

SIN - BLAKE EVON

EYRELL "EVON" BLAKE, C.D.

1906 - 1988

BIOGRAPHY

Born at Salem, Clarendon to Catilda and Joseph Blake, the eldest of eight children.

At the age of eighteen (18), he stowed away on a banana boat en route to Panama where his future career in journalism was started. In Panama he got his introduction to journalistic writing for which in years he would be well known. Blake spent many years in Panama and South America before returning home in 1933.

Back in Jamaica, Blake worked briefly in the Jamaica Police Force before leaving to answer destiny's call. Around 1935, Evon Blake began working with the Daily Gleaner (the nation's one newspaper). He began as a crime reporter, before leaving to establish the first news magazine in Jamaica and the West Indies - Spotlight. While he was establishing Spotlight, Blake also freelanced with The Jamaica Standard. The establishment and publication of Spotlight gave Blake an introduction to the publishing world.

Blake was both the editor and the writer as well as the publisher for the magazine. There was, however, another side to Blake - strategically placed as he was in the field of journalism, he was an articulator of the needs of the voiceless and powerless in the Jamaican society. This was a trait which he developed in Panama where he had voiced and defended the cause of the West Indian Workers in the Canal Zone against the Zone's government policy towards the workers.

Spotlight's first editon was published in January, 1949, and the magazine continued for the next 17 years. However, as a result of financial difficulties, Blake sold the magazine.

In mid 1957, Newday magazine was born. Essentially, it proceeded and developed along the lines of its predecessor.

Blake, with Theodore Sealy, former editor of the Daily Gleaner, helped to form the Press Association of Jamaica (P.A.J.) in 1968.

Although Blake ceased writing for the Daily Gleaner in 1964, he remained in the field of journalism by publishing Beautiful Jamaica and writing follow-up readers for Adult Literacy Classes.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF JAMAICA

In 1964, Blake received the Seprod Gold Medal Award in Journalism for his columns in the Daily Gleaner between 1963 and 1964. In 1974, he was honoured with a National award - the Commander of the Order of Distinction (C.D.)

In 1978, he received a Silver Musgrave medal in the field of journalism.

Blake leave his wife Viola and several children to mourn him.

P U B L I C A T I O N S

SPOTLIGHT News magazine	-	1940 - 1957
NEWDAY " "	-	1957 - 1963
THE BEST OF EVON BLAKE	-	1967
BEAUTIFUL JAMAICA (1st Edition)	-	1970 (and subsequently updated several times)
UNFORGETTABLE SUNDAY (JAMAL FOUNDATION)	-	1977
MONEY FOR MAMA " "	-	1978
NIGHT OUT OF TOWN " "	-	1979
LEGEND OF THE GOD BIRD " "	-	1980

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF JAMAICA