

S.S. BERT WILLIAMS LAUNCHED

WANTED

Club, Fraternal and Social News
This is YOUR Newspaper . . .
so help make it yours by send-
ing in these happenings.

Portland Inquirer

Oregon's Negro Weekly

SUBSCRIBE TO
YOUR
PROGRESSIVE
NEGRO NEWSPAPER

VOLUME 1

Published each Friday

PORTLAND, ORE., DECEMBER 1, 1944

PRICE 10c

NUMBER 21

URBAN LEAGUE SETS UP HERE

Petition Requesting Admission to Council of Social Agencies Presented; Functions Outlined.

A petition requesting admission to the Council of Social Agencies for a newly formed branch of the Urban League has been presented here in Portland. The National Urban League is a Negro welfare organization with branches in all principal cities. The forming of a branch here puts Portland on a par with other cities of its size.

The petition, presented by E. B. McNaughton and Harry A. D. Smith, stated that "This organization does not duplicate the work of any other agency or organization, nor does it carry on functional activities except in those instances where community needs require such. Neither does the Urban League carry on racial social work for other agencies, but assists other organizations in more effectively serving the Negro population."

Specifically an Urban League in Portland will carry on a permanent program of negotiations with organized labor and management to reduce barriers that prevent the utilization and upgrading of Negro labor. This would include a vocational guidance program of counseling, direction into job training and workers education for better performance.

In the field of research and investigation there would be constant gathering of information on the Negro question and exploring areas of needed attention. All programming would be based solely on the facts as gathered, so that all activities would be geared in with the actual facts, rather than on rumor, emotion and misinformation.

An inter-racial board of directors was chosen to handle the affairs of the branch consisting of seven colored members and eight white members. The colored members are Dr. DeNorval Unthank and Rev. J. J. Clow to serve one year; Mrs. Clifford Walker and Mr. Oliver E. Smith to serve for two years; and Mr. Kelly Foster, Rev. L. O. Stone and Mrs. Julia Smith to serve for three years. The white members of the board are Harry W. Bruck, James Hamilton and Harry A. D. Smith for one year; Roy Hill, E. B. McNaughton and Miss Nell Unger to serve for two years; Mrs. Elliot R. Corbett and Mr. Ed. Benedict for three years. The board is to be self-perpetuating.

In a preliminary report of a "sample" survey the board has reported that out of 62 industrial establishments there were 7541 Negroes employed out of a total of 132,634 employees or 5.68 per cent. That Negroes held a total of 5.04 per cent of shipyard positions or

7270. Railroads and hotels account for 1100 employed and that there were 271 gainfully employed in other occupations.

The Board also reported from a preliminary survey that approximately 2777 families of newcomers would remain in the area post war.

The interests of the Urban League include Housing, Industrial Relations, Health, Recreation, Research and Race Relations.

A tentative budget was requested amounting to \$8675.10 to conduct the work of the League for the first year.

"No Comment" On Civil Rights Bill

The Multnomah County delegation of members of the Oregon State Senate met in the Portland Hotel this week. Election of officers was held and comment made on several bills destined to come up before the next session of the legislature.

One of the bills due to come up before the body is the new and more liberal form of the Civil Rights Bill. The delegation declined to comment on the bill or how they would vote, preferring to wait until they see it in its introduced form when the legislature is in session.

Officers elected were Representative John Hall, Republican, President; Senator Lee Patterson, Secretary.

New Publicity Director in Vanport

The Vanport Housing Authority announces the addition of Mr. C. L. Emerson to its staff as Publicity Director. Mr. Emerson comes to his new position with a background well fitted for his job. He is former editor of a prominent magazine and lately had been engaging industrial surveys. As a Recruiting Representative for the Kaiser Co. in the southern states, he was responsible for the presence in this area of hundreds of the people with whom he will now work.

In his capacity of publicity director, Mr. Emerson wants it known that he is interested in all phases of social activities and will appreciate any notices on any affairs that have to do with recreational activities within the project. He can be reached at Community Center Number One.

Central Library Office
801 S.W. 10th.
City 5
Attn: Miss Nell Unger

Sec. 562 P.L.R.

