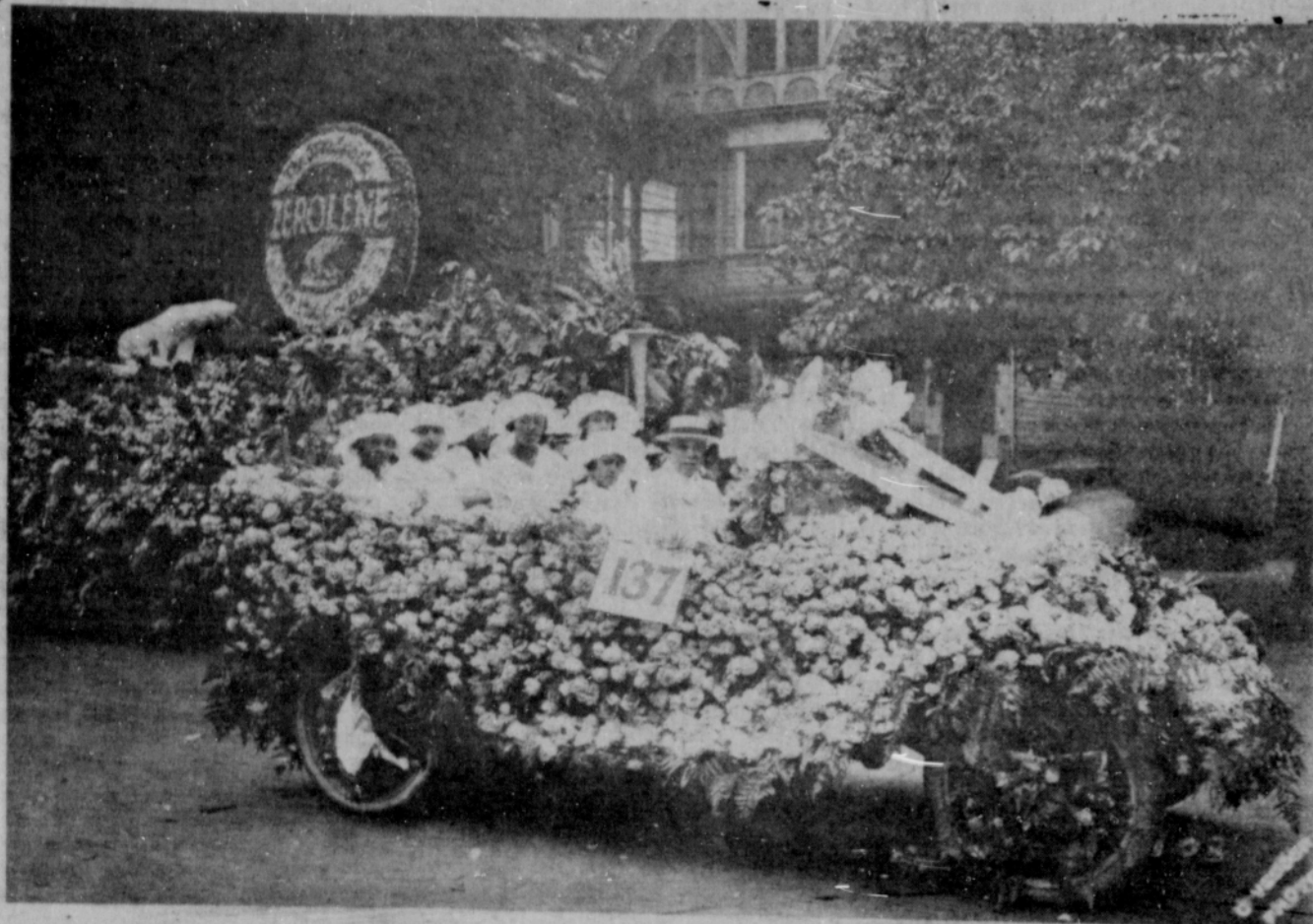


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Roses in History

Dr. J.A. Merriman, Portland's second Black doctor, entered this float in an early Rose Festival Parade. Riding in the front seat with Dr. Merriman is Gertrude Bollen. In the back are Othelida Nichols, Jennie Grayson, Barbara Hubbard, Leah Jackson and Edna Rutherford. [From Grayson Family Collection]

