



Thomas R. Vickers leads 1967 picket of U.S. Post Office following complaint of racial discrimination in hiring and promotion of Blacks.

Years of Achievement

Can the NAACP still be used to promote equality for Black people? Tom Vickers, who served as President of the Portland Branch from January, 1967 to January, 1971, believes it can. "The NAACP has a long record of success, especially in the courts. Its record gives it a reputation that no other civil rights organization has, and the power structure still stops to listen when the NAACP speaks. It can be very difficult, but if you are willing to spend long hours of hard work — sometimes almost alone — then you can achieve some success, even in a city like Portland."

Among the Portland Branch's most satisfying accomplishments during the Vickers' administration was the opening of the Portland Post Office to Blacks. In 1967 many

Blacks had worked in the Post Office for as long as twenty years at entry level, with no promotions. There were no Black supervisors or Blacks in favored jobs such as window clerks or special delivery.

After a complaint was filed by NAACP it was determined by EEOC that the Portland Post Office did use illegal practices in employment and that Blacks were excluded from the more desirable positions.

Another first was the obtaining of five construction contracts in the Albina Human Resource Center for minority contractors and the subsequent organization of what became the Albina Contractor's Association.

The Branch was active in the legislative area, sponsoring bills in the Oregon legislature that would have strengthened civil rights law by attaching penalties, endorsing the 18-year-old vote; testifying in legislative hearings on child care, welfare, aging and education.

The board was particularly active in the field of education — consistently calling for the equitable desegregation of the public schools. The Branch opposed portions of Superintendent Robert Blanchard's "Schools for the Seventies" plan that left the elementary grades segregated and opposed a 25 percent maximum "quota" on Black enrollment in middle schools and high schools.

The Branch supported Sabin parents who did not want to lose their first grade to Eliot; supported Washington, Lincoln and Marshall students who wanted a Black Study Club; supported and assisted Black students who left Oregon State University in protest of discriminatory policies; helped Adams students study the issues and vote to reject a flag donated by the DAR.

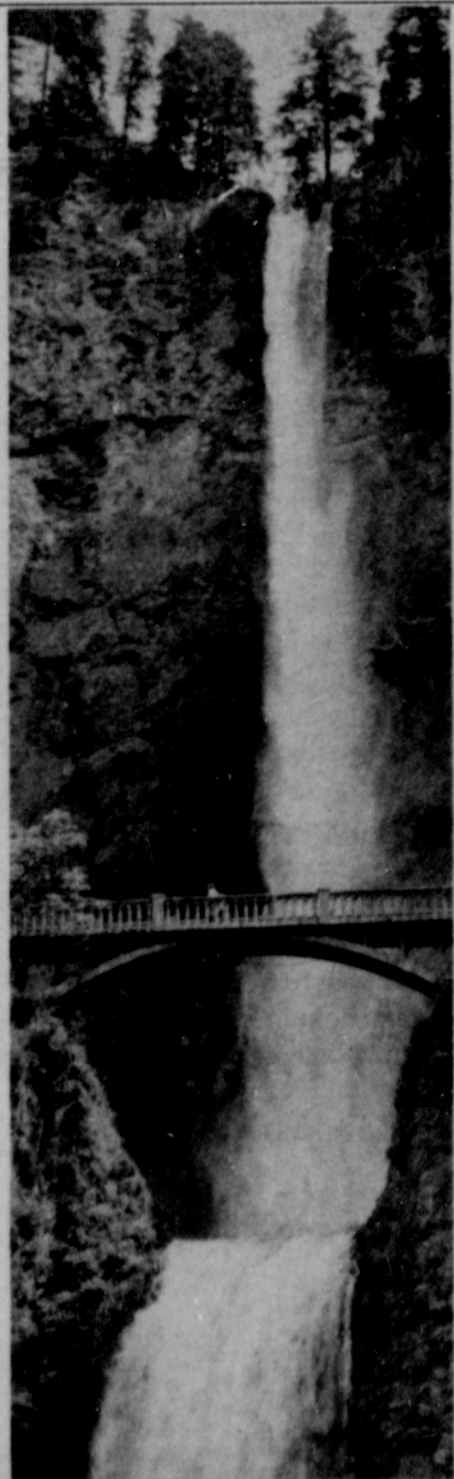
The NAACP joined with the "Black Coalition" which called a successful boycott of Roosevelt High School and filed suit against the school district charging discrimination in discipline. U.S. District Judge Soloman ordered changes in disciplinary policies and procedures.

The Branch provided legal counsel for students involved in discipline cases, persons alleging discrimination, neighborhood disputes, persons accused of crime and many other legal matters.

An active youth branch held high school and college forums, explored employment opportunities and assisted the United Farmworkers Organizing Committee.

The Branch president organized a college branch at Mt. Angel College and branches at Salem and Corvallis.

"Through consistent hard work and being available to those who need the services of the NAACP, we kept the NAACP before the public. The community knew the NAACP was alive!"



MULTNOMAH FALLS IN SCENIC COLUMBIA GORGE

WELCOME NAACP

We invite you to
tour the world-famous Columbia River Gorge,
see Bonneville Dam fish ladders and hatchery,
go boating, swimming, hiking, fishing, golfing



ENJOY

MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

Board of Commissioners
Don Clark, Chairman

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER