Black History Month



Elizabeth Duncan Koontz was an educational leader who devoted her life's work to building a better quality of life for children through schooling and the support of women.

The Black Press Passionate Voices for African Americans

Second part in a series

1910 issue of "Crises" stated the greatest issue facing African Americans was residential segregation

Newspapers for African Americans grew out of the passion of people of color oppressed by rac-

From 1854-1857, the "Provincial Freedom" became a strong antislavery newspaper, under one of America's greatest African American women. Mary Ann Shadd, who was born on Oct 9, 1823 to a prominent black family in Wilmington,



Mary Ann Shadd Cary founded "Provincial Freedom" in 1854. a newspaper dedicated to transforming black refugees from the South into model citizens. She was the first black female editor, publisher and investigative reporter in North America.

Shadd became the first black female editor in all of North America. She also later became out nation's first black woman lawyers and opened a school for black children in Washington D.C.

Promoting self-reliance throughout her life, she wrote articles on temperance, general literature and anti-slavery. Affiliated with no particular political party, Shadd, whose sheet of the finest quality." "The married name was Cary, spoke freely about her passion for abolition of which Uncle Tom's Cabin was se- to force Negroes to live in restricted slavery and better treatment of rialized. The paper's prospectus areas." America's black citizens.

was located a short distance from New York on the Canadian side of the border where many African Americans fled to safety, due to the passage of the Fugitive Slave Law in the early 1850s.

Although the paper had a large circulation, it was seized in July of 1856 for outstanding debts and was permanently closed a year later.

One of the longer running papers of its time was "The Recorder," published from 1861 to 1902 by the African Methodist Episcopal

Early success was partially due to a creative and very effective efited from their partnership, each marketing tool, that of using black one relying upon the other. Al-Union soldiers to distribute the though the original board members paper to African American Slaves were mostly white, their mission in the South. The four-page paper covered news on black regiments as well as departments on religious intelligence, domestic news, general items and foreign news, obituaries, marriages, notices and advertisements, along with "the normal compliment of prose and poetry found in the newspapers of the

In describing his paper in the early 1860's, the editor wrote:

"Outrages from the South were reported in purely factual terms of burning of churches and parsonages and midnight visitations. Of course sermons were reproduced, but there was excellent reportage from correspondents all over the South and West. In sum, the virtue of "The Recorder" lies not in its religious role but in the picture it provides of the Negro situation throughout the country: "From the tepid friendliness of at least some whites in the West, whether in Cheyenne or Santa Fe, to the cry to freed Negroes, 'Don't come to Mis-

"The National Era," out of Washington, D.C., edited by Dr. Gamaliel Bailey was proudly issued from Jan 7, 1947 to March 22, 1860 on what the newspaper called "a mammoth

First newspapers call for abolition of slavery and better treatment of black citizens "While due attention will be paid stone unturned in reporting the

The "Provincial Freedom" paper to current events, congressional proceedings, general politics and NAACP board members and literature, the great aim of the paper will be a complete discussion of the question of slavery, and an exhibition of the duties of the citizen in relation to it."

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People started the publication "Crises" in 1910 with black intellectual and civil rights activist W.E. Du Bois as its Crises" would be the nation's

ful black man in America and the NAACP grew quickly. The organization and the magazine both benwas clearly to help break down racial barriers, thus improving the lives of non-whites.

An article in the 1910 issue of the



In 1910, W.E. Du Bois became the first editor of the NAACP publication "Crises" and soon thereafter became the most powerful black man in America.

Crises stated the greatest issue facing African Americans was residential segregation:

COLUMNA, CREACE PE

"This discriminatory practice arose in three forms; attempts at residential segregation through property holder's covenants; efforts towards that end through mob National Era" was also the paper in violence; and legislation designed

"The Crises" and Du Bois left no

matter to their subscribers. The magazine employees risked their very lives publishing the bold truth behind the white hoods of the Klan, racist politicians and large companies who continued to fight to keep African Americans from enjoying the freedom this country was founded on.

