Mahalia Jackson – Albums and Singles

As her birth certificate indicates, New Orleans was the birthplace of Mahala Jackson on October 26, 1911. As a child, she was known sometimes as Mahaly and became famous as **Mahalia Jackson**. She grew up hearing jazz-influenced gospel music, and in a manner of speaking, that is what she came to sing. After her mother's death, when Mahalia was about five years old, Mahalia went to live with her aunt. The 1930 US census shows her still living with her aunt in New Orleans, but the following year, they moved to Chicago, and Mahalia became part of the Greater Salem Baptist Church choir. Although Mahalia was influenced musically by blues singer Bessie Smith, her heart was always devoted to singing gospel music.

After some time performing with the Prince Johnson Singers, Ms. Jackson attracted the attention of J. Mayo Williams, the most successful African-American record producer of the time. Decca Records had hired him in 1934 to head up their "race records" department, and on May 21, 1937, he brought accompanist Estelle Allen (who played both piano and organ) and Mahalia Jackson to the studio atop the American Furniture Mart building — the one operated by the American Recording Corporation and opened by Brunswick Records in 1929. There, they recorded for songs for Mahalia's debut on a commercial record.

By that time, she was married to Ike Hockenhull, who began to insist that his wife record secular R&B. She refused, and that issue and his gambling addiction together led to their divorce in 1941.



"God Shall Wipe All Tears Away"/ "Oh My Lord"

Decca 7321

Approximate Release Date: June 1937



"God's Gonna Separate the Wheat from the Tares"/ "Keep Me Every Day"

Decca 7341

Approximate Release Date: August 1937

The records sold well enough to remain in print through the beginning of 1938, but Decca was not interested in recording her again. She became acquainted with gospel song-writer Thomas A. Dorsey and began to tour with him in 1940. As her star rose, Mahalia's voice and delivery began to attract attention everywhere.







In 1946, Haven Records of Brooklyn announced that Mahalia was an "exclusive" Haven recording artist. Although Haven was the home of Marie Knight and of other gospel singers who were in Jackson's circle, Mahalia wound up going in another direction.

Concert promoter Johnny Myers invited Jackson to sing – a paid gig – at Harlem's Golden Gate Ballroom. At that event, where she blew everyone away with her voice, she also invited Marie Knight to sing with her. Knight met Rosetta Tharpe, and wound up going off with her to Decca Records. Meanwhile, Art Freeman of Apollo Records heard Mahalia and introduced her to the label's owner, Bess Berman.

On October 3rd, she cut four songs for Apollo. One ought to say "she cut her first of **many** songs for Apollo."



"Wait Until My Change Comes"/ "I'm Going to Tell God"

Apollo 110Released late January 1947



"I Want to Rest"/ "He Knows My Heart" Apollo 145

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: June 9, 1947

"He Knows My Heart"

"I Want To Rest"

MAHALIA JACKSON

(Apollo 145)

Minstrel stuff headed ops ways these latest out from Apollo way. T "He Knows My Heart" and "I Wan Rest", the pair features Mahalia J hayming low and pretty for anyming low anyming low anyming low anyming low anyming low anyming low and low anyming

Minstrel stuff headed ops ways are these latest out from Apollo way. Titled "He Knows My Heart" and "I Want To Rest", the pair features Mahalia Jackson humming low and pretty for the crowd that goes for this stuff. Topside tune spins in very slow mood, with chirp's voice down deep in a whisper. Her tonsils are mellow for this sort of work, and her many fans should go for her. On the flip with "I Want To Rest", Mahalia once again pitches in there, speeding up the the tempo this time, as she renders her tale. If you have spots that go for this, then lend an ear here.



After the failure of her first two Apollo singles, reportedly Bess Berman decided not to sign Ms. Jackson for more records. After trying unsuccessfully to get her to sing secular music, Art Freeman heard the Brewsteraires singing a particular song, and he asked Ms. Berman for a second recording date. She recorded four more songs on September 12, 1947 – with that leading to a longer arrangement.

