

The Panther Pride

A Special Edition honoring African-American History

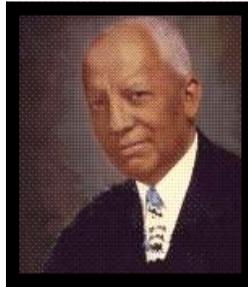
A Crete Monee Sixth Grade Center
E-Journalism Publication

Mary Ann Hurley, Principal

African-American History Month through the eyes of Carter G. Woodson

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By: Kaija Bell

Carter G. Woodson is best known as the "Father of Black History." Some of his accomplishments are being the first African-American to receive a Ph.D. from Harvard University.

He was born in 1875, in New Canton, Virginia and his mother and father were former slaves. He attended elementary school only a few months a year because he worked on his father's farm. As a result he was self-taught.

When he was 19, he enrolled at the Fredrick Douglass High School in Huntington, West Virginia. He graduated and completed his 4 year term in less than 2 years. Then he attended Berea College in Kentucky for 2 years; but the institution closed its doors to blacks. Until Berea reopened, Woodson, travelled to Asia, North Africa and Europe. Afterwards, he applied to graduate school at the University of Chicago, but the school would not accept his degree from Berea; so he had to start all over.

Carter G Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. In 1916, the Association established the Journal of Negro History and believed that black history should be a part of every school curriculum.

He became a principal at Armstrong Manual Training School. Afterwards, he became Dean at the School of Liberal Arts at Howard University.

In 1922, Woodson started researching and publishing. In 1926, he started Negro History Week; a time when everyone, especially 'Negros' were encouraged to read or learn something new about their history.

In 1933, he published his most famous book called "The Mis-Education of the Negro".

"The mere imparting of information is not education."

The idea behind this book is that African-Americans of his day were being culturally indoctrinated, rather than taught, in American schools. This conditioning, he claims, causes African-Americans to become dependent and to seek out inferior places in the greater society of which they are a part. He challenges his readers to "do for themselves", regardless of what they were taught.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson passed away on April 3, 1950. In his remembrance a variety of schools, libraries and centers have been built and named after him.

To further honor Dr. Woodson, Negro History Week, became Black History Month in 1976.

Carter G. Woodson Library
95 & Halsted, Chicago



Matthew P. Henson, A Man Frozen in Time

Hailey Laba, Reporter

Do you know Matthew Henson, the first African American to reach the North Pole? If so, congrats. But if not, here is a free lesson. But I have to warn you, he doesn't have a happy beginning, but it gets better.

Matthew Alexander Henson's story starts inside of a cabin in Charles County, Maryland, August 8, 1866. His parents loved him very much, like all parents would when they have their first child. Sadly, he didn't get to know his parents that much because they died before he was 11. So he then had to find a way to live. Matthew found a home with his uncle. But soon his uncle told him that he couldn't take care of him anymore. Matthew knew he had to take matters into his own hands and found a job as a cabin boy on a ship.

Years passed until an opportunity came along. While Henson was working as a stock boy in a men's store, Robert Peary, an officer with the Navy Corp of Engineers, told him that he needed a manservant to help him on an expedition. Henson was more than happy to help. The expedition was to map a canal in Nicaragua

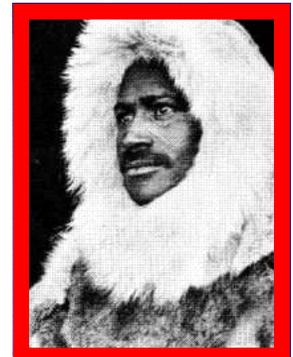
connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Matthew signed up without hesitation.

The Nicaraguan jungle was harsh, but they made it through. Not long after that was Matthew's REAL chance to explore. Along with five others, they sailed a boat called *Kite* set to go to the North Pole. The year was 1891 and they took a trip to Greenland, for they had to go there to get to the North Pole. It was 1893 when they returned.

In 1895, Henson and Peary charted the entire ice cap of Greenland. This trip almost cost them their lives. During their travel, they both had frost bite and had to turn back. And they almost died of hunger. The only way they survived was to make a desperate choice. They ate every dog they had, except one that was special to them. It didn't matter to them, because they had survived the trip.

After several unsuccessful attempts, Henson was successful in 1909. When he returned, he wrote a book about his adventures called *A Negro Explorer at the North Pole*. He died in 1955 and has a memorial near Washington D.C.

I, Matthew Henson



"The lure of the Arctic is tugging at my heart. To me the trail is calling. The old trail. The trail that is always new."

Zora Neale Hurston, Novelist/Historian

Adele Gedig, Reporter

Zora Neale Hurston was born on January 7, 1891. At the age of three she and her family moved to Eatonville, Florida. Eatonville was one of the first incorporated African-American communities in the United States, founded on December 24, 1886. Later, her father became the mayor. Now Eatonville has an annual festival that celebrates Zora Neale Hurston.

In 1927, when she was 36 years old, Zora received a bachelor's degree in Anthropology from Barnard College. She was known as a novelist, folklorist and anthropologist. Like most writers, she was ahead of her time and was not fully appreciated. When she wrote she would glorify about her home, Eatonville, Florida as a utopia where African American could be independent from whites. Zora could also be known for travelling in the south to collect African American folktale. She did not believe that integration was a positive step for the African American culture. She thought that African Americans would lose their culture. Later her novels influenced many writers, including Toni Morrison, Maya Angelou and Alice Walker.



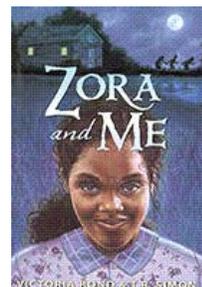
"Sometimes I feel discriminated against, but it does not make me angry. It merely astonishes me how can any deny themselves the pleasure of my company? It's beyond me."

She was considered one of the most important African American women of the twentieth century. Her most famous work is her 1937 novel "Their Eyes Were Watching God".

Sadly, she died in poverty and obscurity. Hurston was buried in an unmarked grave. Later, Alice Walker, a famous novelist influenced by Hurston's work, placed a grave stone where she was believed to be buried.

Zora Neale Hurston died at age 69, January 28, 1960 in Fort Pierce, Florida.

www.townofEatonville.org
www.wikipedia.org
www.lkrfpl.org
www.enotes.org



Told in the immediate first-person voice of 10-year-old Carrie, Zora Neale Hurston's best childhood friend, this first novel is both thrilling and heartbreaking. This book is endorsed by the Zora Neale Hurston Trust. For Grades 5-8.

B.B. King, Musician Christina Scheidt, Reporting

His reign as King of the Blues has been as long as that of any monarch on earth. Yet B.B. King continues to wear his crown well. At age 76, he is still light on his feet, singing and playing the blues with relentless passion.

B.B. King, otherwise known as Riley B. King, was born on September 16, 1925 near Itta Bena, Mississippi. His Mother's name is Noral Ella Pully and his father's name is Albert King.



B.B. King learned to play the guitar from his preacher uncle Archie Fair when he was around thirteen. B.B. King did not have an easy life. When he was four years old, his parents separated and his mother took him to live with his grandmother; but she died when King was nine and the boy was left to fend for himself.

He survived by working for a local farmer until he was about thirteen, when his father found him and took him to live with him.

B.B. King has recorded more than fifty albums and received numerous awards, including thirteen Grammys. In 1966, he won his first Grammy for 'The Thrill is Gone' and in 1984 was inducted in the Blues Foundation Hall of Fame. He is also famous for naming his guitar, Lucille.

