



“Challenging People to Shape
a Better Future Now”

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The Black Press

You’ve heard of *The Skanner News* and the *Observer*; you’ve heard of *The Medium* and *The Facts*, all published in Oregon and Washington. In Seattle there’s also been the *Afro-American* (1968-69), *The Northwest Herald* (1943-46), *The Seattle Enterprise* (1920-30), and the *Seattle Republican* (1994-10) which was published by Horace Cayton, Sr., a Mississippi native who was born into slavery in 1859 and eventually went on to work at the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

Probably the very first Black newspaper in the Pacific Northwest was the *Seattle Standard* (1893-94), where Cayton got his start.

In Portland there was the *Claron Defender* (1965-72), *Portland Challenger* (1952-54), and the *Portland Times* (1918-20).

Both Portland and Seattle have seen several other African American papers that lasted just a year or less, a few dating back to the 1890s.

As we prepare *The Skanner News* African American History Month tribute to the Black press, we were amazed at how many papers have hung out their shingle and tried to thrive in Oregon and Washington – both notorious Ku Klux Klan states.

History Month Honors



PHOTO BY RANDY COX, MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Beloved North Portland library manager Patricia Welch was honored by Multnomah County Managers of Color with the Arthur Flemming Award at last week’s Black History Month celebration. The award commemorates Welch’s commitment to social justice over 18 years (so far) of running the historic Carnegie library in the heart of North Portland. Welch’s library features a Black book section and is a hub for youths from many nearby schools as well as families from all income brackets; the facility also holds an African American Read-in and many more events that make it an anchor for families of color in a rapidly gentrifying area. The award is named after Dr. Arthur Flemming, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare under President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Flemming chaired the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and was president of the University of Oregon.

In this special edition we have reprinted scholarly articles from the University of Oregon Historic Oregon Newspapers project (find out more about them at www.oregonnews.uoregon.edu); and from Dr. Quintard Taylor’s unparalleled website, www.BlackPast.org. We would also like to thank them, and also the Oregon Historical Society

for its images of Beatrice Morrow Cannady, and Kathryn Bogle and her son Richard.

We hope readers take the time to check out the offerings on BlackPast.org and also the Oregon Historical Society (www.OHS.org), and share what you’ve learned with your family and friends.

We also hope you are inspired by the courage of individuals such as Ida B. Wells and Marcus Garvey, who sacrificed much to not only improve their communities but also change the world.

Lisa Loving
The Skanner News

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