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The California

Volume 45 No. 7 ~ February 18-25, 2011

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Fresno's African American Community Newspaper

Fresno's Black Experience

A Collective View of the Valley's African American Culture, History & Achievements



The Fresno Cubs

(Above) photographed at the Fink-Smith Playground, circa 1914, were the first all-black amateur baseball team in Fresno. From the Fresno Historical Society Black Oral History Project Collection. Front row: Frank Robinson (middle), Earl Jones (left). Middle row (l-r): Joe Holmes, unidentified, Percy Bost, unidentified, Clarence Watkins, unidentified. Top row: Happy Seixas (right), Carleton Bigby (left).

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF FRESNO HISTORICAL SOCIETY.



(Above) Fresnan William Bigby (left) and two friends posed for this portrait before shipping out to fight in World War I. See Biography of William Bigby on page 15.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF FRESNO HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

(LEFT) DAVID JENNINGS Valley's First Black Resident

This rocking-chair portrait of David Jennings (left) was taken before his death in 1914 at the age of 97 in the Fresno County town of Fowler.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF FRESNO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEE BIOGRAPHY OF DAVID JENNINGS ON PAGE 14.



(Above) The Black Power salute was a noted human rights protest and one of the most overtly political statements in the 110 year history of the modern Olympic Games. African American athletes Tommie Smith of Fresno and John Carlos performed their Black Power salute at the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City.

Fresno's TOMMIE SMITH Inspired A Nation And A Culture

Tommie Smith (Born June 6, 1944) is an African American former track & field athlete and wide receiver in the American Football League. At the 1968 Summer Olympics, Smith won the 200-meter dash finals in 19.83 seconds – the first time the 20 second barrier was broken. His Black Power salute with John Carlos atop the medal podium caused controversy at the time as it was seen as politicizing the Olympic Games. It remains a symbolic moment in the history of the African-American Civil Rights Movement.

While attending Lemoore High School, Smith showed great potential, setting most of the school's track records, many of which remain. His achievements won him a scholarship to San Jose State. On May 7, 1966, Smith set a world best of 19.5 seconds in the 200 meters and 220 yards in 1966, running on a straight cinder track at San Jose State. That "world best" for 200 metres was finally beaten by Tyson Gay on May 16, 2010, just over 44 years later, though Smith still holds the best for the slightly longer 220 yard event. Since the

Continued on Page 12 ▶



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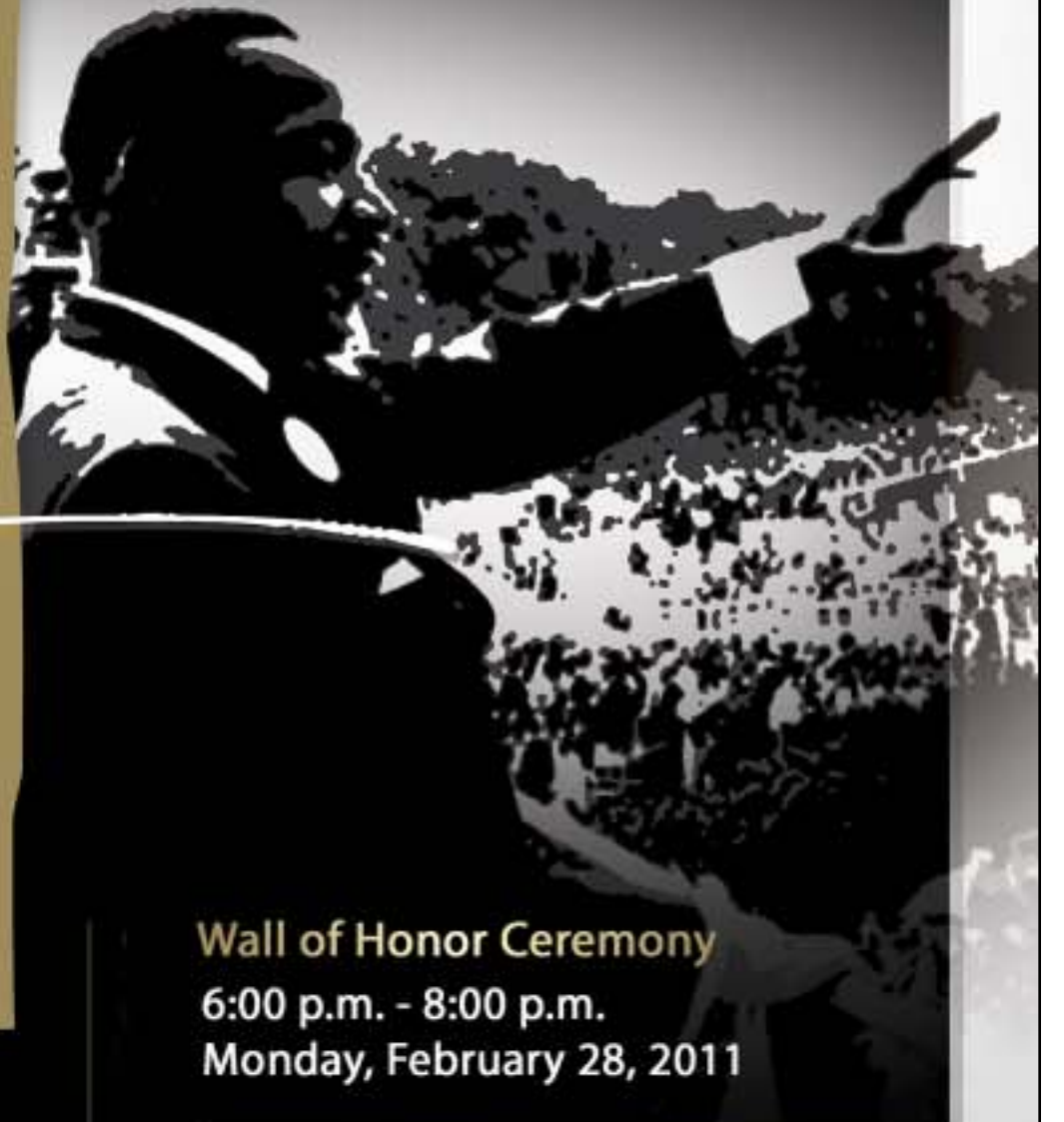
2011

Wall of Honor

Pamela Freeman Fobbs

Dr. Emory Luck

Darlene Roach



Wall of Honor Ceremony
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Monday, February 28, 2011

African American
Historical and Cultural Museum
1857 Fulton Street
Fresno, California

HISTORY OF WALL OF HONOR

The Wall of Honor was established at the African American Historical and Cultural Museum in 1996. The Wall of Honor is sponsored by State Center Community College District and recognizes the contributions of outstanding African Americans.

Those inducted onto the Wall of Honor must have either attended or worked for State Center Community College District at one of its colleges, centers or district office. The district includes Fresno City College, Reedley College, Madera, Oakhurst and Willow International Centers.

- ◆ Special Tribute To: Ray Johnson
- ◆ Special Wall of Honor Video Presentation
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The Black Experience

A Collective View of the Valley's African American

Culture, History & Achievements



Thomas Jones Goodwin

(Born July 27, 1968 in Fresno, California) is a former Major League Baseball player. He attended Central High School in Fresno, and then went on to play for Fresno State University. He is currently a coach with the Lowell Spinners.

In 1986, the Pittsburgh Pirates drafted Goodwin, who was an outfielder, in the 6th round (134th overall). He opted not to sign. In 1988, he was a member of the gold winning United States baseball team at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul. Because of this, he decided to wait until 1989 to sign with a team, which is when he decided to sign with the Los Angeles Dodgers, after being drafted in the 1st round (22nd overall).

At 6'1", Goodwin was only 175 pounds, which gave him an advantage over his heavier teammates. He developed a forte in base stealing. He ended up spending only three seasons in the minors (all of which he stole over 45 bases) before making his Major League debut on September 1, 1991, at the age of 23.

Some of his major league career highlights include the 369 bases he stole over 14 years in the Major Leagues with the Dodgers, Kansas City Royals, Texas Rangers, Colorado Rockies, San Francisco Giants and Chicago Cubs, a career high 66 stolen bases with the Diamondbacks in 1996, and a .290 batting average with the Rangers in 1998. Tom had a pretty impressive year when it came to home runs in 2000-not because he hit so many, but because of what kind of home runs they were. One of his six home runs occurred on April 5-it was an inside-the-parker against the Braves. On April 30 against the Mets, he hit a grand slam, and on July 17 against the Athletics, he hit another grand slam.

Elbert L. "Ickey" Woods

(Born February 28, 1966 in Fresno, California) is a former American football fullback who played his entire NFL career (1988 to 1991) with the Cincinnati Bengals. He played college football at UNLV. He is best remembered for his lumbering "Ickey Shuffle" end zone dance, performed when he scored touchdowns.

Woods rushed for 1,066 yards and 15 touchdowns in his rookie season, along with 228 yards and 3 touchdowns in the playoffs as the Bengals advanced to Super Bowl XXIII. His team lost the game 20-16, but he finished as the game's leading rusher with 79 yards. In 1989, Woods tore his left anterior cruciate ligament in the second game of the season, a 41-10 victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers. He missed 13 months. By the time he returned, his starting role was filled by Harold Green.

In 1991, Woods injured his right knee in the preseason. He returned at midseason but he ran for just 97 yards on 36 carries. He was out of football by age 26. His career statistics include 332 carries for 1,525 yards and 27 touchdowns, along with 47 receptions for 397 yards.

Woods is currently the coach of the Cincinnati Sizzle of the Women's Football Alliance and runs the Ickey Woods Youth Foundation. He also appeared in the Bootsy Collins's new music video Whodey Invasion.

Bruce Bowen Jr.

(Born June 14, 1971) is a retired American professional basketball player. The 6'7", 200-lb. Bowen played small forward and graduated from Edison High School and Cal State Fullerton. He went on to play for the NBA's Miami Heat, the Boston Celtics, the Philadelphia 76ers, the San Antonio Spurs and the CBA's Rockford Lightning, and also played abroad in France.

One of the most feared perimeter "lock-down" defenders in NBA history, Bowen was elected eight times to the NBA All-Defensive First and Second Teams, and was a member of the Spurs teams that won the NBA championships in 2003, 2005 and 2007. Off the court, Bowen became an informal ambassador for child obesity awareness.

Career Highlights and Awards

- 3 NBA Champion (2003, 2005, 2007)
- 5 NBA All-Defensive First Team (2004-2008)
- 3 NBA All-Defensive Second Team (2001-2003)

Lorenzo LaVonne Neal

(Born December 27, 1970 in Hanford, California) is an American football fullback who played in the NFL from 1993-2009. He was drafted by the New Orleans Saints in the fourth round of the 1993 NFL Draft. He finished college football at Fresno State.

A four-time Pro Bowl selection and three-time All-Pro selection, Neal has also been a member of the New York Jets, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Tennessee Titans, Cincinnati Bengals, San Diego Chargers, Baltimore Ravens and Oakland Raiders.

Considered one of the best blocking full-

backs in NFL history. Neal blocked for a 1,000+ yard running back in eleven straight seasons from 1997-2007.

Neal attended Lemoore High School in Lemoore, California and was a letterman in football and wrestling. He set many rushing records with over 2,000 yards in rushing in a season, which would later be broken by Nick Sula. In wrestling, he won a state championship as a senior.

Neal attended Fresno State University from 1989-1992 where he finished his college career with 2,405 yards rushing. He was an All-Big West selection his junior and senior seasons. He also placed seventh at the 1992 NCAA wrestling tournament in the 275 lb heavyweight class. Neal finished his career as school's second-leading rusher with 2,405 yards and played in the Japan Bowl All-Star Game. He defeated a sumo wrestler in an exhibition match in Japan during the Japan Bowl. He graduated with a degree in criminal justice.

Richard "Ricky" Manning, Jr.

(Born November 18, 1980 in Fresno, California) is an American football cornerback for the Florida Tuskers of the United Football League. He was drafted by the Carolina Panthers in the third round of the 2003 NFL Draft. He played college football at UCLA.

Manning has also been a member of the Chicago Bears, St. Louis Rams and Oakland Raiders.

Manning played high school football at Edison High School in Fresno.

Manning started 45 consecutive games for UCLA, which ranks as the second longest streak in school history. His 13 interceptions tie him for seventh all-time among Bruin players. In addition, he made first-team All-Pac-10 for his last three years.

Henry Austin Ellard

(Born July 21, 1961) is a former American football wide receiver who played for the Los Angeles Rams (1983-1993), Washington Redskins (1994-1998), and the New England Patriots (1998). Ellard qualified for Olympic trials in 1992 with his 54.1 foot triple jump.

Ellard attended Hoover High School in Fresno, California. He won the CIF California State Championships in the Triple Jump in 1979. For college, Ellard went across town to Fresno State University from 1979-82 where he set an NCAA record with 1,510 receiving yards in his final season. Ellard still holds the Fresno State record for touchdown catches, (25), and is third in receiving yards (2,947) and fourth in receptions (138).

Ellard was drafted in the second round (32nd overall) of the 1983 NFL Draft by the Los Angeles Rams. In the NFL, Ellard was known for using his height and jumping ability to get to high passes, his leadership, and his superior skills as a route runner. Respected commentators like Deion Sanders, and John Madden have stated he is one of the best ever. In his eleven seasons with Los Angeles he went to three Pro Bowls. At the time of his retirement, Ellard held the Rams' team records for career receptions (593), receiving yards (9,761), 100-yard games (26), punt return average (11.3), and total offense (11,663).

Upon joining the Redskins, Ellard set off on a blistering pace for the 1994 season, ending it with 1,397 yards, 102 behind league-leader Jerry Rice. He had three consecutive 1,000 yard seasons, giving him seven for his career (his 799 yards in the strike-shortened 1987 season was on pace for an eighth). His final 1,000 yard season came in 1996 and required a 155-yard performance against the Dallas Cowboys second-ranked defense to push him to 1,014 yards for the season.

As his production declined, Ellard became expendable, and found himself as a member of the Patriots in 1998. He retired after the season with 814 receptions for 13,777 yards, which placed him third on the all-time list, and 65 touchdowns. He also gained 1,527 yards returning punts, 364 yard returning kickoffs, 50 rushing yards, and 4 punts returned for a touchdown. Overall, he gained 15,718 total yards.

Tim McDonald

(Born January 6, 1965 in Fresno, California) is a former professional American football player who played strong safety in the NFL.

McDonald played high school football at Edison High School in Fresno.

Named prep All-American, All-California, All-Northern California, all-metro and league MVP at both safety and QB at Edison High School ... Completed 56.9 percent of his passes for 2,739 yards and 30 TDs ... Rushed for 400 yards and six TDs ... Credited with five INTs and 123 tackles on defense.

He attended the University of Southern California (USC), and majored in business

Randel ("Randy") Luvelle Williams

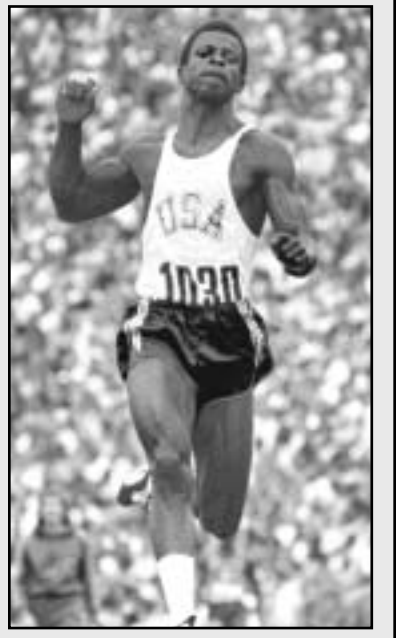
(Born 23 August 1953 in Fresno, California) was an American athlete who mainly competed in the men's long jump event.

