

## Walter White Captivates Portland



ANN PETRY, author of "THE STREET," Houghton Mifflin Literary Fellowship Winner.

### Ann Petry Fellowship Winner

Ann Petry, who was born in Old Saybrook, Connecticut, came from a New England family that has specialized in some branch of chemistry for three generations. Her grandfather was a chemist; her father, an aunt and an uncle are druggists.

She is a graduate of the college of Pharmacy of the University of Connecticut. While working as a registered pharmacist in the drugstores owned by her family in Old Saybrook and old Lyme, she wrote her first short stories.

If she had not married and gone to New York City to live she would undoubtedly have continued her career as a pharmacist. Instead she sought and found jobs in New York that would give her an opportunity to write—jobs that ranged from selling advertising space and writing advertising copy for a Harlem weekly to editing the women's pages and covering general news stories for a rival newspaper.

While interviewing celebrities, covering political rallies and three-alarm fires, and reporting on murders and all other forms of sudden death, she acquired an intimate and disturbing knowledge of Harlem and its ancient, evil housing; its tragic, broken families; its high death rate.

She spent nine months working on an experiment in education that was being conducted in one of the city's elementary schools and thus observed at firsthand the toll that segregated areas like Harlem exact in the twisting and warping of the lives of children.

In addition to working on newspapers she has taught salesmanship, written children's plays, acted with an amateur theatrical group. She is a former member of the new famous American Negro.

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### National Honor Roll Against Discrimination In Year 1945

1. Judge Thurmond Clark of the Superior Court of California for his decision invalidating certain racial restrictive covenants in Los Angeles.

2. Frank Sinatra for emerging as a foe of bigotry and devoting time to use his influence with adolescents to ease racial tension situations.

3. Hon. Charles LaFollette of Indiana for leading the fight in the House of Representatives and in the Republican party for a permanent FEPC.

4. Albert Deutsch of PM and Carey McWilliams in various publications for outstanding interpretative journalism on inter-group relations.

5. Branch Rickey of the Brooklyn Dodgers for signing Jackie Robinson for major league baseball and thus breaking the color line.

6. Judge Meir Steinbrink, vice chairman of the Anti-Defamation League Commission, for crystallizing action against discriminatory quotas in institutions of higher education.

7. Miss Marilyn Kaemmerle of William and Mary College in Virginia for advocating racial equality in the South.

#### DISHONOR ROLL FOR 1945

1. The armed forces of the United States for their continued segregation of Negro personnel.

2. The politicians and people of

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### Urban League Secretary Kept Very Busy

Mr. Edwin C. Berry, Secretary of the Urban League of Portland, is being requested to speak on various aspects of "Race Relations" throughout the Northwest.

Mr. Berry has been extremely busy appearing before several groups since he came to Portland 8 months ago.

When Mr. Berry was interviewed by our reporter he said: "Race relations in the Pacific Northwest have not yet crystallized. They are still in a state of flux. I am accepting many of these speaking engagements because Negro Americans have not been properly and fairly interpreted to a large number of white Oregonians. I believe that what we do in the next 18 to 24 months will shape the pattern of Race Relations for the next quarter century."

Mr. Berry has made nearly 200 speeches and public appearances in the past 8 months. A typical week is as follows.

Feb. 9, Tacoma, Wash., to speak to the Inter-Racial Commission.

Feb. 10, Seattle, Wash., to deliver the principal address at the Annual Meeting of the Seattle Urban League.

February 12, Seaside High School Assembly Program. Also Women's Club of Seaside same date.

Feb. 13, Portland's Teachers Association.

Feb. 13, Progressive Democratic Association.

Feb. 14, Assembly Program, Mt. Angel College.

### WE CELEBRATE OUR EMANCIPATION AND PAY TRIBUTE TO NEGRO HISTORY WEEK

By Chesley E. Corbett

This week and next the Portland Inquirer has dedicated the papers that will be printed to "Negro History Week and in celebration of our emancipation."

In as much as there are a number of ads some may run one week and others next, yet all of our advertisers have subscribed to this program and each and every ad that appears in each of the issues that will be printed are dedicated to Negro History week and in celebration of our emancipation.

Yes, we are celebrating our emancipation from slavery. Just eighty-one years ago we were in bondage, and most of the people begin to start from 1865 to trace the ancestry of the black man. Many of our own group feel chagrin and ashamed to be a Negro.

Let's turn back the curtain, if you please, and see why should we feel ashamed.

Thousands of years before the Anglo-Saxon civilization began Black men had built the pyramids, and had given to the world the first alphabets.

A black queen, the "Queen of Sheba", had talked and consulted with Solomon, who sought her counsel and advice at various times.

Brave and fearless black soldiers under Hannibal had driven hordes of Romans and other nationalities from their country and achieved many notable victories over superior numbers.

A black man, Simon of Cyrene, helped a suffering Christ to carry his cross on his way to Calvary.

All down throughout the ages, history records events and worthwhile achievements of Negroes, as poets, writers, sculptors, law makers, physicians, lawyers, etc. and in almost every phase of life black men and women have won places among the leaders of the world.

In dedicating these two issues to Negro History Week, particularly, we have taken excerpts here and there to bring back to your memory events past, present and future to recall to your mind in some instances events that may not be just clear to you and other cases we may be able to give some insight to others who were not cognizant of this history.

We will ask our Mr. J. W. Brooks, who has charge of this particular line to speak through the columns of his copies, writings and sketches herein contained; some being re-prints; others cuts, still others in various forms—but telling a story of progress.

