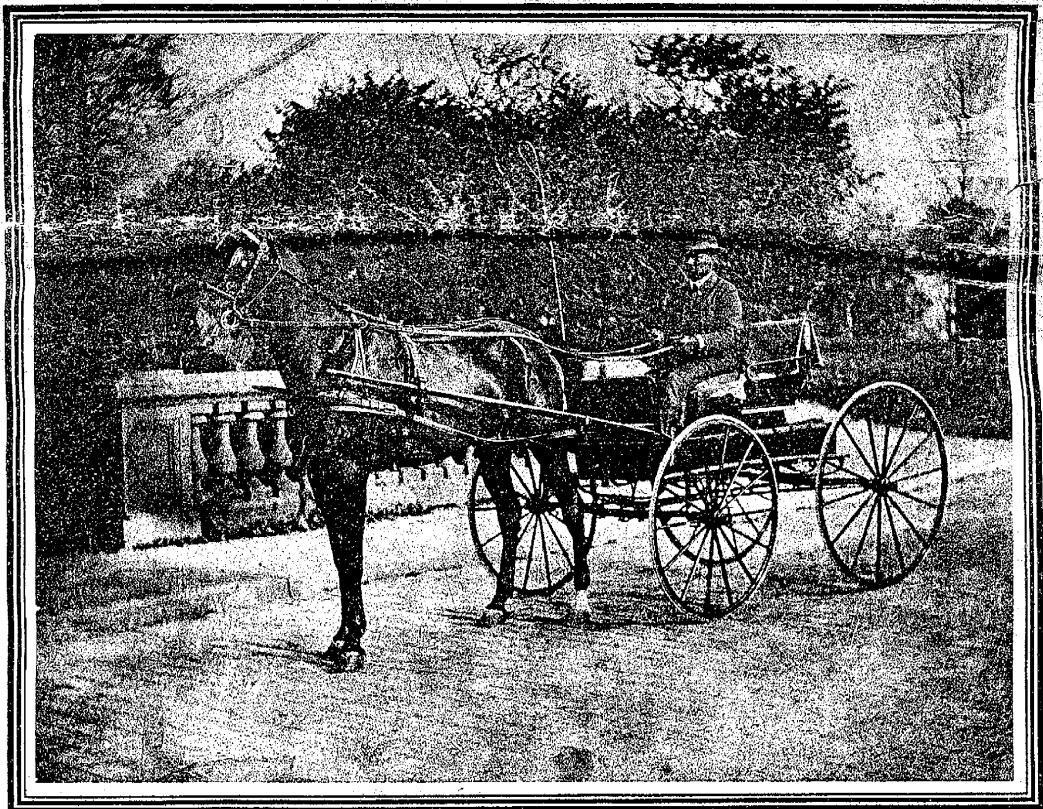


MILWAUKEE'S
BLACK
HERITAGE

Part I



Black History Week February 11-17

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO
The MILWAUKEE COURIER

SECTION III

February 17, 1973

Dear Community:

Thank You for your response to our request
for information regarding the Black man's
past and present in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
While seeking information on the Black
man's sojourn in this city we have renewed
old acquaintances and made new friends.

The joint efforts of the undersigned is only a
perisopic view into the Black man's
journey in Milwaukee. We sincerely
called upon you, our community, for
guidance and know that your input
was instrumental in bringing about a
meaningful supplement. Come walk
with us through our past and some of
our present...

Sincerely,

Fred Birts

Mary Gore

Sandra Dickerson

Josephine Hill

Pauline Teat

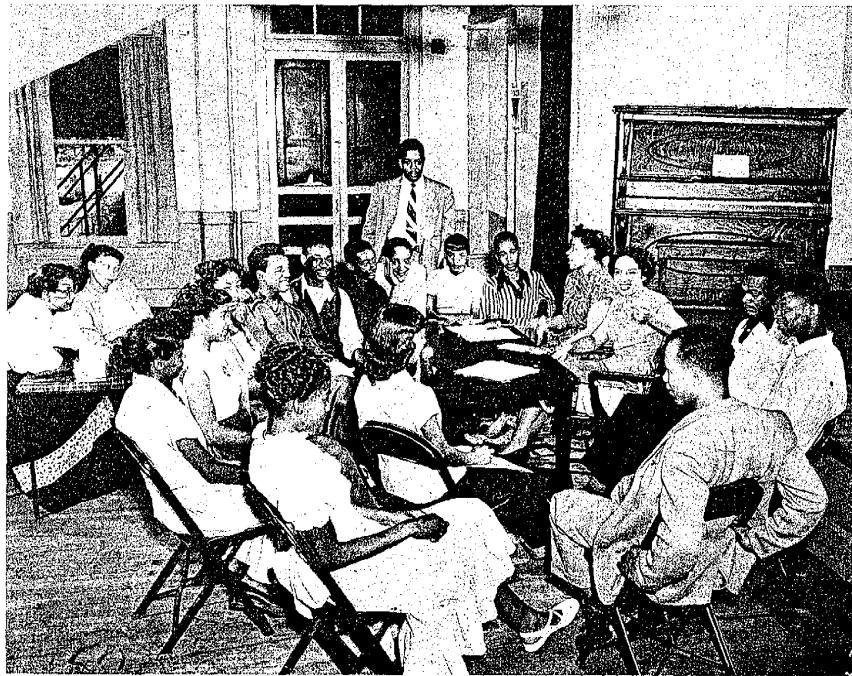
Earelyn Johnson



"MILWAUKEE'S FINEST" in the early 1960's. Policemen (seated, from left) John Crosby, Wilton Lancaster, Aaron Hall, LeRoy Jones, and Oliver Sams. Second row (from left) Ralph Lee, Charles Benford, Calvin Moody, Al Wright, and Lonnie Spencer. Back row (from left) Felmers Chaney, Bobby Brown, Dewey Russ, Cloyce Burns, George Willis, George Johnson, Proctor Kirk, and LeRoy Harmon.

MS. IRENE COGGS (fourth from right) was the discussion leader at the first young people's seminar when the Northside YMCA was on Sixth and North ave. Ralph Jefferson (standing) was youth director. Some of the

young people were Molly Jones, Nellie Parks, Betty Carter, Calvin Lewis, Walter Calvin, Geraldine Matthews, Bobby Baldwin, Rufus Crawley, Roy Kemp, Melvin Hall, and Lovetta Jones.



About the cover

Born of slave parents in St. Charles, Mo., Calvin Reeves came to Milwaukee in 1864 with a wounded officer of the Union army. Reeves served as a water boy for the Union forces in the Civil War.

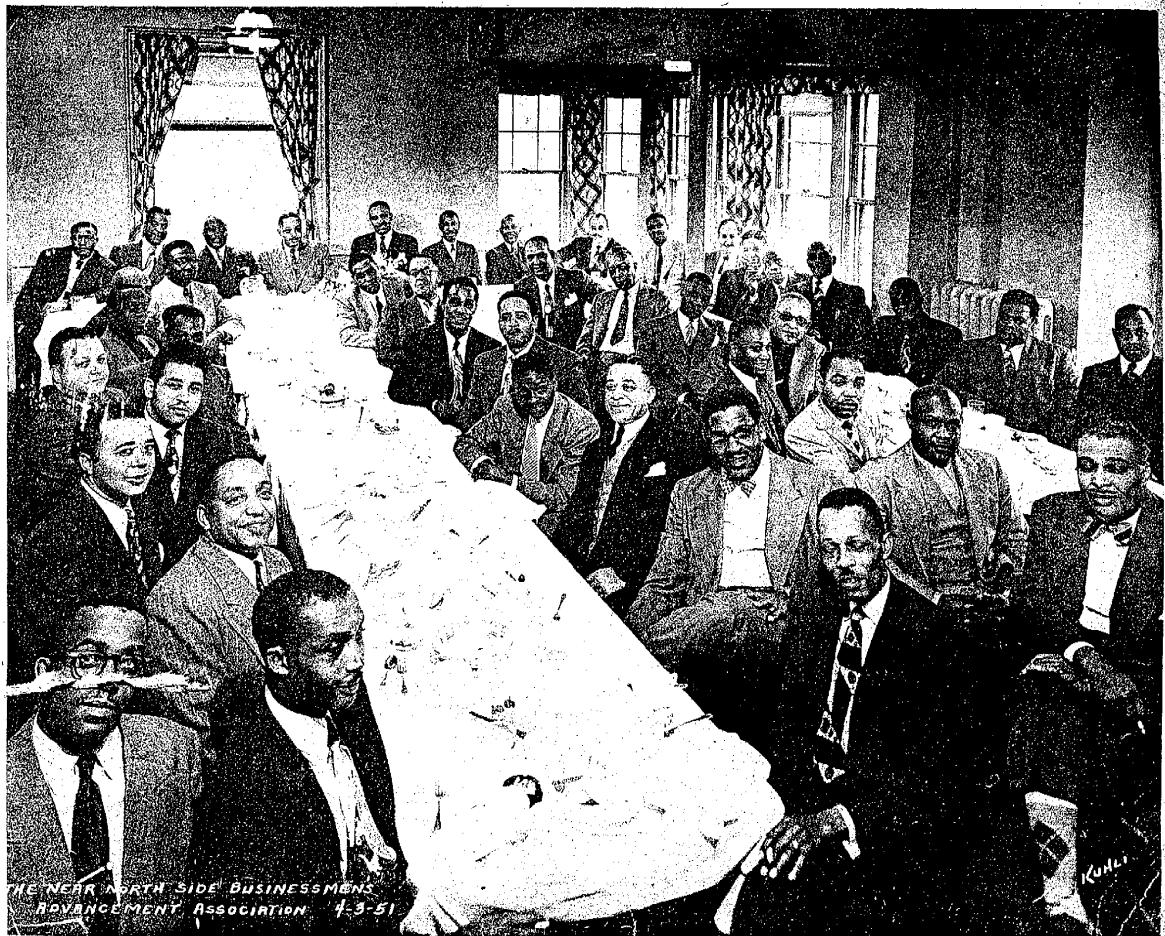
Learning the cooper trade here, Reeves worked at that trade for several years, but horses were his real love, and he spent more than 40 years here breaking horses to harness, training them for speed, and driving them. For three years he operated a livery stable at East State and North Edison streets, providing hacks for funerals and buggies for Sunday afternoon rides.

Reeves was a member for years of the Washington Park Driving club, and for a time he trained horses at the old National park at South 22nd and West Layton streets. He once handled horses for the late August Uihlein.

He was a member of the Calvary Baptist church.

Among Reeves' survivors was Leroy J. Simmons, one of four grandchildren. Simmons was an early Black member of the state assembly.

Reeves died September 18, 1944, and the funeral was arranged by O'Bee Funeral home, located at the 1767 N. 7th st. He was buried in Union cemetery.



THE NEAR NORTHSIDE
Businessmen's Advancement
Association at a gathering on April 3,
1951. Some of the businessmen pictured
are Harry Turner, J. Anthony Josey
(the state's first Black newspaper
publisher), "Shorty" Moore (first
Black disc jockey), Isaac Coggs, Atty.
Theodore Coggs, Larry Hill, Calvin
Moody, Emile O'Bee, French Griffin,
and Robert Starms.



