# GEORGE WASHINGTON—

## *Hero Or Hypocrite?*

Old etching shows George Washington at conference with colored Free Masons who urged him to permit colored free men to serve with Revolutionary armies fighting the British. The colored Masons petitioned General Washington to permit free colored men serve with his forces. On Dec. 30, 1775, he issued orders letting them enlist. This illustration courtesy Scottish Rite Freemasonry Bulletin.

***He placed Union above the slavery issue, reluctantly let colored men serve in Army.***

"GEORGE WASHINGTON AND THE NEGRO," by Walter H. Mazyck. Published by the Associated Publishers Inc., 1538 Ninth Street, northwest, Washington, D.C.

By CARL MURPHY

George Washington became father of his country only because he was willing to deprive his black fellow citizens of their liberty.

That is the picture of Washington which Walter H. Mazyck gives in his book, "George Washington and the Negro."

White authors for years have given us the picture of George Washington, the soldier; George the statesman; George, the surveyor; George, the gentleman.

To this gallery, Mr. Mazyck has added the portrait of Washington, the slave master. And when we think of contemporaries like Jefferson, his fellow Virginian; Lafayette, the Frenchman; Kosciusko, the Pole, and Tom Paine, the atheist; Mr. Mazyck compels us to admit that Washington, as a humanitarian, was far below any of them.

Despite this, General George was no hardened sinner. Born in a period when slavery was "universal in the country, protected by law and sanctioned by the Christian Church," Washington bought, sold, and worked slaves in the fashion approved by his times.

**Washington's First Order**

Almost his first act after taking command of the Continental Army was to exclude colored men from the regiments in which they had patriotically enlisted and for nearly a year had served side by side with their white fellow citizens. There were no separate colored units and every white brigade had one or more colored patriots.

Three months after this exclusion order, Washington learned that the British were enlisting colored men. Thereupon, General George had his exclusion order withdrawn and from then on hundreds of colored men were enlisted.

"No regiment is seen in which there are not Negroes in abundance," quotes the historian, who continues:

"In August, 1778, returns showed that in seven brigades of Washington's Army there was an average of 54 Negroes in each."

**Not Too Stupid To Fight**

The fact that former slaves were human enough to fight in the American army started Washington to thinking. Nor had he found them too stupid to fight.

Lafayette had the European idea that the dumber a man was, the better soldier he would make, and backed it up by quoting Frederick the Great, who reasoned that with good officers the Russians (supposedly the most stupid people in the world) would make the world's best soldiers, and so the idea was born that the black soldier always must have white officers.

**That $16,000**

Lafayette urged him to set his slaves free. Kosciusko gave his entire fortune of $16,000 to purchase slaves, in order to set them free. But by the time the courts finished with his will, the slaves never received any benefit from it.

There is evidence that there raged in Washington's mind the great battle between right and wrong—slavery and freedom.

Bishop Asbury of the ME church visited him in 1785, and he gave the bishop his opinion against slavery.

He became so harried and harassed that he resolved never to buy another slave if he could help it, never to sell one, and when he died, he provided in his will for the gradual emancipation of the 317 slaves on his plantation.

While he felt thus about slavery, he sat with shut lips for two days in the first Constitutional Congress, while Southerners debated the propriety of counting slaves as a basis of Congressional representation and later while President he silently saw Congress defeat a Quaker resolution to emancipate the slaves, and heard Virginia's Tucker swear that the South would never give up its slaves without civil war.

Washington, like Lincoln, had grown to have his fears about slavery, but he wanted union of the states more than he wanted emancipation.

**The Hypocrite**

Mr. Mazyck draws a delightful picture of Washington, the opportunist, advertising for a runaway slave and directing that his name should not appear in the advertisement north of Virginia.

Washington was no demigod as some biographers have painted him, this is a clearer trait. For the facts you'll prefer Mr. Mazyck's book.

## This Petty Pace

By BROWN LEE YATES

**Now that affairs political in this country have simmered, let's enjoy some variety in our political contemplation and take a look at the English politician as drawn by Leonard Freeney in his book, "London Is A Gentle Town."**

**You never find the English politico in a room full of cigar smoke, littered with stuffed waste baskets and badly-aimed-at spittoons. He receives you in a formal office, seated at a tidied desk, with the portrait of somebody's ancestor hangin behind him. And you don't have an audience with with him—he has one with you. The mouth. The London politican is all ears.**

He will give you 15 minutes, no more and no less, of his undistracted attention. He won't offer you a solution to what you came to see him about, but he will give unbounded sympathy. You will leave his office with the same grievance with which you went in, but you will take out the glow of his courtesy. Even when you were at loss for a word, he offered you one, right out of the Thesaurus.

