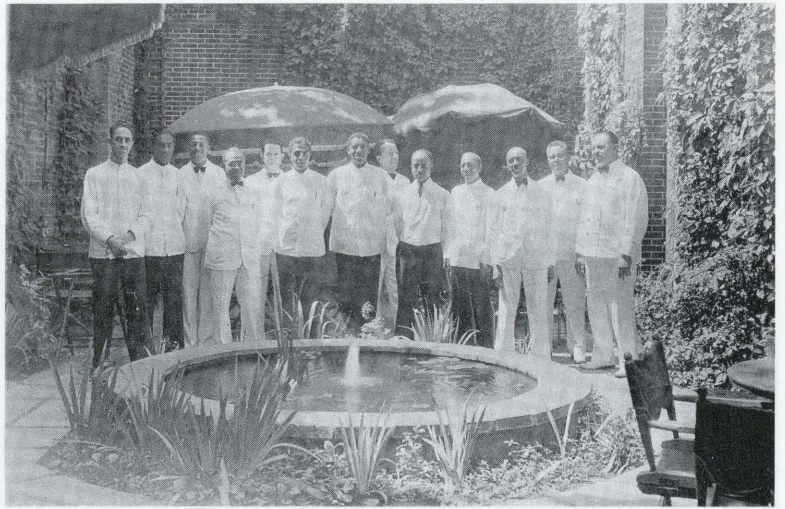


their children and grandchildren, but they accomplished much more than that. They created an active, supportive community and knew, even if white people did not, that the closed doors were disconcerting but did not deprive them of anything they needed.

There were not only black civilians but also soldiers here, housed at the Army center at Fort George Wright beginning in 1899 when Company M of the 24th Infantry was called to Spokane. Within a year the soldiers were sent to China to help put down the Boxer Rebellion, but they later returned to Fort Wright, where they remained until World War I. The 25th Infantry Regiment also was quartered at Fort Wright from about 1900 to 1912. In 1911, on April 9, President Theodore Roosevelt paid the troops a visit and a black soldier, 1st Sgt. Joseph C. Smith of E Company, 25th Colored Regiment, was chosen to be his orderly.

It is reported that the only soldier from the 24th Infantry unit who decided to remain in Spokane was 1st Sgt. Malbert Cooper, who died here in June 1979. However, a number of black soldiers are buried at the Fort Wright Cemetery.



*At The Spokane Club.*



*The 25th Infantry Regiment  
at Ft. George Wright.*



*1st Sgt. Malbert Cooper*