Mary McLeod Bethune, heroine to her people and the nation

It was eight years before Martin Luther King, Jr. stood beside the Washington Monument and stirred the nation with his "I Have a Dream" speech. It was 10 years before a Congress, inspired by a slain president, passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965, when an aging black woman sat down to write her last will and testament.

"I leave you love. Love builds," began Mary McLeod Bethune... "I leave you hope. The Negro's growth will be great in the years to come.

"Yesterday, our ancestors endured the degradation of slavery, yet they retained their dignity. Today, we direct our economic and political strength toward winning a more abundant and secure life."

Mary McLeod Bethune, adviser to four United States Presidents, who helped shape the United Nations, knew a great deal about both "degradation" and "hope."

When she was born July 10, 1875, as the 15th of 17 children, in Mayesville, SC, the state was under the control of federal troops. The Civil War's promise to release blacks from the degradations of slavery was slow in being fulfilled. Her parents, former slaves, still were waiting for their chance to purchase 40 acres and a mule.

The future didn't look bright for Mary. Education, particularly, seemed out - of - reach for girls such as her. The average school term was only four - and - one half months — and most black children spent few terms in school before they had to drop out to help support their families.

But Mary was determined — and hopeful.

Luckily, there was a small missionary Presbyterian school nearby she was able to attend until she learned all it had to offer. She was 12 years old.

Then, just as it appeared that her education had ended, a sponsor offered a scholarship at Scotia Seminary, a Presbyterian

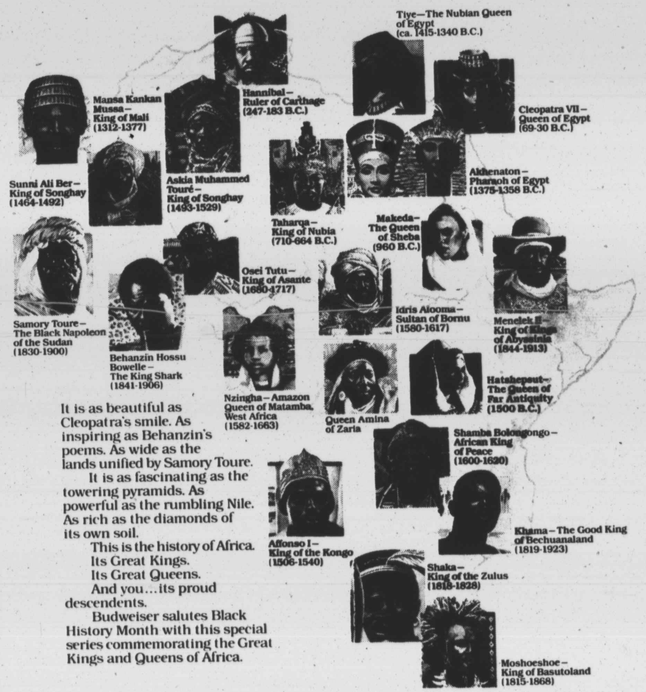
Continued on Page 8

Our Family
Salutes
Your Family
During
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

PARKS
Famous Flavor.

More Parks' Sausages, Mom, Please!

Shedding Light on the Dark Continent.



It is as beautiful as Cleopatra's smile. As inspiring as Behanzin's poems. As wide as the lands unified by Samory Toure.

It is as fascinating as the towering pyramids. As powerful as the rumbling Nile. As rich as the diamonds of its own soil.

This is the history of Africa.
Its Great Kings.
Its Great Queens.
And you...its proud descendents.

Budweiser salutes Black History Month with this special series commemorating the Great Kings and Queens of Africa.

Budweiser: salutes Black History Month

For a complete set of 22 reprints at $15.00 send your name, address and a check payable to Anheuser-Busch, Inc. Dept. GK, St. Louis, Mo 63118. Offer expires December 31, 1987. Void where prohibited.

PLEASE RECYCLE OUR ALUMINUM CANS
BUDWEISER • KING OF BEERS • ANHEUSER-BUSCH, INC. • ST. LOUIS

—Black women

Continued from Page 4

tired and weary after a long day at work. They believe that her courage that day stemmed from impulse. This was not at all the case. Like so many freedom fighters, Mrs. Parks had a long history of rebelling against racial segregation and inequality. By the time of her arrest in 1955, Mrs. Parks had been secretary of the local NAACP for over a decade and she had been the adviser to the NAACP Youth Council. It should be remembered that white Southerners in the 1940s and 50s viewed the NAACP as a militant and dangerous organization and treated its members accordingly. Nevertheless, Mrs. Parks continued to fight racial segregation through the NAACP.