Famous African-Americans

Judith Jamison, Dancer Samantha Hill, Reporting



Dancer, choreographer, artistic director. Judith Ann Jamison was born on May 10, 1943 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She attended the Philadelphia Dance Academy before performing with American Ballet Theatre in 1964. A year later, she moved to New York City to join the Alvin Ailey company and quickly became a principal dancer.

Jamison stayed with Alvin Ailey until 1980 and gave several notable performances, including 1967's *The Prodigal Prince*, 1969's *Masekela Language* and 1971's *Cry*, which was a 15-minute solo piece. Audiences also remember 1976's *Pas de Duke*, a duet with Mikhail Baryshnikov set to the music of Duke Ellington.

After leaving the company to appear in the Broadway musical *Sophisticated Ladies*, Jamison began choreographing her own works and started the Jamison Project in 1988. A year later, shortly after Ailey's death, Jamison became artistic director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Jamison has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Kennedy Center Honors in 1999, and the National Medal of Arts in 2001. Her autobiography, *Dancing Spirit*, was published in 1993.

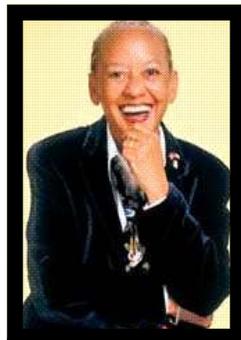
Nikki Giovanni, Poet Amanda Jones, Reporting

Nikki Giovanni is a poet, commentator, writer, activist and educator. She was born in Knoxville, Tennessee but grew up in Lincoln Heights, an all black suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio. She graduated from Fisk University in 1968.

After graduating, she went to the University of Pennsylvania and Columbia University. Her first book of poetry, *Black Feeling, Black Talk*, was published in 1968. The next year, Nikki Giovanni published her second book and began her career as a writer. When she first began writing, she got the nickname "Princess of Black Poetry".

Oprah Winfrey called Giovanni one of the 25 "Living Legends".

nikki-giovanni.com



Satchel Paige Baseball Player Nicholas Cross, Reporting

"Ain't no man can avoid being born average, but there ain't no man got to be common."



Leroy 'Satchel' Paige was born on July 7, 1906, in Mobile, Alabama. On May 1st, 1926, he began his baseball career in the Negro League and played for more than 8 teams until 1948.

In 1948, on his 42nd birthday, he signed his first major league contract for \$ 40,000, for the last three months of the season; making him the first Negro pitcher in the American League.

Satchel Page was inducted in to the Baseball hall of Fame in 1971. He died from a heart attack, in his home in Kansas City, Missouri, on June 8th, 1982.

While he wasn't the first African-American to integrate major league baseball, he was the first pitcher.

Wikipedia.com

The Middle Passage

Tyler Fox, Reporting

The "Middle Passage" was the journey of slave trading ships from the west coast of Africa, where the slaves were obtained, across the Atlantic, where they were sold or, traded for goods such as molasses, which was used in the making of rum.

However, this voyage has come to be remembered for much more than simply the transport and sale of slaves. The Middle Passage was the longest, hardest, most dangerous, and also most horrific part of the journey of the slave ships.

With extremely tightly packed loads of human cargo that stank and carried infectious disease and death, the ships would travel east to west across the Atlantic on a miserable voyage lasting at least five weeks, and sometimes as long as three months.

Although incredibly profitable for both its participants and their investing backers, the terrible

Middle Passage has come to represent the ultimate in human misery and suffering.

The inhuman conditions which the Africans were faced with on their voyage display the great evil of the slave trade.

In the morning they were given their first meal of the day. They would be fed boiled rice, or cornmeal. Sometimes a few lumps of raw meat would be thrown in with their food to keep them healthy. They were also given their daily ration of a half-pint of water in a small pan.

The afternoon meal usually consisted only of beans because they were the cheapest form of food available. The beans were boiled until they were pulpy and then covered with a mixture of palm oil, flour, and water. To cover up the horrible taste; large amounts of red

pepper, were added.

