

Urban Secretary Addresses Audience

Three Hundred Listeners Hear Edwin C. Berry Discuss Negroes Responsibility to Better Relations

By Chesley E. Corbett

Last Sunday night over three hundred persons crowded the Mill Plain Recreation Center in Vancouver, Washington to listen to a rare treat—an address by Mr. Edwin C. Berry, Executive Secretary of the Urban League of Portland, Oregon.

Rev. Moses Guy, that dynamic, capable and efficient pastor of the United Church, Vancouver, together with his very well prepared aids, sponsored and conducted the meeting.

A well trained and willing chorus rendered many numbers that were gems and the audience were liberal in their applause in recognition of merit, talent, and willingness on their part to please their listeners.

Mr. Berry gave several concrete and definite rules by which the Negro can and will assume responsibility to build better relationship. He enumerated them as follows:

1. The Negro, as well as other races, must recognize clearly that segregation is evil.

Touching upon this question, Mr. Berry told his audience that "segregation is not restricted to races"; it applies in a town that is strictly colored, if it is applied, just as if in a town where no Negroes lived. Segregation is wrong at the start—it is wrong at the end.

2. We must work towards a better America; not simply better life for Negroes.

He stressed that fact that we should seek to acquire and keep the friendship of all groups, nationalities and creeds, especially since we are a minority group.

3. We must not only work towards a better America, but we must co-operate with other minorities and white friends.

He stressed again the fact that in many cases we can and will obtain our objective if we will secure the service and get the advice of some member of other groups.

4. The Negro must use every available means of securing additional education.

He showed that while we have made wonderful progress in the past 81 years of freedom, yet we can no longer make excuses; we must take advantage of the situation and secure the best possible education, culture and thus improve ourselves along a cultural line.

5. We must improve our public behavior.

This topic was discussed by the speaker at length; he showed concrete examples where members of our group on cars, trains, in theatres, and etc., have embarrassed all of us; that there have been times when we felt that we would like to "evaporate" into space; that those of us who know, must put our arms around our

less fortunate brother and sister and try to elevate, improve and educate him so that his public behavior will be improved and that he and she can teach his and her children the benefits derived.

The audience applauded Mr. Berry long and continuously as he ended his discussion of this point.

6. The Negro should use his vote in an effective and proper manner.

He told his audience that regardless of what party they belong to, when it came time to vote they should scan clearly and painstakingly the record of the candidates, their attitude towards current problems—their utterances and actions and whether or not they have been fair and impartial towards minority groups, and if and when they fail to meet the test let us do all in our power, by reason of the ballot and our own efforts to defeat these candidates who do not measure up to the standard.

7. We must become urbanized.

Mr. Berry showed that because of the large number of workers who had migrated to Portland, many of them were from rural settlements and had not had the advantage of city life and city improvements. That we should directly or indirectly, do what we could to help our unfortunate brother and sister to adjust themselves to the new change in home life and environments. That we should be slow to condemn them because it was not many days ago when most of us came off of farms.

8. We must purge our ranks of dishonest and inadequate leadership.

The speaker was emphatic that the days of the "Uncle Tom" type has passed—that the back door, head scratching and bowing Negro, such types as Senators Bilbo and Eastman welcome and publicize, no longer has a place in our program.

Equally is there no place for the leader who appoints himself as such without the proper qualifications. He stated that there are black quizzlers just as there are whites and we must drive such so called leaders out of the country and that they are no less devastating and injurious to us than the Uncle Tom type.

9th. We must get rid of color caste.

It was brought out that in many cases in social life, church life and etc., we raise the color question and hamper and retard the progress of members of our group solely because of his or her color. That we must stop this and do so at once.

10th. That we must succeed on our jobs.

He stated that we must not only work, but must succeed; that it is generally stated that the Negro is the last hired and first fired.

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Negro Proud Of Unit's Job

Pilot Cites Record Of 332nd Fighters

The famous 332d fighter group of American Negro pilots had a good score of shooting enemy planes out of Europe's skies, but Capt. Jack D. Holsclaw, who was one of the group's pilots, is proudest of the record that in a year of escorting bombers over enemy targets the fighters did such a good job of their assignment they lost not a single one of the big aircraft.

Capt. Holsclaw, former Spokane youth and later resident of Portland, himself was credited with two aerial victories and several enemy planes destroyed on the ground during the 17 1/2 months he spent overseas. He completed 153 missions with the 12th and the 15th United States air forces. Pilots of the group flew P-39s, P-47s and P-51s, mostly on long-range escort, strafing missions and coastal patrol.

Holsclaw returned to the United States from Europe in June, 1945, but he came back to Portland this past week for the first time since August, 1943. He is on leave from his post as assistant base operations officer at Godman field, Fort Knox, Ky., and expects to remain in the army air force for another year.

"We are all proud of the record the 332d fighter group made," said the Washington State college graduate. "Gen. Ira S. Eaker said our 99th fighter squadron, which was part of the 332d, was the best dive bombing outfit in Europe. Our group got the presidential citation for its performance, and specifically for escorting 15th air force bombers to Berlin on March 24, 1945.

"That was the day the Germans threw their jet jobs at us, but our fighters broke up the attack, got credit for downing three and damaging five more and we didn't lose a single bomber."

He served as a flight leader in the 100th fighter squadron, another element of the 332d group, and later was group operations officer for the 332d. He holds the distinguished flying cross, the presidential unit citation, the air medal with five oak leaf clusters and the European theater of operations ribbon with seven campaign stars.

His wife Bernice, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Williams of Portland, who has been with him since he returned from Europe, accompanied him to Portland. Capt. Holsclaw is a graduate of the chiropractic school of Western States college at Portland and plans to enter that profession after he leaves the army.

