

Hughes Pleads for True Democracy

Williams Avenue YMCA-USO Reviews Year's Program

Statement by Staff

The staff of the Williams Avenue YMCA-USO herein submits a report of its activities for the year of 1945. For purposes of comparison some portions of 1943 and 1944 are reflected in this report.

We take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the wholehearted cooperation which we have received from the National USO, the Portland United War Chest, the Portland USO Council, the Portland YMCA, and our Committee of Management. We also express our appreciation to the loyal volunteers for their invaluable service, and to the community for its generous support.

As we reflect on the year's activities, we pleasantly recall our work with the Armed Forces, and consider it to have been a unique privilege.

Kenneth F. Smith, Director, Committee of Management
Dr. DeNorval Unthank, Chairman; Miss Gertrude Eakin, Vice-Chairman; Miss Geneva Turner, Secretary; Mr. O. R. Maris, Treasurer; Mr. T. W. Badley, Adm. Adviser.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Special Events

Jan. 31—We joined the MARCH OF DIMES.

Feb. 14 — Sweethearts' Party (Their hearts were all flutter).

March 17—"Shamrock Brawl", we paid our respects to St. Patrick, Shamrocks and all.

May 30—The Maypole was entwined in traditional manner.

June 9, 10—We reached into Pendleton, Oregon and brought the lonely 555th Paratroopers to town—and we do mean to town.

July —The Annual USO Picnic enjoyed the largest attendance since its inception.

Sept. 8—The harvest festival was something to remember.

Oct. 31—The witches and goblins invaded the Halloween Party.

Nov. 22 — Thanksgiving open house—the community stepped in.

Dec. 25—The Christmas Party was truly a gala affair.

Regular Events

Weekly game night always attracts a good attendance and hilarious participation. One night each week is set aside as "free" night; this means that no activities are especially scheduled. Experience has proven that there is a place in the program to permit true spontaneity on the part of

servicemen and volunteers. Saturday night dances are by far the most popular of any of the activities.

Friday night sings are always good for a lot of fun.

Volunteers

The people who make the wheels go round.

Both junior and senior hostesses have shown a commendable interest in our activities during the year of 1945. The amount of time which these individuals have given toward making the USO a "home away from home" proves their sincere interest in bringing a degree of happiness to the men in uniform.

As the need for re-orientation has arisen, various training programs for volunteers have been instituted, to the benefit of all

New Edifice Being Erected by Church

Construction was started on the new church for St. Philip's at N. E. Knott and Rodney Avenues in December. The church will cost \$20,000 and is the second unit of a \$40,000 building project. The first unit, a \$20,000 parish house, was dedicated on April 29, 1945, and is being used for worship at present. The new church should be dedicated sometime in March or early April.

The plans of the second unit call for a church with a sacristy, a chapel, and they provide for the completion of an additional two rooms for the parish house. These rooms in the parish house will be used by the choir, and the Sunday school and for week-day activities of small children.

The roof from the old church which will be used in the new building, came as a gift to St. Philip's from St. Mark's Episcopal Church several years ago and is said to be one of the finest wood carvings in the Northwest. This roof is hand carved and was made in Belgium.

The Women's Council of Trinity Church recently presented St. Philip's with \$560.00 for a new altar. Mrs. Aimee Gorham, a local wood artisan, will do the wood paneling for the altar.

All contributions for the building fund should be sent to Mr. B. F. Young, in care of The Diocese of Oregon, 541 Morgan Building or to the Rev. L. O. Stone, 1216 N. Williams Avenue.

Blessed Martin Nursery Hires Colored Teacher

Two new workers have been added to the staff of the Blessed Martin Day Nursery, with naming of Mrs. Magnolia Taylor and Mrs. Vallie May Thomas to positions at the institution.

During the past year, 5,848 days of care were provided for 61 children, of whom 39 were Negro youngsters, it was reported by Charles E. Royce, secretary of the Catholic Society of St. Vincent de Paul, which operates the nursery. At present, there are several openings for additional children, he said. Arrangements can be

concerned. It has been most encouraging to note the fine manner in which these hostesses have responded to the changing emphasis of needs. We are using this opportunity to express our deep appreciation for service rendered.