DR. GARNETT HERRON, the
first Black doctor in Milwaukee
specializing in treating diseases
of the genital-urinary tract (now
known as urology). Dr. Herron's
office was located in the down-
town area and his patients mostly
white. He attended public school
in Milwaukee, as well as
Marquette university.



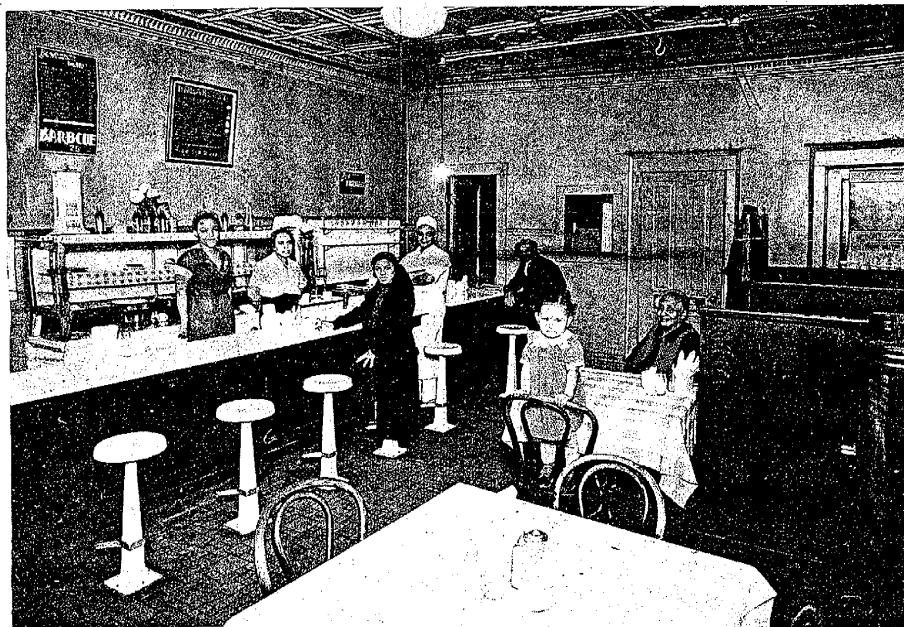
APPOINTED IN 1959, the late Atty.
James Dorsey was the first Black
court commissioner in the city's
history. Atty. Dorsey is pictured with
Odell Johnson (an unsuccessful can-
didate for county supervisor in 1972),
after presenting him the Northside
YMCA Citizenship Award in 1959.



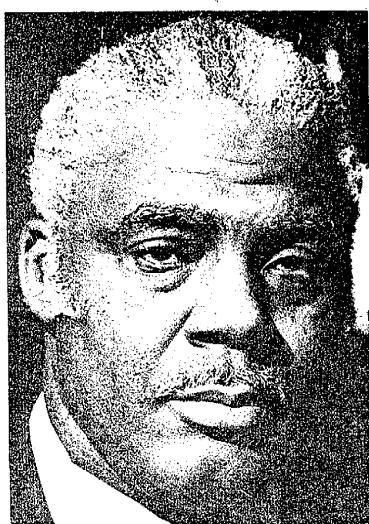
DR. LAURIE L. ALLEN, the first Black doctor on the staff of the Milwaukee County Hospital, from the 1920s, at Muirdale TB sanitarium. Dr. Allen also served on the board of the Milwaukee Urban League in the 1920s.



WHAT WAS LABELLED "the first social gathering of the year" around 1940. Some of the women pictured were Ms. Brawley, Ms. Carter, Ms. O'bee, Ms. Bevenue and Ms. Rose.



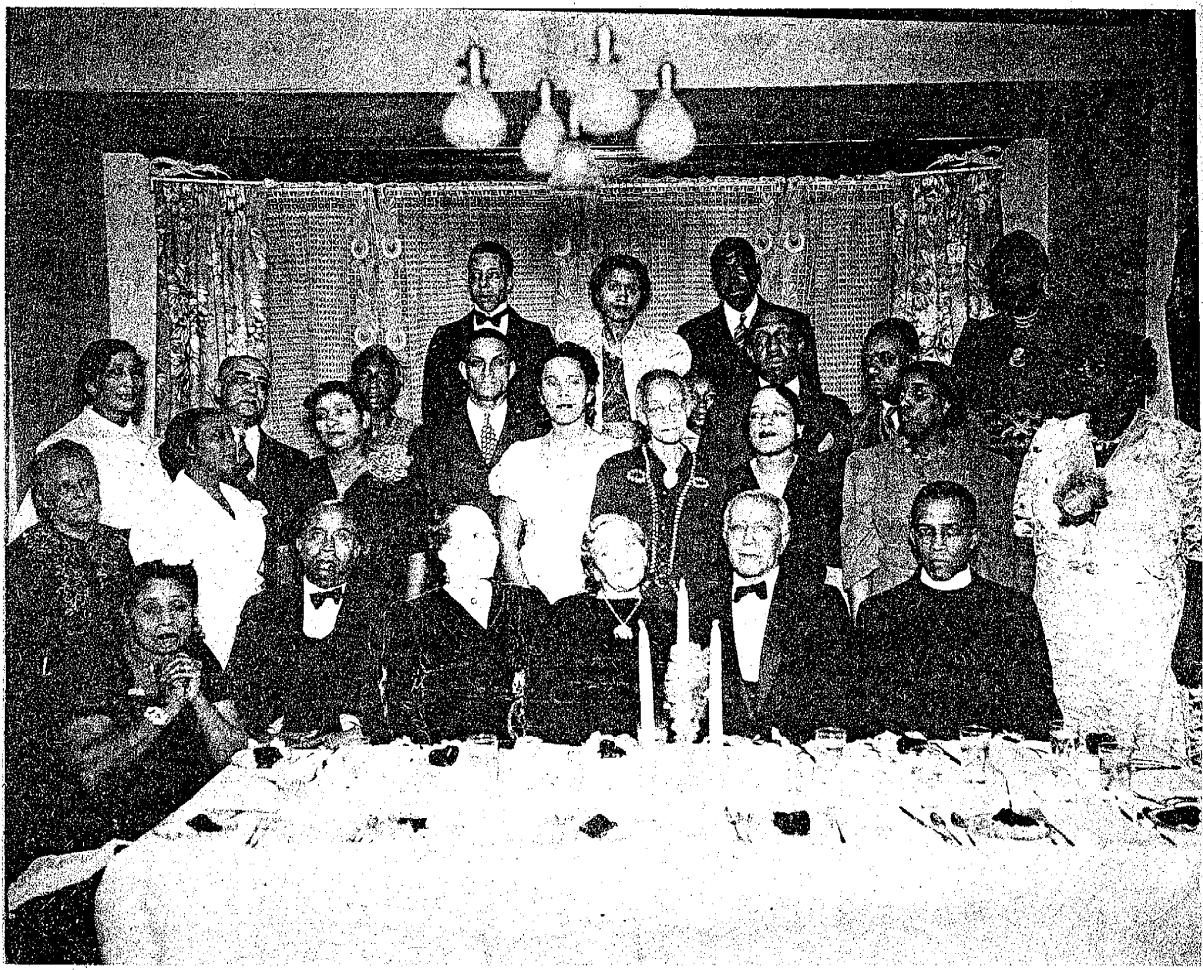
WHEN VISITING MILWAUKEE celebrities used to eat at Clara's Restaurant, operated by Mr. and Ms. Harry Turner at 2417 N. 2nd st. This is a 1937 picture of the interior. Among famous names who used to stop there were Cab Calloway, Fats Waller, the Ink Spots, the Globetrotters, Duke Ellington, Bill Robinson, Louis Armstrong, Jesse Owens, Lionel Hampton, Peg Leg Bates, Willie Mays, Marvel Lewis, Josephine Baker, Adeleine Hall, and the Mills Brothers.



FELMERS O. CHANEY became the first Black president of a predominantly Black-owned and managed bank when the North Milwaukee State Bank was founded on February 12, 1971. Chaney had retired from the Milwaukee police department, having served as a sergeant for a number of years.

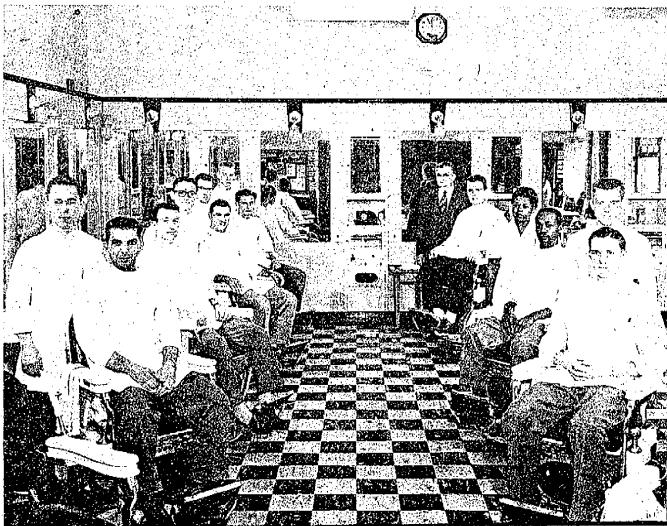


ONE OF THE TWO first Black teachers in the Milwaukee public school system was Ms. Millie White in the early 1930s. She later married Ray Jefferson, and the couple bought a grocery store. Ms. White first taught at Fourth Street school.



THE 25TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY of the former pastor of St. Mark AME church, Rev. and Ms. E. Stewart (seated, center). Others identified at the anniversary were the late Rev. Isaac Milton Coggs, father of the late Atty. Ted Coggs and former Assemblyman Isaac Coggs, Rev. and Ms. Cecil A. Fisher, Mr. and Ms. Sadie Thomas, and Ms. Prosser.

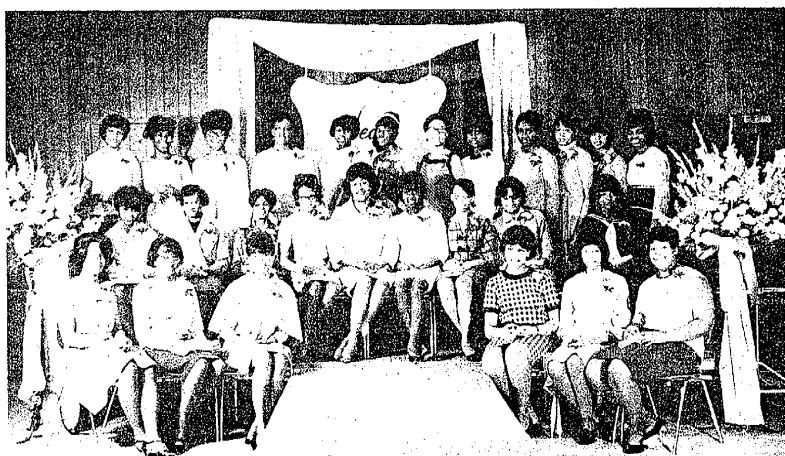
MS. MILDRED SELLERS was the first Black woman to graduate from the old Milwaukee Vocational School barber college. After graduating, she served an apprenticeship under the late Rev. Sydney Connors in his shop at Tenth and Walnut sts. After working a year as a journeyman barber and another year as a master barber, Ms. Sellers became the first Black woman in Milwaukee to open her own shop at 1118 W. Vliet st. in 1955. In 1958 she moved to 1212 W. Walnut. Ms. Sellers's shop is presently located at 3282 N. Green Bay ave.



