



Larry Baker #35021,
O.S.P. Correspondent

Behind the wall

The "Behind the Wall" column's success cannot be claimed solely by this Correspondent or staff, that success belongs to those of you who have contributed and supported an idea. "The freedom of the press shall be an open avenue awarded to every single living human being within these prison walls. Regardless, if that person be looked upon with the highest of respect or looked down upon as undesirable one, such privileges will not be denied."

This week's column is proud to dedicate itself to two men — who have opened those gates at this prison. Gates where in many other prisons the prisoners have lived in fear for decades. "The freedom to have open access to the news media without retaliation is a beautiful feeling."

To: H.C. Cupp, Superintendent, Oregon State Penitentiary. To: Reverend Alfred L. Henderson, Editor/Publisher, *Portland Observer*.

"Behind the Wall" salutes you for your action shown during the year of 1978.

The Superintendent has contributed and supported "Behind the Wall" by his actions every since it was first developed in March 1977. Not once has he ever suggested or allowed any one in his administration to censor or edit any article printed. Not once has this Correspondent received any threats or harassment from any of the employees on issues mentioned about this prison written in this Column. In fact, H.C. Cupp has made it possible for this Correspondent to be knowledgeable of any newsworthy event or incidents occurring at this prison, and his staff has cleared the way many times so this Correspondent could make such news available to the public. The O.S.P. staff has never denied this Correspondent access to anything or place within these walls that I have chosen to write about or photograph for this column, within reason.

The freedom to communicate by phone, visits, and mail has always been a great asset that has been provided by this institution, to this column, to stay abreast with current events affecting this prison and its population. These privileges have helped this column expand into as many as eight different city newspapers throughout this state.

"Behind the Wall" wishes to show its gratitude to H.C. Cupp for the endless contributions he has given to that twenty-one month success.

Alfred L. Henderson, Editor and Publisher of the *Portland Observer* has always participated as a member in his community behind the role of a minister. Henderson had received national recognition many times in his efforts to have the voice of the people heard on all levels. That voice from a prison cell sometimes can be just as informative to the public as the voices from the Governor's chambers, but when that voice has to go through channels, the interpretations many times lose their value.

Henderson has always been interested in men who spend their lives in isolated places, such as jails, prisons and hospitals, so when the *Portland Observer's* staff approached me for assistance in developing such a column as this I was filled with excitement. Not so much on being able to receive as much recognition as I have, but because of being given the opportunity to work with one of our greatest Black leaders that the State of Oregon will ever know. Besides the wide distribution the *Observer* has, a weekly copy of this newspaper can be found on the desks or in the homes of many legislators; also many state, county and city civil servants, along with those of the business world. Alfred L. Henderson opened a service that no other state in this nation has provided. It is unthinkable to allow prisoners to have a news column from a prison that is

TO A RECEPTIONIST

I'd go to the coast for
the week-end with you

And walk bare-footed in the sand
And chase the waves or watch them
As they break from their crest, racing
to be the first to tickle our toes,

Or perhaps become like Jubal and Lisa,
Children, and have a good old fashion water fight
Or find and follow the trail left by a crab
scurrying for shelter upon our approach,

Or we could lay in the physical sands
of emotions, chasing our thoughts around the
realm of self, finding a piece of drift
wood and discover a plateau of consciousness

Lost in the void of neglect . . .
I would go with you, but if I did
who'd watch the store.

by Julius Snowden #38013

uncensored, unedited and not controlled by the prison's administration.

Many believed after the first couple of issues that "Behind the Wall" would be short lived and would only end up as just another "cry-baby and sniveling rag," but "Behind the Wall" blossomed and it began to appear in other city newspapers throughout this state. Not because it was a prison column, but because it quickly became a people's column, regardless if that person is a guard, an administrator or an inmate. All will have the right to express their opinions in this column and the readers can become aware of them and their deeds in life.

These walls are 33 feet tall and built solid with concrete, but when it comes to people meeting people in this world, there should be no barrier separating the communication. "Behind the Wall" is only one of those forms. This is Henderson's dream, his life, his prayers, have

CONTEMPLATION

there are
many
things
i
could
be
doing
but
for
now
i'll
continue
to
think
of
you

EMBRO

Care free space
it was
warm
And peaceful
Within
The dark
Side of
The moon.

by Julius Snowden #38013

been helping "people communicating with one another" regardless of race, age, or rank in life.

No, this Correspondent is not solely responsible for the success of this column, but you are. And it is you with your many cards and letters which have proved it.