The record sold half a million copies, then a million, then 1,500,000 copies –

"Move on Up a Little Higher" (Part 1)/Part 2

Mahalia Jackson was a star from this point on.

Apollo 164

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: December 6, 1947

Move On Up a Little Higher-IL-FT; V. There's beaucoup of religion and rhythm in the Negro spiritual singing of (Miss) Mahalia Jackson as she shouts out for both sides of the platter. Unfortunately, her rhythmic contagion isn't caught by the organ and size spanding a solemn accompanie. piano providing a solemn accompaniAHALIA JACKSON

finally topping the two million mark. No hit of such magnitude could be ignored.

MAHALIA JACKSON
(Apollo 184) Move On Up a Little
Higher
(Parts I & II)
Plaintive spiritual chanting, with tastefully styled piano and organ accommenting. companying. Lyrics garbled in spots.



"What Could I Do"/ "Even Me"

Apollo 178

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: February 28, 1948 Another hit!

WHAT COULD I DO MAHALIA JACKSON

"Dig a Little Deeper"/ "If You See My Saviour"

Apollo 181

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: June 12, 1948 (Advance) Another strong seller!



"God's Gonna Separate the Wheat from the Tares"/ "Keep Me Every Day"

Coral 65001

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: November 13, 1948

When Decca started up Coral Records in fall 1948, the second artist in their 65000 series was Mahalia Jackson, whom they had declined to sign eleven years earlier. This was the first of two re-released singles that Decca owned.



"Tired"/ "Amazing Grace"

Apollo 194

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: December 18, 1948

At the end of 1948, Apollo Records changed their logo, redrawing the figure of Apollo and reducing its size. The words "Apollo Records Inc." (etc.) at the bottom of the label are also smaller after 1948.





"In My Home Over There"/ "Since the Fire Started Burning in My Soul" Apollo 205

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: February 26, 1949



"I Have a Friend"/ "There's Not a Friend Like Jesus"

Apollo 207

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: May 14, 1949



"God Shall Wipe All Tears Away"/ "Oh My Lord"

Coral 65011

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: July 9, 1949



OUT THIS WEEK! MAHALIA JACKSON'S IN MY HOME OVER THERE AND SINCE THE FIRE STARTED BURNING IN MY SOUL APOLLO 205 SELLING STRONG! TINY BROWN'S MOURNING BLUES APOLLO 402 APOLLO RECORDS, INC. 487 West 485th Street New York



MAHALIA JACKSON (Coral 65011) God Shall Wipe All Tears Away 75--77--71 pipes are at their finest here. She's aided by an organ. Oh My Lord She works up a big beat on this bit of gospel with only a plano to help

"I Can Put My Trust in Jesus"/ "Let the Power of the Holy Ghost Fall on Me"

Apollo 213

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: October 8, 1949

RELIGIOUS

Apollo 213

RELIGIOUS

Let the Power of the Holy Ghost
Fall on Me
The powerful tonsits of Miss Jackson can do no
wrong in the speel singing department. This
is another in her string of excellent offerings.

I Can Put My Trust in Jesus
Still another winner



"Walk With Me"/ "Prayer Changes Things"

Apollo 217

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: December 3, 1949



"Just Over the Hill" (Part 1)/Part 2

Apollo 221

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: February 11, 1950





"The Last Mile of the Way"/ "I'm Glad Salvation is Free"

Apollo 222

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: March 25, 1950



"Shall I Meet You Over Yonder"/ "I Do, Don't You"

Apollo 229

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: July 15, 1950



"It Pays to Serve Jesus"/ "These Are They"

Apollo 234

Approximate Release Date: October 1950



"Go Tell it on the Mountain"/ "Silent Night, Holy Night"

Apollo 235

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: November 18, 1950



"I Gave Up Everything to Follow Him"/ "Get Away Jordan"

Apollo 240

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: March 17, 1951



"Bless This House"/ "Lord's Prayer"

Apollo 245

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: September 29, 1951



"It is No Secret"/ "His Eye is on the Sparrow"

