

The YAKIMA STAR

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Serving Yakima and Eastern Washington minority Communities

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Black History Month



Tacoma Black Masons gather outside lodge in 1913.



Black Baptist Church at Roslyn near turn of the century.



Early Roslyn coal miner.



Powell Barnett played in the Roslyn band

1788
Marcus Lopez, personal servant of Captain Robert Grey, killed at Tillamook Bay, off the Oregon coast.

1805-06
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 and the Pacific Steamship Company.

1924
Law prohibiting Black land ownership repealed in Oregon.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 1920s.

1934
William S. Badget elected to the city council of Gearhart, Oregon. First Black man elected to a public office in Oregon.

1924
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, Vancouver 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.

Mr. Valentine