

# Noted Negro Teacher Succumbs in Florida

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Dr. Mary MrLeod Bethune, 79, who rose from a plantation background to found Bethune-Cookman College here and become one of the best-known Negro women of her time, died last night of a heart attack.

Although in semiretirement 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.

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

## Gained Prominence

She gained new national prominence in 1936 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt made her director of the Division of Negro Affairs in the National Youth Administration and his special adviser 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.

She planned to become a missionary in Africa but in 1897 began teaching in Florida.

With \$1.50 in cash she founded the Daytona Normal and Industrial School for Girls in 1899. The school's building went up on a dump heap. Later she purchased the land and in 1904 merged the girls' school with a boys' school, Cookman Institute, to create Bethune-Cookman College.

## 800 Students

Under her leadership, the college became an institution of 800 students with a nationwide reputation and alumni throughout the world.

A son, Albert Bethune, an instructor at Hines Institute at Augusta, Ga., survives.

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## Tenants to Sign Loyalty Oaths