

Historic Preservations And Urban Tribulations, Part III

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

"The thrill is gone", according to those blackbirds in the television commercial. Is Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds" back in 'living color', or is someone trying to tell us something? After all, Marshall McLuhan said, "The medium is the message."

Your "thrill" may go the same way as some of your misconceptions about the development of many American city centers if you have the opportunity to read G.F. Richings, "Evidences of Progress among colored people", eighth edition, 1902. This classic, well-documented report on the very early economic successes of African Americans in the urban areas of the country truly will open your eyes.

Mr. Richings proudly details the notable accomplishments in real property development, in the retail, wholesale, service, transportation and manufacturing industries, and in the legal medical and education professions. Black entrepreneurs served both black and white populations of Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas -- In both the northern and southern states.

I can remember starting a small revolution in coiffure styles when I showed 1898 photographs of Dr. Hallie Tanner Johnson and other stylish African American women to my class at Portland State University. Ms Johnson was the first 'female' physician in the state of Alabama, period! either black or white! The daughter of A.M.E. Bishop, B.T. Tanner was resident physician at Tuskegee University.

I may be 'straying from the text' here but I think it is an important aside to comment that my early awareness of such facts was an inspiration and motivation for many of my 'unorthodox' projects. Certainly, it is crucial for minority youth to be motivated by these 'great ones' of a century ago. Where ever I speak, I extoll their wisdom, drive and competence.

'They' worked for me when I defied the conventional racial wisdom of both blacks and whites: Set up Union Avenue Finance Co. for the white car dealers of Auto row; Organized a chain of 'Income Tax Stations' in Portland, Vanport and Vancouver, long before anyone ever

heard of a "H & R Block" (dba Pacific Business Service); became the first person in the country to put 'on-line' terminals in a elementary and junior high school classroom. And so forth.

We have got to 'retrieve' our youth from the mediocre, the lazy, the frightened and from the 'blockers' -- whatever their race. A serious student or professional may review this book at my office, but no way would I let it off the premises. And don't forget that like Mr. Richings I, too, do lectures. It takes money to acquire rare books and to otherwise procure valuable information for delivery to the community and to the country.

Let us look at some more of the "evidence" provided by our author. Keep in mind that many of these establishments, office or plants were operated in metropolitan areas of the respective cities. As in the case of my birth place, St. Louis, Mo., these areas are now described as "downtown or city center."

Photographs of both personages and facilities are included in many of Mr. Richings accounts. Today, no blacks at these

locations.

"1995; Phillip J. Allston, a Boston pharmacist who mastered his profession at Tufts University operates a shop that employs five others of this race, and maintains what is said to be the finest laboratory in New England." (P.330).

"Mr. Daniel Purdy of Chester, Pa. has a general contracting business and operates a large grocery store. His enterprises employ 25 men and most of his patronage is white" (P.323).

"Mr. S.L. Parker of Laurel, Del. had by the year 1885 established a thriving general grocery store, ice cream manufacturing plant that served the city at both wholesale and retail. His ice plant provides the city with thousands of tons of ice" (P.319).

"It is 1895 and the Coleman Manufacturing Company of Concord N.C. has completed the building for its textile mill on 100 acres of land adjacent to the main line of the Southern Railway (picture). Machinery is coming in - 7,000-10,000 spindles and from 100 to 250 looms. They will spin, weave and finish warps, yarns, cloth, prints or other fabrics made of cotton, wool, etc. Concord has the only cotton mill in the world owned, conducted and operated by the Negro race. Other colored men throughout the south will start similar institutions." (P. 482-485)

The real "evidence" also is the very point I've frequently made here, and which columnist and TV host, Tony Brown made in his recent "ass-kicking" speech at Boston University -- "you've got to escape from the mediocre, lazy, frightened and the blockers. A hundred years ago African Americans had common sense enough to realize what any well-rounded-idiot could perceive. Anything you could do on the plantation for the master without a college degree, you certainly could do for yourself as a free man." Give'em hell Tony, they won't listen to me.

Concluded next week with accent on enterprising black women.

Assessing the investment climate

Continued from page B3

and is positive to the extent that it does not hinder job mobility.

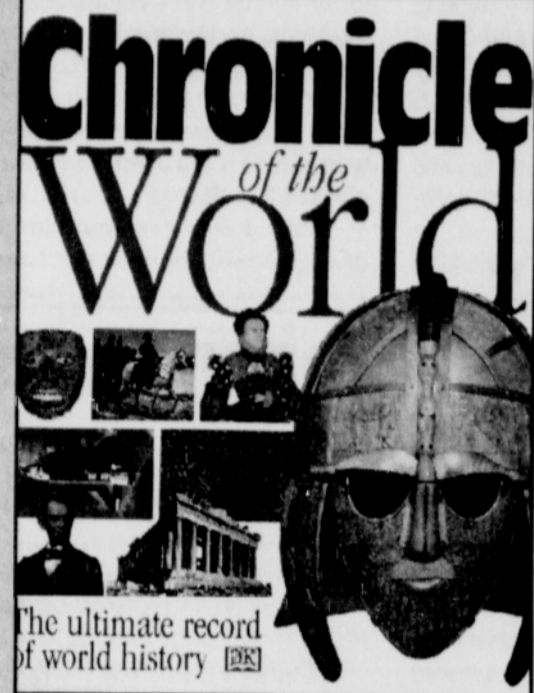
Unlike Chile and Singapore, it is difficult to point out a link between this partial privatization in the UK and a consequent positive impact on the economy. It is significant however, that prudent fiscal management by the Thatcher Administration during the 1980's appears to have significantly help facilitate these partial privatizations. Moreover, it is important to note that a country that is proactive and innovative with respect to publicly sponsored retirement plans can have a significant positive impact on its fiscal future.