In fact, during the 1940s, Mrs. Parks had refused several times to comply with segregation rules on the buses. In the early 1940s, Mrs. Parks was ejected from a bus for failing to comply. Ironically, the very same bus driver who ejected her that time was the one who had her arrested on December 1, 1955. According to Mrs. Parks, "My resistance to being mistreated on the buses and anywhere else was just a regular thing with me and not just that day." Clearly, then, the women who launched the modern civil rights movement was a seasoned fighter for justice. This is why the black masses of Montgomery readily followed her lead. Together they made history.

Ella Baker

Ms. Ella Baker was another guiding figure behind the civil rights movement. Ms. Baker has fought for Black liberation throughout her adult life. The granddaughter of a proud, rebellious slave minister, Ella Baker was born in the South in 1903 and received her undergraduate degree from Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, where she was valedictorian of her class.

In 1927 Baker moved to New York City where she became involved with numerous organizations fighting for social change. During 1941 and 1942 Baker served as the National Field Secretary for the NAACP. Between 1943 and 1955 Baker continued her work for social change.

When the Montgomery bus boycott began in 1955, Ms. Baker along with A. Philip Randolph, Bayard Rustin and Stanley Levison immediately organized a Northern support group that sent money and other resources to Montgomery. Following the boycott Ms. Baker, Randolph, Levison and Rustin contacted Dr. King and urged him to establish a southwide organization for racial equality.

In this regard Mrs. Baker became one of the founding members of Dr. King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). Soon as the SCLC was formed in 1957-8, Baker moved to Atlanta and became the Associate Director of the organization. Ms. Baker was the one who established SCLC's central office in the late 1950s. She operated the mimeograph machines, wrote much of the early correspondence, and performed the countless administrative duties. Ms. Baker was also a genious when it came to organizing people and inspiring them to seek change. As an SCLC official, Baker organized the Black masses throughout the South. She was especially effective at getting women and young people involved in the movement.

Baker became a role model for the women and young people who joined the movement. When the student sit-in protests spread across the South in 1960, Ms. Baker became a guiding force behind them. It was Baker that organized the student meeting in 1960 from which the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was first conceived. This is why Ms. Baker is considered the mother of SNCC. Ms. Baker, then, was a central figure behind both Dr. King and the Black student movement. Diane Nash-Bevel captured Baker's importance when she said, "Baker was the pillar of strength and good sense to lean on. Ella came

Continued on Page 9

Rosa Parks and Lena Horne

SAFECO TITLE INSURANCE CORPORATION

LEADS THE INDUSTRY . . .

SAFECO Title Insurance Corporation is the largest and oldest title insurance company domiciled in the State of Maryland. **We have continuously served the title needs of Marylanders since 1884.** SAFECO has the largest and most experienced staff of title examiners and attorney underwriters in the state, with closing offices in Baltimore City, Annapolis, Towson and Westminster.

SAFECO TITLE INSURANCE CORPORATION

HOME OFFICE
110 St. Paul Street
Balto., MD 21202
(301) 727-3700

ANNAPOLIS	TOWSON	WESTMINSTER
150 South Street	409 Washington Ave.	229 E. Main Street
Annapolis, MD 21401	Towson, MD 21204	Westminster, MD 21157
(301) 269-0424	(301) 825-4435	(301) 876-5700

"Experience and tenure are important"

Epsteins

Salutes... BLACK HISTORY MONTH

★ 3818 Eastern Ave.
★ 565 Old Town Mall
★ Westminster
★ Park & Lexington
★ 6812 Reisterstown Rd.
★ 6510 Baltimore National Pike
★ 1105 Light St.
★ 5620 Alameda
★ Joppatowne
★ Glen Burnie Mall

Going out on your own doesn't have to mean going out on a limb.

If you've got talent, energy and experience, you may be in a stronger position than you think to start your own business. The Baltimore Economic Development Corporation (BEDCO) is here to help you locate a site, train your employees and obtain the kind of financing that can turn your knowledge into a successful enterprise without putting a drain on your own resources. We can do a lot of special things to smooth the way for your start up. And, of course, our service is free. If you want to go into business for yourself, start things rolling with a call to Larry Smith at BEDCO to talk things over.

(301) 837-9305

BEDCO
BALTIMORE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
36 Charles St. Baltimore, MD 21201

BEDCO introduces business to its best partner in progress — Baltimore.

Clarence H. "Du" Burns, Mayor