

Family Album Northwest

By Kathryn Hall Bogle



BEATRICE CANNADY 1912

The pages of this family album belong to Ivan Cannady. The story they tell is about Ivan's mother, Beatrice Marrow Cannady-Taylor. The story is not about her family, nor about her personal likes and dislikes, though one learns something about them all inadvertently. The story is about Mrs. E. D. Cannady, a legend in her own right, who lived among us here in Portland sixty-seventy years ago. Her name commanded respect and admiration in this community for she was a pioneer feminist, as well as a pioneer in her style as a combatant in the seemingly interminable fight for civil rights for Black Americans.

Fifty years ago someone called her a Joan-of-Arc of the Northwest,

Fifty years later, her deeds, a gift she left for all of us, still illumine the path for others. Incentive, preparation, methodology, dedication, and accomplishment were all hers.

A teacher she was; she became an attorney-at-law, a wife, a mother, a newswoman - the list can go on: hostess, entrepreneur, religionist, politician, civic worker. She handled all these roles deftly, never losing sight of her principle objectives - the overcoming of racial prejudices and promoting better race relations.

Of all her interests, her own family was, without doubt, closest to Mrs. Cannady's heart. She was devoted to them all. Her husband Edward Cannady, editor and publisher of *The Advocate*, welcomed her as his business associate and gave her psychological support for her public life. Their two sons, before they reached their teens, were her "missionaries" within their age groups. They sang duets for guests at inter-racial teas their mother gave in their home, and creditably performed any other duties she assigned to them.

Family life was important to Mrs. Cannady and her sons were her joy.

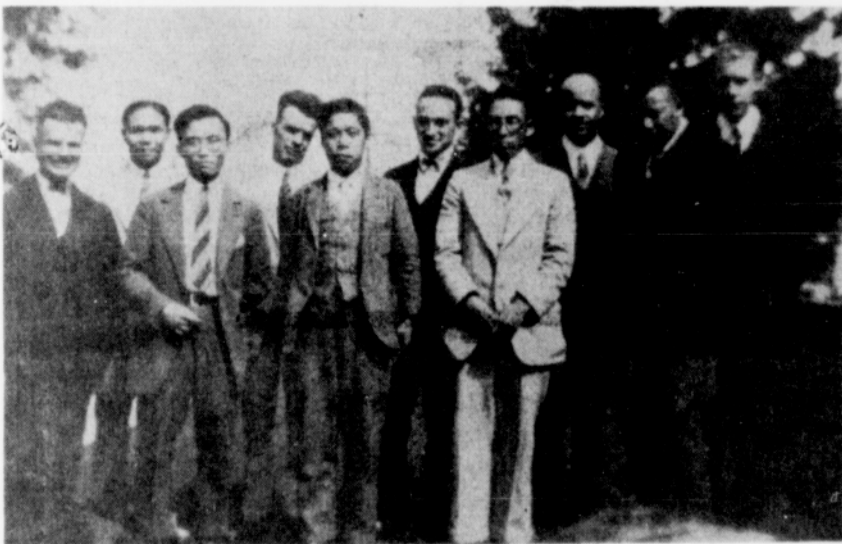
George, the elder son, and his brother Ivan were finally accepted at the YMCA summer camp at Spirit Lake, Washington at the foot of Mount St. Helens. Earlier they had been refused as campers because of their race. Their acceptance came after much patient effort by their mother who worked diligently to "educate" the camp leaders to take a "chance" on letting in two colored boys among



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Mr. and Mrs. E.D. Cannady and son George (circa 1912).



Japanese visitors were welcomed at the Cannady home.

this Portland lady who rode ahead of the crowd. She rode ahead proudly, banners rippling courageously in the chilly atmosphere of the times, nor did she ever falter when the winds blew strong against her. She attacked the barriers of racial prejudice and discrimination, cemented in ignorance, those sacrosanct relics left by a cruel and inhumane American past.

