

# METROPOLITAN

## Clackamas commissioner first woman

by Kathryn Hall Bogle

Daisy Hayes is the only Clackamas County elected official who is Black.

Daisy Walker Hayes, a petite dynamo, is fitting nicely into her new job. Hayes, at 48, is the newest member in the Mt. Scott Water District out in Clackamas County. She is also the first and only woman to hold that position in the five-member, previously all-male group.

In all of its 1,893 square miles, Clackamas County has only 240,900 in population. Among the thousands that are there, only a scant handful are Black. Out of the four original Oregon counties, the Clackamas County seat, Oregon City, became the site of the first Oregon legislative session in 1848. Within its boundaries, the county has many parks, lakes, rivers and streams. Fishing is good in the forest streams—a fisherman's paradise in some seasons.

The Hayes family, Daniel L. and Daisy, lives in Happy Valley, comfortably settled there since 1969 when they at last found their dream place—a place with space for their growing family of five boys. There are trees on the land. Squirrels and chipmunks and birds make their home in the trees—and a stream ripples at the edge of their property.

Hayes loves it all. "I was born in Arkansas," said Daisy. "We lived in Carthage and I went to rural schools where everyone was Black. At our school we used the books, battered and torn with whole pages missing, that had been discarded by white schools. We were poor, but rich in our Bible instruction by our parents, Alfreda and Murphy Walker. My father was an Elder in the Church of God in Christ and both my parents still are members of that church.

"I knew that somewhere there had to be a better life for me than staying in Carthage," Hayes reminisced. "After a few years, my husband, Daniel, and I came to Portland. We were determined to find our new lives here, but we knew we needed space to be satisfied. Our search led us to Happy Valley."

The Hayes boys grew up in Happy Valley. They attended Happy Valley Schools. Their parents joined the PTA at school and Daisy became secretary of the organization. Somewhere along the way, Daisy decided to enroll in college classes at Portland State University.

"That first term was a disaster to me," said Hayes. "I was eager to learn, but I was intimidated to the point of fear by being in the classroom with only white students and white teachers. My speech was so totally different from theirs that there was outright laughter when I spoke. I was humiliated, but I was also determined to correct my speech. For the next term I enrolled in a speech class."

When the boys began high school, Hayes joined the high school PTA. She ran for office and won the presidency of that PTA in 1973. Later, Hayes became a county vice president for the Clackamas Council PTA. She went on to become a member of the State Executive Board of Managers for the PTA.

At a time in the late 70's, the whole family was in school. Daniel Hayes became a Visual Information Specialist for the U.S. government, Daisy received a B.S. certificate in psychology, and a bachelors degree in speech communication from Marylhurst College. Currently she is working toward a dual Masters in psychology and communications from P.S.U.

Now, all the family has received college educations and the boys now 27, 26, 23, 22 and 19 are living independently. One son, a political science graduate of P.S.U., was active in Daisy's campaign when she decided to run for a seat on the Mt. Scott Water District. She had the psychological support of them all, however.

"I knocked on doors to become acquainted with the voters in Oregon City. I have lived in the community, I know the people," Daisy said. "I have participated with them in the schools. I understand their tax considerations. I can go with them from one level to another in their social and academic pursuits in the community. In fact, my friends and neighbors formed a network for telephone calls for me. I could assure everyone that if I didn't know the answers they needed, I would try to find out," Daisy said.

"At voting time, I voted for myself. The waiting process took three days—a time of tension and frustration for me. A slim margin, they said, but I had won.

"The five male commissioners moved over and made room for the first woman in their midst," Daisy Hayes continued. "They moved over cheerfully saying, 'We welcome you. We are sure you will



DAISY WALKER HAYES

learn.' They treat me with courtesy because they are gentlemen.

"The men are right. I am learning—learning the legal aspects of the position, learning terminology, county and state regulations, resources of water systems in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties, learning about budgets and levies and how to prepare them for presentation to the public. I'm learning the personnel and the personalities not only in my department, but in the public that witnesses our meetings. As a commissioner, I'm learning the

practices of prospective users and customers of the Clackamas waters. Mt. Scott water rights and limitations and pricing are part of our discussions, as well as scrutiny of the rights of the applicant.