Apollo 246

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: October 13, 1951



"How I Got Over"/ "Just as I Am"

Apollo 248

Approximate Release Date: November 1951



"I Bow on My Knees" / "City Called Heaven"

Apollo 250

Approximate Release Date: January 1952

Mahalia Jackson to Sing to 90,000

Riding a wave of national popularity, big, buxom Mahalia Jackson, "queen of the gospel singers," will sing to over 90,000 persons on her current cross-country tour. At her recent Carnegie Hall concert, over 1,500 were turned away. Promoters estimate that by the time her "gospel train" of singers and musicians pulls into Los Angeles, she will have shattered all-time attendance marks.

Now in her 26th year as a gospel singer, Mahalia had no idea that she was slated for stardom when J. Mayo (Ink) Williams, Decca records talent scout, auditioned her in Chicago in 1936. Indeed, her first recordings found little response on a market glutted with big jazz bands and blues singers. Today, however, Mahalia has emerged as the top personality in her field and one of the greatest money-makers of all times among religious singers.

She became the first Negro gospel singer to appear on a network television program when she sang on a Christ-

She became the first Negro gospel singer to appear on a network television program when she sang on a Christmas Eve ABC broadcast in Chicago, followed later by an appearance on Ed Sullivan's "Toast of the Town" TV show. Records of the 39-year-old New Orleans-born "Empress of the Spirituals" are continual best-sellers. Her Move Up a Little Higher on the Apollo label soared above 1,500,000.



"I'm Getting Nearer My Home"/ "He's the One"

Apollo 258

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: April 19, 1952







"In the Upper Room" (Part 1)/Part 2

Apollo 262

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: June 28, 1952

This seems to have been Mahalia's first single to be released at 45 RPM.

Near the end of 1952, Apollo Records redrew the figure of Apollo (again). They also adjusted the rim text at the bottom to read "Apollo Records New York Corp."

"God Spoke to Me"/ "Said He Would"

Apollo 269

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: February 21, 1953



Queen of the Gospel Singers

Apollo LP-201

Approximate Release Date: spring 1953







"I'm Going Down to the River"/ "Do You Know Him"

Apollo 273

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: July 4, 1953

That violent session in New York during an Apollo Records cutting date on which gospel singer Mahalia Jackson walked out in the middle of a number. She temporarily forgot her religion long enough to "bless" out Bess Berman, prexy of the firm. Mahalia told Bess she had a "plantation attitude" toward Negroes.



In June 1953, Apollo debuted a new subsidiary label: Lloyds. Their first release came out later that month, and by year's end there were five available singles on the label. The following year saw 10 new singles and several EPs.

"I Believe"/ "Consider Me"

Lloyds 103

Approximate Release Date: August 1953 (mentioned 11/21)

The single's B-side provoked a lawsuit from Hill & Range Songs, who observed that "Consider Me" was swiped from Thomas A. Dorsey's "Consideration," that he was not properly credited, and that the publisher was not paid. The same publisher would eventually sue over about 20 songs that Bess Berman seems to have used improperly.

Gospel singing queen Mahalia Jackson. At a Detroit concert, the promoter failed to pay her \$3,000 guarantee and made a speech to an audience of over 4,000 at \$2.50-a-head that Mahalia had refused to sing despite his paying her off in full. Angrily, Mahalia rushed on stage, told the audience: "I'll sing for you folks free, but not one note for him because he's a gyp. I advise you folks to get your money back because I'm not taking a dime of it—from you."

Hill & Range Sues On 'Consideration'

On Consideration

NEW YORK, Nov. 7—Charging that the hune "Consider Me" was an infrare mean and the mean and

of "Consideration."

According to the complaint, prior to Pebruary 5, Thomas A. Dorsey composed "Consideration." which was published by Dorsey and the plaintiff. The plaintiff itself has not used the tune for mechanical recording but has licensed others.

