

# A Tribute to Al Rivers

by Leon Harris

Mary's Place on N.E. Union Avenue was the setting for a special tribute to long-time Portland native and former Ink Spot vocalist Al Rivers. The occasion, held September 13, 1987, was given in Rivers' honor as special recognition for his musical talents and humanitarian efforts in working with people.

The event was well attended by many musicians, dignitaries, family and friends. Also in attendance was the current reigning Miss Oregon, U.S.A., Tamie Primiano, and State Director of the Miss Oregon, U.S.A. Beauty Pageant, Donna Lee.

Though ailing, the silky-voiced Rivers proved he was still a crowd-pleaser when he discarded his walking cane and strolled to the mic and proceeded to deliver a soul-stirring, heart-warming rendition of the all-time Ink Spot favorite: "If I Didn't Care." Upon completion, the crowd gave him three standing ovations.

It was inspirational to see this well-loved and popular gifted talent singled out for well-deserved plaudits. The Observer conveys special thanks and many well wishes for long and glorious prosperity.



Al Rivers sings:



"If I



Didn't



Care"



Mary—Owner of Mary's Place.



Bobby Bradford.



Jan and Al



Charles plays guitar.



In tribute to Al Rivers.



Four lovely ladies enjoying the tribute.



The Ink Spots.



Miss Oregon, Ben, Donna, Pam, Joe



Miss Oregon, U.S.A., Tamie Primiano, and guests.



Judy, Joanny, and Roben.



Many of Al Rivers' friends attended.



Ralph Black and guest.

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