JUDSON MINOR, the first known Black policeman in Milwaukee. Minor was sworn into the department in October, 1924, but resigned two years later. His beat was around city hall and the east side. He was assigned to the police station at 12th and W. Vine sts. Officer Minor was not necessarily assigned to the Black community, and his arrest powers were not racially restricted. Minor retired from Wehr Steel company in the middle 1960s.



THE LATE REV. CECIL A. FISHER in April, 1922. Rev. Fisher was the first Black probation officer in Milwaukee County. He worked for the old "Outdoor Relief" along with Dr. Fred Bobo and Atty. George DeReef. Rev. Fisher was originally hired to serve Black relief recipients, but came to serve both Black and white clients.



ONE OF THE EARLY graduating classes of the Sears Charm School, conducted by Ms. Marie Gaines (seated, center).

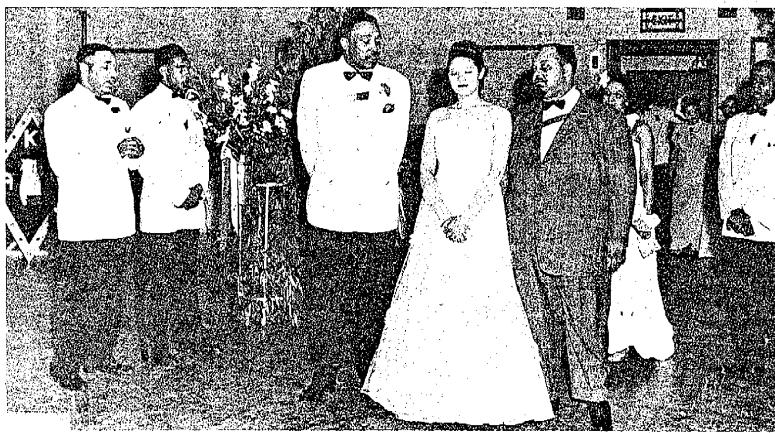


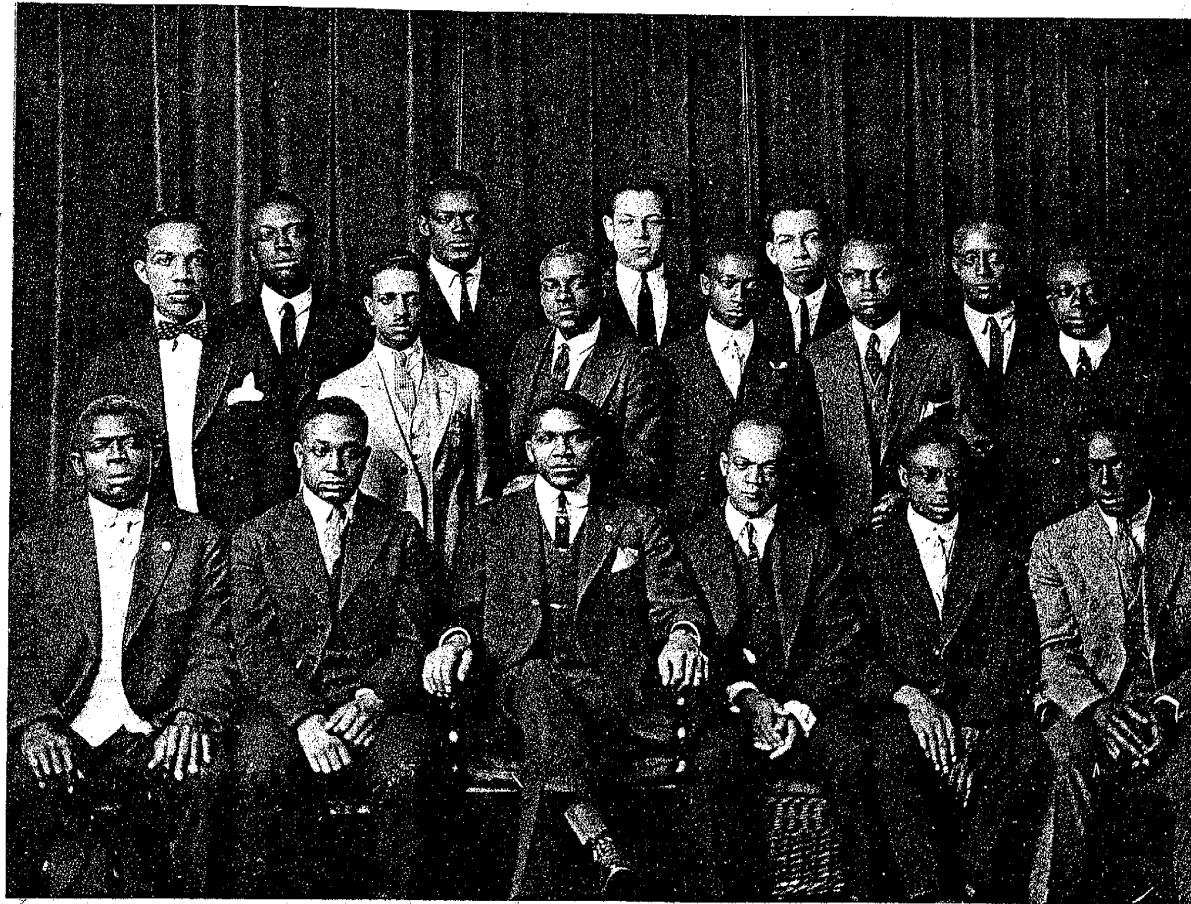
H. B. KINNER'S RESTAURANT featuring the "best bar-b-q in town," was located at Seventh and W. Cherry sts. in the early 1940s. Kinner was also the first Black to manufacture his own brand of sausage, which was distributed widely in stores located in the Black community.

FORMER INSURANCEMAN Theodore Mack became the first Black president of a brewery in the country when he headed a group of local businessmen who bought Peoples Brewery in Oshkosh in 1970.



KAPPA ALPHA PSI'S first ball at the UWM gym in 1943.

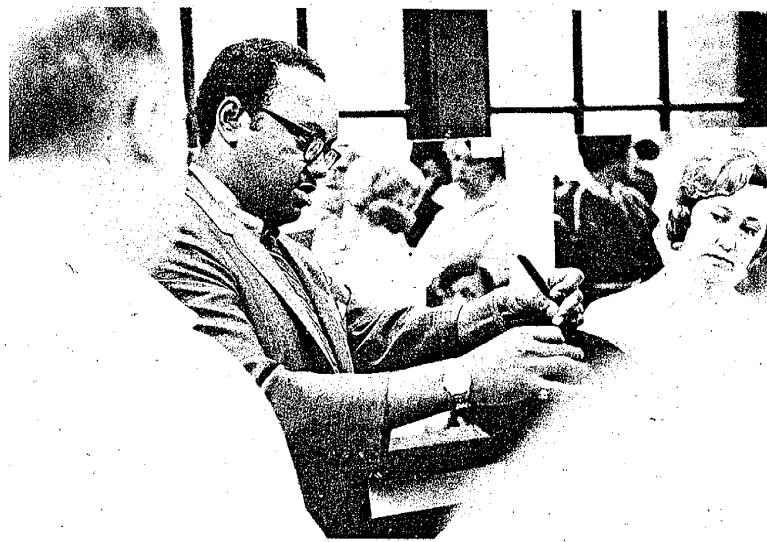




THE TANGENT CLUB, organized in 1922 by the student secretary of the YMCA, made an application for a branch YMCA charter in that year. Seated (from left) are Rev. Thomas, James Mason, vice president; V. G. Lindsay, president; J. M. Monroe, secretary; E. Redd, and B. Holesome. Top row (from left) Ralph Blackburn, M. McMann, J. Cartwall, F. Cartwall, and C. Scott. Middle row (from left) J. E. Levy, S. H. Williams, V. Nichols, treasurer; A. Bland, C. Knox, and J. Burke.



HARMONY CHAPTER, No. 107, OES, and Princess Elijah Chapter No. 22, OES. Picture was taken outside St. Mark AME church in 1939.



ATTORNEY GEORGE H. DE REEF, one of the founders of the Milwaukee Urban League. Attorney De Reef is said to have trained Attorney James Dorsey.

HERBERT WARE was the owner of the first beauty salon in the state in 1963 under the national law allowing men to have their hair cut in a beauty salon. In 1970 Ware was hired by the state to teach all white instructors the technique of chemical hair straightening.



NORTHSIDE YMCA AWARDS NIGHT in 1947. Pictured are (from left) Lincoln Gaines, Dr. Peter Murrell, R. Parson, Atty. Ted Coggs, and director Robert Starms.



SIXTEEN YEAR OLD ORVILLE E. Pitts after he won the Milwaukee Journal Golden Gloves tournament in 1950. He went on to win the 1954 national Golden Gloves title, the 1956 Pan American games championship, and the 1956 National Collegiate Athletic Association title. Following a professional career as a boxer, he received a degree from American University Law School in 1965. He was elected First Ward Alderman in 1968, and re-elected in 1972.



AN OLD TIMERS CLUB gathering at the home of Ms. Clara Turner Harris in 1952. Pictured are John Hall, William Hurd, Charles Warren, Harry Turner, Jether Barron, and Hollis Kinner, of Kinner Bar-B-Q.



A FORMER STATE LEGISLATOR, Isaac Coggs, who was known as "Mr. Civil Rights," was one of the first two Blacks elected to a county office when he and Calvin Moody were both elected county supervisors in 1964.



MORTAGAGE BURNING at St. Mark AME church in February, 1966. The current pastor, Rev. Lovell Johnson, was serving the church at the time.





A FORMER POLICEMAN and detective, Calvin Moody was one of the first two Blacks elected to a county government office when he and Isaac Coggs were both elected county supervisors in 1964.



DANIEL RAYNOR was the first Black mortician in Milwaukee and the state. He later formed an association with his foster son, Emmitt Reed, and the funeral home was renamed Raynor and Reed. The various locations of the funeral home were Fourth and W. Cherry sts., Twelfth and W. Vliet sts., Seventh and W. Vine sts., and Sixth and W. North ave. This picture was taken in the early 1920s.

AN EARLY BLACK MARCHING band organized around 1910. The group was known as the Odd Fellows Band. Some of those pictured who later became prominent in the Milwaukee community include H. B. Kinner, Aaron Toliver, and Samuel Banks. The band would perform in all the Milwaukee County parks in Sunday afternoon concerts.





THE URBAN LEAGUE GUILD in 1941, organized by Ms. V. Dorsey under the then MUL executive director William V. Kelly. Seated (from left) were: Ms. J. Pryor, Ms. M. Eggleston, Ms. Clardy, and Ms. C. Brown. Standing (from left) Ms. A. Jackson, Ms. J. Dorsey, Ms. M. Southhall, Ms. W. Stewart, Ms. T. Bandy, and Ms. V. Gallimore.



CARVER HI-Y CLUB. This picture was made in the attic of the "YW" cottage at 1831 N. 10th st. in 1939.



THEODORE HENDRICKS was the owner of a drug store at Eighth and Walnut sts. in 1930. He later moved to Seventh and Vine sts. Hendricks is pictured with his wife, who was a nurse.

THIS IS THE FIRST group of Black women organized into a Red Cross Mothers' Club in 1941.



MONROE SWAN BECAME the first Black senator in the state when he was elected from the Sixth Senatorial District in November, 1972.



Blacks in Milwaukee

BY WILLIAM T. GREEN

Introductory Note: The earliest known historical treatment of Milwaukee's Negro population was published in the Milwaukee Sentinel, October 16, 1895, as part of that newspaper's special edition observing the 50th anniversary of the city's incorporation. The author was William T. Green, a Negro, who for almost 20 years had the distinction of being the only attorney of his race in practice law in the courts of Milwaukee County.

Green was born about 1859, near Niagara Falls, New York, where he later attended St. Catherine's Collegiate Institute in Canada. In 1887 Green came to Wisconsin, and was later appointed a janitor at the State Capitol building in Madison by Governor William Dempster Hoard. In this environment, Green developed a strong desire to enter the legal profession. He enrolled in the university of Wisconsin Law School in 1890, graduating with honors two years later. Following his admission to the bar, Green joined the law office of J. J. Stover in Milwaukee. Later the firm of Bell, Brazeel, and Stover. In 1893 he began an independent practice which lasted until his death in 1911, during which time he defended three-quarters of the cases involving Negroes in the local District, Municipal and Civil Courts.

In addition to his legal practice, Green was active in political and social affairs involving the Negro. He was a delegate to the Republican State convention in 1892, and Milwaukee's 4th Ward November, 1894. Green and Theobald Othen—the latter then a candidate for Congress from Wisconsin's fourth district—campaigned together for Republican votes among Milwaukee's Negro population. Several years later, when the so-called Cady bill was introduced in the State assembly to outlaw inter-marriage between whites and Negroes, Green was retained by the Afro-American League of Milwaukee and helped to successfully oppose passage of the measure in legislature committee hearings at Madison.

Green's most significant accomplishment in the political field was his successful efforts to secure passage of Chapter 223 of the Session Laws of 1895, otherwise known as Wisconsin's Civil Rights Law. Green is generally acknowledged as the author of this measure, still operative, which outlawed racial discrimination in restaurants and other public places under penalty of fine and imprisonment.

Among the Milwaukee legal profession, Green was regarded as a bright and capable attorney. He was very active in Negro fraternal organizations, but little known of his private life. He died on December 3, 1911, following an illness of some length and is buried in Forest Home cemetery.

His obituary states that he was then a widower, and was survived by an only son, William T., Jr. Green's sketch of Milwaukee's Negro community during its early years is the first piece of "Negro History" known to have been published locally. The fact that it was written by a Negro makes the article especially significant. Green obviously relied upon information obtained from pioneers who were still living at that time he wrote (1895). His appraisal of their traits of character and economic success is important, and his efforts to relate local affairs with events on the national scene indicate a surprising awareness of the interaction of these two levels of historical development.

In reprinting the Green article, only a few minor changes have been made in the original text. Whenever possible an effort has been made to identify the people more fully and locate the places mentioned by the author.

HARRY H. ANDERSON

THE PECULIAR CONDITIONS SURROUNDING THE Negroes who settled in Milwaukee fifty years ago render it a difficult task to obtain accurate information concerning them. Some were fugitives from slavery who had reached Milwaukee by means of the "underground railway." They were living under assumed names, and in hourly dread of the passage of the "fugitive slave law" and that they would be kidnapped, their goods confiscated and they themselves relegated to slavery. (1) Men who will in the face of almost insurmountable difficulties rise, throw off a galling yoke and strike out for freedom are of a stamp superior to those who patiently bear the burden, hence the early Negro settlers were of the better class. To be able to enjoy the fruits of their own labor was a new and powerful incentive and the Negro settlers of 1835-60 were nearly all thrifty and industrious.

The first Negro settler came in 1835. He was a cook on the schooner Cincinnati and the only name which history has handed down to us is that of "Nigger Joe." Beside being the first colored settler he was the first of his race to cast a vote in Wisconsin at the first election held in Milwaukee, September 17, 1835. (2)

The opening of steam navigation between Buffalo and Milwaukee and the fact that Milwaukee was a noted station of the "underground railway" and the home of many staunch abolitionists were the causes which led to the first immigration of colored people to this city in 1840-45. (3) The colored population in 1845 numbered about twenty families. All were more or less prosperous and well to do. From 1845 to a much more recent date the colored settlers continued prosperous. They had a practical monopoly of the barber's trade and the catering and confectionery business. They owned then what are now classed among the best building sites in the city. The property occupied by the Weber Dry Goods company and for many years by T. L. Kelley & Co. was owned by Robert Titball, a Negro, whose wife conducted a large millinery and dress-making establishment. (4) Titball also owned the north-western corner of Wells and Fourth Streets now (1895) occupied by Lewis' European hotel, and the remainder of the block was the property of Ambrose Dudley and Mr. Howard, both colored men and ex-slaves. Another named (Jonathan J.) Meyer kept a grocery store on Mason Street, and was worth over \$30,000. Lyman Benjamin and wife were the owners of the property where the Plankinton livery stood on Second Street, besides owning an acre of improved property in the Ninth Ward. Mr. Benjamin before his death willed his entire estate to a prominent real estate dealer of this city. (5)

The site now occupied by the power house of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad company, another 50 feet opposite the Kirby House and the lots where the offices of Howard & Mallory are located, besides other valuable property on Sycamore (Michigan) and Third Streets, were owned by the Watson estate. (6)

The passage by Congress in 1850 of the "fugitive slave law" with the arrest of Joshua Glover in 1854 and its attendant excitement caused nearly all who had been slaves to emigrate to Canada. The expulsion of free Negroes from Virginia and other slave states brought the second influx, but the reign of terror which followed the lynching of Marshall Clark, September 7, 1861, for the killing of Dabney Carney, and the subsequent acquittal of James Shelton, who killed Carney in self-defense, aroused the ire of the lower class of whites, and frightened by threats of extermination, many of the colored people moved away. (7)

The emancipation in 1863 and the close of the war in 1865 brought a still greater influx than before and among those who returned with the soldiers were such

well-known citizens as John Goodwin, Daniel Lincoln, John Duncan and the renowned George Washington Scott. The opening of the Plankinton House in 1868 was the cause of many others coming in, among them being the Louis Hughes, George Bland, Charles W. Dorsey, Daniel and Jackson Hawkins and John J. Miles families, which still reside here. The following year saw the organization of St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church. They first held services in a building where the Bijou Theatre now stands but later purchased the present site from the Lutherans, and in 1886 erected the present edifice. (8)

Prior to this time Negroes worshipped in white churches. Of the colored people who resided in Milwaukee fifty years ago but three are now living here. They are Mrs. Anna G. Anderson, 310 (815) Sycamore Street; Henry Phillips, 214 (816) Fourth Street, and Levi Tate, rear 211 (815) Third Street. Mrs. Anderson came here in 1845. Her husband came here with the Honorable Isaac P. Walker in 1841 and accompanied him to Washington when Wisconsin was admitted to statehood. She is a native of Virginia. (9) Henry Phillips was born in Allen county, Kentucky, in 1829, came to Milwaukee in August, 1845, as a waiter on board the steamer Northwestern. He went to the war with Company A. Twenty-fourth Wisconsin, in 1862, as a servant, and becoming ill, returned in 1863.

A quaint and interesting pioneer is Levi Tate. He was born in Raleigh, North Carolina, August 1, 1829, and came to Milwaukee from Buffalo in 1844. He tells many funny and interesting stories of his troubles in those days. The people were divided on the slavery question. There were many "copperheads" in the North and the Negro's position was precarious. The natural hostility of the Irish to the Negro on election day is graphically described by Tate, who ascribes his miraculous preservation to the fact that he could both outrun and outfight anything in the Third Ward. Notwithstanding the fact that the word "white" was a statutory voting qualification till 1882 a Negro could

River. (11)

The colored population of this city has never been large. Aside from the causes above mentioned this is due to the fact that the Negro thrives best among native-born Americans. Notwithstanding the absence of race prejudice in foreign countries, it has in this country always been difficult for them to obtain employment in cities whose population is principally made up of foreign-born American citizens and in the great brewing industries of Milwaukee only a single, solitary Negro is employed.

The present colored population numbers about 800. These have probably \$60,000 invested in business enterprises. Many of these enterprises, on account of the prejudice against which they would have to contend, are run in the names of white men. They have about \$25,000 invested in church and lodge property. None of this is invested in schools, the State University and the public schools being good enough for them. Some of them are shrewd speculators, and it would surprise some of our citizens who pay their rents the real estate agent if they knew who their landlords were. (12)

FOOT NOTES

(1) Despite the provisions in Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution providing for the return of fugitive slaves (persons "held to service or labor"), runaways were often assisted by sympathetic whites to escape to Canada or begin a new, if somewhat precarious, life in the North. To counteract the operation of the underground railroad, Southerners demanded, and got, a strong federal law for the recovery of escaped slaves as part of the Compromise of 1850. This measure was equally severe on both the fugitive and those who assisted him, and was the basis for the serious legal difficulties encountered by Sherman Booth for his part in the Joshua Glover escape in Milwaukee in 1854.

(2) Some additional information has been assembled on this individual since Green wrote. His full name was Joe Oliver, and he was employed at the time of the 1835 election for county



THIS PAINTING, DONE in the American primitive style, is the earliest known work of art by a Milwaukee Black. It was painted in the 1850s by a fugitive slave, known only as Joe, who was employed in the store of John Rooney, a local merchant and abolitionist. The children depicted are Rooney's daughter and son. The doll held by the girl was made for her by the former slave, as were the articles of clothing worn by both children. The dress and suit, along with the painting, are on exhibit at the Milwaukee County Historical Society, 910 N. Third st., Milwaukee.

always vote in Milwaukee if he could get to the polls (10) When the war broke out Tate accompanied the First Wisconsin as officers' man. When the government began enlisting colored troops in 1863 Tate enlisted in the Thirteenth Wisconsin Battery Light Artillery at Baton Rouge, La. He was captured at first Bull Run by the rebels of the Seventh Virginia and recaptured by the Twenty-fourth Wisconsin. Col. Florian G. Ries, commanding at Stone

officials as a cook for Solomon Juneau. Oliver returned to the lake schooners after 1837, sailing for a time on the C. C. Towbridge. He died of small pox in 1842.

(3) There is no question but that a number of Milwaukee's leading citizens were strong supporters of the abolitionist movement during the 1800's; but the operation of the underground railroad in a regular and (Continued next page)

Blacks in Milwaukee

(Continued from preceding page)

continuous manner in the city has been seriously questioned by some competent observers. The only documented occasion of local parties hiding and moving a runaway slave was the Caroline Quarles case in 1842. If nothing else, Milwaukee's geographic position would have tended to preclude its being a regular "station" on the route from the South to freedom across the Canadian border.

(4) The location here referred to was probably on Wisconsin Avenue, between East Water and Broadway, where Robert Titball had his barber shop in the late 1840's. Titball is a controversial character, accused by many of having conspired to turn over the escaped octroon, Caroline Quarles, to slave catchers. He has been referred to recently by one Negro writer as the "Benedict Arnold" of Milwaukee's Negro community.

(5) Lyman Benjamin resided in Milwaukee from about 1846 until his death on April 27, 1883. He was buried in Forest Home Cemetery. In 1851 he traveled to the Crystal Palace Exposition in London to exhibit crafts and handwork made by the Negroes of Wisconsin. After Benjamin's death at age 68, John Durbin, the real estate

dealer referred to by Green, sold the Benjamin property on Second Street to John Plankinton for \$3,375.

Anna G. Anderson still resides in Milwaukee. William H. Anderson died in 1854, and his will is the first filed for a Negro resident in Milwaukee County Probate Court.

(10) The Wisconsin Supreme Court's decision in the Ezekiel Gillespie case in 1866 removed whatever legal restrictions there existed to Negro suffrage; but it was not until November, 1882 that the state constitution was amended to remove the "white citizen" provision from article III, section one, which contained the eligibility requirements for voting.

(11) Green's account of Tate's military career is somewhat garbled. Tate did serve in the Thirteenth Light Battery; but he did not enlist until August 27, 1864. His place of residence is given in the official records as Columbus, Wisconsin. If he was captured by the Confederates at first Bull Run (July, 1861), he was not with either the First Wisconsin or the Light Battery, since neither unit participated in that affair. Neither did Florian G. Ries command the 24th Wisconsin at Stone River, for he never served with that regiment, but

did later hold the rank of colonel in the Wisconsin National Guard. Nevertheless, Tate's Civil War service is unique in that it was performed with a regularly recruited volunteer

(6) The Watson property here mentioned was situated on what is today the lower end of 4th Street, near Clybourn Avenue; on Mason and North Water Streets; and the 3rd and Michigan location. Sully Watson, a skilled journeyman brick-mason, came to Milwaukee in 1850. He died in 1882 at the ripe old age of ninety, and is also buried in Forest Home Cemetery.

(7) Briefly stated, the facts of the sordid Clark-Carney affair were as follows: Clark and Sheldon, both Negroes, got into a fight with Carney and John Brady over remarks by the latter pair concerning two white women seen in company with the Negroes. In the row, Carney was knifed and died shortly thereafter. After Clark and Sheldon were arrested, a mob dragged the former from the county jail and lynched him from a pile-driver near Buffalo and North Water Streets. Sheldon was later tried and acquitted on a plea of self-defense. When brought to trial, the leaders of the lynch mob also went free after the jury failed to agree on a verdict.

(8) The old Bijou Theater was situated on the west side of 2nd Street near Wisconsin Avenue. The St. Mark's church building erected in 1886 stood at the corner of 4th and Kilbourn. This congregation will observe its centennial in 1969.

(9) A descendant of William Henry and organization, and not in one of the special colored regiments in which most of the Negroes fought for the Union from 1863 onward.

(12) Green's estimates of the financial status of Milwaukee's Negroes in 1895 is probably accurate. As an attorney he undoubtedly handled many business and financial arrangements, and was in a position to know what he was writing about. The figures he gives are not too unreasonable when it is realized that, according to the 1860 census, Milwaukee Negroes possessed nearly \$33,000 in real and personal property at a time when their population only numbered 122 persons, including children.

In 1895, in addition to the St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church, other Negro organizations included three Masonic lodges (in all of which William T. Green held official positions), as well as a chapter of the Order of Eastern Star for the ladies.

Black recognition in early Milwaukee

BY CHESTER V. SALOMON

Long before the phrases integration, segregation and de facto became pseudonyms for civil rights Milwaukee was practicing a liberal policy for all creeds, races and ethnic groups.

In the first local election held in Milwaukee on Saturday, September 19, 1835, thirty-nine citizens used their right of suffrage in selection town officials. An extensive "get out the vote campaign" had preceded the election. Of historic consequence is the record that a Negro by the name of Joe Oliver, a cook for Solomon Juneau, was invited

to vote and did cast a legal ballot. This is the first Negro vote ever cast in Milwaukee and probably one of the earliest in the Middle West.

When Wisconsin became a state in 1848, suffrage was restricted to white and emancipated Indian male residents, including immigrants not yet naturalized. A referendum in November, 1849, failed to extend suffrage to colored male residents only because of a misinterpretation of the rather complicated wording at the authorizing legislation. This was corrected by decision of the State Supreme Court in 1866.

During the decade and one half preceding the Civil War many citizens were anti-slavery sympathizers who assisted Negroes to escape and

freedom. The most famous of these incidents was the escape and freedom. The most famous of these incidents was the case of Joshua Glover, who escaped in 1852 from his master in St. Louis and had found shelter in Racine. Here he was gainfully employed in a saw mill for two winters.

In March, 1854, he was detected and after being beaten and handcuffed taken to Milwaukee for security reasons as tension was running high in Racine. Someone in Milwaukee telegraphed Racine, where a rescue party was organized and over one hundred men left immediately by boat to rescue Glover.

Abolitionists in Milwaukee as in Racine felt that this was an infringement and a desecration of

Wisconsin Free Soil and believed that no slave owner should be aided or abetted in this city. Sherman Booth, an ardent foe of slavery and editor of the American Freeman and an able orator of that day, called a mass meeting at the early Court House, where over five thousand indignant citizens gathered to protest the jailing of Glover.

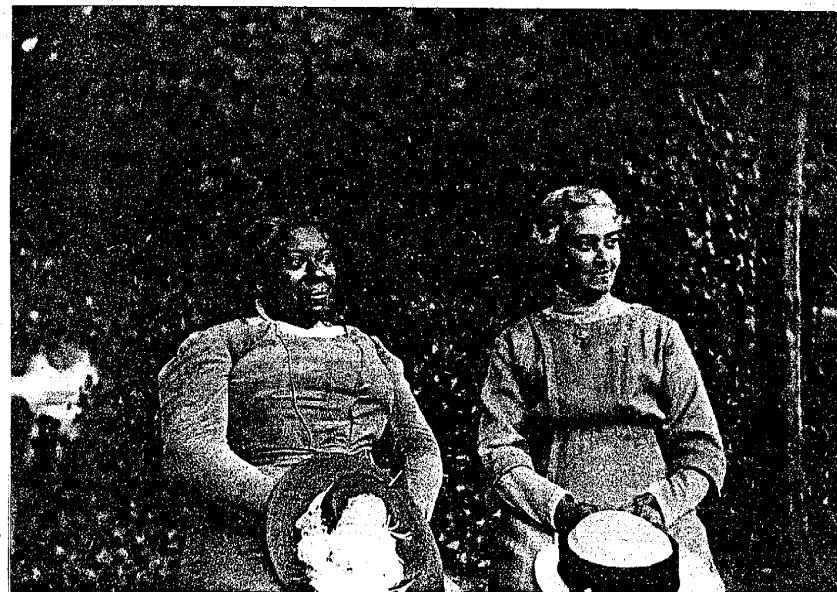
The arrival of the angry citizens from Racine increased the temper of the agitated crowd, and it was decided that the only recourse was by breaking into the jail and releasing the runaway slave. Irate men secured a large timber and rammed the jail's entrance. Through this entry leaders of the demonstration released the captive slave and placed him in a waiting horse and buggy. This was the first step to escorting Glover to freedom in Canada via the underground railway system.

For his participation and being an accessory in the freeing of Glover, Sherman Booth was prosecuted, jailed and fined and jailed again after a mob had released him just as they had the fugitive slave. Booth, however, being a law-abiding citizen, surrendered to the Federal Marshal and was finally pardoned by President Buchanan in 1861. Booth's dedication to the anti-slavery cause prompted the loss of his newspaper, a fortune of \$60,000 and jeopardized his health for the rest of his life.

These incidents in pre-Civil War Milwaukee gave every evidence that the citizens were in sympathy with the Negro and did not want their jails to become a slave pen or the citizens slave catchers.

Following the Civil War, the influx of freed slaves increased Milwaukee's Negro population. Like the Irish, German, Polish, Scandinavian and Yankee ethnic groups, they populated neighborhoods where they could be one with another. The larger portion of the Negro neighborhood was in the lower near west and north sides.

Nearly one hundred years ago there was a colored congregation of the African Methodist Church on the southeast corner of what is now Fourth and West Kilbourn Avenue. Three services were held on Sunday, and in the '70's the Pastor was Rev. Charles S. Jacobs, who resided in a parsonage adjoining the church. This was right in the heart of downtown Milwaukee. Planning for the Civic Center shortly before World War I necessitated its removal, and the Negro, like thousands of other people today, became the victim of urban renewal.



ENJOYING THE PARK shortly before the turn of the century. (Picture contributed by Joanie Simms).

Landmark Civil Rights decisions in Wisconsin

BY HARRY H. ANDERSON

In the last decade of the 19th century, negroes in Wisconsin and in other parts of the United States were becoming increasingly concerned over the protection of their right to patronize restaurants, hotels, theaters and other public places. They sought to assure and strengthen their civil rights through both the legal process and by direct legislation. Between 1888 and 1895, two court decisions, together with the enactment of Wisconsin civil rights law, went far to accomplish this goal. Both legal actions, as well as the authorship of the legislation of 1895, directly involved members of Milwaukee Negro community.

The first of these landmark court actions resulted from the refusal of a local theater manager to seat a Negro in the reserved section on the main floor of the Bijou Opera House. On the evening of September 12, 1889, Owen Howell, a colored railroad porter, went to the Bijou, which stood on Second Street south of Wisconsin Avenue, for a performance of "The Runaway Wife" by the McKee-Rankin Theater Company. His ticket for a reserved seat in the parquette was accepted by the door keeper and an usher; but before Howell could occupy his place, the theater's head usher informed him that Negroes were not permitted in that section and that he had to be seated in the balcony. Howell, refusing to go to the balcony, left the theater proprietor. His attorney was Gerry against Jacob Litt, the theater proprietor. His attorney was Gerry Whiting Hazelton, a prominent member of the Milwaukee bar, one-time United States Attorney, and a former Congressman.

Howell v. Litt was heard in the May, 1890 term of Circuit Court in Milwaukee County before Judge Daniel H. Johnson. After testimony was concluded, Judge Johnson instructed the jury that its verdict must be in favor of the plaintiff, Owen Howell. The following selections from Judge Johnson's charge to the jury formed the basis for this decision in the first of Wisconsin's civil rights cases.

"Gentlemen of the Jury: In this case you must find for the plaintiff . . . The question arises, or would arise if there were proper pleadings and it is the question which has been discussed and which the plaintiff and the defendant alike seem to desire a ruling upon—has the defendant any right to refuse to sell him a ticket to the parquette part of the auditorium of his theater? Had he a right having advertized the theater as a place of public resort, having invited patronage without exception to that theater, had having invited patronage without exception to that theater, had he a right to exclude him because he was a colored man? Had he a right to refuse him the right of purchasing a ticket? You have heard read in your presence several decision to the effect that he would have a right to give him back his money and refuse to allow him to sit in that part of the auditorium to which his ticket entitled him to enter. These decisions were doubtless good law when made, but in my judgment the law of the land, as it now stands, requires the proprietor of every public place of resort to which the whole public are invited and as to which the patronage of the whole public is solicited, to admit the public a place of amusement without discrimination of race or color. I do not believe that, as the law now stands, any such proprietor has a right to exclude any man from any part of his theater who is willing to pay his price, who comes decently dressed and who behaves himself with propriety. I think he has as little right to exclude a colored man under such circumstances as a German or a Poleander or a Italian or any man of any other race. If he chooses to start a theater merely for the people of a particular race, and so advertises it, perhaps he has a right to exclude all other people. That would not be a public place of resort. What is understood as a public place of resort is a resort to which the whole public are invited.

