

Resident files complaint: Housing rehabilitation leaves house a mess

Mrs. Annie Whitlow, a recipient of a housing rehabilitation grant from the Portland Development Commission, is unhappy with the work that has been done on her home. The work is done, yet the house is far from rehabilitated. Mrs. Whitlow understands that the amount of rehabilitation that can be done with \$3,500 is limited; however, she expected the

work that was done to be of acceptable quality. Mrs. Whitlow is refusing to sign the release for the contractor, Dwight Morrison, 1712 N.E. Hogan, to get his money until the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which funds the program, sends an inspector to look at the house. The house was painted on the outside and the porch

repainted. The front room received a new ceiling and wood paneling. However, the paneling is loose and has flaws in the wood. It also has not been fitted properly around the doors and windows and the stripping put on to cover the cracks is loose in places. Other stripping has nails protruding and bent. The wide wooden molding

around the doors and windows was not replaced, nor was it painted. A beam separating the ceilings of the living room and the entry was not painted, but it was splashed with paint from the ceiling. The windows throughout the house are loose with the wood rotting. Nothing was done to make the windows usable or to help keep the cold air out of the house.

A basement bathroom was rehabilitated. A shower was installed but not enclosed. The bathroom sink, which was broken by the construction workers, was repaired, but the broken toilet lid was not. New hinges were put on the window and weather stripping tacked on two sides, but a quarter-inch of space appears at the bottom of the window, allowing a breeze to come into the room.

The upstairs bathroom received a new tile floor and a large new door - so large that it strikes the toilet when opened. Mrs. Whitlow thought the money spent in the door could have been better used elsewhere. Plaster left on the new tile floor cannot be removed by scrubbing. Mrs. Whitlow is not complaining about the amount of money that was spent or

even what was done, although she did not have much to say about what was done. She would prefer to have had a new sink, but was told it would cost too much, and she would have set some different priorities. What she is upset about is the quality of the work and the condition in which the house was left. She feels that even the minor repair work such as plastering over cracks and holes in the upstairs bedrooms was sloppily done, and since the plumbers were there she has no hot water in the basement.



Annie Whitlow shows loose molding installed in her rehabilitated home by Morrison Construction Company.

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FREDDY PETETT

Petett goes to city

Mayor Neil Goldschmidt announced recently the appointment of Freddie J. Petett as the City of Portland's Emergency Services Coordinator. The recently created Office of Emergency Services was established in recognition of the need to develop realistic plans for coordinated govern-

ment response necessary to save lives and protect property in disaster situations. The office will be funded in part by the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency through the State Department of Emergency Services. This arrangement creates a City-State-Federal partnership (Please turn to pg. 5, col. 7)

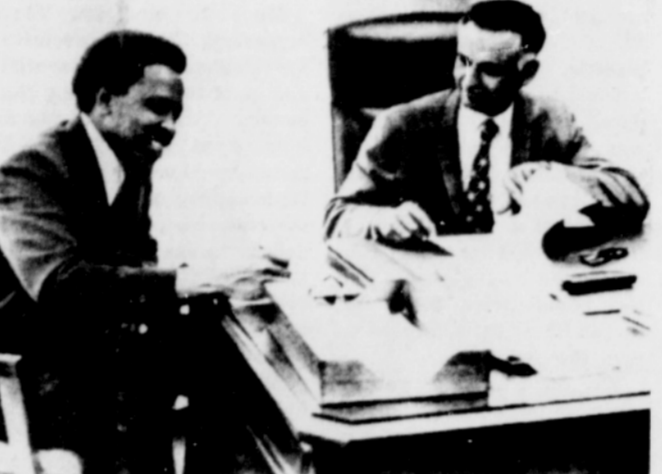
Program supports busing

The Urban League of Portland has received a grant from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare to assist the Portland Public Schools in its program of voluntary desegregation. The new program, directed by Mrs. Jeanne Hartzog, will have as its objectives: alleviating the tensions and apprehensions of the minority children and their families and of the host schools; to help bring the academic level of the transferred students to that of the host school; and to assist the host schools through counseling.

