

Johnny Moore — Set goals and work hard to accomplish them.

Photo by Richard J. Brown



Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. members celebrated Founders Day at a luncheon Feb. 28, 1987. Honored was Delta founder Bertha Pitts-Campbell

(L.) Portland President Lillian Cunningham (R) welcomed the group and Gwendolyn Bishop (C) Far-west Region Director was the keynote speaker.

Photo by Richard J. Brown

Moore Fulfills Lifetime Goal as Locksmith

by Jerry Garner

When Johnny Moore was a young boy growing up in Selma, Alabama, he used to hang around a locksmith shop. Eventually Moore was given a part-time job after school working at the locksmith's operating a machine that pierced cylinders for locks. It was during that period that he decided he wanted to become a locksmith.

However, Moore found it was difficult to find someone who would give him on-the-job training as a locksmith. He moved to Portland in 1969 and began working for the Portland Lumber Mills. Later he would work nine years for the Safeway Co. During this period, he was still searching for an OJT program. Moore finally located someone who was willing to train him for the locksmith craft in 1982.

"I approached John Davis, owner of Davis Lock & Safe, one of the biggest lock companies in Portland. I asked him would he train me to become a locksmith. He said he would teach me the craft until I mastered it for only \$500. The training lasted for one-and-a-half years," Moore recalls.

After completing his OJT, Moore started his own locksmith business, J.J. Lock & Key, located at 4724 N.E. Killingsworth. That was almost four years ago.

Moore offers his customers a complete line of services including the installation of deadbolt locks, safe combination changes, key duplication, locks rekeyed, and keys cut by codes. J.J. offers 24-hour emergency service.

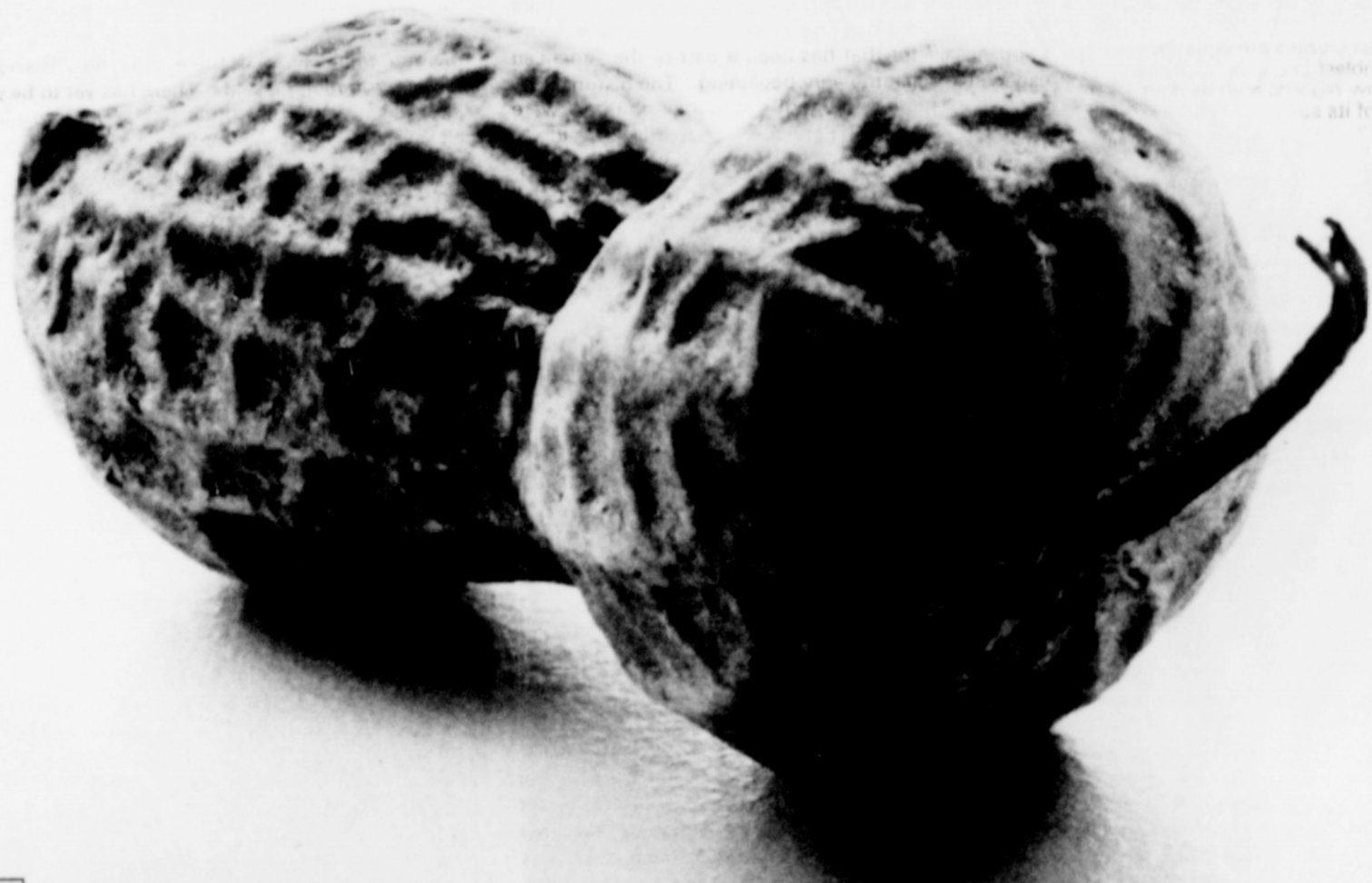
Moore is the only African American locksmith in the Portland metropolitan area. He said business is great. "There may be slow days, but never a slow week. I think the reason for this is due to the high incident of residential burglaries in Northeast Portland." Moore said he gets great satisfaction from being his own boss.

However, the locksmith craft isn't a profession for everyone. The skills one learns as a locksmith can be used by a person with questionable character to commit crimes." Moore said in an effort to screen out such individuals, all locksmiths must be bonded and certified.

Moore said many of his customers, both Black and white, are surprised to see a Black locksmith. "When they speak to me on the phone inquiring about service, some can tell that I'm Black, others can't. Once I go out to do the job, they're positively surprised to see that I am Black. By this, I mean they think it's great that a Black person is practicing the craft."

Moore believes that if a person sets goals in life and works hard, they can accomplish them. "I am living proof of this philosophy. Although it took years before someone was willing to provide me with on-the-job training, I never gave up on my dream of becoming a locksmith."

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