

Dr. Mary Bethune, Educator, Dies

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) —Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, 79, who rose from a plantation background to found Bethune-Cookman College here, is dead of a heart attack.

She became one of the best-known Negro women of her time. Although in semi-retirement and ill health for years, she remained active until the end. She spent her last day at her desk, went home for the evening, and collapsed.

Funeral arrangements were not made immediately.

She headed Bethune-Cookman College from its foundation in 1904 to 1942, when she became president-emeritus

Dr. Bethune gained new national prominence in 1936. President Franklin D. Roosevelt made her director of the division of Negro affairs in the National Youth Administration. She also was his special advisor on minority affairs.

In World War II she was a special assistant to the secretary of war. She held the three posts until 1944.

She was one of a family of 17 born in Mayesville, S. C. She worked at menial tasks to go to college and in 1895 was graduated from Moody Bible Institute in Chicago.