

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
WILLIAM LEON WHITLEY JR.

ENTERED INTO REST JUNE 3, 1983
Berkeley, California

BORN: BEAUMONT, TEXAS
February 1, 1904



SERVICES HELD

Wednesday, June 8, 1983
at 1 PM

DOWNS MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH
6026 Idaho Street
Oakland, California

Reverend Dorothy Williams
OFFICIATING

OBITUARY

Mr. William Leon Whitley, Jr. was born February 1, 1904 to Rosena and William Whitley, in Beaumont, Texas, the first of two children.

When he was very young the family moved to Houston, Texas where he received his elementary education.

On March 14, 1923 he met and married Nanearl Eleanor Fleming. From that union three children were born. Mrs. Whitley passed away in 1973.

When he came to Berkeley, California in 1919 he started on the dining cars of the Southern Pacific Railroad on a part-time basis, and in 1922 signed on full time. In 1969 he had completed 50 years of continuous service with Southern Pacific. He was elevated to 3rd Cook, then 2nd Cook, and in 1925 he was made à Chef. He ran on the trains until 1945 when Southern Pacific made him Instructor. During this time he perfected many gastronomic delights which are now in the official Southern Pacific Cook Books.

His career with the dining cars began as a father-son team, with his father, a Chef, teaching him. He received formal education of his craft at Prairie View College, Texas. A perennial student in human relations, he enjoyed the many contacts he made on the job and was chosen to help host the delegates to the United Nations Conference when it met in San Francisco for which he received special recognition. He was editor of The Guiding Post. Founder and editor of This Is Your Life Bulletin for 10 years.

Mr. Whitley was a member of Downs Memorial United Methodist Church, Oakland. He was an active member of Menelik Shrine Temple No. 36, and an active member and President of the Retired Railroad Men's Club of Northern California. He was also a charter member of the South Berkeley Kawinas Club, and President of the Low Vision Committee of the South Berkeley Senior Center.

He leaves to mourn his passing, two daughters, Leona Whitley Williams, Coralee Whitley Callins, one son, Gail H. Whitley; a devoted sister, Rosalie Whitley Jennings; 4 grand children, Nanearl Touson, Melvia Gray-Smith, Coralee Willis-Smith, Milton Leon Williams; 5 great grand children, Jeffrey Gray Michele Gray, Michael Willis, Philip Whitley Touson Stacy Touson; 5 brother-in-laws, James Jennings, George P. Fleming, Joseph Fleming, Earl Fleming; 1 sister-in-law, Mrs. Thelma Fleming Sherman, and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

"When I Must Leave You"

When I must leave you
for a little while —
Please do not grieve and shed wild tears
And hug your sorrow to
through the years,
But start out bravely
with a gallant smile;
And for my sake and in my name
Live on and do all things the same.
Feed not your loneliness on empty days,
But fill each waking hour in useful ways.
Reach out your hand
in comfort and cheer
And I in turn will comfort you,
and hold you near;
And never, be afraid to die,
For I am waiting for you in the sky.