

Neighborhood Restrictions Evident

Two and six-tenths per cent of the Portland population is Negro, according to statistical facts revealed in a report given to the Committee for Interracial Principles and Practices at the Friendship House Monday night by Mrs. Mary Winch of the Portland League of Women Voters.

Also revealed in the report, entitled "Housing for Minority Groups in Portland," was the fact that 46 per cent of this Negro population is confined to census tracts 22 and 23. There are 62 census tracts in the city of Portland.

Housing Dilapidated

Census tracts 22 and 23 enclosed roughly the so-called Williams avenue or Albina district.

According to Mrs. Winch's report, 34 per cent of the housing in census tract 22 is listed under the category "housing dilapidation" as compared to 11.4 per cent "housing dilapidation" for the entire city.

Mrs. Winch gathered her information through interviews with appraisers, real estate brokers and loan agencies. Much of her information received from these individuals held up the be-

lief that the moving of Negroes in a district predominantly populated by Caucasians tends to lower property values from 25 to 50 per cent. Not one of the persons interviewed, however, could back up this belief with any concrete facts or statistical data, related Mrs. Winch.

Homogeneity Does Bad

Most of the interviewees seemed to think that people prefer to move next door to a "double," that is a family having two children preferred to move next to a family having a similar amount

of children.

Mrs. Winch pointed out, however, that homogeneity in an area does not make the area stable, but tends to make it un-American and denies children the opportunity to learn about and understand individuals of other races, religions or creeds.

The report offered definite remedy for the fallacious belief that Negroes tend to devalue property, but it is the feeling of Mrs. Winch's that the probable answer is a person to person educational campaign supplemented

by similar educational articles.

U. S. Census Used

Mrs. Winch urged families to stay and have the opportunity to learn a new neighbor, before taking someone else's judgment and a possible financial loss by selling the home to avoid a "property loss."

The report given by Mrs. Winch was a shorter version of a report given by her to the Housing and Civil Liberties committee of the League of Women Voters. Census figures used were those of the United States government.

Rights Bill Made Law By Chief's Signature

Oregon's civil rights bill became law Tuesday, April 28, when Governor Paul Patterson gave his official sanction by signing. Tabbed one of the most debated bills to pass the 1953 Oregon legislature, the act will become effective near July 21.

As with all bills passed without an emergency clause, this legislation cannot become effective until 90 days after legislative session.

Referendum Possible

Danger that a group of hotel owners, opposing the bill, might sponsor a referendum petition, was somewhat minimized when legislators learned that many hotel and motel owners and operators were in accord with the non-discrimination bill but were forced to segregate or bar minority tenants because other operators did so.

Introduced by Senator Philip Hitchcock from the Senate judiciary committee, the bill eked out a 21 to 9 victory vote, March 19, without referral, having had its criminal clause removed in committee.

Referral Move Squelched

April 13, the bill passed the House, 46 to 11, again without a referral clause, having been introduced by Representative Mark O. Hatfield from the state and federal affairs committee.

The act prohibits hotels, motels, restaurants and amusement places from discriminating against people because of race, religion or national origin, and allows those discriminated against to sue for up to \$500.

Portland Challenger

Volume 2, Number 1 Portland, Oregon, Friday, May 1, 1953

PRICE 10 CENTS

Humane Society Awards Medal To Little Nine-year-old Tommy



Proudly displaying the medal awarded him by American Humane association is little Tommy Felix. With him is pup, Fluff, the cause of "everything."

Youngster Relates Descent 'Scary'

Heroism of a 9-year-old boy was recalled last Wednesday when Tommy Felix, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Felix, 9953 SE Ankeny street, was awarded a medal from the American Humane association of Albany, N.Y. Little Tommy was en route home from school February 18 when a little girl tearfully called to him to rescue her dog, Fluff. The dog had fallen to the bottom of an abandoned well at SE 99th avenue and Burnside street.

