

Portland Challenger

An Independent Newspaper

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Our Second Year

It was a year ago this month that the first issue of the Portland Challenger hit the streets of Portland. It was the real thing at last for a young group of journalists that had trained and planned for such a project since childhood. On a whole it would seem that our readers have accepted the Challenger with warm welcome and it has been the desire of its young staff to please.

A good newspaper calls for fairness in objectivity of news and in coverage of news. At times we have been handicapped because of our infancy and desire to give to the people a journal that is clean and at the same time one that is aimed at all the people.

It takes money and incentive to operate a newspaper. It takes time to progress. We certainly plan to enlarge our paper to the extent that it will provide a more thorough coverage, not only to Portland but to the entire Pacific Northwest. This will take time, but with patience from a news-hungry people we hope to gain this end.

Appreciation and gratitude is due those that have helped us in spirit and in a business way to maintain our publication. We realize that a good newspaper is prompt and accurate. During the past year, we have tried to build up a reputation that will definitely aid our expansion program and make such a program not only profitable to our operation but at the same time beneficial to the people.

The first aim of the Portland Challenger is to inform the people of news of paramount interest to the Negro and at the same time to lessen the idea of Negro-consciousness, a difficult problem to accomplish. For although we term ourselves a "so-called Negro press," we reserve the right to maintain that Negro tags as such must disappear if we are to obtain any semblance of a true democracy in this country.

We will continue to be primarily Negro until we reach the point in this fastly integrating society where color consciousness begins to disappear.

Looking back over our first year of publication, we take note of the advancement of the Negro in Oregon, symbolized by the recent passage in Oregon of a civil rights statute in April. It was a big year for people that believes deeply in this idea of recognition of the individual. The Challenger staff members feel proud of the part they played in informing the people of events and happenings of this caliber during the past year. We have tried to be non-sensational and non-biased in our report of these activities. At times we have been subjected to harsh criticism of our news display, but the acceptance of our wisdom and integrity in handling our news coverage have far outweighed such criticism.

What are our plans for the future? We hope to enlarge our newspaper in 1953-54. We plan more pages and thus more departments. It is impossible to predict the date of change in format or size. But we do plan to grow in accordance with our progress.

In our business the people come first. We have earnestly endeavored to keep this fact aloof from the business aspect of our operation. Time will tell if our job is being done well. We hope so, for our success depends on you, our readers. We will always be open to criticism and ideas. Certainly we can never become so big that the public will be forgotten in a blind drive for importance and the pseudo-success to be felt.

Ugly Race Agitation

Race prejudice continues to show itself. The minute the problem seems licked, incidents occur to remind Americans of the work yet to be done to eliminate this ugly stigma from our social scene. The recent furor attached to the purchase of a home in the Parkrose Heights district by Charles Gragg is just one of the many incidents encountered by minority groups when seeking to utilize their privileges of equality and freedom.

It is most regrettable that the publicity was so prominent in this case. Gragg's purchase would most likely have gone down as just another buy in the books of the realty firm. Certainly no threats were made to Gragg or his immediate family to cause the uproar that ensued.

Little Tots Model Children's Wear

Attractive fashions were modeled by little tots at the annual spring fashion show given by the Beta Eta Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho. On April 26 at the Williams Avenue Y, tiny tots ranging from 9 months to 13 years old, fashioned an array of outfits adapted for any occasion.

Pictures painted by the children made an attractive backdrop for the setting and sorority colors of blue and gold decorated the tea table.

Miss Delores Harris was pianist and Mrs. Pollyanna Reed was commentator. During intermission, the guests were entertained by two piano selections, played by Thelma and Diane Leslie Unthank and a vocal selection by La Verne Overton accompanied by Phyllis Anita Fielder.

Tea Served Guests

Tea was served to the guests by Messrs. Cora Minor and Bernedette Plummer. Mrs. Marjorie Marshall is basileus of the chapter.

The children who participated in the fashion show were Michael McGuire, Billie Chinn, Audrey Moy, Glenda Searcy, Renay Ellyce Fielder, Anita Jackson, Andrea and Ida McClendon, Darla and Joe Dunn, Michael Jones, Ronald and Carol Ann Morrison, Michael Gabner, Caroline and Gloria Dean, Sharon Leggroan, Carol, Virginia, Donna and Charles Maxey.

Wayne Pernell, Raymond Winslow, Karen Haynes, Arthur Winslow Jr., Anita Louise Lewis, Johnetta Offord, Lorraine and Annetta Overton, Margurite Fuller, Susan and Patricia Lewis, Arnetta Webb, Marilyne Britton, Shirley Vance, Bobbie Stein, James Harrison, Teddy Benning, Michael Porter, Penny Pierson, Lari White, Kathy and Joyce Gaskin, Nathalee Williams, Kathleen Winslow, E. B. Lamarr II, Robbie and Jimmy Robinson.

Broker to Speak At Church Affair

Herman C. Plummer, real estate broker, will deliver an address Saturday, May 2, at the Allen-Temple church, 1911 N.E. 9th avenue. His speech will climax a week-long series of lectures and musical fests. A Kiddies' Style show will be presented tonight, May 1, at the church.

City commissioner Stanley Earl spoke last night. Other events were highlighted by the addresses of Robert Ford, Roosevelt high school teacher, and Rev. L. R. Kibler, pastor.

Music for the entire week's activities was rendered by all of the music departments of the church, and by James Parks, evangelist singer.

Race Clause Causes Rift With Parent Body

Members of Pacific university's Zeta chapter of Omega Delta optometric fraternity will resign their affiliation with the national organization and form a local group, according to Bob McGillivray, president.