"My well-rounded education has been an asset to me. Logic and discretion are necessary tools. I hope I have them as well. Commissioner Hayes' voice dropped and softened. "Religion and faith are important too. In all thy days and all thy ways, acknowledge Him and He will direct your path."

## New weatherization program helps Oregon

A new weatherization program is beginning to pay off for Oregonians—in cash.

The first eleven rebate checks—averaging about \$900 each—have been sent to families who weatherized their homes through the State Home Oil Weatherization Program (SHOW). The program pays half the cost of weatherization for households within certain income limits.

Each household will use about 100 gallons less fuel oil each year after weatherizing. At today's prices, that's worth almost \$100 every year.

SHOW'S rebates were designed specifically for low and moderate income households that heat with oil, wood, propane or butane. SHOW is funded by a \$560,000 federal grant administered by the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE).

Lynn D. Frank, ODOE director, said the SHOW rebate "meets a critical need among families pinched by the cost of heating their homes and the typical weatherization job that costs \$1,500 to \$2,000." Frank said SHOW expects to approve about 700 more rebates in 1984.

Interest in the program, which started in January, has been running high, according to program manager Kristi Greear. ODOE has received 114 applications and has approved 112 weatherization jobs worth \$98,600. The eleven families who have received rebates first received a free energy audit, decided what weatherization to install, and selected a contractor. They sent rebate applications to ODOE in mid to late January. After getting

ODOE's approval, they had the work completed and then received their check from ODOE.

Greear said the most cost-effective measures include ceiling and underfloor insulation, replacing worn-out oil furnace burners and install storm windows. The programs rebate limit is \$1,218 for a single family dwelling.

For families who will have trouble paying even half the cost of weatherization, ODOE can suggest "creative financing" in some cases, Greear said.

For example: they can borrow all or part of their share, at 6.5 percent interest, through the State-sponsored SHOW loan program and a local lender.

A three-year, \$900 loan at 6.5 percent interest results in monthly payments of about \$28. If that household saves \$100 a year in fuel oil bills, the real cost of the loan is about \$20 per month.

Eligible low and moderate income households in Portland can borrow at even less: 4.75 percent interest through the Portland Energy Saving Center (248-4636).

ODOE, working with local Community Action Agencies (CAP's), can help low-income households use federal Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) funds to cover the household share or to install additional weatherization.

An elderly North Portland woman combined the loan and rebate programs to install a new furnace that cost \$1,987.50. The woman paid half, or \$993.75. Then Greear contacted the North Port-

land Community Action Agency. The agency found that the woman was eligible for LIEAP aid. CAP crews insulated the attic at no charge.

"That woman's first-year savings will be more than \$900—almost as much as her entire cost," Greear said. "At her \$6,000 annual income level, that means about \$40 more per month in spendable income after she's made her weatherization

## Lead poisoning alert

"Lead Poison in Your Water?", a booklet released by the Portland-based Citizens for a Lead-free Environment, warns that more than 25,000 Portland area residents are receiving dangerous levels of lead from their water tap and provides hints on how to minimize the risks.

"Lead pipes and lead solder on copper drinking water pipes can leach enough lead into drinking water to cause very serious damage," said Roger Burt, head of the group. "The medical evidence is quite clear—elevated levels of lead in drinking water are related to birth defects, hyperactivity, and mental retardation in children, and hypertension, kidney failure and a host of other conditions in adults."

Citizens for a Lead-free Environment was formed in 1980 by more than 50 persons who had developed low-level lead poisoning and whose home water supplies showed elevated lead levels. Burt said the group decided to issue the information "so that others will not

loan payment."

All Oregon oil-heated homes are eligible for low-interest loans for weatherization. There are income limits for the SHOW rebate and LIEAP. In all cases, the first step is to request a free home energy audit by calling toll free 1-800-452-8660. An energy auditor will inspect the home and make recommendations for weatherization and estimate costs and savings.

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