He competed for the United States at the 1972 Summer Olympics held in Munich, Germany where he won the Gold Medal in the long jump. Williams also competed for the

United States in the 1976 Summer Olympics held in Montreal, Canada in the long jump where he won the silver medal.

Williams attended the University of Southern California.

In 2009, Randy Williams was inducted into the National Track and Field Hall of Fame.



administration at what is now the Marshall School of Business. As a three year starter, he accumulated 325 tackles and 11 interceptions. He was a consensus All-American as a senior in 1986, and followed a prominent list of All-American safeties who attended USC.

He was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals in the second round (34th pick overall) of the 1987 NFL Draft. He signed as a free agent by the San Francisco 49ers on April 7, 1993 where he helped the 49ers win the Super Bowl XXIX, and retired after the 1999 season. McDonald was voted to the Pro Bowl six times in his career, three times with each team.

McDonald coached youth football leading the Malloch Elementary football team to two undefeated seasons from 2001-2003. He is currently the football coach for his alma mater Edison High School in Fresno, where he coached his son, Timothy McDonald, Jr. As of early 2010, McDonald will no longer be coaching at Edison High.

McDonald and wife Alycia have two sons, Timothy, Jr. (TJ) and Tevin, and one daughter Taryn. TJ is a safety at his father's alma mater, USC, and Tevin recently signed a letter of intent to play with crosstown rival, UCLA.

Farrah Destiny Franklin

(Born on May 3, 1981 in Fresno, California to an Italian father and an African American mother) is an American singer, actress, songwriter, model and former member of Destiny's Child. Franklin was born in Fresno, raised in Fresno and Los Angeles. Growing up, she performed in various church choirs and in off Broadway musicals. In addition to performing, Franklin regularly mentored under privileged girls at Penny Lane, one of the world's largest group homes in Los Angeles, in her spare time - something that she reportedly continues to do to this day.

Sam Solomon aka Boogaloo Sam:

In 1976, Sam Solomon of Fresno, California, better known as Boogaloo Sam, started a dance troupe called The Electric Boogaloes. The Boogaloes specialized in a series of movements that Sam himself had perfected. Inspired by another west coast group called The Lockers, Sam used the movements of Chubby Checker, James Brown, and cartoons to create a whimsical and impressive style of dance. His style was ultimately comprised of two parts: Boogaloo, which combines sharp angles with fluid movements and isolations, and popping. These two kinds of dance make up electric boogaloo. Though many argue that popping and robotting was already being done on the streets in the Bay Area in the 1960's, most agree that it was Sam and the Boogaloes who perfected and popularized these dances. In fact, it was Sam's repetition of the word 'pop' when he flexed in a dance that ultimately lead to the term 'popping'.

Sometimes, all of the funk styles of the 70's are collectively referred to as 'popping'. Technically, this is incorrect. Popping is the specific dance in which the body is made to pop, or 'hit', on certain movements. However, popping is often mixed with other street and funk styles to add variation and interest to a performance or battle. When popping is done with locking, waving, floating, or another funk style, it's more accurately called pop-locking.

In addition to Boogaloo Sam, many poppers have gained fame in the dance world. These include "Boppin" Andre Diamond, Michael "Boogaloo Shrimp" Chambers, Stefan "Mr. Wiggles" Clemente, Nam "Poppin" Hyon Joon, and David "Elsewhere" Bernal. These dancers continue to make appearances, dance before audiences, and judge competitions. Popping continues to flourish on the battle scene, usually sponsored by local dance clubs or professional poppers. Battles are where popping is not only practiced, but revolutionized by new dancers who put their own spin on traditional popping techniques. Dances like the robot or moonwalk, which are now universally famous, began in popping competitions. Separate from locking and

breakdancing, popping is a unique funk style that continues to wow audiences and inspire dancers' creativity.

Golden Ameda Brooks

(Born December 1, 1970 in San Francisco, California) is an American actress. She is best known for her nine year role as Maya Wilkes on the UPN/CW comedy Girlfriends.

As a child she was a figure skating competitor and won several trophies when she was younger. Brooks is also a classically trained dancer: she studied and taught ballet, jazz, and modern dance.

Brooks studied literature and sociology, and is a graduate of UC-Berkeley. Her concentration was Media Representation of Minorities; her minor was Theater. She earned a Masters degree from Sarah Lawrence College. With her boyfriend D.B. Woodside, she has a daughter, Dakota Tao Brooks-Woodside, born on September 1, 2009

Brooks has been featured in many films and television shows, and has appeared alongside actors such as Queen Latifah (Beauty Shop), Alicia Silverstone and Kevin Bacon. She appeared on an episode of Pete and Pete; "Crisis in the Love Zone," playing big Pete's love interest Heather. She was also featured in the movie Motives co-starring with Shemar Moore. She was featured in the 50 Cent music video for "Straight to the Bank." On television, she was in a 2000 episode of The Jamie Foxx Show, as a girl named Nancy who Jamie confuses with Fancy. In 2001 she was on an episode of Moesha, portraying her Girlfriends character Maya.

Brooks is best known for her character Maya Wilkes (Joan's former sharp-tongued secretary and now acclaimed author) on the CW sitcom, Girlfriends, which she was on from 2000-2008.

She currently has several projects in post-production, including the 2009 films Polish Bar and My Place in the Horror.

Brooks volunteers with the Pediatric AIDS Foundation and AIDS Project Los Angeles. She is active with actors such as Danny Glover in the Robey Theater Company.

MacArthur 'Mac' Foster

(June 27, 1942 - July 19, 2010) was an American heavyweight boxer. The son of Mississippi sharecroppers, Foster was a 6' 2" Vietnam War veteran. Born in Alexandria, Virginia, he grew up in Fresno, California, the third of eleven children. His father was a nurse. Foster picked grapes and cotton as a youth. Fresno State University offered Foster a track and field scholarship out of Washington High School, but he volunteered for the United States Marines instead. In the service, Foster won fourteen amateur boxing titles. After a military discharge, Foster turned pro, becoming the third Fresno boxer of note (Young Corbett III was a world welterweight champion and Wayne Thornton rose through the rankings to become a number one light heavyweight contender). Foster trained with Pat DiFuria at the Merced Street Gym. Known as Big Mac "The Knife" from Fresno, Foster made his professional debut in 1966, winning his first 24 fights by knockout, and was named Ring Magazine progress of the year for 1969. Whilst serving as a sparring partner for Sonny Liston, Foster reportedly knocked out the former world champion. By 1970, he was ranked as the world's number one heavyweight contender and seemed destined for a title shot, but his 24-0 winning streak would come to an end when he was stopped in six rounds by Jerry Quarry in June 1970. After the Quarry fight, Foster knocked out Zora Folley in one round, and lost decisions to Muhammad Ali in 1972, Bob Stallings, Joe Bugner and Henry Clark a year later. He served as George Foreman's sparring partner for Foreman's bout with Ken Norton in 1974. He retired from boxing in 1976 after losing his fourth consecutive decision to Stan Ward. Foster's final record was 30-6, with all 30 of his wins coming by knockout. After retiring, Foster volunteered his time as boxing coach for youth. Foster died of congestive heart failure on Monday, July 19, 2010. He was 68.



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A QUICK LOOK AT :

FAMOUS AFRICAN AMERICANS FROM FRESNO

Audra Ann McDonald

(Born July 3, 1970) is an American actress and singer. She currently stars in the ABC television drama *Private Practice* as Dr. Naomi Bennett. She has appeared on the stage in both musicals and dramas, such as *Ragtime* (musical) and *A Raisin in the Sun*. She maintains an active concert and recording career, performing song cycles and operas as well as performing in concert throughout the US. She has won the Tony Award four times and Grammy Award twice.

Born in Berlin, Germany and raised in Fresno, California, the elder of two daughters, she began to study acting at a young age to counteract her diagnosis as "hyperactive". McDonald graduated from the Roosevelt School of the Arts program within Theodore Roosevelt High School in Fresno. She got her start in acting with Dan Pessano and Good Company Players, beginning in their Junior Company. "I knew I wanted to be involved in theater when I had my first chance to perform with the Good Company Players Junior Company," she said. "The people who have had the most impact on my life: Good Company director Dan Pessano and my mother." She studied classical voice as an undergraduate under Ellen Faull at the Juilliard School, graduating in 1993.

McDonald became a three-time Tony Award winner by the age of 28 – for her performances in *Carousel*, *Master Class*, and *Ragtime* – placing her alongside Shirley Booth, Gwen Verdon and Zero Mostel by accomplishing this feat within five years. She was nominated for another Tony Award for her performance in *Marie Christine* before she won her fourth in 2004 for her role in *A Raisin in the Sun*, placing her in the company of other four-time winning actresses Gwen Verdon and Mary Martin. She reprised her *Raisin* role for a 2008 television adaptation, earning her a second Emmy Award nomination.

McDonald appeared as Lizzie in the Roundabout Theatre Company's revival of *110 in the Shade*, directed by Lonny Price at Studio 54, for which she shared the Drama Desk Award for Best Actress in a Musical with Donna Murphy. On April 29, 2007, while she was in previews for the show, her father was killed when an aircraft he was flying crashed north of Sacramento.

Throughout her career, McDonald has

maintained ties to her classical training and repertoire. She frequently performs in concert throughout the US and has performed with musical institutions such as the New York Philharmonic and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Carnegie Hall commissioned the song cycle *The Seven Deadly Sins: A Song Cycle* for McDonald, and she performed it at Carnegie's Zankel Hall on June 2, 2004. She sang two solo one-act operas at the Houston Grand Opera in March 2006: Francis Poulenc's *La Voix Humaine* and the world premiere of Michael John LaChiusa's *Send (who are you? I love you)*. On February 10, 2007, McDonald starred with Patti LuPone in the Los Angeles Opera production of Kurt Weill's opera *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* directed by John Doyle. The recording of the Los Angeles Opera production of Kurt Weill's opera *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*, featuring McDonald and Patti LuPone, won two Grammy Awards, for Best Opera Recording and Best Classical Album in February 2009.

In September 2008, American musical theatre composer Michael John LaChiusa was quoted in *Opera News Online*, as working on an adaptation of Bizet's opera *Carmen* with McDonald in mind.

McDonald has also made many television appearances, both musical and dramatic. In 2001, she received her first Emmy Award nomination for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Miniseries or TV Movie for the HBO film *Wit* starring Emma Thompson and directed by Mike Nichols. She also has appeared on *Homicide: Life on the Street* (1999), *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit* (2000), *Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years* (1999), the short-lived *Mister Sterling* (2003), *The Bedford Diaries* (2006), and *Kidnapped* (2006–2007), and in the 1999 television remake of *Annie* as Daddy Warbucks' secretary & soon-to-be wife, Miss Farrell. She sang with the New York Philharmonic in the annual New Year's Eve gala concert on December 31, 2006, featuring music from the movies; it was televised on Live from Lincoln Center by PBS.

McDonald appears as Naomi Bennett, ex-wife of Sam, portrayed by Taye Diggs, in the television drama *Private Practice*, a spinoff of *Grey's Anatomy*. She replaced Merrin Dungey, who played the role in the series pilot.

In films, McDonald has appeared in *Best*

Thief in the World (2004), *It Runs in the Family* (2003), *Cradle Will Rock* (1999), *The Object of My Affection* (1998), and *Seven Servants* by Daryush Shokof which was her film acting debut in (1996).

McDonald has recorded four solo albums for Nonesuch Records. Her first, the 1998 *Way Back to Paradise*, featured songs written by a new generation of musical theatre composers who had achieved varying degrees of prominence in the 1990s, particularly Michael John LaChiusa, Adam Guettel and Jason Robert Brown. Her next album, *How Glory Goes* (2000) combined both old and new works, and included composers Harold Arlen, Leonard Bernstein and Jerome Kern. Her next album *Happy Songs* (2002) was big band music from the '20s, '30s and '40s. Her fourth album, *Build a Bridge* (2006), features songs from the jazz/pop canon, from composers as diverse as Adam Guettel (who wrote the title song), Laura Nyro, Elvis Costello, Nellie McKay, Neil Young, Rufus Wainwright, John Mayer and Randy Newman.

Selected Awards

- 1994: Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in a Musical – *Carousel*
- 1994: Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Featured Actress in a Musical – *Carousel*
- 1994: Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Actress in a Musical – *Carousel*
- 1996: Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in a Play – *Master Class*
- 1998: Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in a Musical – *Ragtime*
- 2004: Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in a Play – *A Raisin in the Sun*
- 2004: Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Featured Actress in a Play – *A Raisin in the Sun*
- 2004: Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Featured Actress in a Play – *A Raisin in the Sun*



Raisin in the Sun

- 2007: Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Actress in a Musical – *110 in the Shade* - tied with Donna Murphy
- 2009: Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording and Grammy Award for Best Classical Album - Kurt Weill: *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*

Nominations

- 2001: NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Variety - Series or Special – Audra McDonald in Concert
- 2001: Primetime Emmy Award: Outstanding Supporting Actress In a Miniseries or a Movie for *Wit* (HBO)
- 2004: Drama League – *A Raisin in the Sun*
- 2007: Tony Award for Best Actress in a Musical – *110 in the Shade*
- 2008: Primetime Emmy Award: Outstanding Supporting Actress In a Miniseries or a Movie for *A Raisin in the Sun*
- 2009: Image Awards: Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series for *Private Practice*.

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Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>Mendinghall Better Living Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony 8:30 am</p> <p>Conference Workshops 9:30am - 12:30pm</p> <p>Lunch 12:30pm - 1:30pm</p> <p>1:30- 2:00 Financial Literacy Presentation</p> <p>2:00 - 3:00 From Africa to President Obama</p> <p>Lifetime Educators Award Kehinde Solwazi</p> <p>3:00 - 6:00pm Talent Show</p>	<p>Church Service & Music Concert 10am - 3pm</p> <p>3 on 3 Boys & Girls Basketball tournament 5:pm - 9pm</p> <p>SPECIAL GUESTS: Fresno Police Chief Jerry Dyer Council Member Oliver Baines Fresno Housing Authority Allysunn Williams-Walker</p>	<p>3 on 3 Boys & Girls Basketball tournament 2:00 pm - until</p> <p>The California ADVOCATE</p> <p>FRESNO WESTSIDE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH</p> <p>FRESNO STATE</p> <p>Mendinghall Better Living Center 2750 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd on the campus of Fresno Westside Seventh Day Adventist Church</p> <p>contact: Paul Copeland (559) 681-9005</p>



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CALIFORNIA ADVOCATE INTERVIEWS HISTORICAL BLACK FRESNO RESIDENTS: DORYTHEA COOLEY WILLIAMS

The Advocate: Was the purpose of having an African American mortuary because “we” Blacks weren’t allowed to be buried in a White cemetery?

