

# Oh God, where art Thou?

They took me out  
To some lonesome place.  
They said, "Do you believe  
In the great white race?"

I said, "Mister,  
To tell you the truth,  
I'd believe in anything  
If you'd just turn me loose."

The white man said, "Boy,  
Can it be  
You're a-standin' there  
A-sassin' me?"

They hit me in the head  
And knocked me down.  
And then they kicked me  
On the ground.

A klansman said, "Nigger,  
Look me in the face—  
And tell me you believe in  
The great white race."

*Langston Hughes*



The return of white supremacy to the South following the end of Reconstruction convinced many Black people that they should go west. They joined the waves of homesteaders who settled the mid-western plains.

In many areas they were driven away and in others they faced the same intimidation and harassment they had gone west to escape.



*Klan members march near Vancouver, Washington.*



**MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON**

## Black Business History with Multnomah County

Multnomah County has had a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Program since 1977. However, past MBE opportunities have been limited. For example, until 1981 the County's MBE program focused only on setting aside 10% of construction projects under \$50,000 for minority firms. In that year Multnomah County was one of the first local governments to increase the MBE construction projects to \$100,000. Yet participation by minority- and female-owned firms was not satisfactory to County Executive Don Clark and the Board of County Commissioners.

Since November, 1981, with the adoption of a Multnomah County Ordinance, there is a new and expanded Minority and Female Business Enterprise Program with...

### Less Red Tape:

Multnomah County is accepting the City of Portland's MBE and FBE certification

### MORE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES:

- ★ To bid on construction projects
- ★ To sell supplies
- ★ To render services
- ★ To provide professional services

County Executive Don Clark invites MBE/FBE firms to find out more about these business opportunities and to learn how and what Multnomah County buys each year. Please contact:

### Multnomah County Purchasing Division

SHERRY JACOX, DIRECTOR/MBE OFFICER OR DON EICHMAN, ASST. DIRECTOR/MBE OFFICER  
2505 SE 11th AVE., PORTLAND, OREGON 97202 (503) 248-5111