

Ship dedicated to Black Flier



NEW ORLEANS, April 1971 Mrs. Daisy Brown Thorne, of 106 Ashford Circle, Hattiesburg, Miss., receives a piece of the keel of the USS Jesse L. Brown (DE-1089) from a shipyard builder as Henry Zac Carter (left) president of Avondale Shipyards looks on. Mrs. Thorne, widow of Ensign Jesse L. Brown was the guest of honor at the New Orleans keel laying ceremony in April 1971 for the ship named after her late husband. Ensign Brown, also a native of Hattiesburg, was the Navy's first black aviator and was killed Dec. 4, 1950 at the Chosin Reservoir

Korea. The citation awarding Ensign Brown the Distinguished Flying Cross reads in part, ".... pressing home numerous attacks on hostile troops moving to attack our forces, continuing his aggressive runs despite heavy opposition his plane was fatally struck by enemy fire. his exceptional courage, airmanship and devotion to duty in the face of great danger reflect the highest credit upon Ensign Brown and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country."

Kinsey

One of the most exciting proposals of the current session was revealed by the House Republican leadership this week when they announced a plan which would increase by nearly 500% the property tax relief presently received by low income senior citizens. This proposal changes the entire concept of senior citizen's tax relief from one of age to one of ability to pay, thus providing proportionately more tax relief to those who are in the greatest need.

As the plan was outlined, it will be based upon a flat percentage of household income. As an example, this would mean that a senior citizen's household with an annual income of \$3,000 would pay a maximum of 3% of that income in property taxes, which in this case would be \$90 and a household with up to \$5,000 of income a year would pay no more than \$200 property tax. The maximum amount of tax relief provided to any one household under this proposal would be \$350.

Basing the relief upon a flat percentage of household income will create an annual saving to persons 65 years of age and older of approximately \$11 million. It is my belief that this will relieve the unfair burden of property taxes placed upon our senior citizens, which in many cases has compelled them to leave their homes and move into state-supported rest homes. That practice has to stop, and this proposal should provide vital assistance in reversing this trend.

A bill to lower Oregon's compulsory school attendance age has been rejected in the Senate and returned to the Senate Education Committee. Senate Bill 644 sought to lower the minimum school age requirement from 7 to 6 years and institute a statewide kindergarten program at the lower end of the school spectrum, while at the upper end the compulsory age for school attendance would have been lowered from 18 to 17 years. The impact of the bill would have been to eliminate the present senior year in high school. Although a number of bills have been submitted to lower the compulsory school age, it would appear that the question is now a dead issue in this session. There is hope in the Senate, however, that additional bills will revive the concept of providing state assistance to kindergartens, which, of course, is what Portland has tried to gain for years.

A measure which has caused recent controversy is House Bill 1995, which would reduce the size of the National Guard from its present strength of 7,500 army and air force personnel to a small militia of around 1,500 for both groups. Criticism of the Guard has centered around its cost to the taxpayers and its questionable value to the state or to those participating in it. One of the chief sponsors of the bill testified in committee that in his opinion the Guard leaves the individual soldier or airman with the feeling that he is wasting his time. Other criticism has been directed at outdated weapons, inadequate training, and an ingrown society of career members in the organization all of which have caused doubt to be cast on the value of the National Guard. Although it is unlikely that any action will be taken on the bill this year, it would be my guess that the issue may be revived in a future session.

The House has passed HB 1054 which allows for city-county consolidation, and the measure now goes to the Senate for further consideration. The

hot line

amended bill has been endorsed on the basis that the consolidation should result in a simplification of the governmental chain of command and increase opportunities for effective and comprehensive regional planning. As the bill is written, it will only affect the City of Portland and Multnomah County, but the proponents of city-county consolidation are hopeful that in time other areas will follow suit.

The Legislature has been in session for 110 days, and a tremendous amount of work has been accomplished. There are still vital areas of legislation yet to be resolved, however, in the field of property tax relief, Criminal Code revision, financing Higher Education and State Public Welfare, State Employees compensation, etc., and I would like to encourage you to communicate your views to me on these subjects as we continue to hold hearings on this legislation.

PCC instructor head heads

vocational groups

Arthur Mueller, PCC instructor in drafting technology, was elected president of the Portland Vocational Education Association recently.

Mueller, longtime graphic artist in the Portland area, will assume office in June for the 1971-72 year.

The Association is composed of vocational education instructors in the high schools and community colleges in the Portland metropolitan area, including the entire PCC, Mt. Hood, and Clackamas Community College districts.

The Association is planning a banquet to be held on Monday, May 24, open to all members and interested persons. Time and place will be announced.

Multnomah County holds Seminar

By Dewey Taylor

A much needed seminar for uninformed and misinformed black people who are interested in Civil Service positions. Many of us miss out on the better things in life by not knowing how to apply and qualify for better civil service jobs, especially, our youth. Young men and women who for some reason or other have dropped out of school in the 10th or 11th grade. The Multnomah County Civil Service officials realize the importance and waste of valuable manpower among the minorities, especially blacks. This seminar will enlighten many of us, and lessen our fears and doubts. The importance of your GED, how to fill out application correctly because if done so incorrectly it can waste a lot of time and can cause a disqualification because, "Time is of essence" in these matters.

This Seminar will tell you and show you the best method to take a test. Preparation aid for an application, typing test so you will know where you stand and future and present job opportunities with Multnomah County. A complete explanation of the Civil Service System. So make Tuesday May 11, 1971 at 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Multi-Service Center, Vancouver and Alberta a must on your itinerary for that day. Remember this is for you my brothers and sisters.

"Right on, Right on."

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