

(Photo of FLIPPER.)

FLIPPER

I joined the Tenth in 1878 and was assigned to Captain Nolan's A. Company. I felt well received by the officers and the men. Both Captain Nolan and Colonel Grierson praised me for my leadership during the Victorio War. The future seemed good. And then I made a mistake. I went riding with one of the few eligible young ladies on the post. The young lady was white. The atmosphere at Fort Concho changed immediately. Lieutenant Charles Nordstrom was quiet incensed, he had previously shared the young ladies undivided attention. When A. Company transferred to Fort Davis I was appointed post commissary and of course I was arrested for embezzling two thousand dollars. I was jailed in the post guardhouse. Degrading. They cleared me of the embezzling charge but I was convicted of conduct unbecoming an officer. What my conduct was - was unbecoming a black man. Colonel Shafter, Lieutenant Nordstrom, and Lieutenant Louis Wilhelm framed me. I fought these charges the rest of my life but was not granted a new trial. Black officers like myself were semi-deprived. Lead to water but not allowed to drink. Just ask Colonel Charles Young.

(Light out, FLIPPER, lights up, YOUNG.)

(Photo of YOUNG.)

YOUNG

I graduated from West Point in 1889 and was assigned to the Tenth Cavalry Regiment. My career spanned three decades. I served as commander of the Ohio Volunteers that went up San Juan Hill. During the border warfare with Mexico, I served under Gen. "BlackJack" Pershing when we went after Pancho Villa. Then suddenly right before World War One, I was dropped from active duty. I couldn't understand it! High blood pressure, was the excuse. I attempted to prove the charge absurd by riding my horse from Ohio to Washington and back. Even with that, the charge stuck. I believe they did this to remove me from leadership during the war...the war to make the world "safe for democracy." Of course, three days before the Armistice and the war ended, I was again placed on active duty.

(Fade out, YOUNG. Lights up, WARD.)