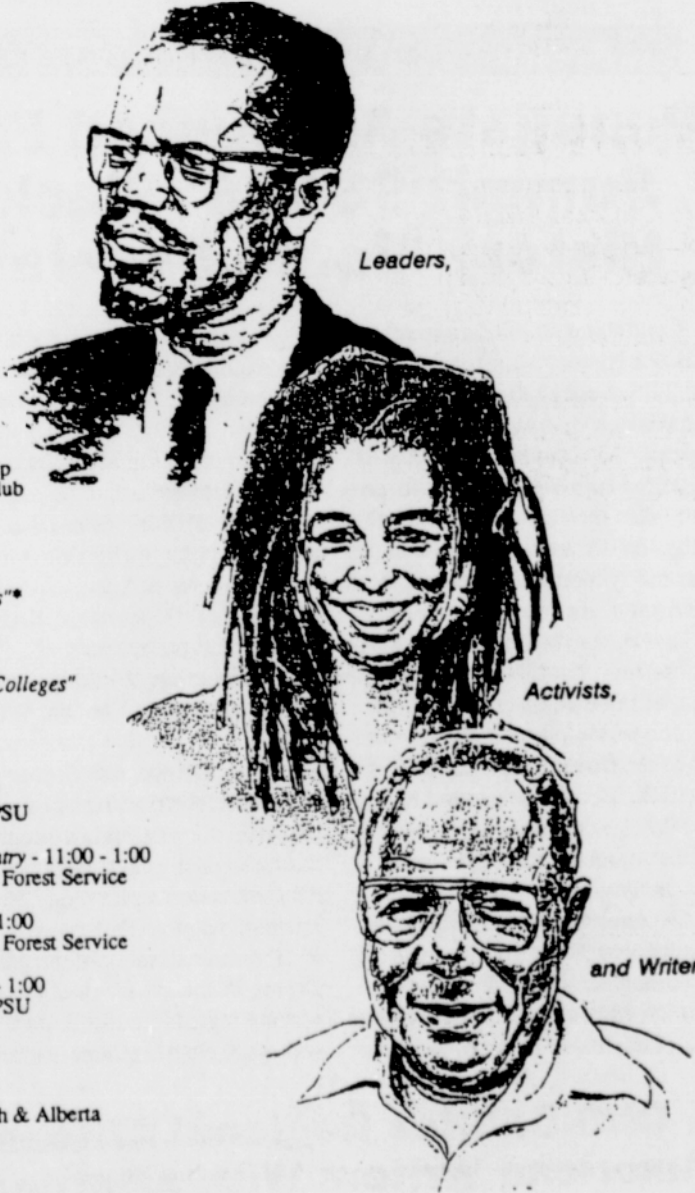
Historical Perspective
Date: 2/10, TBA
Speaker: Phyllis Smith
Topic: Buffalo Soldiers
Location: Gifford Pinchot NF

Closing Month Celebration*
3rd Floor Conf. Rooms A, B, H, & J
Date: 2/25, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Featuring: Sojourner Truth Theatrical Group
Jefferson High School Drama Club

Ongoing Activities:
Exhibits: "Black Women Against the Odds" *
Commission of Black Affairs
Work Room 5C
"Tribute To Historically Black Colleges"
Gifford Pinchot NF

Video Presentations* (Santiam Room)
2/4 - Local Color - 11:45 - 1:00
Narrator: Dr. Darrell Millner, PSU
2/11 - Mass. 54th Colored Infantry - 11:00 - 1:00
Narrator: Pferron Doss, USDA Forest Service
2/18 - The Liberators - 11:00 - 1:00
Narrator: Pferron Doss, USDA Forest Service
2/23 - Buffalo Soldiers - 11:45 - 1:00
Narrator: Dr. Darrell Millner, PSU

Children's Basketball Tournament:
Date: 2/20 - 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Location: Church Community Center - 7th & Alberta
Participants: Elementary & Middle Schools
* Robert Duncan Plaza, 333 SW First, Portland, Oregon
* For more info, contact: Deselyn King 326-7785 or Linda Alford 326-2504



Percy Ricks: An African-American Hero

February is Black History Month, during which African Americans who have made a major contribution are honored. Percy D. Ricks Jr. was such a man and his story is an important part of our American Culture. Ricks was a master sergeant in the United States Army who was the focal point of an experiment to test whether integration was feasible in the military services. On June 10,

1946, 19 enlisted men, both black and white, from Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, were transferred to the Army Signal Corps Photographic Center in Long Island City, New York. This was an unprecedented secret test that put an integrated unit of soldiers under the direct command of a Black sergeant for the very first time, and most of the whites were from the South. Special Order Number 118 was the order authorizing

Ricks' assignment and it was marked Restricted. Ricks' success in the command directly afforded President Truman the confidence to desegregate the Army in 1948. In 1946, Percy Ricks stood alone, a top secret guinea pig whose actions gave proof to the words later immortalized by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "A man should not be judged by the color of his skin, but by the content of his character."



Sponsored by:
Pacific Northwest Region/Research Station
Gifford Pinchot NF
Mt Hood NF
Army Corps of Engineers

