

Portland Profile

by Linda Thompson

Thus far my writings are amateur compared to those of our Black role model for this week. His writings reflect training as well as individual style. An admirable quality for a young man of 26.

The personnel department of one of the City's largest newspapers recognizes his capability as a writer and his intellect as an individual, for four years ago he became an employee of the *Oregon Journal*.

Born in Denver, Colorado, Pete McConnell became a resident of Portland in 1957. He graduated from North Catholic High School in 1970 and in 1974 from the University of Oregon with a B.S. Degree in Journalism.

Shortly after he graduated he felt very fortunate to be able to acquire a job with the *Journal*. The first three months he was a copy aide. From a copy aide he went on to be a music critic and then to his present position as a reporter covering Washington County, and more recently general news.

In 1977, along with *Journal* staff writer Oz Hopkins, McConnell taught a general news writing class out of Portland State University. The classes were held at the Martin Luther King Neighborhood Facility.

His hobbies include tennis, basketball and listening to jazz. Believe it or not, he spends a lot of time reading newspapers.

This is what he has to say to persons with an interest in journalism. "I would urge young people interested in journalism to create as many writing opportunities as they can, and to pursue all markets for publications."



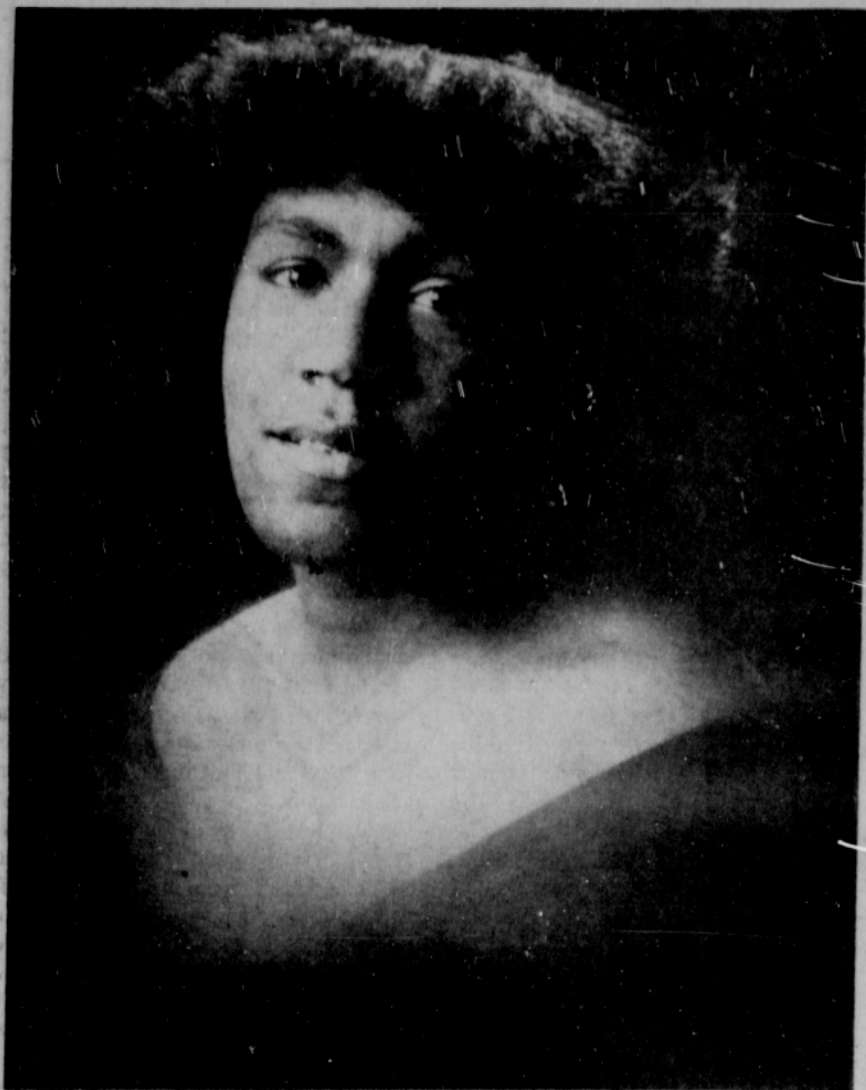
PETE MCCONNELL

"Study the newspapers and magazines and critically analyze their writing styles. Try to pattern yourself after the ones that impress you with clarity, conciseness, and readability. It's important to read the papers to keep informed about what's happening."