The economies of Singapore,

Chile and the UK differ in a number of ways and the political systems of each country is different as well. Each of these countries however responded in a proactive and positive manner in addressing the looming problem facing its publicly financed retirement plan. Each sought the help and inclusion of the private markets. There are some valuable lessons to be learned here in the United States on how we can realistically and responsibly begin to address the huge problem facing our own Social Security system.

Maurice Valdivieso is a Vice President Senior Financial Consultant with Merrill Lynch and can be reached at (503)699-7201 or (800)667-9346. *Se habla Espanol.*

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Police News Crime Stoppers: Assault

Portland Police Bureau investigators, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, are asking for your help in identifying and apprehending the person or persons responsible for a serious assault.

On Sunday, August 4, 1996, the victim, 36 old Steven Mark Weicuss of Willsonville, was seen shortly after midnight, at a restaurant located in the 100 block of NW 5th Avenue in downtown Portland. Investigators believe Weicuss was in the area of SW 5th Avenue and Stark street at about 2:10 in the morning. Shortly after, Weicuss was



Victim: Steven Mark Weicuss

found in his car, a white 1977 Chevrolet Camaro, which was parked at NE Grand Avenue and Failing Street.

Weicuss was unconscious and suffering from a severe head injury, which left him permanently impaired.

Investigators are attempting to locate anyone who may have information on the victim's actions between the time he was last seen, and the time of the assault.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, which leads to an arrest in this case, or any unsolved felony crime, and you can remain anonymous. Call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP.

Police Arrest Tanning Salon Owners For Marijuana Growing

Members of the Portland Police Marijuana Task Force arrested two subjects last night for growing marijuana in their homes. Arrested were Michael Todd West, also known as Michael Todd Raplee, white male, DOB 03-21-62 and Sherry Lynn Boggs, white female, DOB 11-02-72. Both reside at 10817 SW 35th ave.

Search warrants were served at four locations that are alleged to be involved in this marijuana growing business. At their home residence 60 marijuana plants were seized along with grow lights, packaging

material, and other items involved with processing the plants. At 5051 SW Scholls-Ferry Road, 330 plants and equipment were seized. Warrants were served on two businesses owned by West. Excel Communication, located at 2715 SW Kelly, and Savage Tan, located at 4529 SE 67th Ave. Both business locations were searched for records, profits and proceeds from growing marijuana.

Police discovered video tapes at the main residence that showed undressed women trying on swimsuits in what appeared to be a dressing room. When the warrant was served at the tanning

salon, an area was discovered that appears to be where the camera was located at, when the pictures were taken. Police also found a location behind a tanning booth which appeared to have been used to view customers as they tanned.

Both West and Boggs are being charged with:

- Manufacturing of a Controlled Substance I - Marijuana
- Delivering of a Controlled Substance I - Marijuana
- Possessing a Controlled Substance I - Marijuana

Both were lodged into MCDC.

Hollis Becomes Area's Newest McDonald's Owner/Operator



Douglas L. Hollis III

Douglas L. Hollis III, previously of Philadelphia, has become the owner/operator of the new McDonald's Restaurant located at 13459

N. W. Cornell Road in Portland. Hollis has been an owner/operator with McDonald's for 8 1/2 years. He was raised in New York City, received his undergraduate degree from the City College of New York, and his graduate degree from New York University. Upon completion of his degrees, before joining McDonald's, Hollis worked for IBM and Xerox Corporation.

Hollis and his wife and family reside in Portland, Oregon.

home decor items • banks • bird houses • puppets • pillows • teas/mustards

linens • gourmet mixes • greeting cards • teddy bears • CDs and tapes • music boxes • oven mitts • aprons

Buy for a grownup, give to a child.

This holiday season, the gifts you buy for everyone on your list can lead to remarkable results. Come to Our Children's Store, where every penny we make goes to 70 local children's charities who have provided the extraordinary gifts you'll find here. And with each item comes an information card about the specific charity you've helped with your purchase.

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A new role for an old friend

Bess Kaiser is changing to serve you in a new way



week Emergicenter, as well as other health care services at Bess Kaiser.

Also, we're excited about our future plans for growth and expansion in North/Northeast Portland.

Please mark your calendars and join us:

Community Forum

November 12
2:45pm-3:45pm
Hollywood Senior Center
1820 N.E. 40th

November 14
6:30pm-7:30pm
Kaiser Permanente's Town Hall
3704 N. Interstate

November 19
11am-noon
Urban League Senior Center
5325 N.E. MLK Blvd.

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Join us at a community forum
We'll share information about our new 24-hour, seven-day-a-

Enjoy some refreshments while we answer your questions and concerns. These forums are for everyone interested in knowing about Kaiser Permanente health care services in the community. For more information call (503) 813-2000.



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