

# Portland Challenger

An Independent Newspaper

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## Minister's Surprise

The rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Rev. Elbert Riddick, says that he is surprised at the favorable reactions to the move now underway by the "Civil Freedom Committee" to put the civil rights bill passed by the 1953 Oregon legislators up to a vote of the people. Riddick and his cohorts are circulating petitions hoping to get the necessary 23,275 signatures and express confidence that the petitions will be filled before the bill goes into effect. The bill is slated to become effective around July 21.

The Rev. Mr. Shepherd states that he cannot say whether or not other groups are behind the referendum movement. But it is interesting to note that most of the petitions are being circulated in taverns, restaurants and hotels. Of the 36 places listed to send completed petitions, only two fail to fall in this category.

In Portland, notarized petitions are to be sent to Oregon Dispenser's association, Nortornia hotel. In Lane county, it is the Eugene hotel in Eugene and in Salem, it is the Senator hotel. In Astoria, it is the John Astor hotel. At least nine of the places listed are taverns. Two are billiard parlors.

It is a most embarrassing shame to American democracy that such a petition is being circulated and that money is being solicited in a bigoted attempt to thwart democracy and make a mockery out of our representative form of government here in Oregon.

Oregon legislators passed the civil rights bill because they felt it a moral right to do so. Our state lawmakers represent every county in the state and it was these representatives who unanimously passed the ordinance. They are well-educated individuals and certainly capable of giving the state decent government. They are men that deserve respect and confidence.

The conduct of Rev. Mr. Riddick and other members of the "Civil Freedom Committee" is opprobrious and shocking to say the least. One certainly wouldn't expect such actions from educated men and, most disgraceful of all, is the conduct of their leader, a professed believer in God's word and the rector of a House of God.

It goes without saying that civil rights means the freedom of the individual. To construe the meaning of freedom to toy with the minds of individuals by deliberately twisting the meaning for one's selfish prejudice has no moral justification whatsoever.

Best it be for people to judge their own association. Race, creed or color plays no role in the selection of a true friend. It is not up to a member of one race to decide the friendship fate of his racial counterparts.

The surprise registered by Rev. Mr. Riddick is proof enough that he himself is doing wrong. Evidently he expected to find himself in the middle of a hornet's nest. A surprise to everyone is the peculiar assembly of people Rev. Mr. Riddick is associating with. Very peculiar indeed for a church to be allied with taverns, billiard parlors and cocktail lounges.

We hope the citizens of Oregon will rely on their Christian teachings and the teachings of the American form of government when making a decision in regards to the anti-civil rights petition.

## NAACP Membership Drive

The Portland branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is currently in the midst of its 1953 membership drive. The NAACP program needs no introduction. This organization has been one of the salient reasons that progress has been made in the field of race relations.

It has successfully fought the white primary in the south and brought some semblance of equal education to the southern communities. It is a strong and well-directed ally of the Urban League and other racial progress booster organizations.

Membership is \$2. One half of this amount goes to the national office to finance the NAACP's legal program. It is this legal body that has been responsible for the Supreme Court decisions that have benefited the minority groups.

## Officers Elected By OACW Clubs

Mrs. Thelma Unthank was elected president of the Oregon Association of Colored Women's Clubs at the annual convention held recently at the Williams avenue branch of the YWCA. Mrs. Elise Reynolds was elected vice president.

Other officers elected were: Mrs. Lillyan Smith, first recording secretary; Mrs. Perlene White, second recording secretary; Mrs. Dorothy Vickers, corresponding secretary.

Mrs. Emma Hepburn, treasurer; Mrs. Pearl Clark Clow, auditor; Mrs. Beatrice Reed, custodian; Mrs. Ruth Leftridge, chaplain; Mrs. Maggie Friday, organizer.

### Kwanzan Club Wins

Chairmen of the monthly committees are Mrs. Maud Banks, Mrs. Layola Brown, Mrs. Lylia Phillips, Mrs. Carrie Cannon, and Mrs. Pauline Countee.

Sweepstakes winner in the art craft prize division was the Kwanzan club. First prize went to the 20 Matrons' club. The Literary Research club won the second prize. Third and fourth prizes went to the Co-op and Chariteers clubs respectively.

Other club awards went to the Literary Research club, fine arts and table cloth making and the Kwanzan, charity.

Individual awards went to Mrs. Gertrude Meyers, Individual Fine Arts cup, and Mrs. Eunice Watkins, best knitting.

## Petitions Protest Civil Rights Bill

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prised that more of the letters are in favor of the referendum than against," says the minister.

### 23,275 Signers Needed

Rev. Mr. Riddick is minister of a small Episcopal parish at 44 N. Emerson street. It has 55 communicants and 85 baptized members.

The civil rights ordinance makes it illegal for public eating, lodging and amusement places to discriminate against any person because of religion or race.

The civil rights bill is slated to go into effect July 21. Sponsors of the referendum hope to get 23,275 signatures to their sheets calling for a state-wide vote on the measure.

## Little Tots Model Attractive Attire

Attractive attire for every occasion was modeled at the fashion show recently which climaxed the Oregon Association of Colored Women's Clubs convention at Holladay school.