"Minority students shouldn't limit themselves to minority news. Editors today want people who are versatile and can handle most situations. Don't give the editor the impression that minority news is all you can do. There is a continual learning process, and at 26 there is still a lot to learn."

In approximately twenty years we hope to see in the *Journal*, "Chief Editor," Pete McConnell.

Until next week remember, "Children's attitudes and morals are reflections of us as parents and adults. Let's take a long look at our children and see what we think of ourselves."



JOANNE WINCHESTER

Music, sports involve senior

Joanne Winchester, a graduating senior at Grant High School is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Winchester, who introduced her to Portland friends at the Links, Inc. Starlight Cotillion at the Sheraton Hotel in February.

At age seventeen, Joanne is one of the younger students to be graduated and it is certain that she is one of the more active in the life of the school. She is an enthusiastic participant in sports and holds a place on the volleyball and track teams at Grant.

Joanne has a love of music and plays clarinet and sometimes bass clarinet in Grant's Concert and Pep bands. She is a member of the "Royal Blue," a jazz ensemble at her school.

This young lady also possesses an alto singing voice that is heard with the Grant High Senior Choir and which also won a place for her with the All-City Honor Choir. During the recent spring vacation Joanne was one of those chosen from candidate singers from high schools around the State of Oregon to attend the All-Northwest Choir which was gathered for a four-day songfest in Billings, Montana.

Weekends find Joanne busy with activities at Bethel A.M.E. Church, principally in their Young People's Division which she headed as president last year.

Summers have traditionally included camping trips with her family to the sea coast and to the forest

areas. One summer Joanne spent working with the U.S. Conservation Corps in the Malheur County Forest learning methods of conservation of wildlife found there in their natural habitat. This experience has inspired Joanne to study Forest Management in college and she has chosen Oregon State College to enter in the fall.

Joanne is aware of an introspective side of herself and she is capable of dashing off lines of poetry to release feelings and thoughts. She allows us to share her attitudes spoken here in a poem she calls "Solo":

"Solo"

You're the best
You know it!
You sing your heart out
Night and day
You do your best
Most people say
You're scared now
What's going to happen?
What do you hear?
Nice sounds — good sounds
What do you see?
Good expression, good stance
You become a cat of the copying kind
Your mouth opens wide
And everything flows —

You followed your dream
But you feel like . . . dying
Because . . . you failed . . . to forth —
...No crying...

by Joanne Winchester

Birthday Message

(Continued from Page 1 Column 5) the South.

In the area of organizing, I hasten to call your attention to three crucially important campaigns, campaigns which hold special significance for Black workers. First, there is the on-going strike by thousands of Black workers at the Newport News Shipyards in Virginia. These workers, members of the United Steelworkers of America, were forced to strike by a company which refuses to recognize their right to join a union and negotiate for better wages and working conditions. As the company cleverly evades the real issues by filing appeal after appeal with the courts, the workers at Newport News continue to suffer.

Similarly, the J.P. Stevens Company and the Winn-Dixie supermarket chain continue to block their employees from freely organizing into unions. The injustices at these two companies are well known, thus, I urge you to support the boycott of Winn-Dixie stores, and the boycott of all J.P. Stevens products.

In addition to taking an active interest in the struggles of Black workers, we must also intensify our activity in the political arena. Last November, for instance, Black people in Missouri and Philadelphia

dramatically demonstrated the power of the united Black vote. In Missouri, Black voters overwhelmingly opposed an anti-labor question on the ballot; and in Philadelphia, Blacks united together in opposing a proposed change in the city charter. Yet despite these two impressive examples, Black voters throughout the country seem to be withdrawing from politics.

While I can surely sympathize with those who despair of political involvement, I cannot condone surrender or retreat. To do so would be to grant a political "blank check" to our enemies. By withdrawing from the voting booth, we are, in effect inviting our enemies to roll-back every advance of the last 45 years.

We and our children, we and our grandchildren, cannot afford to abandon the fight. We must continue, indeed we must strengthen our political position by registering and voting in even greater numbers than ever before. Our participation in the upcoming political battles will, to a very large extent, determine the outcome of our long years of dedication, and sacrifice. You, brothers and sisters, will make the difference between ultimate victory or bitter defeat. Please, join the good fight.

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