H.C. Cupp and Lee Henderson are two people who have something very much in common. Helping to open up an avenue that might bring people closer together as human beings through this newspaper column.

So to both of these men, "Behind the Wall" thanks you — Happy News.

Obituary

Reverend Sylvester McCullum, was born July 13, 1902 in SoSo, Mississippi to the Union of Walker McCullum and Helen Fezell McCullum. Reverend McCullum is the seventh son of thirteen sisters and brothers. Many of which preceded him in death except one brother Rubin McCullum.

Reverend McCullum is the father of five sons and five daughters, three of which preceded him in death. Reverend McCullum was ordained April 9, 1939 at the Mt. Moriah Baptist Church by the late Reverend E.D. Barnes and Pastor Moderator Clerk M.J. Hubbard. Reverend McCullum came to Portland September 1, 1946 with his wife, Willie Mae McCullum and resided here until his death December 21, 1978 at 8:45 a.m. at Physician Surgeon Hospital.

Reverend McCullum served in the United States Navy, World War

I. He was moderator of the Union District Association for 23 years. He was the first Black person to be elected to a 100-year-old Willamette Association as their moderator for one year and was Treasurer General of the Baptist Convention of the Pacific Northwest. On June 27, 1962 he became the first Black to be elected business agent for Local 1404 ship scalers and auto painters union.

The desire of his heart was fulfilled in June of 1974 when he and his wife visited the Holy Lands. He rejoiced that he walked where Jesus walked.

He is survived by his wife, Willie Mae; daughters Eiffe and Helen; sons Joe Ellis, John, R.E., Jimmy; a brother Rubin, sisters Paleon Coaley and Dora Walker; grandchildren; great grandchildren; nieces and nephews; church members; and a host of friends.

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Sunday:		Tuesday:	
Sunday School	9:15 am	Bible Band/Jr. Church	7:30 pm
Morning Worship	11:15 am	Wednesday:	
"Showers of Blessings Broadcast"		Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm
KGAR 1550	11:30 am-12:30 pm	Friday:	
YPBC	6:30 pm	"The Pastor Speaks"	7:30 pm
Evangelistic Worship	8:00 pm		
Tuesday-Friday	Noon Day Prayer	84 NE Killingsworth	
		281-0499	

Black vote results mixed

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The impact of the Black vote in the November off-year elections was clearly seen in key races throughout the nation, according to a survey by the Joint Center for Political Studies.

Black candidates suffered some major losses with the defeats of Senator Edward Brooke in Massachusetts and of Lt. Governor Mervyn Dymally and Attorney General candidate Yvonne Burke in California, but scored gains in statewide races in Wisconsin, Illinois, and North Carolina.

Wisconsin voters elected their first Black statewide official, a woman, Vel Phillips, who will become Secretary of State. Roland Burris was elected state comptroller in Illinois. Richard C. Erwin was elected to the North Carolina Court of Appeals by a margin of 200,000 votes, thus becoming the first Black North Carolinian to hold a statewide position since Reconstruction.

Other statewide officeholders were re-elected: Richard Austin as Secretary of Court of Appeals by a margin of 200,000 votes, thus becoming the first Black North Carolinian to hold a statewide position since Reconstruction.

Other statewide officeholders were re-elected: Richard Austin as Secretary of State in Michigan; Henry Parker as Treasurer in Connecticut and Wilson Riles as Superintendent of Public Instruction in California.

The Joint Center survey showed that the Black vote, though for the most part remaining Democratic, did go to Republican candidates in significant numbers in Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Michigan. In ten wards, that were 80 percent Black or more, in Philadelphia, Blacks gave 52 percent of their vote to winning Republican gubernatorial candidate Richard Thornburgh. In four wards in Chicago, incumbent Republicans Senators Charles Percy and Governor James Thompson received 33 percent and 24 percent of the Black vote, respectively. Sample Black precincts in Detroit showed that Blacks gave 29 percent of their vote to incumbent Republican Governor William Milliken, who was re-elected.

Blacks also provided significant support to Republican congressional candidates Paul Trible in Virginia and Ed Bethune in Arkansas. Trible drew 29 percent of the vote in sample Black precincts; Bethune, 44 percent. Black Republican candidates running for congressional seats, however, did not fare well. Although fourteen ran for office, thirteen lost by lopsided margins and one won in the Virgin Islands.

All twelve members of the Congressional Black Caucus who sought re-election won their races. In addition, William H. Gray (D-PA) was elected in Philadelphia to replace Robert N.C. Nix; Julian Dixon (D-CA) was elected to replace Yvonne Braithwaite Burke; Mickey Leland (D-Texas) was elected to replace Barbara Jordan; and Bennett Stewart (D-Ill.) was elected to replace the late Ralph Metcalfe. Dr. Melvin Evans was elected as the non-voting delegate to the House of Representatives from the Virgin Islands. Evans is a Republican who formerly served as Governor of the Virgin Islands.

Although most incumbent Black state legislators across the country won re-election, the total number was reduced from 294 to 284. The change came as a result of incumbents being defeated, retiring, or running for other office. A total of thirteen states lost Black state legislators. However, legislatures in Alabama, California, Florida, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania and Tennessee added Black members.

Although precise overall Black turnout could not be measured, overall voter turnout in congressional districts with Black majorities ranged between 12 and 49 percent. Nationwide, in all 435 Congressional districts, turnout among all voters was estimated at 34 percent.

In hotly contested races, Black turnout was very high. In Philadelphia, a proposed change in the city charter to allow Mayor Frank Rizzo to seek re-election next year was defeated. The proposed change was opposed by Black leaders. In the predominantly Black Pennsylvania Second District in Philadelphia, turnout of the voting age population was 49 percent, 17 points higher than in 1974 and virtually equal to the turn-

out in the 1976 presidential race.

In Mississippi's 4th Congressional district, independent Black candidates, Evan Doss and Charles Evers, were on the ballot for the local congressional seat and the U.S. Senate, respectively. The result was high turnout in a congressional district which is 43 percent Black. Forty-two percent of the voting age population turned out which was an increase of almost 10 percentage points over 1974.

The Black vote was especially critical to the candidates of Blacks running for statewide office. In Wisconsin, Black Democratic candidate Vel Phillips defeated her Republican opponent by only 47,000 votes out of more than a million cast. In 27 selected Black precincts in Milwaukee, Blacks gave Ms. Phillips 11,000 votes, or 96 percent of their total vote.

In a close race for comptroller in Illinois, Black Democratic candidate Roland Burris won over his Republican opponent by 150,000 out of more than 2,800,000 votes cast.

Municipal and county elections were not monitored by the Joint Center because most are not held in the same year as state races. However, in one important county election, Michael Lomax, of Atlanta, Georgia, was elected Fulton County Commissioner, the first Black ever to win a countywide election in populous Fulton.

Eddie N. Williams, President of the Joint Center, in commenting on the election results, noted that if there is one conclusion to be drawn it is that Black voter participation must be increased in order to protect the political interests of the Black community. "The election results, the bleak outlook for social welfare programs in the upcoming 96th Congress, the national trend toward conservatism, provide additional justification for Black political and civil rights leaders to develop a national voter crusade. Looking forward to the 1980 elections, this crusade should establish a goal to increase Black registration by twenty percent in each of the next two years. If this happens, there will be 12.5 million registered Black voters in 1980, about 83 percent of the total Black voting age population."

The House Of EXODUS

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Happy Holiday Season —
but remember:

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WE DRANK FOR HAPPINESS AND BECAME UNHAPPY
WE DRANK FOR JOY AND BECAME MISERABLE
WE DRANK FOR SOCIABILITY AND BECAME ARGUMENTATIVE
WE DRANK FOR SOPHISTICATED AND BECAME OBNOXIOUS
WE DRANK FOR FRIENDSHIP AND MADE ENEMIES
WE DRANK FOR FREEDOM AND BECAME SLAVES
WE DRANK FOR STRENGTH AND FELT WEAK
WE DRANK FOR BRAVERY AND BECAME AFRAID
WE DRANK FOR CONFIDENCE AND BECAME DOUBTFUL
WE DRANK TO MAKE CONVERSATION EASIER AND SLURRED OUR SPEECH
WE DRANK TO FORGET AND WERE FOREVER HAUNTED
WE DRANK FOR RELAXATION AND GOT THE SHAKES
WE DRANK TO ERASE PROBLEMS AND SAW THEM MULTIPLY
WE DRANK FOR SLEEP AND AWOKE WITHOUT REST
WE DRANK FOR MEDICINAL AND ACQUIRED HEALTH PROBLEMS
WE DRANK TO FEEL HEAVENLY AND ENDED UP FEELING LIKE HELL
WE DRANK TO COPE WITH LIFE AND INVITED DEATH

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