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Vets' training program rehabs abandoned houses

Three houses that were once a blight in their neighborhoods have been "recycled" and are ready for new occupants.

One of these houses, at 78 N.E. Ivy, was shown to the public in conjunction with the graduation ceremony for eight trainees from the Vets of Oregon Improver Project. The Vets of Oregon Improver Project is funded by the Multnomah-Washington CETA Consortium and the Portland Development Commission, with additional sponsorship from the District Council of Carpenters and the Associated General Contractors.

The graduates were: Tim Biggler, Shirley Browning, William Burnett, Robert Dowling, Frenchie Olson, Steve Twambley and Samuel Hill.

The project consists of two groups of ten trainees each in two six month consecutive cycles. Training is conducted by two journeymen carpenters union trainers and consists of approximately six months intensive classroom, shop and on-the-job training. The fully equipped classroom and shop are located at 426 N.E. Ivy on two PDC owned homes that have been condemned, unoccupied, and off the tax rolls for years.

Participants have received training in virtually all aspects of carpentry including: carpentry math and ter-

minology, drafting and blue print reading, form building, framing, roofing, plumbing and wiring, aluminum and vinyl siding installation, sheet rock, and interior finish work. In addition, two trainees have been assisted with GED preparation in the evenings.

Upon completion of training, the veterans can continue as Home Improvers, a new occupational title created by the carpenters union in response to the fact that journeyman carpenters had priced themselves out of the rehabilitation market for low and middle income families. They may also use their training time as credit towards apprenticeship, beginning an apprenticeship program in one of the many building trades.

The carpenters union has been instrumental in assisting with curriculum development, providing top quality training, and assisting trainees into apprenticeships. Four of the initial ten are in apprenticeships currently. Seven of the current group have applied to and been tested by the apprenticeship board but results won't be known until January.

Time spent in the training program is recognized and accredited by carpenters union as time and points towards apprenticeship.

Other minor house repairs have

been done for the elderly and disabled as a community service in the neighborhood. About 65% of the materials removed from the first house in preparing it for remodeling were re-used in the building process.

One of the goals of the program is to provide training to unemployed or unemployable persons. Of the nineteen enrollees, all were unemployed when selected for the program. Five were collecting unemployment compensation; three were receiving AFDC.

Fourteen had high school diplomas. Three had GEDs. Two earned GEDs while in the program.

Thirteen enrollees were white, five Black and one Japanese.

The rehabilitation of these houses is part of a "Recycled" House Program which was developed by PDC to deal with the problem of vacant and abandoned structures. The program is funded by a \$600,000 Innovative Grant from HUD.

Sales price of the two Ivy Street houses will be \$32,000. (They were purchased by PDC for \$8,025 each, rehabilitated for \$21,500. Inclusion of closing costs determined the \$32,000 sale price). A 5% down payment will be required and purchasers must be low to moderate income families who meet PDC guidelines. Two local banks are participating with PDC in financing of the mortgages, combining their market rate funds with Federal 312 funds at a 3% interest rate to make possible a below market rate interest on the mortgages.

A public drawing of the names of qualified buyers will be held in early January to determine future ownership. Individuals interested in purchase should contact PDC immediately. Sale of the houses will return the city its investment allowing rehabilitation of additional structures.

Over the next fifteen months twenty other vacant or abandoned structures in Northeast Portland and forty city-wide will be purchased by PDC, repaired and then sold to families who qualify under program income guidelines.

assigned to the 21st Replacement in Germany.

Bennie E. Blanton, 18, the son of Mrs. Shelly Blanton, is a 1978 graduate of Grant High School. He completed his basic training in September at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. After basic, he was trained as a Food Service Specialist and is now assigned to the 101st Air Mobile Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Both men will be available to talk with interested young men and women at local schools and in the recruiting station at 3637 N.E. Sandy Boulevard.

Soldiers aid recruiters

Two young Portland men are in town to tell interested individuals about their experiences in the U.S. Army. Both men have been assigned as "recruiter aide" for thirty days. Although not doing actual recruiting, they will provide "straight talk" for area residents who are considering Army careers.

Samuel D. Stewart, Jr., 18, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel D. Stewart. A 1978 graduate of John Adams High School, he enlisted in the Army and completed basic training at Fort Gordon, Georgia. He was then trained as a Wire Installation Specialist and is now

Jeff graduate joins Globetrotters

Ron Cole has achieved the goal that many young boys all over the world dream about — playing with the Harlem Globetrotters. Cole, a Jefferson graduate is a rookie guard with the Globetrotters.

Cole, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Cole, Jr., was a member of the 1972 Jefferson basketball team

which won the State Championship from Benson. He had attended Humboldt, Ockley Green and Wilson before transferring to Jefferson.

After graduating from Jefferson, Cole attended Mesa Junior College in San Diego, then went to the University of San Diego, where he majored in behavioral sciences.

