

PORTLAND



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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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THE ONLY NEWSPAPER IN THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD THAT REALLY CARES ABOUT PEOPLE

Minority Workers sue unions

Nathan Proby, chairman of the United Minority Workers, announced that his organization will immediately file suits in federal court against four local unions, charging racial discrimination.

Unions named in the suit are the Plumbers Union, Sheet Metal Workers Local 16, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48, and the International Brotherhood of Operating Engineers.

The UMW also intends to see that minority employees are hired in all federally funded construction jobs. They are currently meeting with Hoffman Construction Company to negotiate jobs on the federal building being constructed in downtown.

Proby said the UMW does not want to shut down jobs, because everyone needs work, but that they will close jobs if necessary to obtain minority employment.

The four unions are charged with discriminating against minorities in union membership and in the apprenticeship program. Proby explained that the Operating Engineers have about 6000 members and say they have 17 minority members. Mr. Proby took five Blacks and five Indians to the Operating Engineers to apply for membership, but they were refused membership. Harold Pippins, President of the Union, said they were not accepting applications for members and that members have to be journeymen, but they might establish an apprenticeship program. Business manager Russ Joy said there will be no apprenticeship program and no changing of requirements.

One of the ways the unions retain their all-white membership is through the apprenticeship program. Although contractors and unions state they are looking for qualified minority workers, a large number of Blacks have passed the apprenticeship entry examinations and have not been



Nate Proby, Chairman of the United Minority Workers, discusses intentions to place minority workers in all publicly funded jobs.

placed. Others have been placed in apprenticeships after serving two or three years successfully are terminated or quit because of overt discrimination, so that few of those who do get into the apprenticeship program get journeyman status. Proby was told by Bill Schultz, Chairman of the State Apprenticeship Council, that he is dissatisfied with the program but has been unable to make changes.

The total of apprentices reported by the State Apprenticeship Council is 2,037. Sixty-three are Black, 10 Oriental, 15 Indian, 19 Chicano, and 2 other.

Homeowners complain -- poor work

The Observer continues to receive complaints from community residents on federally funded rehabilitation done on their homes. Most of the complaints are regarding the quality of the work produced by the companies contracted to do the work and the seeming lack of concern on the part of Portland Development Commission employees who oversee the work.

Mrs. Ernestine Greer complained about the work done on her home in the Woodlawn area by Morris Construction Company. Mrs. Greer's complaints include: the paint around the windows on the front of the house is peeling off; the bathroom sink leaks; metal edging on the back roof is bent; the downspouts on the garage are coming off and the splash box is missing. Mrs. Greer was referred originally to Morris Construction Company by her rehabilitation counselor, Bobbie Jackson. When she talked to Mr. Jackson after the work had been completed, he said he would do what he could. Mr. Morris promised to re-

pair the work, which was done during the summer of 1972, but has not done so. Mrs. Rosie Davis' home was repaired by Earl Dryer through the Portland Development Commission.

Mrs. Davis reports that when she contacted the electrician about her fuse box he told her to call the general contractor, Mr. Dryer, because if he came he would have to charge her \$15 per hour. She called Mr. Dryer, who told her that he would also have to charge \$15 per hour. PDC guidelines state that the work is guaranteed for a year. Mrs. Davis gave up and did not call Mr. Dryer again.

Mrs. Davis' complaints are that no sealant was put around the bathtub, allowing the water to run under the linoleum. The pipes leading to the toilet leak. The windows were to have been made to open, but when the worker broke a window pane of glass in one, he did not try to loosen the others.

Mrs. Davis did not see her PDC Rehabilitation specialist, Warren Hansen, after the work was completed, and did

not tell him about her dissatisfaction. Mrs. Davis, an elderly lady, said she did not know where to find him when he did not contact her. She decided to give up and accept what was done, but wonders why the contractors will not do a good job when they are paid with federal grants.

A lady who prefers to remain anonymous at this time complains that she received nothing for her \$750 grant. She was to have had a new sink, a new front door and repairs to porch and step railings. Her sink leaks and the area where the pipes come into the house was not covered, so one can look outside from in the kitchen. The front door does not fit, has no weather stripping, and the door knob keeps coming loose. The rails were not repaired.

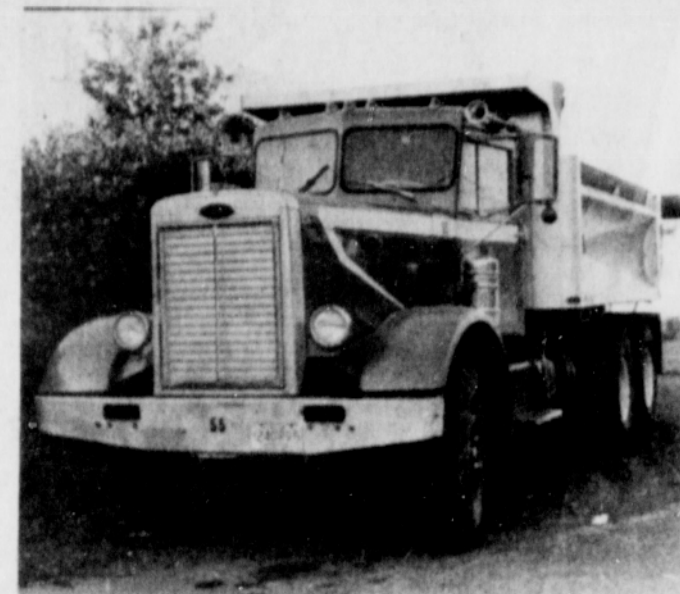
The lady has complained to her rehabilitation counselor but he told her she should sign the contractor's check because "we need to live, too". She has been waiting since January for the work to be completed, but now plans to pursue the matter

