**Black Spartans (1907-1948)**

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"Black Spartans (1907-1948)" represents ongoing research in SJSU Special Collections & Archives identifying documentation of Black experiences throughout SJSU history. This exhibit is the first of several installments. Much of the information we have comes from the Spartan Daily student newspaper and the La Torre yearbooks. With too few exceptions, Black Spartans' stories are not told in their own words but from the perspectives of their majority white classmates. This is reflected in the language and focus of the articles. We invite you to read critically. The Black Spartans featured in this exhibit pursued their educational goals while contending with institutionalized racism and other major crises of the 20th century: two World Wars, the influenza pandemic of 1918, and polio. Locally, "the deed to virtually every home in San Jose" included restrictions against Black and Asian residents known as "restrictive covenants" (Spartan Daily, February 16, 1948, page 2). On campus, blackface and minstrel shows were a regular part of student events. "Black Spartans (1907-1948)" is an invitation to the community to join us in surfacing these stories, ensuring these histories are preserved and presented in a way that honors these students’ lives. Contact us at special.collections@sjsu.edu to participate.

Carli V. Lowe - University Archivist  
Kate Steffens - Special Collections Librarian

The "Black Spartans (1907-1948)" exhibition is a homage to Black culture and history at San José State University and the Bay Area at large. Until recently, the significance of Black bodies in Bay Area history (as well as U.S. history) was overlooked. Unless it was associated with the struggles of civil rights leaders, athletes, or celebrity-personas, the story of a graduate from a state school wasn’t valued because we weren’t part of the mainstream culture. As a Black Spartan myself, I was deeply connected to these individuals that started out just like me. I saw a reflection of myself and my community throughout the process of making these mixed media portraits and came to realize how important it is to know your history because it becomes a catalyst for knowing who you are. My work explores the intricacy of identity and the role culture, tradition, and history play. These portraits are embodiments of our Black Spartans, they are visual representations of the colorful and captivating lives they led. Through this work, I hope to influence other artists and individuals to take part in researching and finding out the infinite layers of what it means to be Black. Our history is beyond our struggle. We are the blueprint.

Yeab Kebede  
’22 Digital Media Arts

©San José State University
William Moulden attended San Jose State College from 1935-1941. Originally from Palo Alto, Moulden was a member of the SJSC Negro Verse Speaking Choir, which was dedicated to performing poetry. At one 1935 campus event, Moulden and fellow choir members performed the poetry of Black poets, including Langston Hughes, Paul Laurence Dunbar, and Countee Cullen. He played inside left on the J.C. soccer team. He was also a welter and middleweight in boxing, and went on to compete with the Bayshore Athletic Club and the Redwood City Athletic Club. In 1936, as a member of the campus Radio Club, Moulden held a public demonstration of a Tesla Coil that was made by the Industrial Arts Department. In 1939, as a member of Alpha Eta Rho Aviation club, Moulden received his solo flying license. After leaving SJSC, he served in World War II and became a Major in the U.S. Army. Moulden passed away on October 21, 2001.
William Moulden is listed as a member of the code practice class preparing for their amateur radio license examinations before the Federal Communications Commission in San Francisco.

**Bugs and Cooties ARE SPECIAL Radio Class Pets**

Specimen cases in the Natural Science department harbor mounted and picked examples of every imaginable kind of insect all carefully labelled as to kind... but there's one lab out there where a "bug", and a "cootie" is a little gadget that jumps sideways.

These zoological freaks "hang out" in the Radio room but instead of being little chummy cooties, or a new kind of beetle, they are only radio parlance for transmitters.

Eight members of the newly organized code practice class are working in couples to perfect their touch and build up sending speed on the transmitters preparatory to taking their amateur license examinations before the Federal Communications commission in San Francisco during vacation.

W. A. Jackson, W. W. Moulden, R. H. Nawl, E. W. Roberts, J. R. Wagner, W. D. MacQuarrie, and Marion Matravers will be, in the opinion of Radio instructor Harry Engwicht, efficient enough in code to win their amateur licenses at that time.
Spartan Daily

March 13, 1935

William Moulden performs the poetry of Lawrence Dunbar, Countee Cullen, and Langston Hughes with fellow members of the Negro Verse Speaking Choir, Delores Rivers, Lavina Nichols, Delreee Washington, and Faricita Hall.
Leather-Kickers Trim Menlo, 6-0

Sparta's soccer men partially redeemed themselves for their loss to the California Bears last Saturday by thoroughly trouncing the Menlo Junior college team 6-0 in a practice tilt on Spartan Field yesterday afternoon.

The San Jose team demonstrated their all-around superiority over the Jaysee men by giving them a good lesson in soccer. However, it looks as though they will have to snap out of it to beat a vastly improved Stanford eleven, one which beat San Mateo J.C. 2-1 last week, when they meet on the local field this Saturday.

"Socko" Wall, pinto-size leather-kicker, played a snappy game in spite of his failure to score on three set-ups. Bob Harris socked through a trio of scores, while Bill Moulden, negro playing at inside left, Mel Hickman, and Bob Doerr each booted in a goal.

Bronco Bechir turned in another fine performance, along with Ray LeClergue, one of the team veterans.

Menlo had only two tries at the goal during the game, both penalty kicks from the ten-yard line, which Goalie Edmonds stopped with the greatest of ease.
Spartan Daily

April 24, 1936

William Moulden is listed as a graduate in Radio Engineering.
Radio Exhibits By Students Today

With many exhibits illustrating the manufacture and practical application of radio, students working under the supervision of Mr. Harry Englehardt, radio instructor, will today present varied displays as part of the department's contribution to Science day.

The radio exhibits will go on display at noon in room 104 and 106 of the Science building and will continue through the afternoon and into the evening, according to Keats Pfeifer, who is in charge of the project.

Exhibits loaned by the Heintz-Kaufman company and the Kiell-McCullough tube laboratories, which were to have gone on display today, are not because of lack of space, Mr. Englehardt states, but will be exhibited for two weeks starting Monday.

The world's largest air-cooled vacuum tube, 30'1 inches high with a diameter of nine inches, is among the Heintz-Kaufman company's displays which also includes a portable gas-engine generator, a two-wire set, a morse telegraph receiver, and an antenna for aerials.

A display illustrating the process in manufacturing vacuum tubes has been contributed by the Kiell-McCullough tube laboratories, and an exhibit from the Bell Telephone company to San Francisco will also be used, Mr. Englehardt states.

Perhaps the most spectacular of the radio students' exhibits will be the display of TRIES coil, constructed by the industrial arts department, with which artificial lightning will be generated. Keats Pfeifer, assisted by Ben Chow and Bill Moulden, will be in charge of the instrument and are planning to show the effect of the lighting-in use on small ball wicks, neon lights, common wagon, a potato, ordinary light bulbs and other objects.

A short wave oscillator, specially adapted with a large condenser, will show on the growth of bacteria in one of the projects, according to Charles Honeck, president of the Radio club, which is sponsoring the radio division of Science day.

Other exhibits planned include a demonstration of radio currents, talking over a beam of light, making sounds visible by use of the cathode ray meterlograph, a model electric organ, a radio phone station, demonstrating amateur radio station operations, and possible plans for general communication.

People visiting the display will be counted by a beam of light flashed across the door, Honeck says.

Radio Boys Win Acclaim Of Science Day Crowds

Astronomers in the inter-coastal manufactured by the industrial arts department, proved to be the radio exhibit, sponsored by the most spectacular of the exhibits made. Demonstrated in the model was a little artificial sky which was generated by the use of the Tesla coil to generate artificial lightning, was generated by the use of the Tesla coil, a potato, lighting a neon sign, and in other experiments.

A complete exhibit illustrating telephone equipment was planned, but was loaned for the display by the San Francisco offices of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company, the exhibit included many displays illustrating the manufacture and practical application of radio.

A curious commentary of events going on in the telephone building and a description of the radio and telephone exhibition was given over the public address system by Jack Wiegand, college radio student, who also presented science department exhibits in short talks during the afternoon.

A model electric organ, talking over a beam of light, is used in general communication, wire opera-

TUBE DISPLAY

The Heintz-Kaufman exhibit, which was displayed in the glass cases on the lower floor of the Science building included the world's largest vacuum tube, a tube set in a salt, an antenna coil on an airplane, a small gas-filled gauze, of the same type as that used by the Broyol exper-

TEILA COIL EXHIBITED

The demonstration of a Tesla coil to generate artificial lightning at the first San Jose State College Radio Exhibit, sponsored by the Radio Club, of which Moulden was a member.
Spartan Daily

June 5, 1936

William Moulden develops a winning record as a novice boxer.
After graduating with a degree in Radio Engineering, William Moulden continues competing as a novice boxer.