The complaint also charges

The complaint also charges that the defendants are also threatening to publish the version of the plaintiff's copyrighted tune. The action seeks an injunction, damages sustained and an accounting of the profits derived from the alleged infringement.



"No Matter How You Pray"/ "My Cathedral"

Lloyds 105

December 12, 1953





"Hands of God"/ "It's Real"

Apollo 282

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: April 17, 1954



"I'm on My Way"/ "My Story"

Apollo 286

Approximate Release Date: June 1954

Mahalia Jackson Signs \$25,000 Record Pact Gospel singer Mahalia Jackson signed a five-year contract with Columbia Records to record 16 sides a year for \$25,000 annually, according to Mitch Miller of Columbia. Rumors that such an agreement would bring a lawsuit against Miss Jackson from Bess Berman of Apollo Records was denied by Miss Berman, to whom the singer has been under contract for nine years with a year to run. Miss Jackson earns \$10,000 a year with Apollo.

"What Then"/ "Walking to Jerusalem"

Apollo 289

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: September 25, 1954

Mahalia Jackson Nears Columbia Record Contract

Record Contract

NEW YORK, Sept. 11. — The country's No. 1 spiritual singer, Mahalia Jackson, appears set to join the Columbia label by the end of the month. Altho nothing is settled at this time, negotiations between the diskery and Bess Berman of Apollo Records, the thrush's original label, have been progressing satisfactorily.

Miss Jackson has been under contract to Apollo for the past five years. Columbia Records started negotiations with her about two months ago, claiming that Apollo had failed to pick up her option. However, Apollo averred that the contract was still valid. Since then there have been many legal conferences.

Now, however, 1 settlement is nearly completed that will permit Columbia to pact the thrush and will make her exit from Apollo an amicable one.





MAHALIA JACKSON

Walking to Jerusalem (Bess, BMI)

What Then (Bess, BMI)—Apollo 289—There are few
Mahalia fans who will not appreciate the thrush's
great warbling on these two sides. They are her best
waxings in a long while. Top side is an up-tempo
jubilee effort which she sells feverently; flip is a
slower tune that gives Mahalia a chance to sell her
gospel message with conviction. Fine wax for the
market.

Queen of the Gospel Singers, Vol. 2

Apollo LP-202

Approximate Release Date: fall 1954







******* Columbia

"I Walked into the Garden"/ "I'm Going to Tell God"

Apollo 291

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: January 22, 1955

Apollo 298 "Run All the Way"/ "Nobody Knows"

Apollo 304 "He's My Light"/ "If You Just Keep Still"

Apollo 313 "Didn't It Rain"/ "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen"

Apollo 314 "I'm on My Way"/ "My Story" (reissue of Apollo 286)

Apollo 539 "Silent Night, Holy Night"/ "Lord's Prayer"

Apollo 750 "Silent Night, Holy Night"/ "Lord's Prayer"







Mahalia Jackson, gospel singer, comparing blues with gospel songs: "A blues starts sad and ends sad. A gospel song may start sad, but when you're finished you're refueled with hope."

"The Treasures of God" / "A Rusty Old Halo"

Columbia 40411

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: January 22, 1955 Label 50L



"Jesus Met the Woman at the Well"/ "Walk Over God's Heaven"

Columbia 40412 Label 50L





Mahalia Jackson

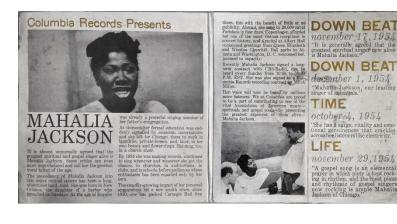
Columbia 40411-2

Columbia packaged the two singles (at 45-RPM) into one attractive promotional set. The set quotes magazine articles that Columbia wanted to be written – in order to further promote the singer's move to Columbia.











