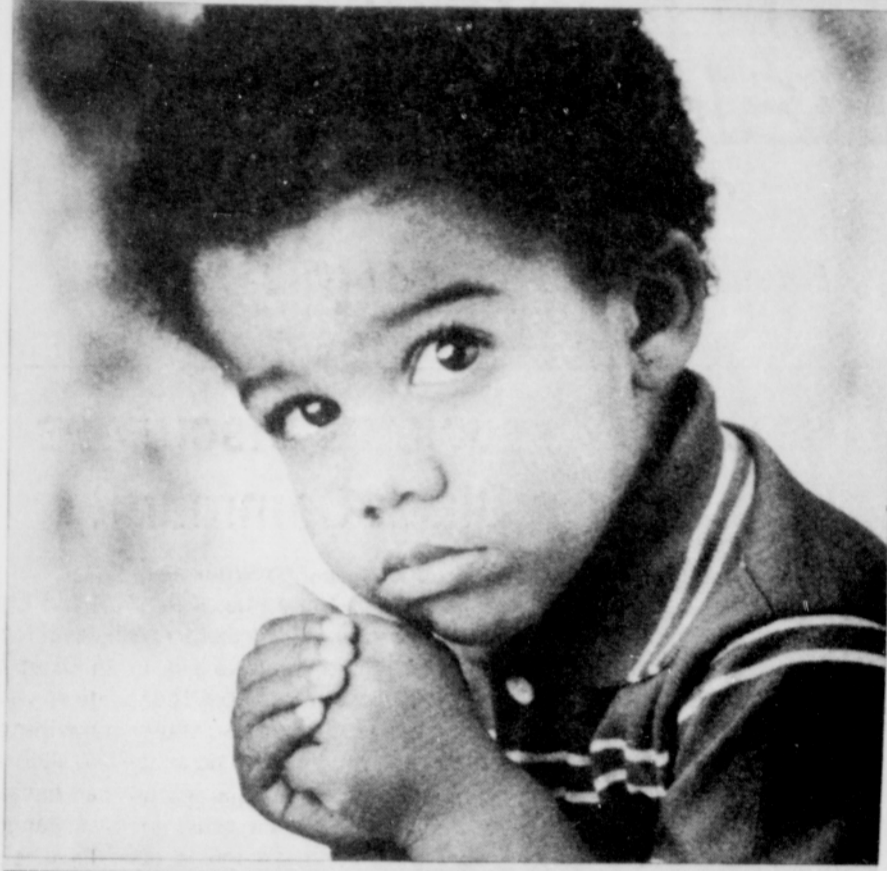


# A. Philip Randolph and Sam G. Whitney: Pioneers in Progress

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## STRONG MEN KEEP ON COMING



Sam A. Whitney

As the nation stands on the brink of the 21st century, many black workers and their families find themselves still searching for their fair share of the great American Dream.

Over the past 50 years, the United States made giant strides in the field of civil rights. Unfortunately, those gains are now endangered by persistent economic inequalities, political attacks and legal decision. Recent rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court have significantly eroded the gains that had been made in anti-discrimination laws and affirmative action.

The trade union movements received its' first major break through for blacks in their quest for equal opportunity came under the leadership of the great labor and civil rights leader, A. Phil Randolph. It was Randolph who led the first "March on Washington" movement in 1941 de-

manding justice for black workers. Out of that historic march came the first presidential Executive Order forbidding discrimination by federal contractors.

A. Phillip Randolph learned early in life that there was dignity in honest labor. Therefore, when a small group of sleeping car porters approached him to help them organize a union, he accepted.

There has been great steps forward in the advancement of the struggle for justice and equality for Black Electricians. Another forefront runner in civil rights was Sam A. Whitney. He was the first Black electrician with the International Brotherhood of electrical worker Local 48 and one of the most respected men to come out of this area in his day. In tribute to him—the Black electricians of IBEW Local 48 have founded and established an association in his honor. The Sam G. Whitney Assn. Sam believed that if you had a problem, you started from the top and worked your way down. In as much he took one of his plights to President Harry Truman and the president interceded on Sam G. Whitney's behalf. He then named one of his sons after the president.