In order to give the slaves exercise, they were "danced" on deck. Still shackled together, the men were forced to jump up and down until often the flesh of their ankles was raw and bleeding from the iron chains which bound them together. The women and children, who were free of such bonds were better able to dance to the rhythm that was pounded out on an African drum or iron kettle, sometimes with the accompaniment of a fiddle or African banjo played by a crew member.

www.barnard.columbia.edu



The Reconstruction Era and Beyond

Aileen Coria, Reporting

After the Emancipation Proclamation former slaves didn't know what to do with their rights and freedom.

"For we colored people did not know how to be free and the white people did not know how to have a free colored about them."

(Houston Hartsfield Holloway, former slave)

After the Civil War, because blacks weren't slaves, they could vote, hold office and attend school. New Orleans, Louisiana, desegregated its streetcars in 1867, began experimenting with integrated public schools in 1869, and elected a total of 32 black state senators and 95 state representatives, and had integrated juries, public boards, and police departments .

But despite these major changes, life for blacks was far from perfect. "Black Codes," or Jim Crow laws were put in place to limit the opportunities of blacks, and were passed in the South during Reconstruction.

These laws placed taxes on free blacks and restricted their ability to rent land or own guns and even allowed their children to be apprenticed to the old slave masters. In effect, it was a continuation of slavery. It was during this time that anti-

black groups like the Ku Klux Klan had their start.

The black leaders during Reconstruction had gained their freedom before the Civil War (by self-purchase or through the will of a deceased slave owner) and came from the church, having worked as ministers during slavery when the church served as the center of the black community.

Hiram Revels, the first African American elected to the U.S. Senate was born free in North Carolina and attended college in Illinois. He worked as a preacher in the Midwest in the 1850s and as a chaplain to a black regiment in the Union Army before going to Mississippi in 1865 to work for the Freedmen's Bureau.



Hiram Revels
(1827-1901)

Blanche K. Bruce,
elected to the

Senate in 1875 from Mississippi, had lived a privileged life as a slave and also received some education.

The background of these men was typical of the black leaders that emerged during Reconstruction, but was very different from that of the majority of the African American population.

In 1967, almost a century after Hiram Revels and Blanche Bruce served in the U.S. Senate during Reconstruction, Edward Brooke of Massachusetts became the first African American senator elected by popular vote.

Edward Brooke
Oct. 26, 1919



The Great Northern Migration

Matthew Brown, Reporting

The Great Migration, also known as the Black Exodus, was an era of a new beginning for many slaves who were recently freed after the Civil War.

Many African Americans began to travel farther into Midwestern states especially Kansas and Oklahoma. The Great Migration also had an effect on literature arts and music specifically jazz. Many books and novels were written based off of experiences during The Great Migration. Some of these books are Ralph Ellison's novel *Invisible Man*, and Toni Morrison's *Paradise*.

With the black population increasing the development of jazz was also changed in some ways. While African Americans began to spread round the U.S so did the art of jazz music. One of the most popular jazz performers of this time was Louis Armstrong. He was one of the few who migrated to the Chicago area.

Even after African Americans were freed from slavery they began to face racial violence in the North.

Some of the most drastic racial violence mainly took place in cities like St. Louis (1917) and Chicago (1919). In specific areas of these two cities blacks were greatly confined causing these areas to become sites of poverty and overcrowding.

African Americans also faced health issues in these areas and received less public service. In 1910, New York's black population grew from 91,709 to 152,467 by 1920 and to 234,000 by 1930. Over one-and-a-half million African Americans left the South.

However, employment became a great challenge for blacks in the North. Even though the North's black population grew to the billions the majority of African Americans living in the U.S. remain in the South in the 1930s.

