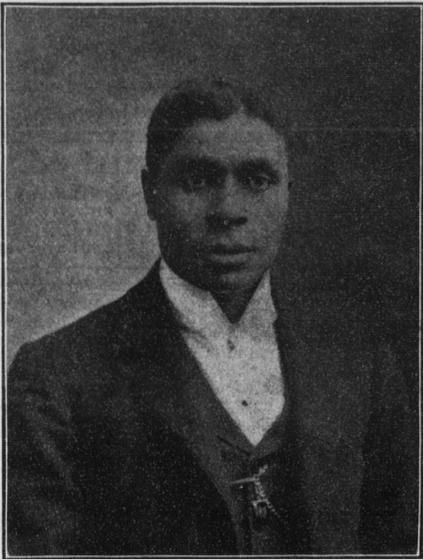


Seattle's Colored Caterers Hold the Fort

JOHN T. GAYTON.

The four largest dining rooms in Seattle at the present time have for headwaiters Afro-Americans, and every one of them, with the bare exception of Thomas Wood, have served under Mr. Gayton at the Rainier Club, which is the largest and most fashionable in the state, either as a waiter or headwaiter. For the past two years or more he has been steward of the club, and in that capacity has given as perfect satisfaction as he did as headwaiter of the club's dining room, in which

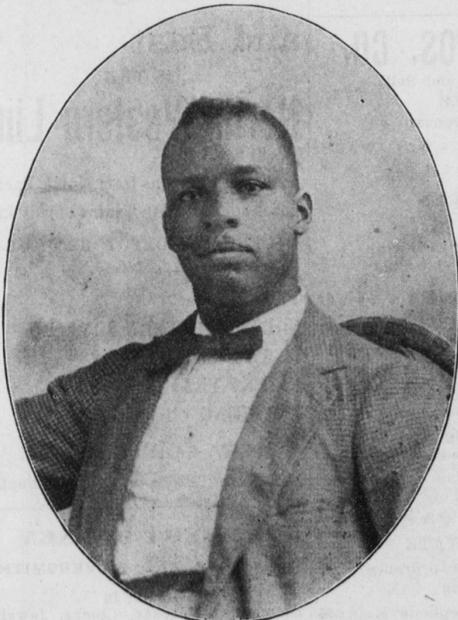


JOHN T. GAYTON.

position he served for five years. For a time the dining room of the Rainier Club was the only one in which colored men could get employment in the city of Seattle, and it was the huge success that it had that induced other proprietors of dining rooms to employ colored crews, and today, as has already been stated in another connection, the leading dining rooms of the city are operated by colored crews. Mr. Gayton is perhaps the most successful caterer in the city, and no better proof of this is needed than that he is called upon almost every night in the week to serve private parties and banquets. He is not only a steward, a waiter, and a head waiter by profession, but he is likewise an up-to-date caterer, and is frequently called upon to serve banquets at which a thousand covers are laid. He perhaps may not have had the varied hotel experience as others, but in his line he has proven himself an entire success and is considered almost indispensable by the officers of the famous Rainier Club, where congregates each day the leading men of Seattle, both commercially and otherwise.

JOSEPH MOORE.

There is no denying the fact that the entire Pacific Northwest could advantageously use quite a few more colored men in the capacity of hotel waiters, especially if they should prove themselves to be as efficient and trustworthy as has Joseph Moore, the present head waiter of the Rainier Club. Honest, sober and reliable are some of his characteristics and these alone have been mainly instrumental in him getting as good positions of the kind as can be had in the city. Being a head waiter does not necessarily mean that one must possess superior qualifications, but it does mean that one must have an honest and painstaking will and determination. Mr. Moore is no stranger in the city, and therefore needs no great amount of introductory palava, but he has done his duty well when he had one to do and that of itself speaks volumes in his favor. Its up to Moore and all other colored men holding similar positions in this city, whether they continue to hold what fortune has brought them in this city within the past



JOSEPH MOORE.

few months in the way of hotel employment. Its within a half a decade that it was almost utterly impossible for a black man to get hotel work in this city, but circumstances have so brought it about that between seventy-five and one hundred are regularly employed and it is repeated it is up to them to hold what they have slowly but surely gotten.

AUSTIN ANDERSON.

It was with difficulty that the manager of the Knickerbocker finally succeeded in persuading Headwaiter Anderson, of the Rainier Club, to give up his position and preside over the dining rooms of that hotel. It was assuming quite a responsibility, for at the outset there were some eighteen men employed in the dining room, and as soon as more dining room

capacity can be added that number will doubtless be almost doubled. The guests of the hotel are highly pleased with the service he is giving them, and when the guests are satisfied the officials of the hotel are always more than doubly satisfied. Mr. Anderson has had a long and successful hotel career, extending from White Sulphur Springs, Virginia, to the Pacific Northwest. He came West in 1889 and assisted in opening the old Rainier Hotel on the hill, where he was employed



AUSTIN ANDERSON.

for three years. Since that time he has been constantly employed as head waiter at the Rainier Club, and during all that time has given ample satisfaction. Its both an art and a profession to fill the position of headwaiter in a first class hotel, where a large number of men are employed for there are troubles within and troubles without. The traveling and boarding public is an uncertain quantity and always hard to please, and it means something when a headwaiter can so martial his subordinates as to prevent jars between the served and the servers. It is the pleasing and suave grace of Mr. Anderson that has brought about such a happy condition at the Knickerbocker. Incidentally it might be mentioned that his predecessor discharged twenty men in almost as many days, while he has not discharged a single man since he has been there. With such colored men at the helm it will be a long time before colored crews will be supplanted by white ones.