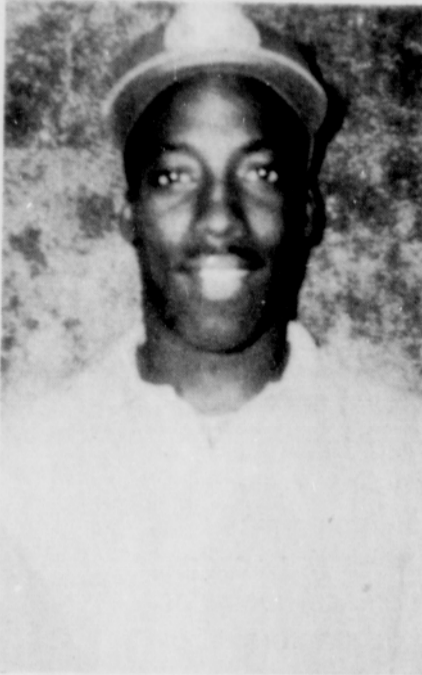
Today, Blacks have assumed various leadership positions throughout the trade union movement serving as members of the AFL-CIO Executive Council, top officers of national and Local union and APRI leaders. Strong Black Men just keep on coming!!



Clifton Edwards

Eddy Jeannis

Joe White  
Journeyman Electrician  
Picture was unavailable



Ricky Brame, Apprentice



Harvey Scott Michael Turner



Michael R. Manlove



Terry Tims



John Dixon



Bernard Gooseberry



Gus Miller



Larry Warren

## A Vision of Justice

Throughout his active career as a labor leader and as a father of the civil rights movement, A. Philip Randolph was guided by a dream for the building of a new society, in which people of all colors could live in freedom and in dignity. As a socialist, Randolph believes that a decent and well-paying job is the first step towards social and political freedom.

While he consistently supported the needs of blacks as blacks, Mr. Randolph also maintained that workers and all the poor should join together, regardless of race, in order to achieve their common goals. Therefore, he called for organized labor to join in the black man's struggle for freedom and in that way to "rise to its full moral stature." Randolph believed that workers and their unions are the key forces in any political effort to

*Father of the civil rights movement, A. Philip Randolph once said, "The labor movement traditionally has been the only haven for the dispossessed, the despised, the neglected, the downtrodden and the poor." His accomplishments range from attaining blacks their rightful seat in the House of Labor to winning an Executive Order in 1948 from President Harry S. Truman to ban discrimination in the armed forces and in federal employment.*



redistribute society's wealth more justly. Mr. Randolph continuously advised black people to develop alliances with labor, liberal, and civil rights groups to end segregation and to eliminate poverty.

He did not see the problems of black Americans as the problem of one isolated group. He viewed the condition of blacks as the symptom of a larger social illness, which is caused by

an unfair distribution of power, wealth, and resources. For the socialist ideas upon which his political wisdom was formed, Mr. Randolph looked to Norman Thomas and Eugene V. Debs, the giant of American socialism. Whether he spoke for socialism or civil rights, A. Philip Randolph followed the principles of democracy and non-violence all his life long.

## A. Philip Randolph a Pioneer in the Labor Movement

A. Philip Randolph, the veteran labor and civil rights leader, called on black people to strengthen their bonds with the trade union movement in a birthday statement issued in New York.

Randolph, founded and led the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, a union of black Pullman Porters. Randolph also directed the 1963 March on Washington, and was widely recognized as the "dean of American civil rights leaders."

Pointing to the many problems facing black people, Randolph emphasized that blacks "have one reliable and steadfast ally - the trade union movement."

"The vast majority of black people are workers," Randolph said, "and the trade union movement, even with all its imperfections and failings is the most effective, and most powerful defender of the interests of all American workers, black as well as white."

He is quoted as saying, poor workers throughout the Sunbelt region can only escape poverty by or-

ganizing. "Amid affluence and newfound wealth," Randolph said, "thousands of workers receive subsistence wages. And because so few have the protections of a union contract, they have no job security, no fringe benefits, and no rights in the workplace."

