

More "Evidences Of Progress", So Long Ago

BY PROFESSOR MCKINLEY BURT

That was a gratifying response to last week's review of Mr. G.F. Richings' Collection of "facts relating to the Progress of the Race since Emancipation." Some readers saw a cruel irony posed by this saga of black achievements in manufacturing and merchandising written a hundred years ago—today's Minority Business enthusiasts have set goals pitifully short of great grandparent's accomplishments.

The pride and respect that comes through in Mr. Richings' marvelous narrative is almost palpable. It is easy to imagine that you are at one of his popular "race lectures" and you are sitting spellbound as a rich, warm African voice speaks of peers and ancestors. Let us continue on here with a fine example of his inimitable style.

"Mr. James E. Dixon of Providence, R.I., belongs to that class of



J. E. Dixon

men who are helpful to my book in enabling me to demonstrate that the colored people are entering, all the professions and business walks of life in which white men enter and suc-

ceed."

"Mr. Dixon went to the north from Richmond, Va. having lost both his parents at an early age, it left him to look after himself just at the time when a loving mother is needed most. What he has in the way of an education was obtained at New Bedford, Mass. But having a desire to travel, he accepted an offer to go to sea, which vocation he followed for a number of years, rounding the globe at least seven times, visiting one or more parts of every continent, inclusive of Australia, New Zealand and a number of Islands in both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. Finding it to his advantage he hailed from an Englishport, and stuck to the English Merchant Service.

He secured a mate's certificate, and worked himself up to a position as chief officer of one of the finest sailing ships under the English flag. But by an unfortunate accident in Calcutta,

July 4, 1884, he lost his right arm. He then returned to New Bedford, Mass., and after a hard struggle against big odds, mastered telegraphy. The Western Union Telegraph Co., in recognition of his services in their main office, appointed him June 11, 1889, as manger of their branch office at the Parker House, New Bedford, which place he held until he resigned June 3, 1893, to take charge of his present position at Signal Tower on the main line of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Rail Road, at Providence, R.I.

Some idea of his work and responsibilities is given in this statement. In 1894, 34,284 trains passed this point, and the number is never under this. The operator has to know and report the exact condition of every train. In addition he has to give a signal to each train whether or not it is all right to go ahead. The position held by Mr. Dixon is indeed one of great responsibility, and should he

fail to discharge his whole duty in giving each train the proper signal, great loss of life and property would result. So well has the company been pleased with his work, that they offer employment to other members of the race when they can show that they are properly fitted for duty."

I'll tell you something else that is "palpable", you can almost cut it with a knife. And that is the deep silence from the racists who have claimed we don't need black history; And from those tongue-in-check-opponents to the use of the Baseline Essays in Portland Public Schools (strange that they've never ceased to push European ethnic contributions--documented or not). Perhaps they do, indeed, need more self esteem, think about it.

The author continues on with that ennobling touch. "Mrs. Mary C. Terrell is one of the Board of

Trustees of Public Schools for the District to Columbia, and she is the first colored lady to be so honored in any city of the United States to my knowledge. I present her portrait."

"Mrs. Terrell is interested in every movement that will advance the cause of colored people and especially colored women. I am told that she has just been elected as President of the Federation of Afro-American Women, and succeeds Mrs. Booker T. Washington, who was the first president. She is a graduate of Oberlin College, Ohio, and was at one time a teacher at Wilberforce University, Ohio where she was much loved.

More next week. Have we been had with all this current "First Black to this and another"? We have done it all before and even better! What kind of obscene game has been going on, and are there some blacks in on it as well?

Union/Mars Milky Way Recognizes Outstanding High School Seniors

For the eighth consecutive year, the Amateur Athletic Union/Mars Milky Way High School All-American Award and college scholarship program will recognize outstanding high school seniors. The nationwide program honors well-rounded young men and women who excel in academics, athletics and community service. This year, 102 scholarships, ranging from \$1,000 to \$40,000, will be awarded.

One young man and one young woman from each state will be selected as State Recipient and each will be awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship. From those State recipients, eight Regional Recipients will be selected and each will be awarded a college scholarship totaling \$10,000. Two of the Regional Recipients will be selected as National Recipients, and each will be awarded scholarships totaling \$40,000 over four years.

The eight Regional Recipients, along with their parents and a school

representative will also be awarded an expense-paid trip to New York City in April. On April 25, 1994, the students will be recognized for their achievements at a special awards ceremony attended by prominent educators, Olympians and community leaders. The evening will culminate with the naming of one young man and one young woman as National Recipients of the AAU/Mars Milky Way High School All-American Award.

According to Mary Ellen Dougherty, M&M/MARS spokesperson, the Amateur Athletic Union/Mars Milky Way High School All-American Award recognizes students who are committed to the service of others as well as to their own success. "Through this Award, we acknowledge students who contribute to the well-being of others, while pursuing academic advancement and athletic achievement. The well-rounded students honored by the Award have achieved a suc-

cessful and productive balance in their lives. At M&M/MARS we firmly believe that there is much to be gained from striking a balance in all areas of one's life.

All graduating high school seniors are eligible for nomination. Nomination forms are available through high school guidance counselor offices, or from the Amateur Athletic Union, 3400 W. 86th Street, PO Box 68207, Indianapolis, Indiana 46268. All nominations must be postmarked no later than December 6, 1993. The Amateur Athletic Union and a panel of nationally recognize educators, athletes and community service achievers will judge the nominations.

