

Teacher finds progress of justice slow

Ruth Spencer, Portland school teacher who sued the Portland School District for racial discrimination, is finding that the wheels of justice turn slowly. It has been four years since Mrs. Spencer filed charges against the school district and her case has not yet been heard.

Mrs. Spencer earned her Master of Education degree at New York University in 1958. In 1966 she obtained a leave of absence from the Portland Public Schools to take a position with the Teacher Corps in Boston. For three years she was

Associate Director of the Teacher Corps program at Boston College. She supervised and trained teacher corps interns for the Boston Public Schools and taught at Boston College.

Mrs. Spencer returned to Portland in 1969 when the School District would not continue her leave. Since one objective of the Teacher Corps was to train Blacks for administration and she had taken courses in administration at Boston College, she applied for an administrative position with the Portland Public Schools.

Mrs. Spencer applied with the school district for an administrative position in May of 1969, a position for which she was qualified by experience and academic background. She was refused that position and other administrative positions that became vacant later.

When the Civil Rights Department of the Oregon State Bureau of Labor was unable to conciliate the case, a complaint was filed for Mrs. Spencer by J.B. Belton Hamilton, Assistant Attorney General for the State of Oregon, in behalf of the At-

torney General, Lee Johnson. The suit charged that School District #1 had "denied her opportunity for promotion from the position of classroom teacher to an administrative position . . . because of her race and color."

The specific charges of the complaint were: (1) that the School District has, since 1941, engaged in employment practices which deny Americans of Negro ancestry, because of their ancestry, race and color, equal treatment and opportunity for employment, transfer, promotion and employment security; (2)

that the procedure of dealing with employees and prospective employees according to racial specifications operates in such a manner as to result in awarding jobs with better pay, higher status, greater authority and responsibility to persons of Caucasian race; (3) that for more than 23 years the employment procedures have worked to the detriment of Ruth Spencer and other persons of Negro extraction by limiting their opportunity for employment; (4) that because of Mrs. Spencer's complaints she had been blacklisted by some

School District employees; and (5) that she was not given fair consideration for promotion because of her race.

When the case was set for hearing and the School District required to produce personnel records of the District's employment history since 1941, the District then filed a petition for a "writ of prohibition," stating that the law did not allow for the specific charge of discrimination against Ruth Spencer in May of 1969 to be enlarged into a general charge of dis-



Mayor Neil Goldschmidt officially proclaimed Black History Week in Portland, as a part of the annual nationwide salute to the contribution of Black people in the building of this nation. With Mayor Goldschmidt on this occasion were (left to right): Eddie Edwards, San Diego artist; Nate Nickerson of the Urban League of Portland; A.L. Henderson, publisher of the *Portland Observer*; Betty White; Forrest Jenkins; and Betty Thompson, president of the Oregon Association of Colored Women's Clubs.

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

Freedom Bank marks third year

Freedom Bank of Finance in Portland recently declared its third successful fiscal operating year. For a young bank to be marked with continued growth is one thing, but for a young minority bank with that same identification is quite another.

At the close of fiscal 1973 Freedom Bank of Finance posted a 20% increase in deposits of \$4,561,462. Shareholders' earnings rose from 10 cents per share in 1972 to 54 cents per share in 1973. Although the bank has not declared shareholder dividends, the measure of management's fiscal responsibility is apparent. "We are proud of our progress to date," says V.F. Booker, the bank chairman and chief financial expert, "and we're not stopping here."

As Portland's largest visible minority enterprise, Freedom Bank of Finance serves as a possible cornerstone for the future of minority enterprise in Portland. Both area business and community are looking closely at the bank's ability to remain profitable for its investors, and viable for the community. Since opening its doors four years ago in Portland's predominantly Black community, the bank has received criticism from area residents who disfavor the bank's conservative loan policy. "When you're growing," says Booker, "you must minimize risks."

We must grow in our depositor strength to enable our services and policies to expand. If our present growth rate is sustained, we can begin to offer a broader loan policy to encompass otherwise hard to qualify loan applicants. By comparison to other minority banks across the country we are approaching that point a lot sooner than most. At present one would have to agree it is a simple case of business priorities."