The experience proved successful and the two were allowed to attend in successive years. Eventually George was unanimously chosen by the campers to be their Governor, the highest honor the boys could accord a boy at camp. Ivan and George attended Fernwood elementary school and both attended Grant high school where their grades kept them in the upper

part of their classes. George became the first Negro boy to be graduated from Grant high school. He went on to be graduated from Willamette University where he was a very popular football star, played basketball and ran track. George later attended Howard University and won his law degree from there. He was a practicing attorney until his death in 1963.

Ivan chose to complete his education in California, won a law degree there and went into business as head of his own real estate firm in the southern part of the state.

While her children were growing up Mrs. Cannady built a new home library of over 300 books by Negro authors and of books about the Negro. Her sons became quite able to lecture on the subject early in their lives and sometimes filled speaking engagements in their mother's stead. The Cannady's home, a large comfortable dwelling in Irvington at 520 East 26th Street, was often the scene for informal discussion groups musicals, poetry readings, and, of course, book reviews. Invitations there were highly regarded by both Black and white persons. Young people gravitated there to borrow a book, letters came there from persons around the state who felt they could receive answers to their questions on interracial matters. They were not disappointed. Every query received attention from this gracious lady. Her interests were not confined to Black-white relationships but easily reached out to others of whatever color. All were included.

Talk over the breakfast table was reported as "animated" and following breakfast, the Cannadys transported the entire party to Sunday services at Bethel A.M.E. Church over on Larrabee and McMillan streets (where now a freeway exists).

One affair, a breakfast, hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Cannady, was given in honor of Mikio Oike and K.

Fukabori, two Japanese students making an educational and friendship tour of the Pacific coast. Present also were Keui Ahn, a Korean; Anjonio Rowan, Filipino graduate of Willamette University; George Orr Latimer, Caucasian leader in local Bahai circles; Morrison Handsaker, Reed College student; Elbert Booker, Negro student in the 1927 class at the North Pacific Dental College; S. Kayfour, Syria, Rabbi Jacob Weinstein, and Dr. John F. Moreland, pastor of Zion A.M.E. Church.

The party made the "Daily Journal," for the local white press had

begun to follow the activities of this newswoman of color, this early feminist whose personality charmed and melted the opposition with such regularity. She was beautiful, she was intelligent, she was graceful, she was artistic. She was remarkable. Where did she come from? Where was she born?

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FROM THE FRONT DOOR
BY TOM BOOTHE

From the front door, I wish to speak to the children of our community regarding education and the process of learning. Especially, the children between the age of (6) years and (18) years old.

- Children, knowledge and understanding is the basis of all you will ever be. However; you cannot have knowledge without LEARNING, and you cannot learn without allowing yourself to be taught.
- Be willing to learn all you can - remember that every experience is a lesson; and a lesson remembered provides you with understanding.
- Understanding is to remember knowledge well enough to apply it in situations and circumstances as your savior.
- Learn to listen and be attentive and respectful to your family and teachers, for they all provide an opportunity for you to learn.
- Learn to know that your attitude is your most important asset. Keep it positive and it will serve you, allow it to become negative and it will destroy you.
- The single most important thing a young man or woman can do is to learn so to have KNOWLEDGE, so to UNDERSTAND. If you do this, when you are older you will have wisdom; and wisdom is like a good watch dog that will protect you and keep you safe and secure.

Children, you are the future.

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- The first woman to run for President of the U.S. was not anyone in recent times, but Victoria Woodhull who ran for President on the Equal Rights Party in 1872.
- Nicotine is named after Jacques Nicot, a French ambassador who imported tobacco plants.
- The youngest movie star to win an Academy Award was Shirley Temple who won an Oscar in 1934 at the age of 6.
- About 75% of the people in the U.S. live on about 2% of the land.
- There are more TV sets in America than there are refrigerators or bathtubs.

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