Foreign pressure tames Jamaica's socialism

by Rich Hayes

KINGSTON, JAMAICA (PNS) - "It's bleak," said Dr. Carl Stone, head of the political science department at the University of the West Indies, in assessing Jamaica's economic future. "In the hills there's a return to subsistence farming, so at least they'll be able to eat. The rest don't realize what we're in for. Very soon they will."

Beset by economic reverses and internal division and finching under the whip of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the government of Prime Minister Michael Manley is having to back-track on much of its program for building "democratic socialism" in Jamaica.

The economic situation has inflicted a heavy political toll on both the "far left" and the "Manley left" factions within the governing Peoples' National Party (PNP). Recent months have seen the resignation of left-leaning cabinet ministers and other officials, and newly appointed Finance Minister David Bell recently called for expulsion of all "known communists" from the PNP, a move aimed particularly at the Marxist-Leninist leadership within the party's Youth Organization.

At the same time a new hard-line stance is developing against the Rasta-

farian-influenced "I-Man" culture, composed of the throngs of poor, urban youth, who, with the rural poor, have helped constitute Manley's grass-roots support. In February, army and police units set up the "Green Bay Massacre," an ambush in which five unarmed West Kingston youth were left dead.

While denying prior knowledge of the ambush, Security Minister Dudley Thompson inflamed tensions between the government and the street people with statements regretting that "more of them weren't killed" and pledges to "destroy the mad dogs of society."

Much of the current turmoil is the result of the IMF's December 1977 decision to terminate a vital \$74 million loan agreement drawn up just six months earlier. This threw the country's development program into a shambles, cutting hard into foreign exchange reserves and - of key importance - putting a halt to aid from the other world financial agencies that look to the IMF for its "seal of approval."

Many of Manley's difficulties seem to stem from an overestimation of the middle classes' hostile reaction to his leftist policies and an overestimation of the speed with which a broad base of popular unity and commitment could be built.

Despite repeated socialist declarations the thrust of government action has been comparatively tame. Many public enterprises, such as the sugar estates, banks and hotels had been running in the red before being nationalized, and such extreme measures as expropriation or renunciation of debt had never been seriously entertained by the government. Nonetheless the middle classes were dismayed at Manley's surprisingly strong re-election victory in December 1976, and panic set in after his angry "Not For Sale" speech three months later, in which he lambasted the IMF and appeared to burn his bridges with the West.

Despite the economic turmoil, most Jamaicans do give Manley credit for putting them on the road toward building a new society. "Manley made us know we were Jamaicans," said a young library worker. "We didn't know that before."

People proudly cite Jamaica's new leadership role in world affairs, such as its chairing of the "Group of 77" developing nations in the United Nations. Improvements in housing, education and adult literacy are readily acknowledged. And while government and unions may quarrel over specifics of "worker participation" and "cooperative management," few would suggest that the old plantations be restored.

Community Festival offers fun, food, art

Plans are well under way for the opening of the first annual Community Festival. This unique event is scheduled for July 1-4 at Holiday Park. According to its organizers, the festival will consist of various arts and crafts displays, live music by local jazz and soul groups and other forms of live entertainment.

The event is sponsored by several non-profit organizations working in concert with the City of Portland Bureau of Parks and the Metropolitan Human Rela-

tions Commission. At least eighty exhibit booths are planned for construction to accommodate vendors, governmental agencies, and local civic and social organizations.

It is anticipated that a large variety of food and other refreshments will be provided by vendors specializing in a cross-section of ethnic cuisine. Bar-b-que ribs, chicken and other dishes will be featured along with cakes, pies and other delights. Booths are still available.