"One God"/ "You'll Never Walk Alone"

Columbia 40473

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: April 2, 1955

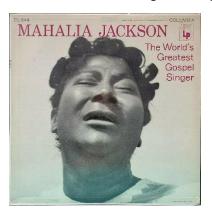




The World's Greatest Gospel Singer

Columbia CL-644

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: April 16, 1955







The first cover photo is from late 1954. After Ms. Jackson's appearance at the Newport Jazz Festival in 1958, Columbia used a photograph from the 1959 movie about the event – Jazz on a Summer's Day.



"I See God"/ "His Hands"

Columbia 40529

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: July 2, 1955



"A Satisfied Mind"/ "The Bible Tells Me So"

Columbia 40554

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: August 13, 1955



"The Lord is a Busy Man"/ "You're Not Living in Vain"

Columbia 40610

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: November 19, 1955



Sweet Little Jesus Boy

Columbia CL-702

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: November 19, 1955

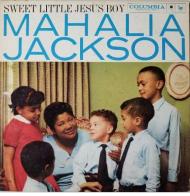












The first back cover features a group of 6 Columbia LPs. Four groups of 6 are known with this LP. Later, Columbia removed the cover photos and moved the other information up. By 1961, there was a new front cover photo as well.

You'll Never Walk Alone

Columbia CL 2552

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: February 1956

(10" House Party series)







"Round the Rainbow"/ "An Evening Prayer"

Columbia 40712

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: June 30, 1956



"I Ask the Lord"/ "I'm Going to Live the Life I Sing About in my Song"

Columbia 40721

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: July 21, 1956



"The Lord's Prayer"/ "Precious Lord"

Columbia 40753

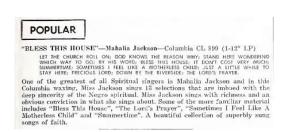
Mentioned in Trade Magazines: September 15, 1956



"Mary's Little Boy Chile"/ "Silent Night, Holy Night"

Columbia 40777

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: November 24, 1956





Bless this House

Columbia CL-899

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: January 5, 1957









The first back cover features 6 Columbia LPs. Two groups of 6 are known with this LP. Later, Columbia removed the cover photos and moved the other information up. By 1961, there was a new front cover photo as well.





"I Complained"/ "God is So Good"

Columbia 40854

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: April 6, 1957

Label 57 begins August 1957.

"Trouble"/ "He's a Light Unto My Pathway"

Columbia 41000

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: September 16, 1957

"A Star Stood Still"/ "Sweet Little Jesus Boy"

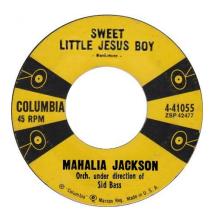
Columbia 41055

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: November 25, 1957





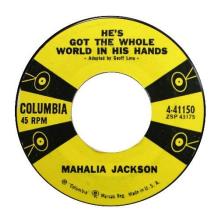




"He's Got the Whole World in his Hands"/ "Didn't It Rain"

Columbia 41150

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: March 29, 1958



Black, Brown, and Beige

Columbia CL-1162 (mono) and CS-8015 (stereo)

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: August 11, 1958 (mono); September 13, 1958 (stereo)

Duet album with Duke Ellington







"Have You Any Rivers"/ "For My Good Fortune" (with promotional PS)

Columbia 41258

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: September 20, 1958







Newport 1958

Columbia CL-1244 (mono) and CS-8071 (stereo)

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: November 24, 1958 (mono) and later (stereo)







"I'm On My Way"/ "Dig a Little Deeper"

Grand Award GA-1025

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: January 5, 1959

Ms. Jackson recorded these two songs from the Apollo sessions in 1947 and 1954, respectively.



Columbia 41322

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: January 12, 1959

Label 59 begins February 1959.

