New Hampshire's First Negro Judge Lives in Last Frontier

Ivoary Cobb Favors Colebrook's Rugged Life

By JOHN B. VALUE

COLEBROOK, N.H.—Ivoary Cobb, who lives in this diminutive, village, was confirmed last week as special magistrate of Colebrook and court judge for the Town of New Hampshire.

It is a man of strong position in the country, but Cobb is a Negro and now he is in the shoes that New Hampshire has been wearing for the past 15 years.

There isn't too much politics about the appointment. Cobb was named by a Democratic governor and confirmed by an Executive Council preponderantly Republican. His politics aren't generally known.

In New Hampshire, it can be said ability is considered, and the community of the law generally passes things around pretty equally.

In New Hampshire presently the Municipal Court there is one for each community of two or more. As the state's smallest town. But it is in this law court that most citizens get their only exposure to the bench, and here the judge's learning and knowledge are a direct and personal experience. State statute now says a municipal court judge, as far as training goes, must have a law degree and be licensed. But Cobb, after 12 years, has never seen any different training.

I was a pick for Cobb. Ever since Cobb spent 12 of his 20 years here in a career

"Cobblebrook comes closest to being a composite of all three places. It gives you the outdoor life, the change of the seasons. It's really a new era."

He discovered Colebrook when he was stationed at Fort Devens and tutoring New England children, as his family's permanent home. He was, on top of it, a closet poet and had written a book on New Hampshire. His work and thoughts are, naturally, called "The Last Frontier."

Cobb however, has legal training. He graduated from Southern University Law School in 1939 and has been admitted to practice before numbers of courts.

In Black New Hampshire, Cobb discharged a mission to a distant point north and here Cobb has made a career. He is a New Hampshire judge.

Well north of the White Mountains, Colebrook is sometimes called "The Last Frontier" by those who dwell or visit it. And Cobb feels it is this frontier atmosphere in part that brought about his appointment.

Created on the Connecticut River near the Coos River, testing between favoring mountains, Colebrook is only seven miles from the Canadian border. Across the river is Vermont and north and east is piney Maine.

"This is a sort of a frontier area where people share common burdens," Cobb said last week. "It was built by pioneer, the kind of people who really built this country. Some semblance remains.

As a judge in a such a frontier Cobb will get a certain number of frontier cases—pouthing, killing too many deer, taking too many burrs and the like—but he will also

COBBS OF COLEBROOK—Louise Minerva, 16; Gretel Anne, 16; Ivoary and Elsie, Marilyn, 20, is away at college.