

EDITORIAL

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per s p e c i a l s

Blacks Put Their Stamp On Modern Technology And Society II.

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Charles Washington
Publisher & Editor
 Gary Ann Taylor
Business Manager
 Laphael Knight
Graphic Designer

Mark Washington
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 Larry J. Jackson, Sr.
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Contributing Writers:
 Professor McKinley Burt,
 Lee Perlman,
 Joy Ramos,
 Richard Lucetti,
 Yema Measho

4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.,
 Portland, Oregon 97211
 503-288-0033 • Fax 503-288-0015
 Email: Pdxobserv@aol.com

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THANK YOU FOR READING THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

EDITOR, READER RESPONSE

I was very impressed with my first reading of the Portland Observer when I read the letter in regards to the ill mannered treatment of Police Chief Moose. I thought, here's a change to have my voice heard, too. Who knows maybe the public will become aware of the plight of the airport taxi drivers and start calling in support of them.

Taxi drivers have a list of well needed rules that govern their actions to the company, fellow drivers and most especially the customers. They know if they break these rules often enough, they could lose their right to drive because the company owners will get rid of them or John Hamilton, Taxi Commissioner, will notify them.

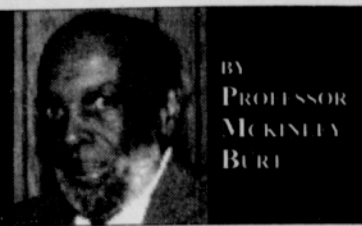
A driver with any sense doesn't want a customer to call in on him or her and will usually treat their customers respectfully. However, there are some airport drivers who will treat a short trip customer with border line violence and or rudeness. I encourage this customer to report

these drivers immediately to the company and the taxi commissioner and the airport. That drive doesn't need to be driving.

However, the rules the taxi driver has to go by, do not apply to the town car drivers. They are a luxury car and are to charge a fee that is a little higher than a taxi driver which is to be expected. Unfortunately, there is an over abundant supply of them at the airport so, naturally there aren't enough fares for them because a lot of people prefer the less expensive taxi ride.

A potential customer needing transportation from the airport need to realize one thing when looking for transportation out of the airport. They have the right to choose which type transportation they want. Simply because it is their money that is being spent and no driver has the right to spend it for them. Remember that when you choose a taxi or town car.

A taxi driver at the airport is not allowed to get out of his or her cab to talk to potential customers which



BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

It is with the very first sentence of my book, 'Black Inventors of America', that I place emphasis on the connection we make in this series. "The tremendous influence of the Black Inventor upon American industry and culture is a force which is still structuring our society."

In that very mode, we present, this week, Frederick McKinley Jones, a self-taught African American engineer whose innovative technology ranks him right at the top - along with Granville T. Woods, Elijah McCoy, Thomas Alva Edison, or Alexander Graham Bell.

It is to this genius, an orphan who left school in the sixth grade, that we are indebted for the modern versions of technology that have brought about fundamental changes in Americas infrastructure - from agriculture to

transportation and from urban development to grocery shopping.

"The Refrigerated Box Car," Patent No. 2,696,086, Dec. 7, 1954. "The Refrigerated Truck," Patents from April 28, 1942 to Feb. 23, 1960: No's 132, 182-159, 209-2,336, 735-2,337, 164-2,477, 377-2,504, 841-2,509, 099-2,526, 874-2,535-68.

...and many more key patents during this crucial time period when Mr Jones changed the shape of the world's method of food handling and transportation.

But, hold on! We've hardly begun. How about the "Automatic Ticket Dispensing Machine," June 27, 1939, Patent No. 2,163,754. Today, when you walk up to the theatre box office, a button is pressed and your ticket is dispensed. In the old days, tickets were peeled off a perforated roll - as at today's carnival or at an amateur production.

And what about that ubiquitous "Two-Cycle Gas Engine", that indispensable device that seems to power almost everything from chain saws to golf carts and from power lawn mowers to any of a hundred other pieces of equipment we find

essential to our way of life; patent No. 2,376,986, May 29, 1945 and Patent No. 2,523,273, Nov. 28, 1950.

We will stop after listing only a few more inventions of this black genius who became a journeyman mechanic in a Cincinnati garage at age 19, the shop foreman - not nearly enough room, see index of my book. Later, Jones moved to Hallock, Minnesota, where he worked at the design and rebuilding of farm equipment. His 'spare time' was spent in building his own racing cars for the dirt track circuit, where he broke many records. Reminds us of our own "Spruce Goose" engineer, Don Rutherford, black Benson graduate.