The program will work with children and the families of minority children who are voluntarily bused out of their neighborhoods to achieve desegregation. The receiving schools will also receive counseling and assistance in order to make their transfer as beneficial as possible. Although the program is still in the planning stage, it will probably be confined to two elementary schools and one high school in each of the school district areas. Some of the activities that are being planned are: Seminars and counseling for parents from the receiving schools and for the children of transferred children; train-

Housing program wins approval

Two significant contracts were signed by Russel Dawson, Area Director for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, on Wednesday, July 18. One contract was between HUD and the State of Oregon, and the other between HUD and the Portland Metropolitan Steering Committee. Both provide formal relations between HUD and the local agencies in the area of housing counseling.



Cleveland Gilcrease, director of the Portland Metropolitan Steering Committee, and HUD area director Russel Dawson sign contract providing for housing counseling for low-income Portland residents.

The Oregon State Legislature passed legislation providing for the sale of \$200 million in bonds to provide financing for low-income housing in Oregon. This money will be used to finance new construction, to re-finance existing housing units, and for rehabilitation projects. Financing will include the purchase of single family dwellings by low-income families and construction of units for rental to low-income persons. Low-income is defined by those having incomes below the median for the county where they reside. The loans, which will be made through banks and financial organizations, will carry interest 2 percent lower than the usual rate. The loan can also be paid over a longer period of time, which can make the monthly pay-

ment or rent 20 to 25 percent less than it would on a conventional loan. One of the big components of the program is housing counseling for persons interested in participating. The State contracted with HUD to jointly qualify local agencies to providing counseling services. Gregg Smith, Administrator of the Housing Division of the State Commerce Department, said he believes

the new program will bring a closer relationship between his office and HUD. The two agencies will be cooperating in the counseling program and will probably make cooperative financial arrangements in some cases - such as the state providing the loan and HUD insuring it. Dawson is pleased with the counseling program since many persons buy homes (Please turn to pg. 6, col. 5)



Andrew Raubeson, director of the Model Cities Agency, inspected Mrs. Whitlow's home and stated that her complaints are justified.

to the Neighborhood Development Program office, but said she was told by Ray Wilson, the director, that it would do no good to complain. She went to HUD but was unable to reach the area (Please turn to pg. 6, col. 8)

SCLC supports Farmworker struggle

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference - West pledged its support of the continuing struggle of Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers Union. Reverend C. Garnett Henning, pastor of Ward Memorial AME Church, and executive vice president of SCLC - West, attended a UFW rally at Lamont, California. Among those who accompanied him were Reverend Alvin Dortch, executive director of Operation Breadbasket - West; Dr. Paul Martin, pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church;

Evelyn Ochino, SCLC - West board member. More than a thousand grape pickers and farm workers gathered in a small park near the center of the city to hear speeches of Reverends Dortch and Martin. Dr. Martin, who heads the political action committee for SCLC - West, equated the struggle of the farm workers with the struggle of Black people for freedom. Reverend Dortch pointed out that SCLC - West has been involved with the United Farm Workers throughout

their struggle with the grape and lettuce growers. The controversy has raged for several months over the unionization of the farm workers, with the UFW accusing growers of signing agreements with the Teamsters Union without the participation of the union. UFW won contracts with some growers have a long strike and a world-wide boycott, but as the contracts expire they are being picked up by the Teamsters. The UFW wants union elections so the workers could choose the union they want to represent them, but the employers do not grant this option. Farmworkers are not covered by the National Labor Relations Act which guarantees collective bargaining to most American workers.

City appoints HR director

Ira Blalock has been selected for appointment as Director of the City of Portland's Bureau of Human Resources. Mr. Blalock's appointment was announced by City Commissioner Mildred Schwab. It is contingent on approval by the City Council.

Blalock was chosen from among 350 applicants from all over the United States. Miss Schwab was assisted in the process by a citizen's committee that she appointed for this purpose. In announcing her selection Commissioner Schwab said "This demonstrates once again that one can find within the government of our city most of the talent we are looking for. We have some of the best people in the government right here in Portland - and Ira Blalock is one of them."

Blalock is currently Executive Director of the Multnomah County Community Action Agency, which is funded by the Office of Economic Opportunities and provides programs for low-income persons in East Multnomah County. Blalock came to Portland in 1965 to pastor the West Hills Unitarian Fellowship. Previously he had pastored in Wellesley, Massachusetts. He graduated from Chico State College with a BA degree in Business Administration in 1955. In 1963 he earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Tufts University.

Blalock is Chairman of CRAG Social Services Committee; a member of the board of directors of the Community Health Services, Inc., and a founder and member of the executive committee of the World Without War Council of Portland. He was an unsuccessful candidate for the Democratic nomination for County Commissioner in 1970. Blalock has long been associated with community programs. While in Boston he worked with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference there and in Selma, Alabama. He was instrumental in the founding of Wellesley's Citizens Committee for Better Schools which led to an experimental desegregation plan.



PHYLLIS BENTON

Benton heads school

Phyllis Benton is the new Assistant Director of the Portland State University Educational Center. Miss Benton is also acting director, until a replacement for the former director, Harold Williams, is employed. The Educational Center provides low cost credit and non-credit courses in a number of academic areas. Classes are taught by professors from PSU, by outside

teachers, and by volunteers. With a limited budget, there is a great dependence on volunteer workers. Persons from all over Portland attend classes at the center. All persons over 18 years are eligible to take classes. Classes and tutoring for the GED are also provided. The center is in its summer term and is planning for fall term, which begins (Please turn to pg. 4, col. 6)



PLUS students Gloria Pate (second from left) and Faustine Henry (far right) discuss their college plans with PLUS director Bill Wilkerson (far left) and reading lab instructor Shelby Berry (second from right).

Students say PLUS opens doors

Two young ladies credit Operation PLUS with providing them with the opportunity to attend college - an opportunity that was beyond their wildest dreams. Both students are beginning their sophomore years at PSU with the help of grants, loans and work-study programs. Both have had the experience in one short year of raising their realistic expectations from common labor to a profession and the opportunity to help other young people realize their potentials.

Faustine Henry, a native of Los Angeles, attended Manuel Arts High School in that city. She enrolled in the Job Corps and was sent to Tongue Point. There she enrolled in music training and attended classes at Clatsop Community College, as well as at the Job Corps. Faustine became interested in Operation PLUS when a group from the program visited Tongue Point and told her that she, too, could attend college. Since her high school grades were too low to meet college entrance

requirements, PLUS helped her get accepted under a special quota for students with poor academic backgrounds but with the potential to do college work. She was aided financially by a grant, a National Defense Act loan, and the work study program. Faustine's work study placement during the school year was with the Foreign Language Department at PSU. This summer she is employed as a Recreation Director at Highland Com- (Please turn to pg. 6, col. 4)

Parents charge racism in schools

A group recently incorporated as "Parents Concerned About Racism in Schools" proposes to address racism wherever it is found in the school system; to study the causes and results of racism; to offer to assist school organizations to understand how racism destroys educational opportunities. The group feels that

teachers and administrators are not equipped or trained to deal with problems of racism and plans to offer in-service type experiences to the schools. "There are those in the city of Portland that deny the existence of racism, yet it does exist and is used subtly and directly in a very destructive manner, in many

different ways. Racism exists in our public schools. Racism in the schools destroys the educational opportunities for many Black students in Portland. Racism exists with faculty and administrators in schools in the Black community, as well as in schools in all-white (Please turn to pg. 6, col. 6)

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