**What delightful manner! What quiet repose and reserve! What awareness of your feelings, what understanding, what anxiety to help! How noncommittal he is, although full of regrets that you are faced with your problem!**

He is a product of a good school of manners, a good tailor, a good club, good food. He is the most irresistible political agent in the world, able to impress even the Sudanese, the Siamese and the Senegalese, girded in long cloths, with spears in their hands and rings in their noses, with his urbanity and moral observance.

## "I REMEMBER"

BY THE OLD TIMERS

**From Mrs. Paul Bickford, Jeffersonville, Vt.:** I remember when many country farm homes had corn husk mats.

They were made by braiding the best husks together, leaving each husk sticking up an inch or more.

When of the desired length, they were sewn up with strong twine as any braided rug.

**From S. I. McGinnis, Culloden, W. Va.:** I remember when father bought us leather boots with brass at the toes for bumpers and red sheep skin at the toe of the boots. We mounted a ladder when we went upstairs to bed.

**From Mrs. B. E. Dahlen, Mt. Horeb, Wisc.:** I remember when the hotel proprietor would call his boarders to dinner by swinging an iron bar around the inside of an iron triangle.

I remember when the tinner would drive through town in a cart displaying all sorts of tin cooking utensils.

I remember when the medicine show would set up for a week in our town and stage acts and sell medicine to cure all human ills.

I remember when electricity was first in use there was no daytime service except on Tuesday mornings for ironing.

**From Mrs. Florence Berry, Oildale, Calif.:** I remember when I used to raise my hand in school and ask to pass the water bucket.

I woud take the pail and dipper and pass through the aisles offering each pupil a drink.

It was a great treat to be allowed during school hours to go to the well a quarter of a mile away and get water for the class.



# *We Don't Need 'Porgy And Bess'*

***Jimmy Hicks finds Gershwin folk opera against all that colored Americans are fighting for. Stereotyped characters, sordid plot made him angry but Talmadge would find it to his Dixiecrat tastes.***

By JAMES L. HICKS

The current revival of the musical "Porgy and Bess" now at the Ziegfeld theater in New York is the most insulting, the most libelous, the most degrading act that could possibly be perpetrated against colored Americans of modern times.

Governor Herman Talmadge of Ga., who protested "South Pacific's" interracial theme, would welcome "Porgy" with open arms. It seems only right to take the opposite view.

This disgraceful felony against a race of people which is struggling to hold its best high, is further compounded by the fact that our U.S. State Department selected "Porgy" as a show to which it gave its blessings and assistance for presentation to the free peoples of Europe.

When one sees the current "Porgy" he will realize that this was the unkindest cut of them all.

**"Porgy" as it is presented on the Ziegfeld stage, represents everything that colored Americans of 1953 stand against. There is nothing in the show that is typical of the fifteen million colored Americans living in this country today.**

On the contrary, the show presents a complete picture of the minority dregs of the colored race in its lowest ebb of life without once making the point that this is not typical colored Americana.

This reporter's review of "Porgy" will be definitely in the minority when compared with the reviews of fellow newsmen who saw the play at the press showing last Monday. And it must be stated that the white people who dominated the audience were wild in their acclaim of the presentation.

**Some Whites Like It**

But to this reporter, it is not difficult to understand why some white people stand up and yell "bravo" and clap their hands until they are blue when they see colored actors acting the fool and making fools of other members of their race.

It's the traditional role which some white people have set aside for colored people since the first days of Uncle Tom.

It's the role of the ignorant, happy-foot, lust-loving, crap shooting clown—and "Porgy" has them all.

**What is difficult for this reporter to understand, however, is the acclaim given to the show by many colored people.**

Forward thinking colored people show righteous indignation today at white people who seek to identify them with Saturday night brawls with knives over two bit crap games.

Yet when a white man hires a few of them to present them exactly in this manner on a Broadway stage they sit beside the white people and rock the rafters with their cheers.

It all reminds this reporter of what Thurgood Marshall said when he saw a white man waving a Confederate Flag in the MacArthur parade and a colored man standing beside the white man, cheering MacArthur to the top of his lungs.

Said Thurgood: "Somebody didn't belong there."

This was exactly the impression the writer received as he watched the crap games of "Porgy" and listened to the white couple in the next seat say "Look at that boy roll them bones!"

Somebody didn't belong there and I think it was I.

**"Porgy" is not only an insult to the colored race—it's a disgrace to America. For it is doubtful if there has ever been a finer collection of talented voices brought together under one roof on Broadway since Ezio Pinza left the cast of "South Pacific."**

**There is no sound in New York to surpass the full beautiful voice of talented Leontyne Price as "Bess." Nothing is finer than Helen Thigpen's "Serena" and others in the cast show stirring and amazing voice talents.**

But this in itself is America's disgrace. For here are voices second to none in this nation. But because these voices stem from the bosom of black breasts they are not being heard from the stage of the Metropolitan opera where they belong.

Instead they are intermingled with the rattle of dice which roll across the stage throughout "Porgy"

**Minority Group Pressure**

The presentation of "Porgy" could not happen in the year 1953 to any other race in America but the colored race.

The Jewish people have their Anti-Defamation League which sees to it that the role of the "Sheenie" no longer walks the American stage.

Catholic groups each week police the theaters and movie houses and order death by boycott to any theatrical presentation which dares to depict them in any other light but good.

The controversy over The Miracle" was a shining example.

And just last week a group of hotel maids threw a picket line around a theater because the theater was showing a play "Midsummer" which held the maids up to public ridicule.

They forced the theater to print a line on the programs saying that the maid pictured in the show did not represent a true portrayal of hotel maids in New York.

The question is thus raised: When will the colored people of America rise up in unified protest against the way they are pictured on the American stage, radio screen and television?

One showing of "Porgy" has convinced this writer that the time is "NOW."

In his article here, Jimmy Hicks says that beautiful voices like those of William Warfield and Helen Thigpen, principals in the new version of Porgy, should be heard under more dignified circumstances.

# The Stars And You

DAILY FORECASTS

YOUR OWN HOROSCOPE

Here's how the stars shine for you in the week ahead.

ARIES (March 21—April 20) — With an opposition now removed, you can improve your future security by making use of a neglected talent. A bold speculation could succeed. Then there will be more co-operation.

TAURUS (April 21 — May 21)— A check on your finances will reveal a forgotten cash balance. This will solve the problem of an extra - special Christmas gift to a dear one. A long-term project can now be launched.

GEMINI (May 22 — June 21)— A plan will go astray because you underestimated an opponent. A suggested alternative will be impracticable at present. Avoid fatigue by a time and labor - saving plan. Another's pleasure will be lessened if you give away a secret.

CANCER (June 22 — July 23) — Argument with an executive will bring a crisis in your career. Though tempted to make a change, it will be better for you to stick it out. A brother or sister will need your help and advice.

LEO (July 24 — Aug. 23) — An established routine will be made more productive by an imaginative touch. Christmas entertaining will be ambitious, and will bring you social advancement. Another's setback will affect you.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 — Sept. 23) — If you have been upset by discomforts you will find things easier now. A favorable time to seek assistance in your career. In approaching superiors a certain amount of aggression will pay.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 — Oct. 23) —You will visit unfamiliar places and make new acquaintances. Consider some fresh ideas and opportunities. Christmas will leave you little time to relax, but if you can attempt some creative work it will be refreshing and profitable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 — Nov. 22)— A situation will arise which seems distressing, but you will find that there is some good in it. If not already spent out before Christmas, you may find some bargains in clothing. Check electrical wiring and plumbing if you are leaving the house for the holiday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23—Dec. 22) —You may be drawn into the emotional or financial troubles of another. Better to keep out if you can. Postpone an important decision until you are sure you are right about the facts.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23—Jan. 20)— An advantage to your career will come from cementing a new friendship. Emotional tension with close partner could be turned into a serious upset by your forgetfulness. Don't mix business with pleasure in another matter.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21—Feb. 19) — It will be necessary to change your mind about a plan, but don't announce this until you have decided. Christmas will involve you in an unusual party. After Thursday, however, you may find yourself restricted.

PISCES (Feb. 20 — March 20)— Now would be a good time to discuss reorganization of office or home equipment. The use of new methods will reduce your expenditure and allow expansion. In making an agreement, be sure that the details are understood.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Here is a 12-month forecast for your birthday, engagement or wedding anniversary:—

Tuesday — The coming year should show a steady improvement in your affairs, with the chance of a successful new development. Best results from the familiar round.