"Trouble of the World"/ "Tell the World About This"

Columbia 41382

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: April 20, 1959

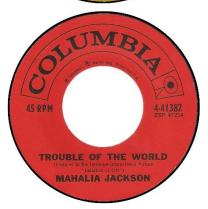
Great Gettin' Up Morning

Columbia CL-1343 (mono) and CS-8153 (stereo)

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: August 24, 1959









Come on Children, Let's Sing

Columbia CL-1428 (mono) and CS-8225 (stereo) Mentioned in Trade Magazines: April 4, 1960

The Power and the Glory

Columbia CL-1473 (mono) and CS-8264 (stereo) Mentioned in Trade Magazines: August 1960 With Percy Faith

I Believe

Columbia CL-1549 (mono) and CS-8349 (stereo) Mentioned in Trade Magazines: January 1961

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Columbia CL-1643 (mono) and CS-8443 (stereo) Mentioned in Trade Magazines: August 19, 1961









Recorded in Europe During Her Latest Concert Tour

Columbia CL-1726 (mono) and CS-8526 (stereo) Mentioned in Trade Magazines: February 17, 1962

Label 62 begins June 1962.

Great Songs of Love and Faith

Columbia CL-1824 (mono) and CS-8624 (stereo) Mentioned in Trade Magazines: August 18, 1962



Columbia 42633

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: November 17, 1962

Silent Night: Songs for Christmas

Columbia CL-1903 (mono) and CS-8703 (stereo) Mentioned in Trade Magazines: November 24, 1962





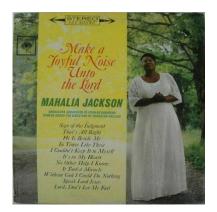




Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord

Columbia CL-1936 (mono) and CS-8736 (stereo)

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: February 9, 1963



Mahalia Jackson's Greatest Hits

Columbia CL-2004 (mono) and CS-8804 (stereo)

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: August 17, 1963

Mahalia Jackson re-recorded her early hits from the Apollo label for this release on Columbia.



"Let's Pray Together"/ "We Shall Overcome"

Columbia 42910

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: October 9, 1963



"Song for My Brother"/ "In the Summer of His Years"

Columbia 42946

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: December 14, 1963



Let's Pray Together

Columbia CL-2130 (mono) and CS-8930 (stereo) Mentioned in Trade Magazines: March 14, 1964



Mahalia Sings

Columbia CL-2452 (mono) and CS-9252 (stereo) Mentioned in Trade Magazines: March 5, 1966



"Sunrise, Sunset"/ "Like the Breeze Blows"

Columbia 43474

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: June 4, 1966



Garden of Prayer

Columbia CL-2546 (mono) and CS-9346 (stereo) Mentioned in Trade Magazines: October 15, 1966



My Faith

Columbia CL-2605 (mono) and CS-9405 (stereo)

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: January 28, 1967



In Concert

Columbia CL-2690 (mono) and CS-9490 (stereo)

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: August 17, 1967



"We Shall Overcome"/ "Take My Hand, Precious Lord"

Columbia 44529

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: May 11, 1968



Sings the Best-Loved Hymns of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Columbia CS-9686

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: June 15, 1968



A Mighty Fortress

Columbia CS-9659

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: August 24, 1968



Christmas With Mahalia

Columbia CS 9727

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: November 2, 1968



"Happy Birthday to You, Our Lord"/ "Silver Bells"

Columbia JZSP-137705/JZSP-137706

Approximate Release Date: November 1968

This disc-jockey record was designed to promote *Christmas With Mahalia*.



Sings the Gospel Right Out of the Church

Columbia CS-9813

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: May 17, 1969



What the World Needs Now

Columbia CS-9950

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: December 13, 1969



"Day is Done"/ "Abraham, Martin and John"

Columbia 45068

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: December 27, 1969



"The Holy Bible" (Part 1)/Part 2

Jewel J-192

Mentioned in Trade Magazines: July 8, 1972

Mahalia seems to have recorded this song live in Jerusalem in May 1961. It went unreleased until Jewel Records purchased the master shortly after Ms. Jackson's death in January 1972.

In addition to being the foremost gospel singer in the world, Mahalia Jackson was also a noteworthy leader in the American civil rights movement. She also wrote one autobiography and one cookbook, and — being an avid cook — opened her own chain of restaurants run by African-Americans. In 1995, one of the minor planets in our solar system was named Mahalia, in her honor.