Community Relations

The friendly attitude which the community exhibited toward our work gives us the awareness that the services we are rendering are appreciated and endorsed by all.

Response to our calls on the community for additional volunteer service, for invitations to take servicemen into their homes for Sunday and holiday dinners, for housing the families of servicemen, and for general publicity of our program, etc., has been excellent.

Several civilian organizations have used our facilities throughout the year for civic meetings. These persons have had an opportunity to view our work at close range and have expressed their appreciation for our program.

University of Oklahoma Bars Law Student on Racial Grounds

OKLAHOMA CITY—(ANP)—Miss Ada Lois Sipuel, attractive 21-year-old Langston university graduate, was officially denied admission to study law at the University of Oklahoma here Monday because she is a Negro.

Her attempted enrollment and denial on racial grounds provides a test case against the state of Oklahoma by the NAACP in federal courts to force improvement of state educational facilities for Negro citizens. When she attempted to enroll, she was accompanied by Dr. W. A. J. Bullock, a Chickasha physician and NAACP regional director, and Roscoe Dunjee, NAACP president and editor of the Black Dispatch.

In denying Miss Sipuel admission to the school, Dr. G. L. Cross, president of the university, admitted that her admission transcript was in order but cited the Oklahoma statutes as basis for making the decision which the university's board of regents ordered him to make after a meeting on Nov. 7, 1945.

"There was a discussion concerning the newspaper reports on the question of Negroes attending the university," read the minutes of that meeting. "Following the

discussion, Regent William R. Wallace, Oklahoma City, moved: 'that the board of regents instruct the president of the university to refuse to admit anyone of Negro blood as a student in the university for the reason that the laws of Oklahoma prohibit the enrollment of such a student in the university.'

The adoption of Wallace's motion was based on Title 70, sections 452 to 464 of the state's jim crow educational law of 1941, which "prohibits colored students from attending the schools of Oklahoma, including the University of Oklahoma, and makes it a misdemeanor for school officials to admit colored students to white schools, to instruct classes composed of mixed races; to attend classes composed of mixed races."

Action will soon be filed in the federal district court here similar to the Lloyd Gaines case in Missouri, Dunjee said. In that case, the United States Supreme court ruled that the state must appropriate sufficient funds for an accredited university for Negroes or admit them to the state university. That has been interpreted as meaning the state must pay for its jim crow.

About \$15,000 was appropriated last year by the state legislature to defer the expenses of Negro students to attend institutions of higher learning outside the state as a means of complying with the supreme court ruling.

Miss Sipuel, whose extracurricular activities outnumbered her scholastic activities, is the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. T. B. Sipuel of Chickasha. Her father is state overseer of the Church of God in Christ. A native of Chickasha, the tall, comely 21-year-old law student received her high school training in her hometown and attended Arkansas A. & M. Normal college in 1941. She returned to Oklahoma to attend Langston university the next year and remained to receive her degree in 1945.

Noted Poet, Lecturer and Traveler Pleases Large Audience at Benson

By Leo Williams
For Portland Inquirer

Despite the fact that it was a rainy Wednesday evening, the spacious Auditorium at Benson High School was practically filled with a mixed audience of spellbound listeners who came to hear Mr. Langston Hughes, well-known and much publicized international poet, author, lecturer and traveler, whose subject was "RACE RELATIONS IN AMERICA."

Mr. William L. Brewster was the Master of Ceremonies.

Reverend L. O. Stone offered the invocation.

The presiding officer then introduced Mr. Edwin C. Berry, Executive Secretary of the Urban League, who in turn introduced and presented the platform Honored guest to the public.

Professor Lloyd J. Reynold of Reed College, in a most befitting and pleasing manner presented the speaker of the evening, Mr. Hughes.

