

# Arkansas African American History Makers



A project coordinated by

**Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission**

1400 West Capitol Ave.

Little Rock, AR 72201

(501) 324-9333 or 1-888-290 KING

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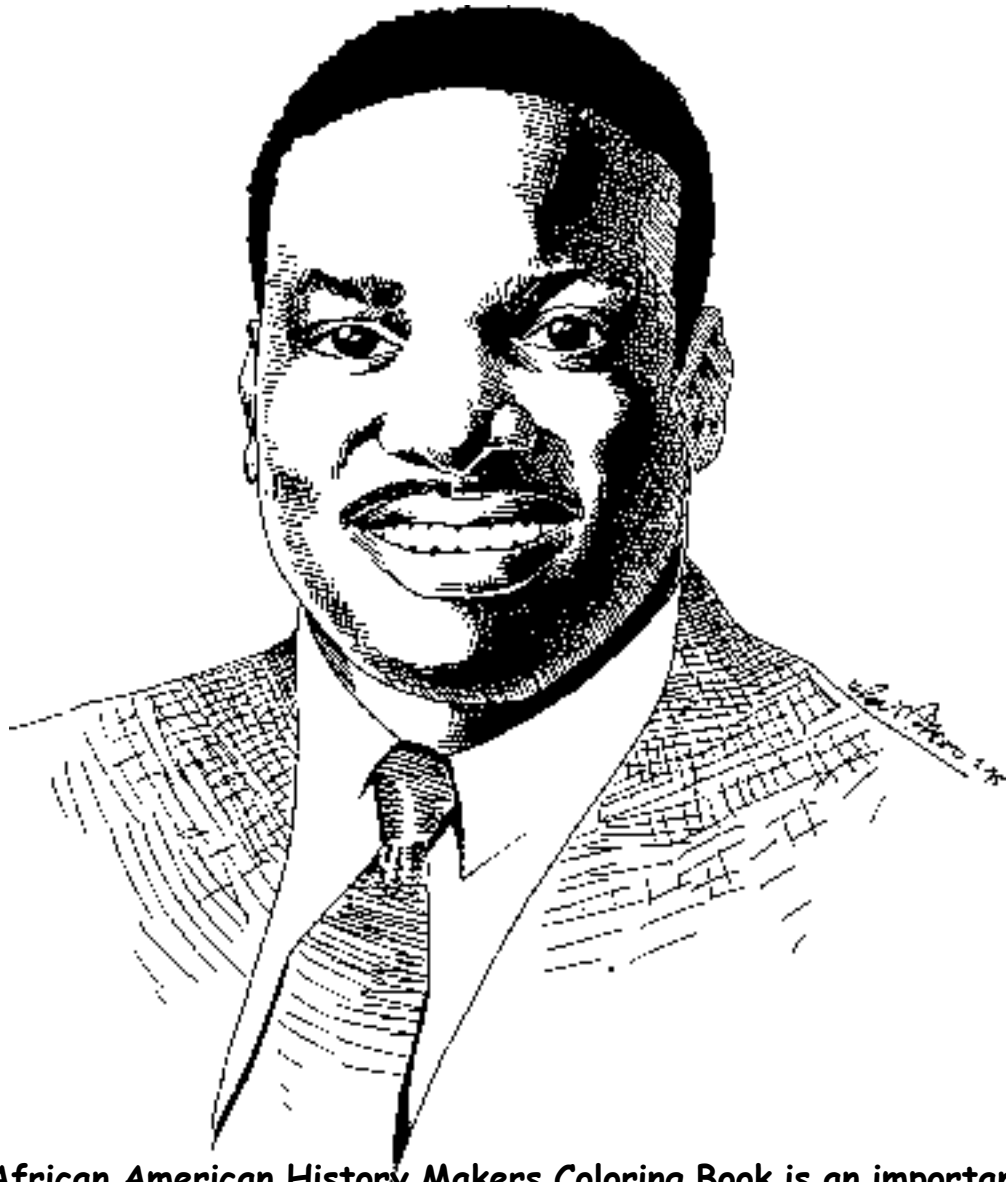
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# AAA History Makers

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Dear Friend,

The Arkansas African American History Makers Coloring Book is an important resource to educate youth about the accomplishments of some important Arkansans.

There are so many history makers in our state that we could not include all of them in this publication. So, this project will be an ongoing educational process that will feature many different history makers over a period of time. If you know outstanding individuals in your community, please let us know.

We hope you enjoy this book and gain a better appreciation for the lives, contributions, and achievements of Arkansas' own heroes to our great country. Please remember that African-American History is American History.

Sincerely,

Tracy Steele, Executive Director  
Arkansas Martin Luther King Jr. Commission



## Mission Statement

The Martin Luther King Jr. Commission promotes the understanding and acceptance of nonviolence and human equality as a way of building community among all Arkansans.

