

in the Northwest to be admitted to the Oregon State Bar, having attended Northwestern School of Law in night classes while raising two sons. Both of the Cannadys were prominent in social and political circles, and E.D. Cannady reigned for 15 years as Exalted Ruler of the



Jimmy "Bang Bang" Walker, publisher of the "Clarion Defender." (PHOTO COURTESY OF OHS)

Rose City Elks Lodge #111, of which he was a 1906 charter member. Cannady was also the famous "hat man" at the Portland Hotel; for decades he checked as many as 300 hats an evening and without use of a ticket check always returned the hat to its proper owner. Beatrice Cannady was a tireless civil rights advocate, with a steady stream of local speaking engagements. She was also a speaker at annual National NAACP conventions and the first Pan African Congress in New York, and helped organize local NAACP chapters in Bend and Vernonia.

In 1930, the Cannadys divorced and Beatrice married Yancy Franklin and continued as editor of the *Advocate*. E.D. Cannady continued in real estate until his death in relative obscurity in 1941. The *Advocate* ceased publication in 1933, having never missed a weekly issue, providing an intimate picture of daily life in the African American community for 30 years.

The *Portland Times* was published from 1913 until 1923, with Dr. James Merriman as Editor and William McLamore as As-

sistant Editor.

The power of the African American news paper resided in its ability to counter-balance the neglect and distortions African American news and individuals suffered in the hands of the dominant press. Supported by subscriptions and advertising from the African American community, these papers could exercise an independent voice and present an alternative vision of issues and activities. These early papers were Portland's contribution to the long-

standing and respected body of the national African American press.

LATER MAJOR NEWS-PAPERS

In 1938, Atlanta-born Bill McClendon came to Portland and co-founded the *Portland Observer* with Charlie Garrett, who operated the Madrona Radio and Record Shop. The paper ran until 1943. McClendon followed with the *People's Observer* from 1943-45, and then *The Observer* from 1945-50. Many of his riveting editorials are contained in his book "Straight Ahead: Essays on the Struggle of Blacks in America, 1934-94". They fully convey the intensity of the local racial issues of the eras and many are as relevant today as when they were published.

The *Northwest Clarion Defender* was published in from 1943-61 by Arthur & Etoile Cox. Mr. Cox, who came from Kansas City in 1941, also established Cox Funeral Home, where operation continues today at 2736 NE Rodney Avenue.

The *Clarion Defender* was published from 1960-70 by Jimmy "Bang Bang" Walker, who came to Portland in 1955 to

pursue a boxing career. Mr. Walker also founded the Miss Tan Oregon and then the Miss Black Oregon pageants.

The *Portland Observer* was established by Rev. Alfred Henderson, Bethel AME pastor, in 1970 through the efforts of the Albina Ministerial Alliance. The paper continues publication today at 4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd by the sons of late publisher Joyce Washington;

The Skanner was established by Bernie Foster in 1975. It also continues publication, relocated in 1997 to 415 N. Killingsworth.

A number of other African American newspapers were published for a short time from the 1950's to the 1960's.

This information is drawn from "Cornerstones of Community: the Buildings of Portland's African American History",

published by the Bosco-Milligan Foundation. The book is available at Reflections, located at 446

NE Killingsworth and at local libraries. A companion video documentary is underway.

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Pays Tribute To Black History Month