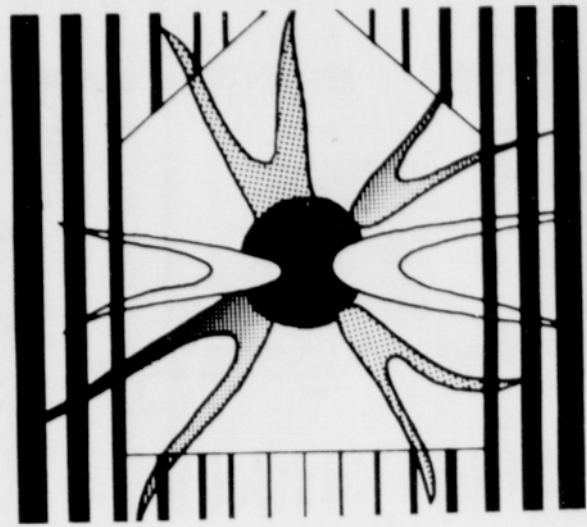


**ALBINA  
YOUTH  
OPPORTUNITY  
SCHOOL INC.**



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**People  
&  
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The Urban League & you!  
Celebrate Black  
History Month**

Employment Services  
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The Urban League of Portland  
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280-2600

As Part of Black History Month



**We Salute  
A.D. Griffin  
and His New  
Age Paper,  
the First Black  
Newspaper in  
Portland and  
one of the  
Pioneers of the  
Black Press in  
Oregon**

According to Oregon Historical Society records, the first black newspaper published in Oregon was called The New Age. It was founded by A.D. Griffin, a black journalist from Spokane, Washington, who, in 1896, had founded Spokane's first black newspaper, the New Echo. At The New Age, A.D. Griffin's title was Editor and Proprietor and his paper's offices were located at 264 Morrison Street. A one-year subscription to the weekly paper cost \$2.00.

The oldest surviving copy of The New Age, Volume 4, Number 43, was published on Saturday, January 27, 1900 and is eight pages long. The lead page included a column of advertisements including an ad for The United States National Bank, Beau Brummel — "The Best 5 Cent Cigar Made," and Oregon Kidney Tea to help relieve backache. Articles included numerous dispatches from the fronts of the Boer War, and an article about the fiery destruction of the Standard Oil Company warehouse in Portland.

Inside pages included ads from as far away as The Dalles, Baker, Pendleton, Astoria and Sliiter's Cafe at 148 Sixth Street. "The Finest

Straight 10 Cent Saloon in the City." Other pages contain endorsements for Republican Candidates for federal, state and local offices, and one of the first civil rights pieces in Oregon history. "What the Negro needs is education and money and the race question may in the near future be solved. All the Negro asks is legal and political rights. This the Negro demands and must have." The final pages contain a column for children, notes on the latest fashion trends and an ad for Vin Mariani Wine, "The Ideal French Tonic" for curing malaria.

The New Age eventually carried advertisements from firms in cities as far away as Salt Lake City, Utah, Butte and Helena, Montana, and Seattle and Everett, Washington.

The paper ceased publication, a victim of the increasing quality of civil-rights editorials and a decreasing number of white subscribers.

Portland's second black paper, The Advocate, was started in 1903, by E.D. Cannady. The Advocate really took off when Cannady married Beatrice Morrow, the first black woman lawyer and perhaps the most articulate and outspoken civil rights activist of

her time in Oregon. Beatrice took over The Advocate as her pet project. In 1932, she also became the first black woman to seek public office when she ran for and received 8,000 votes in her race for a seat in the state legislature. The Advocate ceased publication in 1936, when Beatrice moved to California.

In 1938, Portland jazz musician William McClendon and a shipyard worker started the original Portland Observer. The hard times of the late 1930s soon killed the Observer.

During World War II, frustration with racist union policies led McClendon to reestablish the paper as the People's Observer. In 1943, The Northwest Clarion gave the Portland black community a second voice. During the late 1940s and early 1960s, both papers wound down and eventually ceased publication. In the late 1960s, Albina church and civic leaders attempted to fill the gap with the short-lived Oregon Advance Times.

Today, Portland is served by two of the finest black papers in the nation, the Skanner and the Portland Observer. Both are going strong and providing Portland's black community with a much needed voice.

**Fred Meyer** Your Best Choice For Selection, Low Prices & One-Stop Shopping

Thanks to the Oregon Historical Society and John Morse's Willamette Week article. Should you have any copies of The New Age, Advocate or any other older black newspaper, the Oregon Historical Society and Multnomah County Library welcome your donation to help preserve a part of our city's heritage.