Your editor was reading Mr. Walters White's book, "A RISING WIND," which he published during World War No. II, which is a contribution to Negro History Week in itself.

Mr. White dedicates this book to his son, Walter, with the following message. "FOR MY SON WALTER", with the prayer that his generation, white and Negro, may be wiser than was his father's.

In the front page is a reprint of an article in the New York Herald-Tribune dated Sept. 19, 1941, which he prints and we are reprinting it for your perusal.

Quote: "At the close, Mrs. Roosevelt quoted a phrase from the late Thomas Wolfe ending 'A wind is rising and the rivers flow.' 'Yes,' she said 'a wind is rising throughout the world of free men everywhere and they will not be kept in bondage. The rivers flow in democracies that now exist through to those who are held temporarily in slavery and on to the deluded human beings who are voluntary slaves."

"They have thought that force and cruelty and people who cast aside free choice and accept the will of one man or a few men can endure and dominate. But the rivers flow so swiftly they cannot be turned back, and the new beds which they make for themselves are in the pattern of new ideas which the people who believe in freedom in the world are fashioning today 'Democracy Shall Triumph,' unquote.

How applicable is this to Negro History Week and Emancipation Week. Democracy has, to a degree triumphed, but still we must have a better, bigger, more liberal and just democracy, free from prejudice, segregation and proper protection along all lines.

In the last paragraph of his book at the close Mr. White states as follows: "A wind is rising—a wind of determination by the have-nots of the world to share the benefits of freedom and prosperity which the haves of the earth have tried to keep exclusively for themselves. That wind blows

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### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE N.A.A.C.P. KEPT VERY BUSY DURING BRIEF STAY HERE

By Essie Mae Johnson

When Julius Caesar invaded Gaul he sent back these familiar words. "VINI—VIDI—VICI" (We Came—We Saw—We Conquered.)

The same can be said of Mr. Walter White, Executive secretary of the N.A.A.C.P. when he came to Portland Wednesday. He came . . . He saw . . . He conquered.

From early Wednesday morning until after the meeting Wednesday night Mr. White was on the go. First he held a press conference at the hotel where he answered questions and discussed pertinent problems that confronted the nation as a whole.

At noon he was the guest of the officers and members of the local N.A.A.C.P., at a luncheon at the Y. M. C. A. building where approximately seventy-five persons, of various creed and color, were present. Mr. White made a most impressive plea to those who were present.

He spoke over the radio at 2:30 p. m. and had one of his early speeches which had been recorded, reproduced and given to the public.

He showed the coalition of reactionary Southern Democrats and reactionary Republicans in the Senate, to block and defeat the full employment and housing legislation.

The following appeared in Thursday's Oregon Journal about Mr. White. (Quote):

#### SOUTH'S FEPC STAND HELD "GRAVE THREAT"

"The coalition of reactionary Southern Democrats and reactionary Republicans to block full employment and housing legislation poses a grave threat to the future of this country," declares Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, arrived here Wednesday on speaking tour.

Speaking specifically of the Fair Employment Practices act, which he termed a "mild measure," White said the coalition must be broken "if we want to avoid dark and grim days."

Major concern of the N.A.A.C.P. today, White said, is to assist in finding jobs for everyone. The problem in Portland differs little from that throughout the entire nation—Negroes must be given work to do.

#### SHOT DOWN IN PLANE

A graduate of Atlanta University, White has traveled more than 420,000 miles in this country and in Europe in behalf of N.A.A.C.P. One of his most recent assignments took him to the Pacific fighting zones as war correspondent for the New York Post. A close friend of the late Ernie Pyle, he was shot down in an airplane over Manila and was the object of snipers' bullets on several occasions.

He declares that charges that Negro troops in the Pacific failed in combat were "utterly without foundation."

White said that when he arrived in the Pacific theater of war, he had heard rumors that a Negro division had deteriorated in hysteria during a landing on Bougainville. Subsequent investigations, led by the N.A.A.P.C. official, proved the rumors to be entirely untrue, he asserted.

"The truth is," White said, "that Negro troops were given very little opportunity in combat. About 80 per cent of them were not permitted to serve in combat



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and were assigned to back-of-the-lines jobs as quartermasters, engineers and truckers. But the Negro has demonstrated that he can fight as bravely and as skillfully as any soldier."

He cited the combat record of the 332d fighter group, active in the Italian campaign, as an example.

Discriminatory practices against races in the armed services are fortunately growing fewer, White said, and if such practices were done away with altogether, many Negroes would be eager to reenlist in the peacetime army and navy. Many are doing so now, he added. (Unquote.)

Mr. White made a decisive hit with all who heard him and his listeners were thrilled each time he spoke and he was cheered to the echo on each occasion.

The local N.A.A.C.P. here, together with the Vancouver Branch have done and are doing a great job. The following is a brief outline of the work it expects to do during 1946 as outlined by the local president, Dr. R. N. Joyner.

#### Brief Outline of 1946 Program

1. Union of all forces working for Negroes; organizations, churches, clubs.
2. Renewed and intensive membership drive.
3. Renewed battle for Civil Rights law.
4. Organizing for promotion of political interests.
5. Economic opportunities:
  - (a) Better jobs for Negroes.
  - (b) Policy toward stores which refuse to hire Negroes.
  - (c) Encourage and promote educational courses, etc., and advertise civil service examinations.
  - (d) Work for qualified Negro police, firemen, etc.
  - (e) Definite stand on housing situation.
6. State-wide committee on Negro-White relations to be appointed by the governor, plus city committee appointed by the mayor.

DR. R. N. JOYNER JR., Pres.

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