

steam and lost control in a short time.

The Roaring 20's

Most Americans enjoyed at least some of the prosperity of the 1920's. Portland settled down enjoying a wave of secure employment opportunities and a wave of new house-

1930's

Following the Stock Market Crash of 1929, the 30's were said to be full of "economic disaster and gradual recovery." The Depression did not just affect minorities. All classes, races, and economic levels of people were "caught in the jaws" of this difficult time.

the protection of unions, many union halls barred black members. Near the end of the 1930's, over half of Portland's 2,000 African Americans lived in the Albina area. Although some were thinly spread around other areas, real estate agents were trying to force all blacks to live in the Albina Area. Around 1938 and

1939, the economy finally started to turn around on a larger scale, giving great relief to all.

WWII and the 1940's

A few years prior to the resurgence of the Klu Klux Klan, racist slurs in local papers and restaurants like the "Coon Chicken Inn" in North-

east Portland was known to be "the most segregated city outside the deep south." Portland residents spoke outwardly of white supremacy and African American inferiority. WWII helped create a distraction to the prejudice as Americans joined together in an all-out effort to win the war. Portland went into high



The Flowers family with others going out on the town in a jitney during the Roaring 20's. (Courtesy of OHS)

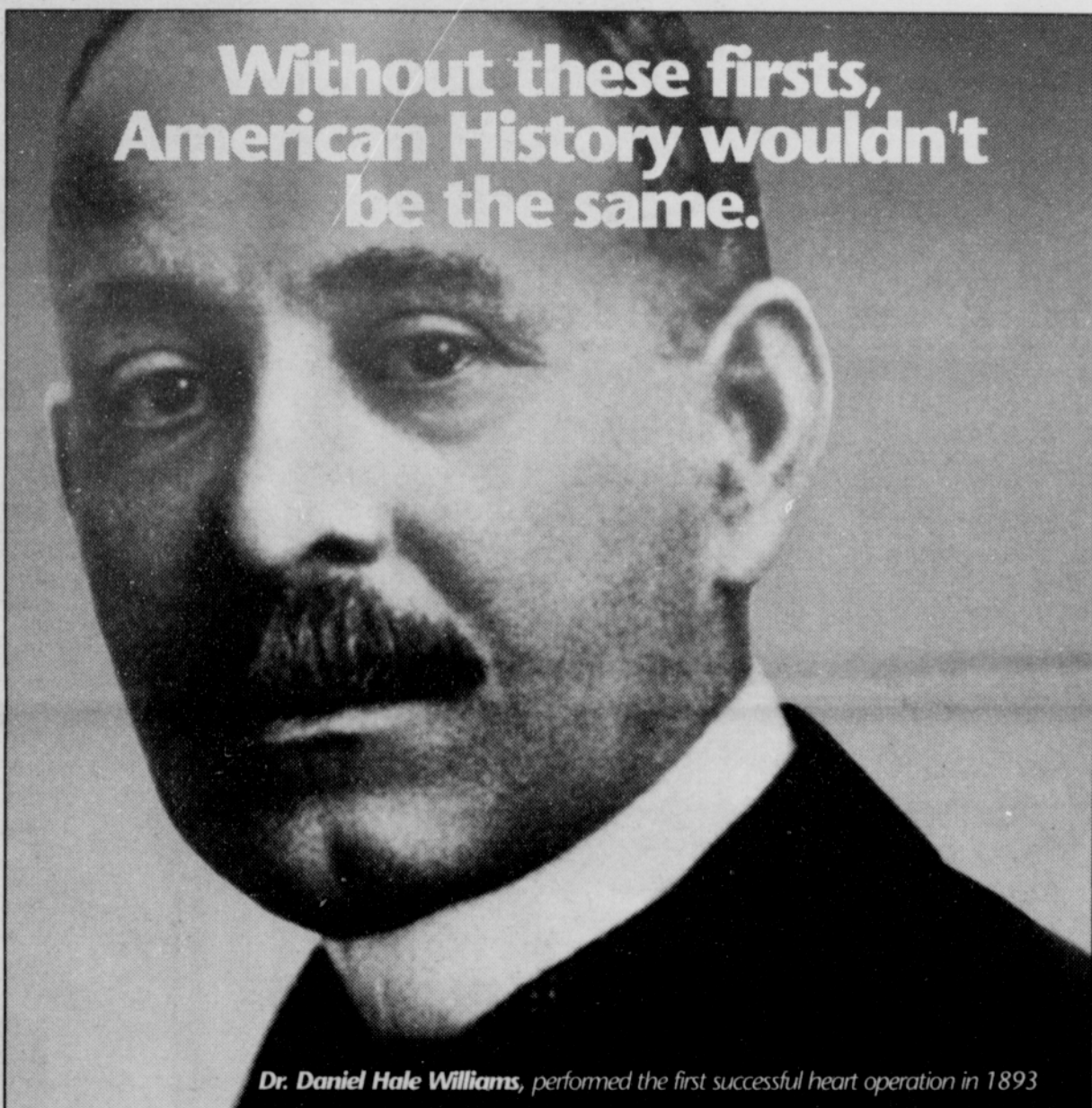
hold goods. Electricity slowly became standard in homes. Electric ovens, toasters, refrigerators and telephones appeared on the scene. A more subtle change, unnoticed by many, began to happen. African Americans continued finding affordable housing outside the city. Steady employment provided opportunities for children of immigrants of all races. Throughout the 20's employment for African Americans began to improve and the exodus from NW Portland continued. Many whites began moving to South Portland and an increasing number of blacks moving out of downtown began to establish Lower Albina.

Many people lost their jobs and homes. Large numbers of black families ended up living along the Union Pacific Railroad line in "Sullivan's Gulch", in homemade shanties and tents. In 1933, many of the poor found work with the new Public Works Programs and Civilian Conservation Corps, trying to pull themselves out of this dire poverty. Franklin Roosevelt and The New Deal helped immensely with employment and social insurance. Opportunities included building trails, campgrounds, Bonneville Dam, and Timberline Lodge. The New Deal labor legislation helped workers form unions. Although African Americans sought

The Great Depression



Flooded homes from the Vanport flood of 1948. (Courtesy of OHS)



Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, performed the first successful heart operation in 1893

Madame C.J. Walker, first self-made American woman millionaire • **Hyman S. Thomas**, invented the potato chip, originally known as the Saratoga chip • **Matthew A. Henson**, first man to set foot on the North Pole • **Jessie Jarue Mark**, first woman to earn a doctorate in botany • **Isaac Murphy**, won the very first Kentucky Derby • **Dr. Charles Drew**, discovered the method for preserving blood plasma • **Jewel LaFontant Mankarious**, first woman to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court **Yvonne Clark**, first woman to earn B.S. in chemical engineering at Harvard • **Louis Armstrong**, first to sing in "scatting" style • **Otis Boykin**, invented guided missile device • **Jane Wright**, pioneered several advances in the field of chemotherapy • **Frederick Mckinley Jones**, inventor of portable X-ray machine **William A. Hinton**, developed first test for syphilis • **Norbert Rillieux**, developed the first system for refining sugar • **S. Boone**, invented the first ironing board • **Frank Grant**, inventor of the baseball chinguard • **L.D. Newman**, inventor of the hairbrush • **Shelby J. Davidson**, created the first adding machine • **William Warwick Cardozo**, pioneered the study of sickle cell anemia • **Kurtis Blow**, first rap artist

You can't talk about Black history without talking about American history. Let's remember the African Americans who helped build America.



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