

A BOOK REVIEW

ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT: A Story Whose Time Has Come

by Stephen E. McPherson, Special Correspondent

For the past nine years Joseph Franklin, a Portland Public School teacher and inveterate lecturer on the contributions of African Americans to our culture has worked late through the night and into the wee hours of the morning sorting out the documentation which would give the Black American a proper place with regard to the development of the Northwest. His most recent endeavor focuses on the area of Spokane, Washington.

It is very fitting that we re-examine the contributions African Americans made to the development of the Northwest. This is true not only since 1989 marks the centennial year for the State of Washington but especially for the fact that had not George Washington Bush, an African American, laid claim to territory in Puget Sound, that niche of our country would now be a part of Canada. Two paradoxes are embedded in that facet of history. Mr. Bush was forced to establish a claim in what is now the State of Washington because both the Territory and State of Oregon proscribed citizenship and the ownership of property to African Americans. At the same time Canada never had a history of involuntary servitude.

It is often too frequent that the tremendous unselfish contributions Black Africans and their descendants have made to the development of the western world obscure and suppress the real story. In recent years scholars have made a serious attempt to document such intentional oversights. In many cases the oral tradition of African people has documented the record with such clarity that at least some facets of our tremendous propensity to overcome extreme adversity emerges in our creation of whole nations and entire cultures.

Mr. Franklin's approach is not the usual compilation of dates and places. In many instances he has gone back to the very source to share with us an eyewitness account of what really happened in the past but also to recall some of the rich oral history of our forebears many generations removed.

One impressive recollection is that of Mrs. Marjorie Boyd Wellington. Even though she was an excellent student in high school and went on to distinguish herself in the field of education at what is now Eastern Washington University, Mrs. Wellington was not permitted to teach that subject in the State of Washington because she was Black.

Another example is that of Miss Helen Dundee who earned degrees in music and in education after distinguishing herself in those endeavors at Washington State College. It was she who first broke the color barrier by being appointed to the Spokane public schools.

Black Americans also pursued professions outside the usual stereotypic tract. For example the Buffalo Hump Mining Company was made up of African American entrepreneurs who mined a number of successful gold claims.

A number of very important newspapers were published in the Spokane area, among them the Forum was established by this writer's father more than one half century ago.

"ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT: The History of Spokane Black Americans, 1860-1940" is a very important contribution to our understanding of the innumerable legacies Black people have given to our society.

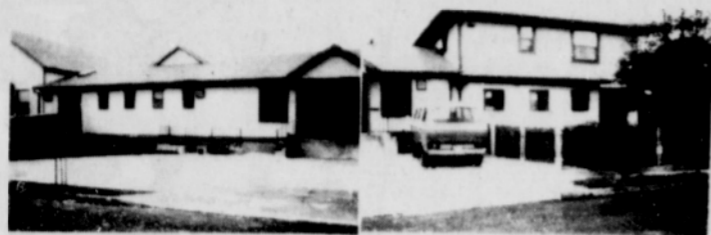
Joseph Franklin, its author, will be discussing this major piece of African Americana on Saturday, June 10th from 2-5 pm at the YWCA located at 5630 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. (formerly Union Ave.). This event should be quite exciting since the author will be autographing copies of his new book.

Alberta Street Festival Scheduled

"Alberta Street Festival, N.E. 16th to 19th streets on Alberta Street, Saturday, July 8th, from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Food, Entertainment and Art. Contact: Royal Esquire Club, Community Service Dept. 288-8569."

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Club Opening Under New Management

by Dan Bell

Catrell Blockson successful restaurateur has just opened Niecey's Restaurant and Lounge (formerly Mary's Place) on Union at Jarrett. The Club now features a family food format with veteran & popular cook Mavis Smith, and live entertainment on weekends.

To celebrate the Restaurant and Lounge's grand opening there will be an informal bar-b-que in the parking lot Saturday June 18, 1989. Mr. Blockson says that drinks from the bar will be discounted up to 50%, with \$.50 beers available.

Niecey's fills a void in the family dining arena that has been existing since the close of Mary's Place last summer.

The grand opening is an opportunity for the community to show support for such an establishment.

Johnny Mathis

Stellar performer Johnny Mathis will appear in Portland, June 11, at the Civic auditorium. Mathis has been recording for approximately 33 years. He has recorded such memorable hits as "Wonderful, Wonderful", "Chances Are", "Too Much, Too Little, too Late", and many others.

Known for his artistry, fine musicianship, and powerful, lyricism, he brings a wealth of talent and experience to the stage.

He has more than 50 Gold and Platinum albums and singles from his domestic and international sales.

Mathis tours year round, giving live concerts in such diverse places as London, New York, Monte Carlo, Mexico, Rio de Janeiro, Tokyo, Hong Kong, and Portland Oregon.

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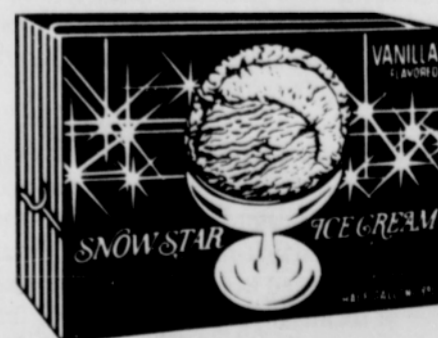
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