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Loraine Hudson, 16, a student at Jefferson H.S. is teaching pre-school and kindergarden youngsters the alphabet at the Reading

Tree summertime learn-to-read program.

Photo by Richard J. Brown

Reading Tree Opens 15th Season

by Bob Lothian

"What has yellow in it?" Reading Tree volunteer teacher Loraine Hudson asked her kindergarden students.

"A banana," said one of the four and five year-olds gathered at a picnic table in Irving Park. "The sun," said another youngster.

Hudson's pupils practiced the alphabet and word sounds, and then they took a field trip to the bathroom.

They were among the over 100 youngsters who attended the opening day Monday of the Reading Tree's 15th season. In addition to reading practice, activities included games, singing, and arts and crafts.

Youngsters gathered in groups by grade and practiced from a list of "50 easy words." Another sheet, called the "devil list," contained hard-to-spell words like "believe," "whether" and "February."

The Reading Tree will be open

Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. — 2:30 p.m. through August 8 at the park, near Northeast 7th Avenue and Fremont Street. Free lunches are provided by the Portland Public Schools.

The purpose of the Reading Tree is "to provide a joyful place where reading is fun and where supervision is assured," said a written description provided by director Bea Anderson.

"It's important because it's a community-based activity, and it's open to all people interested in learning to read or helping others learn to read," said Anderson, a social studies team leader and language arts instructor at Tubman Middle School.

Helping Anderson this summer are staff members Laura Ford, community liaison person at Tubman, and Kitty Anthony, a teacher at Bull Run School who is beginning

her fifth year at the Reading Tree. Six youth volunteers referred by the Portland Private Industry Council are also helping, along with several adult volunteers.

One of the volunteers, Hung Nguyen, from Vietnam, started at the Reading tree as a student. He is entering his fifth year as a volunteer.

Hung practiced spelling with Adam Mashia, 8, and Tiffanie Morris, 9. "I like helping them out with what I know," Hung said.

Nearby, adult volunteer Emma Bradley, a kindergarten teacher at Sitton School, held a book for Carissa Evans, 7, a third grader at Sabin School. Carissa was reading above her grade level, Bradley said.

"When a child goes back to school, they usually score a couple of grades higher than before they came," Anderson said. "You'd be surprised at how much they learn."

The Reading Tree offers learning and fun to children who might otherwise have a lonely summer, Anderson said. Two children from Mississippi, for example, came to the Reading Tree after moving to Portland with their parents, she said.

"I told them they couldn't have come to a better place," Anderson said. The Reading Tree is a "bridge" that will help the new children succeed in school, she said, and it offers them a way to make new friends.

The program is funded by "interested friends and organizations," Anderson said. Books and other supplies are provided by the Portland Public Schools, she said.

"We welcome help," Anderson said. Her message to the community: "Your generous reply to our needs keeps the Reading Tree growing."

Urban League Wants Coca-Cola Out

The Urban League is a national organization with 113 affiliates. Its mission is to achieve full economic and racial equality for black people in America. Because we believe it is impossible to confine our abhorrence of racism to American borders, we are integrally involved in the ongoing battle to end apartheid in South Africa.

On June 17th, the Portland Urban League requested that Pacific Coca-Cola Bottling Company remove its soft drink machine from the Urban League office because of the company's significant holdings in South Africa.

Sales of Coca-Cola and Coca-Cola products in that country amount to more than \$250 million each year. Its assets total \$60 million. Coca-Cola products now dominate the soft drink market in South Africa and the company has become one of the largest U.S. employers in the apartheid Republic, with some 4,500 workers employed by its subsidiaries and affiliates.



Portland Urban League requested that Pacific Coca-Cola Bottling Company remove its soft drink machine from the Urban League office because of Coca-Cola's holdings in South Africa.

Photo by Richard J. Brown

Apartheid and racism are integral parts of the South African economy, and Coca-Cola, by operating there, is contributing significantly to the perpetuation of oppression. It is for these reasons that the Portland Urban League has joined the growing numbers of people in South Africa and in the United States who are calling for Coca-Cola to pull out of South Africa and to stop sales of Coke products there. In addition, the Portland Urban League will encourage its membership to also boycott these products.

The Portland Urban League considers it to be a severe contradiction of its philosophy to support any company which strengthens the apartheid regime. Until Coca-Cola makes significant steps toward positive change in South Africa, as outlined by the African National Congress, the Urban League has no need for its services or products.

Oregon Gets Jobs Grant

Last month the U.S. Department of Labor announced the awarding of a \$2 million grant of Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) national discretionary funds to Oregon to retrain dislocated workers from the lumber and wood products industry. Eligible workers are those who have lost their jobs due to plant closure or permanent layoffs, and who have little or no opportunities for obtaining work in similar occupations.

Specific services offered to the workers will depend on local needs and resources. These services may include assessment of worker skills and interests, job search activities, support services (such as transportation and child care), classroom training, basic skills training, and on-the-job training.

This grant is a welcome addition to Oregon's resources since a na-

tional reduction has cut the State's funds to retrain dislocated workers by more than 50 percent — from almost \$2.5 million to around \$1.17 million — for the year beginning July 1, 1986. The \$2 million grant is in addition to a \$500,000 "rapid response" fund (containing JTPA State administrative and formula monies) also available to serve dislocated workers. Criteria for utilizing both of these funds will be considered by the State Job Training Coordinating Council.

The JTPA programs are administered by the Job Training Partnership Administration of the State's Intergovernmental Relations Division. The Employment Division's Research & Statistics Section provided economic data and other information needed to obtain the grant. For further information contact Ray Worden, 373-1995.

Drinking, Driving, Deaths Down

The number of Oregon traffic victims who had been drinking prior to their deaths was down last year for the third successive year, according to a report released by the Oregon Motor Vehicles Division.

Even though the figures for last year show improvement over earlier years, DMV officials said they still should serve as a reminder of the serious consequences of drinking and driving, especially during the upcoming holiday weekends.

Last year four of nine holiday victims had been drinking.

Of 558 traffic victims last year, 222 (48%) had blood alcohol readings at the time of their deaths. In 1984, that figure was 49.6% and in 1983 it was 51.8%.

The report also noted that 350 drivers were killed in 1985 in Oregon traffic crashes. Although this is a higher driver toll than the 328 killed in 1984, the percentage of drivers who had been drinking prior to the crash dropped from 49.8% to 46% (151 drivers killed who had been drinking in 1985 compared with 144 in 1984).

Of the 558 traffic victims in 1985, 461 were tested for blood alcohol content.

Most of the blood alcohol readings, taken by medical examiners and reported to the division, were well above the 0.08 percent level at which a driver is considered legally under the influence in Oregon.

Nineteen percent of the victims had readings of 0.20 percent or more; 11 percent had readings between 0.15 and 0.19; 8.5 percent had readings between 0.10 and 0.14; 4.3 percent had readings between 0.05 and 0.09; and 5 percent had readings between 0.01 and 0.04.

Almost half (45) of the 93 young people under the legal drinking age who died in Oregon traffic crashes last year had been drinking, based on the blood alcohol reports.

The statistics are published by the Motor Vehicles Division in a report titled "The Role of Alcohol in Oregon Traffic Fatalities - 1985."

