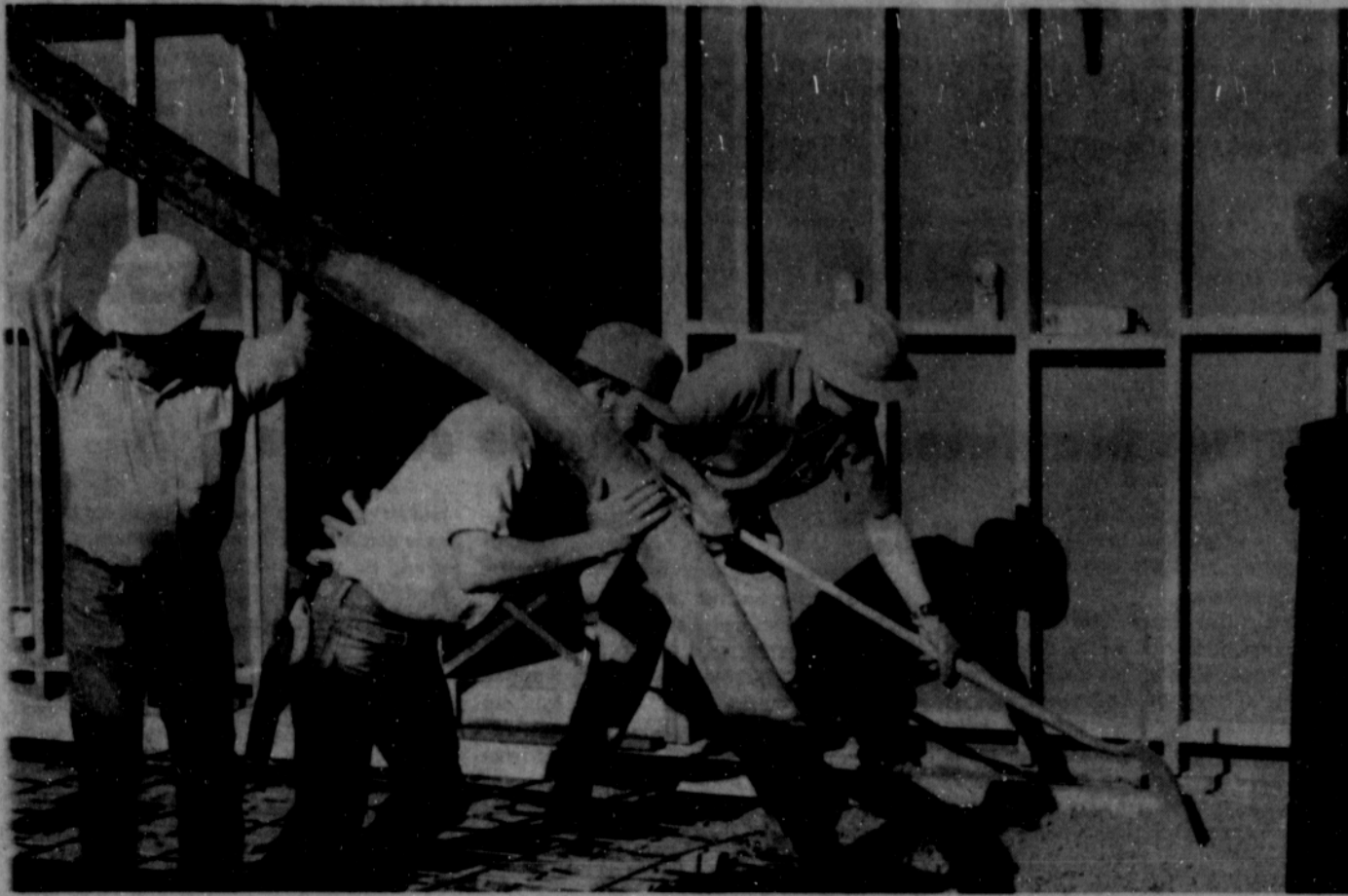


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Manuel Martinez (left), owner of Martinez General Construction Company, helps his crew with concrete peering. (Photo: George Page)

Manuel Martinez : A self made success

Manuel Martinez, owner of Martinez General Construction, is an example of a man who has worked his way up the hard way and now is on the verge of success. Martinez was born in Cleveland, New Mexico; a town where everyone spoke Spanish - even the Anglos who moved into the community. He attended school there - a sub-standard schools where the teachers did not care whether the children learned. Martinez learned English when he was sixteen, after he moved to Rawlins, Wyoming. "I was lucky. I had a cousin who is now a CPA, who helped me learn to read." While going to high school, Martinez worked summers in a steel mill. He also worked for a baker and by the time he left high school he was a journeyman baker.

