

Oregon Jam '83

Page 6



National BUF Convention

See page 8 and Calendar Page 13



Portland Phi Slatma Jamma

Page 12



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Swakara Nettles (2 yrs.) gets a little help from never low enough water fountain. his cousin Acton Walker (10 yrs.), in reaching the (Richard J. Brown)

ASB president strikes down closure rumors

Rumors that Oregon's first black-owned bank is folding are unfounded, according to the president and founder of American State Bank, Venerable F. Booker.

Booker said that customers have reported that people in the local real estate industry had told them that ASB was on the verge of imminent collapse, and could no longer even afford to pay the rent on its headquarters.

"We are in a profit position right now, we are having no sorts of problems like that," said Booker.

"We have a net profit of \$108,000 as of June 30, which is a long way from being broke," he said.

ASB's assets totaled \$16,699,289 as of June 30, up from \$15,064,257 at the end of 1982. The bank recorded net earnings of \$158,871 for 1982 and \$202,740 for 1981, according to the 1982 annual report. Even though high interest rates have eroded profits, according to the report, shareholders dividends were raised at the end of 1982 "to share these profits."

Booker said that ASB has no problem paying the rent because it has owned its headquarters located at 2737 N.E. Union since 1970. A downtown branch office is located at 204 SW Yamhill.

No larger bank or outside controlling interest pulls the strings at ASB, Booker added. "We are our own bosses."

Rumors of problems at ASB have surfaced periodically since he

founded the bank in 1968, said Booker.

Recession and high interest rates have made it especially hard on small independent banks, according to Booker. "There's too many banks in trouble these days," he said, citing recent bank closures and reorganizations in Oregon and Washington.

Destructive rumors only add to the problem. "That could cause a run on the bank," he said.

Federal Reserve figures show a

consistently strong showing by ASB when compared with both minority and non-minority banks in its size range, right through the worst part of the recession.

"We really out-perform other minority banks, and we are right up there with the majority banks," he said. "We did it because we've been able to keep our interest rates down and watch our investments."

"We just want people to know that we are strong and healthy and we are not folding."

AMERICAN STATE BANK STATEMENT OF CONDITION JUNE 30, 1983

ASSETS	
CASH AND DUE FROM BANKS	\$ 5,999,325
INVESTMENT SECURITIES	3,254,910
LOANS	5,463,157
FEDERAL FUNDS SOLD	950,000
BANK PREMISES AND EQUIPMENT	604,493
OTHER ASSETS	427,404
TOTAL ASSETS	\$16,699,289
LIABILITIES	
DEPOSITS:	
TOTAL DEMAND	\$ 7,745,344
TOTAL SAVINGS	702,045
TOTAL TIME	6,734,853
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$15,182,242
OTHER LIABILITIES	139,095
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$15,321,337
STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY	
COMMON STOCK	\$ 400,000
SURPLUS	600,000
UNDIVIDED PROFITS	329,952
RESERVE FOR CONTINGENCIES	48,000
TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY	\$ 1,377,952
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$16,699,289

Survey defines childcare needs

"I would hope one of the reasons that the community at large would want to complete the survey is that it gives you a voice in the kinds of program you have here. What you like, what you don't like and it gives programs already in existence some directions as to where to go and what to provide."

*Cornetta J. Smith
Director, AMA Family Day and
Night Care*

GRASSROOTS NEWS, N.W. — The Albina Ministerial Alliance is conducting a survey of both North and Northeast Portland to determine the child care needs of the parents. Director Smith says the survey is needed to assess the changing economic climate of this area of the city. "Unemployment is on the rise in our area and there has been a lot of day care providers with vacancies and parents who talk about the escalating cost. These three factors created the need for a survey. We were also concerned about the educational status of children during their early years."

An additional concern of AMA was the impact retreating federal dollars were having upon children and their families. "For the last twenty years in this community we have spent a lot of time getting children ready for Head Start and the whole public school scene. Within the last three to five years we have seen a decline in federal programs and aid to various programs. Therefore, a lot of programs were cut out of our community. I became increasingly concerned about what was happening with our small children if there were no day care and if there were no early childhood educational program. Hopefully,

the survey will tell us some of the things parents are doing, what they liked about programs of the past and some of the services they would like to see brought about in the future."

