

Family Album Northwest

By Kathryn Hall Bogle

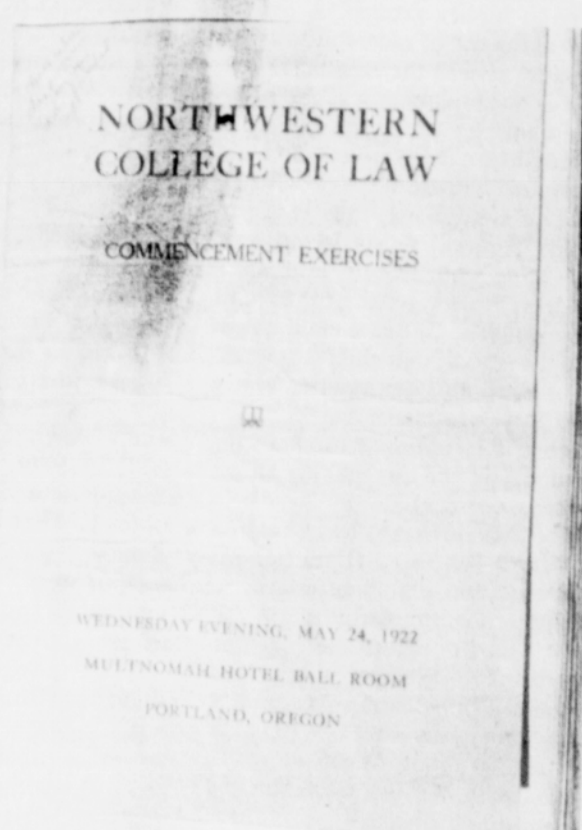
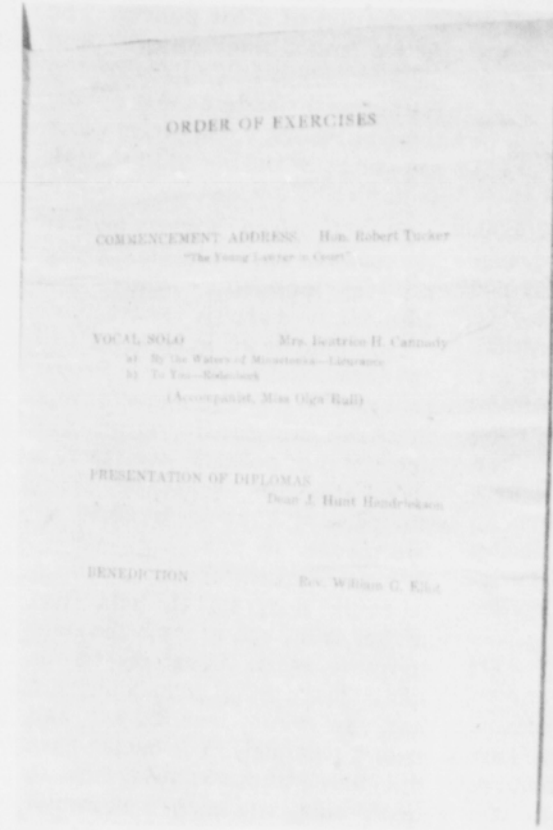
This is the second in a series of reminiscences, taken from the pages of the Beatrice Marrow Cannady-Taylor Family Album, now in the possession of her son, Ivan Cannady. Argumentation has been made where it might be helpful by Kathryn Hall Bogle, to tell the story of a lady who once lived in Portland.

Mrs. E. D. Cannady warmed, immeasurably, the inter-racial climate of this community. She was also sought after by persons in other Oregon communities to assist them in raising the level of human sensitivities above that level prevalent in Oregon, in the 20s when there were only about 1200 Blacks in the state. Mrs. Cannady tells us:

In her own words, we have pieced together for this account, she tells us: "I was born in Littig, Texas on January 9, 1889. It could just as well have been called Marrowtown for it was made up principally of our family and relatives. The family name was Marrow. My uncle was postmaster there through all sorts of administrations for over forty years.

"I am one of 14 children: ten girls and four boys all born in the same house. My father was a very well educated man and, of course, he made every effort possible to give his children a good education.

"I went to school first in Littig, then to high school in Houston and to New Orleans college. I took a teacher's course at Wiley college



(one of the best in the nation for colored students) in Marshall, Texas and after graduation, I taught in the Gilbert Academy in the county of Evangeline where one breathes all the significance of Longfellow's wonderful poem. Later I taught at Logan County High School in Guthrie, Oklahoma."

