

MATTHEW PROPHET

## Matthew Prophet

Matthew W. Prophet, Jr., Superintendent of the Portland Public Schools, assumed administrative leadership for the School District on April 1, 1982. He came to Portland from the Superintendent of the Lansing, Michigan, School District, a post he held since 1978.

A dominating articulator, Prophet said, "The real need today is to find a proper balance between standards and equity. How can we respond to the standards movement without losing the equity of the 60s and 70s?"

Prophet said Public School Districts are faced with a credibility gap. "A preponderance of citizens living within the district have no vested interest in the public schools. Also, increasingly large number of our voters are senior citizens on fixed incomes who do have a vested interest in preventing increases in property taxes. Therefore, they vote overwhelmingly against school levies and bond issues," he added.

Although Black children are scoring two to three grades behind their white counterparts in the district, Prophet said, "The growth of Black students is proceeding at a greater pace. As a result, the historical gap in the level of achievement of Black students and majority students is continuing to close.

"There still remain significant areas of concern, such as the rate of learning progress by Black students in grades 6, 7 and 8. Although we have come a long way, there still remain many challenges. However, our success in closing achievement gaps over the last three years gives us good reason to expect continued meaningful progress," he concluded.

## Christine Poole

Christine Poole is the librarian of one of the state's largest libraries. She is the Elementary Library Coordinator for the Portland Public Schools.

She reviews, evaluates and selects books, textbooks and materials for the district's libraries. A transplanted Californian, Poole calls herself a "reader."

"I really like working with materials and I have this dedication to finding materials on Blacks. It's a life-long ambition for me to get as much materials on ethnic groups in my head and on the shelves," she added.

As a librarian, Poole works under the shadow of her future readership. She strives to reach a balance between creativity and reality. "We have to be careful but we will not remove a book because one person objects. We look at materials on a whole and are sensitive to sex, child abuse and drugs," she stated.

One objection she remembers was over books dealing with the occult. "And in this conservative climate we are expecting more." Poole said she has yet to receive a complaint regarding an ethnic book. "I think people are a bit more open," she added.

Poole plans to increase the number of multi-cultural books but she has to deal with the distribution problems afflicting small publishers. "Sometimes they will publish a few and then the title goes out of print."

The book that means the most to Poole is Chancellor William's *The Destruction of Black Civilization*. "This book lists Black contributions and makes us aware as to why things are not right," she concluded.



CHRISTINE POOLE

# Charles YOUNG..

BORN IN MAYS LICK, KY, MARCH 12, 1864; HE STUDIED AND TAUGHT SCHOOL IN RIPLEY, OHIO! IN 1884 HE WAS THE NINTH NEGRO EVER TO BE ADMITTED TO WEST POINT!

UPON GRADUATING HE BECAME A 2<sup>ND</sup> LT. IN THE 10<sup>TH</sup> CAVALRY UNIT, LATER BECAME A MAJOR IN THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR! HE DIED IN NIGERIA IN 1922!

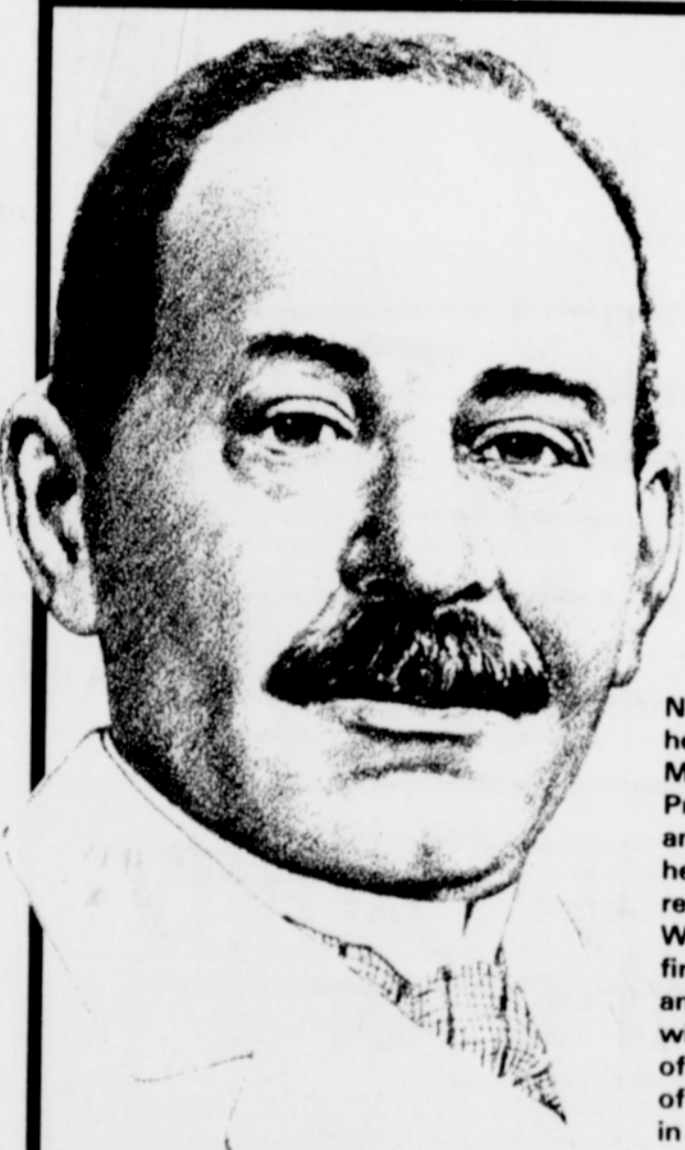
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## Dr. Daniel Hale Williams (1853 - 1931)