"Previous to the (Civil) war the black or Negro race were held in a servitude

in a portion of this country and such of them as escaped from servitude or happened to be what was called free Negroes wandered over the country and were stigmatized as belonging to a servile race, although they may have escaped from the servile class—if not slaves they were of the race who constituted the body of the slave population and they were stigmatized as such. One of the results of the rebellion that our people saw proper to incorporate into the constitution of this government was what is called the Thirteenth Amendment, by which slavery and all its incidents were abolished, by which it was expressly enacted that hereafter there should be no slavery or involuntary servitude except for the punishment of crime. A similar provision had long existed in these Northwestern states but it was disregarded so far as the colored race was concerned. They were treated as a servile as the colored race was concerned. They were treated as a servile and inferior people notwithstanding the provisions of the ordinance of 1787, and the provisions of the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin and other Northwestern states was followed by the Fourteenth Amendment which proclaimed the citizens of any state were entitled to all the privileges and immunities of citizens of other states, and whoever was a citizen of the United States should also have the privileges of full citizenship in any state in which he happened to be without discrimination. The effect of these amendments in my judgment was to render unlawful every discrimination on account of color or race which existed either by statute or by common law or by ordinance or by any other means in any of the states of the Union. The effect of it was to throw open to every respectable colored man every public place to which other respectable citizens were entitled to go, whether it was a steam boat or a railway car or a street car or a church or public theater or circus or any other properly speaking public place of resort. But it is claimed in this case, and is still claimed in many parts of the country, that it is nevertheless proper to provide a separate place, an inferior place of some sort where colored men can go, and provide other and more aristocratic portions of the theater or car or boat to which white men shall be admitted. That in my judgment is a mere evasion of the constitutional rights of the citizens of this country. And it seems to me, so far as the colored race is concerned, it is a greater insult than absolute exclusion from the place would be. To say a man shall not enter a theater is not so great a stigma upon him, it does not mark him as a servile and inferior being so distinctly as an arrangement which says you may go up there into that gallery, over there among those free seats yonder in that car set apart for your kind of people, but you must not go anywhere else. It is better for them so far as their feelings are concerned and their standing is concerned to be excluded altogether than to be relegated to some inferior corner in a gallery or car or cabin where they, and only they are permitted to go. I believe the law of the land to be today that whoever pays the proper price and conducts himself in a proper manner is entitled to go to any part of a public place where any other man is entitled to go on the same terms, and that he cannot be excluded as an objectionable person upon the ground of his race, his color or a previous condition of servitude if he ever occupied such a condition.

"This is a novel question in this city because, so far as we know, this is the first effort to exclude any man on account of his race or color, from any place where anybody else was permitted to go. It is true in some parts of the north a very strong and a very unjust race prejudice still exists. It is a matter of recent history in Ohio that black children were excluded from the public schools, persistently and thoroughly excluded notwithstanding the express terms of the statutes of the state which permitted them to attend the schools with other children. The

same thing happened in Kansas under the same state of law, it being an admitted fact that the whole thing was illegal but it was persisted in upon mere grounds of prejudice-prejudice which has no foundation in the nature of things and which has no standing before the law.

"In Milwaukee the public schools are open for the colored children the same as other children. There are no separate schools provided for them and I trust there will never be. The churches are open, the theaters with the single exception so far as I know of the Bijou Opera House are open to men, all parts of the house alike. This rational state of affairs in Milwaukee is largely due to the very large proportion of foreign people whom we have here, Germans and other foreigners who have never been affected by the influence of slavery, who come from countries where slavery was unknown, where the distinction between white and black men was only a distinction of color, and not of class or privilege. This large class of our population have never taken any stock in the prevailing prejudice among Americans against the colored race because they have never been in any way brought under the influence of the institution of slavery as all American have. I think that this prejudice should not be catered to, nor for one instant allowed standing in Court or in law because it is, among other reason, utterly useless, utterly irrational based as it is upon an apprehension of social equality or social intimacy. The free intermixing of all people in purely public places, at the polls, in churches, in the cars, in the theaters, has no tendency to bring about social relations which either party desires to avoid than the fact that they walk the same streets or go to the same polls or worship in the same church...

"Take this case and consider it the same as you would consider a case between two white men, or two black

men of the same race. Wherever the distinction between white man and black man may be permitted to survive it must not be in the jury box or courts or justice. There all men are equal in law, and they must all be treated as though they belonged to one race."

Efforts to enact civil rights legislation in Wisconsin began shortly after the Howell case, but the 1891 session of the legislature failed to pass the proposed bill. It was not until April 20, 1895, that Governor William H. Upshur signed into law a measure prohibiting discrimination because of race in restaurants, hotels and other public accommodations. The 1895 Civil Rights Act provided for fines of \$5 to \$100 or a jail term of up to six months. One authority on the subject has observed: "For Wisconsin, and for the period, it was a good law."

The first court test of the new Wisconsin civil rights measure occurred in Milwaukee little more than six months after its enactment. On October 30, 1895, Isaac T. Bryan, a Negro, and Silas H. Corbett, a white man and the Sheriff of Otonagon County, Michigan, were refused service at Adler's and Mauer's restaurant because the waiters would not serve a colored man. Bryan was an employee of the Pullman Palace Car Company on the railroad line between Milwaukee and Menominee, Michigan. He had resided in Milwaukee since 1876, and had worked as a railroad porter for nearly thirty years. On the day in question Bryan was assisting Sheriff Corbett in locating witnesses for a trial at Menominee, and they had eaten breakfast at the same restaurant earlier that morning, when a different crew of waiters was on duty.

After being refused service, Bryan complained to the owners of the restaurant, but they were unable to compel the waiters to serve the Negro and his companion, and the pair then left and went to Henry Wehr's restaurant nearby where they obtained their supper without encountering any further difficulties. Bryan subsequently secured the services of G.W. Hazelton (the attorney in the Howell case), and filed suit against Adler and Mauer for violation of the state civil rights law. Trial was held during the October, 1896, term of Milwaukee County's Superior Court, Judge J.C. Ludwig presiding. The jury in Bryan vs. Adler, et al., acting on the instructions of Judge Ludwig, returned a verdict in favor of the defendants. This decision was based upon the reasoning (Continued next page)



LEROY SIMMONS at his desk in the state legislature from 1949 to 1950. He was the grandson of one of the first Black residents of the Milwaukee.

Rights decisions

(Continued from preceding page)

that the restaurant owners had tried to get their waiters to serve Bryan and, having subsequently discharged one of them for refusing, were not to be held to have violated the antidiscrimination statute.

The jury verdict against Bryan was rendered on November 27, 1896. On December 9, his attorney, Hazelton, filed notice of appeal to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The following September, the State's highest tribunal heard the case and reversed the original decision of the Milwaukee court. Finding in favor of Isaac T. Bryan, the high court said the defendants were, in fact, responsible for the action of their employees when they violated provisions of the civil rights law. The following selections are from the opinion delivered by Chief Justice John B. Cassoday, which, as one observer has noted, "strengthened both the statute and the State's resolve to do justice under the law."

"CASSODAY, CHIEF JUSTICE. The complaint alleges, in effect, that on the prior to October 30, 1895, the defendants were conducting a public eating house and saloon in Milwaukee; that on that day the plaintiff and another entered said eating house for the purpose of being served and seated themselves at one of the tables provided for patrons and waited some forty minutes for someone to take their order; that on inquiry, they were informed by defendants that their order was not taken because the plaintiff was a colored man, whereupon they left and

went elsewhere for supper; that by such failure and refusal to take the plaintiff's order the defendant wrongfully and unjustly denied to the plaintiff the equal enjoyment and privilege of their said eating house without valid reason or excuse and by an unjust and illegal discrimination based wholly on color to his damage in the sum of \$500. The answer in effect admits that the defendants conducted such saloon and restaurant at the time mentioned; that they had many hundreds of patrons and many employees and could not give personal attention to all their guests; that the plaintiff, a colored man, and his friend, a white man, were served with breakfast at their restaurant on the morning of that day; that about supper time they returned and after remaining in the restaurant a short time they returned and after remaining on the restaurant a short time the plaintiff complained to the defendants that he had not been served; that the defendants thereupon requested one of their waiters to serve the plaintiff, but that he refused to do so, although demanded of him by the defendants; that thereupon the plaintiff left the restaurant; that as soon as they could secure other help they discharged said waiter; that the defendants had not been prosecuted for a misdemeanor under a prior 223 law of 1895; that they denied that they aided, incited or countenanced said waiter to such refusal or that they or either of them refused the plaintiff service in their restaurant.



DR. IRVIN RED, the first Black veterinarian in Milwaukee, with his two daughters, Addie and Gertie Red. He was located between Third and Fourth sts. on State st.

The railroad porter who wanted to vote

BY FREDERICK I. OLSON

On election day, November, 1865, a colored man offered his ballot at the polls in Milwaukee's Seventh Ward. He was armed with two affidavits. One, signed by two householders of the ward, declared that they knew him to be an inhabitant of the ward. The second explained that his name-Ezekiel Gillespie-did not appear on the list of voters because the board of registry did not refuse on the preceding October 31 to accept him as a qualified voter. The election inspectors were not impressed by the affidavits and turned away the would-be voter.

It is easy to understand why Milwaukee's Seventh Ward election officials felt justified in refusing the vote of a colored man in 1865. Wisconsin's voters had turned down Negro suffrage by a vote of nearly two to one when they rejected the constitution of 1846. The successful constitution of 1848 restricted the vote to white males but permitted the legislature to extend the suffrage, provided such extension was "approved by a majority of all the votes cast" in a separate referendum held at a general election. In 1849 the legislature approved Negro voting, and the state's voters in November seemingly had concurred, 5265 to 4075. But the state's board of election canvassers assumed that the proposal failed for want of a majority of the 31,759 ballots cast for governor, the largest vote total for any office at the election. This narrow construction of the constitutional provision on extension of the vote was so widely accepted that even Rufus King, editor of the Milwaukee Sentinel and a strong anti-slavery man, readily acquiesced.

Negro suffrage was on the Wisconsin ballot again in 1857 and lost by about 12,000 votes. Once more Badger voters seemed curiously indifferent to the issue, for only two-thirds as many bothered to mark the suffrage referendum as voted for governor. With the Civil War over, it seemed logical enough to reconsider the question at the November, 1865 election. The state, which had been in the vanguard of anti-slavery agitation before the war and had just demonstrated its loyalty to the Union and to the Republican party, would surely want to set a standard for the nation in extending the suffrage to the colored people. Once again, however, in the election which wit-

nessed Gillespie's challenge in the Seventh Ward, the state said no, this time by about 8,000 out of a total of 100,000 ballots, with nearly all those who voted for governor participating.

Advocates of negro suffrage need not have been disheartened, however. The colored man whose vote had been refused was now represented by one of the state's most eminent attorneys, Byron Paine, in an action in the County Court against the board of election inspectors, Henry L. Palmer, William H. Williams, and Andrew H. McCormick. The board's counsel, David G. Hooker, future mayor of Milwaukee, entered a demurser on the grounds that the facts as stated did not constitute sufficient cause for the action. When the County Court upheld his view, Paine immediately appealed to the State Supreme Court.

