

# A struggle for Human Dignity

by Martha Anderson

Longview, Washington was not an easy town to live in back in 1923 when Victoria Freeman went there with her first husband, Willie H. Smith and their two sons, Oliver and Calvin. The white population at that time was made up mostly of Southerners and their children did not like the idea of little Black boys going to school with them. The boys were followed, taunted and threatened. The Black population was confined to ten two room shacks between Florida and Eighth Avenue.

The only jobs available for men were as janitors or railroad workers; for women it was the usual housework. It was not easy for the family, but, Mrs. Freeman, the oldest of thirteen children had known adversity in her home town of Jeanerette, Louisiana. After Mr. Smith's passing in 1966, she married James E. Freeman and three daughters, Audrey Woods, Ruby West and the late Inez Guenz were born.

Time began to change things and one daughter was employed as a bookkeeper in the Helen Davis Shop. That was twenty years ago and the old prejudice still lingered, forcing the girl to work in a back room because some patrons did not like seeing her in the office in the front. Meanwhile, Victoria Freeman held her family together, made friends with everyone and kept climbing.

In 1970 she was named Washington State Mother of the Year. She was chairman in 1966 of the Women's Study Club that won \$6,500 in prizes from Sears Foundation's Neighborhood Improvement contest. This sum was presented to the city to aid in opening the park now known as Clearview. She is a member of the Longview-Kelso Altrusa Club; past president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union; and a member of the National Association of Colored Women's and Grandmothers Club. Recently the Longview Daily News paid tribute to her as a "much-loved" person in the community.

Victoria Freeman has lived to see a few changes come to Longview. Black women now work in the local hospitals. One works for the Lower Columbia College radio station and one works for



Mrs. Freeman receives 1970 Washington State Mother of the Year award.

Sears. Ruby West, one of Mrs. Freeman's daughters, has been with Pacific Northwest Bell for almost nine years. She was the first Black to be employed in anything other than housework.

Oliver E. Smith of Portland, one of Mrs. Freeman's two sons by her first marriage, is a well known figure around the Capitol where he served as legislative aide for twelve years. A widower now, Oliver has two sons. Oliver, Jr. lives in Gresham and Calvin is employed by KYAC in Seattle. Mr. Smith says resentment remains over the injustice he received as a child. "That all happened when we were very young. My mother created a close-knit family and we were so busy there was no time to dwell on such things. My brother, Calvin now operates a shoe repair store in Salem. Thanks, to our mother we've all had a busy life filled with lots of love."



MRS. VICTORIA FREEMAN

## Tri-Met considers new budget

Tri-Met's Board of Directors will meet at Gresham's City Hall Council Chambers on Monday, November 3rd, at 10:00 a.m. Included on the agenda are a public hearing and consideration of the Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Year 1975-76. The ordinance providing that the proposed \$10 motor vehicle registration tax may be applied against the purchase of a monthly pass will be read for the second time and voted upon.

The six-part Special Transportation Program will be discussed and also a resolution authorizing application for continuation of Carpool for calendar year 1976. Opportunity is provided for public comment before the Board acts on any agenda item. A public forum at the end of the meeting allows for public statements on matters which are not on the agenda.

## Railroaders meet

The Railroad Senior Citizens Association held its annual banquet last Friday evening at Matt Dishman Center. Approximately 200 persons heard D.E. Erickson from the Railroad Retirement Board speak. A program was presented by Stanton Duke, Mattie Spears and Mrs. Mundy.

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## Know your Rights . . .

### UNEMPLOYMENT

As long as the unemployment rate remains high, benefits should be easy to maintain with a minimum of hassle. The employment counselors know that there are very few jobs, so they don't expect miracles.