The Amateur Athletic Union and Mars Incorporated/Milky Way Bar are pleased to honor our nation's accomplished young men and women through this continuing awards program.

Black Applicants Sought For Ervin Scholarships

Up to 10 full-tuition scholarships will be awarded to talented college-bound black high school students next year through the John B. Ervin Scholarship Program at Washington University in St. Louis. Washington University is now accepting applications for the program, which was inaugurated in early 1987. To date, 77 Ervin Scholars have enrolled at Washington University.

The application deadline for the 1994-95 academic year is Jan. 15, 1994.

Washington University established the merit-based program in honor of Ervin, who was a nationally

recognized black educator and former dean of the University's School of Continuing Education.

Under the scholarship program, 10 black freshmen will receive renewable scholarships of full tuition and an annual stipend of \$2,500 for four years of undergraduate study at Washington University. Tuition for the 1993-94 school year is \$17,600.

The scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic merit and community service. The university will provide further support to recipients who demonstrate additional financial need. The

scholarships are renewable each year, provided the students maintain a satisfactory academic record.

To apply for the scholarships, students must: apply for freshman admission to Washington University; submit an Ervin Scholars application; submit two letters of recommendation; and write two original essays. Interested persons may write to James E. McLeod, chairman of the John B. Ervin Scholarship Committee, at Campus Box 1089, Washington University, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130-4899, or call 1-314-935-6800.

JOBS Fair To Bring Job Opportunities to Residents Of N/NE Portland

The NE JOBS Committee will sponsor the Northeast Jobs Fair on Saturday, October 23rd from 10am until 4pm. Location: The King Neighborhood Facility, 4815 NE 7th Avenue.

The theme of this year's Jobs Fair is "Workforce Connection '93--Path to a Job." Activities and exhibitors will focus on providing residents of N/NE Portland with the opportunity to meet local employers and social service providers.

More than twenty (20) private and public sector employers are expected to participate in this year's Jobs Fair. "We are focusing on recruiting employers who have current job openings or anticipate openings in the near future," said Marcia Douglas, Chair of the Jobs Fair Committee. "For employers, this is an ideal opportunity to meet potential job applicants," Douglas continued, "and for job-seekers in inner North/Northeast, our goal is to provide leads to immediate opportunities."

Representatives from local employment and training programs, including the Northeast Workforce Center, Portland Community College-Skills Center, The Private Industry Council and the Urban League will be available to provide one-on-one counseling on job search skills. Local employers and training specialists will present workshops on a regular basis throughout the day on topics such as resume preparation, interviewing techniques and completing job applications.

The Employment Department will have four (4) computer terminals set up with on-line job postings. Want ads will be posted from employers not able to be there in person. Representatives for the State Veterans Services Division will be on hand to provide veteran's benefits counseling.

In addition to the assistance for adult job seekers, this year's Fair includes a youth component to assist out-of-school youth who are in the job market. The youth workshops will

also help in-school youth increase their job finding skills for part-time and summer employment.

All residents of inner N/NE Portland are encouraged to attend. Free parking is available at the King Neighborhood Facility. Tri-Met bus services to the King Facility is provided on Lines 6 and 72.

The NE JOBS Committee is part of the NE Coalition of Neighborhoods. Primary partners include the Northeast Workforce Center, the North-Northeast Business Association, major employers in the northeast area, the City of Portland, Multnomah County, the Urban League of Portland, the Oregon Employment Department, Portland Development Commission--JobNet Program, Portland Community College-Skills Center, Portland Public Schools and The Private Industry Council.

For additional information on the October 23 "Workforce Connection '93" Northeast Jobs Fair, contact the NE Workforce Center at 240-5342.

City Club Committee Split On East Multnomah County Roads Measure

(Report on 26-1 includes majority and minority recommendations)

A City Club of Portland study committee is divided on how Multnomah County voters should cast their ballots on measure 26-1, the east Multnomah County roads initiative.

A majority of the committee favors measure 26-1, which would change Multnomah County's charter to grant cities control of country roads within their jurisdiction upon a city's request. Four cities in Multnomah County--Fairview, Gresham, Troutdale and Wood Village--do not presently control the county roads within their city limits. Only Gresham favors the initiative and plans to take control of county roads if the initiative passes.

The majority report argues that "Multnomah County should allow

Gresham the same rights it has given Portland and Maywood Park." Currently the only two cities in Multnomah County to control the roads within their boundaries. The majority recommends a "yes" vote, concluding the potential transfer of roads.

- would not jeopardize Multnomah County's county-wide road system;
- would not create another government entity, as some opponents claim, since Gresham already has a roads department; and...
- does not create new taxes or increase taxes.

A minority of the committee argues that voters should vote "no" on the measure. The minority believes the ballot measure "fragments authority" within the county, and doubts that the city of Gresham would operate roads more efficiently than Mult-

nomah County. Moreover, the minority concludes, the measure sidesteps a state statute prescribing the transfer of roads from counties to cities (ORS 373.270) and is therefore vulnerable to legal challenge. "Negotiated intergovernmental agreements," writes the minority, "are the best way to resolve these issues."

City Club members will debate both recommendations and vote to accept one or the other at the club's regular Friday program on October 22 (beginning at 12 noon in the State Ballroom of the Portland Hilton, 921 SW Sixth Avenue). Until the Club vote, the City Club has no official position on ballot measure 26-1.

Copies of the report can be picked up at the City Club office, 317 SW Alder, Suite 1050.

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