

Publishers come early

A.D. Griffin, a native of New Orleans, started publishing Portland's first Black paper in 1896. He was formerly editor of the Spokane Northwest Echo before coming to Portland.

For ten years (until 1903) it remained the only Black newspaper in Oregon, and was recognized by the Oregon Press Association and by other Black papers of the United States. Its coverage of national, political, and social issues is considered as a Black document of that era.

Mr. Griffin led a busy life. He was a heavy stockholder in a real estate firm known as the Enterprise Investment Company and active in everything concerning the Black community. But he was best known as a political leader of Negroes throughout the Willamette Valley and as a speaker of eloquence and ability.

A great advocate of civil rights he became first vice-president of the National Civil Rights Protection League of the United States and vice-president of the National Negro Businessmen's Association. When the twenty-third annual meeting of the Afro-American Press convened with Booker T. Washington as keynote speaker, Griffin was also on the program. Eugene Fields of Chicago listed him in his syndicated column as among those "Members of the Colored Race Who have Won Fame and Achieved Success and Recognition."

An active Mason, Griffin became Grand Inspector General of Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, and New Mexico, the United Supreme Council of the A and A.S. Rites headquartered in Portland.

Quilt depicts 400 years of history

A commemorative quilt depicting four hundred years of Afro-American achievement is the historic contributions of fifteen Portland women.

Two years ago, the group was convened when one member called together 23 women for the purpose of making a historic quilt and exhibiting the quilt in 1976 together with historic memorabilia. Since then, the meetings have been a source of inspiration and information. A frequent part of the meetings has been a historic "show and tell" in which a different member displayed a family heirloom quilt or family photos, books, articles, etc.

When some of the original committee members fell by the wayside, several of the members increased the number of blocks they were making; one member

made five quilt blocks. A few replacement members were also found.

The unique feature of this commemorative quilt is its chronological presentation instead of the incidental presentation of the usual quilts. The thirty quilt blocks are arranged in chronological order depicting 400 years of Afro-American history.

Climaxing the group's efforts will be an exhibit of the quilt and other historic data July 1st through September 30th at the Oregon Historical Society in Portland.

Currently in the final stages of preparation, each block bears the initials of the person who designed and executed same. Members of the Afro-American Heritage Bicentennial Commemorative

Quilt Committee are: Mrs. Osly J. Gates, Mrs. Walter C. Reynolds, Mrs. Richard Bogle, Mrs. Webster C. Brown, Mrs. Robert Canada, Miss Sylvia J. Gates (university student), Mrs. F.V. Love, Mrs. S.E. Mayfield, Mrs. William McCoy, Jr., Mrs. R. Miller, Mrs. Isaac Payne, Mrs. Zack Phillips, Ms. E.M. Rollins, Mrs. Phillip Owens, and Mrs. Perry Whitlow.

No grants are associated with this invitational, volunteer project. Persons were invited because of their creativity and their ability to work together diplomatically. This project made possible an opportunity for knowing persons which probably would not have developed otherwise; all committee members agree the past two years have been most beneficial.

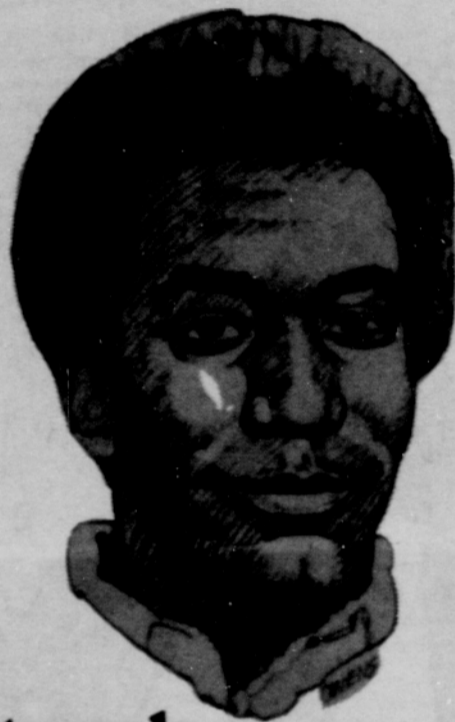
Women in History

Terry, Lucy. The first Black poet in America. In 1746 Mrs. Terry wrote, "Bars Fight".

Walker, 'Madame' C. J. The first Black American woman to become a self-made millionaire. She invented hair conditioners in the early 1900's.

Williams, Mary I. The first Black woman dentist. Doctor Williams graduated from Howard University in 1896. Some writers contend that Ida Gray was the first Black woman dentist. Doctor Gray graduated from the University of Michigan Dental School in 1910.

Motley, Constance Baker. The first Black woman Federal Judge. Mrs. Baker Motley was also the first woman to serve as a city borough president when she was elected as Manhattan Borough President in 1965.



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Women in History

Koontz, Elizabeth Duncan. The first Black to become president of the largest association of teachers. In 1968 Mrs. Koontz became President of the National Education Association. She was also the first Black woman appointed Head of the Women's Department in the U.S. Labor Department. Doctor Koontz was appointed by President Richard M. Nixon in 1969.

Lawson, Marjori. The first Black woman to be appointed to a judgeship by a President of the United States. She was appointed to that position in Washington, D.C. in 1962 by John F. Kennedy.

Sessions, Lucy. The first Black woman in America to earn a college degree. She graduated from Oberlin College in 1850.

Stewart, Maria W. The first American-born woman to have lectured in public. Mrs. Stewart delivered her first public lecture in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1833.

Lewis, Mary Edmonia. The first Black woman doctor. Doctor McKinney graduated from the New York Medical College in 1870.

Walker, Maggie. The first Black woman Bank President. Miss Walker organized and founded the St. Luke Bank and Trust Company in Richmond, Virginia in 1903.