

Wanted to be treated as individuals

Oregon Negroes seek to break pattern of segregated housing

EDITOR'S NOTE: Housing and jobs are two of the most sensitive areas in the Negro's drive for equal rights. Oregon is no exception. What is the situation in this state? Is the Negro making any progress in breaking out of the segregated housing pattern, where it exists, and changing the traditional attitudes that have limited him mostly to unskilled jobs? The following dispatch, the second of two, explores these areas.

By Gordon Rice
UPI Staff Writer

Mallory Carter, 52, runs a five-chair shoeshine stand on Portland's Broadway. He came to the Northwest from Birmingham, Ala.

"I hope we are to be treated for what we are—as individual persons, not for our color," he says.

His plea is echoed by Nathan Jones, a 25-year-old Lewis and Clark College student who was involved in charges of discrimination against the city Parks Bureau last spring.

"We want a fair opportunity to prove ourselves and be considered as first class citizens," he contends.

"I hope the Negro will be able to walk these United States with dignity and without any proscriptions placed upon him because of his race," agrees Jimmy (Bang-Bang) Walker, a former professional fighter and now editor of the weekly Northwest Defender newspaper.

This is the avowed goal of the Negro in Oregon just as it is across the nation, and two of the most frequently mentioned means to that goal also are the same—jobs and housing.

Portland has Negroes in 112 of its 118 census tracts, but 80 per cent of its estimated 16,500 Negroes live in five tracts in the Albina district. Eliot elementary school is 99 per cent Negro, Boise school is 90 per cent Negro and Humboldt and Highland each have 85 per cent. Jefferson High School's enrollment is 55 per cent Negro.

Residents of the Albina area live in housing which ranges from slums to pleasant middle class level. A plan by the Housing Authority of Portland to clean up some of the slums and build low-cost housing was opposed and finally killed by some Negro groups, backed by other church and civil rights organizations.

They said the plan would perpetuate a Negro ghetto in Albina.

Little Gain in Housing

"There has been less gain in housing than in any other area of race relations," says E. Shelton Hill, executive secretary of the Portland Urban League.

"The situation is not as good as it was six or eight years ago." The thing that bothers Hill is that the Negro neighborhood is a recent development, not one that has its roots in history, as in the South. In 1940 the few Negroes in Portland were spread out in 57 of the 59 census tracts.

"Realtors are still using the old dodges," maintains Mayfield K. Webb, president of the Portland Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, but he admits this is only part of the problem.

"We have reached the public and expelled some of their fears. The test will be to have Negroes buying homes, but how are you going to do this if they don't have the money?" He asks.

Pendleton offers another example. That city has only about 150 Negroes in a total population of 14,474, yet almost all of them live in a lower class southwest neighborhood.

Seven real estate agencies deny they practice racial bias; they say they have no Negro buyers because the Negroes simply don't have enough money to make the payments on a nice new house in the suburbs.

One Negro family did buy a house in an all-white neighborhood. There were some complaints, but no incidents.

Hamath Falls and Eugene also have developed lower class Negro living areas.

Barriers Must Come Down

"The apparent fact is that many Negroes prefer to live in their own community rather than face the prejudices and economic barriers against those Negroes who do want to get out and who have the economic means to do so," Gov. Mark Hatfield said recently.

Efforts also are being made to upgrade conditions within the Negro communities. The outstanding example is the Albina Neighborhood Improvement Project in Portland.

Residents of a 96-acre racially-mixed area, assisted by the Portland Development Commission and federal money, have undertaken to improve their community. They are...

streets, improving their homes, building parks, planning better lighting and planting trees. The Development Commission will counsel homeowners and assist them in applying for government-guaranteed home repair loans.

Homes beyond repair will be purchased by the commission and razed, and their owners assisted in finding new homes. Two large blocks have been set aside for a park. Total cost is expected to be \$1,798,261, of which two-thirds will be provided by the federal government.

A study of the effects of racial imbalance in the area's schools also is under way. The goal is to increase the value of their homes and make living a little

Hunters shoot down geese from Red lands

OLYMPIA, Wash. (UPI) — Half a dozen high-flying snow geese crossed over the Iron Curtain last season, flew more than 2,500 miles and were shot down by Washington hunters, the State Game Department said today.