Dorythea: First and foremost, let me thank the Kimber Family for this opportunity to share my experiences. The answer to your first question is “No”. Blacks could be funeralized. Most of the Blacks were funeralized by Steven and Beans at the end of ‘H’ Street. It was one of the oldest mortuaries in Fresno. My dad’s oldest brother’s wife worked for Steven and Beans mortuary. The reason why my dad made a mortuary here is because he had one in Mississippi, during the Depression. When the Depression set in, he came to Fresno because his dad’s sister lived here. The house is still in existence on ‘C’ Street at Amador, across from Fink White playground, and it is still there. So they came here during the depression to visit his aunt and found out that this is the land of opportunity. So, he went back and got his wife and myself (I was three months old) and brought us to Fresno and we lived in that house so that he could amass enough money through painting. He painted houses to make money, and then bought this house that had a building attached to it. It was called the Valley Funeral Home. It was not called J. Cooley Funeral Home until my brother bought it in 1957. He had the money to buy it because of two things. Number one is because he had been playing music in Sacramento. He had played with a number of bands and had even been overseas. He and Viola moved to Vallejo. In the daytime, he was a funeral owner of the Cooley Viola Mortuary in 1953. My brother played music at night, and during the day he was a mortician. Andrew, a.k.a. “Andy” was an embalmer, so in 57’ my brother purchased my dad’s business and moved to Fresno. I don’t know if he sold it to Andy, or if he had interest in it. He came and took over this business. His incoming was so great until the moves that he made with Bakersfield and with Stockton were my brother’s, but in his heart he was a musician, a drummer.

That was old Fresno, and at that time, it was a village. I call it a village because ‘G’ Street, Kearney Boulevard and Fresno Street is where most of the Blacks in Fresno were. In that community, we had two Black grocery stores when I was a little girl. One was Mr. Howard’s, on the corner of San Joaquin and ‘F’ Street, and the other was Mr. Thompson’s, which was on ‘E’ Street. Mr. Thompson also cut hair. You could always tell people who had gotten their hair cut by Mr. Thompson, because after the hair cut it looked like you could put a bowl on it.

Within that 1 to 2 mile area, is where most Blacks lived. We had a Black jeweler, which was Judge Simpson’s grandfather. had a woodsman who collected wood. We had two garbage dealers, one was Mr. Graham, who is the grandfather of Robert Green, and his sister who ran the education place here in Fresno. The other one lived right next door to the Legion. We had six churches: Second Baptist Church, West Fresno Baptist (on ‘F’ between Calaveras and San Joaquin) Carter Memorial (on San Joaquin and ‘E’ St.), The Church of God in Christ (on Amador between ‘F’ and ‘E’ Streets), and Sister Dugod, who was a woman preacher. She had a huge wooden building, so her place had to be very old. There was also Mount Pleasant Baptist (on ‘D’ Street and Triumph) and The Church and Kingdom of God in Christ. The only other one I’ve seen is in Mississippi. I say that, because my aunt was a founder of that church on the corner of ‘C’ and Amador, and the house is still there. They came to California in 1912 and 1919, as well as Ms. Barnes, she came from Mississippi

around the same time. Jessie McDonald’s father owned some clubs out on Church, not too far from where the meat market is on Fruit and Church. We had one filling station on the corner of Calaveras and ‘F’ Street. We had a soda fountain owned by the Reverend out on Calaveras and ‘F’ Street. In 1945, we had Jefferson’s Drive In, the only Black drive-in that we’ve had, and the sister of Dorothy Berry owned it. In fact, it was right in the front of the old Mount Pleasant on ‘D’ Street, right on the corner. In 1939, Jesse Cooley Sr. opened the first Hispanic mortuary and in 1968 he opened the Rosary.

There was also the Louie Key Market. I went to school with the Keys. It used to be where Columbia was, when it was on ‘C’ Street. Louie Key Market had that area right across the street from them. The second mortuary in Fresno was either Sterling or Mathew D. Thomas. Later, we had Baines Mortuary, which was off of Church Street, right next to the fire station. So there was a time when we had four mortuaries here.

My father really took advantage of the community because he started the first Black newspaper. When he bought this building, where he later turned it into a chapel, it had a huge printer. The Newspaper was called The Forum, and in it was not so much gossip, but it was about political information, because my parents were dead-willed Republicans. My dad and a man called Claude Wilson would go out and get people, put them in their cars and take them to the poles.

The Advocate: So would they use the publication to politically endorse candidates?

Dorythea: Yes. It helped them move Black history. My mother and father taught here under Ms. Ludakey, when she was over the adult education program for Fresno. They taught adult education at Columbia in the evenings, once a month. The newspaper did not have any pictures in it. Then there was another newspaper after my dad’s, by a man named Jackman. This was an official paper that people actually bought. My father gave his out.

The Advocate: At that time Fresno only had a white-owned media, am I correct?

Dorythea: Well, all of it was just about White. You didn’t get very much in there. They did do athletics. I have a picture of my brother running in the 880. We had the Jackson boys, who were super runners. Albert Jackson and Vernon Jackson. We had great athletes and musicians. Those two were the only things that we were permitted to excel in. There was a family of Morris’s, half of them were called Williams, because one of the Morris sisters was married to the Williams. That family has historically been known to have Jazz. My dad had a little quartet that use to make money singing at social events. One time they went to a place in Reedley, where a woman did not want to pay them and Fred Atwater, Feliz Ray, his bother and my dad found out this White woman didn’t want to pay them. So when they sang their last song, they started singing “ We’ll be glad when your dead, you rascal you...” and they turned and looked dead at her, and she started crying. So eventually she paid them, because it was very clear that they were talking about her. From the Williams family, there was Jean Morris. This is not the same as Charles Morris because Charles Morris was the only musician in his family, and he is still alive at 88 years old. He started out with Jazz. We had a principle, Ann Wicks, who was a good jazz singer. The most famous one that we had in terms of a musician was Halyard Patterson. He was a child protégé with classical music. He went off with people who went around and got children to play. So he went back East to New York and

he had national fame. Jessie McDonald’s niece also had national fame. Every Christmas, Earl Myers packs the Seventh Day Adventist Church full of all races, standing room only, and he has a beautiful voice. He’s not nationally known, but he’s locally known.

The Advocate: What do you remember about issues regarding Civil Rights?

Dorythea: I was gone during a good part of that period, but you could not live in Clovis if you were ‘brown’, during that time. You could pass by, but you could not live in Clovis. Up in the mountains, we do have remnants of the KKK. My brother was attacked during the 70’s, when he was at his friend’s bar. The friend’s son wrote a book about it. This group of so-called KKK didn’t call themselves the KKK, but they were picking on Blacks. They were picking on one Black man that my brother had passed by, and he didn’t know what was going on. He walked into the bar. We never knew what happened to that Black man, but when they came back in, they started on my brother and he didn’t say anything to them. They got in his face and he punched one of them, and so they attacked him. I wasn’t here, I was living in L.A. and was at a Jazz festival. When I got home, it was my folks telling me what had happened. So I left the next morning.

It’s very strange, but about 5 years later, I was paying my property taxes and I saw this old T-model Ford, and I admired it. When I came back, there were people getting in to it. So before I could say anything to him about how nice the car was, one man walked up to me and says “Do you know J. Cooley?”, and I said “ Well, everybody knows him.” Then he says, “ I want to know if you know him.” I said “Oh yeah, I know him.” He said “Well I want you to tell him that I am sorry.” I said “You’re sorry? Does he know for what?”, and he said “He should, I was one of the men who attacked him.” Tears started coming down from this man’s face. He said “I’m just so sorry, I haven’t had anything but bad luck since then.” I said “But you weren’t the only one, there were others.” He said “They’re all dead!” That’s why the Lord says “Vengeance is mine”, and in this case, I know it. They hit him in the head with a metal stool. He was in the hospital for at least a couple of weeks.

The Advocate: Do you know of any lynchings?

Dorythea: Nine times out of ten, there were. Somebody threw a Black man in Roeding Park into the Polar Bear exhibit at the Fresno Zoo. The only thing that was left were his fingers, because the bear ate everything. This was in the 50’s or early 60’s. There use to be a Black park attendant that lived on the premises that fed the animals in the morning. He and his wife remember seeing a car and he is the one who disclosed what he found.

The Advocate: There had to be big cases that aren’t being disclosed, right?

Dorythea: I called your dad (Les Kimber), when I was driving around on one Sunday afternoon, and I was blocked on Blackstone. We couldn’t get through. In Ratcliff stadium, there were hooded men. I got out of my car, found a phone and I called your dad. Your dad, at the time, was working with Star. I told him about the KKK meeting. There were hundreds of them in Ratcliff stadium. This is what I saw with my own eyes in the mid 1970’s. We researched and found that the City College’s Ulysses Park, the baseball stadium, was a place where they use to meet. This was Ratcliff, which was probably owned by City College at that time, too. When I saw the KKK there, I was afraid. They were standing on Blackstone with their hoods. They weren’t hiding behind anything. They were standing in the front of the gate, to where you would have to pass by them to get in. That I saw.

The Advocate: What were some of the different businesses that were servicing our community?

Dorythea: The first ‘official’ Black female beauty shop was by Ms. Ruth Williams, whose mother was Sister Dugod, the woman preacher. She trained people who had gone to Henrietta’s Beauty School in Los Angeles. People like Faye Rhim left here and went to Henrietta’s Beauty School, came back and worked with Ruth Williams. The Jazz Center was the Elk’s Club on the corner of ‘F’ Street, a social place where people went at night. The Elk’s Club was before the Legion was built. In China Town, there was a Black barber shop. The first physician was Henry Wallace, who was the son-in-law to one of the oldest families in Fresno, which is the Hannibal Family. Marcus Pharmacy came in the 50’s, and so did Mr. Whisenhunt. The first Black Dentist was Orvis, and then came Furlow. Joel Dixon was one of our two native people, who were Tuskegee Airmen. Joe Dixon got to be a Sheriff. Our first Black policeman was John Long. I think he was before Kelly. Long was from Virginia and you have those Virginians who look white, because those presidents were sleeping with Black women. We had a Black mechanic who owned a business on ‘F’ and San Joaquin, who was named Buddy Lane. When I told you we had someone who had a wood business, that was Mr. Lacy of ‘F’ and Calaveras.

The Advocate: Overall, compared to the country, with you being in Fresno and being an entrepreneur giving back to the community, what would you say your experience can be summed up as?

Dorythea: It was a village where the children were reared by all of the adults in the community. Everybody wanted to see children progress. Even the mothers whose lives were questionable, wanted to see their children progress. We’ve had very smart kids come out of this community.

The unfortunate thing about it is that 90 percent of them had to leave Fresno, in order to get a decent job, and that’s unfortunate. Fresno really could have prospered from the likes



The original J.E. Cooley, Jr. funeral home on 1703 ‘E’ St., Fresno, CA.



The original J.E. Cooley, Jr. Mortuary on 640 North California Ave., Stockton, CA.



The current location at 1830 South Fruit Avenue in Fresno, California.

of a Jesse Perry. He became the head of the National Teachers of English Association for the whole country. Those of us who managed to make it, made it on the shoulders and from the chastisement and love of the people of the community. You had as many mothers as you knew, and some you didn’t know. As many fathers as you knew, and some you didn’t know.

There are some African Americans that have not experienced anything other than Fresno. Fresno African Americans are survivors, and you had to be, because there was no one else that did a lot of encouragement, other than the Black parents. So they have been survivors, those who have made it, and we have to give them credit. It’s not easy growing up feeling that there’s a glass ceiling. We use that term with respect to women, but it can also be used for the Black male in Fresno. You can ‘hob nob’ with people and call them by their first name, but they won’t do anything for you.

I look at the number of Africans that they will hire, before they hire African Americans. They have a very negative attitude about Fresno Blacks, the average White person does, and that’s why whenever I’m asked what school I’m from, I say Edison. I am an Edison Graduate. Newsweek: In 05’ Edison was the highest ranking school in California and one of 7 in the nation.

Cooley Timeline

1939: J. E. Cooley Sr. opened Valley Funeral Home at 1703 “E” Street, Fresno, and it was the first Afro American funeral home for the San Joaquin Valley. Mr. Cooley opened the first Mexican American mortuary in the San Joaquin Valley and named it the “Rosary,” which was staffed by an hispanic manager named Robert Sanchez, who opened his own business after “D” Street was removed by the new 99 highway and Mr. Cooley was forced to close.

1953: Mr. Cooley, Jr. and Mr. Andrew Riolo opened Cooley Riolo Mortuary on Virginia Street in Vallejo, California.

1957: Mr. Cooley, Jr. purchased the Valley Funeral Home and renamed it Jesse E. Cooley, Jr. Funeral Services

1961: Mr. Cooley expanded his business to Bakersfield and opened a service on California Street under the management of Rev. Johnson, but because of the size of the facility, Cooley moved to a Frank Lloyd Wright building further east on California Street, under the management of Rev. McAllister until his death. The present manager, Mrs. Antoinett Mangrum-Jones, took over the Bakersfield facility and now manages a third relocation on Chester Avenue, just off California Avenue.

1968: Redevelopment that had taken Cooley Sr.’s Rosary Mortuary eventually required the relocation of J.E. Cooley, Jr.’s funeral service to 1830 S. Fruit. He remains at this location and has rebuilt, even after a devastating fire in 2004. In 19?????, Cooley purchased a historical site at 620 Waterman to accommodate the increase in services caused by an influx of new residents who had settled in West Fresno. God has certainly blessed this family’s business efforts and made it an example of what can be accomplished with his help and with respect for our fellow man.

1992: After several attempts to successfully open a facility in Stockton, California, Mr. Cooley sent his second son to manage that facility, which was located in the Boggs tract. The success associated with his management skills soon required the business to be relocated to 420 N. California Avenue in Stockton.

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The California Advocate Interviews

With Historical Black Fresno Residents

Addie Rodgers



Addie Rodgers: I was born in Fresno, California and attended Columbia School from first through seventh grades. I lived close to the school on 'D' Street. I then went to Edison High School and graduated there. Growing up, Whites, Chinese, Japanese, Blacks and Hispanics would all sit together, eat and play together. We were very diverse, even during those times. I will never forget the time when a White girl got expelled for saying "Nigger fun", while some kids were playing basketball. I would have students from other races come over to sit by me, just to copy my paper.

When I was 14 years old, I worked on the first Black Census, where I walked around and counted all of the Blacks that lived in Fresno, California. It was myself, Florence Jackson and Etna, who worked for the Black Census at that time. Ruth Wilson was my beautician, who worked on 'G' Street. If we wanted to eat out, then we would go up to China Town. I also used to work at a Catholic rummage store on 'Kern Street'.

I also once owned a grocery store on Kearney Boulevard, which did not have an official name, but folks called it "Addie's Place". I was the first one to work at Kearney Park with Mr. Jensen. I remember him flying me out to San Francisco for a 10 week accreditation course to become a manager. I worked there for 34 years, from 1972 until 2006. I also remember Reverend Brooks, who is the grandfather of actress Golden Brooks.

The Advocate: Do you remember any families in The Valley?

Addie Rodgers: The

Bigby's were one of the first African American families in Fresno. They lived right across the street from me. I remember Luetta Bigby, who went to school with me. Her mother was a milliner on Fulton Street. I remember, every single day Luetta and I would walk to school together.

The Advocate: What do you remember politically about Fresno?

Addie Rodgers: Our own people were so funny. They would try to crush the politicians. Like for example, Bigby was a good person, but they would try to crush him down.

The Advocate: Do you remember any businesses here in West Fresno?

Addie Rodgers: The restaurants that I can remember were my aunt's café, "Stella's Café" down on 'E' Street and El Dorado and 'G' Street, which was owned by Stella Edwards. This was during the war, so the African Americans in the military would eat there.