Unemployment benefits are based on the amount you earned in a previous one-year base period. The Employment Division divides the year into four calendar quarters: January, February, and March are in the first quarter; April, May and June in the second; etc. The base period is controlled by the date you apply for benefits, not by the date you become unemployed. When you apply, the Employment Division will consider your base period to be the first four quarters of the last five completed calendar quarters. The amount you get is equal to 1.5 per cent of the total wages paid to you in your base year period. This system penalizes people who work for less than a year as well as those whose income has been steadily rising because it discounts any earnings in the last quarter. If you had a high-paying job this spring and were laid off in July, and if you anticipate being on unemployment for a long time, you would be better off waiting until October to apply because your weekly benefits would be higher. Once you have applied, you cannot change your base period.

The Employment Division will contact your most recent employer. If you are found to have left work without good cause or to have been fired for misconduct, your benefits will be delayed, but you will become eligible after your disqualification period is over. Your

maximum benefit amount will remain unchanged.

Good cause for quitting includes leaving work because your job was injurious to your health (you will need medical proof or leaving work to be married or because of obligations created by marriage or domestic duties. If you quit because you were being required to work at jobs outside your ability or qualifications or because you had to work under conditions substantially less favorable than the prevailing conditions for like work in the area, then you should try and fight for a determination that you had good cause to leave your work. You may have to go to a hearing to do this.

Misconduct usually must involve an intentional neglect of duty. Lateness or absences are not misconduct unless repeated and unexcused. If the employer's rules are found to be unreasonable, then insubordination cannot be considered misconduct if they are proven to be mistakes made in a situation which required skills beyond your ability and these skills were not ordinarily required in your position.

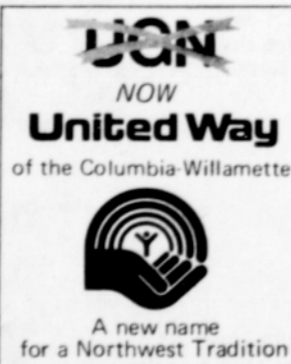
Remember that to keep getting

unemployment benefits you must be looking for work and reporting to the unemployment office every week. If the Employment Division decides that you have refused an offer of suitable work, you could lose all or part of your benefits. But you can refuse work that is not suitable.

Remember that you have a right to refuse a job that is inappropriate to your training or skill and that has lower wages or longer (or shorter) hours than is customary to your occupation. When you register for work, you should be very specific about the skills you possess and the kinds of jobs that you are looking for.

Here is the basic information. Remember that individual cases are frequently more complex than can be covered in this short summary. Welfare regulations fill volumes, citing numerous exceptions and special cases. The data in this article has been prepared by workers at Multnomah County Legal Aid Service.

For more information please call the Welfare Hotline, Monday through Friday, 1:00 to 5:00, 282-5512.



## Jeff dumps Trojans

by Patricia Lasley

1969 was a good year for Jefferson's football team. They closed up their season being City Champions. They also crushed the mighty Wilson Trojans with a score of 28-18.

After the season passed, Wilson waited their turn to 'Dump the Demos'. 1970 was the beginning of the Trojan streak as they put a stop to the Demomachine for about five years.

1975 is here and last Friday, Jefferson received a taste of victory as they 'spanked' the once too-tough Trojans.

First half action was rough but the Democrats charged to the lead. Second half was just another excuse for Jefferson to nicely shut out Wilson with a final score of 15-0.

Rain was a major part of the game but the team's didn't mind as much as Jefferson's faithful statisticians, Jeanean Dunn and Pam Banks.

Some Trojan fans entered the new portable grand stands with the insecure feeling that it would take a miracle for Wilson to gather up enough strategy to overthrow Jefferson from the top.

Coaches often insist that football takes up both physical and mental ability. The final score of Jefferson vs. Wilson indicated that Wilson was lacking in one or both areas.

At the season opening, Jefferson was ranked next to last. They've managed to pull out of the dark as they are now battling for second place. They hold a record of 4-1 against Lincoln's 5-1.

Tomorrow night, the Cardinal gridiron will be jam-packed with excitement as both teams struggle to defend the second place title in the Western division.

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