

THE OBSERVER

1463 North Williams Avenue

PORTLAND 12, OREGON

Telephone
Lancaster 1678

McLENDON & SON
Publishers

March 30, 1948

The City Council
City Hall
Portland, Oregon

Attention: Commissioner Ormond Bean

I am herewith requesting the City Council to grant me a restaurant license and also to approve waiving the customary 90 day waiting period before an Oregon Liquor Commission restaurant license is granted. It is my desire to begin immediate operation of a restaurant with bar service available at premises known as the Club Savoy, 1500 N. Williams Avenue, Portland, as soon as possible. If I should be required to comply with the 90 day waiting period, the goodwill of this business and the limited capital I have to conduct operations would be thoroughly dissipated.

This request, while perhaps somewhat irregular, is of immense significance. At the present, a restaurant of this type, where Negro people are welcome, is non-existent in this city. It is within reason to expect that such accommodations should exist. At this writing there are approximately 10,000 adult citizens in this area who are denied this form of social participation because of factors that need not be emphasized at this time.

This problem, where Negroes are concerned, has been seriously aggravated. As a result of the floods of 1948, the population of the Negro people in this immediate vicinity has more than doubled its pre-flood status. Evening entertainment and relaxation such as I propose to offer has been withheld from this group of citizens much too long.

In the conduct of this business Negroes will be employed regularly as musicians, bar attendants, cooks, waiters and in maintenance. This is of extreme importance to this community. As you know, the avenues for extensive work opportunities for members of this group are not at all plentiful.

Prior to Jan. 1, 1949 these premises had been in almost continuous operation since 1944. Its service to its patrons was keenly felt. The building is fully furnished and equipped. The kitchen and restaurant has always merited a Class A rating. All fire, plumbing and other requirements are fully complied with.

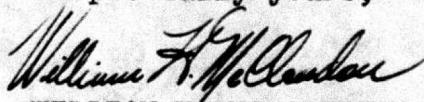
To: The City Council

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I have been a resident of Oregon for a number of years. I am married and the father of two children. I am a college graduate and the past 6 years, I have edited and published the OBSERVER....the oldest and most influential Negro publication in this State. I am a musician by avocation and a member in good standing of the American Federation of Musicians, Local 99. I am also a licensed union booking agent.

I will appreciate this matter being given immediate attention. Please feel free to have me appear before you at any time to answer any further questions that may aid your giving favorable consideration to this request.

Respectfully yours,



WILLIAM H. MC CLENDON

WMc:mlo

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Notes

Communication from Wm.H.McClendon requesting that he be granted restaurant license to operate 1500 N. Williams avenue (Club Savoy) and that waiving of customary 90-day waiting period be waived.

THURSDAY

APR 7 - 1949

Commissioner Peterson made a motion which was seconded by Commissioner Bean that the License Inspector be instructed to accept this application prior to the 90-day waiting period
Carried.

Filed **APR 1 - 1949**

Will Gibson.

Auditor of the CITY OF PORTLAND

By *R. S. Gray* Deputy