Wednesday — It is likely you will be called upon to take on a new responsibility. The ability to make quick and accurate decisions will greatly advance your interests.

Thursday — For most of the year you will seem to be rowing against the stream. An energetic association will help to stir things up. But don't count on any important change. A quiet year on the whole.

Friday — Much travel connected with your work is probable. There will be a good chance of improving your position in the world if you show more self-reliance.

Saturday — A vital year in your career lies ahead. Every chance of your reaching a notable goal by vigorous action and persistent industry. Opposition from an older person of influence will put you on the road to achieving an ambition.

Monday — The only certain thing is that there will be uncertainty and change. A surprise turn in your worldly fortunes will give a temporary benefit followed by a reversal. But things will turn out better than you feared.

## *Time Out For Laughs*

**Lesson One**

"What do you think is the most difficult thing for a beginner to learn about golf?"

"To keep from talking about it all the time."

**In The Eye**

"Did you hear about Joe? He went blind from drinking coffee."

"Really? How did it happen?"

"He left the spoon in the cup."

**Truthful**

Judge—"What is the defendant's reputation for veracity?"

Witness—"Excellent, your honor. I've known him to admit that he'd been fishing all day and hadn't got a single bite."

**Giveaway**

Professor (after class): "My throat is dry."

Student: "I could tell that from your lecture."



# FRED DOUGLASS,

# The Greatest American

***He moved millions into action. His utterances are as timely as the Ten Commandments.***

By DR. CHARLES H. WESLEY
President, Central State College

Maryland has produced many distinguished Americans of color — Daniel Coker, Henry Highland Garnet, J. W. C. Pennington, Samuel Ringold Ward, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Harriet Tubman and scores of worthy leaders who are unnamed and unsung.

However, Frederick Douglass takes a place of distinction among Americans and can be listed among the "great" men in American life.

Individuals who perform social roles of some significance to their immediate social circles will not all deserve such inclusion. Only when the judgement of history and posterity has been made can we have definite answer to our question — is he among the great?

This measuring rod when applied to such a life can lead to the conclusion that the individual's uniqueness borders upon and passes over into greatness.

**From The Depths**

The position of Frederick Douglass in this instance is well represented by his own words, "To the white people, I say, measure not the colored man from the heights you have attained but rather the depths from which he has come."

By this, his own measure, or by the objective standard of history, he ranks not only among the unusual but also among the great, the eminent and the distinguished.

Historians of America's great have made a small place for him. Rhodes, McMaster and Channing give little mention of Douglass and no interpretation of his role in American life and history.

As lecturer, editor, organizer, abolitionist, liberator and statesman, he moved millions into action on behalf of freedom and equality.

As one of the brilliant minds of his day, his ideas and penetrating thoughts on democracy and his participation in most of the reform movements of the nineteenth century tend to place him in history beside the names of Jefferson, Webster and Lincoln.

The story of Douglass's Life has been told and retold many times both through his autobiography, My Bondage and My Freedom and The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass and the biographies by Holland, Booker T. Washington, Chestnut, DuBois, Quarles, and Foner.

As many times as his story is recounted, there seems to be something new about it, as his birthday, February 14, in his 136th anniversary year of the date of his death, February 20, 1895, roll around.

**Four Principles**

As the reader thinks over the life of this man whom we designate as one of the great men in American history, there are four main areas of life in which he distinguished himself and laid the foundations of his greatness.

**DOUGLASS WAS AN ADVOCATE OF FREEDOM**

Gaining by his own efforts his freedom from slavery after several attempts, Douglass realized that freedom was of little significance to him as an individual so long as millions of his countrymen of color were enslaved and other millions in chains to the institution which was supposed to serve them rather than dominate them.

When he succeeded in escaping from his native state of Maryland, where he was born in Tuckahoe, Talbot county, February 14, 1817, traveled to New York and thence to Massachusetts, he had become a personal testament of the freedom, latter advocated by him.

He had demonstrated the truth of history, frequently quoted by him, that they who would be free themselves must strike the blow.

Becoming associated with Garrison and others fighting for freedom, Douglass impressed them with his personal ability, his eloquence and his sincerity of purpose.

From 1840 to 1861, Douglass was speaking, writing and carrying on the fight for the cause of freedom as an active abolitionist.

He carried his cause East and West in the United States and to England, Ireland and Scotland.