## Purpose

- Promote racial harmony; understanding; community service, respect and goodwill among all citizens.
- Promote principles of nonviolence.
- Promote awareness and appreciation of the Civil Rights Movement and advocacy of the principles and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Develop, coordinate and advise the Governor and General Assembly of ceremonies and activities throughout the state relating to the observance of Dr. King's Holiday.

### **For More Information, Contact:**

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission  
1400 West Capitol Avenue  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
Phone: (501) 324-9333  
Fax: (501) 324-9336  
Toll Free: 1 (888) 290-KING

# MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMISSION

## SERVICES & OPPORTUNITIES

**King Team** - Through the King Team program young people across Arkansas can accentuate their strengths by gaining an appreciation for teamwork and community service. The goal of the program is to inspire youth to undertake community service projects and activities to help others. The program also requires that members commit to promote human equality and nonviolence.

**Drum Majors** - The Drum Majors Program encourages adults to be leaders in promoting nonviolence, human equality and community service. Drum Majors serve as role-models and facilitators for youth. They are encouraged and trained to take leadership roles in their local government and community. A key component of the program is the speaker's bureau. The speakers promote the Commission's agenda while serving as motivational and resource speakers.

**Junior Commission** - This Commission is guided by Junior Commissioners. These are Arkansas high school and college students who have demonstrated strong qualities of leadership and community service. The Junior Commissioners have particular influence in advising the Commission in projects dealing with youth.

**King Holiday** - The King Holiday is a unique American holiday. It challenges Americans to honor Dr. King by addressing those issues which were at the helm of his work, especially service to others. In 1994, President Clinton signed legislation establishing the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday and Service Act making the King Holiday a time for community service, thus establishing a new direction for King Holiday celebrations. The Commission coordinates and plans Holiday celebrations throughout the state.

**Youth Assemblies** - Annual gatherings of youth from all over the country, the assemblies prepare youth to effectively deal with the temptations of today, encourage them to embrace Dr. King's message of love, tolerance and nonviolence, and help them make choices which will enhance the greatness of the state and nation and improve the possibilities for a better world.

**Young Achievers Competition** - This competition seeks to encourage Arkansas high school juniors and seniors to set high goals for themselves and reach for excellence. The Competition is designed to inspire participants and challenge them to reach beyond their own social, economical and environmental boundaries. The Competition allows participants to compete in the areas of writing, interviewing and talent. The winner and finalists are awarded college scholarships.

**Youth Hall of Fame** - Annually, as a salute to outstanding youth between the ages of 13 -19, the Commission inducts five youth into the Youth Hall of Fame. These youth represent outstanding achievements in Academics, Athletics, Performing Arts, Community Service and Leadership. The inductee's are presented with a trophy and their picture is permanently hung in the Commission's office.

**Volunteers** - Volunteers play a vital role in planning events and providing professional assistance to the Commission. The Commission has established a volunteer recruitment and training program with more than 90 volunteers.

## Hubert "Geese" Ausbie # 35



Hubert "Geese" Ausbie, turned down more than 200 major college offers to attend Philander Smith College in Little Rock, AR. "Geese" was the nation's 3<sup>rd</sup> highest scorer during his senior year, he turned down several NBA offers to join the Harlem Globetrotters in 1962. For the next 23 years, he participated in more than 6,000 basketball games in over 100 countries. He continues to live in Little Rock and now serves as manager and coach of the Harlem Globetrotters.



As President of the NAACP, Daisy Bates received national attention in 1957 when nine African American students, "The Little Rock Nine", attended the all-white Central High School in Little Rock, AR. She and her husband, L.C. Bates, were also the publishers of the popular Black newspaper, The Arkansas State Press. Mrs. Bates continued to fight for the equal rights of all people until her death on November 4, 1999.



## Dr. Luther H. Black



Dr. Luther H. Black was the First African American to be named Director of Adult Education in the Arkansas Department of Education. He is known throughout the state as "The Father of Adult Education". Several Adult Education Centers were named in his honor.



A Public School teacher for 44 years, Mrs. Evangeline K. Brown's philosophy was "invest in others". She is recognized statewide for her work in the area of civil rights, women's rights and education. But, she said the thing of which she is most proud of is "rearing 39 foster children. Mrs. Brown died on September 22, 2001.