CLIFFORD C. HANDCOCK.

Our later day civilization makes the up-to-date caterer and cook as much a profession as that of the medicine man or the court practitioner. The man truly skilled in the culinary art has an honored place in "society." Early realizing that such a state affair would soon be an actuality, Mr. Handcock, who came West some years ago, returned East and took a thorough training in both the catering and cooking business, and after completing the same he returned West well qualified to hold any position that might come his way. He soon found employment as "chef" at the Rainier Club, which has been already referred to in this connection, and no sooner did he take charge of the kitchen, complaining about poor cooking, which had been very common before, ceased, and those who take their midday luncheon there declare they never before enjoyed their meals at the club as they now do. Fancy cooks among Afro-Americans are said to be very rare, but Mr. Handcock is the exception. While he does very



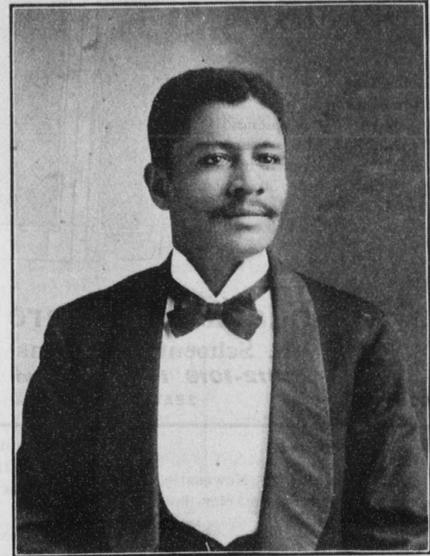
CLIFFORD C. HANDCOCK.

little catering at present for private parties, yet he does not take a back seat for any one when it comes to that. "Colored men must learn to cook, cater or do anything else just as well if not better than his white competitor, and then they will never have any great amount of trouble of getting employment," thinks and says Mr. Handcock. He is a pleasant gentleman and generally liked and appreciated by both black and white folk.

THOMAS H. WOOD.

Who is both polished and polite and, best of all, a captain in his profession, has been able to force those having his kind of business to be done to recognize him for his true worth. Since he has been on the Pacific Coast he has been

employed as head waiter in many of the largest houses of the Far West, and never failed to give first class satisfaction. It was the masterly manner that Mr. Wood handled his subordinates in serving monster banquets from time to time in Seattle that prompted the proprietors of the "Washington," which, by the way, is the largest hotel north of San Francisco, to offer him extra inducement to take charge of the dining room of that hostelry. A long step toward making it a success was taken when Tom Woods agreed to become its head



THOMAS H. WOOD.

waiter. He may have served many distinguished gatherings in the past, but he almost starts the new hotel off by serving President Theodore Roosevelt and his party, the most distinguished guest he has or ever will again serve, for he is not only distinguished from the mere fact that he is president, but because, if there be one "ideal American," he is that ideal American, and succeeding as he will in serving the president and his party, will but add another star to his already successful career and will advertise the Washington as the hotel of hotels of Seattle.

COLORED WAITERS STRUCK.

The following from the Chicago Conservator is one of the most unlike methods of driving a proprietor to terms that has yet come under our observation. It is useless to add that the strike was of short duration:

Over four hundred Negro waiters of the various Kohlsaat & Co.'s restaurants in Chicago have struck for higher wages and on the ground that white girls are being put to work some of the establishments. It is generally believed the strikers will gain their points and soon return to work.

At noon Thursday colored strikers and pickets took possession of Kohlsaat's restaurant at 43 Dearborn street. Police-men and private detectives looked on, but did not interfere. The manager looked as if he would like to commit murder, but he kept his temper and had his waitresses wait upon his colored patrons.

It was all a carefully laid plot of the strikers, and they assert that it worked to perfection. At the noon hour, when hundreds of hungry patrons rushed into the restaurant to get a lunch they found every seat pre-empted by a colored person. Even standing room was at a premium. The colored waiters' union saw to it that every idle or striking waiter in the city was there to be fed.

They ordered a cup of coffee and a glass of water. Then they ordered another glass of water. Drinking ice water hastily does not agree with the average colored man's constitution, so they took plenty of time. A few white patrons waited a short time to see if a seat would be vacated. They were disappointed, and, muttering a few words under their breath which would not look well in print, they sought some other establishment to get a lunch.

"Is this a colored convention?" asked one patron, as he looked around for a seat.

"No," replied his companion; "it looks more like a reversal of the regular order of things."

"What do you mean by that?"

"Well, we used to have colored waiters and white patrons, now we have white waitresses and colored patrons. Guess I'll go somewhere else and get a bite to eat."

The colored men held their seats for over an hour, at an average expense of 10 cents each.

That little joke was not the only one played in connection with the Kohlsaat strike. An attempt was made to blow up the place at 59 Washington street with a firecracker. It was unsuccessful so far as blowing up the place goes, although it did blow up Ferdinand Noel, a teamster, who was dozing in his wagon at the time.

As the cracker went off by the side of the wagon Noel fell over backward—and woke up. Rumors that a dynamite bomb had been thrown at the Kohlsaat restaurant by strikers brought a score of detectives from the City Hall, and they started looking for clews.

Soon the "bomb" was found and carried to the city chemist's office for examination. It was found to be a piece of pasteboard blackened with what the chemist believed was giant gunpowder. No arrests were made.

H. J. Conway, secretary of the Chicago Federation of Labor sent a request to F. A. Barnheisel, manager of the Kohlsaat restaurants, asking for a conference with a view to ending the strike. Mr. Barnsheil replied that he would be pleased to meet the officials of the central body regarding the matter, and a conference was arranged for today.

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