(Continued from page 7)

Mulzac story of hardship and discrimination has received international attention.

**BORN TO THE SEA**

Born March 26, 1886, on Union Island in the Caribbean, Mulzac was the son of Richard and Ada Mulzac. The island inhabited by 5,000 persons was a plantation run by his grandfather.

His family eventually gave up the cotton plantation and operated a shipyard and a small fleet of whaling vessels.

When Mulzac went to sea the first time he was a deck boy on the Sunbeam, a 90-ton schooner owned by his father and captained by his older brother.

As his love for the sea grew, he studied navigation and rose to be an ordinary seaman and later an able seaman.

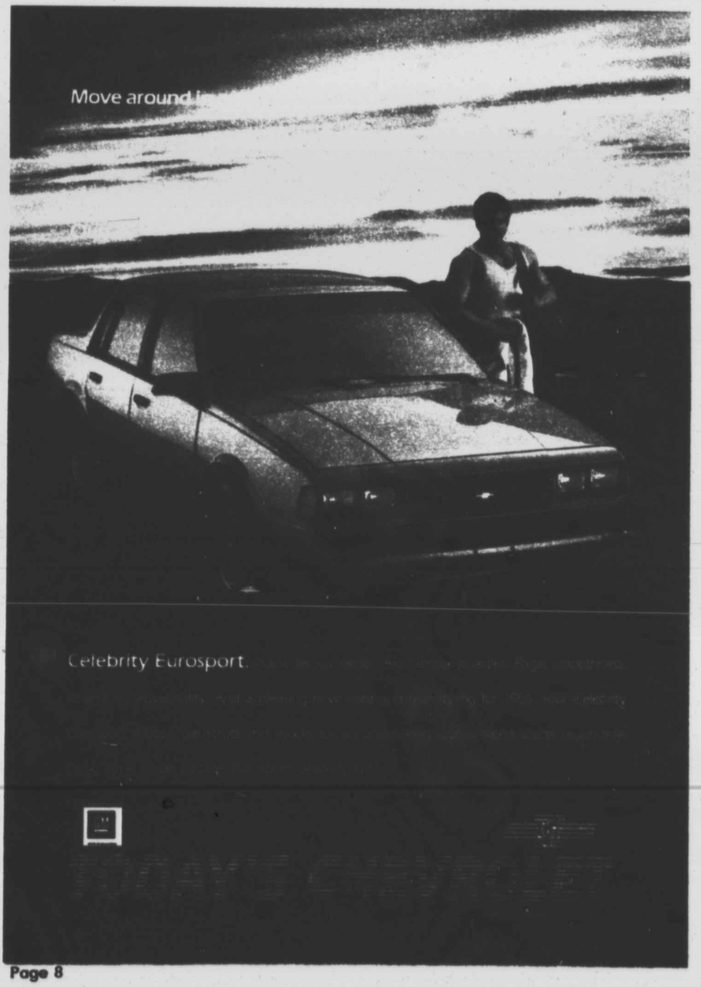
He took his first ocean-going trip on the Aeolud in March, 1907. After three weeks at sea he stopped briefly in America and tasted segregation for the time.

In June, 1907 he reached England and completed his first ocean crossing. After he enrolled in the Nautical School at Swasea, England, he earned an English second mate's certificate at age 23.

Hard luck came again to Mulzac when he was on his way back home in 1910 to carry the large amount of money he had saved and marry his childhood sweetheart. He was robbed and lost everything.

He signed on a Norwegian freighter to earn his way back but got only as far as Baltimore when the ship signed off the crew and left him stranded.

He was constantly refused a job because he was told there was no place for a black man except in the steward's department.




In desperation he accepted the post as a second cook on the United Fruit Line ship "Brookline" without knowing how to cook.

When the cook failed to report Mulzac became the cook and quickly learned how by reading cookbooks.

Mulzac became a full American citizen at age 32 in 1918.

