BLACK HISTORY

The Hortland Observer

African American Museum Needs Objects

The Museum of African American History in Detroit is expanding and in 1996 will be the largest black historical museum in the world.

The museum is currently seeking objects for the new museum's permanent exhibition which will trace all aspects of the Diaspora: The African experience, enslavement, freedom migration, black pride, and the African American experience as it exists today.

Objects needed include: Human cargo lists, slave shackles and tags, African art, information on the underground railroad, news articles on escaped slaves to memorabilia of the civil rights movement.

The new museum will be four times the size of the current facility and will be on the cutting edge of modern technology.

"Our goal is to not only be the largest black cultural and historical center, but to also be the best," said Kimberly Camp, executive director. "People keep a lot of history and culture in their attics, we would like to expose everyone to it."

For a complete listing of needed articles or for more information, contact Emanuel Cooper, curator of exhibitions at 313-833-9800.



World War II welders construct the liberty ship SS George Washington Carver. (From Black Women in American: An Historical Encyclopedia)

Sisters In Historic Schools Case To Speak

Two sisters who were school children during the historic Brown vs. Board of Education case will speak next week at Oregon State University as part of Black History

Linda Brown Thompson and Cheryl Brown Henderson will chronicle the history of their family's court battle, its impact on education and the civil rights movement

They also plan to talk about the principles of diversity and open-

mindedness in a non-confrontational forum.

The session is free and will take place Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the OSU Memorial Union Lounge in Corvallis, 26th Street and Jefferson Way.

Thompson and Henderson were thrust into the national spotlight in 1950 when their father - Topeka, Kan. minister Oliver Brown - thought it was unjust that his 7-year-old daughter Linda traveled across town to school rather than attend an ele-

mentary school four blocks away just because her skin was black.

A May 17, 1954, decision by the Supreme Court of the United States against the Board of Education of Topeka, Kan. held that separate but equal is unjust and unconstitutional.

The sisters have established the Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence and Research, which supports education improvement efforts throughout the United States.

From President William J. Clinton

Warm greetings to everyone celebrating African American History Month, 1995.

Hillary and I join you in marking the brave efforts of the countless Americans throughout our nation's history who have demanded justice, declared an end to segregation, and fought to ensure that every individual has the opportunity to build a brighter future for themselves and their families.

Today, there is a renewed sense of hope in America -- a hope based on the idea that our great diversity can unite rather than divide our society. It is the same hope that has inspired African Americans since our country's beginnings to dream of a nation in which all people enjoy the freedom to make their own lasting contributions to our world. If we are truly to build on history's rich lessons, we must always remember these pioneers' pivotal roles in American history.

Ours can be a land of unprecedented peace and prosperity in the twenty-first century if we have the faith that Martin Luther King de-

scribed, the faith to "transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood." We must never cease striving to bring people together across racial and cultural barriers. This is our generation's most solemn calling and most important challenge.

I urge everyone, during African american History Month and throughout the year, to take up this challenge and to learn more about the black Americans who have made this country great

All Blood Runs Red



Above: Between the wars Bullard had several jobs, including managing a nightclub called Le Grand-Duc, where he made himself at home.

Right: His great-grandson stands with a 1986 portrait commissioned for a dormitory named in Bullard's honor at Gunter Air Force Base in Alabama.

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there through the clogged roads.

He reached the city on June 15, went immediately to the temporary barracks of the 51st, and asked for the commanding officer. To Bullard's astonishment this turned out to be Maj. Roger Bader, an old comrade from the 170th whom he had last seen at Verdun a quarter century earlier. Bader assigned Bullard to a machine-gun company that made a stand on the banks of the Loire and checked the Germans until heavy artillery could be brought up. The Bullard's unit retreated to the nearby town of LeBlanc, which was already under German shell fire. While running across the street carrying a light machine gun, Bullard was struck by shrapnel and thrown into a wall, damaging his spine. Same shell killed eleven of his comrades and wounded sixteen other.

With the unit in danger of being captured, Bader gave Bullard a safe-conduct pass and told him to get away: The Germans would surely execute a black foreigner who had fought against them in two wars.

Bullard made for Biarritz, on the Spanish border. He arrived there in the middle of the night of June 22 and immediately joined the line that already formed at the consulate.

Consul General McWilliams told Bullard to shed his telltale uniform, and other Americans waiting to see McWillaims gave him clothes.

One small boy asked his father, "Dad-

dy, can I gave the nigger my beret?" Bullard made his way safely to Lisbon and sailed for New York, where he arrived at the end of July 1940. He had not seen his native land in almost three decades.

Immediately upon arriving he was rudely reminded that America had hardly changed. The New York commandant of the American Legion post obtained hotel rooms for all American soldiers on the ship except Bullard: "Bullard, I haven't got any reservation for you. I didn't know you were with the group." He got some cheap rooms in Harlem and found odd jobs there. Within a year his daughters were able to join him. His back injury made many jobs impossible, but he found work traveling about New York state selling perfume.

Between 1947 and 1954 Bullard returned to France several times, seeking compensation for the loss of his property. He finally received some in 1954-not very much but enough to help him settle into a small Harlem apartment. His last job was as an elevator operator in the RCA Building. In this capacity he met Dave Garroway and became a guest on "The Today Show."

America never honored its native son, but France never cased to. In 1954 the French government chose Bullard to be one of the men to relight the eternal flame over the grave of the unknown soldier at the Arc de Triomphe. In 1959 he was made a chevalier in the Legion of

Honor, and when President Charles de Gaulle visited New York the next year, Bullard was invited to the reception. He attended in his legionnaire uniform. As the meeting was ending, de Gaulle came over to Bullard and hugged him. And the year after that, as Bullard lay dying, French military officials frequently brought gifts and greetings to his bedside in the Metropolitan Hospital.

Bullard died a few days after his sixty-seventh birthday. The French military conducted honorary services, and he was buried according to his instructions in a French legionnaire uniform, in grave no. 7, section C, plot 53 of the Federation of French war Veterans Cemetery in Flushing, New York.

When he was awarded the Legion of Honor, Bullard had tried to explain his feelings about his two countries: "The United States is my mother and I love my mother, but as far as France is concerned, she is my mistress and you love your mistress more than you love your mother-but in a different way."

Throughout his painful days in Metropolitan Hospital, Eugene Bullard had kept his spirits up like the fighter he was. When he began gasping in his final moments, a companion sitting with him rose to get a doctor. Knowing it was pointless, Bullard grabbed her hand and stopped her. Then he spoke his last words: "It's beautiful over there."

Frederick Douglass: When The Lion Wrote History

WETA, Washington, D.C. and ROJA Productions created the first comprehensive film biography of Frederick Douglass, former slave, renowned orator, fiery abolitionist, newspaper journalist and publisher, diplomat and outspoken advocate of voting rights for women.

Frederick Douglass: When The Lion Wrote History - produced and director by veteran filmmaker Orlando Bagwell (Malcom X: Make It Plain, Eyes On the Prize) - is a 90 minute documentary which aired last fall on public broadcasting stations. Videotape copies can be obtained by calling 1-800-328-4127.

The film combines archival photos and images, interviews with scholars and other expects and live-action cinematography of locations from Douglass' life.

Sites covered include Baltimore, Md; New Bedford, Mass. Rochester, N.Y., Nantucket Island, Mass., the antebellum Wye House Plantation on Maryland's eastern shore, and Douglass' last home, Cedar Hill in Washington, D.C.

Douglass was one of the few men present at the first women's rights convention in America and had a special relationship with many of the women in the suffrage movement.

In 1881, President James Garfield appointed Douglass the Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia. He was appointed Minister Resident and Consul General to Haiti by President Benjamin Harrison on July 1, 1889.

He died of a heart attack on Feb. 20, 1895, after attending a session of the National Council of Women. A period of national mourning was declared and he was buried at Mount Hope Cemetery in Rochester.



Frederick Douglass



Frederick Douglass, a former slave who became an outspoken, eloquent advocate for the equality for African Americans, with friends in Haiti during Douglass' tenure as U.S. ambassador.

25th Anniversary

CELEBRATION

of

The Portland Observer