

FLORIDA COUPLE OPENS PAINTING CO. IN NORTHEAST



Davis Brush will travel! (L-R) Tomara, Chiffon, Byron, Terell and Masta Davis.

Photo by Richard J. Brown

by Jerry Garner

Byron and Chiffon Davis and their three children were living comfortably in Tampa, Florida. The Davis's owned several rental properties and ran a painting company, doing housing rehabilitation, painting and sandblasting.

However, they wanted to relocate to another state. Mr. Davis contracted Local 10, the Painter's Union in Oregon and was told that he wouldn't have any problems finding work.

"My husband was told jobs were available in the area, but this wasn't the case once we arrived in Oregon," said Mrs. Davis.

This was in August, with school approaching the Davises had to find permanent housing. They lived in a hotel in Tigard for two weeks. Later they secured an apartment in Raleigh Hills.

Although the Davises like the Raleigh Hills area, they wanted to live and start a business in Northeast Portland.

"Once we informed our friends in Raleigh Hills that we were moving to Northeast Portland, their reactions were very negative. They spoke about the high crime rate and drug problem in the area." Despite our friends advice, we had already decided to move in the Northeast", Mrs. Davis said.

Davis said the reason why her family was determined to live in Northeast Portland is due to her reading an article on the vanishing black family. "My family has always lived in the suburbs. We decided that it was time for us to move back into the city, in hope of becoming positive role models for black children."

So the family found a house on NE Haight St. and moved to Northeast Portland. In the meantime the Davis's were planning the ground work for their painting business. The business name is Davis and Sons Painting, Co. The company does residential, commercial, light industrial painting and sandblasting.

Presently the company is waiting to be certified as a Minority Business Enterprise, which will enable them to bid on some government contracts. Mrs. Davis said they are also searching for bonding insurance to do the government jobs once they are certified. "Right now we are having a holiday special. Now until December we will paint an average size room for only \$35.00."

Not only have the Davis's been busy settling in the community and getting their business off the ground, Mrs. Davis has been active in the community.

"I am looking for parents to volunteer their time in an effort to start a PTA at Ockely School. After speaking with the principal of that school, I learned that they hadn't had a PTA in four years. I think it's important that parents be involved with the education of their children."

If anyone is interested in assisting Mrs. Davis in starting a PTA at Ockely School, she can be contacted at 283-2459.



Storefront Theatre will present the Northwest Premiere of August Wilson's play MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM, opening Friday, November 28 at 8 p.m., and playing weekends through January 4, 1987. Tickets for this Tuesday performance only are \$10, tickets for all regular performances are \$12 adults, \$10 students and seniors. Group discounts are also available. For reservations, please call 224-4001. All Storefront Theatre productions are made possible in part by an Operating Support grant from the Metropolitan Arts Commission.

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