In conclusion, the Great Migration resulted in many changes for African Americans and Americans alike. Black populations grew in drastic volumes across the U.S. along with a change in literature and music arts. Racism also grew in the United States along with employment issues for African Americans.

pbs.com/jazz-people-places



The Tuskegee Airmen: The Dedication of their lives

Blessing Hunter, Reporting

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African Americans to be U.S. military army forces. There were 996 airmen, including pilots, bombardiers and navigators. From 1941-1946, 1000 black pilots were trained in Tuskegee. The Airmen fought in World War II. Before the Airmen, African Americans were not allowed to be U.S. military pilots. In 1917, African American men tried to be aerial observers, but they were rejected. Many in the military believed that African Americans would fail in combat and were incapable of flying. In 1936, the U.S. government started establishing flight schools at colleges around the nation, except at all the black colleges. That's when the Tuskegee Experiment began.

Then a flight school was started at Tuskegee University in Alabama on July 14th, 1941, by the Army Air Corps. There were twelve cadets and one officer, Captain Benjamin O Davis, Jr. and he later became the first African-American Air Force General.

These and other graduates became known as the Tuskegee Airmen and the 99th Pursuit Squadron. The Airmen fought with distinction during World War II.

Later on, three newer Tuskegee squadrons joined and formed the 332nd Fighter Group. The 332nd group fought with honor in Italy, flying combat and escorting bombers. A total of 994 Tuskegee Airmen and approximately 60 are still alive today.

The movie "Red Tails" is about the 332nd Fighter Group. Although the movie is fiction, it does present some of the problems the pilots experienced because of racism.



Capt. Benjamin O Davis, Jr.



www.military.com

INTERVIEWS OF OUR ELDERS

My Great Uncle

Mia Dixon, Reporting

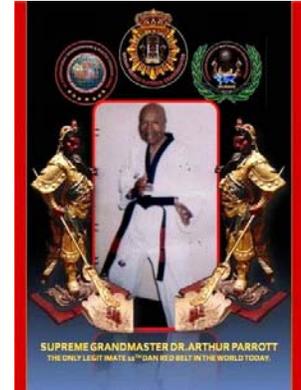
My Great Uncle, Arthur Parrott was born in Arkansas in 1932. He is now 78 years old. No, he did not fight in World War II, but he did other things.

When he was in school, he walked in the door and saw women making dresses and boys training for fitness education. Education was poor and life was hard. But he was happy with his life because he had a family to share it with.

As an African American, there was still separation between whites and blacks. He said whites did not like him and that they often made fun of him.

At the age of 5, he saw martial arts for the first time. Ever since then, he wanted to join martial arts. Unfortunately, his family wasn't rich, so he wasn't able to learn until he was 15.

My uncle had his eyes set on martial arts, but he also wanted to become president. He accomplished his goal by becoming the WOMA (World Of Martial Arts) International President. Now he is the Worldwide and WOMA International President Supreme Grandmaster as a 12th degree and Red Belt mastering over 13 different martial arts systems.



"Granddaddy Eugene"

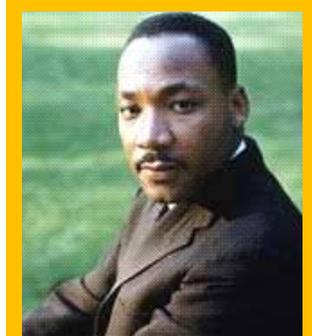
Ayllia Barnes, Reporting

I interviewed my grandfather, Eugene Williams. He was born in Little Rock, Arkansas on March 3, 1952. He's an only child, has one child and will be 60 years old this year.

He came to Illinois when he was 10 years old after a visit with his cousin Annie. When he was my age he said they didn't have telephones and the only way they could communicate was to walk miles to see each other.

He said school was pretty much the same but then said that his family didn't have enough money so his mother sewed clothes for him. He said the average family now has a lot of televisions, but back then families only had one.

His favorite, famous Black American is Martin Luther King, Jr. because he was a very good black leader.



"Momma Daisy"

Darrwin Perkins, Reporting

I had the pleasure of interviewing my great-grandmother. Her name is Daisy Adams who is better known as "Momma Daisy" by those who love and admire her.