All six geese had been banded on Wrangle Island Ostrov Vrangelya, Soviet territory within the Arctic Circle about 550 miles northwest of Nome, Alaska.

Bands on the geese were forwarded from the State Game Department to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the U. S. State Department and then to the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences.

Four of the geese were banded in 1962 and two in 1961, the Soviets said.

Burton Lauckhard, chief of the state's Game Management Division, said the bands confirmed a long-standing suspicion that the birds pass up Alaska to nest in Siberia.

For some reason, he said, few snow geese nest in Alaska, although they do nest in Canada from the mouth of the McKenzie River to Hudson Bay.

Lauckhard said Russian biologists evidently began banding the geese about 1960. He said some showed up in Oregon and California.

Air Force discloses shift plan

PORTLAND (UPI) —The Air Force will shift an undisclosed number of men from the 337th Fighter Group at Portland Air Force Base to Walla Walla, Wash., County-City Airport, it was announced today.

The transfer is part of an Air Defense Command dispersal plan designed to make sure that U. S. fighter - interceptor forces would survive a ballistic missile attack.

Walla Walla will be equipped as a dispersal base for Portland AFB and for Paine AFB at Everett, Wash. The Air Force said about 30 men are in the advance party of the Portland detachment and five to six times that many will eventually be stationed there.

The exact number was withheld. Supplies are scheduled to start moving to Walla Walla this week. The Army Engineers are expected to call for bids for dormitories and dining facilities in March.

Facilities will be built to refuel, re-arm and maintain a limited number of planes, of less than squadron strength, the Air Force said.

Figures given on sales tax

SALEM (UPI) —If Oregon had had a sales tax during 1963, the gross revenue would have totaled about \$79 million if the law included food in the tax base, or \$66 million if food purchased for home consumption had been exempted.

This was the conclusion contained in a report issued today by the State Tax Commission. The commission made it clear it was not recommending a sales tax, but simply releasing the results of a study of such a tax.

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more pleasant for Negroes who can't or don't want to leave.

Job Improvement Seen

The picture is brighter for the Negro in jobs than it is in housing, although the degree is the subject of considerable debate. Most of Oregon's Negroes hold unskilled, low-paying, menial jobs. There are some professional people.

In between, in the skilled salaried jobs, a great voice has been raised.

"These areas were closed so long that it seems to me we lost two or three generations," Webb says. The problem of under-employment is minor in Oregon compared to some other sections of the country; there are no Ph. D.'s working as clerks, but Webb points out there are men washing cars who could be working on the waterfront.

The construction and metals industries have employed Negroes for some time. After strong pressure and the threat of demonstrations, the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union has enrolled some Negroes, but the NAACP refused to claim a victory until it sees how regularly the Negroes work.

"We've got a long-standing quarrel with most of Portland's unions," Webb says. Negroes are finding employment as retail clerks, especially in grocery chains, and there is slow, unspectacular improvement in other fields.

One of the state's largest employers of Negroes is Pacific Northwest Bell, which has made a conscious effort to seek them out. An estimated 70 to 75 Negroes are among telephone company's 5,900 employees, most of them in the Portland area. One is an interviewer, another an installer, and still others hold positions as operators, accountants and clerical workers, technicians and maintenance workers.

Negroes Lack Training

As it is across the country, lack of training is a big handicap to Negroes looking for jobs. There are no programs set up exclusively for them.

The Urban League's employment bureau has had more requests for clerical workers, engineers and accountants than it can fill, but these are skills that are scarce nationally in both races. The Urban League recently established a Skills Bank in Portland to assist in matching job seekers with employers.

Some professions, notably social work and teaching, are becoming increasingly popular. Negroes are showing up in the school systems of many cities where there are few others of their race.

Coos Bay, Madras, Estacada and St. Paul have them.

"What happened was that these places were just recruiting teachers and these happened to turn up," says Hill. He feels that if people are willing to entrust their children's education to a Negro teacher they should be willing to accept other members of his race in less sensitive areas.

'Circle' Holds Many

However, many Negroes are caught in the same vicious circle that afflicts those in other parts of the country. They have few skills and cannot get good-paying jobs; because of lack of money they are forced to live in a substandard Negro community; and because of community conditions, their children do not stay in school and learn skills that would enable them to get better jobs.

In Gov. Hatfield's words: "Where to you break into the circle? You don't. We must continue to shave the circumference."

