

METROPOLITAN

Businesses receive MBE awards



Grace Gallegos congratulates Henry Scott, president of Coast Janitorial Service, for his "Successful Business Award." (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

"Successful Business Awards" were presented to four Oregon minority businesses Monday at the National Minority Enterprise Development Week luncheon.

Recipients were: Henry Scott, president of Coast Janitorial Services, Inc. Coast Janitorial, a family-owned business, was founded in 1957 and currently employs 231 employees and has annual sales of more than \$2.6 million.

Manuel Garcia, owner of Garcia Transport Company. The Portland transport and air freight company was established in 1974.

Cam Nhu Thi Nguyen, owner of Com Industries, a Portland company that makes sportswear. Bruce P. Brunoe, one of the owners of Warm Springs Logging and Road Construction Company.

Receiving special awards for promotion of minority business were Representative Ron Wyden, City Commissioner Charles Jordan, and Samuel T. and William S. Naito.

The luncheon was sponsored by IMPACT, Inc., Tektronix; Tri-Met; U.S. Small Business Administration; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Minority Business Opportunity Committee; N.E. Minority Purchasing Council.

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Johnson heads Hawthorne branch

Denise V. Johnson has been named branch manager of the Hawthorne office of the Benj. Franklin Federal Savings & Loan Association, according to President Robert E. Downie.

Johnson joined the Benj. Franklin in September of 1976 as a teller at the Hollywood branch. She later worked in the Portland home office for two years before becoming a loan officer at the firm's Russellville office.

Johnson was promoted to manager of Benj. Franklin's Jantzen Beach office in October of 1980, where she was headquartered before her move to the Hawthorne office. She was elected assistant vice president in July of 1981.



DENISE V. JOHNSON

Benj. Franklin has 82 branches in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Utah. It is the largest savings and loan in the Northwest and among the 25 largest in the United States. The Hawthorne office is located at 3757 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd.

"Silence is a friend who never betrays." Confucius

Portland man places his body on front line

Jim Conroy, a long-time Portland resident, has joined with other U.S. citizens in Nicaragua in "Witness for Peace." Witness for Peace is a group of people, mostly Christians, who "believe that this war is incompatible with the standards of justice of most of our people, that it is not in our national interest, and that it must be halted. As individual Americans willing to put our lives on the line for peace and justice, we believe that we can contribute a great deal towards diminishing the terrible toll that the war is taking in human lives."

Conroy and the others are living in Jalapa, Nicaragua, a community near the Honduran border that is subject almost daily to attacks by the U.S.-trained and equipped "contras." They will maintain a peaceful presence as coworkers of the embattled people of the region and as observers, reporting in detail the acts of violence that occur, until the war against Nicaragua has ended.

Conroy explained his decision: "The subversion in our name of the process begun by the Nicaraguan people and the actual physical invasion of Nicaraguan territory paid for with our tax money must not be allowed to continue. If it takes some North Americans stating in unequivocal terms to their own government: 'If you are intent on taking lives of Nicaraguans, you must now be prepared to take North American lives as well,' then I am prepared to state that. So are the members of my newly-forming community.

"I have stepped forward for the Witness for two reasons. First, much of my background and experience serves to make me a suitable

candidate. Second, most of my friends and the community from which I came—which is really all of you—are also terribly frustrated by the fact that our hands are bloody because of what our government is doing in our name; and this community feels such moral outrage that most of you would, if circumstances permitted, be there yourselves to stand alongside the people of Jalapa. And so I am going because I represent most, if not all, of you."

The U.S. citizens will live and work with the people of Jalapa. "We have no other agenda than to share the experience of these valiant people. We go not to teach, not to bring things; we go just to be with them and to be North Americans in a new way. In the process we also put our bodies on the line to confront the militarism of this government by non-violent tactics."

In addition to the group who will live in Jalapa, Witness for Peace will send others to remain a few days with the permanent Witness team. Their work will be supported by the membership of Witness for Peace—"a hopeful, prayerful, determined community of conscience that celebrates life and encourages a spirit of resistance to violence of all kinds."

For more information on Witness for Peace, or to contribute financially to its work, write: Witness for Peace, Resource Center for Nonviolence, 515 Broadway, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 (408) 425-3733.

Conroy was raised in Northeast Portland, a product of Immaculate Heart Church. He has long been active in the civil rights and peace movements.

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