**Calvin R. King**

**Calvin R. King, a native of Aubrey, Arkansas, helped establish the Arkansas Farm and Land Development Corporation. This organization was designed to stop the loss and reverse the conditions leading to land loss among African American Arkansans.**

**Floyd Brown a Tuskegee graduate and former student of Booker T. Washington, established the Fargo Agricultural School in 1919 at Fargo, AR. The School prepared African American youth to become productive members of society from elementary through vocational education and many of them continued on to higher education.**

## Charles Bussey



**Charles Bussey became Little Rock's first African American Mayor, serving from November 1981 through December 1982. He was the first Black elected official to serve on the City Board of Directors since reconstruction. He served from 1969-1976, then again from 1979-1990. A Stamps native, Mr. Bussey devoted much of his life to helping develop programs for children and the disadvantaged.**

## Senator Jean Curtis Edwards



## Representative Joretta E. Wilkins

Senator Jean Curtis Edwards and Representative Joretta E. Wilkins are the only Arkansas brother and sister team to hold legislative offices at the same time. Representative Wilkins became instrumental in the creation of the Arkansas Martin Luther King Jr. Commission in 1993. Senator Edwards has been an advocate for improvements in education and agriculture within the state of Arkansas.

**Dr. Jerry Jewell**



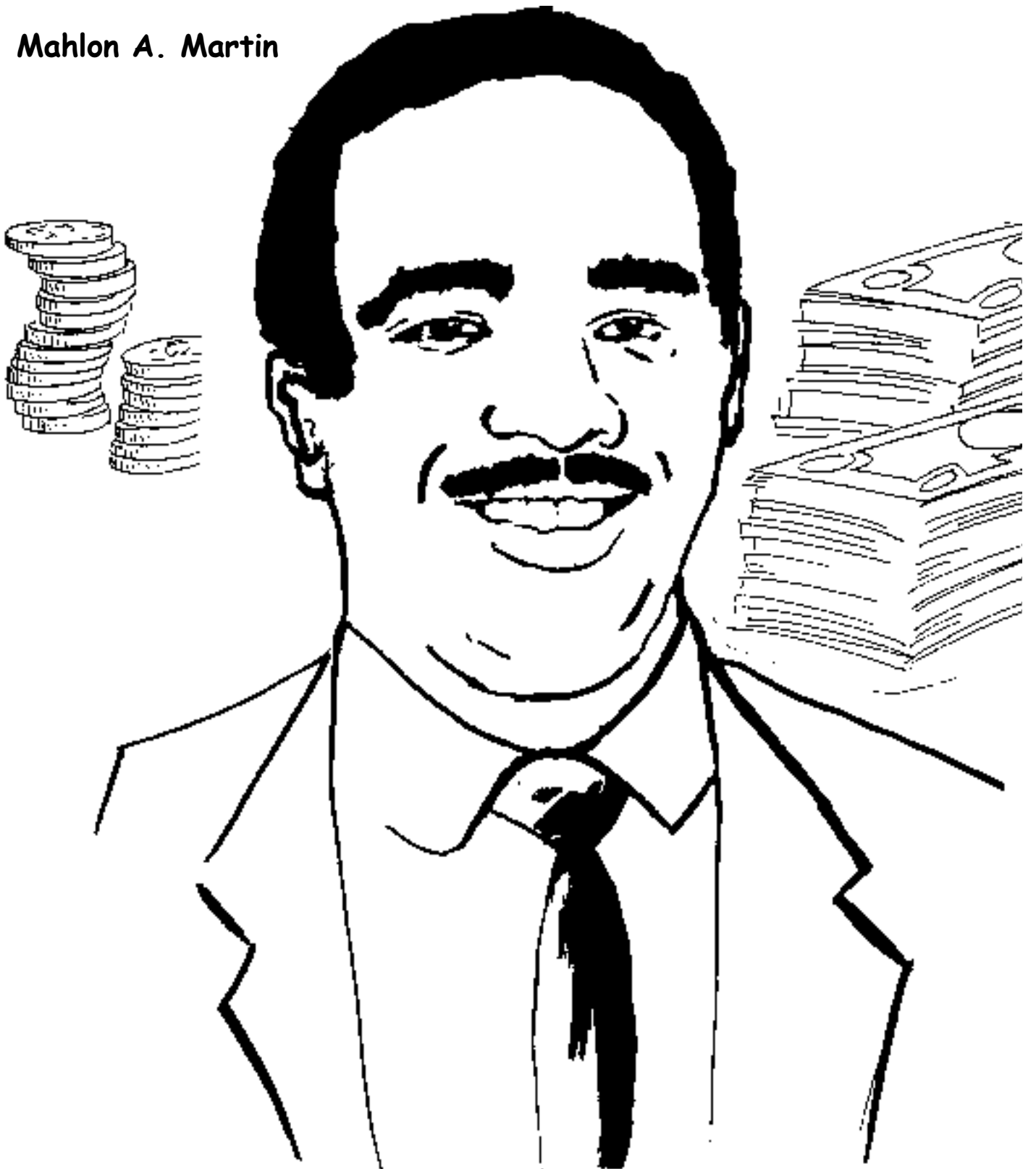
The Arkansas State Legislature gained African American representation for the first time in 80 years when Dr. Jerry Jewell was elected as a state senator in 1973. He served in the Senate until 1995, and was President Pro Tempore from 1993 until 1994. As a result, he became the first African-American Arkansas Governor, serving as "Acting Governor" whenever the Governor and Lieutenant Governor were out of state.

