

History Of Blacks In The Northwest

1788

Marcus Lopez. Personal servant of Captain Robert Grey, killed at Tillamook Bay, off the Oregon coast.

1805-6

York, member of the Lewis and Clark expedition, spends the winter near present-day Astoria, Oregon.

1836

Hinds, a Black fur trader, settles at the Marcus Whitman Mission near present day Walla Walla.

1845

George Washington Bush, one of the first permanent residents of Washington Territory, settles near present-day Olympia.

1860

William Gross arrives in Seattle and builds the second hotel in the city called "Our House."

1872

George Washington, pioneer of Lewis County Washington, founds the city of Centerville (now Centralia).

1888

Group of fifty Black miners arrive in Roslyn, Washington. By 1896 some two-thousand Afro-American miners and their families will have settled in Roslyn.

1889

Horace Cayton publishes first issue of the Seattle Republican,

eventually to become the second largest newspaper in the city.

1907

Twenty Black families homestead 3,200 acres of land near Sunnyside, Washington.

1910

Spokane Blacks organize the Deer Lake Irrigation and Orchard Company.

1921

Mary Fields, stagecoach driver, freight hauler, laundress and temporary marshal of Cascade, Montana, dies at the age of 81.

1918

Blacks in large numbers begin to work as stewards for the Alaska Steamship Company.

Law Prohibiting Black land ownership repealed in Oregon.

1929

Wallace Thurman writes "The Blacker the Berry", a novel depicting Black lifestyles in Boise, Idaho, and other cities during the 1920's.

1934

William S. Badget elected to the city council of Gearhart, Oregon. First Black man elected to a public office in Oregon.

1944

War Manpower Commission begins recruitment of Black workers for industrial facilities in Seattle, Portland, Spokane, and other Pacific Northwest cities. This recruitment and other factors touched off large scale migration of Blacks to the region. A good example is Pasco, Washington where Black population grows from 6 in 1940 to 2,500 by 1948.

1948

Columbia River floods the "Vanport" housing project located between Portland, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington forcing 19,000 people, most of them Black, to move to Portland, Seattle and surrounding cities.

1949

Oregon and Washington state legislatures pass Fair Employment Practices Laws in their respective states. These laws are the first in a series of Civil Rights laws adopted in the Northwest.

1950

Charles M. Stokes of Seattle is elected to the Washington state legislature, becoming the first Black man since William Owen Bush to be a member of that body.

1961

Selected boycotts of white-owned stores and businesses in Seattle result in Black employment gains.

1968

Art Fletcher, Pasco City Councilman runs for lieutenant governor, State of Washington.

1969

Unthank Park dedicated in Portland, Oregon. First city park to be named after a living Northwest Black citizen, Dr. DeNovel Unthank.

1970

William McCoy of Portland becomes the first Black man elected to the state legislature in Oregon.

Seattle Women Writers

Festival Schedule of Events

Wednesday, February 23, 1983

Readings by poet Judy Grahn and fiction writer Barbara Wilson, 7:30 p.m., UW HUB West Ballroom, \$4.00 general and \$3.00 students and senior citizens.

Thursday, February 24, 1983

Science fiction readings by Joanna Russ and Vonda McIntyre, 12:30 p.m., UW HUB Auditorium, \$2.50 general and \$1.50 students and senior citizens.

Poetry readings by Carolyn Forché and Linda Bierds, 7:30 p.m., UW HUB West Ballroom, \$4.00 general and \$3.00 students and senior citizens.

Friday, February 25, 1983

Poetry readings by Ai and Gladys Cardiff, 12:30 p.m., UW HUB Auditorium, \$2.50 general and \$1.50 students and senior citizens.

Poetry readings by Denise Levertov and Beth Bennett, 7:30 p.m., UW HUB West Ballroom, \$5.00 general and \$3.00 students and senior citizens.

Saturday, February 26, 1983

Fiction readings by Toni Cade Bambara and Colleen McElroy, 12:30 p.m., UW HUB Auditorium, \$3.00 general and \$2.00 students and senior citizens.

A reading by Maya Angelou, 7:30 p.m., UW HUB Ballroom, \$5.00 general and \$4.00 students and senior citizens.

For further festival and ticket information, call the Women's Information Center, 545-1090.

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