Mr. Reynold said, "I present Mr. Hughes not only as 'The Negro American Writer', but as 'An American Writer' who is presenting the true conditions as they exist. That through the



LANGSTON HUGHES

medium of his poems, writings and lectures he has a true and efficacious weapon against race prejudice."

The crowd gave Mr. Hughes quite an ovation when he arose to speak.

Mr. Hughes gave a brief sketch of the origin of the Negro, tracing his ancestry to slaves who fought with George Washington, showing distinguished and well-known characters of Negro birth from the days of slavery up to the present time. He told of his valor from before the time of Christopher Attucks up to the attack on Pearl Harbor and subsequent to then, how they fought for the rights of mankind in order to save and preserve American Democracy.

Mr. Hughes then used a most unique manner of approach in discussing the race questions in reading several selections of his poems, each of which portrayed certain meaning and touched on some phase of race relationship. Each seemed to be as a short sermon, with a moral behind it; in some cases it was told in a humorous manner; in another there was a touch of sadness—and in still others there was a prayer—a song—or a sigh.

He showed how Soviet Russia had overcome prejudice and asked the question why cannot our beloved country do likewise.

All throughout his address he pleaded for harmony, and for justice. Not one word was uttered to mar the feelings of any one, but he turns on the searchlight of truth and permits all to see the true, but sad, picture of America's Tragedy—the so-called "Race Problem," which, as Mr. Hughes so wisely said should not be called "The Negro Problem," but "The American Problem."

When he finished his address he was again greeted with long and continuous applause.

He answered several questions from the audience at the conclusion of his address.

Rev. Paul S. Wright offered the Benediction.

The audience left thrilled and pleased and considered that they had been given a literary treat.

White Minister Weds Negro Bride

NEW YORK—(ANP)—Public martial vows were taken by a white Unitarian minister and a comely young colored woman here on Sunday at the Abyssinian Baptist church.

The white minister is the Rev. Frank White, 31-year-old pastor of the Unitarian church of Norfolk, Va., and his bride is Miss Anne Anderson, 23, also of Norfolk, but formerly of Louisville. The marriage ceremony was performed by the Rev. Claude Williams, founder and leader of the Institute of Applied Religion, with headquarters in Detroit.

Plans have already been outlined by the couple to start work immediately on the organization of a national interracial church. Rev. Williams announced that Rev. White will become regional director of the New York area for the institute and Mrs. White will be secretary.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Marie Simpson and was a medical student of Virginia State college for two years before she went to Norfolk about six months ago as a USO secretary. She is described as an unusually attractive dark-skinned woman, with pinked, about five-foot nine inches tall.

Born in the small town of Cozard, Neb., Rev. White followed his mother's wish to enter the ministry. He went south 13 years ago to attend Transylvania university in Lexington, Ky. He has served as pastor of the First Unitarian church of Gardner, Mass., the First Unitarian church of Dunnsville, Va., and the Unitarian church of Norfolk, where he engaged in a heated racial controversy with church trustees.

Before he resigned, he blasted racial prejudice in fiery eloquence on Dec. 30. His sermon, one that shocked and rocked the foundations of the church, was "Tomorrow's World, A World Without Walls." He told his congregation that "my emotional identification with the Negro is now complete."

Of pioneer stock, Rev. White talks of his forefathers who rode to the west in a covered wagon. With that courage, he advocated open courtship with Miss Anderson. They were seen frequently together in Norfolk, at movies and other places of entertainment. He visited her at her home.

"I came to Norfolk psychologically prepared to break through the wall of prejudice," he said. "In Norfolk, I made as much contact as I could, in the face of a congregation partially hostile to meet and work with Negroes. Fortunately, there were ardent progressive spirits in the church to sustain me. But the overtones of resentment from the church mainstays were always present."

He traveled with his fiancée, now his wife, in the jim crow section of the boat from Norfolk to Cape Charles, en route here.

Cleveland Church 115 Years Old

CLEVELAND—(ANP)—St. John's AME church, Dr. Charles S. Spivey, pastor, has just reached its 115th year.

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