## John H. Johnson



John H. Johnson is the founder and chairman of the board of Johnson Publishing company, Inc. of Chicago, Illinois, the most prosperous African-American publishing company in America. His company publishes Ebony, Jet magazines. Mr. Johnson was born in Arkansas City, Arkansas and started his business with a \$500.00 loan from his mother.

## Mahlon A. Martin

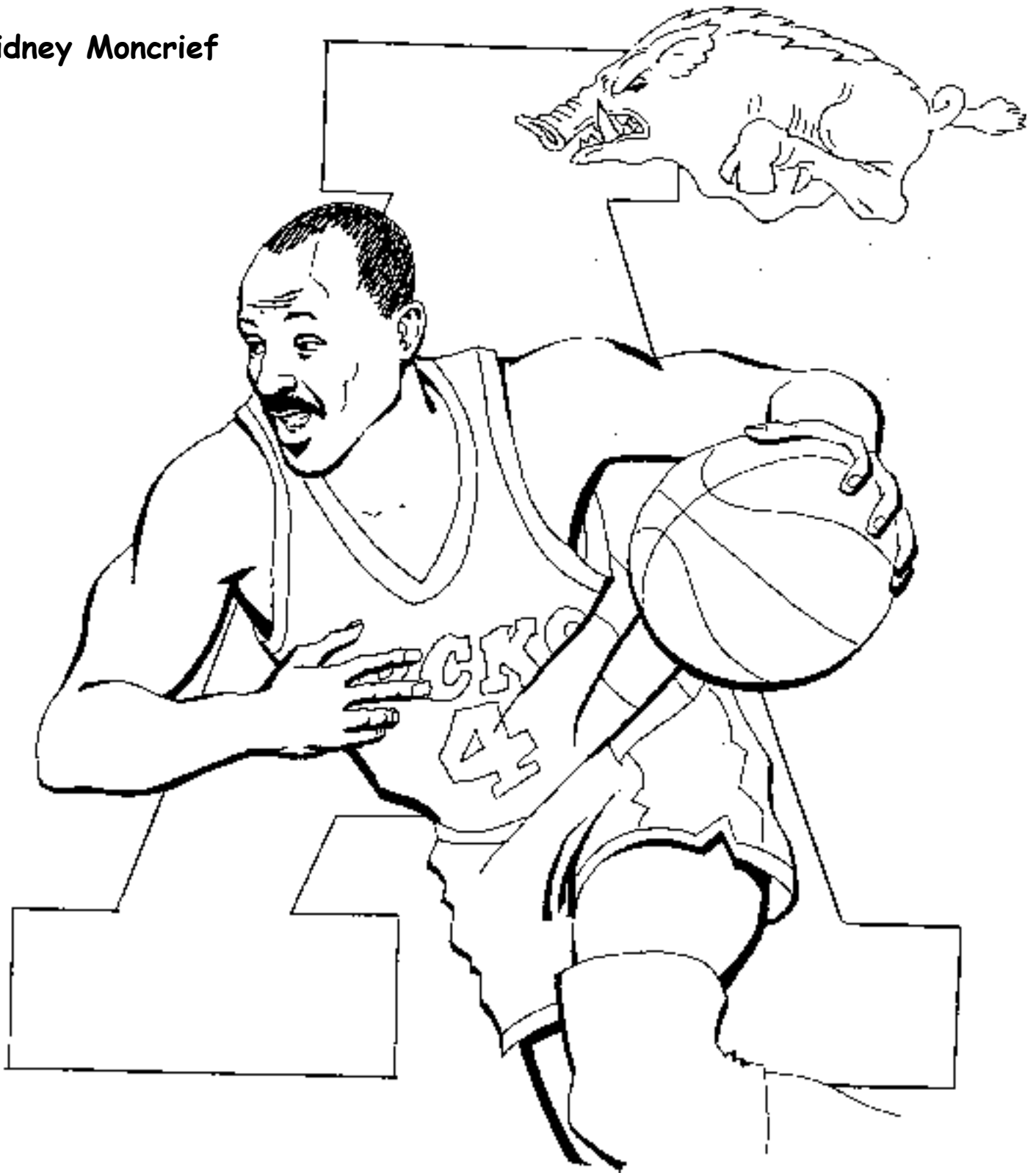


**Mahlon A. Martin was the first African American to serve as director of the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration, Little Rock City Manager, Manager of Methods and Standards Departments of Systematics, Inc.**