For decades to come, "The top black publication. Although Du Bois became the most power- most copies were sold to blacks, whites accounted for nearly 25 percent of paid subscriptions to the publication.

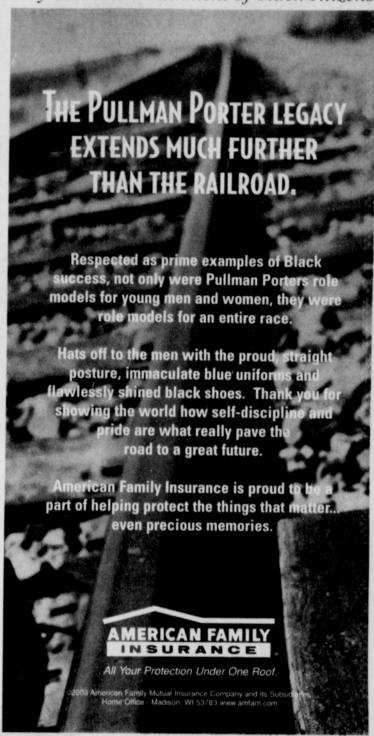
> Memphis, Tenn. publisher Ida B. Well-Barnett headed for New York when her newspaper office was burned to the ground and her life was threatened.

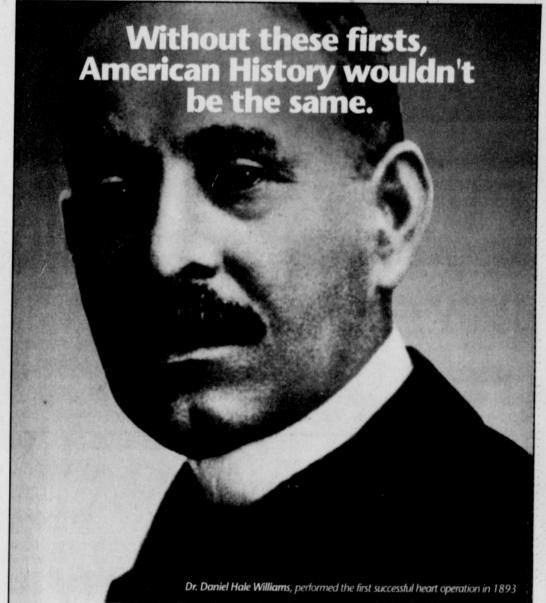
> In her paper, the "Free Speech and Headlight," she criticized a town that would "will neither protect our lives and property, nor give us a far trial in the courts when accused by whites."

The article was in response to the hanging of three successful black businessmen in that city. Her anger over the matter also prompted her to write a scathing article against the town's white women and their alleged purity, claiming it would be easy for them to be attracted to a black man. While she was away from the office that week, a mob of whites burned her building down and made it clear that if she ever came back, she too would be lynched.

Taking her anti-lynching fight to New York was a quick decision, however it reaped great re-

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known as the Saratoga chip • Matthew A. Henson, first man to set foot on the North Pole • Jessie Jarue Mark, first woman to earn a doctorate in botany • Isaac Murphy, won the very first Kentucky Derby • Dr. Charles Drew, discovered the method for preserving blood plasma • Jewel LaFontant Mankarious, first woman to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court • Yvonne Clark, first woman to earn B.S. in chemical engineering at Harvard • Louis Armstrong, first to sing in "scatting" style • Otis Boykin, invented guided missile device • Jane Wright, pioneered several advances in the field of chemotherapy • Frederick Mckinley Jones, inventor of portable X-ray machine • William A. Hinton, developed first test for syphilis Norbert Rillieux, developed the first system for refining sugar * S. Boone, invented the first ironing board . Frank Grant, inventor of the baseball chinguard • L.D. Newman, inventor of the hairbrush • Shelby J. Davidson, created the first adding machine · William Warwick Cardozo, pioneered the study of sickle cell anemia · Kurtis Blow, first rap artist

> You can't talk about Black history without talking about American history. Let's remember the African Americans who helped build America.

> > **Washington Mutual**

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