**AN AMAZING CAREER**

Here are some highlights of Mulzac's amazing career from 1914:

1914 — In Baltimore, Hugh Mulzac found that America was only really looking for white men.

There was a discussion before he was permitted to enroll in the U.S. Maritime Training School.

With his first American citizenship papers in hand, he was able to exchange his British second mate's license for an American second mate's license.

He was then assigned to a vessel only to get there and be told by the captain he was not looking for any officers. The captain was either fired or quit over the assignment of Hugh Mulzac to his ship.

1914-1918 — Served as a deck officer aboard four American ships througout World War i.

1916 — Married Sadie Moore and later had his first daughter Elaine. The marriage ended in divorce.

1918 — Dec. 9, awarded full American citizenship at age 32.

1918 — Two weeks after becoming an American citizen, Hugh Mulzac sent for his master's license in Baltimore. He completed the examination in record time with a perfect score becoming the first black American to earn the license to command ocean-going vessels.

**HIS PROUDEST DAY**

Oct. 23, the BOOKER T. WASHINGTON set sail from Wilmington, California bound for New York on its maiden voyage — the proudest day of Hugh Mulzac's life.

He was the first black American to take command of an ocean-going vessel and would lead the way for many others. All told nearly 200 blacks would hold officer positions aboard ships during World War II and thirteen Liberty ships would be named for black Americans and be commanded by blacks.

1942-1945 — The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON became a shining example of ship operations with no mishaps in service.

First she ferried cargo and later was converted to carry troops as well. She made regular runs across the Atlantic to Africa and wherever she traveled was news due to her interracial crew.

1946-1948 — The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON still under Hugh Mulzac's command entered post-War commercial service.

According to his autobiography, **A Star to Steer By**, by June, 1948 the nearly 200 black officers were almost all unemployed with none working as deck officers and only a few left in the engine rooms.

**HIS LAST DAYS**

1960-1971 — Hugh Mulzac took his last jobs aboard ships working as a night port watchman. He would stand a watch for the security of the ship while in port with its normal officers on shore leave.

Due in part to his advanced age, 74, he was never to command a ship again.

During his later years Mulzac returned to St. Vincent to spend much time. Additionally, he resided on Long Island until he died in 1971.

1963 — Mulzac's autobiography, **A Star to Steer By**, as told to Louis Burnham and Norval Welch was published by the International Publishers of New York.

1969 — The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History's New York Chapter cited Hugh Mulzac "for his bringing honor and hope to black seamen."

1971 — Jan. 31, Hugh Mulzac died in Meadbrook Hospital, Westbury, Long Island at age 84.

1984 — May 19, the National Maritime Hall of Fame, located at the American Merchant Marine Museum in Kings Point, New York, inducted Hugh Mulzac in recognition of his lifetime achievements.

In the weeks leading up to the induction ceremonies, testimonials from his former shipmates arrived at the Museum speaking to the dignity and skill of Hugh Mulzac as well as the hope he gave to other black men that they too might rise to the command of ships.

1986 — In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Captain Hugh N. Mulzac's birth the American Merchant Marine sponsored a display of artifacts from his life.



# NATIONAL ROUNDUP

**By Larry Still and Art Carter**

WASHINGTON — Summers in the nation's capital always have been noted for the heat and humidity, but this being a pre-election period, things are really going to heat up this summer, both in the national area and the local scene. On the local scene, City Council Chairman Dave Clarke recently announced that he would not be a candidate to challenge Mayor Marion Barry's expected bid for a third term, thus leaving the mayoral race door open as wide as RFK Stadium gates are at the end of a Redskins game.

At this writing Mayor Barry has not publicly announced that he will run for a third term, but there has been every indication that he will, notwithstanding a series of indicents that have plaqued his administration. These "incidents" have involved several of the mayor's deputies and, in one instance, a close friend and former campaign manager. Barry has not been named in any of the court actions involving these individuals and he has stressed that his office has been active in bringing out the truth in each case and helping with the investigations.