Members of the festival committee are convinced that the festival will be among the high points of the NAACP National Convention, which will be held during the same week. One member of the committee stated, "it represents the most feasible outlet for meaningful involvement by groups and individuals who wish to provide goods and services for persons visiting our city during the 4th of July weekend.

An estimated ten thousand persons from across the nation are expected to be in Portland to attend the NAACP Convention. The importance of the festival is that of providing a structure for the maximal generation of minority business potential during the convention. It will also serve as an arena for artistic and creative expression.

Persons wishing to participate should call Charles White at 238-2891.



Members of the Community Festival Committee prepare for an exciting and beneficial affair.

Assembly meets

The Oregon Assembly of Black Affairs will hold its quarterly meeting on June 17th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Assembly president Calvin O.L. Henry announced that the agenda will include a look at the primary election and begin preparation for the 1979 legislative session.

Also on the agenda were committee reports and other business matters.

The meeting will be held at St. Andrews Church, N.E. 8th and Alberta in Portland.

Shipyard asbestos disease aired

Possible health risks from exposure to asbestos have been announced by the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, Joseph A. Califano, Jr.

On April 25th an "advisory letter" on asbestos was sent to 4,000 physicians across the country. The letter suggested the potential health risk posed by asbestos and described the steps doctors might take in diagnosing and treating patients affected by asbestos. The letter also included an explanation to the doctors of how more information on how asbestos relates to disease. This letter was the beginning of the initial phase of HEW's program directly related to asbestos generated diseases.

Asbestos is used in the construction industry as a sealant. The majority of the asbestos used in the United States finds its way into the shipyards.

Eight to eleven million workers in America have been exposed since the beginning of World War II.

Beginning in 1940 approximately 20,000 Black people, as well as thousands of whites, came into the Portland/Van-

cover area to work in the shipyards. These people came from New York City and from across the South and although many stayed in Portland after the war ended, many others returned to their homes or elsewhere looking for employment. It is these people whom HEW will attempt to contact through a search of employment and social security records.

Secretary Califano stated that it has been quite a time lag between the discovery of asbestos related diseases and the time that notification was given potential victims of asbestos related diseases. However, it had earlier been noted that families of shipyard workers were susceptible to diseases related to asbestos inhalation.

Exposure to asbestos can increase the risk of incurring lung cancer mesothelioma (cancer of the lining of the lungs or abdominal cavities). Smoking significantly increases the chances of contracting one of the asbestos related diseases. A non-smoker who is exposed to asbestos is four times as likely to contract one of the diseases as one not exposed. An exposed smoker is 90 times more likely to contract the diseases than a non-smoker.

The symptoms of asbestosis follow: shortness of breath upon exertion. It is a chronic lung disease, incurable because it changes the composition of the lung tissue.

Lung cancer can be first recognized by these simple rules: a cough or change in coughing habits; chest pains; a small amount of bleeding.

Mesothelioma symptoms are first a shortness of breath, or pain in the wall of the chest which becomes aggravated by deep breathing. Second, abdominal pain which may vary from mild to harsh.

Since from its earliest days, the City of Portland has been involved heavily with the construction of ships, anyone who has worked for a ship building firm or who is a family member of a former shipyard member should contact the Office of Workers Compensation Program, Department of Labor Employment Standards Administrator, 200 Constitution Avenue N.W., Room S 3524, Washington D.C. 20210.

Currently the government is not taking legal responsibility for asbestos disease and Califano called the program to identify persons who may contract disease as "not a matter of legal obligation,

but ethical and moral." Compensation for workers who have contracted job-related asbestos disease is available through the Federal Employees Compensation Act for government employees and through state workers' compensation for persons who worked for private shipyards. Califano noted that estimates of the increased risks associated with asbestos exposure are based on the experience of workers who were heavily exposed before the government began to regulate asbestos in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Current workers without previous exposure, face smaller risks.

Although the relationship between asbestos exposure and disease has been known since 1960 the government has just now launched its notification program. Califano explained that the risk was first brought to his attention in late 1977 by National Cancer Institute Director Arthur Upton and that he does not know why previous HEW officials did not inform exposed workers.



Angelique Marie Blow graduated on June 3rd from St. Mary's Academy in Inglewood, California. She was among 72 graduates. Miss Blow is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John T. Blow, Jr.

Among her honors were: California Scholarship Federation Seal Bear, National Honor Society, and Salutatorian Nominee. She will major in Electrical Engineering at Northrup University in Inglewood on a full scholarship.



Robert E. Branscomb was recently named branch banking officer at the U. S. Bank, Washington Square branch.

Branscomb was formerly an assistant vice president and branch manager at St. Joseph Valley Bank in Elkhart, Indiana. He had previously served in the U.S. Air Force.

Branscomb holds a basic certificate from the American Institute of Banking.

Larry Jackson: On the way to the top

by Joe McHenry

A busy man in a busy world would be the label placed on Larry Jackson. At 31 Jackson is a successful young businessman with an eye to the future.

Born in Portland in 1947 Jackson received his education at Skyline Grade School, Lincoln High School and Portland State University. A degree in Mathematics directed his attention to numbers and a career in accounting followed.

From experience gained as an auditor for Consolidated Freightways Jackson began his own business, a retail operation on Union and Church. After being forced out of business by the acquisition of the

property by the Burger Barn, Jackson returned to accounting. In 1974 he formed Larry Jackson and Associates, an accounting firm that has grown to over a hundred accounts. Now Jackson and Associates also brokers insurance for their clients and others.

Jackson stated that "Jackson and Associates are growing so rapidly that we're looking for two more accountants. This is the type of business that grows from referrals and personal contact and now I'm beyond my own capacity to keep up."

It's no wonder that it's hard to keep up, because Jackson also owns a transportation rate service which is entirely separate from the accounting firm.

Added to his business responsibilities

are the civic services in which Jackson is involved. A strong commitment to Black youth has led to his involvement with the Lloyd Center Optimus Club. Jackson believes that the contact youth receive when involved with the commercial world is of great benefit in character building and youth motivation. The Optimus Club program includes training in oratory, sportsmanship and other related areas of mature growth that help in coping with the real world.

The fast paced schedule Larry Jackson has set for himself keeps him constantly on the move. From office to office or office to accounts this dynamic young man is on the way up to the top of his world.



James William Reid, Boise artist, displays some of his pencil drawings.

Boise artist takes his art 'on the road'

James William Reid, of Boise, Idaho, artist with a special touch, believes that his art should be shared with the world.

With his art tucked into a large portfolio bag he set out from Boise to personally spread his art in the Pacific Northwest.

The eleven pencil drawings he has with him have been painstakingly reproduced and are representations of the seven years of labor for love that he put into creating these works of art.

Reid's belief in spreading his art is reflected in the low cost he has placed on

his reproductions. From \$5 for a single print and \$20 for a special double set, while one limited edition print, of which 200 numbered and signed sets were reproduced which sells for \$25. Mass producing my works, says Reid, will spread my name around giving me the exposure I want.

The works of Reid are painstakingly done in pencil or special non-erasable paper. "Even though many artists can do pencil drawings," stated Reid, "very few have the shadings and technique to do them well." This type of art work takes a

lot out of you, and it takes a long time to do well. I started pencil drawing fifteen years ago and I have tried to improve my technique over the years. I chose pencil because there weren't many Black artists doing pencil and I wanted to be one of the best.

From Boise to Portland, Portland to Seattle, portfolio in hand James Reid is spreading his art work. He plans to return to Portland July 2nd and may be reached by calling the Portland Observer 283-2486 or by writing to him at 1962 W. Boise Avenue #6, Boise, Idaho 83706.