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Portland Inquirer

Oregon's Negro Weekly

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NEGRO NEWSPAPER

VOLUME 1 PORTLAND, ORE., AUGUST 18, 1944 PRICE 10c NUMBER 6

FLASH!

PHILADELPHIA, PA., (U. P.)
Negro operators for the first time
today, August 14, started operating
trains in the Philadelphia Subway
system!

Two strike leaders who are
charged with causing the strike are
under \$2500 bail. Hearing is set for
August 28, in the Federal Court.
Their local claims that the two

men who are charged with inciting
the strike because of Negroes being
upgraded to Operators are innocent
and are being RAILROADED to
prison.

This is a decided victory over
discrimination for Negroes, and is
only the forerunner of future op-
portunities which the Negro will
have to prove his ability in what-
ever position he is qualified to hold.

Negroes Surveyed

There has been in Portland for the past couple of weeks a man and scholar in the person of Mr. Robert E. Colbert conducting a survey of the Negroes. Mr. Colbert is here on a Fellowship from Howard University and has been visiting other cities in the West to determine whether the older residents of these cities resent the importation of other Negroes into their community. The answers he received to his questions here in Portland were many and varied. Opinions differed, certain situations were singled out but in the main they all seemed to agree on the issues involved. We reprint with permission one of the returned questionnaires. This is the most complete of all the replies so far received and covers the questions thoroughly.

QUESTIONNAIRE

"The Attitude of Older Negro Residents Toward Recent Negro Migrants."

1. Name: Oliver E. Smith.
2. Address: 3411 SW First.
3. Occupation: Supervisor of Janitors, Commercial Iron Works.
4. Length of Residence: 7 years continuous. Since 1924 except away to school. Residence in greater metropolitan area since early childhood.
6. Please give a sketch of racial conditions as they existed prior to the influx of migrants.

I definitely approve to the increasing population. It brings out the schools of thought Negroes from everywhere possess. It shows the Negro HAS the same factions as any other American and creates some defense to protect what he has claimed was rightly his before the migration.

8. What effect on post-war conditions of permanent residents do you think this influx of migrants will have?

I think 20 or even 30% of the migrants will remain here, as this is the promised land to them. Some of the older people will leave and a fewer progressive people will eventually be the bulk of the Negro population, but "Uncle Tom" will be with us for some time.

Oliver E. Smith is the only Negro in the history of the state of Oregon to almost win the nomination for State Senator. Contrary to general opinion he was not almost elected but was almost given the chance to be elected at the General Election Nov. 7.

Mr. Colbert was born in Philadelphia, Pa., but left there when yet a child and was educated in the public schools of Indiana, later attending Virginia Union University where he received his A. B. degree in the class of 1930. He received his Master's degree at Howard University in the summer semester of 1944 and was granted the Fellowship on which he is now traveling. Mr. Colbert intends to return to the East and take the chair of History in a High School in the school system of Pennsylvania.

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MAYOR TABOOS DISCRIMINATION

A meeting primarily designed to offer constructive suggestions for assisting the Negroes in this area was held in the Federal Court room in Portland on Friday, August 11. The meeting was attended by the mayors of both Portland and Vancouver, representatives of churches, business and social agencies at the request of Federal officials. Although petty bickering was indulged in by some of those present, there were several constructive suggestions offered.

The most pertinent statement of the session was made by the Hon. Mayor Earl Riley concerning discrimination in the government of the City of Portland. He stated, "There has never been any discrimination in the city government and there never will be. I invariably pick the name at the top of the list of eligibles (Civil Service) regardless of who it is though I could pick any one of the first three."

This statement by His Honor, the Mayor of Portland, was significant in that since there were no Negro representatives in the city government, the question arose as to whether they were barred or not.

Editor's Note: This puts it squarely up to the Colored people of the locality, it is plain that either the Negroes were not interested enough in their own welfare to take any of the many examinations or else were not qualified to pass.

NEGROES GO OVER TOP IN BOND DRIVE

Negroes in New Orleans, La., purchased nearly \$1,000,000 worth of War Bonds in the Fifth War Loan drive, according to the final report of Mrs. N. Borikins, chairman of the Negro Division, which was made public this week by the Treasury Department.

The drive began with a public mass meeting and program at Booker T. Washington High school, which featured Muriel Rahn, Broadway singing star, late of the operetta "Carmen Jones," and Negro flyers of the 99th Pursuit squadron, recently returned from active duty in Italy. These included Capt. Clarence Jamison and Lt. Allen Lane, who were interviewed, and Lt. Robert Deiz.

Addresses were made by William Pickens, head of the Inter-racial Section of the War Finance Division of the Treasury; Leon Tujague, State chairman of the War Finance committee; C. W. Taylor, State coordinator of the War Finance committee; John Dane, Orleans Parish director of the Fifth War Loan drive; E. Kirby Newburger, chairman of the New Orleans War Finance committee and Mrs. Naomi Borikins, chairman of the Negro division. This effort netted \$30,000 in war bond sales.

AYD Gives Second Dance

A dance, Inter-racial, was held at AYD Center, 830 South West 10th Street on Saturday, August 12th.

Although the crowd was small, it was very orderly and everyone present spent an enjoyable evening.

They are planning an inter-racial dance on a much larger scale in the very near future.

MARRIAGES

Hammons, Portland, Floy Jones, of Portland, July 27.

Smith, Vancouver, Washington, Aary Dell Green, Vancouver, Washington, July 29, 1944.

LICENSES ISSUED

Avritt, Portland, Elizabeth Cathalyne Washington, Portland.

TO THE NEGROES OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY

PORTLAND, GUILDS LAKE, AND VANPORT CITY

Registration Is Now Open at the County Court House, Fifth Ave. and Salmon Street, Room 141

In order to VOTE in the November Elections you first MUST register. In order to register you will have to go to the County Court House.

To reach the County Court House take the Williams Ave. bus or the Alberta trolley car or the Sellwood bus. Get off at Salmon Street (1000 S. W.) and walk two blocks west.

From St. Johns or Interstate bus transfer at Oak Street to the Mississippi bus or Broadway trolley. Get off at Salmon Street and walk two blocks east.

From Vanport ride bus to end of line (9th and Oak), walk east on Oak to Broadway and take the Broadway trolley or Mississippi bus. Get off at Salmon St., Walk two blocks east.