

CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF PARKS

Foreman's Daily Report

For Apr. 19 1944

By _____ Foreman.

PARK—PLAYGROUND—BOULEVARD

KIND OF WORK

PARKS

PLAYGROUNDS

CONSTRUCTION

NAME

Hrs. Hrs. Hrs. Hrs. Hrs. Hrs. Hrs. Hrs. Hrs. Hrs. Hrs. Hrs. Hrs. Hrs. Hrs. Hrs. Total Hrs.

In regard to John Scott Brown Jr. director at the Albina Community Bldg. I am sure he has been off the job here a lot since Apr. 1st

I have only seen him once since Apr. 1st
My reason for believing this, is that the other director here, Mrs B. Burke comes here around 3.30 or 4 P.M. and starts right in cooking a regular meal, one for a working man.

Well when (Scottie) Brown Jr. is here the meal is gone the next morning otherwise it is in pots in the pantry here not having been touched.

L. B. Patterson was on duty here Apr. 11th + 14th and Brown was not here at all then.

Patterson was on duty here Apr. 18th Brown came here at 6 P.M. ate a pie and quart of milk.

at 6.30 P.M. a man friend of Brown's came and they played a game of ping-pong, about 6.45

Brown's white girl friend came with another white girl about 18 years of age.

The four (4) of them left at 7 P.M.
Mrs Burke was not here at all Apr. 19th

Sincerely,
J. W. Russell
Foreman Albina Com. Bldg.

Employer - Bg.

June 10, 1944

Honorable R. E. Riley,
Mayor,
City of Portland, Oregon

Dear Sir:

With reference to the attached, this is the colored boy who got into difficulties in Vanport with the sheriff's forces on account of having a red-headed white woman in his rooms. He was on the Federal Grants payroll assigned to the Albina Community House for several weeks.

Yours very truly,

Superintendent of Parks

K:d

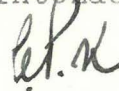
Memo - June 9, 1944

Yesterday John Scott Brown, Jr., came in and talked to Miss Rhoades and Miss Lensch and finally appealed to me claiming he should not have been fired and that he had some money coming.

I told him I thought he had been over paid for what services he rendered and suggested that he give me a statement in black and white of what he thought was due him and I would go into the question on its merits. He produced an envelope from his pocket and said "This is the only white paper I am going by. I am going to take this matter higher."

Whereupon I told him that was all right with me, he might sue the city if he wished.

Superintendent of Parks



K:d

August 11, 1944

Honorable Kenneth L. Cooper,
Commissioner of Finance,
Portland, Oregon

Dear Sir:

With reference to grievance of Mr. John Scott Brown, Jr., his communication of August 9th is returned herewith.

Mr. Brown was discharged because service rendered was unsatisfactory. He had only a part time job in the Albina Community Center while supposed to be working a shift in the shipyards, and occupying an apartment in Vanport.

He and Mrs. Burke, no relation, both colored, succeeded a Mr. and Mrs. Perry, also colored, who were obliged to quit when Perry was drafted.

Miss Lensch was interested in trying out negro directors in this spot, and it would appear that the Perrys were making progress. Brown did pretty well for a time, but soon failed to make much of a showing.

He seemed to feel privileged to come and go as he pleased. A report reached the Superintendent's office that on one occasion he arrived ostensibly to go on regular duty, but was accompanied by another male negro and two white women, and shortly all four left together and none of them returned. At the same time he was under a cloud from being apprehended by the Sheriff in Vanport for consorting with a white woman in his apartment. He told me he was engaged to said white woman, that she was a respectable divorcee, and that his conscience was clear regardless of appearances.

I told him that no matter how come, an unmarried colored man could not be openly intimate with unattached white females, and expect to escape scandal; that it would bring a prejudice too great for us to defend against any employe of the Bureau and particularly one in position to influence young people and children,

In a discussion with him lasting an hour I thought I had him convinced, that it was not our province to mix the socialological implication of his case into our administration.

At all events his services did not prove valuable to the Bureau, and I will maintain that he was amply compensated for such services as he rendered. Our error was in not letting him out sooner.

After all he was a part time employe on temporary employment. I believe there was no requirement for us to show cause why his service was discontinued.

Yours very truly,

Superintendent of Parks

K:d