

## Religious Retreat Planned for Northeast

by Jerry Garner

The General Baptist Convention of the Northwest is planning to transform the old Childhood Development Center, located at Mallory and Beech, to a nonprofit religious retreat.

The building, which occupies a full city block, when remodeled will boast a 2000 seat auditorium, with adjacent conference rooms, a senior citizen residence, a recreational facility, including a playground, swimming pool, basketball court and a parking lot.

The General Baptist Convention of the Northwest consists of 30 churches throughout the Pacific Northwest. With a membership over 6000, the religious organization was formed in 1953 to unite churches.

"We felt we could do more together than apart," said Reverend O.B. Williams, President of the General Baptist Convention for 33 years. "Instead of one church attempting to do a project alone, we do it as a unit," said Reverend Williams.

Renovation of the building will take two years, said Reverend Williams. The idea to build the Religious Retreat has been ten years in the making. All work on the project is being done by volunteer church members. When completed, the Religious Retreat will feature a minister, music, usher, mission, deacons and trustees institutes.

Included in the plan is a summer retreat program for young people. "The summer is the time of year when many

young people get off track because of nothing constructive to be involved in." "As a result they get into trouble with the law," said Reverend Williams.

At first, the General Baptist Convention of the Northwest planned the site for the Retreat on 8-acres of land on Northeast Gertz road. But, due to zoning problems, the Retreat could not be built on that site. The organization sold the property and purchased the old Childhood Development Center Building.

Anyone who wishes to donate either money, materials, or labor can contact Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church. Donations are tax deductible.



Rev. O.B. Williams, center, pastor at Vancouver Ave. First Baptist Church with church members at the building that will be converted to a convention center.

Photo by Richard J. Brown



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## George Rankin Day in Portland

by Jerry Garner

Last Friday was proclaimed George Rankin Day by Portland Mayor Bud Clark. Rankin was honored at a reception for his 15 years of service to the Urban League as Director of Employment and Assistant to the President of the Urban League. The reception was attended by more than 100 guests who gathered at the Memorial Coliseum.

Those attending included Portland Police Chief Penny Harrington, representatives from the Governor's office, and the State Police. The reception was attended by many local Black representatives such as Herb Cawthorne, President of the Portland Urban League; Gary Ann Garnett, Manager of the Portland Observer; David Nero of Nero Industries; Robert Phillips, Director of Multnomah County Affirmative Action; William Hilliard, Editor of The Oregonian and a host of others.

Rankin was praised by five former Urban League presidents for his dedicated service during his 15-year tenure with the league.

"George Rankin is one of those pathfinders we all are indebted to," said Ollie Smith, a member of Mayor Clark's staff.

Rankin told the crowd he was grateful to those who gathered to honor him. He said that the ceremony was a greater thrill to him than the Silver Star he received during his service with the Korean War. "I thought receiving the Silver Star was the greatest award I would ever receive in my life; I was wrong." "Today is the greatest honor I have ever received," said Rankin.

Rankin told the crowd that during his 15 years at the Urban League, the League has taught him to love and how to say I love you. Mr. Rankin will spend his golden years on the Oregon coast in Lincoln City.

### Tele-Photo Telephone Book

On Saturday, May 24, 1986 from 12 a.m. to 2 p.m. a reserve police officer will be at the Albertson's store at 909 N. Killingsworth to discuss how to keep your child safe, crime prevention and the Children's Tele-Photo Telephone Book.

Printed information will be handed out, along with a color book on Tele-Photo Telephone Book.

### Donations Wanted at Neighborhood Goodwill

#### Donation Stations

Goodwill Attended Donation Stations are now open summer hours which are 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. through 5 p.m. on Sunday. We need donations of reusable clothing, household items, and furniture to keep our work force of over 300 disabled people on the job full-time.

Goodwill Industries of Oregon trains and employs persons who have physical, mental, and emotional disabilities. They are able to earn a paycheck by sorting, cleaning and repairing community donations.

With 20 donation stations in the Portland area, there is one in your neighborhood which is located at: Albertson's, 4405 N.E. Cully.

Call 238-6174 for more information. Donations are tax deductible.

### Women's Programs Reunion

A reunion will be held Wednesday, May 28, for women who participated in women's programs sponsored by the Division of Continuing Education, Portland State University, between 1968 and 1978. Sue Gordon Gessner, director of the pioneering programs, will be the guest of honor.

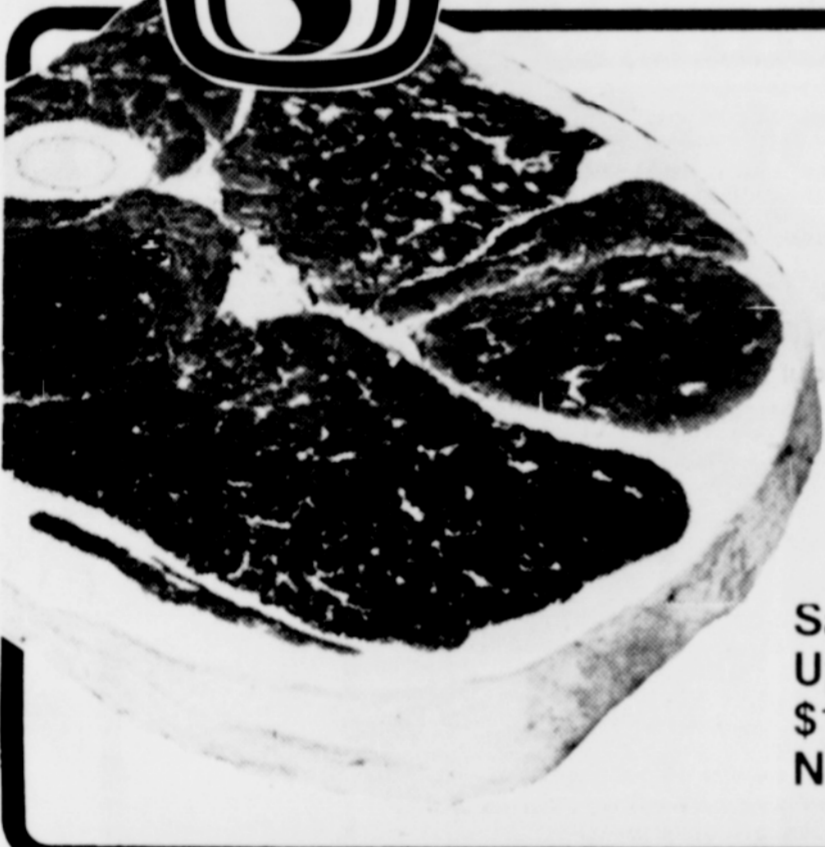
The reunion will be held at the DCE Auditorium, 1633 S.W. Park Avenue, from 12 noon until 4:00 p.m. It will open with a brown bag get-acquainted lunch at noon. There will be a one dollar registration fee. For reservations, call Laurie Griffith at 229-4832.

Bernice Feibleman, former vocational counselor for the programs, is coordinating the event.

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