Despite the lack of competitive advertising and

Economist finds challenge

Cal Robertson, originally from Ruleville, Mississippi, took the position of Home Economist for Multnomah County in July of 1973. Ms. Robertson was chosen from 30 other students interviewed at Al Corn A&M College in Lorman, Mississippi. She received a degree in Home Economics Education and after a visit to Oregon, decided to stay and take the job.

"There seemed to be a problem in my community with unwed mothers. Girls were having babies at 12, 11 and 13 years old. I saw a growing need for concern and someone to work with unwed mothers," Ms. Robertson said in explaining her interest in home economy

premium promotions, the bank is actively seeking new individual and corporate accounts. Without details, Booker views the current strategy as one that will nurture confidence in the bank's ability to service the financial needs of the community. The economic progress of minorities in Portland may well be gauged on the bank's ability to invest in new minority enterprises. If successful, the bank's progress may no longer just be an idle gesture of a few, but moreover a reality for many.

and family living. "I enjoy helping people help themselves," she continued, "to make life better for them now."

Cal is from a family of 14 children, 5 girls and 9 boys. She was raised on a small farm where her parents were formerly sharecroppers. "My mother started the girls off cooking at the age of nine years or younger," Ms. Robertson said.

As Multnomah County Home Economist for the Oregon State University Extension Service, Ms. Robertson works mainly with adults in the areas of food nutrition, clothing, textile, home furnishing, money management, family relationship, child care (Please turn to pg. 3, col. 4)

Golf club boycotts Bowman

Members of the Leisure Hour Golf Club who attended their annual golf tournament this year at Bowman's Mount Hood Golf Course heard "what are all of these niggers doing up here?" On November 26th, George Rankin, Tournament Chairman, received a letter from Keith Bowman, General Manager, that they would not be allowed to rent the facilities in the future.

The Leisure Hour Golf Club draws approximately 300 persons to its annual tournaments, two of which have been held at Bowman's.

The Leisure Hour Club and the Western States Golf Association have called a boycott of the Bowman's, which serves as a convention site as well as a golf club. The facilities are widely used for meetings of public bodies and governmental agencies, as well as private groups. William Russel, President of Leisure Hour, said his group is informing the public of Bowman's discriminatory policies so that they might

determine if they will use the facilities in the future.

The letter from Bowman, said the club would be denied use of the facilities because of "higher than average bad accounts; replacement checks being returned; extremely slow play on the golf course and the children's attitude to our employees, especially our maids, who reported that the children were spitting on them and had no respect at all."

Russel questioned the club's responsibility for bad checks, if there were any, of persons attending the conference, and whether other clubs were held responsible or denied facilities for this reason. He asked what was "higher than average."

As for slow play, Russel indicated that as the reason for holding tournaments on Mondays and Tuesdays when the course is not busy. He denied that many other golfers had been hindered by slow play and wondered how many customers the course

would have had on those two days without the 144 tournament players.

Leisure Hour Golf Club does encourage the participation of Blacks in golf — particularly young people, women and senior citizens. Since many of the participants are new to golf, the play is sometimes slow.

Russel said his group cared for the golf course and the lodging and that the employees were treated with respect. He said the tab for meals and golf alone was nearly \$8,000, that the bar probably never had such a lucrative Monday night, and that the gratuities were never higher.

Russel blamed Bowman's decision on the bigotry of its club members rather than on the management, but stated that his club has no intention of using the facilities again, even if the decision were reversed.

The club will spend its money where its contribution is appreciated and hopes its friends will do the same.

Educational Center remains open

Portland State University's Educational Center, located at 2611 N.E. Union Avenue, has been assured of continued funding by the Ways and Means Committee of the Oregon Legislature. The program had been among those to be sacrificed in budget cutbacks.

For several months the Educational Center has undertaken the task of dealing with the threat of closure in 1975. Great efforts were put into a presentation of the case to the Special Session of the Legislature meeting this month.