KARL DREXEL brought down the house with his brilliant showing against the vastly improved Bill Moulden, ex-Spartan now fighting for the Bayshore Athletic Club.

Moulden and Drexel went at it hammer-and-tongs and few people will ever see a bout packed with the speed which these two lads displayed. If Moulden had fought the way he did against Drexel, his record would be spotless. He was more aggressive, used a sharp-shooting right hand better, and weathered a bigger storm of punches than he has ever before.

Drexel, if he keeps up his flashy work, will see plenty of action when State meets California, Stanford, U.C.L.A. etc., next spring.
William Moulden returns as a boxer on the San Jose State College team.
William Moulden works with fellow Black Spartan Don Presley to organize an all Black novice boxing team.

Boxers Organize For Novice Tourney

With Friday, April 21 set as the big day for novice boxers who are competing in the All-School Novice Boxing tourney, varsity boxers have selected teams which are to represent them in the tourney, which has a trophy and individual prizes for winners and runner-ups. Teams listed to date are under the supervision of Charles Kerwin, Gene Fisk, Bill Balich, Gus Veloz, George Komoshima and Don Presley. Presley has selected an all-colored unit to represent him in the tourney and it is expected that will be one of the strongest outfits in the tourney. Assisting him is Bill Moulton, former varsity ace who is selecting some good boxers from the colored students in the college.

WRESTLERS ENTER

Another unique outfit is that of Veloz who has assembled the wrestling team to his aid as he always contended that boxing was a mere stone's sport. Some good matches are expected to result from the wrestlers' contest.

Bill Balich has been working with his "Foreign Legion" outfit and is planning local fights that are a distinct surprise with his boxers.

SIGN-UPS CONTINUE

Beginners still have a chance to sign up under one of the after among boxers and had better do so to be in the best possible condition for the tourney. The huge trophy donated by Bothwell Jewelers to the novice tourney will be on display the latter part of the week in the Spartan Pavilion.

New Teams Enter Novice Ring Tourney

'Dark Horse' Entries Added To List

Mr. Dee Purcell, fight enthusiast, announced yesterday that while varsity boxers still have room, more novice boxers who are planning to enter the giant, novice boxing tourney slated to go into action Friday, April 21 in the Spartan Pavilion.

Individual medals for the winners in each weight division will be given as well as worthwhile prizes for runner up. A large trophy donated by Bothwell Jewelers will be the prize for the winning team unit. This trophy, a figure of a boxer in action, will be on display in the Spartan Pavilion next week.

Spartan Daily

April 7, 1938

Spartan Daily

April 8, 1938
Doris Shields, Aviatrix, Passes Special Flight Examination

Doris Shields, girl aviator, passed her special flight test before a public trial conducted by Mr. Woodmanson, district official appointed by Washington authorities, on Wednesday, May 3.

Miss Shields, when refused her pilot's license last year due to a physical handicap, appealed to authorities in Washington to hear her case. Arrangements were finally made and her case was held May 3.

"Miss Shields passed with high honors," stated Mr. F. Peterson, mathematic instructor and head of the college aviation school. "Results will be forwarded to Washington and within three weeks Miss Shields will know whether she will obtain a license.

Mr. Peterson announced this week four students that have passed license for flying. Sheldon Edner and George Aihara passed tests for private pilot's license, and Bill Moulden and William Gonzales passed tests for solo flying licenses.

Spartan Daily

May 9, 1939

William Moulden passes his test for a solo flying license.
Spartan Daily

January 11, 1940

William Moulden is listed as a student who was “successful in the tryouts” for the cast of the satire “Once in a Lifetime.”
La Torre Yearbook

William Moulden is pictured as a member of the Aviation fraternity Alpha Eta Rho.
William Moulden is pictured as a Letterman.
William Moulden is pictured as a member of the Boxing team.

La Torre Yearbook 1941
William Moulden enlists in the army after leaving San Jose State.