

Black **H**istory **M**onth **This Week in Black History**

By JANUS ADAMS
MARCH 2, 1942

On Sunday, March 2, 1942, at 5:45 pm., the predictably unthinkable happened: city police killed a soldier in cold blood. Patrolman A.J. Hay did not like hearing a black sergeant question Military Police about a private known to be in custody. Interfering with the MPs and the sergeant, Hay knocked the black man to the ground with his stick, then riddled his body with five shots. As is usual in such situations, nothing is done until

something happens to "the wrong person." In this case, that person was Sergeant Thomas P. Foster, a respected, well-liked man. As the same police force that murdered him went through the motions of "its investigation," a

Daisy Bates

distraught black soldier wept openly, threw his neatly pressed army cap to the ground, and stomped it to death. "Why should we go over there and fight?" he grieved. "These are the sons of bitches we should be

fighting!" As the crowd slowly dispersed, the man stood alone, in so many ways, still stomping his cap, until a fellow soldier gently led him to the bus for Camp Robinson. Although barely moved by the incident, local businessmen were

upset by the coverage the story received from veteran journalist Daisy Bates in the *Arkansas State Press* - the newspaper she ran with her husband, L.C. Bates. Within five days, every downtown store cancelled its ads. But the community

so appreciated the paper's courageous ongoing crusade that circulation doubled within months. After that, the ads returned as well. The buying power of so many black consumers was too good for even other businesses to lose out on.



Daisy Bates was a longtime co-editor (with her husband) of the *Arkansas State Press*. She used that newspaper to fight segregation, police brutality, and other injustices; and as president of the Arkansas NAACP, she organized the Little Rock Nine and engineered the desegregation of Little Rock's Central High School. Bates's leadership in that agonizingly violent struggle was indomitable, even when her home was bombed and her newspaper became the target of economic reprisals.

Alabama from 1

Josephine Baker, Reverend Adam Clayton Powell, Langston Hughes and Margaret Sanger. *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, along with *Flyin' West* and *Bourbon at the Border*, form an acclaimed trilogy in which Pearl Cleage has deftly dramatized a specific trajectory in African-American social history. She is also the author of a best-selling novel, *What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day*, which enjoyed the highly-coveted privilege of being selected for Oprah's Book Club.

Tenth Annual Cascade Festival of African Films

In celebration of Black History Month

Portland Community College
Cascade Campus
Terrell Hall, Room 122
705 N. Killingsworth
Free parking in campus lots

February 4-
March 4

Thursdays at noon
Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.


**Opening Night—Friday,
February 4 at 7:30 p.m.**

Heritage Africa with Director Kwaw P. Ansah from Ghana

Music by Obo Addy and Okropong at Jefferson High School Auditorium

For more information,
call 503-244-6111, ext. 3630

This Portland Community College event is made possible through the generous support of the Regional Arts and Culture Council, the Oregon Council for the Humanities, the Oregon Arts Commission and McMenamins Kennedy School.



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