He advocated and supported woman suffrage, and temperance.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton wrote of him, "Through all the long years of our struggle he has been a familiar figure on our platform, with always an inspiring word to say.

"In the very first convention he helped me to carry the resolution I had penned demanding woman suffrage."

However, Douglass was aware that his main interest had to be suffrage for men of color and he made the difference by saying that "it cannot be pretended that think her cause is as urgent as ours."

**Chastised Suffragettes**

In referring to Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, he wrote:

"Their principle is, that no Negro shall be enfranchised while woman is not. Now, considering that white men have been enfranchised always, and colored men have not, the conduct of these white women, whose husbands, fathers and brothers are voters, does not seem generous."

**Douglass believed that human rights were not to be subordinated to race or national origin. Said he, "I know of no rights of race superior to the rights of humanity."**

Therefore, his advocacy was not only to include the enslaved population in the United States, but also the Chinese immigrants who were being denied admission to this country.

He also combated religious intolerance and urged those of various religious denominations to unite upon cardinal principles in order to checkmate a rising religious intolerance. For him, dogma and creed had meanings only in terms of action.

**Scorned Brown's Methods**

While he advocated freedom, he was unwilling to use force to obtain it. Indications of this attitude are best demonstrated in his relations with John Brown.

He had met Brown, was friendly with him and had corresponded with him concerning his plan of abolition. Douglass also admitted that a conference was held with Brown just before he left for Harpers Ferry.

He did not join Brown, because he found that Brown had changed his original plan from one of drawing off the slaves into the mountains of Virginia to one of an attack on Harpers Ferry and the seizure of arms stored there.

Douglass told Brown that this attempt would prove to be "a steel trap," and that he would not participate in the raid.

Rumors associated Douglass with this plan, but he states that he did not join Brown because he did not believe that his plan was the way to freedom.

On the contrary, he had chosen the constitutional way and was pursuing it with decision and conviction. This did not mean that he was not militant.

**One of his convictions was that "those who profess to favor freedom and yet deprecate agitation are those who want crops without plowing up the ground — they want rain without thunder and lightning."**

**DOUGLASS WAS A CHAMPION OF EQUALITY**

He pleaded with pen and tongue for equality. His weekly newspaper, "The North Star" with its list of about three thousand subscribers could not survive the threat of debt and a mortgage on his home.

Then its successor came, "Frederick Douglass' Paper." In 1845 he published the account of his life in "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass" and a decade later his "My Bondage and My Freedom."

Three years later he issued "The Frederick Douglass Monthly." Following the Civil War he began the publication of "The New Era," and in 1884. "Life and Times of Frederick Douglass."

Through the editorials in these pages, Douglass expressed his thoughts upon the issues of his day.

There were expressions of discontent, protest, militancy and hope in his stirring words. He traveled in many directions speaking against the inequalities of his times.

One of his great speeches prior to the Civil War was delivered at Rochester, New York, on July 5, 1852.

Among his trenchant phrases was, "This Fourth of July is yours, not mine. You may rejoice, I must mourn.

"To drag a man in fetters into the grand illuminated temple of liberty and call upon him to join you in joyous anthems were inhuman mockery and sacrilegious irony."

**The Freedom In Speech**

After the Civil War, another of his great efforts was when President Grant, members of his cabinet and a large crowd of representative citizens heard Douglass deliver his oration at the unveiling of the Freedmen's Monument to Abraham Lincoln in Washington, D.C., on April 14, 1867.

He declared that while Lincoln "was pre-eminently the white men's president devoted entirely to the welfare of white men," nevertheless the name of Abraham Lincoln was near and dear to our hearts in the darkest and most perilous hours of the Republic."

President Grant is reported to have exclaimed at the close of address, "The world has produced only one Douglass."

**DOUGLASS WAS AN EXPONENT OF EDUCATION**

He described himself as a graduate from the peculiar institution with his diploma on his back, and adds that he had often been asked where he obtained his education.

His answer was "from the Massachusetts Abolition University, Mr. Garrison, president." He explains how he obtained an early interest in learning and this is ascribed "to the native genius of my sable, unprotected and uncultivated mother, a woman who belonged to a race whose mental endowments are still disparaged and despised."

Like Lincoln, he began his reading with the Bible and the hymn book — books then available in most homes.