We can recall that Mrs. Cannady

had a lovely soprano voice with some operatic quality and often she sang at social events in the community. "I studied voice with D.A. Clippings of Kimball Hill in Chicago," she writes, and I dreamed of a career in opera. While in Chicago, I also attended classes at the University of Chicago. But, now," she explains, "I am so busy with my home, my boys, and the paper that I have no time for music.

"I studied law after my boys were born. That was an ambition that was realized. My dream of being a prima donna floated away while I attended night classes of Northwestern College of Law. I was graduated in the class of 1922.

"Never shall I forget the experience which I had as a graduate of that school," say the recorded notes of Mrs. Cannady's thoughts. She tells us more of her remembrances of that commencement night to which she had looked forward so long.

Beautifully groomed, cap and gown in hand, her gorgeous dark wealth of hair coiled becomingly, she stood waiting to sing for she had a place on the commencement program. Her name was there: Beatrice Cannady is to sing "By The Waters of the Minnetonka." It was a tender ballad of the day melodizing the tryst of a pair of young Indian lovers. A bit nervous she smiled in the direction of her family and friends invited to attend the festivities; she had posed in the class picture and now the fleet thought ran through her mind that she had paid all the little assessments for the graduation exercise she took a deep breath. She felt sure of her vocal clarity and relaxation. She nodded to her accompanist.

The song was exquisitely sung and the new graduate was warmly applauded. All the speeches had been given and now the hall of the great hotel, the Multnomah, was being cleared for dancing. Amidst all the happy hub-tub, someone Beatrice Cannady knew to be in authority for the college came to her and murmured a few words to her.

She stood there a long moment, stunned. She writes: "I was asked to leave the party and to take my friends with me so as to avoid any embarrassment!"

"For the first time during the whole course of study, I was reminded of my color. Of course, I can not forget such an experience. No one can fully appreciate the distress unless they have suffered in the same way.

"While we understand that such prejudice is due largely to ignorance, I shall always feel that if the white race believes itself truly Christian, they would certainly be less intolerant. We want our children educated, we want to feel safe in our homes, we want to be able to worship God peacefully in our churches and we want to be allowed to maintain a standard of life that is an American standard. No one knows how difficult it is to do this under conditions prevailing in various parts of the country.

"We believe that we are God's children although the color of our skin is Black," she wrote.

Mrs. Cannady's words were heard in many places around the state in church groups, in colleges at meetings, large and small. The album is heavy with many of the letters she received in those days. We

read an excerpt from one.

"I want to create such a sentiment in the Willamette Valley that when our Japanese young people are grown and educated they can get suitable employment and be really one of us. I want our people to hear the message that you have to give.

"Our Japanese are such wonderful people and so lovable, but how can we get even some of our Christian women to see this? So many people send their (missionary) money away. I want so much more for them (the Japanese) than money!

"Can't you help us?"

Signed, Marie Johnson
(Mrs. Melvin Johnson)
Salem, Oregon - 1926

Mrs. Cannady made on the average of 100 speeches a year for several years and the Salem area was to hear her on more than one occasion. She also spoke and worked in behalf of Black children in Oregon and Washington who had been denied their civil rights to attend public school.

The Cannady family album reveals much more about this courageous woman and we have selected some highlights to "show and tell" to you. Next Thursday, then? Same time?

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Mrs. Cannady, third from left in back row, with friends who enjoyed musical evenings together. Next to her is Wyatt Williams, attorney. Raymond Cage, center front, was musician, orchestra and instructor of piano and stringed instruments.



The Cannady's new home at 26th and Brazee. (Circa 1911)

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The nation of Monaco, where Prince Rainer and the former Grace Kelly rule, is smaller than Central Park in New York. Monaco is composed of 370 acres. Central Park has 840 acres.

The only member of the British House of Commons who is not allowed to speak is the man called the Speaker of the House.

Duffel bags are named after the town of Duffel, Belgium, where they were first made.

The largest body of fresh water in the world is Lake Superior.

The dollar sign originated from taking the abbreviation of the United States -- the U. and the S. -- and placing them one on top of the other. Later, the bottom of the "U" was dropped to form the present design of the dollar sign.



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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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