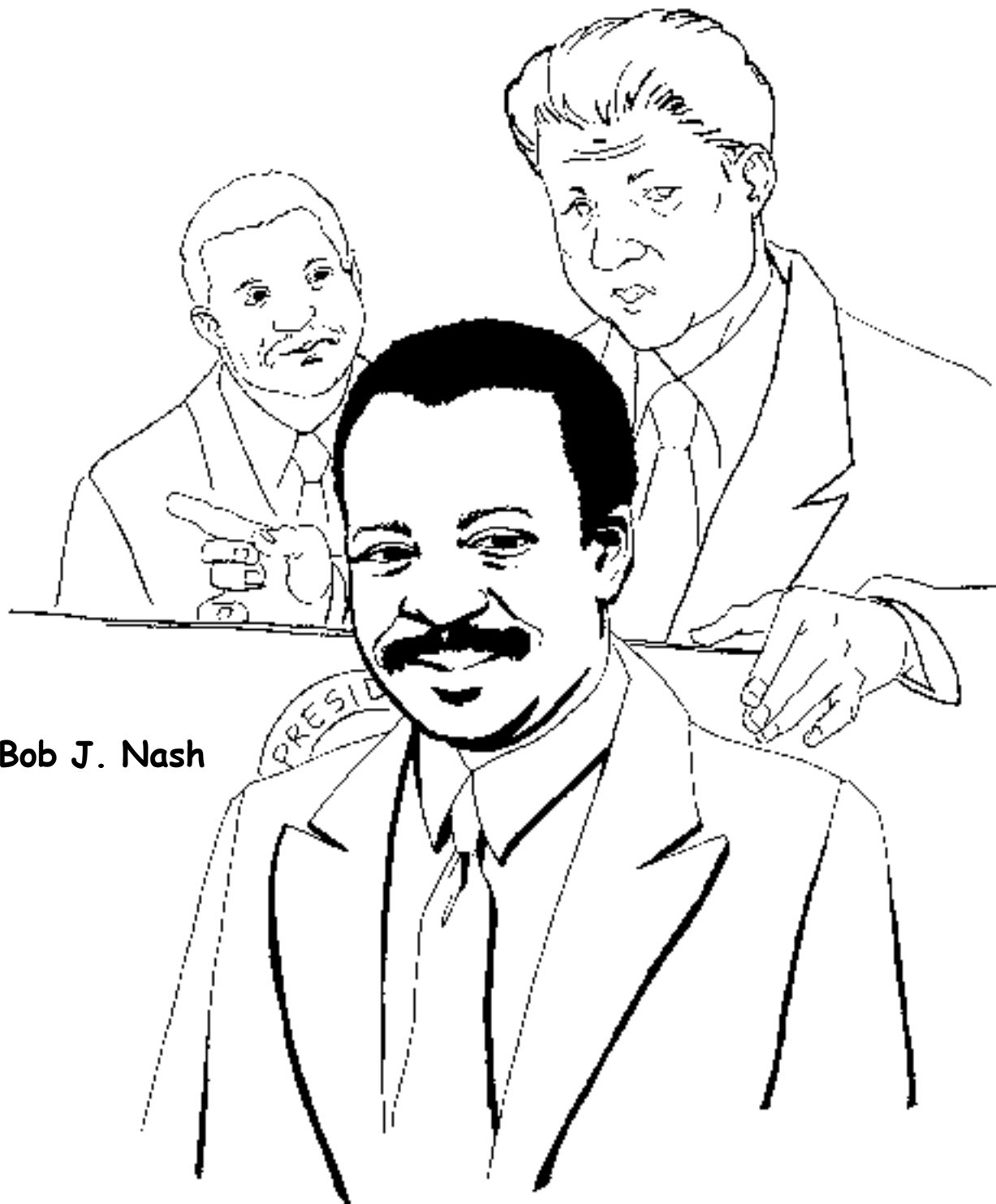
**Mr. Martin also served as President of the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation until his death in 1995. The apartment Complex at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Main Street in Little Rock is named in his honor.**



## Sidney Moncrief



Little Rock native **Sidney Moncrief** played college basketball for the Arkansas Razorbacks and professional basketball for the Milwaukee Bucks. He led the Razorbacks to three Southwest Conference championships, was named as an NBA All-Star five times, and defensive Player of the Year. He is the owner of Sidney Moncrief Blytheville Ford-Lincoln Mercury and Sidney Moncrief Pine Bluff Hyundai.



