

The Power of the Black Press in Oregon

By CATHY GALBRAITH FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The African American press has a rich history beginning in 1827

with *Freedom's Journal* in New York City, followed by *The Colored American* (New York) in 1837, and Martin Delaney's *Mystery* (Pittsburgh) in 1843.

Delaney then joined Frederick Douglass to begin publication of the most influential of the earliest newspapers, *The North Star* in Rochester, NY in 1847. While many people are familiar with the later *Chicago-Defender* and the *Pittsburgh Courier*,

can press.

PORTLAND'S EARLY AFRICAN AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS: 1890s-1933

The *New Age* was established in 1896 by owner and editor-publisher Adolphus D. Griffin, who came to Portland from Spokane (where he published the *Echo*); he quickly assumed national and local prominence. Exchanging news with the more than 40 African American newspapers throughout the U.S., the *New Age* kept the local community informed about racial issues,

news. In 1901, he was the first African American to attend a Republican State Convention in Oregon. Griffin published the *New Age* until 1907 and was undoubtedly one of the most well-known African American men in the Western United States in his time.

Probably the most influential newspaper was the *Advocate*, edited and published by the husband and wife team of E.D. and Beatrice Cannady. A four-page weekly, the *Advocate* began publication in 1903, founded by a group of 10 men, most of whom



AFFORDABLE

JJ

LOCK & KEY

503-284-9582

FULL LOCKSMITH-SERVICE
RE-KEY AND INSTALL LOCKS
LOCKED OUT?-WE MAKE KEYS FROM SCRATCH
HOUSE, OFFICE OR CAR



STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANIES

HOME OFFICES: BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

ERNEST J. HILL, JR.
Agent

6527 NE MLK, Jr. Boulevard
Suite A
Portland, OR 97217

Off.: (503) 286-1103
Fax: (503) 286-1146


The office of "The Advocate" with editor E.D. Cannady at the desk. (PHOTO COURTESY OF OHS)

Big City Produce

Named BEST FRESH PRODUCE MARKET in Portland 1999!!

By the Case, By the Pound, or By the Bunch,
You save BIG at Big City Produce!

Best Greens in Portland
Best ethnocentric selections in Portland
722 N. Summer St. (Corner of Albina & N. Summer)
One Block West of Jefferson High School
503-460-3830
Open 7 Days a Week
Mon-Fri 7:30 am - 7 pm
Sat. 9 am - 6 pm
Sun. 10 am - 6 pm



Portland has its own important history in the African American progress and challenges as well as covering "mainstream"

were Portland Hotel employees. E.D. Cannady was a founder and Editor who had come from St. Paul, Minnesota where he worked at *The Appeal* newspaper.

HARTLEY OIL, INC

Celebrates Black History Month

KEEPING FAMILIES OF THE COMMUNITY WARM IS OUR BUSINESS

Fuel oil • Furnace Repair

506 NE Alberta St.
Portland OR 97211

(503) 331-3442

The *Advocate* quickly became the primary source of local social news, along with other regional and national news of interest to its subscribers. In 1913, E.D. Cannady married fellow-Texan Beatrice Morrow who had attended the University of Chicago and taught school in Oklahoma. Mrs. Cannady became the *Advocate's* assistant editor. Published each Saturday, the *Advocate* grew to sixteen pages by the 1920s.

In 1922, Beatrice Cannady became the first African American woman