At any rate, his staunch supporters still view his candidacy as a "sure shot," if and when he announces his intentions but it is also clear that there will be at least four to five other candidates in the Democratic primary race. As the incumbent, however. Barry is the only candidate with any experience in the mayoral area and the only one mentioned so far with a national reputation, which he has acquired as president of the National Black Mayors' Association.

As we've suggested, it is going to be interesting and probably really "heated up" by time the primary date rolls around.

* * *

Meanwhile, the local Republicans, with the Rev. Jerry Moore apparently back in good graces, were expected to make a serious effort to gain additional strength on the City Council and to get into the national picture by putting up candidates for the mayoral race, and making a challenge for several area congressional seats, including probably the D.C. delegate post which has been held exclusively by Congressman Walter E. Fauntroy since the beginning of Home Rule in the District.

However, things seem to be coming apart among the Republicans. Where unity and togetherness should be the big trend, the GOP hopefuls seem to be falling further and further apart. For the past three years or more, there has been apparently serious differences between one group of black Republicans who have the "inside" with President Ronald Reagan with a once-a-year White House meeting with the Chief Executive, while other GOP headliners who have carried the campaign battles down through the years could hardly get a phone call through to the Big Man.

Now a third group, headed by Robert (Bob) J. Brown of High Point, N.C., has punched their way into the picture. Brown was a White House assistant under President Richard M. Nixon, and one of the major leaders in the minority set-aside programs which came into the picture during the Nixon years.

Brown called a group of "thirty prominent black Republicans together for a meeting in Washington in mid-April and issued a report denouncing the Commission on Civil rights for calling "a moratarium on set-asides for minority business." The statement issued by the "Thirty" was so strong, it called for the resignation of Clarence M. Pendleton, Jr., chairman of the CRC.

**Richard Dick Saunders**

The statement said, among other things, that "It is obvious that under his (Pendleton's) leadership the Commission is not and will not carry out its responsibility of providing the kind of policy input aimed at ensuring that America's people are treated fairly."

Demanding Pendleton's resignation, the statement charged that "Mr. Pendleton's statements have undercut the Administration's efforts to sustain a program that benefits minority-group Americans." In addition, it stressed that Pendleton "has no license to speak for black Republicans or any other Americans."

Thus, it is easy to see that whether it be Democrats or Republicans in the upcoming primaries, local and national, one is going to need an up-to-date score card to know who supports whom, etc.

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PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW: Richard (Dick) Saunders is probably better known in Africa and other countries than he is in the United States where he is employed by the United States Information Agency. Saunders is a photographers for USIA and has been doing his job in a high class style for more than two decades.

Recently, Saunders was awarded the Superior Honor and Special Achievement Cash Award of $3,500 by the USIA. The award citation said: "For sustained excellence in undertaking photojournalistic assignments combining superior pictorial quality and faithful adherence to Agency objectives; for enduring personal hazards in remote African regions while completing missions; and for dedicated, unique service to the Agency during Africa's postcolonial era."

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ROSELYN PAYNE EPPS, M.D., of Washington has been elected assistant secretary for a two-year term of the Girls Clubs of America, a non-profit organization that serves girls aged 8-18. Dr. Epps is professor of pediatrics and child health and director of the Child Development Center at Howard University College of Medicine and has long been involved with the Girls Clubs of America.

She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and chairman of the Council on Maternal and Child Health of the National Medical Association.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS: Adhiambo Odaga, a graduate student of the University of California, Berkeley, has been named the first Rhodes Scholar-elect to represent her home nation of Kenya. She is 23 and is a master's degree candidate in city and regional planning from Nirobi. She will enroll in Oxford University's School of Anthropology and Geography.

TED CHAMBERS, who has been associated with Howard University athletic department in some way for a half century, has turned author. Now in his eighties. James Theodore Chambers as he is listed in the class book of 1923, has written "The History of Athletics and Physical Education at Howard University," which hit the book stores last month. It is a Vantage Press production and should bring back fond memories to thousands of Howard graduates who played on the athletic teams or were a part of the physical education program.