**Bob J. Nash**

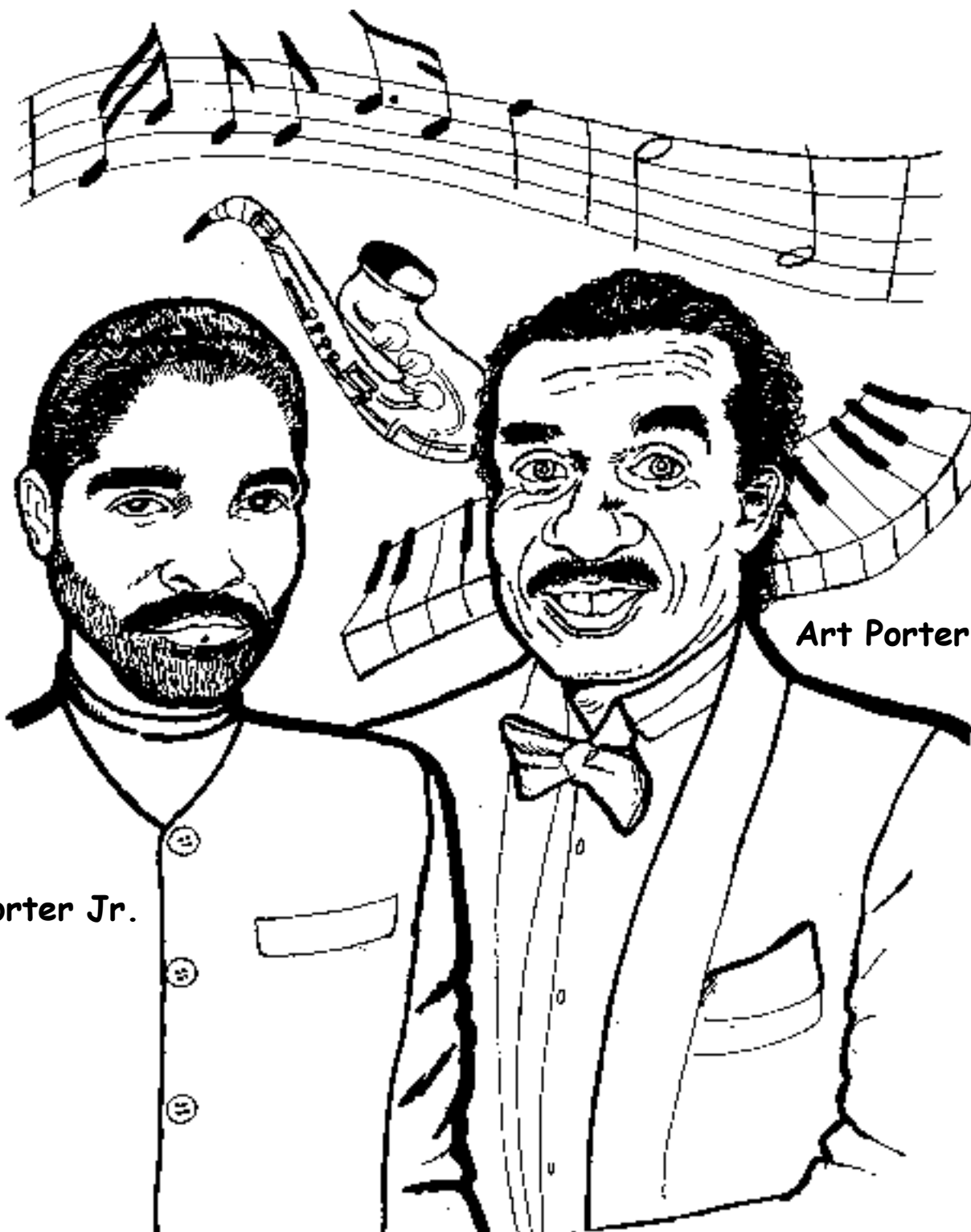
**Mr. Bob J. Nash is a Texarkana native, graduated from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, and earned a masters degree in Urban Studies from Howard University. Mr. Nash was the first African American Vice-president of the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Personnel during the**

**Clinton administration. Mr. Nash also served as Under Secretary of Agriculture for Small Community and Rural Development, and the President of the Arkansas State Development Finance Authority. Mr. Nash was appointed Vice Chairman and elected to the board of Directors of Shorebank Corporation in Chicago, Illinois.**

## A. J. Parish



**Mr. A. J. Parish, a pastor, mortician, and resident of Fort Smith, Arkansas, became the first African-American coroner in the State in 1989.**



Art Porter Sr.

Art Porter Jr.

Art Porter, Sr., a classical/jazz pianist, entertainer, educator, and television producer, was a Little Rock native. Mr. Porter, Sr. received his bachelor degree in Music Education from University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. He earned a masters degree from Henderson University and continued his studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana and

the University of Texas at Austin. By the time of his death in 1993, Mr. Porter was a world-renowned jazz musician.