RECREATION CENTER OPENED ON EAST SIDE

What was once a Buddhist church, attended by Portland Japanese prior to their evacuation to other areas, is now another indoor play center added to the many similar recreation buildings under supervision of the recreational division of the Bureau of Parks. It will be formally opened today (Friday) with Miss Hazel Mitchell, formerly with the staff of instructors at the Civic Recreation Center, in charge.

The newly opened center is at 1137 N. E. Benton street, in the triangle of Williams Ave. Clackamas and Benton Street, and a block west of the Williams Ave. bus line. It is a two-story structure with a full-size basement and a number of rooms which are to be put to good use as game rooms, classes in crafts, story hour, and for meeting rooms for social groups. The raised and recessed altar, its draperies and ornately carved framing stored for the duration, makes an excellent stage for the auditorium. This commodious room has been restyled to serve as a gymnasium or for auditorium when special events are to be staged.

It is planned to have play and instruction for both juniors and adults in crafts, dancing, badminton, volleyball, ping-pong and other table games, and for children of pre-school age singing, games and rhythm classes.

Today and this evening it is to be informal open house so that the neighbors may come in and see what facilities are to be available to them here by way of recreation. The programs that have been prepared for distribution, outlining activities at the building, bear a note of explanation—that schedules and classes are tentative and will be changed to meet requests and needs of those using the building when it is deemed wise to do so. The regular hours are to be from 3:30 to 10 p. m. daily except Mondays and Saturdays, when the building will be open from 9 to 5 p. m.

A supplementary program of recreational activities is carried on from 6 to 10 in the evenings under direction of the park bureau at the Elliot school, 2711 N. E. Rodney, which is in the neighborhood of the new Benton street center.

Since the recreational centers are part of the parks program of the city they are open to the public without charge. Groups, such as clubs and organizations, are entitled to the use of the recreation buildings facilities as well as individuals, and arrangements for such groups may be made with the director in charge.

Negro Wacs At Fort Lewis

The War Department announced this week the stationing of WACS at the Fort Lewis Army Training center. The first contingent of colored WACS arrived this week.

14th Vessel Honoring Great Negroes Slides Down Ways

Ship sponsored by Wife of Shipyard Worker

Honoring the name of one of the Negro humorists of the American stage, the Liberty Ship S. S. Bert Williams, 225th cargo vessel to be built at Todd's New England Shipbuilding Corporation at South Portland, Maine, slid down the ways on November 18 into the waters of Casco Bay, the United States Maritime Commission announced this week.

Mrs. Maxine R. David, wife of a leadman welder on the third shift and a former welder herself, sponsored the ship in the presence of a delegation from the Negro Actors Guild of New York, a group of officials of the shipyard, and before a crowd of fellow workers. Mrs. David was selected for the honor by her husband, who was chosen to pick a sponsor due to his perfect work and attendance record in the yard over a period of three years, working on the graveyard shift. This privilege is accorded various workers in the yard at New England Shipbuilding Corporation by

the labor-management committee.

With a well-timed blow, Mrs. David smashed the beribboned bottle against the prow of the ship, showering bystanders with foaming champagne. The huge ship gained momentum and slid down the ways as the strains of the "Star Spangled Banner" mingled with the cheers of the workers.

Following the launching the sponsor, her husband and a dozen fellow workers with excellent attendance records were given a luncheon at a Portland Hotel. Andrew B. Sides, president of the New England Shipbuilding Corporation, presided at a luncheon and presented Mrs. David with the traditional engraved silver plate, as a memento of the occasion.