Acme Business Club Under New Manager

Mr. Cy Denton of N. E. Victory St., has been named manager of the Acme Business Club, 1504 N. Williams Ave.

He succeeds Mr. Joe Reed, who has been manager since the club opened.

Portland Business Men Challenged By Poet Hughes

Those who attended Mr. Langston Hughes' lecture at Benson High last week heard him, in a quiet, polite and unassuming manner, ask business men and women, and especially those of other races the question, indirectly by means of innuendo, "Why not give the colored boy and girl, man and woman a chance for a decent, respectful, worth while job?"

Mr. Hughes read a number of his poems showing that all over the nation it seems to be an unwritten law among the whites, and other nationalities, except in a few cities, to relegate the Negro to menial positions, porters, janitors, and laborers. And in recent years he has had the Mexicans and also members of the Caucasian race to take some of the jobs away from him.

He calls the attention of all the business places to the fact and asks the question what incentive it is to educate Negroes and give them higher education if the best that they can get is a "spit-toon cleaner or a boot black job?"

It's a pleasure to go to Chicago, Los Angeles, Salt Lake, and one or two other Eastern towns, like New York and Cleveland, and see Negroes as clerks and tellers in the stores and banks, holding all kinds of positions in the City and County offices and at the state capitols. Los Angeles have Negroes as clerks in every store; floor walkers, insurance collectors, messenger boys and workers in the various Western and Postal offices. In short from 5th and Central to 54th and Central in practically every market, store, or any form of business you will find Negroes holding responsible jobs.

There is, no doubt, in Portland enough well thinking, Christian hearted, far sighted business men and firms who can and will evaluate the Negro's worth, to be a pioneer in this field and secure the service of some of the colored race in their business.

There are hundreds of persons who can and will fill the job admirably.

Do not let the challenge of Mr. Hughes go unheeded, Mr. Business man and woman!

Do not have our town stamped as one that will not be fair, liberal and equitable in the distribution of jobs that gives one an opportunity to advance and exploit his and her talent.

Who will be the first to venture?

Peoples Observer Now Monthly

Mr. William McClendon, Editor of the Peoples Observer, of Portland, has discontinued publishing a weekly paper and will hereafter publish a 20-page monthly magazine.

Mr. McClendon's publication is just now ready for the press.

He permitted the editor to have a "literary pre-view" of his magazine and I wish to say it is a classic—a literary gem and I urge all to get a copy before they are exhausted.

City of Roses Anxiously Awaits N.A.C.P. Executive Secretary

Plans Are Perfected for Walter White's Address to Be Given at Library Hall



LANGSTON HUGHES

Dr. Robert N. Joyner and the other officers of the Local N. A. A. C. P., of Portland announce that practically all plans have been completed for the coming of Mr. Walter White, the Executive Secretary of the National organization, who is scheduled to speak in the city, Wednesday night, February 6th., in Library Hall, South West 10th., Ave., and Yamhill St., and a capacity crowd is anticipated. A reception committee has been appointed for the occasion.

Mr. White's appearance is jointly sponsored by:

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE — PORTLAND AND VANCOUVER.

Branches. CO-OPERATION OF PORTLAND COUNCIL FOR A PERMANENT F.E.P.C.

Honor Roll Poll For Negro History

The ballots have gone out to all sections of the country for the sixth annual Honor Roll of Race Relations according to Dr. L. D. Reddick.

Each year the Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature of the New York Public Library conducts this poll to determine those persons Negro and white, who, during the past year, have done the most to improve race relations in term of full democracy and equality for the Negro.

As usual, the results of the voting by a national committee of 100 experts in all walks of life will be announced during Negro History Week over a coast-to-coast radio hook-up and in the daily and weekly press.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Next week is "NEGRO HISTORY WEEK". This paper is putting out a "Special Negro History Week Section", under the personal direction of Mr. J. W. Brooks. Don't fail to get a copy of this paper as it will give you some very interesting data for future reference.

Note: Since Emancipation Day is also being celebrated we shall run two issues, next week and the week following in joint celebration of Emancipation Week and Negro History Week.

Kittrell College Plans Program

KITTRELL, N. C.—(ANP)—The Founders' Day committee of Kittrell college outlined last week plans for the Founders' day program here on Feb. 7, when the school will observe its 60th anniversary.

A drive to raise \$1,000 is now underway, the committee disclosed. The money will be used to improve the institution, which was founded by the North Carolina A.M.E. conference as a normal and industrial school.

The principal Founders day speaker will be the Rev. M. H. Davis, presiding prelate of the Second Episcopal district of the A.M.E. church and president of Kittrell college's trustee board, said E. F. G. Dent, president.



WALTER WHITE

Mayor Contest Discontinued For The Present

Your Editor is announcing that The Portland Inquirer is discontinuing the Bronze Mayor's Contest which we started several weeks ago, for the time being.

We are prompted to do this solely and only because we do not want to put ourselves and our publication in the wrong light.

By reason of the fact that for the past fortnight we have been confronted with the question of "Segregation", and the further question of whether Negroes and Caucasians and other similar groups should have separate business places and locations, which have been publicized through the various papers, we take the position that we might be charged with attempting to have further separation if we foster the contest.

It is not our purpose to encourage segregation in any form. It is not and shall not be our aim nor purpose to stir up any feeling that will destroy the now seemingly friendly relations that is existing between the better thinking class of all groups.

The Portland Inquirer is an Ambassador of Good Will and stands ready to battle for right, and Justice and fair play for all.

We will not continue the contest and we wish to thank all the contestants for their willingness to enter same at a later date, if and when the occasion permits and it is opportune, we may resume this contest. However at the present, I am sure that you will agree with us—that it is not best for all concerned.

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