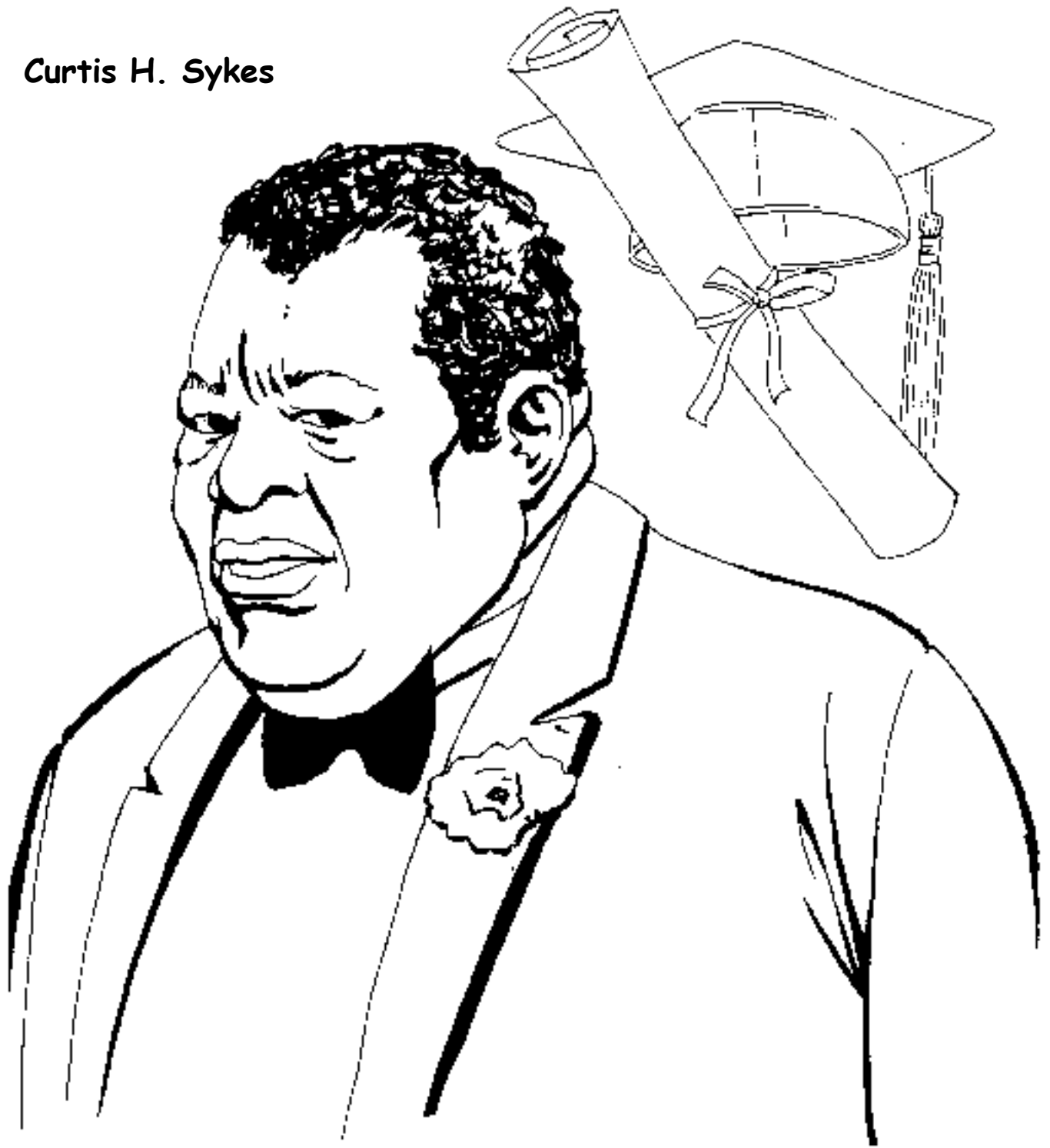
Art Porter, Jr., following in his father's footsteps, had just begun his jazz career when his death occurred in Thailand in 1995.