Planning for the Special Session encompassed numerous activities. Legislators on the Ways and Means Committee were contacted to find out their rationale for the financial cuts; the Chancellor of Higher Education was contacted to seek his

assistance in the Educational Center's plight. There was a massive petition drive and letter writing campaign; there were several articles written in various news-

papers and radio and television interviews held which helped in publicizing the problem. All activities were topped off by a community (Continued from pg. 1, col. 5)

Gregory receives award

Dick Gregory was awarded the Carter G. Woodson Humanitarian Award for 1974 by the Portland State University Institute of African and Black American Studies (Black Studies) on Thursday, February 21st, following his speech on behalf of Black Cultural Month.

Professor James Rogers, representing the Black Studies Department of PSU, made the presentation and also named as local recipients:

Ronald Herndon of the Albina Youth Opportunity School, Mercedes Diez, Cir-

cuit Judge, A.L. Henderson, publisher of the *Portland Observer*; Rosemary Allen, Arts and Communication; Glen Harper, President of Black Student Union, student leadership and arts; Professor Inne Ukajie, Nigerian scholar and political scientist; and O.B. Hill and Joseph McHenry, organizers and co-chairmen of Black Culture and History Month.

The awards were established in honor of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, founder of Black History Week, for sustained service and commitment to the Black community.

Contractors attend training

The General Service Administration and the Albina Contractor's Association are sponsoring a series of training sessions for minority contractors. The sessions are coordinated by Russ Rogers, Civil Rights Officer for GSA, Region X, with the assistance of Namon Scarborough, Education Chairman for ACA. The instructor, Roy Chapel, is an engineer for GSA.

The training sessions, which consist of three six-week sections, will cover construction graphics, cost analysis, and scheduling and critical paths. There will be guest speakers from the different crafts, suppliers, the building industry and the financial and legal fields. The classes meet on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. at the Concentrated Employment Program office, 220 N.E. Russel.

Rogers has emphasized that contractors and persons interested in contracting attend all of the session as they are inter-related. To be successful, he said, a con-

tractor must understand bidding, estimating, marketing and the language of construction.

The first meeting was well-attended and interest was high, according to John Craig, Chairman of ACA. Rogers invited the wives and children of contractors and persons interested in contracting to attend the training sessions. Many minority contractors can't afford to finance offices and secretarial staffs, so it is often the wife who answers the phone calls. Since in these cases contracting becomes a family business, it is helpful for the family to have a basic understanding of building as well as the various problems and hardships the business must undergo.

In urging all interested minority contractors to attend the training sessions, even if they do not seem to apply to their specialties, Craig said, "Regardless of what you know about construction, you can always learn a little more. Yesterday's workers might not have tomorrow's skills. There

are new products, new methods and fluctuating costs."

For more information, call Namon Scarborough or Eugene Jackson, Director of ACA, at 288-8301.

Benson invites students

Benson High School will host a number of eighth grade students and parents next week who might be interested in educational programs at the school.

The students are invited to attend sessions beginning at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, February 20 and 21, in the Benson social room.

Harold Andersen, principal of Benson, and his staff will discuss with students and parents admission procedures and the programs offered at Benson.



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Black people have historically made economic and cultural contributions to our nation of a significance often overlooked, and

WHEREAS, community members, especially our young people, search for opportunities for deeper understanding and appreciation of the cultural heritage of all American citizens, and

WHEREAS, there is still much misunderstanding of Black people, caused in part by ignorance of their culture and the contributions they have made to our society, and

WHEREAS, The Association for the Study of African-American Life and History and the Oregon Committee for Black History Week, in order to call attention to the significant role Black people play in the advancement of America and to foster better understanding among people, offer an open invitation to all people to take advantage of programs providing information on the unique history of the Black race,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Neil Goldschmidt, Mayor of Portland, Oregon, do join with other public officials across the nation and do hereby proclaim the week of February 11-17, 1974, as-

BLACK HISTORY WEEK

In Portland, to acknowledge Black citizens and their enriching influence in our community, and urge all members of the community to support the activities planned in observance of the week.