with HUD.

Warren Hansen, the Rehabilitation Counselor, said the lady had refused weather stripping around the door, but he would look into the matter and have the work done if she so desires.

Ben Gant purchased a home that he said had been rehabilitated by HUD. He bought the home for \$10,950 through Plummer Real Estate with a loan from First National Bank. When he moved in he found there were 6 violations of city code which must be repaired. There were also 5 violations of the Property Rehabilitation Standards for the King-Vernon-Sabin Neighborhood Development Program.

Gant applied for a home repair grant from PDC to make the repairs required by the city. He was first told that he was ineligible because he had no income. He was advised to apply for his unemployment compensation so he would have an income. He then contacted PDC again and was told by Vern Smith that PDC could (Please turn to pg. 6, col. 3)



Dump truck belonging to David Dawson waits for P.U.C. license.

Black dump trucker meets opposition

David Dawson has applied to the Oregon State Public Utilities Commissioner for a dump truck license. Oregon law requires that in order to obtain a license an applicant must prove the need for the truck and that other persons can contest his application.

At the present time there is only one Black licensed dump truck owner in Oregon, William Jones, who was awarded his license this last spring.

Four white truckers have protested the application, including Arnold Johnson and Aaron Hunt.

Dawson purchased his truck in June and applied immediately for a license. He contacted several contractors and found that there is work available but that he needs a license. He also found that the white truck companies will not hire a Black dump truck driver.

Dawson has been working for William Jones but is

anxious to begin work on his own.

When Jones applied for his license he also met opposition from the white truckers who claimed there was not enough work. However, another white truck owner had recently been awarded a license with no contest.

Dawson has found that some contractors are willing to meet their affirmative action requirements through hiring a Black dump truck, but that Black companies are not available. This is one of the reasons he maintains that his truck is needed. It was also verified at Jones' hearing that there is a need for additional trucks and that existing trucks cannot handle all of the work.

A native of Portland, Dawson has operated the House of Sound for the past 6 years. His decision to purchase a dump truck was precipitated by this three-year-old son, Che, who asked for it.

PCC receives grant for Vet Services

Portland Community College has been awarded \$109,000 to improve and increase services for veterans.

Monies were awarded through the Cranston Amendment, passed by Congress the spring of 1973, to colleges and universities who showed at least a 25% increase in veterans over the previous year on a head count basis. PCC's veterans enrollment totaled 2,251 in 1972-73, an increase of 121% in one year.

It is the intention of the Cranston Amendment to have one-half the allotted funds designated for improvement of service for veterans and one-half for the school's general fund. However, Portland Community College president Amo De Bernardis has directed that the college's entire award be expended for the improvement of services for veterans.

The PCC veteran's program, to begin immediately, (Please turn to pg. 6, col. 2)

Farmworkers fill jails

Cesar Chavez, head of the United Farm Workers Union, has called on supporters across the nation to "stand

with us and be arrested". Approximately 2500 farm workers and their supporters have been arrested in the

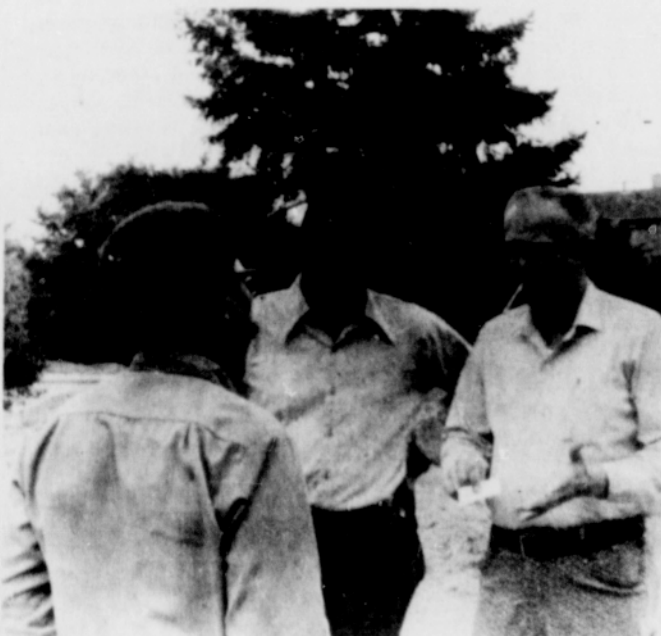
San Joaquin Valley during two weeks of mass demonstrations.

