

Henry Scott "... have a long way to go"



Henry Scott

While many people dream about owning and heading a successful business, few move from the dream to reality. Henry Scott, President of Coast Janitorial Service, Inc., is one of the exceptions. Coming to Portland from Louisiana in 1944, Scott went to work in the shipyards as an electrician until they closed in about 1952. He then worked installing pipe line for the City Water Bureau for about five years before going to Consolidated Freight as a lube man.

His life to this point was like many working men except that he is quick to point out, "I came to Portland first and then sent for my mother, father, five brothers and three sisters." While at Consolidated, "I worked days and I and a buddy started a janitorial service working eight hours nights. His friend later sold out to Scott and 'I handled it on a part-time basis until I could support my family working on contracts full time.' Scott, a mild spoken man, who greatly understates the success of his efforts quit Consolidated 18 years ago.

Sitting relaxed and shirt sleeved, he explained "All my brothers, except one, are with me in the company now." Also two of his three sisters are working with Coast Janitorial which now employs 170 persons and expects to have 200 on the payroll before the year's end. "So long as people need the work we

will be out there getting jobs for them," Scott explained.

He is very reluctant to discuss contracts saying, "I don't want to give the impression that we are acting big. We're not. We just work hard at the things we like and do the best." He did mention a recent contract for inside and outside maintenance of the new Federal Building. "It's a good contract and, of course, I would like to have 10 more like it." His company operates throughout the city.

Scott is careful to point to the people who work for him. "We have some good people, hard working and very able. I just make suggestions and they carry them out," he said with usual subdued voice and modesty.

Scott stated, "We are just getting started and have a long way to go." We have to develop the business for all my family and the other people too." He points out that the firm is looking into possible expansion into a guard service and mentions that other services are on the drawing board. "We just are not ready to say anything about them yet."

Married in 1952 Henry and Bernice Scott have three children, Robert 17, who recently graduated from Park Rose High School, Jerome 20, works in the family business and Bernadette, who has been attending Portland State University. Is she coming into the business? "She's already here," Scott declared smiling.

The family relationships with the Scotts is a close one. "We all work very well together, and of course, Mom wouldn't allow for any spats between any of us." Scott's father died 10 years ago and his 75-year-old mother is "still very much in charge," Scott said reflectively.

A close friend of Scott, Cleveland Gilcrease, Executive Director of PMSC said, "There is no doubt about it; Henry Scott and Coast Janitorial Service have had a great impact upon the community." Few people know of the many contributions the Scotts have made, Gilcrease stated. He told of the "excellent participation" Coast had with the now defunct Concentrated Employment Program. "Coast Janitorial trained and hired many CEP clients over a long period of time," Gilcrease pointed out.

Up until four months ago the company occupied cramped quarters in the

bottom floor of 714 N.E. Alberta. Today the management offices have taken over — redecorated, air conditioned second floor offices with decorator colored rugs. Still Scott discounts his success. "I do the best I can. I'm very lucky," he said several times and again referred to the many capable people helping him.

There is no doubt Gilcrease is right: Henry Scott and Coast Janitorial impact the community. Community Action is pleased to have Scott featured as a fine person for "Citizens in Community Action."

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President
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