The Sterling Funeral Home was on 'C' Street and the Carter Memorial Church was at 'E' Street and San Joaquin Street. Mount Pleasant was on 'D' Street. I remember the Cooley's Funeral Home on 'E' Street, across the street from Frank Bruno, which was the first Black-owned grocery store.

The Advocate: What are some accomplishments that you are most proud of about yourself?

Addie Rodgers: In gym, I would be the only Colored girl that would win amongst the White kids. I was always picked on the basketball team. Obama also gave a pin and a plaque for my volunteer work through the African American Genealogy Association.

The California Advocate Interviews Historical Black Fresno Residents

Dr. Robert S. Mikell

Dr. Robert S. Mikell is a native of New Orleans, Louisiana, where he graduated from the Booker T. Washington High School. He holds an Associate of Arts degree in Business Administration from Fresno City College, a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Business Administration from California State University, Fresno, and the Doctor of Education degree from the University of Southern California. Dr. Mikell served as a member of the faculty at California State University, Fresno from 1972 until he retired in 2006, during which time he taught courses in Ethnic Studies (African American Studies) and in the School of Business (Management and Marketing). He served twelve years (1978-90) as the Chairperson of the Ethnic Studies Program. In 2007, the university bestowed on him the honor of Professor Emeritus of Africana Studies.

Before his retirement, Dr. Mikell was a full Professor of Africana Studies and served as the Director of the Africana Studies Research Center. His teaching emphasis was in the area of socio-cultural dynamics which in-

cluded courses in race relations, cultural diversity, community institutions, cultural music, as well as economic and business development. Dr. Mikell also developed a number of courses while teaching at Fresno State, including a course on multicultural marketing.

His primary research interest and consultation works are in the field of minority business development. He also has a research interest in such areas as African American reversal migration, early New Orleans Jazz, transracial interrelations, innovative teaching through distance learning, and the history of the Black town Allensworth (a published work). During his tenure at Fresno State University he received funding for several research projects that involved introducing students to research methodology. Dr. Mikell takes a great deal of pride in the fact that he has written student oriented grant proposals that received funding which were designed to enhance the well-being of all students on the university campus.

Over the years, Dr. Mikell distinguished himself through numerous community and University awards. He



Dr. Robert S. Mikell

devoted himself to serving on a variety of committees at the Department, School, and University levels. Similarly, his service extended itself into the Fresno larger community. He is a co-founder and former board member of Valley Small Business Development Corporation and an elected official (seven years) of the Educational Employees Credit Union, where he served as the Chairperson of the Supervisory Committee.

African Americans in the Central Valley

Oral History Project 2004-2005

COURTESY OF THE FRESNO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Pastor Jimmy D. Adams

Date of Interview: May 16, 2005
Interviewer: Nancy Whittle

Pastor Adams discussed growing up in the South during the Depression, the effects of Jim Crow laws and the treatment of African Americans; his arrival in Central California; and working the fields in Brawley and other California locations. He described his father opening the first African American owned auto repair shop in Fresno, development and changes in his West Fresno neighborhood over the years, and how he started his ministry.

Nadir Ali

Date of Interview: December 13, 2006
Interviewer: Nancy Whittle
Mr. Ali's family has lived in the Central Valley since 1919. His father was one of the first African American shareholders in the Danish Creamery Association. He shared memories of growing up on a farm, life in Firebaugh and Caruthers, changes in the Chinatown area in Fresno, becoming the first African American teacher at Bullard High School, principal at King Elementary and his involvement with the Nation of Islam. Mr. Ali described his various entrepreneurial ventures, including securing one of the largest government contracts in the food industry, which was documented in Fortune Magazine, and operating the Central Fish Market.

Paula St. James Davis

Date of Interview: May 6, 2005
Interviewer: Ruth Lang

Ms. Davis related her family's contributions to the community through the activities of her parents' dry cleaning business and her grandparents' Chinatown hotel. She shared her views on past and current racial discrimination in the Fresno housing market through her work experience as a comptroller.

Sudie Douglas

Date of Interview: Feb 17, 2005
Interviewer: Nancy Whittle

Ms. Douglas shared her special history in Fresno regarding her work with local teenagers and senior citizens, the start of the Meals on Wheels program, and her role in the development of the Hinton Community Center. She also told of her family background, her work experience as a welder and riveter during World War II, and her travels abroad as the ambassador to the Council of Senior Citizens.

Mack & Junious Haynes

Date of Interview: June 14, 2005
Interviewer: Nancy Whittle

Mack was the first African American bricklayer to establish his own construction business in Fresno, and he mentioned many of the buildings his company helped construct, including structures in Chinatown. Junious is the current manager of the Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Travelers, a local gospel group from Fresno who travel extensively throughout the South and California. The group recently celebrated their fiftieth year of performing. Both brothers told about their move from Mississippi to California, the local farming community where their family lived, the racism they endured, and how the local African American church impacted the social and spiritual needs of their community.

Goldie Jones

Date of Interview: June 27, 2005
Interviewer: Nancy Whittle

Ms. Jones described two families, the Whittles and Joneses, and their experiences with farming in the Central Valley. The Jones Family bought land in the Riverdale/Lanare area in 1906, and the Whittles came from Arkansas to the Chowchilla/Dairyland area in 1926. She gave an account of farming and dairy operations, labor camp conditions, social, church and school activities.

Jack Kelly

Date of Interview: 2006
Interviewer: Nancy Whittle

Mr. Kelly was the first African American Police Sergeant in Fresno. He related stories of his family background, experiences in college athletics, patrolling Chinatown as a policeman, facing discrimination in police department, and establishing Fresno's African American Museum.

Edward Mosley

Date of Interview: November 18, 2004
Interviewer: Nancy Whittle

Dr. Mosley discussed his experiences as one of the first African American physicians in Fresno, his involvement on the board of the State Center Community College District, the stories of his childhood years in the Midwest and his medical training in the South, and his first-hand account of the Montgomery bus boycott.

Edna Reid

Date of Interview: November 11, 2005
Interviewer: Aushua Mayberry

Ms. Reid shared her memories of her grandmother, Eliza Lopast, an early Fresno pioneer and one of the first members of the Second Baptist Church. Through the stories told to her by her grandmother, as well as remembering her own experiences, Ms. Reid provided insight into the lives of the first black settlers of the region, including vivid descriptions of early harvesting methods.

Charley Scott

Date of Interview: March 10, 2005
Interviewer: Nancy Whittle

Mr. Scott owned a longtime dry cleaning business in West Fresno where he interacted daily with the black community. He told stories of the West Side and customers he served during the many years his cleaners operated, as well as his military experiences during World War II.

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The Black Experience

A Collective View of the Valley's African American

Culture, History & Achievements



The California Advocate Interviews With Historical Black Fresno Residents ATTORNEY PASTOR JIM PARKS

Jim Parks: The first time I came here to Fresno was in 1962, with my parents and my five siblings. The idea was not to live here; the idea was to be migrant farmers. Back home in 1961, I spent the summertime in the fields picking cotton, which was paying .30 cents an hour. That meant, in 10 hours, you could make \$3.00. In California, you could make .25 cents an hour. In 1961, my mother worked in L.A., and in the summer she sent us money. With that money, my dad bought a Dodge and all of the kids loaded up in the Dodge. Again, the intent was not to live here.

So when we got here, my two brothers had just graduated from high school and I had just finished the 11th grade. It was a culture shock for me. I don't know how long I saw grass, just asphalt and concrete for me. The girls out here wore skirts, but out here the girls wore shorts and pants. It was a different culture. I decided to go back home to go to high school. After that, I was given a scholarship. In those days, I came from the segregated South and the school that I went to didn't have kindergarten or first through twelfth grades. Everybody was Black, including all of our teachers. Every year, there was only one White person that came to the school, and that was the superintendent, who came when I graduated from high school. I received a scholarship to an AME College. We had our own Black college, which was not a historically Black college.

I was headed out there (to college) to meet up with my grandparents. My uncle picked me up at the bus station and he missed the turn-off to my grandfather's house, we went so far passed the turnoff we almost ended up in a town called Risen. So my uncle decided to take me back to his house. The next day he didn't mention anything about meeting up with my grandmother or grandfather, and I didn't either. So, I got to stay there in town with my Uncle for a whole year, which is what I wanted to do anyway. My uncle's family opened up their home to me. They had two little girls, ages 4 and 5 years old, they were like sisters to me. So when it was time to come back to California, I jumped on the Greyhound bus.

In 1963, we arrived in Dallas and I went into the bus terminal to get a hamburger. The lady says "Sorry, I can't serve you here". I didn't see the "Whites Only" sign. She then said "You have to go outside and we will serve you through the window." Back home, I was used to where I was "supposed" to be, so it was a shock to me, because that had never happened to me before. In Arkansas, we had a place called the "Victory Café" and the White folks sat on one side, and we sat across from them, looking right at each other. On one side, there was a "White" entrance, and on the other side, there was the "Colored" entrance. We were looking at them and they were looking at us. Even though we had the same waitresses, you just couldn't sit on the same side of the room.

I came out to Fresno and chopped cotton. When it was time to go to college, my mother said that her preference was to have the family together, so I agreed to stay here. I hated it, but looking back, I destroyed my plans because He had better plans for me. It was too late to enroll in City College, so I had to take night classes. I remember taking a class called "English 50". What surprised me is that I already knew what they taught. What they were teaching is what I already learned in the 6th grade. The greater shock was that the White kids didn't know it; and people had led me to believe that they were getting a better education. When I went to school and the Whites got new books, we got their used books. I thought that we always fell behind because of that. I really did. I also thought that California was an 'advanced state', and I went to a county school in Arkansas, not the city. What surprised me is that the work was so easy.

Then I met this young lady, who at first was just a friend. I actually use to talk to her about my girl back home. We used to talk on the phone; this was before call waiting. We decided to get married when I was 19 years old. She graduated in June, and we got married in September. We didn't have a car. We lived in some studio

apartments down the alley by the fire department on 'E' Street. I would walk to work every day and she would meet me after work every day. They made me a supervisor and increased my wages from a dollar fifty to a dollar seventy-five an hour. W.T. Grant was a franchise. I remember, one day I was washing dishes and a little boy told his mom "Look mom, there's a nigger". I had lived in Arkansas for seventeen years, and not one time did I hear that. It happened to me twice in Fresno.

One time, I was delivering mail by the fairgrounds and there were a lot of people in the front yard having a picnic and their dog was barking. The dog charged me and the lady started yelling "He don't like niggers! He don't like niggers!" I heard folks say that dogs are color blind, but this dog must not have been.

We were renting from my cousin and then she decided to move back, so we moved out to the Esquires, up on Woodbridge, which were concrete blocked apartments. Then we moved down on Strother. We've lived in the projects, The California Courts. Doretha's mother was over the housing authority. When I worked for the post office I made \$2.57 an hour and that was too much income to be living there.

I was going to school at night and then dropped out, but quickly enrolled back in, because it didn't feel right. I felt that if I have the ability to go to school, I should take advantage of that. Tuition at City College was ten dollars, per semester. You could take unlimited courses for \$10. When I finished City College, I wanted to transfer from being a letter carrier, to a letter clerk. They wouldn't allow me to do that, but they did give me a part time job.

I was in Sacramento one day during that time and met Joe Lee. Dr. Joe Lee said that he was running a teaching training program. The program was where you would work in a classroom from 8-12 and they paid \$5 dollars an hour while taking classes in the evening. We were all working towards a Social Science degree to get a teaching credential. At that time, I was working two full-time jobs. I was working 40 hours a week as a letter carrier and 40 hours a week as a janitor at Fresno State. That was getting pretty old, so when Joe mentioned the programs, he said that there wasn't any openings. So I told him that when you have any openings to let me know because I am interested in teaching.

You know how people say that they are going to call you, and they don't? Well two weeks later Joe called me and said we've got an opening. Joe saved my life because 80 hours was getting old. I graduated from Fresno State. After graduating from Fresno State, we had to get accredited. Everyone was not happy about minority teachers being in the district. There was a teacher that was giving me and another student a real tough time. She didn't want an influx of minority in the district.

We were taken over to City College, where Dr. Pepper and Dr. Johnson oversaw that program, so we ended up getting our teaching credentials over there. In my last year of college, one of my teachers, Dr. Joe Closset, suggested that he and I go to law school. After working in the district as a teacher's aide for two years, I figured I couldn't continue as a teacher because they would end up firing me. So I said to myself that I needed a job where I call the shots. He said "Let's apply to Harvard Law School" and we got in. Just as we were planning to go to law school, my wife became pregnant with our third child, and that was totally unexpected.

In those days, abortion was a big question. This was now 1972. This baby was such bad timing because our son was 5 years old and our daughter was 4 years old. This new wrinkle was such an inconvenience, but we decided to go through with it, and I'm glad now that I did. San Joaquin Law School was right down the street, but people said "If you have a chance to go to school at Harvard, you have to go."

One cold November night, she was in labor and I took her to the hospital. She wanted me to go with her, so they put the mask on me and Lisa was born. She was born with her eyes wide open, but she was not breathing and the equipment to help her breath was on a different floor. So I start praying and it was like I had a choice,

does she live or not. I thought, I want the baby, and she started breathing just like that. Then the concern was that she had been without oxygen for so long, if she would have brain damage. At 13 months old, she was talking counting from one to ten, singing her alphabet from A to Z. She was brighter than I ever thought about being, and read more books than I've ever thought about reading.

When I had my first daughter, she was supposed to be born breech. Dr. Brown was the doctor and Dr. Curry was the assistant. They tried everything they could to turn the baby around. We called the pastor, and as they were taking my wife to the delivery room, the baby just flipped, all by herself. For years, Dr. Brown said that was a miracle baby.

When I left to go to law school, there was only one lawyer in town, Hugh Westly Goodwin. He went to Harvard in the 1940's. We were the only two African Americans practicing that graduated from Harvard.

I was listening to the radio and an interesting story about Hugh came on. It was about how his other brother gave up his career, so that his younger brothers could get their education. Hugh was in the military and got wounded, when he met a guy laying beside him, and they became really good friends.

When the guy became better, he wanted to go back into action, so he borrowed Hugh's uniform. Hugh told him "Now don't get it shot up!" That guy ended up being Audy Murphy. He was one of the most decorated guys in WWII and he became a movie star. They stayed in contact. Hugh was the first Black judge in Fresno County.

When he first went to court, it was called the 'bar', which was this little rail that separates the attorneys, court staff and everybody else. Hugh was going to go across the bar when the bailiff said "What are you doing? You can't come up here." Hugh responded by saying "You just watch me." One day, Hugh was in L.A. and he was watching the police harass some guy and they told him to go away and he said "I have a right to be here", and they arrested him. Then he heard one of them say "Aw man, we just arrested a lawyer." He sued them for false arrest.

The California Advocate: Do you remember some of the overall issues that we as a community have come together and worked on?

Jim Parks: The District Elections for West Fresno. When we elected Les Kimber. I think about what Joe Williams did at the EOC, and all of those programs that we did. At one time in Fresno, we had Joe Williams and Les Kimber on the City Council, Kimber was the Vice Mayor, and also we had Jim Aldredge as the city Manager. We also had Jim Hendricks at City Hall and then we had Stafford Parker, Joe Wingfield, Joe Lee and Jim Hendricks over at Parks & Recs. That was a very interesting time. A lot of good things were done for the betterment of the community. With Mary Curry, being on the school board, was a good thing. After she left the board, her involvement in education issues has been a tremendous asset in boosting this community. We are going to have a Middle School in West Fresno, primarily due to her and the people who helped her. It can't even be stressed how much she and Dr. Curry have made a difference in this community.