The decision was prompted by the fact that a recent poll of chapters around the nation on the racial-religious restriction clause is in the ritual of the organization rejected Zeta's request to have the restriction removed.

Action was started sometime ago when students of Pacific asked Zeta chapter to petition for removal of the white-clause in the ritual. Zeta's petition, put to a vote of all the chapters of the nation, was rejected.

News In Brief

By William Wright
Challenger Staff Writer

William H. Holliday and Mrs. Jennie E. Adams were married in a quiet ceremony in Vancouver, Washington, April 14. Present at the nuptial rites were Mr. and Mrs. Will Gragg and Wirt Morton. The newlyweds are at home at 326 N.

Halsey street.

In Portland for a brief business visit this week was Mrs. Mae Jackson, a former Portlander. Mrs. Jackson now makes her home in Seattle. . . . Funeral services were held Thursday, April 30, for Mrs. Mary Ellen Ashford, 74, who died April 26. She is survived by a niece, Mrs. Mary Bird, and a nephew, Theodore Johnson. Other survivors include one niece and four nephews.

Robert Johnson married recently in Chicago. He and his windy city bride will make their home in Portland. A more detailed dispatch will be available in the May 5 issue of the Portland Challenger.

Back in Los Angeles with her husband Louis is Mrs. Jureta Fuller. She and the family now plan to make their home in Los Angeles. Richard Parker is running for the student senate at Portland State. . . . Miss Beverly Jeanne Brock was nominated as a candidate for princess by her junior classmates at Oregon College of Education in Monmouth.

Mrs. Helen Melker, 415 SE 10th avenue, was taken to St. Vincent's hospital Tuesday for observation. . . . Johnny Newton is now in Japan. His address is: A/3c Johnny Newton, 511th A. C. & W., Box C, APO 919 care Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.

a place like New York city, will not find in Nigeria sky scrapers, subways and some other things peculiar to New York City.

The people in Lagos live in all ways of life patterned on European standards of living. The streets are paved and everywhere there are cars, buses, and taxicabs in the city. There are radios installed in homes; those who can afford it and who find it necessary, have telephones in their homes. There are also moving picture theaters, social night club houses, where people who like it, can go and have dances.

It is warm all the year round, and on special hot days, some drive down to the swimming pools or to the sea side, which is just only about six miles from the city limits. In several places there are tennis courts, spotted with white clad moving players and flashing rackets after the day's work.

Young boys and girls, and even adults, ride on bicycles from one street to another and those who can afford it, have cars of various kinds to ride about the city.

In Lagos there are people of all nationalities: Indians, French, Syrians, Americans, English, Italians and many others. Strangely enough, some of these people, after living in Lagos or in any other part of Nigeria, decide to become Nigerian citizens. The fact is, these foreigners amongst millions of Nigerians in and outside of Lagos, while enjoying life, seem oblivious to the existence of any other world of men outside the confines of Nigeria.

Lagos, as the capital, is also the seat of the government. But there are some other headquarters for the Northern, Eastern and Western provinces at other places respectively. There are other departments which are centralized under the direct control of the Governor who is assisted by a secretariat styled the "Nigerian Secretariat," through which all matters are referred to the Governor.

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Writer Explains Lagos City Life

BY EPHRAIM LAYODE
LAGOS—THE CAPITOL CITY

OF NIGERIA—Lagos, on the extreme west coast of Nigeria, is the capital city of Nigeria, known also as the colony, under the British Crown, according to the Colonial Act of the British Empire during the reign of Queen Victoria.

Before the invasion of the British government, Lagos was known to belong to the natives, who were mostly farmers and fishermen by occupation. The native name for Lagos is EKO, which means a place of water or swamps. For several years, Lagos was ruled successfully by the native kings.

In the year 1852, the destiny of Nigeria tumbled into the British hands. In that year, a treaty was signed by King Akintoye of Lagos to abolish a slave-trade and to encourage the work of the missionaries. In the same year a British Consul was appointed to Lagos. From here on things started rolling fast, and so in the year 1861, Lagos, with the dependent territories, was ceded by King Dosunmu, successor of King Akintoye, to the British government. In 1862, a colony was formed.

In 1866, the colony of Lagos was annexed to the West African Settlement under a governor in Chief resident in Sierra Leone. In 1874, the colony of Lagos was united to the Gold Coast colony, another sister colony, to the west of Nigeria. Around 1886, the colony of Lagos was separated from the Gold Coast colony, and with the acquired hinterland, became the colony and protectorate of Lagos under a separate governor.

With these few historical facts about Lagos, I wish to call the attention of my readers to two outstanding facts. First, that the British government became interested in Nigerian affairs some hundred years ago. Therefore, the Nigerians are no longer children in dealing with the British government. They know us and we too know them. By now, they should be able to know what we are capable of doing as a nation and what we cannot do. Secondly, we have been educated by the British long enough, and of course we have been obedient pupils in the British school of thought and world affairs, therefore the statement often made, that we are not yet ripe for self-government, cannot be true. After all is said and done, the Nigerians are very quick in learning their lessons, and they know it too.

From the time Lagos was made a separate colony, it started to grow very rapidly in population and in various internal improvements. So much so, that a tiny island of some years ago has now been greatly improved to become a city of 1,381 square miles in area and with about 450,000 population.

The capital city of Nigeria has all the attributes of English or American municipalities, although these may not be on many large scales. But the fact is, Lagos has now some of the facilities which can be found in any modern city anywhere in the world. However, a visitor from