The stage was first adorned with little tots modeling their fashions as if they were at a birthday party. A beautiful cake centered the stage surrounded by the children. After each fashion was modeled, the birthday song was sung in unison.

Fashions from sports to evening wear were modeled by the adults. Moderators for the affair were Mesdames Addie Jean Haynes and Lenora Gaskin.

## Ed Singer Wins Television Award

Winner of the Hoffman Easy-Vision TV set in the Urban League of Portland's subscription campaign was Ed Singer, Portland State college sociology student. Singer recruited 83 members in less than three months' time.

He reached this number in a one-man membership campaign among his close friends, fellow students and business people.

## News In Brief

BY WILLIAM WRIGHT  
Challenger Staff Writer

Mrs. Viola Anderson returned recently from a trip to Tacoma and Seattle. In Tacoma she visited her sisters, Mrs. Charolette Harris and Mrs. Lena Tate. In Seattle Mrs. Anderson visited with a niece, Miss Bernice Jones. . . Off to Wilberforce, Ohio, is Rev. Jesse L. Boyd, pastor of Bethel AME church. Rev. Mr. Boyd will be on the Wilberforce university campus for a trustee board meeting.

## Ruling Sought On Bill Wording

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erendum and that an appeal may have to be made to the supreme court.

David Robinson, chairman of the state fair employment practices advisory committee, also has asked a ruling from Thornton in connection with the referendum movement.

Robinson points out that the state law prohibits an employer from detailing or allowing a worker to collect signatures for a ballot petition.

According to Robinson, violations were noted in Portland two years ago when petitions were circulated to defeat the city civil rights bill.

## NAACP Branch Slates Speaker

Leonard W. Schroeter, director of the regional office of the Anti-Defamation league of B'nai B'rith for the state of Washington, will be guest speaker at the regular monthly public education meeting of the Vancouver branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People June 28, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., in the Vista Room of Vancouver Housing Authority.

"A Report of Civil Rights in the State of Washington" will be the topic for discussion.

Schroeter was formerly on the legal staff of the NAACP with Thurgood Marshall. He participated in many legal cases that won advances in civil rights for minority groups.

A question and answer period will follow the discussion. Coffee hour will provide opportunities for meeting Schroeter and for getting acquainted with others.

## Rector Riddick in News Since Coming to Portland

Rev. Elbert D. Riddick, professed president of the "Civil Freedom Committee," a group organized to recall the civil rights bill passed by the 1953 Oregon legislature, is not unknown to most Portland residents.

The Rev. Mr. Riddick was born in 1896 in New York city and ran away from home when he was 16. He worked as a seaman on English tramps and traders and American coastal steamers.

In 1915 he came to California. It was here that he first became interested in the ministry. He was ordained in the United Presbyterian church at Everett, Wn., and filled pastorates at Burlington, Wn., Spirit Lake, Ida., and Conway, Pa.

### Attended Seminary

While in Pennsylvania he attended Pittsburgh-Zenia seminary and on January 25, 1938, was ordained a deacon of the Protestant Episcopal church by Rt. Rev. S. Arthur Huston, bishop of Olympia, at Seattle. He held the rectorate at Bremerton, Wn., until called to Portland in 1939.

In June, 1940, Rev. Mr. Riddick was ordered to donate to the Red Cross by Municipal Judge Julius Cohn on a charge of disorderly conduct. He was arrested at Multnomah civic stadium dur-

ing the Rose Festival show after he refused to move from an aisle at the request of police.

That same month he was criticized in a letter from Portland police post No. 2307, Veterans of Foreign Wars, for making derogatory remarks from his pulpit about the Portland police bureau.

Richard Parker is planning on residing in Seattle. Parker attended Portland State during the spring term and plans to enroll at Washington this fall.

It is a girl for Mr. and Mrs. Emery Barnes of Eugene, Oregon. Pamela Ann Barnes was born May 12 and weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces. Barnes is attending the University of Oregon.

Off to Los Angeles to visit the parents of her husband is Mrs. Pauline Countee. She is motoring south with Mr. and Mrs. Lawson Jones. Mrs. Countee will also visit her son, Sam Wilkinson Vaughn, in Camp Roberts. . . Milton Emanuel has been promoted to Pfc. He is currently serving in Korea.

Miss Beverly Jeanne Brock left this week for a short stay in Berkeley with her sister, Ruby. She plans to be back in time to enter summer school at the Portland State Extension center.

In Portland for a quick week end visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nick Banks, was Mrs. Audrey Johnson, now living in the Bay Area. . . Ed Webb is slated to report to the army June 14, for induction.

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### "Nazified Police Force"

Rev. Mr. Riddick had referred to the Portland police force as "nazified police force" and "vice conditions they permit." In his sermon, the minister asked, "Do Americans want a nazified police force in this country?" "Nazism and fascism are not something happening in Germany and Italy. They are states of mind, attitudes which men have toward other men."

In a letter to The Oregonian, August 19, 1943, Rev. Mr. Riddick suggested "that if Negroes are to persist in infiltrating white residential districts, they be careful to maintain the same standards of cleanliness and orderliness of their houses, grounds and sidewalks and the same quietness in their conduct, which self-respecting white people impose on themselves." The minister said, "segregation is looked at askance in Portland."