Neil Goldschmidt
MAYOR

Volunteer addresses UGN

Laurence D. Bolling, one of the highest ranking volunteers in the United Way movement, will explain progress towards identifying community needs and resolving them at the 22nd Annual Meeting of United Good Neighbors, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 26th, in Ballrooms A and B of the Hilton Hotel, according to Philip S. Hill, president.

Bolling, Vice President of the Board and Chairman of the Executive Committee of United Way of America, will highlight a program which includes election of new UGN board members, a treasurer's report and remarks by the president.

Bolling, President of L.D. Bolling and Son Box Dealers, Oakland, California, was chairman of United Way's Planning and Allocations Task Force, Hill said. "His visit here is most appropriate because UGN has just completed a major reorganization leading to formation of the Agency Relations Committee headed by Fred W. Wessinger."

The Committee oversees more than 100 budget panel volunteers who review agency budgets and community needs. The data is used in determining how much each UGN agency receives.

Bolling is chairman of the

Admissions and Allocations Committee of his "home" united fund — United Bay-Area Crusade, San Francisco. He is also a director of the National YMCA, Oakland Chamber of Commerce, Blue Cross Association of California, and Treasurer of the Oakland Economic Development Council and Oakland Poverty Board.

Nominees for the UGN Board of Directors, prepared by a committee chaired by Leland H. Johnson, include Thomas J. Baker, Philip R. Bogue, Howard Burnett, Ellis Casson, William Love, Kurt Olsen, Dick Samuels, Gilbert Schnitzer, Joyce Snodgrass and Harry Surles from (Please turn to pg. 4, col. 7)

Needs a different kind of person

"The community is looking for a different type of person," explained Lee Moore, Assistant Administrator of Minority and Age Programs, Civil Rights Division. The Black community is looking for people in authority who are competent, "able to do the job, know their stuff and can express Black ideas. The community needs workers, but no more spokesmen," Mr. Moore continued.

Disappointed by so-called community spokesmen of the past, Lee E. Moore has planned his future as a door rather than a talker. Lee E. Moore was born in Oregon and attended Peninsula Grade School and Roosevelt High. He received college education from the University of Idaho, Portland State University and Portland Community College, where he received a degree in Criminal Justice.

Mr. Moore was employed for 2½ years as a policeman for the city of Anchorage, Alaska. He worked in the office of Special Investigation for Portland Public Schools and worked as a manage-

ment trainee for TRW auto-parts distributors.

Just prior to his current position as Assistant Administrator, Mr. Moore was Field Investigator for the Civil Rights Division. The Civil Rights Division is a state agency under direct control of Commissioner Nilsen in the Bureau of Labor.

As Assistant Administrator, Mr. Moore's duties are reviewing those files that allege discrimination because of race, color, national origin, age or religious beliefs. After this administration review in which it is made sure that all facts necessary to support a legal finding of discrimination are present, the file is either closed or returned to the investigator for more information.

We enforce ordinances 659.010 through 115 (the Oregon State Civil Rights Law) that gives authority to remedy discrimination. Complaints may also be filed in housing, employment, public accommodations, public and private trade schools.

The first step after a complaint is filed is an attempt at

reconciliation. At that point 80% of the cases are reconciled; the rest are submitted for public hearing. The Civil Rights Division has not lost a case so far.

Mr. Moore is striving for closer contact with the community in order to be aware of its problems. He is happy and available to speak with community interest groups about civil rights and what the Civil Rights Division has to offer.

Within the Civil Rights Division there are two other administrative assistants who handle the areas of mental and physical handicapped and injured workers under the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) and sex discrimination.

Lee Moore is very happy with his job. "After working in the system I became frustrated at what I observed happening," Mr. Moore explained. "I wanted to get involved in an agency that was really involved in changing the system." Being involved in making this happen is what Mr. Moore enjoys being a part of, "then, now and in the future."

Free Clinic for HOME BUYERS



Are you planning to buy or build a home and have a lot of questions? Get the answers at one of our free Wednesday evening clinics. Prominent Builders and Realtors will speak on home construction and home buying. Benj. Franklin officers will talk on financing, followed by a question-and-answer period. To register, call 248-1361.

Wednesdays—7:00-9:00 p.m.
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