By March, 1866, the Court had readied a unanimous decision in the case of Gillespie vs. Palmer and others (20 Wisconsin Reports 544), completely vindicating Gillespie's right to vote. Justices Jason Downer and Luther S. Dixon wrote separate opinions, with Chief Justice Orasmus Cole concurring. The basic issue, of course, was the construction of the referendum results of 1849. Brushing aside all of the side issues which Hooker sought to raise, Downer applied logic to the construction of the phrase "a majority of all the votes cast" and readily concluded it meant simply a majority of all the votes cast on the referendum question. Thus the Supreme Court overruled the adverse results of the referenda of 1857 and 1865 and declared Negro suffrage had been valid in Wisconsin since 1849. The Sentinel reported that 25 to 30 Negroes voted in the municipal election the week following the Court's decision.

Who was Ezekiel Gillespie, who had overturned the verdict of 100,000 Badger voters? At his death on March 31, 1892, he was described by the Milwaukee Journal as a "somewhat remarkable and interesting character." Born into slavery in Georgia about 1818 but the son of a slave owner, as a young man he bought his freedom for several hundred dollars from his own father.

Arriving in Milwaukee in 1854, he went to work for the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railway Company, the state's first railroad, and continued

with the Milwaukee Road when it absorbed that line.

At Gillespie's death it was said that he had been a familiar figure around the Mitchell building, the home office of the railroad, delivering mail to the various departments and to the Post Office and enjoying the freedom of every department. He died in Chicago, apparently having accompanied the recent removal of the road's general offices there. The esteem in which he was held was demonstrated when a delegation of Milwaukee Road officials and clerks brought his remains to Milwaukee for burial in Forest Home Cemetery. No colored man in the northwest, the Journal declared, had had as many eminent white citizens at his funeral. Although Gillespie's death and funeral made news in four consecutive issues of the Journal, his role in winning the ballot for his people was not recognized until two weeks later, and then in garbled form. By that time his exploits had become legend, assigning him also a role in the underground railroad of the 1850's and especially in the famous Joshua Glover case. It was also reported then that he had cherished and guarded the documents which proved him a freed man until he learned of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, whereupon he tore them to bits.

Enough had been said to prove that Ezekiel Gillespie was no ordinary person. His obituary reported that he carried a large amount of life insurance and left considerable property for his large family. He apparently worked continuously for the same employer for about a third of a century and was so highly valued that the road's general manager, Sherburne S. Merrill, is reported to have discharged an otherwise respected employee for using vile language toward Gillespie. Yet it may be doubted that Gillespie alone was responsible for reopening the suffrage question in November, 1865.

The most suspicious circumstance surrounding the case of Gillespie vs. Palmer and others is its neatness. The plaintiff properly sought to register and then to vote, and brought the proper affidavits to the polls. The setback in the County Court was promptly appealed to the Supreme Court, where the facts were stipulated and the basic issue immediately agreed upon. Gillespie's attorney in all this was a leading Republican, who had

served as Supreme Court justice from 1859 to 1864 when he resigned in favor of military service-and who was to sit on the Court again from 1867 until his death in 1871. Moreover, Paine had been Sherman Booth's attorney during that long-drawn out and celebrated fugitive slave case of the 1850's. Two of the three justices before whom Paine pleaded the case had recently been his colleagues on the bench. It is no derogation of Gillespie's character to suggest that he may have been an agent in the case. The ideal advocate-Paine had found the perfect exemplar of his cause-a bona fide freedman of stable employment and a decade's residence in Wisconsin. The combination won the day.

(Editor's Note: The articles for the Milwaukee Courier Black History Week Editions, Part I, and II, were taken from the Historical Messenger, which is published quarterly by the Milwaukee County Historical Society).



CARVER MEMORIAL HOMES, inc., held its first open house in December, 1944. Some of the persons pictured at the event are Frank Kirkpatrick, Larry Saunders, Ms. L. Eubanks, Ms. Bernice Lindsey, Sanford Carter, Ms. E. Jackson, and Atty. G. Hamilton.



THOMAS CHEEKS became the first Black high school teacher in the Milwaukee public school system in 1951 when he became an instructor at Lincoln high school. Cheeks also became the first Black athletic coach when he took over track and basketball at Lincoln in 1952.



MR. AND MS. C. L. JOHNSON. Johnson was the first executive director of the YMCA in the Black community. He was active with the old Booker T. Washington YMCA branch when it was first located in a home on Tenth st., and subsequently on Eighth and W. Walnut sts.



WAYNE EMBRY WAS NAMED general manager of the Milwaukee Bucks in March, 1972, making him the first Black general manager, and the highest ranking Black executive in all of the major professional sports. Embry had served as director of player personnel for the past two seasons. He originally joined the Bucks organization in the 1968-69 season as a player.



CHECKING UP AFTER the banquet for the 1967 Lincoln high school basketball champion Comets were (from left) principal A. Dunar, Andy Lewis, Frank Robinson, Sanford Carter, and athletic director Ron Foot.



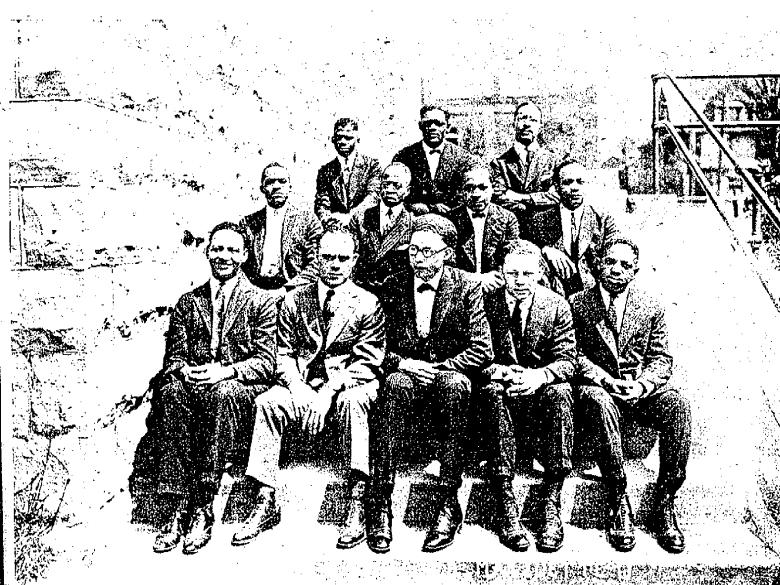
PRESTLEY'S SCHOOL OF BEAUTY CULTURE, located at 709 W. Reservoir st., was the first Black beauty school in Wisconsin. It was owned by Ms. Mattie (Prestley) Dewese, who taught along with her foster daughter, Ms. Flora Simms. Many of Milwaukee's favorite and most popular beauticians graduated from this school, and are pictured in this early graduating class.



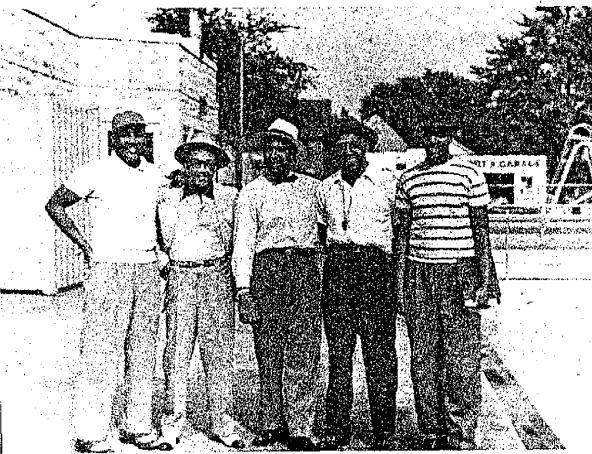
A TEA FOR ALL the graduating young ladies in 1952 met at the home of Ms. C. Harris. Pictured are Barbara Cabell, Joan Turner, and hostess Margarete Bobo.



CORNELIUS L. GOLIGHTLY became the first Black member of the Milwaukee school board when he was elected in April, 1961. He was subsequently appointed to the unexpired term of a resigned school board member May 2, 1961. He served until June, 1967, when he was defeated for re-election. The first and only Black school board president, Atty. Harold B. Jackson, was appointed to the board by the board in April, 1970. Jackson was elected president of the school board in July, 1971, and re-elected in July, 1972. He resigned from the board and as president in November, 1972.



ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY was the first Black fraternity organized in Milwaukee and Wisconsin. All students at one time or other at Marquette university, pictured are Alden McDonald, Dr. Fred Bobo, Frank King Beck, Carl Bloom, B. K. Bruce Harrison (deceased), Dr. V. Nichols, J. Harvey Kams (early executive secretary of the Urban League), La' Jaux Stanton, Dr. George Daniels, Dr. George Duma (from Capetown, South Africa), Rollin McMahon (deceased), and Dr. Paul K. Campbell.



SUPERVISOR CLINTON ROSE as he appeared in a picture taken in Boston, Mass., in 1937. Rose was the first Black person elected to the County Board of Supervisors to partially represent a suburban area. He was first elected in 1970.



THE NEW LAPHAM PARK swimming pool was the location of the first swimming meet held in the Black community back in the early 1940s. Participants in the meet included (from left) Willie Harold, Lincoln Gaines, Andrew Lewis, Jackie Love (deceased), and Pat Goggins.



PRINCESS ELLA CHAPTER No. 1, OES, Ester Day in June, 1922. Ladies identified are Ms. Roach, Weaver, Sanford, Morley, Ward, Perkins, Miles, Wilson, Owens, Baylor, Raynor, Grace, and Lewis.



PROBABLY THE HOLDER of more Blacks "firsts" than any other Black person in Wisconsin is Atty. Vel R. Phillips. Her most recent, and possibly most notable, "first" was becoming the state's first Black judge when she was sworn into office as Childrens Court Judge in August, 1972. She had been appointed by Governor Patrick Lucey, but lost a bid for re-election. Prior to the appointment, Atty. Phillips had served more than 15 years as an alderman. She was the first Black on the Common Council, having been elected for the first time in 1956. In 1958 Atty. Phillips became the first Black person named to a national committee of either major political party. She was named Wisconsin national committeewoman for the Democratic party. Atty. Phillips was also the first Black woman to receive a degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School, when she was awarded the degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School, in 1951. In the same year, with her husband, Dale, they became the first (Black or white) man and wife law team to be admitted to practice law in Wisconsin.



DR. GEORGE W. LANE (standing third from right) was named director of the Sickle Cell Center at Deaconess Hospital last year. He is pictured with members of his family. Seated (from left) are Ms. Laura Lane, Alfonso Sanders (brother-in-law), Ms. Lula Lane (mother), and Ms. Mildred Sanders (sister). Standing (from left) are Ms. Willie Jefferson (sister), Ralph Jefferson (brother-in-law), Ms. Bertha Ward (sister), Dr. Lane, Ms. Mary Pryor (sister), and Joe Pryor (brother-in-law).



IT WAS A SUCCESSFUL deer hunting season for the Rod and Gun Club back in November, 1943, as this picture will attest. Some of the hunters pictured are Alex Bassett, Walter Hampton, and "Dewey."