She was born in 1926 in Louisiana; but, would later move with her family to Arkansas. She is one of twelve children.

For entertainment, her parents raised their children to go church. They also loved to be with their neighbors and friends. When I asked more about Mama Daisy's parents, she told me they were farmers and as a child she had to pick cotton. It amazed me when I asked about her housing when she was a kid. She told me their bathroom was outside!

When Momma Daisy was about eleven, she remembers playing basketball on a team. When we discussed the cost of things when she was growing up, her memory was vague. But, here is what she recalls:

Soda Pop = \$.05
Bread = \$.10
Candy Bars = \$.15

The one thing Momma Daisy remembered from history was the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. She said, "It was a sad day." I questioned if she had taken part in any Civil Rights Movement activities like marching. She indicated that she had not.

I asked her what she thinks about having the first African American President, Barack Obama. She told me that she thinks he's doing a good job.



Book Review: Double Dutch by Sharon Draper Krysta Griffin, Reporting

In *Double Dutch*, Sharon Draper wrote a beautifully written novel about the secrets of her characters daily lives. When most of your life revolves around friendship, your world could turn upside down. This story is not only good because of the secrets, but from the fear some secrets cause. The fear in this book causes many to believe many unrealistic ideas about what could happen.

This book mainly comes down to the fact that fears that sometimes secrets are things that should not only be known, but that secrets, even little ones, should be told to an adult. This was a good read to help you under-



written novel about the secrets of her characters daily lives. This story is not only good cause. The fear in this book causes many to believe many

could sometimes be generated from misunderstandings and stand things in everyday life.

Dr. Sharon Draper was born in 1952, in Cleveland, Ohio. For thirty years, she was an English teacher in the Cincinnati, Ohio, public school system, instilling her love of reading and writing in generations of children, and inspiring them to reach for their greatest dreams. In 1997 she received the highest honor an educator can be given when President Bill Clinton named her the U.S. Teacher of the Year. As a result Draper became a spokesperson for the teaching profession, crisscrossing the globe to talk about the importance of excellence in the classroom. In 1994 the dedicated teacher became an author, releasing her first children's book, *Ziggy and the Black Dinosaurs*.

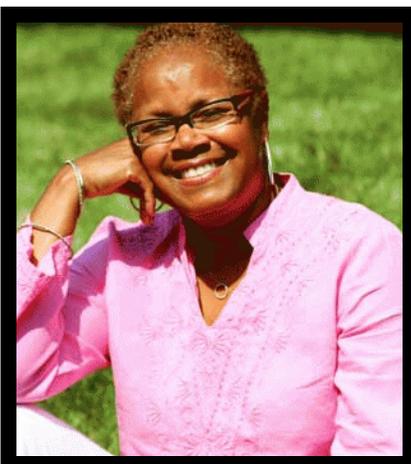
Since then she has penned numerous books geared toward children and young adults; Draper is also a poet and nonfiction writer. Her books have won countless prizes, including the Coretta Scott King Award, given annually by the American Library Association to authors and illustrators of African American descent. Draper's most recent young adult novel, *The Battle of Jericho* (2003), was named the Coretta Scott King Honor Book of 2004. www.sharondraper.com

Sharon M. Draper
Teacher, Author, Poet



Sharon G. Flake was born on December 24, 1956, in Northern Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. According to Andrea Sachs in *Time*, she was born in "an area with its share of poverty and crime." Flake grew up in a tight-knit family with six children, and her parents have been married for 59 years and continue to live in Northern Philadelphia. Flake's mother scrubbed floors for a living, and her father was an intellectual. After growing up in Philadelphia, Flake began attending the University of Pittsburgh, majoring in medicine. After taking several medical classes, the curriculum became too difficult and Flake switched her major three times. Finally, reviewing all of her grades, Flake found that she got the best grades in English, so she decided to complete her B.A. in English.