**When he reached Massachusetts, he found time in between work as a ship's caulker and foundry worker to read and study. He was confident that his "want of education, great as it was," could be overcome by study and that wisdom would come with experience.**

Realizing that educational opportunities should be opened to his people, he urged all types of education including college education.

He wanted a college "in which shall be taught several important branches of the mechanic arts—a college to be conducted by the best men and the best workmen which the mechanic arts can afford; a college where colored youth can be instructed to use their hands as well as their heads."

**We Must Build**

**These views grew out of his belief that we must build as well as live in houses; we must make as well as use furniture; we must construct bridges as well as pass over them, before we can properly live and be respected by our fellowmen."**

**He thus anticipated one of the educational philosophies of Booker T. Washington.**

On the subject of equal educational opportunities, he believed so fully in the sense of fair play that he expected "little resistance from any quarter. He declared, "it is everywhere an accepted truth that in a country governed by the people, like ours, education of all classes is vital to its welfare, prosperity and is its existence."

**It was his further belief that the national government should assume the burden of equalizing educational opportunities.**

He thought that the states would be either unable or unwilling to do this and "the national government with its immense resources can carry the benefits of a sound common school education to the door of every poor man from Maine to Texas, and to withhold this boon is to neglect the greatest assurance of its own perpetuity."

He then joined with others in urging Congress "to lay the foundation of a great national system of aid to education.

**DOUGLASS WAS A CAPABLE AND PATRIOTIC PUBLIC SERVANT**

Throughout the period prior to the Civil War, he edited his publications and served as an anti-slavery lecturer.

He was a member of the Liberty Party in politics prior to 1856, and then joined the Republican party.

In this year, his attendance at the party conventions led to frequent mention of his name for the Vice-Presidency.

In fact, James A. Woodburn in his Political Parties and Party Problems asserts that Gerrit Smith was the Presidential candidate and Frederick Douglass the candidate for Vice-President on the Political Abolitionist Party ticket.

However, the Vice-Presidential candidate was finally Samuel T. McFarland. The activities of Douglass were responsible for the rumors which led to the belief that he would be chosen.

**Elected To State Post**

Nevertheless, he was a candidate for Secretary of State of New York in 1855, and the New York Herald states that "Fred Douglass, black man, was nominated for the office of Secretary of State for New York."

During the Civil War, Douglass had conferences with President Lincoln concerning the arming of the slaves and the induction of colored soldiers.

He campaigned for enrollment in the 54th and 55th Massachusetts regiments and his sons, Lewis and Charles served in these units as non-commissioned officers. He was selected on a commission to study conditions in Santo Domingo.

He was selected as one of the Presidential electors of the State of New York, an unusual distinction for a colored American.

He served in the District of Columbia as United States Marshal and Recorder of Deeds.

He was appointed in 1889 as Minister Resident and Consul General to Haiti and Charge to Santo Domingo.

**Our times need men and women of the capacity of Frederick Douglass.**

**Our schools and colleges should be challenged by his life, work and achievements. But after all is said, if the sparks of desire and work to achieve are not within the person the outer decorations may become a passing show.**

The life of Douglass, lived under handicaps, has meaning for us. His day has passed but he remains a stalwart figure in history, about whom greater glory gathers.

Our day is here — different as it is — but this great man sends a challenge to us to be prepared for struggles to accomplish our tasks as he was for his.

This great American as an advocate of freedom, a champion of quality, an exponent of education and a patriotic and devoted public servant has an abiding significance for our democracy and his name continues to be hallowed as it gathers legend among us.

## *12 Great Americans Of All Time*

The AFRO names these 12 persons as the greatest Americans of all time. Its selection is based on their contributions to American thought, to the growth of Democracy and their lasting contributions to the forward march of all humanity. Frederick Douglass heads this list. For the better part of 40 years with tongue and pen he exercised a deeper and wider effect upon the nation than any other colored American.

BOOKER WASHINGTON
W. E. B. DuBOIS
CARTER G. WOODSON
ERNEST JUST
PERCY JULIAN
GUS HINTON
CHARLES DREW
MARY McLEOD BETHUNE
THURGOOD MARSHALL
GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER
ALEXANDER PAYNE
CHARLES HOUSTON



# FIT TO KILL

***'Jiggs' Bennett, ace reporter, pursues a crafty murderer through Manhattan penthouses and night clubs . . . it is a trail blocked by beautiful women and tough hoodlums . . . all playing for high stakes.***

## A FOUR-PART SERIAL BY JAMES H. HILL

"Who killed Valerie Carter? She was shot to death in Greenwich Village."