Somewhere along the line, Jones found time to study at the public library and proceeded to expand his reach. He designed the first portable x-ray machine and later the refrigeration systems for Army and Marine field kitchens. We may thank military records for this information rather than prejudiced academicians and historians.

It is quite obvious to anyone in the world that Jones' inventions in

refrigerated transportation of food and produce made possible the development of the states of California and Florida as produce markets to America. And in this economic equation must be placed related infrastructure development: Farms, ranches, factories, housing, banks, schools, hospitals, museums, highways and railroads (Maybe "Disney Land" as well).

Fundamental inventions do not stand alone, they are integral to our entire way of life. It is evident that over the years, the inventions of Frederick McKinley Jones have created hundreds of billions in wealth for some Americans - but how many Americans are 'allowed' to know his skin was black?

When I asked the "American Society of Refrigeration Engineers" for information on Jones (1970's), I was mailed a brief photo copy of his membership card in the society. It noted that apparently he had died in the 1960's and owed membership dues of \$25.00; that was it! A curt and miserable epitaph for a black man whose genius and caring changed the world.

Teenage Girls Give Off Certain Signs When Pregnant

Teenage girls who are afraid to tell their parents they are pregnant will give off certain signs, both physically and emotionally, about their condition.

"Pregnant teens may start wearing pants with elastic waist bands, bigger jeans, sweatshirts, and stop tucking in their shirts," said Dr. Peggy Smith, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. "Emotionally the child may become withdrawn,

stop interacting with family and friends, and develop mood swings."

Pregnant teens may also stop eating, frequently become nauseated, and begin making different food choices. Many may be slow to show their pregnancy because their uterus and entire physiology have never gone through the experience before.

"A mother should reflect back on her pregnancy to see if she notices her daughter going through any of the same things she experienced,"

said Smith, head of the Teen Health Clinic at the Harris County Hospital District's Ben Taub Hospital in Houston. "Parents should trust their intuition. If they think something is wrong with their teen, there probably is."

During a very difficult time in her life, the most important resource a pregnant teen will have is her family.

"If your teen eventually comes up to you and says she is pregnant, first ask her what makes her think she is pregnant," said Smith. "If you determine she is indeed pregnant, supporting her through her pregnancy, both physically and emotionally, will do a lot more good than getting angry about it."

LETTER TO THE PORTLAND OBSERVER NEWSPAPER,

We are two proud students of Meadow Park A-Hall 8th grade. We have discovered an article about Meadow Park Middle School in the Oregonian. We are greatly surprised by the lack of respect to the students and staff from Mr. Dellinger and his wife.

We have decided to act immediately and efficiently in response to the article in which Mr. Dellinger said very negative things about our school.

We however, are very proud of our school, students, and staff, we will try our hardest to stay positive throughout this difficult time. We feel the need to raise the quality of our schools reputation so that this will not happen in the future. Thank you.

Sincerely,
 Teal Griffey
 8th grade A-Hall
 Charlene Lauricella
 8th grade A-Hall
 Meadow Park Middle School
 This is the letter we wrote in response to Mr. Dellinger's remarks.

Dear Mr. Dellinger,
 We are Meadow Park students who are very disturbed that you feel Meadow Park is less than adequate for students to learn and feel safe. You have based this assumption on the 18% of parents who have responded to your survey. We appreciate that you want your children to feel safe and secure but you cannot say that the entire Meadow Park School needs to change to fit your own personal standards. When you also sur-

veyed the teachers of Meadow Park the reason you only got one reply is because the teachers were disgusted and appalled that you would take for granted all the hard work and dedication they have put into this school and the students in it.

We are also frustrated that you would want the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in separate halls. If you separate us then who can the young children look up to? The 8th graders feel they have a responsibility to the younger ones and we feel that we need to provide them with good role models and encourage their hopes and dreams. If you separate us we can not be a whole group who care for one another.

We are very disappointed that you would put these students through such shame and indignity.

I suggest next time that before you go to the parents or to the teachers or to the principal that you would first consider asking the students of Meadow Park what we feel. Every child, African-American, Asian, British, American, or Spanish has a say. If you would just ask them you would find the majority of students are happy with our teachers our school and our selves. We are proud to call ourselves students of Meadow Park Middle School and to have teachers who care and respect our peers and us.

Sincerely,
 Teal Griffey
 Charlene Lauricella

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