Martinez went in the Army before he left high school, serving in the Far East where he worked with a survey crew. After returning to the U.S. he was employed as a baker in Oklahoma. "I didn't like the work much. I'd rather be outdoors." He left Oklahoma, headed for a construction job in Alaska, but missed his transportation and ended up in Washington. "I was sitting in a restaurant and across the river there were a lot of lights. I asked someone what it was and was told it was where a dam was being built. So the next day I went over and got a job." While working in the Dalles Dam, Martinez took the opportunity to learn several trades. "Whenever there was a chance to do extra work I was there." Although his major work was in steel, he learned carpentry work and concrete

as well. Martinez stayed with the dam building business, working on dams at Estacada, Bull Run, on the MacKenzie River and in Washington. One of his jobs was building diversion tunnels, to allow the river to run around the dam site. "That is where I saw many men killed in cave-ins. It is very dangerous work but the pay is good." Martinez formed his own construction company about six years ago. His first large job was a sub-contract with Hoffman Construction where he laid the steel floor on the upper seven floors of the new federal building. Martinez Construction's main craft is steel, but he also has crews working on concrete and in other trades. He does general building and remodeling, and is (Please turn to page 2 col. 4)

Radio KKEY censures Jimmy 'Bang Bang' Walker

Jimmy "Bang Bang" Walker, currently a "communicator" with Radio station KKEY was abruptly cut off the air Sunday by another communicator, Dave Collins. As Walker explained it, he and Collins have had differences of opinion on issues and have often discussed these differences. On Sunday, July 3rd, while station manager Ralph Wegant was on vacation, Collins visited Walker's show uninvited and, according to Walker, disrupted the show. The format of the program is for listeners to call in and express their views and discuss the issues that interest them with the "communicator". Collins

had taken another microphone and entered into the discussions, often expressing his difference of opinion with Walker. On July 10th, when Collins arrived, Walker refused to turn on the second microphone. Collins could not be heard. "He sat across the table from me and kept hollering at me not to say that. He said I had a racist program because too many Blacks called me." About ten minutes into the second hour of the program, Collins called the engineer and had the program cut off the air. Walker has been on the air since about February when he was asked by Wegant to fill in for another communicator who

was leaving. "I think Collins is just jealous because I am getting as many calls as he is," Walker explained. "Other communicators - Bob Dye and Lee Evans - are getting more publicity than he is. Collins is obviously upset because he is not the 'biggy' and he never has been." Collins was not available for comment. However in his own program Tuesday he told a caller that the incident was a "management decision" and "none of your business." Walker told the Observer that his course of action will depend on the results of his discussion with Wegant after the station manager returns.



President Carter has awarded the Medal of Freedom - the highest civilian award that is given in the United States - to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whom he praised for "unswerving dedication, superb courage, a sensitivity and humility and a dedication to peace." The President presented the medal to King's widow, Coretta King and the civil rights leader's father, Martin Luther King Sr., who attended a ceremony in Washington. "Although I never knew him personally, I have

come to know the members of his family, and many thousands of people around the world now carry on his own deep commitments to which he gave his very life," said President Carter. Mrs. King, in brief remarks, said the Medal of Freedom would be displayed along with King's Nobel Peace Prize in the Martin Luther King Junior Center for Social Change in Atlanta, Georgia.

Jefferson victim of white flight

by Gregory Guder

"White Flight" is responsible for the racial imbalance at Jefferson High School and the overburden of busing on the Black community, contends a coalition of Jefferson High School parents. According to statistics gathered by the Jefferson Dad's Club, Jefferson High School PTSA, Jefferson High School Advisory Committee, King Advisory Committee, Boise Neighborhood Association Education Committee, Justice For Black Students, the Boise Advisory Committee, and the Committee for Quality Education for All Children, the outflow of majority students from the Jefferson feeder schools to other high schools in the district is the primary reason for the increasing percentage of minority students enrolled at the North Portland high school.

According to federal and state guidelines, Jefferson, with its 51.5 per cent minority student population, is a "racially isolated school", thereby not allowing for the proper socio-academic mixture that would allow for a well-rounded education for its students.

Although a certain percentage of the feeder school graduates would "legitimately" go to Benson, Monroe and other high schools to take advantage of special curricula, the coalition feels that a significant amount of students are escaping their geographically-designated school because of Jefferson's "assigned" reputation of being a "bad, Black school".

The statistics gathered by the group point out that although the graduating class from the feeder schools - Beach, Gekley Green, Kenton, Chief Joseph and

Penninsula and parts of Boise and King - included 23.9 per cent minority at the end of the 75-76 academic year, the entering freshman class of Jefferson High School for the 76-77 school year was more than double, or 48.5 per cent minority. One-fourth of the feeder school graduating class, all majority students, never made it to Jefferson, contend the spokesmen for the coalition. Approximately sixteen per cent of the total feeder graduating class is generally lost to Benson. One tenth of that percentage is minority.

According to Don Barrett, Jefferson High School Administrator, the school still "lives under a cloud" of academic

inferiority and moral laxity associated with the school during a period of turmoil, some of it racial, which, according to Barrett, ceased more than four years ago. In addition, the academic "cream of the crop", both minority and majority, is siphoned off.

Despite boundary changes, introduction of magnet programs and "recruitment" of feeder school students, whites still tend to shy away.