When I was delivering mail in the 60's, the Curry's were on my route. Dr. Smith was at 14 West Woodward, Jim Hendricks was 304 West Woodward, and the Curry's are still living there. They're still living in the hood.

The California Advocate: When you first got here to Fresno, what restaurant were you eating at?

Jim Parks: When I first came here, the Chinese restaurants were good places to eat. As far as a Soul Food restaurant, there was Triangle. Kearney Drive Inn was another place where people use to go. The thing that I remember most about Fresno is that the West Side was Black and brown. There were still a few Asians that lived in West Fresno, but Edison High School was predominantly Hispanic and Black, which very few Blacks went to other schools. The re-development expanded all the way to

'E' Street. Kearny Bowl was on Kearney, across the street from the airport. It was a car racing place and you could hear the cars roaring so loud, it was like you lived next door. Apparently, they had entertainment there too, with people like Tina Turner, James Brown and others that came through there.

I also remember the issues regarding bussing. I use to work on the board with Mrs. Curry. Carver wasn't the best alternative, but at least they had the option not to be bussed to the other side of town. Now it looks like we are getting our own middle school. (This was during the time when kids were bussed to other junior highs like Fort Miller, Wawona etc.)

The California Advocate: So you said that you played a role in the bussing. Was this a legal issue?

Jim Parks: No, we never filed anything. In today's political world, people can't get beyond the rhetoric and on to the issues. But back in the day, you could shame them, to at least make them appear that they wanted to do right. Nowadays, these guys don't have any shame. We were able to reason a lot to get them to see some issues. Now they just talk to their base and that's all they do.

The California Advocate: How far do you think that West Fresno has come?

Jim Parks: I think that the whole society has gotten worse. I remember going back to Arkansas and I layed on a picnic table and went to sleep one night. We use to walk all around West Fresno, any place we wanted to, because there was no such thing as 'gang violence' and drugs were not like they are now. Fresno was a much safer place to live in. There was no such thing as burglar bars on windows. Not only has West Fresno gotten worse, but our whole society has. I'm a pastor and I feel that people have lost touch with morality. I think one of the issues is 'relativism'; that there is no truth, if your truth is not my truth. Some of our kids are being taught that "...If I don't have any, and you have three, you ought to give me one, or I can take it, and that's okay because you still have two more".

Your moral base determines how you interpret the world. Like the woman the other day, who took her kid to soccer practice. He was talking back to her, so she shoots and kills him; he was only 13 years old. Then, she goes home and her 16 year old daughter was on the computer and she shoots her in the back of the head. She said that she shot them because 'they talk back and they are mouthy'. When I was growing up, you didn't talk back to your parents, but now kids think they have as much rights as their parents do. We do crazy stuff like women drowning her kids, and guys going into buildings killing others and then killing themselves.

Many people are saying that it's okay to have guns that shoot thirty times a round. What hunter needs a gun like that? Give the dear a chance! The problem is that you can't teach morality without there being a base for morality. So all these people that love this country so much have created a system that allows their children to destroy it.

The California Advocate: What do you think is the biggest challenge in our community?

Jim Parks: The biggest challenge is how to save our children. How to create an environment so they can learn well, be trained and be productive. We have so many young Black men who are not working. There are so many of them that have dropped out of school. There are so many of them in prison, they just don't have any hope. When I was coming up, I could look up to people like Jim Aldredge and Joe Lee and others, but who do they look up to now? It's almost like we don't have a Black community anymore, geographically. When I came to Fresno, at least 90 percent of us lived in West Fresno. I think that we have lost a sense of community. I feel that if we don't have that sense of community, then our children won't have it. I feel that our African American young men and women, especially young men, have a sense of disconnect. I remember when I was a student teaching and I took the kids to a swim party and many of those kids had never been farther North than Ashlan.



The Black Experience

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Fresno Pioneers: Some of the First Blacks to Work in these Positions

- **Floyd White**, Fireman
- **Charles Walton**, Policeman
- **John Long**, Policeman
- **James Watts**, Physician 1921-1927
- **Dr. Henry Wallace**, Physician
- **Dr. Harry Osborne**, Dentistry
- **Dr. George Furlow**, Dentistry
- **Charles Young**, High School & College All American
- **Woody Miller**, Radio Station Manager
- **John Davis**, Television Announcer
- **Alfred Boutte**, State Employee Manager
- **Jack Kelley**, Police Sergeant & Detective
- **Jesse McDonald**, County Planning Commission Member
- **George Marcus**, Pharmacist
- **Randy Williams**, Olympic Gold Medal Winner
- **Robert Trotter**, School Board Member
- **Claude Hurst**, FSU Student Body President
- **Reuben Ford**, Postmaster
- **Elma P. Sterling**, Appointed Councilwoman
- **Beatrice Owens**, County Teacher
- **Hugh W. Goodwin**, Attorney & Judge
- **Francis Goodwin**, Educator
- **Frank Johnson**, Superintendent of Schools in West Fresno School District
- **Odell Johnson Jr.**, High School Coach / Educator/ College President
- **Melvin Combs**, Fresno Bus Drivers
- **Rutherford "Bud" Gaston**, Principal Fresno Unified School District
- **Steven Mark Nichols**, Dancer/Performer

- **Joe Williams**, Elected to Fresno City Council
- **James Aldredge**, City Manager – Doctoral Degree in Public Administration
- **Ray Johnson**, Assistant City Manager City of Fresno
- **Jim Hendricks**, Redevelopment Agency-Director
- **Omie Cormier**, Founded West Fresno Christian Academy
- **Cleofus Johnson**, United Parcel Service
- **Dr. Ned Doffoney**, President of Fresno City College
- **Les & Pauline Kimber**, Founded California Advocate Newspaper
- **Mary Curry**, Fresno Unified School District Board of Supervisors
- **Dezie Woods-Jones**, State President on Black Women Organized for Political Action/City Councilwoman and Vice Mayor of Oakland
- **Arthelma Johnson**, Supervising Nurse in the CSU System
- **Louise "Pat" Moon**, Stratford Elementary School Educator
- **Earl Bradley**, Photographer/TV
- **Florene Smith**, First Bank Teller

Education...

- **Ernie Shelton**, CSUF
- **Loraine Wiley**, CSUF Botany
- **Willie Perry**, CSUF Counselor & Civic Leader
- **Velda Neal Boutte**, Fresno Unified School District

- **Rutherford "Bud" Gaston**, Principal
- **Joe Lee**
- **Felton Burns**, Education
- **Stanley McDonald**, Education
- **Nadene Mayo**, Education
- **Roland Johnson**, Superintendent of School

Physicians...

- **Dr. Noel Smith** • **Dr. Harry Arvis**
- **Dr. Harry Osborne, DDS** • **Dr. James Watts**
- **Dr. Bryant** • **Dr. Ulysses Curry**
- **Dr. George Furlow, DDS** • **Dr. Ed Mosley**
- **Dr. Henry Wallace** • **Dr. Freddie Hayes**
- **Dr. Sydney Jackson, DDS**
- **Dr. George Bugg** • **Dr. Earl Meyers**
- **Dr. Willie Brown** • **Dr. Stain**

Religion...

- **Rev. & Mrs. M.D. Dixon**
- **Rev. A.W. White**, Founded St. Rest Church 1937
- **Bishop Warren S. Wilson**, Fresno Temple
- **H Y Rogers**, Fresno Temple
- **Edward Lyndsey**, Founded 2nd Baptist Church 1888
- **Rev. Aaron & Solomon Walton Bethel**, African American Methodist Episcopal

Church...

- **Rev. Cecil Howard**, Carter Memorial
- **Rev. Elbert Williams**
- **Rev. Swillis**
- **Pastor James Seal**, First Trinity COGIC
- **Mr. Matthew L. Daw**, Second Baptist Church

- **Rev. Charles Henry Byrd**, Organized the San Joaquin Baptist Association
- **Issac Young**

Community Pioneers...

- **Mr. & Mrs. John Oliver**, Graduates from Fowlers High became one of the first and most successful farm families.
- **Reynold Johnson**, Banker/ Investor
- **Ivy Roberts**, Judge
- **Barney Bell**, Military
- **Odell Johnson Sr.**, Entrepreneur
- **Jessie Cooley**, Funeral Director
- **Mr. Scott**, Scott's Cleaner
- **Merle Carter**, Community Volunteer/Educator
- **Carolyn Carter**, Community Leader
- **Sudie Douglas**, Started "Stay in School" group
- **C. Jones**, Military
- **Linzie Daniels**, Fresno County Administrator
- **George Purdom**, Insurance Company
- **Lawrence Cormier**, Counselor
- **Ruby Graves**, Historian
- **Roy M. Woods**, Edison PTA/Entrepreneur

Every month is Black History Month in the California Advocate and this year, during each month, we are going to highlight past and present leaders in our community. There are many African American pioneers not included in this list. If you would like to help update this list please write the California Advocate P.O. Box 11826, Fresno, Ca 93775 and include your contact information.

The Advocate's History of: Second Baptist Church

On March 31, 1888, Reverend Edward Lindsay and his wife with six children arrived in Fresno California from North Carolina. They found no Negro Baptist Church. With the aid of other families, a small group was organized and met in different homes for prayer meetings. In August of that same year, Reverend De Witt of First Baptist Church assisted the group in organizing a Baptist Church. Reverend Lindsey was elected pastor, with Mr. Daniel Lewis and Mr. Ben Doakes as Deacons. The character members were Mrs. Bridget Lindey, Eliza Lopast, Henrietta Bigsby, Maric Jones, Eliza Eilson, Lucy Watkins, Maric Farny, and D. Oakes.

The church was originally named Ebenezer Baptist Church, but was later changed to Second Baptist Church

In 1889, Reverend Timothy Smith was called as pastor. His negotiated plans were to erect a church on the corner of Stanislaus and E Street. The building was completed, but the church members were never given the deed to the property Rev. Smith later resigned and after a few months, Reverend S. A. Smith was called. Under this administration the spirit of the church was again revived.

Through the efforts of Mr. Eliza Lopast, the church was able to purchase the property at Merced and F Street for \$600.00. The members worked very hard to raise the down payment of \$30.00 and to keep up the note. The Church continued to grow. The mortgage was paid in full. Rev. Smith resigned because of his health.

In 1903, Reverend John M. Collins of Kansas City, MO was called. The church was destroyed by fire.

In 1906, Reverend John Morgan, a Northern Baptist Missionary, was a source of strength and courage to the congregation. The members elected him as pastor.

The pastor was Reverend John Sanders of Bakersfield, CA. The church building was completed and dedicated in 1912. Rev. Sanders resigned.

Reverend Artinic became pastor. However, his stay was brief.

In 1915, Reverend T.M. Davis was called and served for seven years.

In 1922, Reverend H. H. Mitchell, Sr. of New Jersey was called. Due to health reason, his stay was brief.

Reverend D. J. Crawford of Bakersfield, CA led the memberships from 1924-1926.

In 1926, Reverend J. D. Wilson of Oakland CA accepted the pastoratc. Under his pastorac the pasibage at 1720 F Street was purchased.

In 1928, Reverend F.D. Haynes, Sr., of Los Angeles, CA served four years.

In 1933, Reverend A. W. Hubbard was called. He served from 1933 to 1939. This successor was Reverend Oscar J. Pedsclaux who for five years (1939-1944).

In 1945, Reverend William C. Dixon of Chicago, IL was called. Among the many accomplishments under his leadership was the launching of the building fund drive in 1946. The present building was completed in 1953 and dedication services were held in August of 1953. The membership had increased to 385. Reverend Dixon resigned in 1958.

Reverend Henry H. Mitchell, Jr. son of Reverend Henry H. Mitchell, Sr. who was pastor in 1922, was called. Rev. Mitchell and his wife Ella, gave their concern and love to the community as well as the church. He was instrumental aiding the church to obtain finances for the (parsonage 908 Garrett) and the educational building. He pastured from 1958 to 1966.

Reverend Paul Duncan, Sr. served as interim from 1966 to 1967

Reverend Matthew L. Daw, Sr. and his family came to Second Baptist Church in 1967 from Spokane, Washington. His concerns were to keep the church aware of the world outside of the fellowship. Under his administration, Second Baptist had the joy of burning the mortgage in 1973.

The one hundred (100) year of SBC was a month long celebration. There were services each night for the month of August 1, 1988. Speakers were past Pastors, Sons of SBC, and many of our local church Pastors. Then in 1990, Second Baptist Church experienced a total new and Different encounter with the Lord. He sent his Angel and called Rec. Matthew L. Das, Sr., to his reward.

Reverend Joseph C. Richardson was named Pulpit Minister from 1990 to 1992.

In 1992, Second Baptist Church called Reverend Kenneth L. Smiley of Elmhurst, New York. During that time, our church body has as its Theme, "Continually P.U.S.H. (Pray Until Something Happens)."

As we went into our third century, 1888-2000, our Theme was "All Things Are Possible with God." Mark 10:27. Rev. Kenneth L Smiley resigned in 2001.

We've Come This Far By Faith, Steal Away, If Jesus Goes With Me, Give Me a Clean Heart, Lord I Want To Be A Christian, The Lord Will Make A Way Somehow, and God's Amazing Grace are some of the songs that were sung that reflected our heartaches, pain, and joy that we have been blessed by God in these one hundred nineteen years of service to God, Country and

Community. We are looking forward to "further with faith" in our God.

From August 2001 to March 2003, the pulpit was filled by guest speakers. Reverend Maurice M. Harris was called as Pastor in 2003. He resigned in 2004.

On October 6, 2002, Deacon Alan L. Daw announced that he had been called to the ministry. He delivered his first message on October 13, 2002. Besides serving as Worship Leader, (January 2004 to June 2005), preaching each month, he carried out many other duties, including visiting the sick. During this time he was a student at American Baptist Seminary of the West in Oakland CA.

On the June 19, 2005, the church voted to call Reverend Brian L. Brewer, as our 23rd pastor. He preached his first sermon on July 10, 2005. On Saturday, September 10th, the Installation; Services of Reverend and Sister Brewer were held. We think God for sending us "Our Anointed Ones", Pastor Brian L. Brewer and Sister Shalon C. Brewer. Our prayer is that this will be a long and spiritual relationship. "Inspired by the past, challenged by the present, excited by the future. Our Message: We Will Have to Leave Our Comfort Zone.

Rev. Brian Brewer resigned in 2009. He preached his last sermon on Easter Sunday 2009.

