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Portland Inquirer

Oregon's Negro Weekly

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 NEGRO NEWSPAPER

VOLUME 1 Published each Friday PORTLAND, ORE., DECEMBER 15, 1944 PRICE 10c NUMBER 23

FIRST METHODIST CANCELS DEBT

BURNING THE MORTGAGE



FIRST AME ZION CHURCH: The actual burning of the mortgage in front of the Pulpit of the Church. Reading from left to right are: The Presiding Elder of the California, Oregon and Washington conference, Rev. L. W. McCoy; Rev. J. F. Smith, pastor of the church (holding plate on which mortgage can be seen burning); Mr. L. M. Bird; Mother Farrell; Mr. Bert Turner; Mr. I. H. Payne; Mrs. Gray (oldest member of the church), Mrs. L. M. Bird.

Ruling Upholds Negro Rights

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 9—Clark county's Negro population has an equal right to buy property, build and live in the county as have white residents, county commissioners determined in a session at the courthouse Thursday night.

The opinion was given in answer to Mrs. J. L. Nordstrom, who appeared on behalf of owners of property adjoining the LaBerg tract owned by Joseph LaLonde, and located one half mile south of Salmon Creek on the Pacific highway, asking prohibition of sale of the land to members of the Negro race. She charged that property values in the area would decline if Negroes bought and built on the LaLonde tract.

Although commissioners said that the matter probably did not come under their jurisdiction, they held that the Negro population has an equal right in the matter.

LaLonde had petitioned the planning members at the November meeting for a preliminary plat in creating a subdivision. Action in the matter will be continued.

Portlanders Guests At USO Dedication

Astoria Naval Base, Dec. 10. Dr. and Mrs. DeNorval Unthank and Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Blackburn of Portland were guests at the dedication services of the U. S. O. branch established here this week.

BURNING OF MORTGAGE BIG EVENT

By HELEN E. WEGENER
 Guest Writer

The Vanport Negro Choral Society added a great deal to the program last Sunday evening at the A. M. E. Zion Church, located at Williams and Hancock streets. The early history of the church was related by Mrs. L. M. Bird and Mrs. Kathryn Gray. The early difficulties encountered in securing a place of worship for the colored people of the Albina district were related by them. Mrs. C. Harris told of the first Elders of the church and the debt of gratitude the present membership owes them. Mrs. Margaret Wyman, Mr. I. H. Payne and Mr. S. Scruggs closed the remarks at the banquet hour. The Rev. Smith then introduced Mrs. Lambert who rendered a solo. This was followed by the presentation of the arrangements committee and the handsome waitresses and waiter. A bounteous Turkey Dinner with all the fixin's was served and enjoyed by all. Following the dinner hour there was the singing of hymns preceding the evening program.

The singing of the Negro National Hymn opened the evening program immediate after the processional of the Choral Society and the honored guests, Mr. Kirk Reynolds, President of the Federal Savings and Loan Association and Hon. Earl Riley, Mayor.

Rev. Abrams Hayward delivered the opening prayer in the absence of Dr. H. J. Maulbetsch.

Mr. Reynolds then spoke on the importance of the occasion since the only time that a person appreciates a mortgage is "when one receives the money, when one puts it to use, and when one burns it."

The Choral Society then sang "Gloria in Excelsis."

Bishop W. C. Brown of the Seventh Episcopal District was introduced by Rev. L. W. McCoy. He briefly sketched the history of the founding of the Zion Church in 1796 in New York City to its present organization including both a Foreign and Home Mission Board. There are now approximately one

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Lewis and Clark College Features Colored Student

Richard Moffatt, baritone, will be featured in the Christmas program of Lewis and Clark College, December 17, at 4:30 o'clock. The college choir under the direction of



R. Moffatt

John Stark Evans will also present a trio composed of Betty Ross, Joyce Ogden and Jean Brose as well as other numbers. "An American Carol" and a special arrangement of "Silent Night" by Mr. Evans will also be part of the service. There will be a candlelight processional. Anyone interested is cordially invited.

Richard is looking forward to the day when he can undertake to learn his first grand opera role. He is a Music Major at Lewis and Clark College.

Richard feels that equal rights for all peoples regardless of race or creed is essential. He hopes to aid in freeing people from animosity and prejudice toward the colored race. When he attains his degree, he will continue his study and further his aim of spreading the doctrine of equality.