The Russellville fourth grader said, "When I went down, it was dark and scary. I remembered when a cesspool my brother was digging caved in, so I didn't look up. Just looked down at the dog."

The bronze medal carried this inscription:

"Presented to Tommy Felix for saving the life of a dog."

Labor Bureau To Hold Forum

The third annual Oregon Forum on Intergroup Relations, sponsored by the Fair Employment Practices division of the Oregon Bureau of Labor, will be held at Portland State college Saturday, May 9.

Theme of the forum will be "Fair Employment Practices—We the People Take a Stand."

According to W. E. Kimsey commissioner of labor, the purposes of this year's forum are to determine, in conference with Oregon leaders in labor, industry, schools, churches, community organizations and state and county and municipal government:

(1)—What is now being done by these groups to improve intergroup relations in our state? (2)—What should these groups do that they are not now doing?

Six discussion groups will consider simultaneously the responsibility of each group relative to the achievement of good intergroup relations throughout the state.

The meeting will convene at 9:30 a.m. and adjourn at 4 p.m.

House Purchase By Negro Couple Causes Protests

Protesting neighbors of the Parkrose Heights neighborhood got together at the downtown office of the Tweten Realty company Wednesday night and earnestly protested the sale of one of the firm's home to a Negro family.

Their protest went to naught, however, as the Negro, Portland-born Charles Gragg, coolly reminded the protestors of his rights as a citizen and reported his decision to remain in his new five-room home at 11261 NE Knott street.

An employee of the U.S. postal transportation service and the father of a three-year-old son, Gragg stood firm on his purchase of the home and blamed ignorance for the protests of his new neighbors.

Realtor Calls Meeting

The meeting was called by Ludvig Tweten, head of the real estate firm, who said he had received anonymous telephone calls and threats protesting the sale of the home to Gragg. According to Tweten, the neighbors protested that Gragg's presence in the neighborhood would lower property values and that it would be undesirable for Gragg's son to attend school with their children.

Numerous neighbors have sanctioned the sale to Gragg, however. Some have visited him and expressed their embarrassment of the situation and told him to stand his ground. Both immediate neighbors seemed friendly and told Gragg that there was opposition to him in the neighborhood.

The real estate firm offered to pay Gragg's moving expenses if he desired to move and the Multnomah county sheriff's department has given protection to the family.

Inside

The Portland Challenger presents another in a series of articles describing the culture of Nigeria, Africa, written by Ephraim Layode, student from that country, who is currently studying at the University of Portland. Story on page 2.

Yakima to Host Elk's Regional

The seven Northwest district Grand Lodge appointees of the Northwest states association (IBPOE of W) who reside in Portland, along with five delegates allotted Billy Webb Lodge 1050, are planning to attend the annual convention of the association to be held in Yakima May 22-25.

They are Oliver E. Smith, state organizer; Thomas Vickers, educational director; Attorney U. G. Plummer, legal adviser; Lillard Evans, lecturer; Dr. DeNorval Unthank, medical director; Herman C. Plummer, economics director; and Herbert Lewis, chairman of transportation committee.

These officers stated they plan to bring the 1954 convention to Portland. The annual conclave

had its beginning here in 1947 and the Billy Webb lodge was also host in 1950.

"Freedom Week" Asked

The governors of Washington and Oregon and the mayors of the cities where there are local lodges have been asked to proclaim "Freedom Week" during the convention, according to the group.

Highlights of the convention will be election of officers and an oratorical contest with the contestants winning to receive a scholarship. The contest is for high school students, regardless of race, creed or color. The winner will also compete in the regional in San Diego, Cal., and in the national convention in Atlanta, Ga., in August.

Eugene, Oregon,
Univ of Oregon
Library,
Univ of Oregon,
Eugene, Oregon.

Sec. 34.66 P.L.&R.
U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

Permit No. 816
PORTLAND, OREGON