About 300 persons remain in jail, including a group of 59 priests and nuns held in the Fresno County Jail who have been on a hunger strike for eight days. Chavez blasted the arrests as "a disgraceful misuse of justice... truly a blot on America."

The arrests result from an injunction that restricts picketing of the truck fields to one picket for every 100 feet and restrictions on the use of bullhorns. Chavez says the restrictions violate constitutional rights of free speech and assembly. Fresno officials have avoided a court test of the constitutionality of the injunction by charging pickets with refusal to disperse.

Approximately 50 ranches are being picketed, including those whose contracts with the UFWU expired two weeks ago. The strike has spread from the grape and lettuce fields into melons.

The union began as a movement among farm workers to organize for better wages; fringe benefits such as social security and unemployment compensation; sanitary working conditions such as having toilet facilities and running water available to workers; and improved safety conditions such as safe pesticides. Many of the contracts signed three years ago, after years of pickets, strikes and boycotts, have expired and negotiations between the growers and the union are at a standstill.



John Beck, Plumbing Contractor, Eugene Jackson, Business Manager of the Albina Contractors Association, and Tom Holcraft of Holcraft Homes discuss need for minority employment.

Contractors agree

Tom Holcraft of Holcraft Homes agreed Monday to sub-contract work to minority contractors. Holcraft Homes builds a number of houses in the Albina area. Holcraft was approached by John Beck regarding plumbing work on a group of houses on N.E. Stafford. Beck said he was unable to make contact with Holcraft so he showed up at the job with his crew,

demanding work. After discussing the matter with the representative of the Albina Contractors Association, Holcraft agreed to ask his plumbing contractor to give a portion of the plumbing work to Beck.

Holcraft also agreed to notify ACA of future building plans so minority contractors can bid on the jobs.

Jobs, training on agenda

The Oregon Administrative District II Manpower Area Planning Council, chaired by Mayor Neil Goldschmidt, will hold its monthly meeting on Friday, August 10, at 9:30 a.m. in the Water Services Building Auditorium, 1800 S. W. Sixth Avenue. The agenda will include the AGC Hometown Plan, the Portland OIC program proposal, and NYC In-School proposals. All interested persons are invited to attend.

The MAPC is responsible for making funding and programmatic recommendations to the Department of Labor on manpower programs operating in the four county metropolitan area.

Street Theatre entertains crowds

For the first time in Oregon an Acting Company of ten actors will not only perform free of charge before the public, but they will also bring the show to the public. This unique company is appropriately entitled "The Oregon Free Street Theatre".

During August the Free Street Theatre will perform within a 100-mile radius of Portland. All performances are presented outdoors in cordoned-off streets, playgrounds, parks, campgrounds, shopping center parking lots, ball fields, etc.

The theme, Man and Land, structures the outline of a ninety minute presentation packed with music, comedy, dance and drama. Much of the program is devoted to words generating creative thought and dialogue between the cast and an adult audience.

The Company is headed by

Lewis and Clark faculty members James Ostholthoff, assistant professor of Theatre, and Allan Kittell, professor of History. James Ostholthoff worked in a street theatre workshop in Chicago as a coordinator. The Chicago Theatre, which was located in the Black area on the west side, was made up of 30 youngsters.

The Oregon Free Street Theatre project is sponsored by Lewis and Clark College and funded by grants from Joint Committee for the Humanities in Oregon and the Rockefeller Foundation of New York.

Most of the material used in the performances are written by members of the cast. The "theme" song, which asks a question to the public, was written by cast member Jim Studer, while all dance choreography was originated by cast member Eric McGill.

In each performance 2 or 3 actual Oregon courtroom trials are portrayed. One involves Indians and their being alienated from the land; Japanese and land alienation as a result of imprisonment in concentration camps; and city dweller's alienation from land as a result of urban renewal and the like.

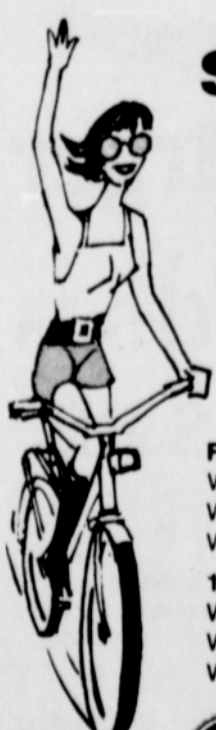
The performance by no means seeks to serve as a spokesman for minorities or civil rights. But, likewise, it portrays a clear concise picture of man and his relationship to the land; sometimes positive and sometimes negative.

So, for pleasurable, informative and soul searching evening or afternoon entertainment, check the schedule below for an Oregon Free Street Theatre performance in your neighborhood.



Actors James Phillips and Rod Smith portray a scene depicting another version of how the West was really won.

(Photo by Rosemary Allen)



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