"The school is at peace," says Barrett, adding, "We have exceptional programs (Magnet Programs) but we are not getting the students. What else do we (Please turn to page 2 col. 4)

HMRC committee asks delay

The Education Committee of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission recommended yesterday that the School Board make no decision on the controversial Newman Desegregation Amendment until at least February, 1978.

After meeting with Superintendent Blanchard and members of the School Board, the committee recommended that in the interim the district involve the community in the sharing of information and planning.

Dr. Blanchard, in his testimony, said the district has not compiled adequate data on the general achievement as well as social and emotional adjustment of administrative transfer students in the twelve years of desegregation planning and implementation. He also said that the

Newman Amendment is considered more of a boundary change than a policy change which requires no community input and should be done quickly.

Among the findings on which the MHRC Education Committee based its decision were:

- The district is not, nor ever was, under pressure by the state or federal government to further desegregate.
- The district's major reference in its planning is the findings of the Schwab Committee (1963) which were soundly rejected by the Black community.
- The district believes it cannot further desegregation through involuntary transfer of whites in the absence of a court order.

Small Business administration under fire

The U. S. Small Business Administration is currently under fire for alleged misappropriation of 8a contracts in that whites are receiving jobs earmarked for Minority Business Enterprise. SBA administrator Vernon Weaver had admitted that, although the program is continuing for the 1600 minority-owned firms already taking part, until a thorough review of the 8a requirements can be made no new minority firms will be admitted to the program unless he "personally okays" a new participant. The SBA chief said he is determined to end abuses of the program and to "help the disadvantaged people" 8a was designed to help.

Perhaps the next order of business will be the investigation of the SBA's lending practices in the Portland District office. SBA's district and regional Minority Business Enterprise representatives have admitted that "... one of the major problems confronting SBA is the loan officer. Value judgments of personal character made by loan officers weigh heavily on the approval or disapproval of a loan." SBA local statistics indicate favoritism toward certain firms and ethnic groups.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1975, twenty-seven minority loans were granted, totaling \$1,008,448. Of this total five Black firms received \$299,148 and of

this amount \$225,923 or 75.5 per cent of the loans to Blacks went to one firm. The Black firms receiving loans were a contractor, a clothing store, a service station, a restaurant and a consulting firm. Two of these businesses have since become bankrupt. During that year, \$496,000 or 49.2 per cent of the total went to Oriental firms. A review of the loans made during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1976 showed approximately the same percentages. Of the 46 firms receiving minority enterprise loans, we were only able to locate 31 companies. Oriental firms received \$1,041,000 or (Please turn to page 2 col. 4)



Construction crews are busy at Portland Public Schools' Educational Center construction site.

PPS minority participation questionable

by Catherine Siegner

Nate Proby, President of the United Minority Workers, has informed the Observer that although he has regularly made on-site checks on the Portland School District's Educational Center construction site, he has seen little evidence of minority employment.

Proby requested of Dr. Ralph Kleiner, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, who is in charge of the district's building projects, that he and the district insure that minorities are used according to district policy.

Donald M. Drake Company is the prime contractor on the project, and although no federal money is involved, they have agreed to meet State and Federal requirements concerning affirmative action in employing minorities.

The requirements stipulate that a minimum of 5.5% of the total employees be minority workers, representing "all crafts and trades." Weekly status reports filed with Dr. Kleiner's office by the Drake Co. differ markedly with both Mr. Proby's on-site monitoring and information available to the Observer.

The status reports are difficult to assess for compliance since job descriptions are not documented, and women are

included in the minority count even though they are not non-white. When asked how he knew the reports were accurate, Dr. Kleiner replied that he "assumed so," and "had no reason to doubt them" even though he had only been on the construction site once.

The school district employs a monitoring person for the project, but his responsibilities deal mainly with overseeing the architectural and construction aspects - not with making sure that affirmative action regulations are met.

Drake's sub-contractors are also being required to comply with minority employment regulations, but this apparently has not been achieved. A trucking firm involved with the project has regularly reported one black employee despite the fact that the man was fired several weeks prior to the status report. Truckers are required to make a certain number of loads per day which often results in speeding tickets. When the firm's owner refuses to pay the tickets, drivers slow down, make less loads, and consequently lose their jobs. If the employer resists hiring minorities anyway, such practices allow them to dismiss the worker, and continue reporting any figures they like as long as neither the prime contractor or the school district enforce the regula-

tions. The situation not only denied employment to minorities, but is in flagrant violation of the Hometown Plan which the prime contractor (and therefore the sub-contractors) signed and agreed to, indicating their determination to comply with the regulations. It is their responsibility to meet the agreement to hire minority workers and maintain their minority employment levels, thereby avoiding the perpetration of such blatant discrimination.

The school district adopted as board policy an agreement to "not enter into such contractual relationship... without first making appropriate pre-award surveys to determine that the contracting party is in substantial compliance with: a. all applicable Federal and Oregon laws and regulations... pertaining to equal employment opportunities, and elimination of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age (between 18-65), national origin, or sex... b. Appropriate efforts shall be made to obtain notice... of violation by the contracting party..." Such an agreement would seem to imply an active monitoring role on the part of the school district, which it has not fulfilled.