During the 1976-1977 season at San Diego, Cole made his mark with over twenty points in seven games. The 6'4" guard spent the summer working as a program coordinator with Maurice Lucas' youth program.

In his senior year, Cole was drafted by the San Diego Clippers. One of the last to be cut from the team, he was advised to get some experience in the WBA and try for the NBA again. In the meantime he had been noticed by a Globetrotter scout and was one of thirty men to try out for the Globetrotters — and one of four men selected.

Dubbed "Sugar" Cole, he started the season with the Globetrotters in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The 1979 team will include most of the U.S. east of Denver and will include a trip to Africa. Although the Globetrotters have played in North and East Africa, this will be the first trip to the western part of the continent — Senegal, Ivory Coast, and Gabon. The trip will include visits with heads of State, state dinners, ceremonies and parades, and a visit to Juffure, the village of Kunte Kinte of "Roots."

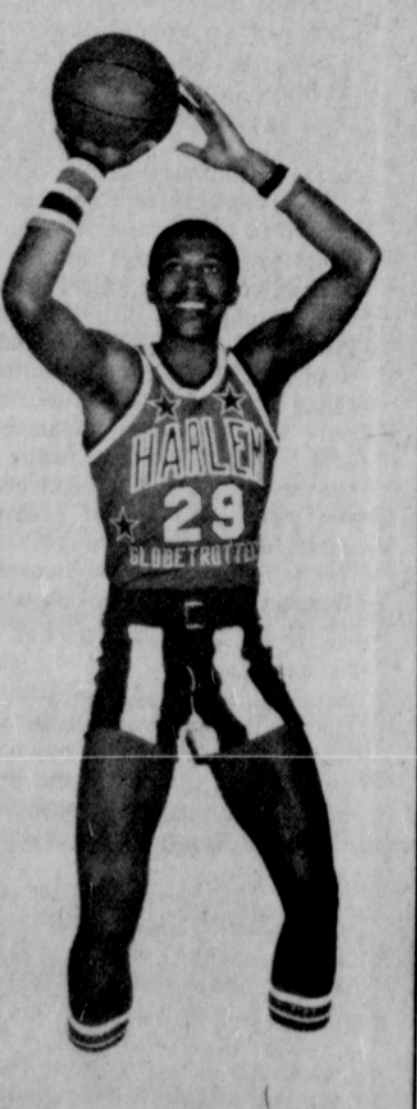
The Globetrotters were first organized on the "Savoy Big Five" in Chicago in 1926. Disbanded within two months because of lack of funds, the 23-year-old coach, Abe Saperstein, called the team together again in New York, playing their first game on January 7, 1929. Fifty-two years later, the team has appeared in 92 countries, is on television, in movie shorts, and holds all the

known records — scoring records, attendance records, season records, game records, games played, games won, etc.

Cole plans to stay with the Globetrotters. His future plans include a business of his own, international marketing and, perhaps, running for Mayor of Portland.



Ron Cole
Jefferson High School, 1972



Ron Cole
Harlem Globetrotters, 1978

Prison Ministries: Service to God and man

The Christmas season is a time when thoughts turn to assisting fellow human beings. The Salvation Army pots are filled — the people contribute food to the poor and gifts to the children. Carolers visit the hospitals. Soon the joyous music and the happy chatter fade away. The tables are empty again, the hospital corridors are quiet.

One couple that cheer and love and lend kindness the year around is Reverend and Mrs. John Parker, who spend hours every week of the year visiting men and women in the prisons and jails, counseling their families, finding work and homes for those who serve their time.

11, is in the sixth grade at Maranatha Christian School; Malcolm, 7, is a second grader at Eliot; and Angela is in Head Start at Beech School.

After graduating from Warner Pacific, Parker went into the ministry full time, first as an assistant at Maranatha Evangelistic Center, doing prison work and visiting the sick. In 1974 he became interim pastor for eighteen months. After Reverend John Garlington was hired to pastor Maranatha in 1976, he decided to devote all of his time to prison work. Prison Ministries, Inc., a non-profit corporation, was incorporated in 1975.

Reverend Parker had planned to

Christian Church, Dufer; Centerville, Washington, Christian Church; First Presbyterian, Portland; Church of Christ Apostolic, Oregon City and Zion Lutheran, Oregon City.

Although there are a few programs around the country that are similar to Prison Ministries, as far as the Parkers know they are the only Blacks involved in this way. Black chaplains are rare in prisons, as are Black administrators and superintendents.

The Parkers do not minister only to Blacks, "We see people of all races and all religions. We don't limit our contacts to people of any particular denomination like many



Reverend and Mrs. John Parker visit at Rocky Butte.

(Photo: Bob Bach, Oregon Journal)

Reverend Parker explains his mission as, "It is my answer to a divine call. I believe God has called me to this ministry. The ministry doesn't have to be just preaching from a pulpit each Sunday; it should be where the person feels most comfortable and I feel more comfortable working in the prisons."

