

## The Columbia River Gorge

*Mount Hood is glowing in the sunlight this morning, and the air is pleasant, with a temperature of 38°. We continued down the river, passing through a pretty green valley, bounded by high precipitous rocks . . .*

*The canoe sailed smoothly down the river; at night we encamped upon the shore, and a plentiful supply of comfortable provisions supplied the first of our wants.*

*We enjoyed the contrast which it presented to our late toilsome marchings; our night watchings, and our frequent privation of food. We were a motley group, but all happy, three unknown Indians; Jacob, a colored man; Mr. Preuss, a German; Bernie, creole French; and myself.*

*. . . The wind rose to a gale after several hours; but the moon was very bright, and the wind was fair, and the canoe glided rapidly down the stream, the waves breaking into a foam alongside; and our night voyage, as the wind bore us rapidly along between the dark mountains, was wild and interesting. About midnight we put to the shore on a rocky beach, behind which was a dark-looking pine forest. We built up large fires among the rocks, which were in large masses round about; and, arranging our blankets in the most sheltered places we could find, passed a delightful night.*

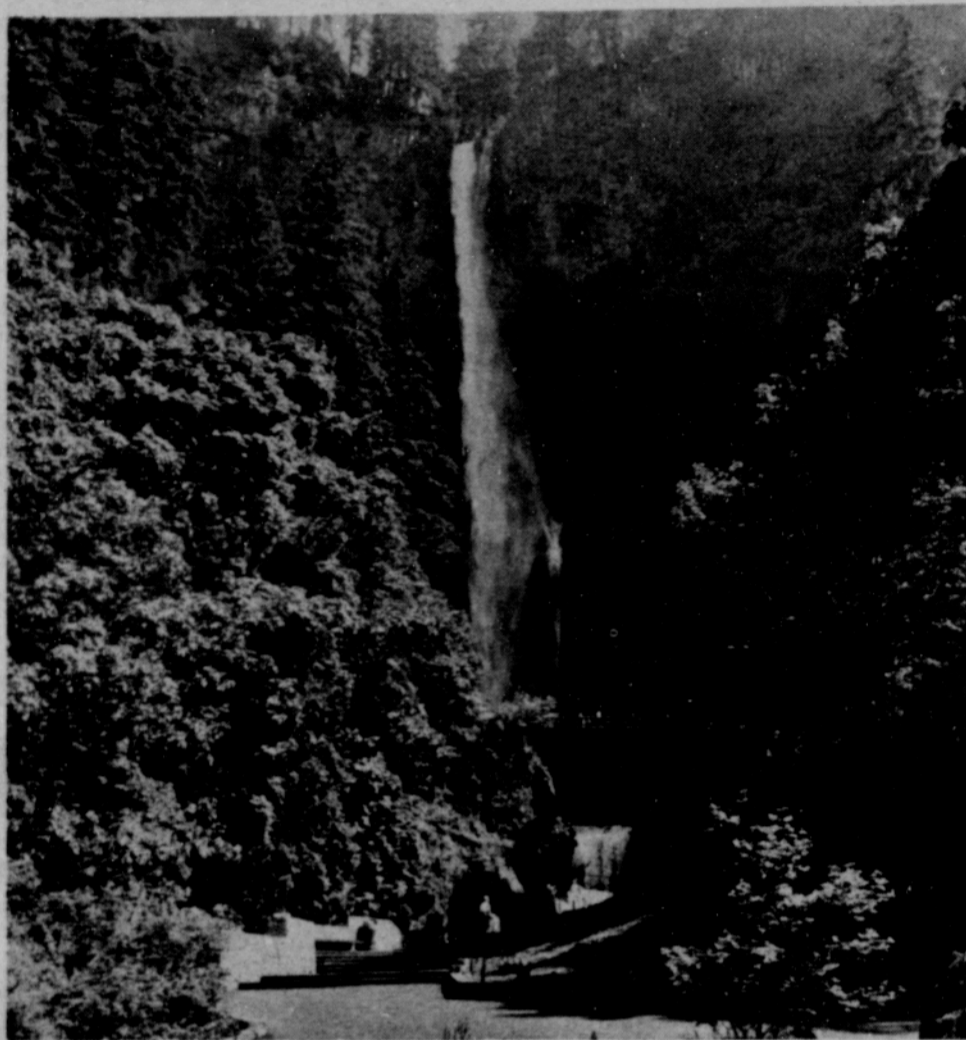
*. . . We glided on without interruption between very rocky and high steep mountains, which sweep along the river valley at a little distance, covered with forests of pine, and showing occasionally lofty escarpments of red rock. Nearer the shore is bordered by steep escarped hills and huge verticle rocks, from which the waters of the mountain reach the river in a variety of beautiful falls, sometimes several hundred feet in height. Occasionally along the river occurred pretty bottoms, covered with the greenest verdure of the spring.*

These were the words of Captain John C. Fremont, who travelled down the Columbia in 1843 on his way to explore southern Oregon and northern California for the U.S. Government.

This river had seen earlier explorations — each with its Black members.

The 1804-1806 Lewis and Clark Expedition was the first American contingent to travel down the broad Columbia. Captain Clark's servant York, "a remarkably stout, strong negro," was a valuable member of the party serving as an interpreter and trader among the Indians as well as an accomplished hunter.

Nearly forty years later, in 1843, Moses "Black" Harris famous "Mountain Man" led one of the largest wagon trains down the Oregon Trail, bringing not only many of the future leaders of Oregon, but slave holders and their slaves (or servants as they were usually called in non-slaveholding territory). Harris remained to help and explore an alternate route to the Willamette Valley, the Applegate Trail.



Oregon's highest waterfalls, Multnomah Falls, is located thirty miles east of Portland. The falls, discovered by Lewis and Clark during their expedition in 1805, tumbles to the floor of the Columbia River Gorge in two levels. A footbridge crosses the falls at the top of the lower level and a trail continues up Multnomah Creek.

# Without quality, equality doesn't mean very much.



It's a sad fact, but equality for millions of blacks, whites, Chicanos, Indians and Asians means lives of equal poverty, ignorance, disease and despair.

Our next and perhaps greatest challenge is to join with all good spirited people to create a quality of life that encourages self-respect and full personal development. Enriched lives through quality education and worship. Satisfying and productive work lives. And a strengthening of family life and pride in the community.

United States National Bank of Oregon welcomes all N.A.A.C.P. convention participants to Portland. Best wishes for a good and productive session.



Member F.D.I.C.