



Reverend Elias and Hattie Miller, parents of Roberta Miller Blackburn, and their family.

Roberta Blackburn celebrates 85

By Kathryn H. Bogle

Hugs and kisses, the order of the day, along with a birthday cake ablaze with candles, greeted Roberta Miller Blackburn recently on the occasion of her 85th birthday.

The gracious little lady took it all in stride as she returned the greetings of the fifty guests invited to her home to celebrate the day with her. The invitations had been issued by Mrs. Blackburn's daughter, Hattie Gaskin, who is her only child, though there were several among the guests who regard Mrs. Blackburn as "another mother" of their own.

The afternoon was filled with reminiscing with this gentle little lady, born in 1895, in Columbus, Georgia. She was a twin, "an identical twin," she said, and pulled a faded family portrait from an old silver-backed family album to show.

In the portrait, Roberta stands at her mother's right knee and Maude Robeina, the twin sister stands on her mother's left. Robeina lived to adulthood, to marry and to have one child. Her child, a boy, "looked just like Hatti - a resemblance so close they too, looked like twins."

"The picture," Mrs. Blackburn explained, "was taken in 1900 by a traveling photographer. One of those salesmen, who in those days roved through small town streets offering his art at bargain prices to family groups. We were all rounded up quickly by papa and told to wash up and change our clothes in a hurry to pose for our picture. We all scattered and did as Papa told us to do.



Mrs. Roberta Miller Blackburn celebrates her 85th birthday with her daughter Hattie Gaskin.

"No one noticed," Mrs. Blackburn smiled as she remembered the day the pictures arrived, "until we saw the pictures that the boys had forgotten to put on shoes! Our whole family was chagrined, because the boys really had shoes - somewhere."

Robertas family was reared by a gentle mother and a kind God-fearing father, of the A.M.E. Church in Columbus, Georgia. He also preached in Phoenix, - Alabama across the river from Columbus.

First Jacksonville, Florida for a while, then a few years in Chicago, Illinois became the unlikely route to Portland, but Roberta Miller Fanning came that way to Portland first in 1919. She returned to live here permanently in 1934. In 1936 Mrs. Fanning married Le Roy

Blackburn a staunch member of Bethel A.M.E. church, and she knew she was at home. Their happy marriage lasted for 27 years until Mr. Blackburn's death.

Roberta Blackburn's life has centered around her church, her family and her friends, as one guest said; "quite possibly, in days past, no friend, or even acquaintance, of Mrs. Blackburn ever lacked, in time of need, for a helpful, cherry call or visit from this generous, outgoing lady."

Besides her membership at Bethel where she has been devoted to her work on the altar, Mrs. Blackburn is a long-time member of Buelah Chapter, No. 24, Order of Eastern Star of Oakland, California and of the Delta Mothers Club.

Assisting Mrs. Gaskin at the 85th birthday celebration was Mrs. Verdell Rutherford, Mrs. Greta Rogers and Mrs. Ella Mae Cook.

Goldsby opens art studio

Al Goldsby, Portland's outstanding metal sculptor, will open his studio at 825 N. Killingsworth for a public showing of his commanding metal works and his interesting color prints for a two week display, beginning May 30th and continuing through June 15th.

The public is invited to an early evening reception on Friday, May 30th. The reception hours are from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thereafter, the studio showings will be from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday - Sunday.



Dear Friends and Neighbors:

My thanks to all of you who offered encouragement and support for my campaign for Portland City Council.

Sincerely,
Mike Lindberg

UL schedules youth activities

"Education for Summer Fun," a tutorial and recreational program for Northeast area grade school youngsters, will be offered to the community by the Urban League Northeast Youth Service Center.

Youngsters ages 5-13 will be tutored by high school students in reading, writing and math at King, Vernon and Boise schools and Peninsula Park. Field trips, park sponsored recreation and lunch will also be provided.

The program will run from June 22 - August 23 on Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and is free of charge.

Skills development and positive role modeling are essential elements for a young person in negotiating the education system. More often the learning experiences of young people could be greatly enhanced in a more relaxed and neutral atmosphere. We know that inadequate school adjustment is a primary factor in involving a child prematurely in the juvenile justice system. Through effective peer counseling and tutoring, the young people providing the services get an opportunity to develop leadership potential, communication and intr-educational summer support.

The population this program will address, are young people attending ten (10) Northeast Grade and Middle Schools. Members of this population will be referred to the program for remedial and educational summer support.

Interested persons may pre-register their child by calling the Urban League N.E. Youth Service Center at 288-6708 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Registration will also take place on the first day of the session.

Jenkins joins USPS board

President Carter announced he will nominate Timothy L. Jenkins, of Washington, D.C. to be a governor of the United States Postal Service.

Jenkins is presently chairman of the MATCH Institution, a management consultant firm. Jenkins is the first Black ever nominated to this position.

Jenkins has served previously as special assistant to the chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and as an assistant professor of administrative law at Howard University Law School. He also served as chairman of the Housing Rent Commission of the District of Columbia and was a partner in the international law firms of Jenkins and Willis/Jones and Jenkins and Warden.

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Citizen of the Week



Betty Overton is known for her dedication to youth and to grass roots organization. Ms. Overton is president of the Albina Women's League and volunteer director of the league's North - Northeast Youth Service Center. The Center offers education and recreation for young people - including radio broadcasting and engineering, printing, photography, theater and dance, and woodworking. It is Ms. Overton's dream to establish a non-profit commercial radio station with a youth training component.

Ms. Overton is a former board member of the Albina Action Center board and the PMSC board and has spent many hours working to promote programs to aid the poor. She was a national board member of the National Association for Community Development, a member of the boards of the Northwest Oregon Health Systems, and Legal Aid. She is a former Democratic Precinct Person. She is a member of Daliah Temple 202.

For years she coached girls and boys baseball and basketball teams, and she organized recreational and social programs for Highland Community Center.

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