Parker was raised in Missouri and came to Oregon in 1958, after leaving the service. He worked for the General Services Administration from 1959 until 1965, then went to the U.S. Geological Survey, where he worked until 1973. While employed he attended Warner Pacific College, graduating in 1973 with a bachelor of science degree.

In the meantime he had married his wife Viviane. Mrs. Parker had come to Oregon in 1944 with her parents, who were involved in war work. She graduated from Jefferson High School in 1958. A musician, she qualified as a music teacher through the Sherwood School and until recently gave piano lessons.

The couple have eight children: Brent, 19, is in the Air Force; Gregory, 17, is a Senior at Benson High School; Karen, 16, is a Junior at Jefferson High School; Charman, 15, is a Sophomore at Jackson High School; Jeffrey, 13, is in the eighth grade at Pope John XXIII; Janette,

do prison work since he was eight or nine years old and met a man who visited the prisons. In 1964 he started going to the City Jail with another minister, and continued weekly visits until the jail closed in 1970. In 1968, a friend asked him to see her son in the Oregon Correctional Institute. He began visiting that prison once a month. The chaplain recommended him to the chaplain at Oregon State Penitentiary and he began visiting there. His ministry soon spread to the Washington State Prisons at Walla Walla and Shelton, McNeil Island, and Nebraska State Prison.

Reverend Parker holds services, teaches Bible classes, counsels prisoners and their families. He also provides a friend or an interested person to many prisoners who have no families and no visitors.

Mrs. Parker, who is an integral part of Prison Ministries, provides music for the services, helps coordinate activities and helps with the office work.

Prison Ministries, Inc. is dependent on contributions of churches, business and individuals. Some of the churches that make regular contributions are: Maranatha; St. Andrews Community Church; First Church of God, Vancouver; Oakview Church of God, Scio; Dufer

ministers do. We see Protestants, Catholics, Muslims and occasionally a Jew, as well as many who have no church."

The "Turning Point," a small office at 3946 North Mississippi, serves as an opportunity to reach people in the street who are headed for trouble. Turning Point is also a place to meet and counsel graduates of the prisons. Prison Ministries attempts to aid the adjustment back into the community by offering emergency food and housing, bus fare, help in finding work, etc.

Reverend Parker explained the satisfaction he receives from dedicating his life to others. "I go with the belief that no person is hopeless, no matter what they have done or how many times they have been in prison. Many of the people in prison are creative people — artists, poets — but somehow they have gone the wrong direction. Maybe something I say will get them to thinking, get them to decide to change their lives.

"They learn to trust me, to believe me. Some of them have never had anyone they could turn to — and maybe I can be that person.

"I believe I have been called by God to this ministry and I know that I can be used by Him."

City identifies home rehab loan recipients

The Portland Development Commission released a study of this week, called "A Look at the Recipients", designed to provide a picture of the recipients of Housing and Community Development loans and to determine whether they are reaching the population they were designed to reach.

The study shows some variation between Black and white recipients and between recipients in different geographic areas.

Between July of 1975 and December of 1977, PDC processed 1,713 loans to Portland residents found financially eligible for subsidized home rehabilitation programs. Included in the study are recipients of four types of loans.

- Deferred Payment Loan (DPL): federally funded, maximum of \$4,000, no interest and payable when the property is sold or transferred. Income limit for a family of four is \$8,450.

- Section 312: federally funded, maximum of \$20,000, 3 per cent interest, maximum of 20 years to pay. Income limit for family of four is \$16,900.

- HCD-3 Loan: Locally funded, \$20,000 maximum, 3 per cent interest, 20 years to pay. Income limit for family of four is \$16,900.

Public Interest Loan (PIL): Federally funded, maximum of \$15,000, interest rate currently 7.25 per cent, maximum 15 years to pay. Income limit for family of four is \$25,350.

Some variation is seen in the loans advanced in different areas of the city. Over half of the loans were DPL (no interest, deferred payment). They made up 56 per cent of the sample, but in St. Johns

they accounted for 60 per cent of the loans. In Southwest they were only 20 per cent and in northeast they were 51 per cent.

312 loans were 30 per cent of the sample, and made up 39 per cent of the loans in Northeast. They were 60 per cent of the loans in Southwest and Northwest.

HCD-3 loans made up ten per cent of the sample, but were 20 per cent of the loans made in Southwest and 17 per cent in Southeast. They were only 7 per cent of the loans in Northeast.

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Program seeks employees

Representatives of the U.S. Forest Service will be at the offices of the Northwest Minority Contractors Association from 9:00 a.m. to noon on January 5th to interview young people who are interested in part-time and summer work with the Forest Service. These positions can lead to full-time career employment.

Representing the U.S. Forest Service are Bobby Campbell, EEO

recruiter, and Skip Bracken, foreman with the youth program.

The NMCA Youth Employment Program also has openings in hospital and insurance companies. The Youth Employment Program provides counseling, training and employment for young people to age 22. Persons interested in the program should stop by the office at 10 N.E. Graham.