

METRO

LIFE IN THE PORTLAND METROPOLITAN AREA

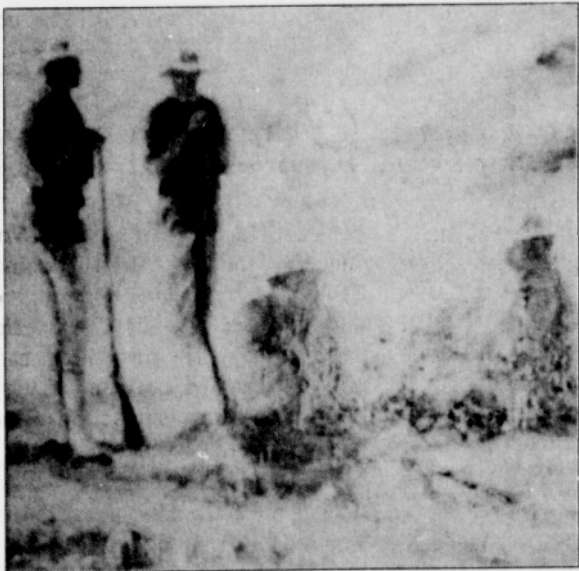
The Portland Observer



"My goal is not just to highlight the soldiers for the black history month, but to make this a continued effort for true American History"

Right: Mark Little pictured (left), during his showing at the Shades of Color, with, Ulysses Tucker, Channel 2 News Public Affairs (back); Norm Monroe, Gladys McCoy Office Administrator (center); and Darrell Millner, Director of Black Studies at Portland State University (right).

Below: The painting highlights the lives of the BUFFALO SOLDIERS who were stationed at Fort Vancouver, Washington, (state) during the Civil War



THE LEGENDARY BUFFALO SOLDIERS

Buffalo Soldiers is one of the several paintings by African-American artist Mark Little. The painting highlights the lives of the Buffalo Soldiers who were stationed at Fort Vancouver, Washington, (state) during the Civil War. They were known as the 9th and 10th Cavalry. We are unsure why the Indians named them the Buffalo Soldiers. There are two possibilities, according to Professor Burt McKinley. The first addresses the fact that the soldiers wore buffalo hides to keep warm during the winter to keep warm. The second lends itself to the Indian's respect for the buffalo from which they made their clothing, their tepees, it was their meat, and endless other uses. They possibly, felt that same kind of respect and awe for the soldiers. It was a real fact that the Indians were afraid of the Buffalo Soldiers, as they were considered a real "brave" unit.

Little's collection is on display at the Shades of Color Gallery in NE Portland. Little says, "My goal is not just to highlight the soldiers for the black history month, but to make this a continued effort for true American History. We have an African American cultural arts group called 'HYALIT' whose first project is to raise funding to spotlight and develop another documentary that is an entertaining and educational video for a national audience."

(The Buffalo Soldiers were presented on Channel 2, narrated by Rick Meyers

this past Sunday, Feb. 7, 1993.)

Little added the Portland Public Schools are interested in the project for diversity and awareness for the students.

"In developing the paintings of the Buffalo Soldiers, my own mind and body seem to transcend time and touch the spirit of the 9th and 10th Cavalry...That powerful story was always there, but was never part of the American history taught in my public schooling. The soldiers received very little recognition during the 1800's and were absent from the textbooks and the Hollywood screen."

Little grew up in Springfield Illinois, and though he enjoys the deep green forest and mountain wilderness areas of Oregon, he does not like the cold. Mark has developed and completed the Beautification Project for the Veteran's Administration.

Mark Little's work is part of the permanent collection of US BankCorp, State of Oregon, Department of Human Resources, Portland State University, City of Portland, Commission for the Arts, and visual Chronicle.

Donations for the Buffalo Soldiers project may be sent to:
Buffalo Soldiers Retrospective Program
P.O. Box 10596, Portland, Oregon 97210

Saturday School Publishes Children's Poetry Book

The Black United Front Saturday School will host a reception and autograph party to celebrate the publication of a book of children's poetry written by Saturday School students. The event is scheduled for Sunday, February 14, 1993 from 2-4 pm at the Multicultural Senior Center located at 5325 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

The book titled "Sing With a Holler" is a collection of poems written by Saturday School students ranging from 6-13 years old. James DePreist, conductor of the Oregon Symphony wrote in the foreword to the book that, "The poems in this volume speak of personal vision that can strike a responsive chord in all who allow themselves to be open to the message." The poets will read from their works and share their experiences as writers. For additional information please call Joyce Harris, Saturday School coordinator at 284-9552. Saturday School volunteers will be available to answer questions about Saturday School and to register new students.

Sing...

by Riga Brant
Age 13

Sing with praise
Sing with pride

Sing with joy
And sing real high

Sing about peace
Sing with honor

Sing with respect
And with a holler.

Black Is...

by Riga Brant
Age 13

Black is a color
Not a crime.

Black is a song
With rhythm and rhyme.

Black is a culture
With contents and pride.

Black is a feeling
You don't have to hide.

Black is the future
The world to be.

Black is a character
And Black is me.

STUDENT, SENIOR PEN PALS TO EXCHANGE VALENTINE STORIES



Twelve young girls and a dozen elderly women who've been pen pals since last fall meet for the first time and exchange Valentine stories about friendship Saturday (Feb. 13) at 1 p.m. at the Salvation Army Rose Center, 1785 N.E. Sandy Blvd.

The pen pals are elementary students in Portland School District's Talented and Gifted (TAG) Program from Duniway, Markham, Skyline and Woodmere schools and "senior authors" Pro-

gram fro Portland Park Bureau's Senior Writing Program.

United by their common love of writing, the pen pals have been corresponding for eight weeks. adult writers serve as mentors to their younger counterparts.

After identifying their writing partners by matching up stories, the authors will share poems, plays and short writings.

Families and the public are invited to join the pen pal gathering.