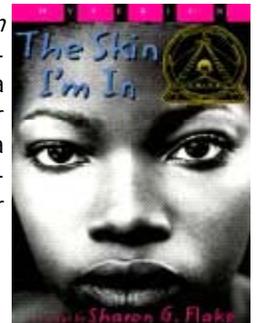
Sharon G. Flake
Author



During college, she was offered an internship with a local newspaper; they contacted her three times, but she never showed up for work. Post-graduation, Flake's insecurity remained, and she decided to work in a social services agency. After several years as a houseparent, helping youth in foster care, Flake joined a writing group in a Pittsburgh bookstore.

Flake also began to work at the University of Pittsburgh in the Public Relations department. She worked up to Director of Public Relations for the University of Pittsburgh's business school, by the time she turned thirty-years-old. For fifteen years, while working full-time, Flake submitted short stories and articles, each of which was rejected.

The first publisher to whom Flake took her manuscript of *The Skin I'm In* signed her. *The Skin I'm In* is the story of Maleeka Madison, a dark-skinned middle school student who endures racism and bullying on a daily basis. Flake describes her own adolescence and it is very similar to the story of Maleeka. Within the novel, *The Skin I'm In*, Maleeka uses writing as a method of working through her heartache, and expressing herself, much like Flake's utilization of writing to discuss her adolescence.



FIELD TRIP TO THE DUSABLE MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY



Heavenly Griffin, Reporting

When we first entered the DuSable Museum of African American History, we were taken into an auditorium. We watched a short movie about Oscar Brown Jr. where an actor, (Morris Gearing) came onto the stage and sang and danced to his works. His daughter, (Maggie Brown) also came onto the stage and sang and danced. Nikki Giovanni, the famous poet, joined in on the performance.

After the performance, we were able to walk around the museum. We saw many pictures and paintings. We were able to walk into the President Obama Quilt exhibit. Some of the workers at the museum told us about the creation of the museum and how it used to be part of Dr. Margaret Burroughs' house. With her husband, Dr. Burroughs believed it was important to have a museum especially for Black American history. That's why she started it in her house! She decided to name it after Jean Baptist DuSable because he was the first person to establish Chicago. He was a fur trader and set up a trading post in Chicago and that's how the city got started.

It was sad that we weren't able to spend more time in the museum. It was the best field trip ever!



Dr. Margaret Burroughs



Jean Baptiste DuSable

"SOMETHING ABOUT OSCAR"

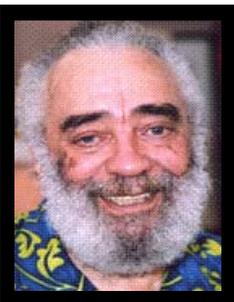
Sophia Zimmerman, Reporting

On Friday, February 10th, the entire Crete Monee Sixth Grade Center took a field trip to see "Something About Oscar Brown Jr." at the DuSable Museum. It starred Morris Gearing, and in it he performed many of Oscar Brown Jr.'s most famous songs, including "Work Song", "Brown Baby" and "But I Was Cool". They also had a special guest, Nikki Giovanni, a renowned poet who performed some of her material. One of Oscar Brown Jr.'s daughters, Maggie Brown, was there and sang with Morris also.

This production was created to show how the African-American people showed their struggles through their music. After the show, Maggie Brown said she was very glad to be performing her father's music and was happy to be doing it with some of his original band members. The production was very interesting and fun to watch.



Nikki Giovanni (Poet), Maggie Brown (Singer),
Morris Gearing (Actor), Matthew Brown (SGC Student)
Sophia Zimmerman (SGC Student)



Oscar Brown Jr.

(October 10, 1926 – May 29, 2005)

An American singer, songwriter, playwright, poet, civil rights activist, and actor. He wrote at least 1,000 songs, twelve albums, and over a dozen musi-