Smith says she selected two surveyors who were knowledgeable of people in different neighborhoods. Edna Mae Pittman and Cardella Hopson. Pittman says she wants to convey to the parents how important their input is in this survey. "The purpose of the survey is to determine the childcare needs of our targeted areas. It will provide insight to AMA of how to better meet the needs of parents requiring child care."

The survey consists of twenty basic questions regarding how parents use child care, when they use it and how they feel about their most recent experience with child care.

Surveyor Cardella Hopson believes the survey ought to be taken more seriously by the community affected. "One of the difficulties we are having is that people aren't giving us enough time to explain to them why this survey is important and the reasons why they should want to fill it out. All we are asking for is a minute of their time and I don't think that is too much to ask of anyone who has children in this community. Especially, if you work, are on welfare, required to look for work, or if you are a single parent making the minimum wage."

The Albina Ministerial Alliance is a group of local ministers who form an umbrella organization which sponsors a variety of programs whose main purpose is to assist young people in need from childhood to post-adolescence. "There are several different pro-

grams which deal with children," Smith begins. "One is Head Start, which is a federally funded program for low income families with children between the ages of three to five. The other is Family Day and Night Care for children birth to twelve years old. This day care is handled in the homes of a person (male or female) who is registered with us. The third program sponsored by AMA is called Community Kids and it is for teenage boys who want to explore the athletic world under the direction of Tony Hopkins. He is working intensively with these young men not only in sports but in academic and personality development.

"Our fourth program is headed by Raymond Wilson and is called the N.E. Cornerstone Project. It is designed to work with those students

we term "high risk." In this program a student is able to develop their business expertise by marketing a product."

Smith stated that the withdrawal of federal aid has caused, "immeasurable impact on programs but it is through the support of a dedicated staff and volunteers that we are able to survive. We are really committed to working in this community and building good programs for our children."

With an afterthought, director Cornetta J. Smith says, "Children are our future. Regardless of whether you are a parent or not, we are asking the community to place some emphasis on this survey. Be concerned about it and stop to learn something about it. We must help the children because without children there can be no growth."



Edna Mae Pittman and Cardella Hopson interview Gena Sloan and Sam Riggins to determine child care needs. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Salvador refugees fear deportation

*Part one of three parts
by Robert Lothian*

Picture yourself a young Salvadoran fleeing from right wing terror. Your cousin was just murdered, and 30-40 friends and relatives have disappeared. Somehow, you make it out of the country, then up through Guatemala and Mexico to the U.S. border.

Helicopter search lights beckon from across the barbed wire. No torch of freedom held high by the Statue of Liberty lights up your dark night.

Immigration quotas are filled, and you probably don't qualify for legal immigration anyway, let alone know how to apply, so you enter the U.S. illegally, fade into the migrant farmworker population and head north. You eventually end up on the street in Portland, destitute, without papers, without family or friends, confronted with a strange language and customs.

You are so fearful of being deported, maybe killed upon your return home, that you avoid all but the most superficial contact and friendship, even with those who could help.

Because growing numbers of Central American refugees who make their way to Portland find

themselves in this predicament, a local support network of community groups, lawyers, social service workers, church representatives and concerned individuals is getting organized to help.

"We want Portland to know that the refugees are here, they have intense needs and there are ways to help them," said Terry Rogers, spokeswoman for CAMINO, Central Americans In Oregon Refugee Support Committee.

The committee's main concerns are alleviating the conditions of poverty and ill health in which the refugees live, educating the public and lobbying for liberalized immigration policies that will allow the refugees to remain in the U.S.

The refugees are in dire need of social services not available to them because of their illegal status, according to Rogers. "These people are living on the edge," she said. "Safe" housing, clothing, food, employment, medical care, bail money and legal services are also needed.

Although their underground lifestyle makes estimates difficult, Rogers said that based on her talks with refugees and church people helping them, she estimates about 200 refugees from El Salvador and (Continued on Page 8, Column 1)