

The Voice

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

"Dedicated to the promotion of the cultural, social and spiritual life of a great people."

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EDITORIALS

The views expressed in these columns necessarily a reflection of the policy are those of the writer and not of The Voice.—Pub.

Hospital Shows Courage

St. Francis Hospital in Charleston, W. Va., is a small enough institution—it has only 140 beds—but, being Catholic, it is mindful of the large claims of social justice. In the spring of 1950 the hospital hired a nurse who happens to be colored. Last fall it took on another Negro nurse. When, in early April, the hospital hired a third Negro nurse, a group of white nurses on the staff threatened to resign unless the Negro nurse was dismissed. Sister Helen Clare, the hospital superintendent, was unimpressed by this display of prejudice, unmoved by the threat. Reverend Mother Perpetua came up from the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Wheeling, W. Va., to urge the white girls, pledge to see Christ in their patients who are sick, to try to see Christ in their

fellow nurses whose skin is darker. Twenty of the white nurses refused to withdraw their unjust and uncharitable demand. On May 18 they resigned, generously offering to meet Mother Perpetua at any time she can "give us assurance of a sincere desire to correct the existing situation." The Sisters of St. Joseph, whose allegiance is to Jesus Christ rather than Jim Crow, flew in substitutes from other hospitals. The airlift is a symbol of the courage of the Sisters.

The Rev. John Warren Anderson, ordained on May 19, will be the first Negro priest to serve the Archdiocese of Omaha. On the same day, Bishop John F. O'Hara, C.S.C., of Buffalo, ordained the Rev. Peter C. Carter, a convert, as the second Negro priest in his diocese.

Debbie and Gamma Phi

The Gamma Phi Beta sorority house on Hilyard Street is one of the handsomest at the University of Oregon. Strategically surrounded by fraternities, its green lawn slopes away to a mill race that meanders through the campus. One morning last month, sorority row was alive with the news that the Gamma Phi lawn had been desecrated by a seven-foot fiery cross. Sorority members vowed they didn't know who had brought the Ku Klux symbol, but they knew why. One of their sisters, Sophomore Debbie Burgess of Astoria, had been dating a Negro, DeNorval Unthank of Portland, a husky senior in the School of Architecture.

The friendship had been common knowledge for weeks, and the sorority girls had been subjected to some unpleasant wisecracks from their own dates. A few of them had girl-to-girl talks with Debbie, and then the house-mother spoke her piece. Finally the alumnae adviser had a quiet meeting with the errant pair, and treated them to her version of the facts of social life, urged them to stop seeing each other because "it isn't the accepted thing." It was a bad influence on

the house, said she, and the house would have to take action if something wasn't done.

After the cross-burning, Debbie met the adviser again, agreed to move out of the sorority house. "I didn't say I wouldn't move, so I guess you can say I went voluntarily," she explained. "I felt I had no alternative."

With that, the Oregon Daily Emerald took up the cry. In a pair of scathing editorials, the student editor attacked race prejudice and alumnae control of sororities: "An Oregon sorority has just paid homage to one of the strongest satans of our society. It has given way to fear of an unwritten social code and executed an injustice ugly on a college campus."

Last week the Gamma Phis yielded, let it be known that Debbie would be welcomed back among her sisters, whether she stopped seeing DeNorval or not. But Debbie, who still dates DeNorval, likes it where she is, in Hendricks Hall, and will probably finish out the term in a college dormitory. Said she: "I wouldn't feel right about moving back in after what the sorority has done."



by **JAMES C. OLSON**, Superintendent
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This Memorial Day the people of Orleans, in Harlan County, dedicated a marker recently erected over the grave of Alexander Culbertson, the famed fur trader of a century and more ago.

The fact that the mortal remains of the "King of the Missouri" (as Culbertson frequently was called) lay in their cemetery was only recently brought to the attention of the people of Orleans. The public-spirited response to this information will be told by Charles E. Hanson, Jr., of Loomis, in an article appearing in the June issue of *Nebraska History*, the quarterly journal of the State Historical Society. I'd like to tell you a little about Culbertson himself.

Born May 16, 1809 at Chambersburg, Pa., Alexander Culbertson began his illustrious career in the wilds of the Upper Missouri River region in the early 1830's. He occupied positions of increasing importance in the service of the American Fur Company, the giant concern which by that time had a virtual monopoly on the fur trade of the far west.

He succeeded Kenneth McKenzie as head of Fort Union, and in 1847 was instrumental in the establishment of Fort Benton. Illustrative of the confidence which the Fur Company had in Culbertson was the fact that when business began falling off at Fort Laramie on the North Platte, Culbertson was the man sent to re-

Some Progress in D.C.

Segregated restaurants in Washington, D. C., are finally outlawed by courts, thus upholding the "forgotten" 1873 anti-bias law. It's good to know that our nation's capital has progressed to 1873! . . . Another hopeful . . .

Southern Educational Foundation granted \$102,000 to Southern Negro private and public schools for county supervisors, workshops and special projects.

vive it. In 1848, he was named the company's general agent on the Upper Missouri and Upper Yellowstone rivers.

In common with most fur traders, Culbertson married an Indian girl. Unlike most of his contemporaries, however, he remained married to her throughout his life, producing a family of well-educated and successful children. For a time they resided in a handsome country home near Peoria, Ill.

Alexander Culbertson was more than a successful fur trader. He was a notable frontiersman as well. A mighty hunter and a skilled horseman, he was particularly effective in dealing with the Indians. An outstanding bit of service was that rendered Gov. I. I. Stevens of Washington Territory in connection with a survey made in 1853-55 for a northern route for a Pacific railroad.

Like many another giant of the fur trade, Culbertson was unable to hang on to his great fortune. His last years were spent in the home of a daughter in Orleans, where he died, August 27, 1879.

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