## Ozell Sutton



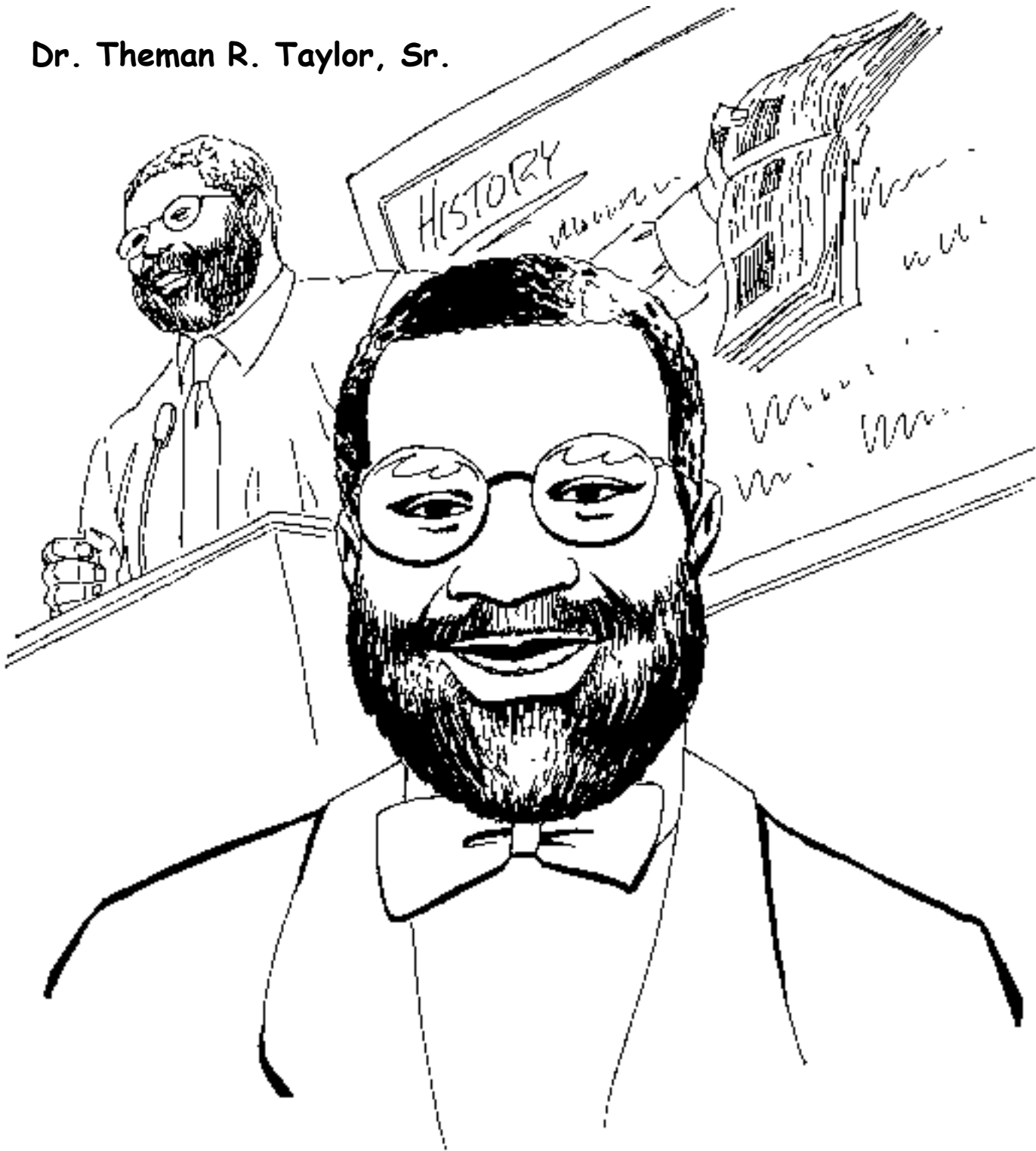
Shortly after Arkansas riots destroyed property following Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, former civil rights leader, **Ozell Sutton**, was appointed by the late Governor Winthrop Rockefeller to administer the Governor's Council of Human Relations and charged with improving Black employment in and outside state government. He was also an early staff writer for the Arkansas Democrat newspaper.

**Curtis H. Sykes**



**Curtis H. Sykes** the first African American to receive a degree from Harding University. He was an educator in Woodruff County and Little Rock School District for many years. He was also instrumental in establishing the Arkansas Black History Commission. His enthusiasm and effort are proof that a good idea coupled with hard work can be brought to fruition.

## Dr. Theman R. Taylor, Sr.



Dr. Theman R. Taylor, Sr. is a professor of history at the University of Central Arkansas at Conway. He is a writer and popular public speaker who has lectured throughout the United States and in Africa on subjects concerning community empowerment, youth

development, education, civil and human rights. He is a member and Trustee of Connor Chapel A.M.E. Church. Dr. Taylor's field of study includes: American History, West Africa, African American, Women and the American Presidency.

# QUIZ

1. Who are the only sister and brother to serve as legislators at the same time?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Who were the father and son jazz musicians?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Who played in the NBA?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Who raised 39 Foster Children?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Who was the first African American Mayor of Little Rock?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Who founded the Fargo Agricultural School?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Which Arkansan owns the most prosperous African American publishing company?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Who was instrumental in establishing the Arkansas Black History Commission?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Who turned down 200 major colleges to attend Philander Smith College?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Who was the "Little Rock Nine" Mentor and a civil rights leader?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



# Arkansas African American History Makers

**Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission**  
Priscilla Alexander, Project Coordinator

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Mike Huckabee, Governor

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