

Alexander Pushkin's Grandfathers Were No Slouches Either

By Prof. McKinley Burt

This week's article was designed to fill the request of a group of local teachers with whom I often cooperate in the development of lesson plans in those areas of history where either the literature or educational systems seem greatly reluctant to cite particular kind of African American or African contributions. Information needs of readers may be served as well.

Paralleling material on European contributions in the same time period was requested to match my account of the black American sailors who, up until the time of the civil war, manned the "Tall Ships" both naval and civilian - like the U.S. Constitution ("Old Ironsides"). Blacks served as crewmen and mates on the whalers and freighters as well. See "Black Jacks: African American Seamen In the Age of Sail," Jeffery, Harvard, 1997.

My group had extensive lesson

plan material for a series on the magnificent contributions of the black Russian poet Alexander Pushkin -- gained from articles of mine, June 1, 1989 and another, last year (including productive bibliographies). However, information on his celebrated great grandfather proved not to be as adequate as could be desired. The following material from my files should suffice to round out the information set of the teacher group on the grandfather - and should prove quite interesting to the readers as well. Abraham Petrovich Hannibal (1697-1781): At age 8 taken as a hostage from an important family in Ethiopia and sold as a slave in Constantinople, the boy was purchased as a gift for Czar Peter I of Russia. This chief of Europe's largest nation adopted him as a godson and Queen Christina of Poland became his godmother. At this christening in the Greek Orthodox Church in 1707 his given name, Ibrahim was

changed to Abraham.

Abraham's father, a chieftain, traced his son to Russia and on a visit there informed the court that the family surname was Hannibal as they were descendants of the famed African general of the same name (It was the original Hannibal who took his army and hundreds of elephants over the mighty Alps to catch the Romans by surprise). African footsteps clamored loudly through the pages of European history, in the arts and in technology, and in war and peace.

The Czar was greatly impressed with Hannibal's aptitude for mathematics and engineering, and in 1717 sent him to Paris to study. As a protégé of the great emperor of Russia he was received in the highest circles, becoming one of the most populace young men in Paris. On his return to Russia, he became an officer in the engineering corp and was appointed as a tutor in mathematics to the Crown Prince.

Later, after the death of his patron, Czar Peter II, Hannibal was caught up in the intrigues of the court and was exiled for 12 years. Finally restored to grace by Empress Elizabeth, he became Russia's preeminent engineer as well as a diplomat of note. He drew the plans for a canal linking St. Petersburg with Moscow (the Logodard). Later he was commissioned to represent Russia in the boundary-line dispute with Sweden.

Hannibal's first wife presented him with a white baby which he rejected but cared for. His second wife whom he married in 1736 bore him eleven children. One of his sons, Ivan became a hero as admiral of a fleet and was noted as the builder of the fortress at Kherson, other sons became generals and naval commanders. Loud indeed were these footsteps in the world's history. And louder still were the footsteps of the great grandson, Alexander Pushkin who made the Russian language alive and vibrant.

Murals reflect many hands, many cultures

Continued from Front

rolled out like cookie dough before the cutter shaped them.

Hanna Goldser, 10, who moved here from Rhode Island, thought her depiction of a cat looking out a window would give people a warm, fuzzy feeling of welcome.

Two pieces by Anthony Leon, 7, a Mexican-American from California, expressed the energy of youth. His hockey player, representing the project's teamwork, wound up on the wall. His volcano went to an-

other local art project.

Jessica Kinney, 8, decided to put her love of snow on the wall with her depiction of a snowman.

Ari Montgomery, 9, a native of Calcutta, India, made a sunburst which would represent her personal greetings. Her first name, Arunima, means "ray of sunshine," in her native tongue.

"We let everyone have their own ideas," said Pete Towns, 10, a native of Portland. "It all blended together ... all the ideas ... to make a big picture."

If I were still in Vietnam, I wouldn't know school could look like this," said Nhien Le, 10. Her tile had a drawing of the school building with a "Welcome to Sunnyside" message. Sunnyside is also the location of Portland's Vietnamese bilingual program.

"I wouldn't have had the chance to do this in India," agreed Ari, exclaiming how the project brought in "all people and all ideas in one beautiful thing."

The site also houses a family co-operative school, where parents like

Ferguson help plan the curriculum.

She first suggested the idea for the tile mural in the spring of 1995, teamed up with school librarian Alison Brown in January 1996 to

plan the project, and the two started talking with students about their ideas after last year's winter break.

Following visits to the proposed site, brainstorming discussions, and hundreds of drawings on paper, the conglomeration of young artists rolled up their sleeves and flattened the clay.

CLASSIFIEDS

Engineer 1, Associate

(1 vacancy - Traffic Assignment)
- City of Milwaukie, OR. Salary: \$2,694 to \$3,439 per month, DOQ, with excellent benefits. Looking for civil engineer with traffic management training or experience.

Minimum Requirements:

General: Must possess, or be able to obtain by time of hire, a valid area driver's license without record of suspension or revocation in any State and insurable by city insurance carrier.
Education: A Bachelor's degree from an accredited university or college in civil engineering, or related field, or any equivalent combination of education and experience.

Training: Must possess or be able to obtain within six (6) months from date of hire an Engineer in Training Certificate.

Prior Work Experience: Must have a working knowledge of civil engineering and applicable City rules and regulations, skill in use of personal computer and applicable office and engineering software, skill in cost estimates and design and management of projects preferably related to traffic, excellent oral and written communications or any combination of demonstrated experience, education and/or training that shows ability to perform assigned work. Application materials include cover letter and City of Milwaukie job application. All application materials must be received by the City of Milwaukie, Human Resources, 10722 SE Main Street, Milwaukie, OR 97222, no later than **4:00 PM, Monday, September 29, 1997**. For more information: (503) 786-7507 or TDD (503) 786-7555 or Fax (503) 652-4433 Prior to hiring, require satisfactory completion of drug test. All qualified applicants encouraged to apply. EOE.

City Administrator City of Madras

City Administrator - Madras, Oregon. Population 4,770. Salary range \$42,000 - \$47,196 DOQ. \$12 mil. budget; 28 employees. Located in Central Oregon. Rapidly growing community on Highways 97 and 26. Current community projects include water and wastewater treatment plant renovations. Responsible to Mayor and six (6) member Council. Bachelor's degree in Public Administration or related field required. Master's degree a plus. Three (3) years administrative experience related to small city government. Experience in land use planning, personnel management, grant administration, major public works improvements, and familiarity with budget and accounting processes. Excellent communication and public relations skills required. Send resume, references, and salary history by September 30, 1997, to: **Madras City Administrator Recruitment, PO Box 928, Salem, OR 97308. Phone (503) 588-6550; fax 399-4863.**

Banking Tellers

Come Join Our Team!

We are seeking a self-motivated, sales oriented individual for FT and PT teller positions. We have positions open at: Gateway, Gresham, NW 23 (uptown), Float Pool, downtown Portland, Barbur Blvd and 66th Glisan, Interstate and Clackamas. If you are a team-player, have 1 yr. of cash handling/customer service experience, exc. communication and math skills we are looking for you. Salary: \$6.20-\$8.50 an hour DOE, exc. benefits, performance awards and opportunities for advancement. If you are interested, applications are available at all Bank branches. Please mail applications to:

Washington Mutual Bank
851 SW 6th Ave., Suite 230
Portland, OR 97204



For these and other current positions call our job hotline at (800) 952-0787. EOE

City Manager City of Medford

City Manager - Medford, Oregon. Population 57,155. Salary open DO, plus excellent benefit package. Total budget is \$78 million with 374 employees. Located in the heart of the Rogue Valley, Medford is the growing commercial, medical, and cultural center of southern Oregon. Urban amenities complement the quality of life in this ICMA Council-Manager, full-service city with an eight-member Council and elected Mayor. Two managers since 1976. Seeking a highly motivated, dynamic, accomplished professional, a highly ethical, positive, forward thinker who is an excellent communicator with a customer service orientation. Position requires a Bachelor's degree (master's degree preferred) in Public or Business Administration or related field, and at least eight years experience as a manager or assistant in a similar size municipal organization. Send resume, references, and salary history no later than October 6, 1997 To: **Medford City Manager Recruitment, P.O. Box 928, Salem, Oregon 97308. (503) 588-6550.**

Washington County

Senior Probation & Parole Officer

\$3,371-\$4,097/mo

Closes September 26, 1997

Washington County

Classification Specialist

\$2,385 - \$2,899/mo

Closes September 26, 1997

Washington County

Community Services

Program Monitor

(Inmate Worker Coordination)

\$2,109 - \$2,564/mo

Closes September 26, 1997

Washington County

Control Room Monitor

\$2,385 - \$2,899/mo

Closes September 26, 1997

Call (503) 648-8606/TTY (503) 693-4898 for information.

County application and supplemental application forms required.

Apply To:

Washington County Human Resources Division
155 N. First Avenue, Suite 210
Hillsboro, OR 97124

Women, minorities, and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

THE JOYCE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Joyce Washington was tireless in
her devotion to children
and building a better community.

The Portland Observer is continuing this loving legacy by awarding
high school seniors from our community scholarships
to help them achieve their dreams.

You can help by sending your contribution to the
Joyce Washington

Memorial Scholarship Fund in care of Bank of America.

Your support will be truly appreciated.

Call your local Bank of America for more information.

Thank you.

Diabetics

Medicare & Private Insurance
For Information

Call Toll Free 1-800-985-9904

Homefront Diabetic Services

is a MEDICARE ASSIGNMENT PROVIDER