In the meantime, these efforts to "shave" are being brought more and more to the attention of white Oregonians, with varying reactions.

"The Negro has been going too slow for 100 years," says Portland attorney John R. Faust Jr. "The contrast between their non-violent demonstrations and the violence of their opponents heightens an impression of the justice of the Negro cause."

"I feel he (the Negro) is being pushed by the authorities," comments a Portland housewife. "Go slow. Take it easy."

Fewer people say, as did one Beaverton resident, "I cannot see any effect (of the civil rights controversy) on me or my family."

Four Americans freed by Bolivian miners hope to get home in time for Christmas

LA PAZ, Bolivia (UPI) —Four Americans who had been held as hostages for 10 days by rebellious tin miners in Catavi were flying here today with high hopes of being home for Christmas.

The hostages, three officials and a Peace Corpsman, were released Monday evening from the room in a mine-union library where they had been cooped up ever since they were seized Dec. 6. They arrived late Monday night at government headquarters in Oruro, and spent the night there.

Two other foreigners — a Dutchman and a West German — and 15 Bolivian technicians released by the miners at the same time as the Americans stayed in Catavi, where they are employed by the National Mining Corporation.

U.S. Ambassador Douglas Henderson greeted the Americans on their arrival in Oruro.

"I am very pleased that my four compatriots have been returned," Henderson said. "I am very grateful to the authorities for their cooperation."

(In Washington, President Johnson said he has instructed the U.S. Air Force to get the

four Americans home for Christmas. The President said he was "deeply gratified" by their release.)

The Americans are Thomas M. Martin of New York City and Michael Kristula of Cadillac, Mich., officers of the U.S. Information Agency; Bernard Rifkin of Montclair, N.J., a labor expert for the U.S. aid agency, and Robert Ferguson of Honolulu, the Peace Corpsman.

They were seized in a vain attempt to force the govern-

MEMBERS NAMED

SALEM (UPI) —Members of the State Nursery Advisory Committee authorized by the 1963 legislature were announced today by State Agriculture Director James F. Short.

The committee will hold its organizational meeting here at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Named to the committee were Sam Rich Hillsboro; Wayne H. Melott, Forest Grove; Wayne L. Weeks, Salem; Paul Van Allen, Portland; Reed Vollstedt, Eugene; James A. Doty, Portland; Erwin Fowler, Milton-Freewater; J. H. Klumpner, Portland; and Robert Hastings of Harbor.

ment to release three Communist mine-union leaders it is holding for trial, two on charges of murder and one on charges of embezzlement.

Vice President Juan Lechin, leader of the tin-mine union and of the rebellion, agreed Saturday to release the hostages after he was assured that the three imprisoned Reds would be given a fair and speedy trial.

Plans lauded by Governor

SALEM (UPI) — Gov. Mark Hatfield today hailed an announced expansion of the Weyerhaeuser Co. plant at Springfield as "another indication of confidence in our economy in Oregon."

Weyerhaeuser Monday announced plans for a \$30 million addition to its pulp and container board plant at Springfield. Plans call for an additional 110 employees.

"We are reminded in our quest for new industries that expansion of existing ones can likewise be a stimulant for new jobs," he said.

'Clean air' bill signed into law

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Johnson today signed into law a "clean air" bill designed to channel \$95 million in federal funds into a four-year program to fight air pollution.

The legislation authorizes the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to conduct research into the problem of air pollution, which some experts say is becoming a national menace.

It also would permit federal aid to states and communities which are fighting air pollution.

In signing the measure, Johnson said it would combat a "serious and growing" hazard. He said an estimated 6,000 U.S. communities need the type of assistance provided by the bill.

States will retain the primary responsibility for controlling and reducing pollution except in those cases where pollution from one source—such as a concentration of factories—affects more than one state.

APPOINTMENT NOTED

SALEM (UPI) — A person acting as vice principal in the public schools will be required to hold an appropriate administrative certificate after July 1, 1965, Atty. Gen. Robert Y. Thornton said today.

In such cases federal authorities may seek relief in court if a voluntary solution is unsuccessful.

The federal aid program involves grants on a matching basis of one state dollar for every two federal dollars put up. Regional grants are based on matching of three-quarters federal, one-quarter state.

The bill signed today is an authorization measure and sets the ceiling on how much money can be spent. Actual appropriations will come later.

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