

Perspectives, McKinley Burt Your Daddy's Rich And Your Mama's Good Looking, Part II

We conclude this series with a citation of two Blacks who, respectively, had considerable influence upon the development of a great city, and a reawakening continent.

William Alexander Leidsorff (1810- 1848): Once again we find West Indies island the birthplace of an African son of a wealthy father-St. Croix in the Virgin Islands. This progeny of a Danish cotton broker and an African mother inherited the New Orleans branch of the Family business after the death of two older brothers. In 1841 he sailed for California, then Mexican territory. The ship was the "Julia Ann," named for his mother.

After being granted two lots from the existing government, Leidsorff promptly became a Mexican citizen and in 1844 was awarded an additional grant for **35,000 acres on the American River.** A very astute and ambitious operator, he let it be known that he favored United States sovereignty over that of Mexico. When California came under American rule in 1846, that early attitude greatly enhanced his rapid rise in the arenas of politics, business, and civic affairs.

Within five short years, Leidsorff became a member of the San Francisco city council, the American Consul in California, and City Treasurer. Moving at breakneck speed (as though he knew his life span was to be short), he established the first American school in California. And as an entrepreneur he brought in his own craft, the Sitka, as the first steamship to enter San Francisco Bay (November 15, 1847). His meteoric and well documented career included the introduction of horse racing to California.

Dead at the early age of 38, Leidsorff left an estate valued in the many millions of dollars. Much of this wealth came from the American River land grant, one of the sites of the great gold strike of 1849. The city of San Francisco gave him a public funeral and named a street after him, still a busy thoroughfare at the foot of a principal hill. Interestingly, Los Angeles also had pioneer Black settlers before statehood and they are honored in huge murals in both public and private buildings.

Paul Belloni DuChaillu (1837-1901): This African explorer and discover of the gorilla was born on the island of Reunion off the east coast of Africa. The scion of a French father and an African mother, he was educated in Paris and early on declared an ambition to be a writer in the travel genre. To support these aspirations he became an African trader in the tradition of his father who dealt in ebony and ivory (1860).

Fascinated by the African's stories of gorillas, and animal never seen by white men, DuChaillu felt that the capture of one of the beasts would provide him a reputation of international stature. Initially, he succeeded only in killing several whose hides he brought to America for exhibition. At first, he became "the most widely talked of man in America and Europe", learned societies honored him and scientific journals published his articles. But, soon he was faced with skepticism from other scientists who claimed that his skins and skulls were really those of a giant Negro.

The Royal Society of England was kinder to him, publishers bought his manuscripts and the British Museum bought his skins and skulls. DuChaillu returned to Africa in 1864 and was able to capture a female gorilla and her young, with an international reputation firmly in hand he proceeded to write a series of books that fascinated the entire English-speaking world. Two of the most popular titles were "Wildlife Under The Equator", and "Country of the Dwarfs".

J.A. Rogers, the noted African-American historian makes the following observation: "...DuChaillu not only preceded Livingstone into the deep interior of Africa, but his books publicized Africa as it never had been before. His work paved the way for Sir Henry M. Stanley and created a receptive public for the latter".

I would make the additional observation that this work also paved the way for the next century of exploitation-beside slavery, Tarzan and safaris. How many have read, "How Europe Underdeveloped Africa", a process still in full gear.

NORTHWEST AFRICAN AMERICAN WRITERS WORKSHOP

The Urban League of Portland's Northwest African American Writers Workshop will host a book reception in honor of one of its members, Joseph Franklin, whose non-fiction work, *All Through The Night, The History Of Spokane Black Americans*, has recently been released. The reception will be held at the Y.W.C.A., 5630 NE Martin Luther King Avenue, on Saturday, June 10, 1989 from 2:00 TO 5:00 pm.

Mr. Franklin spent over nine years researching material for this unique book which is highly suitable for the public schools and contains over ninety photographs.

Mr. Franklin is a teacher and historian who works for Portland public Schools.

The Northwest African American Writers Workshop was founded by Useni Eugene Perkins, president of the Urban League. The group was recently awarded a \$1,200 grant from the Metropolitan Arts Commission to publish an anthology of its members.



JOBS & CLASSIFIED

PROPOSAL

Trans Industries will be submitting a proposal in response to Metropolitan Service Districts' request for proposal on the Metro East Station.

Trans Industries is actively soliciting Bids/proposals for the following: fuel and oil supplies, maintenance activities, landscaping and yard maintenance, janitorial services, equipment parts suppliers, and safety equipment suppliers.

Contact Mike Casetta with questions.
9363 N Columbia Blvd.
Portland, Oregon 97203
(503) 286-6145

CONTRACTORS ATTENTION

The Housing Authority of Yamhill County is administering rehabilitation program in the city of Newberg to assist investor-owners in rehabilitating rental properties. Contractors are encouraged to contact the Housing Authority indicating interest.

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF YAMHILL COUNTY
414 N Evans
McMinnville, OR 97128
434-6571
E.O.E
Equal Housing Opportunity

COUNTY OF CLARK

INVITATION TO BID BID NO. 1675

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT SEALED BIDS will be received by the Board of County Commissioners in the office of Purchasing/Central Support Services, 1013 Franklin Street, Vancouver, Washington, UNTIL 9:50 am, on the 31st day of May, 1989 for the purpose of securing:

#1675 - Peter S. Ogden Park Site Improvements

BIDS will be opened by the Board at approximately, 10:00 am, May 31, 1989 subject to the agenda of the Board of County Commissioners. Bid Invitations and specifications may be seen and copies may be obtained in the Office of Purchasing Central Support Services (206) 699-2323 at the above address. The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids and waive informalities

SUB- BIDS REQUESTED

DALE RAMSAY CONSTRUCTION
PO BOX 1082
Corvallis, OR 97339
(503) 753-2012

Oregon State University
Forest Research Laboratory
Bid Date: May 31, 1989 by 3:00 pm

Oregon State University
Shepard Hall Reroof
Bid Date: June 1, 1989 by 2:00 pm

Oregon State University
Seed Laboratory
Bid Date: June 5, 1989 by 2:00 pm

We are an equal opportunity employer and request sub bids from small business and small disadvantaged business sub-contractors and women & minority business enterprises.

SUB-BID REQUESTED

MENTOR GRAPHICS

Wilsonville, Oregon
Bid June 2, 1989 Bid Date 12:00 PM

DONALD DRAKE CONSTRUCTION
1740 NW Flanders
Portland, Oregon 97209
(503) 226-3991
FAX 288-3019

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