"SADIE HAWKINS" Day with a teen club at the Northside YMCA. Pictured are (from right) Donald Goggans, Evelyn Bailey, Floyd Campbell, Melvin Hall, and Dorothy Bailey.



MS. CAROLE (THOMAS) MALONE was the recipient of the Northside YMCA Citizenship Award in 1954. Donor, and maker of the presentation was Wilbur Halyard, founder of Columbia Savings and Loan Association, the first Black financial institution in the state.

AN EARLY CHURCH CHOIR of St. Mark AME church located in the early 1920s on Fourth and W. Galena sts. Some of the choir members who can be identified include Consella Wilson, Bert Revels and daughter; and Daniel Raynor.





BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Y.M.C.A.
1946 CAMPING GROUP.

FIRST GROUP OF BLACK youngsters who went to the YMCA Camp Minikani in 1946. Andrew Lewis (standing at left) was the leader. Some of the youngsters pictured are Leroy Ware, Mickey Tabor, Buzzy Wilson, Douglas Jones, Vernon Ware, Freddy Jones, Warner Birts, Jerrel Jones, Jack Wilson, William Fisher, Roscoe Webb, Fred Birts, and Kermit Hood.



DR. LOUIS T. MAXEY became the first Black president and board chairman of a hospital in Wisconsin when the Wisconsin Hospital & Geriatric Treatment Center opened in August, 1971.

WILLIAM V. KELLY, executive director of the Milwaukee Urban League, was as honored on April 13, 1950, for his 21 years on the job. Presenting Kelly with a life membership in the YMCA and a briefcase were Sidney Sayles (left) and Lincoln Gaines. Kelly was the MUL's first executive director, having held the post since 1929.



REV. M. J. BATTLE was named the YMCA "Man of the Year" in 1955. He served as pastor of Calvary Baptist church for many years.

L'ALLEGRO CLUB, a social club of the old Booker T. Washington YMCA. Identified in this 1946 picture of the club are Berhadine Jefferson, Dorothy Fisher, Wilma Jefferson, Lillian Brown, Buster Gallimore, Irene Goggins, Arthur Bacon, and Collie Carter.



GALILEE BAPTIST CHURCH youth groups in 1946. Members of the "Five Notes" were Freddie Royal, Jimmy Whitfield, Robert Lott, and two unidentified youths. The "Estralata" members were Romelia Hamm Powell, Juanita Hamm Virgil, Maude Neal Toney, and Devella Norton Tucker.



OFFICERS OF THE Princess Ella Chapter No. 1, OES, in 1954. Some of them identified are Ms. M. Gaines, Sanford Carter, and Ms. F. Simms.

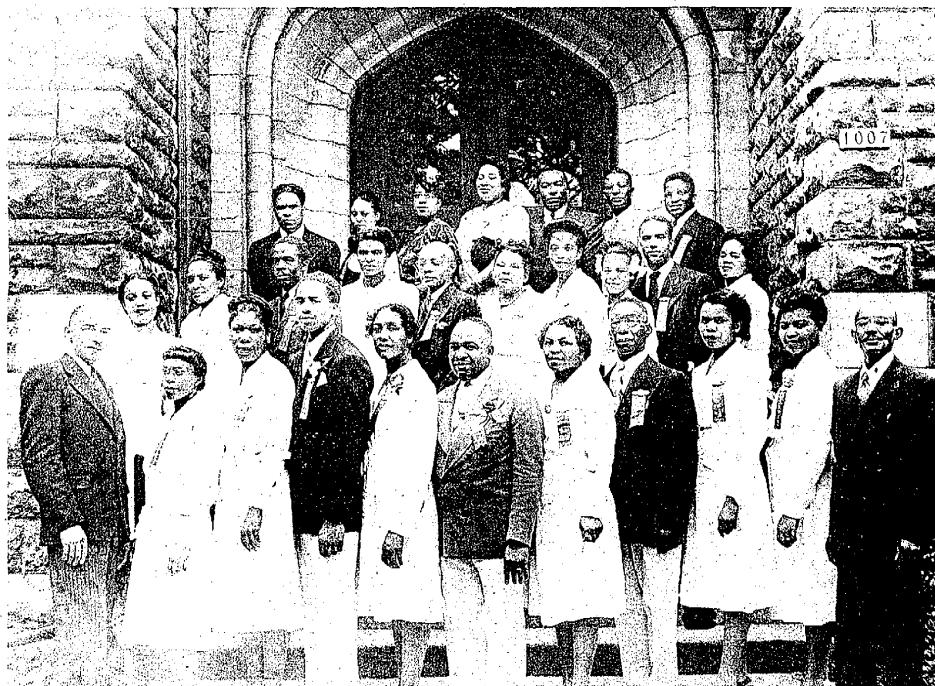
THE DELPHIANS Social Club in the early 1940s. Some of the members pictured are Thelma Welch, Matthebelle Woods, Marie Gaines, Una Colin, Loretta Whyte, Arnell Rose, Ruby Kinney, Dorothy Quantrell, and Fosteria Jones.



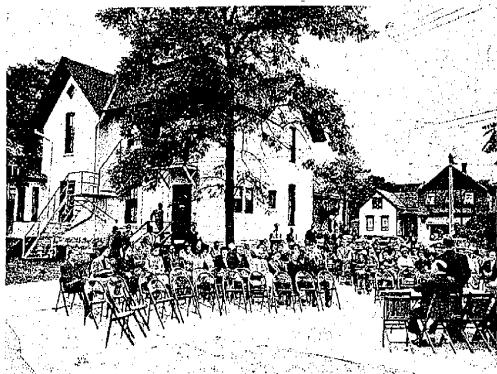
JACK PATTERSON in 1946 became the first Black man hired by the Milwaukee Electric Rail and Transport company. Working out of the National avenue station, Patterson operated street cars and the trackless trolley.



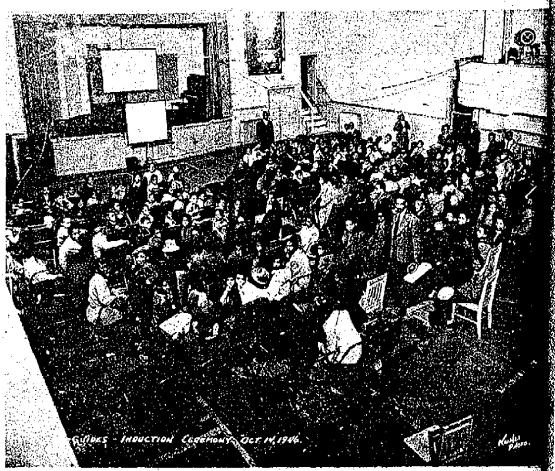
THE MT. ZION BAPTIST church usher board held their anniversary in July, 1953. Rev. Lovelace, pastor, is at left, and Rev. McNeal is at right.



THE FIRST INDIAN GUIDE induction ceremony was held at the old Booker T. Washington YMCA in 1946. All you were required to bring them parents for the occasion.



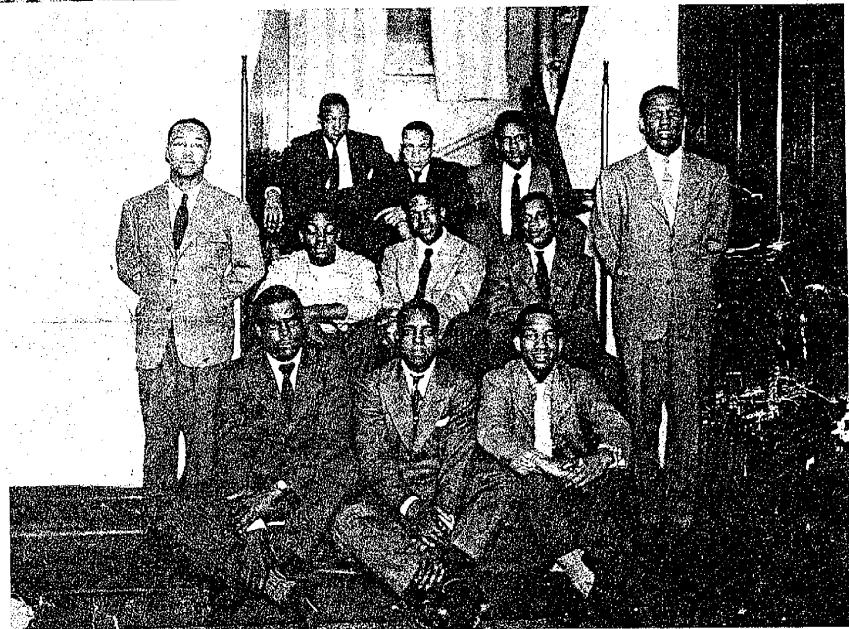
THE DEDICATION CEREMONY of the Northside YMCA when it first moved to the location at Sixth st. and North ave. was held in September, 1950.



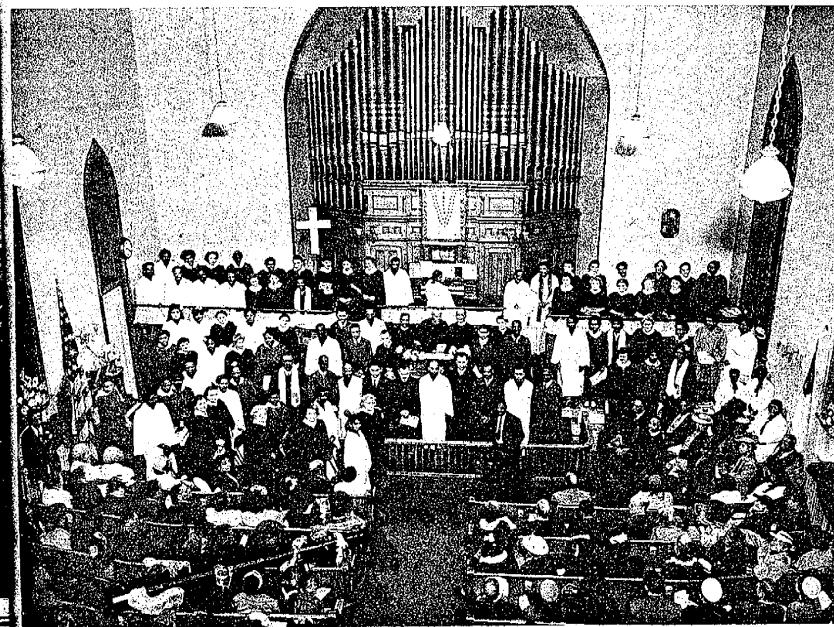
INDUCTION CEREMONY, OCT. 14, 1946.



THE NEW NORTHSIDE YMCA at 12th and Garfield was dedicated back in 1964. The staff at that time included: Hoyt Givens, associate director; Louis Haynes, physical director; John Lamont, assistant physical director; John Tutenhouf, assistant youth director; Robert Thomas, youth director, and Robert Starms, director.



THE FIRST LOCATION of the Black YMCA in Milwaukee was in the 1800 block on North 10th st. Members of the organization's "Leaders Club" pictured included Lincoln Gaines, Ralph Jefferson, Sanford Carter, Arthur Bacon, Buster Gallimore, and Theophilus Crockett.



THE FIRST BURNING of the church mortgage in 1944. Rev. E. Stewart was pastor of St. Mark AME church at that time.

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