



Black Legacy Our Past, Present and Future.



Shoes wouldn't be the same without him!

PAST

Jan Ernst Matzeliger

Born: September 15, 1852

Contribution: Inventor



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Jan Ernst Matzeliger was born in Paramaribo, Surinam (Dutch Guiana), South America. He is most known for his invention that revolutionized the shoe industry. In the 1800s, the construction of shoes required skilled craftsman and production was slow. Matzeliger set out to try to solve the problem by developing an automatic method for constructing shoes. It took many years and much sacrifice before he came up with a prototype that was successful. Matzeliger's machine was able to turn out from 150 to 700 pairs of shoes a day versus a hand craftsman's fifty per day. Jan Ernst Matzeliger's shoemaking machine increased shoemaking speed by 900%! A company was formed, The Consolidated Lasting Machine Company, where Matzeliger was given huge blocks of stock for his invention. By 1889, the demand of his shoe machine was overwhelming. His machine had revolutionized the entire shoe industry in the U.S. and around the world. Yet, because of the color of his skin, he was not mentioned in the history books until recently. In 1992, the U.S. made a postage stamp in honor of Matzeliger.



Founder Of The Largest Black Owned Radio Chain!

PRESENT

Cathy Hughes

Born: April 22, 1947

Contribution: Business



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Cathy Hughes was born in Omaha, Nebraska. She attended Creighton University and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She got her first job with KOWH a local Black owned radio station. In 1973, she became sales director at WHUR-FM. Two years later she became the station's general manager, boosting sales revenues from \$300,000 to \$3.5 million. In 1978, Hughes left WHUR for WYCB Radio, where she served as the vice president and general manager of the station. In 1979, she and her husband, Dewey Hughes, purchased a small Washington radio station, WOL, creating Radio One. Her marriage eventually ended, and she bought her husband's share in the station. Yet Hughes was forced to give up her apartment and live at the station for a time in order to make ends meet. Over time, she made the station profitable, and pioneered a talk show that became a hit. She devised a plan to purchase other stations in other cities across the nation. Today, Radio One owns 65 radio stations throughout every major market in the country, and has become the nation's largest black-owned radio chain. Hughes's son Alfred Liggins, III, serves as CEO and president of Radio One, and Hughes as chairperson. In January 2004, Radio One launched TV One, a national cable and satellite television network which bills itself as the "lifestyle and entertainment network for African-American adults." Hughes interviews prominent African-Americans for the network's talk program "TV One on One." **She is the first African American woman to head a firm publicly traded on a stock exchange in the United States.**

What Will You Contribute To The Legacy?