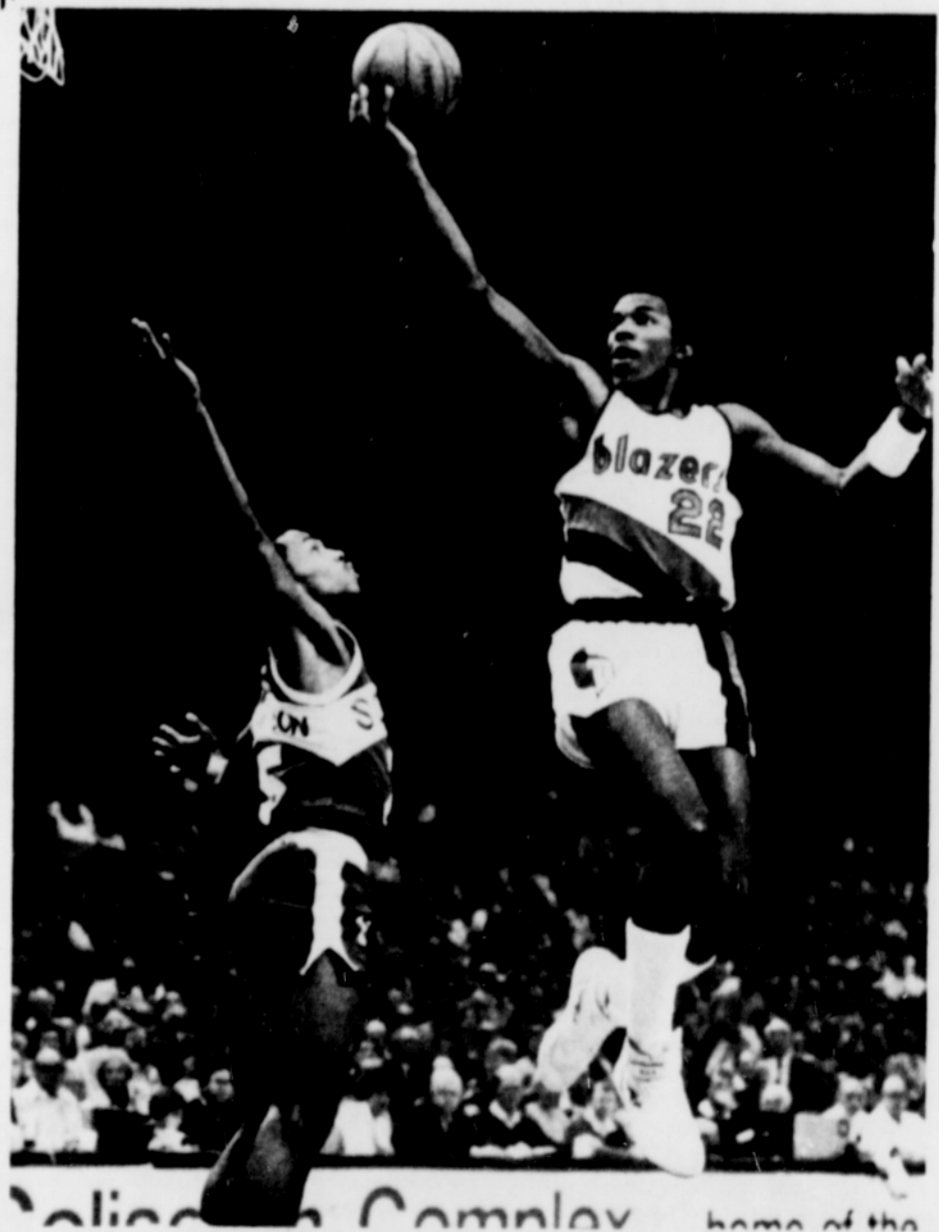
NOTED SURGEON. Born in Pennsylvania, he earned his M.D. degree from Chicago Medical School in 1883. He founded Provident Hospital in Chicago in 1891, and performed the first successful heart operation in 1893. In 1894 he reorganized Freedman's Hospital in Washington, D.C. He became the first Black staff physician with St. Luke and Mercy Hospital in Chicago. Affiliated with Northwestern University School of Medicine, he was elected a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons in 1913.

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