Rev C.C. Carter (son of Rev. C. C. Carter) was named Pulpit Minister in April of 2010

This is the third father and son Pastor and Minister that have served second Baptist, namely, Mitchell, Daw and Carter

Makers of History 1888 to 2010

- Rev. Edward Lindsey (1888-1898)
- Rev. Timothy Smith (1898-1898)
- Rev. S.A. Smith (1898-1903)
- Rev. John M. Collins (1903-1906)
- Rev. John Morgan (1906-?)
- Rev. John Saunders (?-1912)
- Rev. Arline (1912-1914)
- Rev. Cohen (1914-1915)
- Rev. T.M. Davis (1915-1922)
- Rev. H.H. Mitchell, Sr. (1922-1924)
- Rev. D.J. Crawford (1922-1926)
- Rev. Oscar Pedescleaux (1939-1944)
- Rev. William Dixon (1944-1958)
- Rev. Henry H. Mitchell (1958-1966)
- Rev. Paul Duncan (1966-1967)
- Rev. Matthew L. Daw (1967-1990)
- Rev. J.C. Richardson (1990-1992)
- Rev. Kenneth L. Smiley (1992-2001)

Guest Speakers

- Rev. Maurice M. Harris (2003-2004)
- Rev. Alan L. Daw (2004-2005)
- Rev. Brian Brewer (2005-2009)
- Rev. C.C. Carter (2009-2010)
- Rev. Wilbert C. Carter (2010-Present)

THE CALIFORNIA ADVOCATE INTERVIEWS HISTORICAL BLACK FRESNO RESIDENTS: Rutherford B. Gaston, Sr.

After five years of serving his country (United States Army) in England and North Africa, Mr. Gaston settled his family in Fresno. A graduate of California State University, Fresno, earning both his BA and MA degrees in Education and Education Administration, Mr. Gaston was equipped for his first position as teacher at Columbia Elementary. In 1963, Mr. Gaston was selected to be the first African American Principal in Fresno Unified assigned to both Teilman and Emerson Elementary. From 1967 – 1986, he was a principal at Jefferson, Franklin, and Bethune Elementary Schools.

While serving as an administrator in the district, Mr. Gaston's commitment to the community, civic and humanitarian issues were seen in the numerous affiliations to which he was aligned. An example of a few of these of affiliations was the founder and past president of the Black Educators of Fresno (1961) and serving on the Desegregation Task Force for Fresno Unified School District in 1977. His passion for saving children lead him to becoming a member of the Juvenile Justice Commission for Fresno County, Parks and Recreation Commission for the City of Fresno, and founder of the United Black Men, where he served as president for ten years. Other commissions and boards that have had the benefit of his community services were, for the City of Fresno, Ethic Commission, Planning Commission, Charter Review Committee (Strong Mayor), Fresno City and County Historical Society, Fresno Metropolitan Museum, Kiwanis Club of Fresno, Chaffee Zoo, Trustee with Second Baptist Church and Fresno County California Retired Teachers Association.

The community, in turn, has acknowledged Mr. Gaston's dedicated efforts through a variety of recognitions and awards, such as the Kremen School of Education Alumni Award (2004), Whitney Young, Jr., Service Award, Fresno Mall Dedication Plaque (1964), California Advocate Appreciation Award (1977), Certificate of Special Recognition, US Office of Education Division of Education for the Disadvantaged (1980), KSEE 24 Portraits of Success (1998), and the American Cancer Society (2002,2003), just to name a few.

Since Mr. Gaston's retirement in 1986, he continues to remain actively involved in our community, currently serving as

- Board of Directors, Boys and Girls Clubs of Fresno
- Foundation Board Member, Saint Agnes Medical Center
- Past Board Member, San Joaquin Gardens
- Laymen's Movement, Second Baptist Church
- Member Kiwanis Club of Fresno
- Member NAACP, Black Political Council, King Solomon Lodge No. 6F&AM and Saphar Temple No. 117
- Member for Fresno County California Retired Teachers Association
- Fresno Area Committee of UNCF
- VFW and American Legion
- Phi Delta Kappa Education

Mr. Gaston and his late wife, Willodyne, have four children. Sons Rutherford, Jr. an administrator in the San Jose area; Harlan is a Business Account Manager at Makely Enterprise; Henry is now living in Cleveland, Ohio; and daughter, Eugenia is a Mental Health Social Worker at Kaiser Permanente in Southern California. He has seven (7) grandchildren and one great grandchild.



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The Advocate's History of: FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

Fifty years ago Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church was organized in the home of Sister Rosie Louis. Some of the charter members were: Sister Rosie Louis, Sister Louise Wyatt, Sister Lucy Brown, Sister Bertha Griffen, Sister Rosie Mary Simmons, Sister Della Woods, Sister Emma young, Brother Henry Christian, Sister Haynes, and Reverend R. D. Christian, the first Pastor.

The first three Sunday services were held in the home of Sister Rosie Louis, who graciously opened her doors to the small, but faithful congregation. It was learned that a tent could be purchased for a small amount. The tent was purchased by Sister Wyatt and placed on the corner of Church and South Cherry Avenues where services were held for approximately six months. Our next move was to the corner of 'G' and Monterey Street in October of 1946. The church held services there until the early part of 1947 and then moved to Anna Street the same year.

Pastor R. D. Christian pastored the flock for about one year and afterward Reverend M. M. Jones was accepted as Pastor and led the church to change its name to "Friendship Baptist Church." He labored with us for nearly two years, and after Pastor Christian, Friendship remained faithful for a short period without a Pastor.

On August 1, 1949 we were under the dynamic leadership of Reverend E. M. Daniels, who was ordained as the Assistant Pastor of the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church,

on March 17, 1947, by the late Reverend L. C. Garrett, then the Pastor of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church. At the time of his ordination Reverend Daniels was attending Pacific College Seminary.

The remarkable strides we made under the leadership of Pastor E.M. Daniels were amazing. We believe the whole word of God and certainly the inspired words of the Apostle Paul when he said in Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Surely God blessed us beyond any of our expectations.

The name of the church was once again changed to the name we now have, the Fellowship Baptist Church, at the suggestion of Sister Daniels, the late Pastor E.M. Daniels' wife.

In 1954 Fellowship Baptist Church moved to the 1500 block of "B" street. There we worshipped for approximately two years. In that same year we relocated to 1030 "B" street in 1954 and remained there for twenty-three years.

On September 25, 1977, the congregation of the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church purchased the existing edifice at 2529 E. Belmont Avenue. Fellowship grew to an astounding estimate of 1200 members.

In May of 1987, our beloved Pastor E. M. Daniels, went home to be with the Lord, after a lengthy illness. Reverend Willie Hall, who had been called in 1986 to serve as our Minister of Music, served temporarily as our interim

pastor while we prayed to move forward with God's work. And move forward we did. Even without a Pastor, many things were accomplished during this time and the Kingdom's work continued at Fellowship. Reverend Daniel Kariuki, of the Saint Rest Baptist Church, came to assist us as interim pastor. In addition to the spiritual teaching, preaching and leadership of Reverend Kariuki, our own Reverend Jimmy Jackson was faithful and continued to be a constant source of stability and faithfulness to the membership.

Finally, in 1988, we formed a Pastor Search committee. The Lord laid on our hearts to follow His choice and called Reverend Kenneth J. Ransfer, Sr. to become our pastor. Pastor Ransfer officially accepted the pastorate of the Fellowship on the first Sunday in April 1989, and we gladly welcomed him, his wife and two sons, Kenneth, Jr. and Christopher Daniel.

Under the leadership of Pastor Ransfer many previous activities and auxiliaries once flourishing at Fellowship became restored, as well as many new ministries were added. Our membership continued to grow; full church participation in state, district and community organizations were being restored; and a more determined direction was being focused in the area of missions, children, youth, young adult and senior citizen ministries, with evangelism and discipleship as a first priority. Under His leadership we organized a Church Beautification and Prop-

erty Expansion Committee to lead the membership in paying off and improving our church edifice. God be praised, we paid the mortgage off during Pastor Ransfer's leadership.

Pastor Ransfer was active in many Christian organizations and community activities such as national Evangelism Workshop, served as an officer in the California Missionary Baptist State Convention and St. John District Association. He was also involved with the Pastor's Prayer Summit, West Fresno Ministerial Alliance, Symposium on African American Health Issues, and guest lecturer at Fresno State University discussing "Blacks in the Bible."

In 1993 Pastor Ransfer and the Fellowship family led the city in the first gun exchange where citizens exchanged their guns for tickets to recreation activities; this was an effort to reduce the city's rising violence.

In May 1994 the Fellowship Baptist Church made missionary history by sending Pastor Ransfer to Sierra Leone, West Africa, as part of the Christians in Action Missionary Team. Pastor Ransfer conducted workshops on the Christian family and preached the gospel in the streets and village churches. Hundreds came to Christ through the Spirit-led efforts of the Christians in

Action Team. This was truly a great missionary accomplishment for Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church

In July 1995 the Fellowship family made history again by

hosting the Fresno Area Promise Keepers Wake-Up Call, where over 600 men of all races gathered together in the name of Jesus for racial reconciliation, under the leadership of our Pastor Ransfer. He, leading Fellowship increased community involvement, and inspired frequent media coverage. Truly, the Fellowship family's light was shining before the Fresno community.

In August 1995, we celebrated our 50th Church Anniversary by revisiting all the historical sites of Fellowship Baptist Church by caravan. Our first stop was at the Anna street location. There we sang a song and had prayer. We moved on to the "B" street location and had church service. This was a very memorable event for many of our saints. We spent the evening fellowshiping with one another at the church family meeting.

Pastor Ransfer was led to Pastor a church in Seattle, Washington. In April 1997, Fellowship Baptist Church prayers were answered. Reverend Chris L. Lewis, Sr. accepted the pastoral call and preached his first sermon Sunday June 1, 1997. Through the Lord's leading his expository teaching and preaching many souls continued to be saved and revived.

Under Pastor Lewis' leadership we underwent a major remodeling process called "Project 2000 (Building from the Inside-Out)." We installed stained glass windows, entrance doors, cushioned pews and carpet in the main sanctuary.

The Advocate's History of: Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church

The Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church embarked upon its mission of providing for the spiritual growth and development of the Fresno community in 1926. From the church's simple beginning. The congregation grew in both size and faith during this period.

The journey began in 1926 during a meeting in the home of Bro. and Sis. Wolskill. It was here that a group of people from the Second Baptist Church decided to organize a new church known as Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church. This effort came under the leadership of Rev. W.A. Watkins, a Missionary of the St. John Baptist Church. The charter families of this new church were the Wolfskills, Hargraves, Rogers, Andersons, Pearsons, Gravitts, Clarks, and the Morres. On May 22, 1926, two lots were purchased on "D" and El Dorado Streets, and the church was incorporated December 23, 1926. On April 22, 1927, the Rev. F.W. Brooks of Los Angeles was called to Pastor the church.

Rev. M.D. Dixon and Rev. Joe Peason supplied the spiritual leadership until November 28, 1928 when A. L. Powell was called to Pastor from 1928 to 1933. Rev. P.A. Bedford of Bakersfield was called to Pastor and he served until 1934. During the year of 1934-35, Rev. E. Leon Nails served in the capacity of pastor until the installation of Rev. M.G. Greer on November 12, 1935.

Rev. Greer served until his passing in 1939. During his pastorate the church's deed was paid off, and the members began to remodel. The work on the church began by Rev. Greer was completed in 1940 under the leadership of Rev. J.A. Bumpus who severed as pastor from 1939-41. These improvements included a study for the pastor, a dressing and waiting room for the pastor, a baptismal pool, a painting and mural on the wall

and spiritual events that took place under the leadership of Rev. Garrett and the Mount. Rev. Garrett was instrumental in guiding many young men into the ministry. Among those preachers were/ are Marvin D. Slade, Frank Douglas, E. M. Daniels, Chester Riggins, Tyree Toliver, Roscoe Cumming, Naaman Haynes, Abraham L. Westmoreland, and Bruce Haynes.

The 34 years that Rev. Garrett pastored speaks well of this man and his moral and spiritual character. He was well thought of in the community. Garrett Street in southwest Fresno is named for him. He was a faithful and devoted servant to his ministry and this type of faithfulness and longevity in evidence of a pastor truly sent by God. When God places a pastor over his flock, he is successful in his ministry and remains until God moves him.

Following Rev. Garrett's homecoming in 1976, Rev. B.T. Lewis was called to pastor Mt. Pleasant. The church prospered under his leadership. A church improvement committee was formed. The choir stand was elevated, paneling was placed around the rostrum, a cement handicap ramp was installed on the west wing side of the church, the church was painted, and a parsonage was purchased at 2010 West Kearney Boulevard. In 1977, Brother Charles Young purchased a forty passenger bus for our church. Rev. Lewis served from November 1976 until March 31, 1979.

Brother Ozell Thompson led the church until Rev. Wesley C. Ellis of Oakland was called to pastor the Mount in August of 1979. During his tenure the willing workers were formed, a Christian board of Education was established, an annual homecoming event was begun, a scholarship fund for the youth graduates moving on to college was formed, and a church yearbook was also produced. Rev. Ellis was removed from pastor in

There were many wonderful

1991.

On October 25, 1992, pastor Robert Houston Sr. of Portland, Oregon was called to Mt. Pleasant. Under his leadership:

- The church had been further blessed by improvements to the church parsonage which include safety bars on the windows, the renovation of the women's restroom, and new kitchen flooring.
- The church accounting practices and accounts were updated to enhance and facilitate church business.
- Additional church staff was also employed such as a gardener, and security guard.
- Implementation of a pastor's aid, early prayer meeting, and a successful night bible study.
- Assisted Hollestine Smith in sending supplies and money to the Florida hurricane victims.
- Mother's board established an old landmark day in July of 1993.

The accomplished were various and greatly contributed to the growth of the church. Houston resigned in June of 1995 to accept a position in San Diego and we were again without a pastor.

In April of 1996 the Rev. Anthony Thompson came to lead Mt. Pleasant. Under his leadership:

- He changed the Lord's Supper from morning to evening
- Reorganized the shepherd boys
- Stared the consecrated quarters period for the benefit of the needy, and he began a food giveaway project. Also under Sister Katie Pennington, the mission set up a semi-annual community clothing and food giveaways. One of these giveaways dates has been incorporated with the all saints day in October. Rev. Thompson resigned the second Sunday of October 1997.

All saints day was instituted by the mass choir in 1997.

As a replacement to Halloween for our church youngsters, but it was turned into a community event open to our neighbor. Each year since its beginning, all Saints Day has grown in size and scope that streets around the church are blocked to accommodate the growing crowd.

Once again we went to God in earnest and sincere prayer for a spiritual leader. On the first Sunday in November, God answered our prayers; and we were blessed to receive Pastor Frank Barnes, from Pasadena, California whom we chose to lead:

- He is spiritually leading this flock in a manner that is pleasing to God.
- Reorganized the brotherhood and the B.T.U.

Members of Mt. Pleasant and other congregations, in order for us to keep prospering in God's love and fellowship, we must be prepared to help and encourage ourselves and others while living under the love, grace and mercy of God. For the Mount, we have had our share of life's ups and downs during our 75 years of existence: But we have had more ups because none will lose out walking by faith and by serving Christ. For Mt. Pleasant and other congregations the final test of pure religion is not just religiousness, but love; not what we have done, not what we have believed; not what we have achieved, but how we have discharged the common charities of life. In the words of Francis Schaeffer, author of "The Great Evangelical Disaster"

"It is true sign of the church when true Christians love one another. The church is to be a loving church in a dying culture."

Be forever mindful of God's Love, Grace and Mercy/ May God forever Bless and keep us all.

The Black Experience

A Collective View of the Valley's African American

Culture, History & Achievements

Gabriel Bibbard Moore was First Black Rancher in the San Joaquin Valley

BY PAULA LLOYD

Gabriel Bibbard Moore was born a slave in Alabama in 1812, but nothing is known about his early life.

In 1852, Moore and his owners, brothers Richard and William Glenn, left Austin, Texas, with a wagon train led by Henry and Delilah Akers and settled near Centerville.

Moore apparently gained his freedom after arriving in the Valley: he is listed on the 1857 Fresno County tax roll as a property owner.