Five in "Buffalo" Division Awarded Bronze Star Medal

WITH THE 5TH ARMY, ITALY—Bronze Star Medals now decorate the breasts of five more heroic members of the 92nd "Buffalo" Infantry Division, now in action with Lt. General Mark W. Clark's Fifth Army in Italy, the

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First Deaths Reported From Negro Tank Unit

WITH THE U. S. THIRD ARMY—The War Department has officially released information on the first deaths in the all-Negro 761st Tank Battalion, now pushing its way into the Reichland, with Lieutenant General George S. Patton's Third U. S. Army. The first deaths reported were a private, a first sergeant and a second lieutenant.

The first man in the first Negro combat unit to his front lines in France was Privat Clifford C. Adams, of 1615 N. W. 2nd Avenue, Miami, Florida, a member of the medical detachment, who died from wounds received on November 8, the D-day for the battalion. He was wounded as he gave aid to an injured member of a tank crew, while under heavy German shell-fire, and died later the same day.

The next deaths reported were the result of strictly combat action, both men being killed in action, at Morville-les-Vic, on November 9. They were Second Lieutenant Kenneth W. Coleman, of Washington, D. C., and First Sergeant Samuel J. Turley, of 815 Trinity Avenue, the Bronx, New York City.

Lieutenant Coleman and First Sergeant Turley died the death of heroes, for they were together in the act of moving the 50 calibre machinegun from their disabled tank, in order to pour fire on German AT gun emplacements, and rocket-launcher spots, as their company, commanded by Captain Irvin McHenry of Leavenworth, Kansas, was immobilized facing an anti-tank ditch in the bitter fight for Morville-les-Vic, the toughest spot in the battalion's first battle action.

They were mowed down as they pulled the deadly weapon from its moorings on the tank, and started to get under the tank to begin firing. A hail of fire from German guns in the center of the fighting area, and from a point to their right, tore into the pair and both were killed.

Both were veteran members of Company C, under Captain McHenry, and First Sergeant Turley had won the reputation of being "the best first sergeant in the battalion." He is survived by a sister, Mrs. Sophie Montgomery, 5145 Prairie Ave., Chicago.

Brothers Meet In So. Pacific

SOMEWHERE IN THE MARIANAS (Delayed)—Marine Private Clarence Francis was visited by his brother, Navy Steward's Mate 1st Class Yyles Joseph Francis, when the ship on which Yyles is stationed called here.

The Francis brothers are sons of Mr. and Mrs. George Francis, of 832 West Harding Ave., Port Arthur, Texas. Clarence, 19 years old, enlisted in the Marine Corps Nov. 11, 1943.

Yyles, who enlisted in the Navy on Nov. 10, 1943, is 25 years of age, and the husband of Mrs. H. M. Francis.

Until this reunion, the brothers had not seen each other since they enlisted.

New Methodist Pastor at Vanport

The Rev. Ennis M. Whaley, Negro Methodist minister from Des Moines, Iowa, arrived this week to become pastor of his race in Vanport where he will give full time to the work. He will work under direction of the United Church Ministry and Dr. Guy Goodsell, of Portland Methodist district superintendent. He will



Rev. E. M. Whaley preaches at 11:30 p. m. Sunday in Community No. 6 on "Walking With God."

He is a native of Missouri, graduate of the Phillander Smith college and has had 18 hours toward his masters degree at Drake university. He has been in the Methodist ministry six years.

Negro Ack-Ack Gunners Fire on German Pillboxes

WITH THE U. S. 3RD ARMY—Using quadruple firing guns and 40-mm "ack ack" guns, capable of firing 2500 rounds per minute, a group of Negro gunners of the 452nd Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion, have been directing their guns at the German positions facing the drive of the Third Army in the area between Metz and Nancy, as this army drove forward toward the German boarder after taking Metz.

But no longer are the weapons pointed skyward, as when they were guarding one of the Army's most important depots in England before coming to France. Now they are firing "flat trajectory" fire, aimed on a dead level at the German pillboxes and concrete emplacements, in support of infantry and artillery, as well as providing protective service for the 761st Tank Battalion, the Army's new Negro tank outfit which is plunging forward into German territory.

Dug-in in mud flats, along low-lying river bottoms, and mounted high on hills overlooking German outposts, the high-powered weapons are giving a good account of themselves.

For service in doing more than an ordinary share of keeping his battery in tip-top shape, one soldier, Sergeant Charles Johnson, Jr., 2427A West Cook Ave., St. Louis, Missouri, has been highly commended.

Seen facing a river in the area of Chateau Salins, east of Nancy, just after the 26th had moved thru the town, the unit was keenly alert for the future push into Germany.

Johnson Speaks At Luncheon Here

Reginald Johnson, representative of the Urban League who has been in Portland for the past three months, spoke at a luncheon in the Benson Hotel on Wednesday of this week.

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