

OPB Shines Light on Civil Rights Pioneer

Portland editor challenged status quo

Beatrice Morrow Cannady (1889-1974) was a leading African American civil rights activist in Oregon during the early part of the 20th century. Through her interracial teas and hundreds of lectures on black history and literature, Cannady became known as the ambassador of inter-racial goodwill.

The next episode of Oregon Experience on Oregon Public Broadcasting (Channel 10) on Monday, May 14 at 9 p.m. looks at the life of this civil rights pioneer who, despite accolades from her peers, few Oregonians today remember.

A native Texan, and graduate of Wiley College, she arrived in Portland in 1912 and married the publisher and co-founder of a

weekly African American newspaper called *The Advocate*.

During her 25-year career, Cannady published *The Advocate*; gave hundreds of lectures to white high-school and college students; spoke to missionary societies and Portland congregations; was invited to address national audiences about her civil rights efforts.

At a time when the color line in Portland was rigid, Cannady also hosted successful interracial tea parties at her home in northeast Portland. The Sun-

Beatrice Morrow Cannady was the editor of The Advocate, a weekly African American newspaper.



Only by contact with the races will ever an understanding be reached.

-- Beatrice Morrow Cannady

day-afternoon events combined entertainment, culture, and history with local, national, and international politics in an effort "to iron out ... misunderstandings between the races."

The gatherings grew in popularity, and as many as 200 people filled her home.

"It is a picture never to be forgotten," Cannady wrote, "for its great beauty and the joy it affords to witness one of these gatherings where white and black, rich and poor, Christian and Jew mingle freely and discuss their common interests while sipping together a cup of tea!"

Driven to make a difference in her community, Cannady earned

a law degree from Portland's Northwestern College of Law in 1922. Although she never passed the bar exam, she was the first African American woman to practice law in Oregon and chaired the Portland NAACP's committee on legal redress.

She was also the first African American to run for an elected office in Oregon. Although she did not advance past the primary, the support she garnered, primarily by white constituents, was proof of her standing in Portland by the 1930s.

Cannady is one of the women whose accomplishments will be acknowledged in the public space being developed adjacent to Portland State University and the South Park Blocks as the Walk of Heroines. It is a fitting location, since Cannady gave free public lectures about African-American art, poetry, history and music at nearby churches.

Prince Plans Tour, Bible Study

Prince announced Tuesday he will hold 21 concerts in London and then take time off music to study the Bible.

The innovative funk artist, who created such groundbreaking works as 1984's "Purple Rain" and 1987's "Sign O' The Times" and sold an estimated 80 million albums, made a brief appearance in London to announce the gigs.

Outside Organization, a PR company helping to publicize the tour, said in a statement that Prince would be performing his greatest hits "for the very last time," but the artist did not confirm the claim.

Wearing dark shades, a high-collared purple shirt and

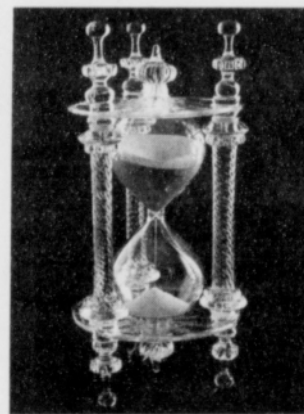


Prince poses for photographers Tuesday ahead of a news conference in London.

cream suit, Prince explained why his only appearances in Europe this year would take place in London.

"I love London. I've had some of my favorite shows here." Prince said he would be looking for a place to live for the duration of his stay.

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