Elmer A. Carter, executive chairman of the Negro Actors Guild of America, presented a famed painting of Bert Williams to the ship as a token from his organization. Leigh Whipper, outstanding Negro character actor, told a number of amusing anecdotes about Williams. (Continued on page 5)

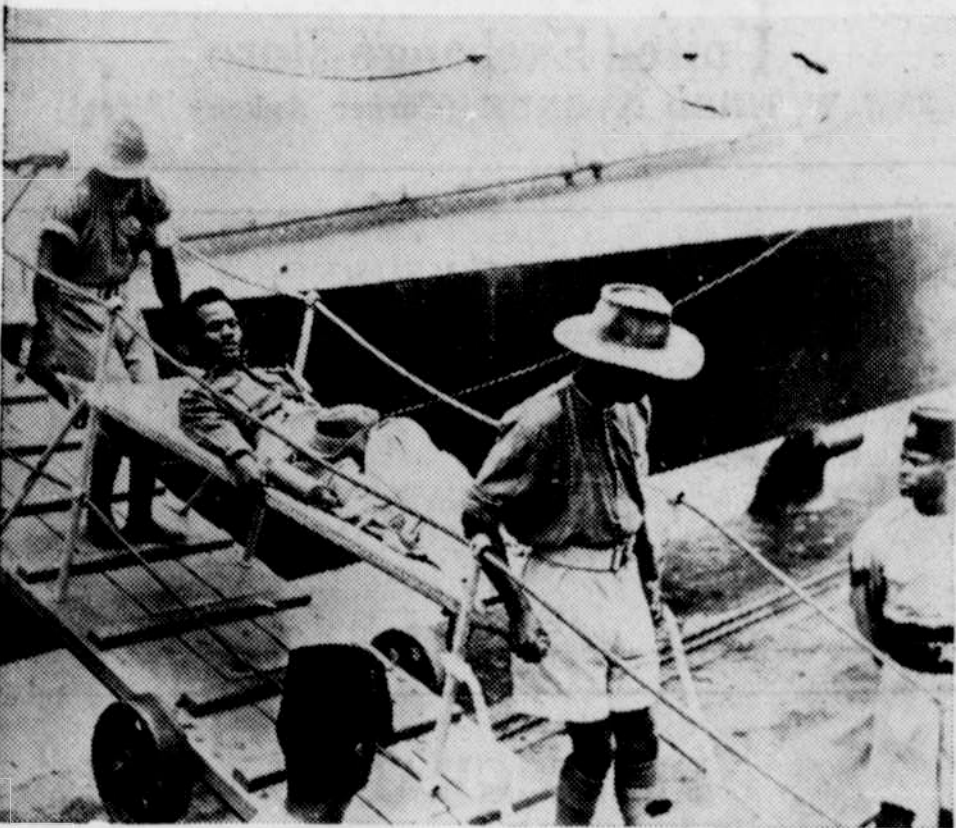
NAACP To Open Regional Office

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is holding conferences in San Francisco this week for the purpose of establishing a Regional Office for the Pacific Coast. President of local branches throughout the West have been invited to participate in the conference. The establishment of a Regional Office on the West Coast will save much valuable time and expense by ending the necessity of communicating with the New York office of the NAACP.

Cellar Mishaps Cause Foot Injury

Stumbling over a piece of wood in the basement of her home on Thanksgiving Day resulted in a broken foot for Mrs. Ruth English, 4320 S. E. 43rd Ave. Mrs. English paid very little attention to the injury, but decided to visit a doctor after continued pain in her foot. The doctor informed her that her foot was broken.

A couple more weeks will pass before Mrs. English can visit her cellar again.



African Wounded Come Home

The first hospital ship ever to arrive in West Africa recently brought back 500 West African soldiers of Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Gold Coast and the Gambia who had been wounded in fighting in Burma and the Middle East. For the first time in the history of the four British West African colonies, their soldiers are fighting overseas. West Africans have proved to be among the world's finest jungle fighters and a full division—the 81st West African Division—has distinguished itself in fighting with the 14th Army in Burma. They helped to drive the Japanese from the borders of India, served under General Stilwell in the north Burma theatre, and no the Arakan front recently pushed the enemy eastward to the Kaladan River. Upon their arrival home, the wounded were greeted by the Governors of the colonies. The more seriously wounded were sent to the Army's new rehabilitation center at Accra. Picture shows: Stretcher cases from the Italian and Burma fronts are the first to arrive off the hospital ship. A sergeant-major who was fighting with them in the Burma jungles said, "They have done a wonderful job against the Japanese—they all deserve the V. C."

British Information Photo from OWI.