

MARY BETHUNE, 79, EDUCATOR, IS DEAD

**Founder and Ex-President of
Bethune-Cookman College
Aided Many U.S. Agencies**

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla., May 18 (AP)—Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, president emeritus and co-founder of Bethune-Cookman College here, died here tonight at her home of a heart attack. She was 79 years old.

She was president of Bethune-Cookman from its founding in 1904 to 1942.

During the Administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt the educator was director of the Division of Negro Affairs in the National Youth Administration and special adviser to the President on Minority Affairs.

In World War II she was special assistant to the Secretary of War for selection of the first Officers Candidate Schools for WACS.

At its founding the college consisted of a tiny house in a lot used for dumping, where five little girls used ink made from elderberry juice and charcoal for pencils. Last year's enrollment was 794 students, with a faculty of forty-two.

Aided Interracial Goodwill

Dr. Bethune had been called "one of the most potent factors in the growth of interracial goodwill in America." She was considered a dynamic speaker.

She was born at Mayesville, S. C., a daughter of Samuel and Mrs. Patsy McIntosh McLeod, and graduated from Scotia Seminary, Concord, N. C., and Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. Dr. Bethune won in 1910 an honorary A. M. from the State College at Orangeburg, S. C., and also held degrees from many other educational institutions, including Humanities and Science Doctorates, the latter from Tuskegee Institute.

The educator started her career in 1897 as an instructor at Haines Institute, Augusta, Ga., and served in the same capacity at the Palatka (Fla.) Mission School from 1899 to 1903. In 1904 she founded the Daytona Normal and Industrial School for Girls (now Bethune-Cookman College).

Started with \$1.50

At the outset Dr. Bethune had \$1.50. To obtain more funds, she went from door to door selling fried fish and sweet potato pies. She invited James N. Gamble, son of the founder of Procter & Gamble, who had a winter home in Daytona Beach, to visit the place.

When Mr. Gamble looked at the shack he asked: "Where is this school of which you wish me to be a trustee?"

"In my mind," she said. "And my soul."

He gave her financial aid, became chairman of the school board, and was credited by Dr. Bethune with having greatly aided in the school's development.

Dr. Bethune was associate consultant to the American delegation at the original United Nations Conference in San Francisco.

Several stories were told of persons who tried to humiliate Dr. Bethune by calling her "Auntie." She always replied with great solemnity, "Which one of my sister's children are you?" She was a close friend of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt and served as former President Truman's personal representative at a Presidential inauguration in Liberia.

The National Education Association, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, the International Council of Women of Darker Races, and the National Council of Church Women were among other groups of which Dr. Bethune had been an official and member.

Dr. Bethune founded the National Council of Negro Women and served for many years as its president. A vice president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, she was one of that organization's outstanding figures.

She also served as vice president of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation of the National Urban League.

The educator won the Spingarn Medal and the Francis A. Drexel Award for her services to the Negro race. Many other awards and medals, including the Haitian Medal of Honor, were also bestowed upon her.

She was married in 1899 to Albert Bethune. He died in 1919. They had a son, Albert.



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Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune