



Judge Hamilton swears in new officers and board members of the Portland Chapter N.A.A.C.P. Photo by Richard J. Brown

## NAACP Officers Sworn In

by Jerry Garner

Last Sunday, five new NAACP officers were sworn in at Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church by Administrative Law Judge Belton Hamilton. They are: George Hendrix, President; Joyce L. Brown, First Vice-President; Judith Knowles Boyer, Second Vice-President; John H. Brown, Treasurer; and Beverly Edmondson, Secretary. Seventeen Board members were also given an oath by Judge Hamilton.

About 230 people attended the swearing-in ceremony. The event was also used as an occasion to honor the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Multnomah County Chair Gladys McCoy was the only elected official who was present at the gathering. Governor Neil Goldschmidt was invited to attend the event, but due to prior commitments to his family, wasn't able to attend. A telegram from the Governor was read by Treasurer-elect John H. Brown. Brown told the audience that Gov. Goldschmidt was sorry that he wasn't able to be with them, but wanted them to know that he is "supportive" of the NAACP.

Hendrix told those in attendance that Blacks in this country are in a second phase of a second reconstruction in this country. "There will be no twenty-first century unless we're awakened to the [sic] we've been under the last several years. We must get on with the unfinished business of making this nation, this city, the place in which Dr. King and others like him dreamed of." He reminded the audience that there are still people in this country who don't believe that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., should have a day set aside to honor his recognition and contributions.

Hendrix said it was a privilege for him to serve as President of the NAACP. He said over the years, the Portland Chapter has established many landmarks in the area of racial relationships. "As President of the NAACP, I would like the organization to challenge those things that are wrong in the area of civil rights."

Rev. John Jackson, pastor of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, told the crowd that he was glad that the Lord let him be born during the same century as Dr. King. "I have talked to young people in schools throughout the city. The ones who were born after Dr. King's death are hard to talk with. Many of them don't know what I am talking about. They don't know anything about marching, picketing, sit-down demonstrations, or any of that. But they know about drugs."

Rev. Jackson said although it was an honor to be born during the same century as Dr. King, to know him was important. "To be around him and hear him speak was a wonderful experience."

Rev. Jackson said only Dr. King's image was killed, not the person. He said the dream is continuing until it becomes a reality.

McCoy, the newly elected Chair of Multnomah County, thanked those in attendance for their support during the elections. She told them they, along with God, were responsible for her victory. "I visited a number of churches in quest for this office. A lot of people thought that I was just coming around for votes—that was true. Now I am going back to each church to say thanks." She said it doesn't matter how high one's progress in life or how many degrees one attains, as a Black person, when the chips are down, she isn't any better than a wind on Burnside. "I will never see myself as being better than any other Black person in this community. I think it's important, and I will never forget, that until all of us have some degree of quality in our lives, have some sense of justice and equality, all of us are in the same boat. We must work together."

McCoy said before Dr. King appeared on the scene, there was a lack of hope. "We all believed that this was our destiny, we would always live under oppression." She said Dr. King gave millions of Blacks hope as a people and that were capable of determining our own destiny. McCoy said we must continue this and not depend on others to do it for us. "I say this to our young people: Never hide behind the fact that you're Black to prevent you from achieving in life. All things are possible, if you work hard and believe in God. My election is a testimonial to this."

McCoy said Portland was just like the South before Dr. King, saying that many Black Portlanders came from the South and knew what it was like to experience racial discrimination. "We couldn't go to a state institution of higher education. The government gave us grants and scholarships so we can go to another school out of our community. Now, this isn't the case. I credit this to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."

She said we must not forget those opportunities made available to us, but should take advantage of them. "Education is surely one of those things that's going to help us rise above our condition."

Those who were present were treated to songs by the Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church, Rev. Wayne Reynolds, and Mattie Spears. Spears brought shouts of "Amen" from the audience when she sang "The Trouble of This World."

### Valentine's Dances for Special People

Seniors can celebrate Valentine's Day in grand style at the Fourth Annual City-Wide Sweetheart Ball sponsored by the Park Bureau's Senior Leisure Services. Held at Ascension Catholic Church, SE 76th and Yamhill on Thursday, February 12, from 1 to 4 p.m., this free ball features George Sievert and Orchestra, refreshments, fun booths, mixers, and door prizes. For more information and reservations, call 248-4328.

People with mental retardation or multi-handicapping conditions can meet new friends and celebrate Valentines Day dancing to a live band at one of the Friday Night Dances sponsored by the Park Bureau's Disabled Citizens Recreation program. For ages 15 and older, the Valentine dance takes place February 13 from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at Mt. Scott Community Center, SE 72nd and Harold. The fee is \$1.

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