WHAT HAS HAPPENED

**JIGGS BENNETT, who wants to retire from newspaper work to write magazine stories, much to the chagrin of his editor, JEFF SANDERS, refuses an assignment to cover the slaying of a model, VALERIE CARTER. JIGGS suggests BERNIE CLARKSON for the job and learns that CLARKSON has been on a bender because his wife left him. JIGGS goes over to see the other reporter and attempts to redirect him. JIGGS, and his wife, MAE, are eating dinner when CLARKSON calls to report that he has just killed GRANVILLE HUBLEY, the screen director who ran off with CLARKSON's wife, SYLVIA. NOW ON:-**

**Part II "Mexican Peccadille"**

Harry (Jiggs) Bennett felt crushed and defeated as he stood there in his kitchen, holding the receiver of the wall-phone, staring at the instrument as though it were to blame for the untoward message which had come through it.

When he hung up, Mae was beside him. She looked up into his face with solicitude. "I heard you say 'Bernie.' Was that—Bernie Clarkson?"

Jiggs nodded, nibbled at his lip.

"What did he mean by that remark about killing the source of a pain?"

Jiggs took her hand, shook his head slowly. "It might mean he's put a crimp in your TV debut plans, honey. According to Bernie, he just lowered the boom on Gran Hubley!"

Shock showed in Mae's face, and her free hand went to her mouth. Her eyes were distended, her voice husky and unreal. "But why, Jiggsy, why?"

**Jiggs sighed. "From what he told me just now. Sylvia walked out on him because of Hubley. Seems Bernie came home unexpectedly and caught them playing handies. I know Sylvia was a calendar-art model; but I didn't know she was connected with Hubley."**

"Then Hubley's—dead?"

"Bernie seems to be satisfied that he is. He's on his way to police headquarters to give himself up. He's written crime before. He knows a corpse when he sees one."

Mae shook her head, as though to clear it. "I heard that Hubley was a chaser: but then, he seems to have been a confirmed bachelor — and with so many beautiful women around—" She spread her hands in a gesture that said Hubley's chasing was to be expected.

**Didn't Figure**

Jiggs frowned, considered the telephone a moment. "The part about Bernie knocking off Hubley I can see; but this Valerie Carter who was shot to death in Greenwich Village. I can't figure it." He reached for the phone.

She waggled a pinky at him. "You're the boy who's finished with reporting, remember?" She smiled warmly.

Jiggs took the receiver off the hook and dialed. "I guess it's like I say about printer's ink. It has a way of getting into a guy's blood."

"Besides, reporting pays a steady salary," Mae added. Then, with a sigh, she said: "Too bad about the dinner; but I've lost my appetite, too."

Jiggs got his party then and said: "Hello Jerry. This is Jiggs —Jiggs Bennett." Jerry Sullivan was the stocky little Irish reporter who worked for the Herald. Ever since the Whitehound Bus Case, he and Jiggs had worked closely in a mutual exchange of news, particularly where there was a colored-white angle involved. It had been a convenient and happy marriage.

**"Hi, Jiggs! Lucky you caught me home. Me an' the frau are stepping out tonight, Ciro's. Celebrating my new raise." There was a moment's pause. "Anything I can do for you?"**

**"Dunno," Jiggs said, waving goodbye to Mae as she fluttered a hand at him. "This model that was killed in the Village — how do you make that one?"**

**"You mean that Carter girl?"**

**"That's the one."**

**"Funny," Jerry said. "I'm supposed to be working on that one, too. Call-girl angle. Only it don't wash — not yet any way. I know for a fact that Homicide's handling it with kid gloves and cellophane wrappings, which automatically suggests that the caper involves a lot of VIP's.**

"The dead girl's father, who's a pretty prominent Beantown doctor, claims Valerie was a wayward girl — ran away to Mexico the year she graduated from high school. A year later she turns up in Mexico City as a stripper and singer. Being olive, and having curly black hair like Mexicans, she changed her name to Gumez, the Acapulco A-Bomb.

"Hubley met her in Acapulco, apparently signed a contract with her, and brought her to the U.S. I assumed he discovered she was a fraud."

Jiggs digested that a moment. "Okay, so he thought she was a Mex and she wasn't. That doesn't call for a hole in the head."