As an example of an important trade union campaign, Randolph pointed to the current strike involving 19,000 shipyard workers in Newport News, Virginia. "These workers," Randolph declared, "were forced to strike by a company which refuses to recognize their right to join a union and negotiate for better wages and working conditions."

Randolph also accused the J.P. Stevens and Winn-Dixie companies of attempting "to block their employees from freely organizing into unions." Because of this, he reaffirmed his long-standing support for the labor-backed boycotts of J.P. Stevens and Winn-Dixie.

As in the past, Randolph restated his strong belief that blacks must increase their political power by registering and voting. While he noted

that many blacks have despaired of political involvement, Randolph warned that political withdrawal is an invitation to "our enemies to roll-back every advance of the last 45 years." Furthermore, he characterized the current political atmosphere as "crude conservatism and social defeatism," and urged blacks to intensify their political involvement.

Norman Hill, national president of the A. Philip Randolph Institute headquartered at 260 Park Avenue South in New York City, said that the Institute's 180 local chapters across the country will continue "their efforts to fulfill the dream of Mr. Randolph."

"Every day, hundreds of dedicated trade unionists in all sections of the country follow Mr. Randolph's example by attempting to build a solid political coalition for the kinds of goals that Mr. Randolph has so long espoused, goals like full employment, free collective bargaining, social equality, and an end to racial discrimination," Hill said.

FOR MORE INFORMATION -CONTACT YOUR PORTLAND CHAPTER OF APRIL 288-1298

## Electrician proud of award for work with local minorities

Gus Miller, a 17-year member of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 48, received the coveted Sam Whitney Association award for his dedicated work with minorities.

Miller, 62, has been active in the Portland community, involving himself in a number of organizations that help better the lives of minorities. He was instrumental in steering over 150 minorities into the IBEW's apprenticeship program and into careers as union electricians.

He credits Local 48 officials for their "solid support" of the program and for the contracts they have negotiated for workers.

"I've talked quite a few electricians away from the non-union element," Miller said. "Some of the conditions they were working in and the pay they were receiving was atrocious."

Miller's rise through the electrician's trade as a minority wasn't discrimination-free.

He remembers the days blacks weren't allowed on construction jobsites, let alone in a local union, when he started 46 years ago in Chicago.

"I spent my first two years as an apprentice carrying solder buckets," he recalls. "I spent five years of holy hell in the field. I lived for the day I got my (journeyman) recognition card."

And despite his personal achievements with minority groups, Miller still observes an uncomfortable high amount of "inequality" on the jobsite—especially from management.

"I'm glad I have Local 48 behind me 100 percent. I'm not quite sure where I would be without them," he stressed.

After Chicago, Miller performed his electrical wizardry in Washington, D.C., Hawaii and at an Army barracks in Okinawa. He says he has handled about every phase of electrical work imaginable, ranging from the old "knob and tube days" through the conversion of gas-to-electric lighting and into today's nuclear age.

He owned a TV repair shop/electrical construction business in Chicago until thieves stole him blind, forcing him to close.

During his 17 years with Local 48, Miller worked his way to a supervisory role, leading crews for W.R. Grasle, Lambert Electric, Ability Electric, NW Energy at the Trojan Nuclear Plant and Dillingham Ship Repair on Swan Island.

It was at the shipyard two years ago that he suffered a career-ending injury when a 500-pound hatch slammed down and crushed his hand as he crawled out of a vault onto the deck of a super tanker docked at the Port of Portland.

Miller has suffered constant pain since the accident, to such a degree that he recently agreed to take experimental injections four times a month, hoping they will bring some relief. This despite the fact that the injections cause his blood pressure to rise dangerously high and produce some memory loss.

The accident threw a monkey wrench into Miller's plan that called for retirement this year so that he could serve in the Peace Corps in South Africa. Miller and his wife, Adrienne, who runs the cosmetology department at Mt. Hood Community College, had their travel plans all ready.

The Millers have two sons and a daughter.

Miller recently stepped down as vice president of Local 48 and ended his 17 years as a member of the local's executive board. He still attends classes to upgrade his electrical skills and maintains a supervisor's license he has held since 1972.

He is in the process of outlining a scholarship program under his name to be given annually to a minority within Local 48 and he remains active in the Portland chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute.

