

Portland Profile

By Linda Thompson

What appears to be a very short summer is rapidly approaching its final days. It is, however, making room for another gorgeous season, Autumn.

With the new season comes the realization that there are many, many Black role models in Portland yet to be discovered and presented to our Black youth for digestion and inspiration. Once again, I will do just that; present on a weekly basis, a series that deals with the above subject matter.

Born in Los Angeles, California, Alyce Marcus, (our first role model of the series) attended Jefferson High School and started out at fourteen (14) in show biz, where she was employed for KFI radio station as a singer. She, along with her two sisters, performed a weekly series of Negro spirituals and gospels. As a high school student, she and other musically inclined students formed a band and performed for many night club in the Los Angeles area where she was lead singer.

As a result of her performances in this band, she was able to sign with the William Morris Agency, as a dancer, along with a male dancing partner, known as Smith and Haynes.

Some of her outstanding performances included doing an annual show with the famous and nationally known Eddie Canton, traveling overseas and in the states during World War II with the USO, having roles in such movies as Abbot and Costello (with Count Basie as featured band) and in "Who's Your Holiday" with Roy Rogers and Dale Evans and in many "short movies."

During her off season, Alyce would do volunteer community work with neighborhood improvement associations and with child care centers.

In 1960, Alyce was an automobile victim. An injury to her knee ended her career in show business as a dancer. She moved to Portland and reassured her career goals.

Community involvement on the grassroots level has always been her second love, so she proceeded to seek career opportunities in this area.

In 1965, she landed a job with the War on Poverty program. From there, Alyce went to work as an Housing Aide for the Albina Neighborhood Center that was then located on 11th and Fremont. About this time, a new federal poverty program, PMSC (Portland Metropolitan Steering Committee) was beginning in the Portland area and she became the Housing Coordinator for that program.

She left this job because the area of concentration was too broad and she was interested at that time in inner city work, so she transferred to Model Cities as coordinator for their Information and Referral System. When Cleveland Gilcrest became director of PMSC, she



ALYCE MARCUS

returned to this agency as neighborhood organizer.

The city recognized the immense talent of Ms. Marcus and in 1974, hired her at her present position; the City's first Black Affirmative Action Officer.

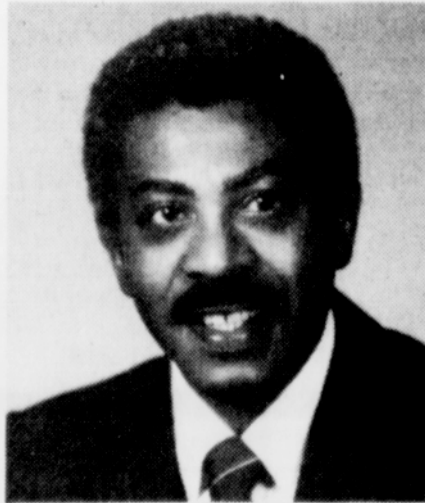
One of the highlights of our conversation is her theory of "helping." She states, "you have to carry young people in life. By that I mean locking your arms in theirs and never letting go. When they fall, be strong and pull them up again and you can if your lock is a true and strong one. Never let go until you feel that they are ready to lock onto someone else." A beautiful theory.

When asked for her formula for success for young Blacks, she stated: "Get a good education. Attending school and getting a good education are two different things. Getting a good education involves proper counseling from proper sources, investigating careers of in-

terest, interviewing role models in that specific area as to how they succeeded, selecting classes that will prepare you for careers of interest and never letting anyone cheat you out of learning.

"Have some 'stick to it'. Be sure and acquire those written and oral skills that will allow you to sell yourself to employers. Where one should not be arrogant, he should, on the other hand, never sell himself short on his own qualifications."

And I had a beautiful summer...even with the threats of Mount St. Helens. Until next week remember: "To live in the past only, is to deprive yourself of the treasures of the present and the future."



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Allen Temple features men

The Lay Council of Allen Temple C.M.E. Church, located at 4236 N.E. 8th Avenue will be featuring the men of the Church. The men will conduct the entire eleven O'clock worship service on October 12th.

Mr. Earl Chase will be featured speaker. He is a member of Allen Temple C.M.E. Church, and presently employed by the Portland Public School System as a fifth grade tenured teacher at Martin Luther King Jr. Early Childhood Center.

Mr. Chase is a graduate of Tillison, College, Austin, Texas and received his Master's degree at Portland State University. He was commissioned in Austin, Texas as the first Black Probation Officer in the southwest. He is also an applicant for Principalship in the Portland Public School System.

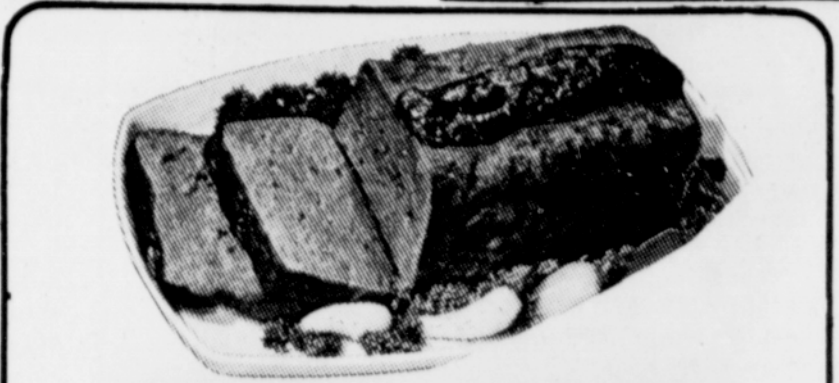
Mr. Chase has extensive experience related to education in local and state professional organizations such as: Portland Association of Teachers and Oregon Education Association. He has served on the Grievance and Legislative Committees and was elected twice. He served as a National Education Association Delegate.

The Lay Council will also sponsor an October Feast on Saturday, October 11th., downstairs in the "Fellowship Hall" at the church. The public is invited to join for an All Day Feast of good eating. The menu will be meat of your choice; fish, chicken (fried or bar-b-que'd) or bar-b-que'd ribs, vegetables, salad, bread, and dessert. The feast begins at 11 O'clock A.M....until. For delivery call 287-0261.



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