He is listed as a farmer on the 1860 U.S. Census and was the first black cattle rancher in the Valley. He hired his neighbors to herd cattle from the Valley to the mountains in the summers.

Moore built the first rock dam over the Kings River to divert water into a small canal to irrigate 20 acres of potatoes and corn. He planted the first apple and fig orchards in the area.

Moore and his wife, Mary, had a son, Ephraim, and adopted four orphaned siblings with the last name of Baker.

In 1880, Moore drowned as he drove a herd of cattle across the rain-swollen Kings River. The book "Fresno County in the Pioneer Years," published in 1984, says

Moore's body "was found drowned in the river, still clutching a bush."

Moore owned a home, a wagon, farm equipment and 180 head of livestock when he died. His estate was worth \$15,000.

Mary Moore had a 3-foot-tall memorial to her husband installed in the Akers Cemetery on Trimmer Springs Road near Centerville where Henry and Delilah Akers and Richard Glenn also are buried.

Moore's headstone was inscribed, "In memory of Gabriel Moore, died May 25, 1880, 67 years, 10 months and 23 days of age." The marker was broken by vandals in 1965.

In 2008, students at Valley Preparatory Academy in Fresno organized a new memorial to Moore that reads: "Beneath this broken tombstone lies Gabriel Bibbard Moore, born a slave in Alabama July 2, 1812, drowned in the Kings River May 25, 1880, a free man."

Account of Gabriel Moore's life according to Ms. June English:

In 1965, Ms. English had stood precisely where Bill Coate was standing in 2006. She had gone to the Akers Cemetery to record the names of the pioneers buried there. When she came to Gabe Moore's tombstone, it had already been vandalized; however, the broken off

portion containing his name was lying on the ground, allowing her to record the complete inscription.

Mr. Coate had read Ms. English's Ash Tree Echo article on Gabe Moore in the California Room of the Fresno County Library. She told a compelling story in a very short space.

Moore had been the slave of the Glenn family in Arkansas. He was brought to California by Richard and William Glenn in 1853 with the Akers wagon train. After settling in freedom on the Kings River, Gabe proceeded to make himself into a wealthy free man—first by farming and then by cattle raising. By 1860, just seven years out of slavery, Gabe had accumulated \$3,000 in personal property.

An account from the Fresno Expositor dated January 4, 1871 told of a county clerk refusing to allow Gabe to vote, even though the 15th Amendment to the US Constitution had given black men the right to vote nearly a year earlier. (although his name shows up on the Fresno County voter registration list in 1872). According to Ms. English, Gabe Moore was drowned in 1880 while attempting to drive his cattle across the King's River. He left a wife, a son, 4 adopted children and a \$15,000 estate.

African American Firsts at Fresno City College

BY HOMER GREENE, FCC

As Fresno City College, the first junior college in California, celebrates its Centennial year, let us look back at a history of firsts, African American faculty and administrators hired by the college.

From the college's founding as Fresno Junior College in 1910 to the college's name change to Fresno City College in 1958, there were no African faculty or administrators hired by the college. This changed in the early 1960's.

Alma Palmer, hired in 1963 as a nursing instructor, was the first African American faculty member at FCC. The college hired William Day, its first African American male in 1964. Mr. Day was a chemistry instructor.

The first African American administrator, Robert Fox, was hired in 1980 as Dean of Students. The first African American associate dean was Mr. Lee Farley. He was hired in 1981 as the Associate Dean of Students and Student Affairs Counselor. The first African American female associate dean was Dr. Deborah Blue. Dr. Blue was hired in 1991 as the Associate Dean of Humanities.

The first African American and first African male elected to the State Center Community College Board of Trustee

was Dr. Edward Mosley. He was elected in 1971. The first African American female elected to the SCCC Board of Trustees was Ms. Dottie Smith. Ms. Smith was elected to the board in 1981.

The first African American male President of Fresno City College was Dr. Ned Doffoney. Dr. Doffoney was hired in 2002.

It is noteworthy that as the college turns 100 years old, the State Center Community College District, which FCC is part of, has hired its second woman and first African American chancellor. Dr. Deborah Blue has returned to Fresno and has been leading the district since July 1, 2010. Dr. Blue will manage and lead a district that is fiscally sound because of the prudent management of retired Chancellor Dr. Thomas A. Crow.

It has been 47 years since the first African American professor was hired at FCC.

Alma Palmer and William Day would be proud of the faculty members and administrators who have followed them. They would also be impressed with the appointment of Blue as chancellor of the State Center Community College District.

Dr. Blue will now be the first chancellor to lead the district toward its bi-centennial year in 2011.



Janice M. Stain, MD, OB/GYN
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Fresno's Tommie Smith...

► **Continued from Page 1**
IAAF has abandoned ratifying records for the event, Smith will retain the official record for the straightaway 200 metres/220 yards in perpetuity. Smith won the national collegiate 220-yard title in 1967 before adding the AAU furlong crown as well. He traveled to Japan for the 1967 Summer Universiade and won the 200 m gold medal. He repeated as AAU 200 m champion in 1968 and made the Olympic team.

In the 1968 Olympic Games at Mexico City, on 16 October, he won the gold medal for the 200 m in a world record time 19.83s. He and a teammate, John Carlos, who earned the bronze medal, gave a Black Power salute while receiving their medals. Silver medalist Peter Norman, a white Australian, donned a human rights badge on the podium in support of their protest.

Some people felt that a political statement had no place in the international forum of the Olympic Games. In an immediate response to their actions, Smith and Carlos were suspended from the U.S. team by Brundage and voluntarily moved from the Olympic Village. Brundage, who was president of the United States Olympic Committee in 1936, had made no objections against Nazi salutes during the Berlin Olympics. The Nazi salute, being a national salute at the time, was accepted in a com-

petition of nations, while the athletes' salute was not of a nation and so was considered unacceptable. People who opposed the protest said the actions disgraced all Americans. Supporters, on the other hand, praised the men for their bravery. The men's gesture had lingering effects for all three athletes, the most serious of which were death threats against Smith, Carlos and their families.

During his career, Smith set seven individual world records and also was a member of several world-record relay teams at San Jose State, where he was coached by Lloyd (Bud) Winter. With personal records of 10.1 for 100 meters, 19.83 for 200 and 44.5 for the 400, Smith still ranks high on the world all-time lists. After graduating, Smith played professional football with the Cincinnati Bengals for three years.

After his track career, he became a member of the United States National Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1978. In 1996, Smith was inducted into the California Black Sports Hall of Fame, and in 1999 he received that organization's Sportsman of the Millennium Award. In 2000 - 2001 the County of Los Angeles and the State of Texas presented Smith with Commendation, Recognition and Proclamation Awards.

He later became a track coach at Oberlin College in Ohio, where he also taught sociology and until recently

was a faculty member at Santa Monica College in Santa Monica, California.

With author David Steele, Smith wrote his autobiography, entitled *Silent Gesture*, published in February 2007 by Temple University Press.

In August 2008, Tommie Smith gave 2008 Olympic triple gold winner Usain Bolt of Jamaica one of his shoes from the 1968 Olympics as a birthday gift.

In 2010, Smith announced that he would sell the gold medal he won at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. He put his gold medal up for auction. The bid starts at \$250,000.

For his commitment to athletics, education, and human rights following his silent gesture of protest at the '68 Olympics in Mexico City, Smith received the Courage of Conscience Award from The Peace Abbey in Sherborn, Massachusetts.

In 2005, a statue showing Smith and Carlos on the medal stand (but not Norman, whose silver medal position is vacant) was constructed by political artist Rigo 23 and dedicated on the campus of San Jose State University.

A mural of the photo taken with Smith on the podium at the 1968 Olympics with Carlos and Norman was painted on the brick wall of a residence in Newtown, New South Wales, Australia, titled "Three Proud People, Mexico, 1968".



Back Row, left to right: JoLynn Washington, Naa Dodua
Front Row, left to right: Dr. Clayborne Carson, Reverend Carolyn Dyson, M.A.

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For the 16th consecutive year, Union Bank and KQED are honored to celebrate Black History Month. We're proud to celebrate the heroes in our local neighborhoods and congratulate the recipients of the Local Heroes Awards. Your commitment, spirit, and drive have truly made a difference. And your tireless contributions are inspiring hope in the minds and hearts of future generations. Congratulations from all of us at Union Bank.

2011 Local Heroes of the Year:

Dr. Clayborne Carson
Stanford University,
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Research and Education Institute

Reverend Carolyn Dyson, M.A.
African American Breast Health
and Sister to Sister Breast Health,
California Pacific Medical Center

Naa Dodua (Diane Green)
From Heart to Hand

JoLynn Washington
Jose Ortega Elementary School

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The Black Experience

A Collective View of the Valley's African American

Culture, History & Achievements



Civil Rights Timeline: Milestones in Modern Civil Rights

July 26, 1948: Truman signs Executive Order 9981, which states, 'It is hereby declared to be the policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin.' The order also creates the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services.

May 17, 1954: The Supreme Court rules on the landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kans.*, unanimously agreeing that segregation in public schools is unconstitutional. The ruling paves the way for large-scale desegregation. The decision overturns the 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* ruling that sanctioned 'separate but equal' segregation of the races, ruling that 'separate educational facilities are inherently unequal.' It is a victory for NAACP attorney Thurgood Marshall, who will later return to the Supreme Court as the nation's first black justice.



August, 1955: Fourteen-year-old Chicagoan Emmett Till is visiting family in Mississippi when he is kidnapped, brutally beaten, shot, and dumped in the Tallahatchie River for allegedly whistling at a white woman. Two white men, J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant, are arrested for the murder and acquitted by an all-white jury. They later boast about committing the murder in a *Look* magazine interview. The case becomes a cause célèbre of the civil rights movement.

December 1, 1955: NAACP member Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat at the front of the 'colored section' of a bus to a white passenger, defying a southern custom of the time. In response to her arrest the Montgomery black community launches a bus boycott, which will last for more than a year, until the buses are desegregated Dec. 21, 1956. As newly elected president of the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA), Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., is instrumental in leading the boycott.



January-February, 1957: Martin Luther King, Charles K. Steele, and Fred L. Shuttlesworth establish the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, of which King is made the first president. The SCLC becomes a major force in organizing the civil rights movement and bases its principles on nonviolence and civil disobedience. According to King, it is essential that the civil rights movement not sink to the level of the racists and hatemongers who oppose them: 'We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline,' he urges.

September, 1957: Formerly all-white Central High School learns that integration is easier said than done. Nine black students are blocked from entering the school on the orders of Governor Orval Faubus. President Eisenhower sends federal troops and the National Guard to intervene on behalf of the students, who become known as the 'Little Rock Nine.'

February 1, 1960: Four black students from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College begin a sit-in at a segregated Woolworth's lunch counter. Although they are refused service, they are allowed to stay at the counter. The event triggers many similar nonviolent protests throughout the South. Six months later the original four protesters are served lunch at the same Woolworth's counter. Student sit-ins would be effective throughout the Deep South in integrating parks, swimming pools, the-

aters, libraries, and other public facilities.

April, 1960: The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) is founded at Shaw University, providing young blacks with a place in the civil rights movement. The SNCC later grows into a more radical organization, especially under the leadership of Stokely Carmichael (1966-1967).

May 4, 1961: The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) begins sending student volunteers on bus trips to test the implementation of new laws prohibiting segregation in interstate travel facilities. One of the first two groups of 'freedom riders,' as they are called, encounters its first problem two weeks later, when a mob in Alabama sets the riders' bus on fire. The program continues, and by the end of the summer 1,000 volunteers have participated.

October 1, 1962: James Meredith becomes the first black student to enroll at the University of Mississippi. Violence and riots surrounding the incident cause President Kennedy to send 5,000 federal troops.

April 16, 1963: Martin Luther King is arrested and jailed during anti-segregation protests in Birmingham, Ala.; he writes his seminal 'Letter from Birmingham Jail,' arguing that individuals have the moral duty to disobey unjust laws.

May, 1963: During civil rights protests in Birmingham, Ala., Commissioner of Public Safety Eugene 'Bull' Connor uses fire hoses and police dogs on black demonstrators. These images of brutality, which are televised and published widely, are instrumental in gaining sympathy for the civil rights movement around the world.

1963: Mississippi's NAACP field secretary, 37-year-old Medgar Evers, is murdered outside his home. Byron De La Beckwith is tried twice in 1964, both trials resulting in hung juries. Thirty years later he is convicted for murdering Evers.



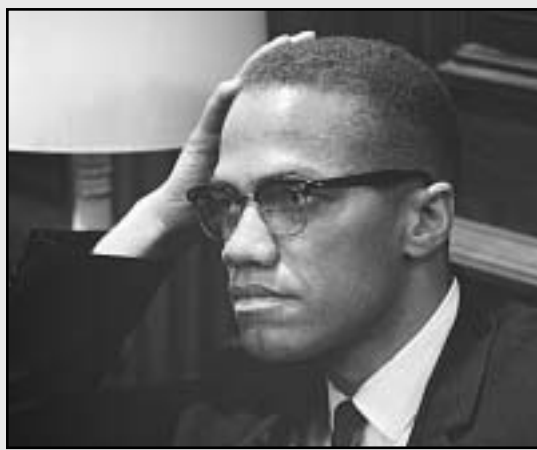
August 28, 1963: About 200,000 people join the March on Washington. Congregating at the Lincoln Memorial, participants listen as Martin Luther King delivers his famous 'I Have a Dream' speech.

September 15, 1963: Four young girls (Denise McNair, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson, and Addie Mae Collins) attending Sunday school are killed when a bomb explodes at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Alabama, a popular location for civil rights meetings. Riots erupt in Birmingham, leading to the deaths of two more black youths.

Summer, 1964: The Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), a network of civil rights groups that includes CORE and SNCC, launches a massive effort to register black voters during what becomes known as the Freedom Summer. It also sends delegates to the Democratic National Convention to protest—and attempt to unseat—the official all-white Mississippi contingent.

July 2, 1964: President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The most sweeping civil rights legislation since Reconstruction, the Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination of all kinds based on race, color, religion, or national origin. The law also provides the federal government with the powers to enforce desegregation.

August 4, 1964: The bodies of three civil-rights workers – two white, one black – are found in an earthen dam in Mississippi, six weeks into a federal investigation backed by President Johnson. James E. Chaney, 21; Andrew Goodman, 21; and Michael Schwerner, 24, had been working to register black voters in Mississippi, and, on June 21, had gone to investigate the burning of a black church. They were arrested by the police on speeding charges, incarcerated for several hours, and then released after dark into the hands of the Ku Klux Klan, who murdered them.



February 21, 1965: Malcolm X, black nationalist and founder of the Organization of African-American Unity, is shot to death in Harlem. It is believed the assailants are members of the Black Muslim faith, which Malcolm had recently abandoned in favor of orthodox Islam.

March 7, 1965: Blacks begin a march to Montgomery, Alabama, in support of voting rights but are stopped at the Pettus Bridge by a police blockade. Fifty marchers are hospitalized after police use tear gas, whips, and clubs against them. The incident is dubbed 'Bloody Sunday' by the media. The march is considered the catalyst for pushing through the voting rights act five months later.

August 10, 1965: Congress passes the Voting Rights Act of 1965, making it easier for Southern blacks to register to vote. Literacy tests, poll taxes, and other such requirements that were used to restrict black voting are made illegal.

August 11-17, 1965: Race riots erupt in a black section of Los Angeles, Watts.



September 24, 1965: Asserting that civil rights laws alone are not enough to remedy discrimination, President Johnson issues Executive Order 11246, which enforces affirmative action for the first time. It requires government contractors to 'take affirmative action' toward prospective minority employees in all aspects of hiring and employment.

October 1, 1966: The militant Black Panthers are founded by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale in Oakland, California.



April 19, 1967: Stokely Carmichael, a leader of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), coins the phrase 'black power' in a speech in Seattle. He defines it as an assertion of black pride and 'the coming together of black people to fight for their liberation by any means necessary.' The term's radicalism alarms many who believe the civil rights movement's effectiveness and moral authority crucially depend on nonviolent civil disobedience.

June 12, 1967: In *Loving v. Virginia*, the Supreme Court rules that prohibiting interracial marriage is unconstitutional. Sixteen states that still banned interracial marriage at the time are forced to revise their laws.

July, 1967: Major race riots take place in Newark (July 12-16) and Detroit (July 23-30).

April 4, 1968: Martin Luther King is shot in Memphis, Tennessee, as he stands on the balcony outside his hotel room. Escaped convict and committed racist James Earl Ray is convicted of the crime.

April 11, 1968: President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1968, prohibiting discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of housing.

April 20, 1971: The Supreme Court, in *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education*, upholds busing as a legitimate means for achieving integration of public schools. Although largely unwelcome (and sometimes violently opposed) in local school districts, courtordered busing plans in cities such as Charlotte, Boston, and Denver continue until the late 1990s.

March 22, 1988: Overriding President Reagan's veto, Congress passes the Civil Rights Restoration Act, which expands the reach of nondiscrimination laws within private institutions receiving federal funds.

November 22, 1991: After two years of debates, vetoes, and threatened vetoes, President Bush reverses himself and signs the Civil Rights Act of 1991, strengthening existing civil rights laws and providing for damages in cases of intentional employment discrimination.

April 29, 1992: The first race riots in decades erupt in south-central Los Angeles after a jury acquits four white police officers for the videotaped beating of African American Rodney King.

June 23, 2003: In the most important affirmative action decision since the 1978 *Bakke* case, the Supreme Court (5-4) upholds the University of Michigan Law School's policy, ruling that race can be one of many factors considered by colleges when selecting their students because it furthers 'a compelling interest in obtaining the educational benefits that flow from a diverse student body.'

June 20, 2005: The ringleader of the Mississippi civil rights murders (see Aug. 4, 1964), Edgar Ray Killen, is convicted of manslaughter on the 41st anniversary of the crimes.

October 24, 2005: Rosa Parks dies at age 92.



January 30, 2006: Coretta Scott King dies of a stroke at age 78.

February, 2007: Emmett Till's 1955 murder case, reopened by the Department of Justice in 2004, is officially closed. The two confessed murderers, J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant, were dead of cancer by 1994, and prosecutors lacked sufficient evidence to pursue further convictions.

May 10, 2007: James Bonard Fowler, a former state trooper, is indicted for the murder of Jimmie Lee Jackson 40 years after Jackson's death. The 1965 killing led to a series of historic civil rights protests in Selma, Ala.

January, 2008: Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) introduces the Civil Rights Act of 2008. Some of the proposed provisions include ensuring that federal funds are not used to subsidize discrimination, holding employers accountable for age discrimination, and improving accountability for other violations of civil rights and workers' rights.

November, 2008: Barack Obama elected first African American president of the United States.



A Biography of David Jennings



One of the Valley's first Black residents

dren. His wife, Binna, and children were later sold, and Jennings became the property of Wade Hampton, governor and later United States Senator from South Carolina. A member of one of the richest families in the antebellum South, Hampton owned many plantations in Mississippi and South Carolina.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Hampton entered the Confederate service as a Brigadier General and took with him four slaves including Jennings. Mr. Jennings' job was to look after the General's horses. At the battle of Bull Run, Hampton had three horses shot from underneath him and Jennings was always ready with a fresh horse. Jennings also was with the General at the

battles of Manassas Junction and Gettysburg.

A free man after the war, David Jennings remained in the South. He worked in a general store in Columbia, South Carolina where he lived for twenty-seven years.

In the years following the War, Jennings daughter, Julia Bell, relocated to Fowler, California. Assisted by friends, she began searching for her parents in the South. She located her mother first and brought her to Fowler. She later located her father in Columbia, South Carolina. Jennings moved to Fowler in 1892, reuniting with his wife and daughter. At first, he worked as a farmer – sowing wheat and corn – and then resumed his trade as a tailor.

According to a December 28, 1908 interview in the Fresno Morning Republican, Jennings was born April 17, 1817 in South Carolina. His boyhood was spent as a house servant on a plantation in that state. Later, he was apprenticed to a tailor. At age seventeen, Jennings married and the couple had five chil-

Community Calendar

February is Black History Month

You're invited to the 2nd Black History Month Program presented by The Boys & Girls Club of Fresno County, located at the Juvenile Justice Campus. This event will take place on the Commitment side of the Juvenile Justice Campus, in the gymnasium on Wednesday February 23, 2011 from 6:00-7:45pm. Come out and experience this event together as we share Africana Culture and Black History with our youth of Fresno County Community. As we strive to encourage, and enlighten each youth in attendance about Africana Culture through song, dance, poetry and much more. We believe your presence at this event will foster a moment of change in each of their lives as well. At the Boys & Girls of Fresno County our mission is "To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible." Will you join us?

Mt. Olive Baptist Church

Mt. Olive Baptist Church will be celebrating their 21st church anniversary, Sunday March 20, 2011 at 3p.m. Pastor Booker Lewis II of Rising Star will be the speaker. Please come and celebrate God's faithfulness with us.

P.A.I. N. to Hold Inaugural 5K and 2-Mile Run/Walk Event

On Sunday, March 27, 2011 the Prescription Abusers In Need (P.A.I.N.) Foundation will host the inaugural P.A.I.N. Awareness Run/Walk event at the Mountain View Shelter at Woodward Park in Fresno. It is an unprecedented effort to spread awareness of one of the top drug addictions in America today. Net proceeds from the event benefit the P.A.I.N. Foundation by helping those who can't afford it get into a recovery program, as well as spread the P.A.I.N. message. For more information contact (559) 978-9239.

St. Joseph Missionary Baptist Church 2nd Annual Women's Prayer Breakfast

St. Joseph Missionary Baptist Church will be having their 2nd Annual Women's Prayer Breakfast. "The Power of a Believing Woman Luke 1:45" will be held on Saturday February 26, from 8:30 am, to 11:30 am at St. Josephs Missionary Baptist Church in Fresno. Barbara J. Smith-Daniels will be the guest speaker. Tickets are on sale for \$10. For more information contact 559-394-2477

Inaugural Fresno Food Expo

The City of Fresno and Food Expo Advisory Committee invite the public to sample food and wine from across the region at the inaugural Fresno Food Expo on Friday, March 11. Public reception scheduled 5pm – 9pm. Tickets are \$40 per person. For more info, email info@fresnofoodexpo.com.

12th Annual BMI Trailblazers of Gospel Music Awards

GMC, America's favorite channel for uplifting music and family entertainment, today announced the Exclusive World Premiere Television Broadcast of the 12th Annual BMI Trailblazers of Gospel Music Awards honoring Gospel music's living legends, Pastor Shirley Caesar and the group Commissioned, founded by Fred Hammond, Mitchell Jones, Keith Staten, Karl Reid, Michael Brooks and Michael Williams. Taped in Nashville, Tennessee on January 14th, the star studded tribute concert will premiere exclusively on GMC, on Saturday, February 19th at 7:00pm ET with encore broadcasts at 9:00pm and 11:00pm.

Black College Expo Tour

"Catch the Tour" to Oakland, California will be held on February 26, 9am-5pm. for students between the grades of 7th through the 12th grade. The cost will be \$30 per person for bus trip and the admission is \$8 in advance (total of \$38). Event Schedule features: College Recruiters, Entertainment, Workshops and possible on the spot college admission for Juniors and Seniors. For more information please call 559-307-5235.

The African-American Museum

The African American Historical and Cultural Museum of San Joaquin Valley presents their Black History Month Celebration Banquet held on February 12th, 2011, at the Holiday Inn Hotel. The reception will start at 6pm followed by a dinner at 7pm. For more information, contact (559) 268-7102.

Links Mardi Gras 2011 A Night On Bourbon Street

Please join the Fresno Chapter of the Links, Incorporated for Mardi Gras 2011: A Night On Bourbon Street. It will be held Saturday, February 26, 2011, starting at 7:00 p.m. at TorNino's in Fresno. Tickets are \$75.00 each. An evening complete with an array of fun-filled activities in honor of Fat Tuesday. Proceeds benefit The Links Foundation, Incorporated: Charitable Causes of the Fresno Chapter of The Links, Incorporated

Buchanan African American Student Union Scholarship Dinner

You are cordially invited to attend the Buchanan High School African American Student Union's 7th Annual Scholarship Dinner. The dinner will be held at 5:00 pm, on Saturday evening, March 5th, in the school's East Gym. Our keynote speaker will be world-renown civil rights activist and inspirational speaker, the Honorable Martin Luther King, III, who will eloquently address our theme of Remembering the Past, Rejuvenating the Present and Reforming the Future. We would be honored to have you and your family experience an elegant meal, dessert, and live jazz as we support our future graduates as they prepare to obtain a college education. For information, please contact (559) 327-3302 or (559) 327-3487.



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Biography of William Arthur Bigby, Jr.

One morning of April 8, 1972, William Arthur Bigby, Jr. stepped forward. His wide smile reflected pride and happiness for, in his day, he was taking part in the dedication of a new housing project that would bear his name. Bigby Villa, located on Lorena Avenue between Bardell Avenue and Clara Street was a 43.58 million low income housing project. The 180 units were built by Catholic Charities Housing, Inc. in cooperation with the Redevelopment Agency of Fresno. The fact that the dedication was held on the fourth anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Law was appropriate. Bigby had served on the citizens advisory committee that was forerunner to the Fresno City

and County Housing Authority.

William Bigby was born in Colusa, California. His family moved to Fresno when he was seven years old. He attended Fresno schools, and in 1912, became the first black graduate of Fresno High School. He served his country during World War I, attaining the rank of first sergeant in the army. Fourteen months of his duty was in Europe. He would later be founder of American Legion Post 511 and would serve as its president. He became president of the Negro Citizen's Advancement League of West Fresno in 1927.

Mr. Bigby was a charter member of Second Baptist Church and a member of the Prince Hall Order of the Free

and Accepted Masons. He was a 33rd degree Mason. He was a retired clerk for the State Board of Equalization. Many agencies and charities in Fresno, including the Boys Club of Fresno, the United Givers, the March of Dimes, and the Red Cross, were recipients of Bigby's generous gift of volunteer time. He was one of the first directors of the Valley Children's Hospital and served for sixteen years on the Edison High School Advisory Board.

At the time of his death, at age eighty-eight, in 1981, Bigby had received many honors for his community. Indeed, he is remembered as one of the most, if not the most, outstanding citizens in the history of Fresno's black community.

1940: Bigby Sues Friant Owners On Racial Prejudice

ARTICLE FROM FRESNO BEE SEPTEMBER 5, 1940

Damages, including \$750, are sought by William A. Bigby Jr., a clerk employed by the State Board of Equalization and four companions in a suit filed in the Third Township Justice Court against Helena Gleim Luigi Ortenzi and operators of the Last Chance Café in Friant.

The other plaintiffs are

James A. Jackson, Merchant Palmer and Earl and Eleanor Myer.

The Plaintiffs, all Negroes, charge they were refused service at the café last August 23 because of their race and each asks judgment of \$150 against the defendants

They charge is that they entered the café on the date mentioned and took places at the soda fountain.

They quoted a waitress as

at the establishment as saying to them "It's just too bad; we don't serve colored folks."

"You mean to say, then, you refuse to serve us because of our race?" Bigby inquired. He said the waitress replied "Those are my orders."

The plaintiffs charged the remarks were made in the presence of other patrons in the café and that they suffered humiliation.

Local Black History Missing from Books

BY NANCY WHITTLE & UHURU NA UMOJA

This month we celebrate Black history, our strength, our faith and our beliefs.

However, it is with much dismay that when speaking with African-American youth in the Central Valley, one finds that outside of historical figures like Harriet Tubman, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Frederick Douglass, and a small group of others, there is no recognition of other significant African-American names or their deeds.

Equally alarming is how Central Valley historians have failed in their almost non-existent attempts to educate all citizens in this area about African-Americans contribution to the Valley.

African-Americans in the mid 1800's began a mass exodus from the south to the Central Valley to escape the horrors of slavery and sharecropping. They sought a safe haven for their families and a fertile, rich land to farm and raise livestock.

This information, along with a multitude of other information is omitted from the pages of history.

Among information missing from Valley children's school books is the 1890 California Supreme Court ruling in *Wysinger v. Crookshank*, which ended the legal segregation of African-Americans in Cali-

fornia schools. The suit was initiated by Edmond Crookshank a former slave and Visalia resident.

Jack Kelley, former Fresno State football and baseball player, was the second African-American police officer and the first African-American promoted to the rank of Sergeant in the history of the Fresno Police Department. During an interview, Mr. Kelley spoke about some of the hidden or missing history of African-Americans in the Central Valley.

His stories included the treatment of the African-American officers he met when first hired, how a few even quit the force because of its blatant bigotry. He recounted a story about how heavyweight boxer, Joe Louis was forced to threaten both city officials and the now defunct Fresno Hotel management with refusal to fight, when he was denied a room there because of his color.

Kelley also spoke about how he would sit on his front porch with a "loaded shotgun" because of the racial harassment of his family by angry neighbors. This was because of the restrictive covenants that existed in his neighborhood, which was once called "German town" and barred African-Americans, Mexicans, other ethnicities. Kelley still resides in the same


house.

Siblings, Junious and Mack Haynes were also interviewed about their impact in this area. Haynes was the first African-American bricklayer in Fresno to establish his own construction business. The brothers talked about how they attended their first interracial school, Edison High School, and how they had to contend with segregation and discrimination in Fresno.

Forgotten also is William Cowings, an African-American teacher, politician and attorney. Seven years prior to his birth in 1867, Cowings' father was a slave. Cowings worked with the local civil rights movement and assisted his father in building many of the churches and homes that still exist in Fowler.

Nadir Ali, born Bobby Jones, arrived in the Central Valley in 1930, and worked with his father, who operated a farm labor camp and crew in Hollister. His father later contracted to care and harvest the crops of farmers in Firebaugh, where they were also in charge of crop irrigation.

And the list goes on, and on, and on. During Black History and every other month. It is the responsibility of every African-American to discover the history that has been either lost, stolen, or forgotten.



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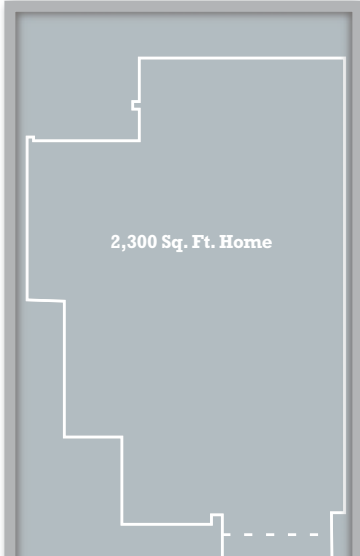
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