Jerry took a deep breath. "That's what stumps me. Of course there are highly-respected personages who hire gunsels every day to get rid of some threat or opposition. But no self-respecting gunnie goes around doing jobs with twenty-five caliber heaters. It was a .25 they took out of the Carter girl."

**May Be Jealousy**

Jiggs pondered that, too. "You think some of the other girls under Hubley's management might have gotten a little jealous of his attentions to Valerie —and fogged her?"

"That's just it, Jiggs! Hubley hasn't been seen in Valerie's company three times since he brought her from Mexico eighteen months ago. But he does like them trim and tan, even though he's currently engaged to Judith Malvern—of the chain drugstore Malverns.

"And Judith is strictly Hunter and Wellesley and Bryn Mawr." Jerry paused to chuckle. "Now get out your crystal ball and aspirin bottle, and see what you come up with."

Jiggs admitted that this was a very tough one, indeed. "But here's an item for your bulldog edition. Playboy Granville Hubley has shuffled off this mortal coil—abruptly and violently, I hear."

"What!" The word exploded in the phone's ear-piece.

"Unconfirmed, Jerry, but I think it's correct."

When Jerry Sullivan got his breath, he said. "I'll check on it right away. The missus is going to be furious when I tell her Ciro's is out: but a lead like this—Jeez! How'd he get it?"

**"A gun, I think."**

**"You wouldn't care to tell me your source."**

**"No, I wouldn't, Jerry. Not this time. I think you'll find out why."**

**"Okay, Jiggs. Be talking to you."**

Thoughts crowded into Jiggs' mind from a dozen different angles—broken bits of information, like unmatchable pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. Some key pieces seemed to be missing: but even with what he had, he saw the makings of a first-rate story.

By the time Mae returned, exquisite in a blue satin gown, trimmed with lace, Jiggs had decided upon a course of action. If Bernie Clarkson had killed Hubley and confessed to the crime, then he could be of no help to the ex-reporter. The killing of Valerie Carter and Granville Hubley seemed to be two unrelated crimes, in the sense that each was committed from a different motive, and by different people. Certainly Clarkson had nothing to do with Valerie's death.

He would start, then, where Jeff Sanders, his editor had wanted him to start at first—with the Valerie Carter girl. Jiggs grinned ironically It was odd how he always wound up doing Sanders' bidding.

**Provocative Dress**

Mae said: "Well, how do you like my dress?" She cocked her head to one side and pirouetted gracefully on small feet hidden beneath the gown. In a way, it looked like she was rising out of it, the way her shoulders and bosom seemed to be coming out of the top.

"It's pretty — from the waist down," Jiggs observed. "Doesn't seem to be enough above the waist to comment on."

Mae came over to him, encircled his neck with her bare arms. "Like me in it? Antoine calls it 'Azure Madness.'"

"If you wear this on TV they'd better not pick it up in the high blood-pressure wards."

She laughed at that, then said: "I see that great big furrow on your brow, darling. You are really miles away. You're going to take over Clarkson's assignment, aren't you?"

"I guess I am."

"When do we start?"

He took her chin in his hand and said: "Uh-uh! Not 'we.' Me. And I start now. Waverly place, Greenwich Village. If homicide's leary of this one, I wouldn't want you exposed to any unnecessary danger."

"But I'm used to danger. Remember how I saved your bacon in Canada? Why, I'm to you what Doctor Watson was to Sherlock Holmes."

Jiggs laughed. "Not by a long site. Besides, you're prettier."

They were an hour later getting down to Greenwich Village, because Mae had to change into something soberer — and warmer. Besides, the sequined evening bag she carried with the blue gown wasn't large enough to accommodate her little pearl-handled automatic.

A post-gloaming quiescence had settled over the village—that brief span of time when the community's ultra-Bohemian cult of arty characters take in their easels, sculpting stands, cameras, tattooing paraphernalia, and so forth, to contemplate the day's take; and to whip up the semblance of a meal in cellar, garret, or oversize closet—wherever they happened to live.

You still knew you were in the village, however, even without the sidewalk artists. From a dimly-lighted garret across the street a self-styled troubador was working over Rimsky-Korsakov on a zither.

In the basement vestibule of 28 South Waverly, a thin girl, with appropriate head-dress, but inappropriate figure, reclined on an orange crate, and tried to look like the Queen of the Nile, perfumed and ready for a Caesarian smooch.

"This," Mae said in a lowered voice, "is fantastic! I don't

(Continued on Page 14)