

METROPOLITAN

New business spells independence



DARNELL LOWERY

(Photo: Richard Brown)

Darnell Lowery has opened his new business as a general contractor — "Special Touche Ceramic Tile." A former public relations specialist for the Model Cities program and human relations specialist for the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, Lowery moved to the skilled trades because he could see the opportunities in social programs would be limited.

"I wanted to do something for myself," he said, so in 1976 he approached the Portland Urban League and at their suggestion took pre-apprentice training to prepare for the apprenticeship examinations. He was interested in carpentry but found himself 42 on a list of 80.

Lowery heard that there were no minority tile setters and that the trade was seeking minorities, so he took the examination. Of the class of 14 who were accepted only two men remain in the trade. Lowery took four years completing the three-year apprenticeship course consisting of classes and on-the-job training, learning all facets of the field—floors, tubs, countertops, patios, etc. His work included the Vancouver Mall, Clackamas Town Center, Nordstrom's downtown, and work in Seattle and Anchorage.

Lowery has been a journeyman for over a year but did not find jobs forthcoming. "The union wanted minorities in the trade, but now they don't call me. Either they pick up a new apprentice they can get for less money, or if they have to take a journeyman they can get someone with more experience who has been in the trade for 20 or 30 years." As far as he knows, he is the only black journeyman tile setter in Oregon.

Lowery's answer was to launch out into business for himself. He is licensed for Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas Counties and bonded. He is qualified to do home and commercial work.

Lowery was raised in Portland, attending Jefferson High School, Portland Community College and the University of Oregon. He and his wife, Joyce, have two sons, Anthony and Jason. Mrs. Lowery is employed as a receptionist by Operating Engineers Local 701. Lowery can be contacted at 285-1266.

INTERESTING FACTS

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Two years after "talkies" were introduced in 1927, the movies were drawing 100 million patrons per week.

The porcupine fish is covered with protective spines. For added protection it fills itself with water so that it resembles a prickly balloon.

Puerto Rico is more densely populated than Japan.

The average American, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture reports, consumes some 95 pounds of refined sugar a year.

We do not do business with South Africa.

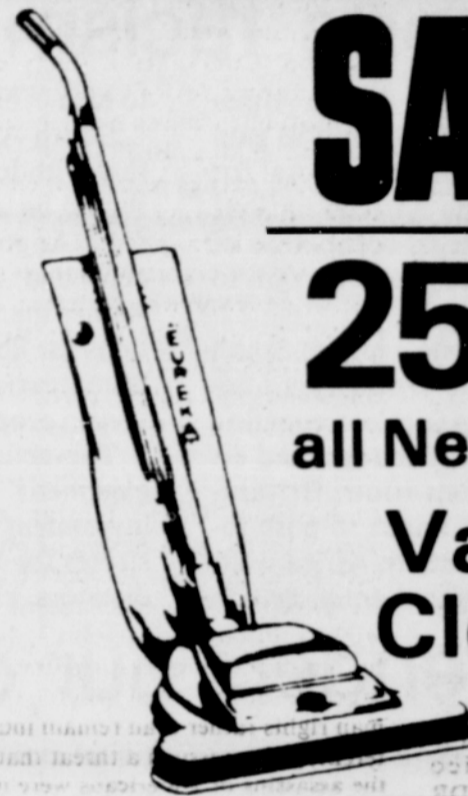


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Lower cost birth plan available

Women expecting to have normal pregnancies and deliveries who are interested in a low-cost option for family-centered birth care should consider the new Special Delivery Program at University Hospital of the Oregon Health Science University.

This new program in birth care includes a single price package of maternity services, including prenatal care, labor and delivery (with minimum medical intervention), postpartum care and a follow-up visit at 48 hours for the newborn baby. For the Special Delivery Program, in

which the hospital stay is less than 20 hours, the total cost is \$975, which is about \$500 less than the cost of a typical two-day maternity hospitalization with pre-natal care.

University Hospital is offering this program to help meet the need for less expensive alternatives to current maternity programs at a time when it is difficult for many people to obtain comprehensive care because of gaps in insurance coverage or the lack of insurance with many working families.

University Hospital is able to offer Special Delivery at the lower rate because it is able to provide all of the services in one setting with less usage of nursing services and medical procedures.

If they wish, families in this program may remain together during the entire experience. The mother and her new baby will remain in the Birthing Room or go to the Special Delivery area for a recovery period of about six hours. They will then be examined and, if neither has any problems, they will be allowed to go home. Approximately two days after the birth, the mother and baby will be examined at the hospital's Ambulatory Care Center and given the required screening test for phenylketonuria (PKU). Routine follow-up care is provided through the postpartum period. If desired, home visits by a public health nurse can be arranged.

To enroll in the program, mothers must be expecting a low-risk delivery and be willing to pay an advance deposit of \$500 for the whole Special Delivery Program, or \$350 if prenatal care is received elsewhere. The entire cost to the mother will be only \$615 if prenatal care is not given at University Hospital. Also, expectant mothers will be required to register in advance and to attend an orientation session at the hospital prior to admission.

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