



Speak Out

What reason would you give for the blighted condition in the Black community?

by Arnold Pitre



Judy Bird
Service Coordinator
Housing Authority of Portland

Most of these properties are occupied by people who are renting rather than owning, and renters do not have the concern for the maintenance of these properties that an owner-occupant would. Some of these people's priorities are out of order. They feel that since they do not own the property, why should they be concerned?

Vacated houses are being written off for tax purposes. There is a real lack of concern by the community residents, and there is a lot of landlord neglect.

The people who attempt to maintain their homes are the people who are victims of vandalism, because they appear to have more. It is not necessarily true, but the appearance is there.

These areas are poorly lighted, and that invited the criminal element. Landlord neglect and the lack of concern of community residents all contribute to the blight. It is too bad, because a lot of the blighted properties are located in a prime area and are potentially valuable properties.



Carol Foster
Retired Superintendent

Not enough pride in our community. There is not enough say-so to determine what happens in our community. Most Blacks are so low on the economic ladder that they have no say in the economic structure. There are various committees that work to improve the situation, but they don't seem to have any clout, and they are not well-known by the general community; they do not make themselves available to be effective.

Most Blacks are having problems enough trying to "keep their heads above water" and do not have the time to concern themselves with most community problems. It seems that the Black people who are fortunate enough to be financially secure are not interested in the Black community problems. They are putting their money in other areas, other communities. We need these people in our community.



Judy Pitre
Program Director
Housing Authority of Portland

Black people need to take more interest in their environment. Other ethnic groups band together and solve their own problems. Why can't we? We do have a few things occurring within the community. That is a step in the right direction as far as solving our own problems. Ron Herdon's Saturday School Program is a step in the right direction. But there is a need for involvement from other leaders or potential leaders in our community.

We need to get away from seeking help from outside sources. We are not doing anything to promote economic growth in our community. What are our banks doing to solve our community problems? We get pawn shops and X-rated movie theaters as signs of our economic growth.

The drug houses emerging in our neighborhoods detract from our livability, and we are doing very little as concerned citizens to do something about it. If we take initiative as a community and stick together, other groups will begin to take us seriously as a race of people. We are living in a potential gold mine. The time is now for positive action. There is power in numbers.



Don Clinton
United States Army Reserve

Money . . . the lack of. Business people in the Black community are afraid of being robbed, vandalized, and intimidated. People that live in the community are afraid to come out of their houses. The people that are doing the robbing and vandalizing are unemployed, and feel that they need to do these kinds of things to survive.

The prostitutes and criminal element along Union Avenue and in the business area of the community discourage business people from starting up in the area. Businesses have been forced out of this area into other areas. Black businesses as well as white businesses.

YWCA: Catch The Spirit

When the 20th century dawned on America, it was greeted by racial segregation, racial strife and racial uncertainty. By the time the century was two years old, 214 lynchings had taken place.

Aware that segregation could tear the country apart, a number of all-white organizations began to work to bring about racial harmony. One of those organizations was the YWCA.

- 1893 (Dayton, Ohio): The "Y" chartered the first Black YWCA branch;

- 1906: Organization of the National YWCA. At the convention, the National Board voted to set up Black branches of the "Y";

- 1913: Eva Bowles became the first Black woman to hold the job of YWCA Secretary.

- 1915: The YWCA organized the first interracial conference ever held in the South;

- 1919: Organized the first interracial "Y" clubs for young women.

When it moved onto the national level, the "Y" worked for (1) anti-lynching legislation, (2) endorsed the establishment of the Fair Employment Practices Commission (FEPC), and (3) called for full integration in the Army, in industry, and in housing.

In a move designed to draw upon its rich heritage, the "Y" has situated its Northeast Branch right into the heart of Portland's Black community. And the move suits its new director, Connie Carley, just fine. "One of the things that attracted me to the 'Y' was its positive history of working with Black women. Right here in our own community, the 'Y' has operated programs since 1921. Very few people are aware of that. In the early years, it was located on the site



Connie Carley

where the Elks Club sits now: at Williams Avenue and Tillamook Street. In the '50s, it moved into area church spaces where it became less visible. This gave the impression that the Northeast "Y" wasn't functioning. We're hoping to change that perception," she explained.

The Northeast "Y" will focus on youth activities with an emphasis on the family. Its work with teen parents formerly started in 1973 in cooperation with Portland Public Schools and Children's Services Division (CSD). Since then, after school and summer programs for children have been a major focus.

Connie is determined to establish quality programs at the new location. "When I came on board, there was already a teen parent program in place, which deals with teen parents between the ages of 13 and 19. Again, keeping in line with our

mission of empowering young women and their families, the teen parent program will deal with encouraging teens to finish school. There will be parenting skill classes and tutorial assistance. We will also have a support group where teens can come in and share problems and do problem solving. We are looking at a mentorship program, a big-sister program, a foster grandparent program, a nutritional training program, cultural enrichment . . . We may not be able to establish all of the programs I just mentioned, but you can bet that whatever programs we implement, they will be quality programs. We intend to offer quality alternatives to young women. We want them to feel and realize that they can make it."

The Northeast "Y" will also offer a Women's Support Services Program that is currently agency referred. It is for women who've been out of the work force for a number of years and need training or upgrading of their work skills. The after school program will be expanded: speakers will be brought in to direct teens through alcohol and drug sessions, special activities will be organized, health and family issues will be addressed, personal development and growth will be emphasized, and children will be taken to leadership camps.

"We need the community's help. We are seeking volunteers to help with the after school program. We need assistant coordinators to organize activities, and we need assistance with our child-care program. In other words, we will accept all the volunteer help the community is willing to give," Connie emphasized. "I urge everyone to get involved and catch the spirit."

Food Applications Taken at Christmas Headquarters

People in need of Christmas food and toys can apply for help at The Salvation Army's 1987 Christmas Headquarters at 710 N.E. Holladay St. in Portland beginning Monday, Nov. 30 at 9:00 a.m.

The Salvation Army expects to provide food baskets or vouchers to 2,769 families and new toys to 2,142 children between Dec. 21 and Dec. 24.

To qualify, a family or individual must earn less than 150 percent of the federal poverty level.

Each applicant must bring a valid ID and proof of address to the Christmas Headquarters.

Salvation Army staff and volunteers will enter names of all applicants into a mainframe computer, which will help 21 Multnomah County agencies keep track of more than 13,200 families this Christmas.

People in need of help can call 231-HELP (231-4357). People wishing to donate food, toys or time can call 238-GIVE (238-4483).

Social Security

Question: I'm thinking about taking Social Security early retirement at 62 next year. But before I do, I would like to know what I will be due. Is there a way to find out?

Answer: Yes. Anyone at least age 60 can obtain a speedy estimate by telephoning 223-1616 from Portland and 1-800-452-1654 from elsewhere in Oregon.

Question: I know dependent children age 5 or older listed on my upcoming 1987 Federal tax return must have a Social Security number. Does this new law also pertain to other dependents, both workers and non-workers?

Answer: Yes. Dependents you may list can include your children, grand-children, adoptive children, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, relatives and both non-relative workers and non-workers. So long as they are age 5 or older and they are properly listed as a dependent, the new tax law requires that they have a Social Security number.

Question: My dentist says I will have to be hospitalized for a dental

procedure that I need to have done. Will Medicare pay for the procedure and my hospital stay?

Answer: Medicare's Part B Supplemental Medical Insurance generally cannot pay for the treatment, filling, removal, or replacement of teeth; root canal therapy; surgery for impacted teeth; or other surgical procedures involving the teeth or structures directly supporting teeth. However, if you need to be hospitalized for a noncovered dental procedure, Medicare can cover your hospital stay. Medical insurance can help pay for dental care only if it involves (1) surgery of the jaw or related structures, (2) setting fractures of the jaw or facial bones, or (3) services that would be covered when provided by a doctor. Part A coverage questions can be answered by telephoning 225-5300 from Portland or 1-800-452-7390 from elsewhere in Oregon. Part B coverage questions can be answered by telephoning 222-6831 from Portland or 1-800-452-0125 from elsewhere in Oregon.



"FREE" TRIPS CAN COST YOU

THERE MIGHT BE MORE TO A VACATION OFFER THAN MEETS THE EYE

When someone offers you a "free vacation certificate" for travel to a resort, always remember one rule: you never get something for nothing.

In virtually all instances investigated by the Better Business Bureau, "vacationers" were required to make a purchase or attend a sales promotion. Other conditions set by the promoter may add other costs or limitations.

Vacation offers vary. Some include transportation, lodging and food, but most offer only a portion of this. Others may offer one free trip when another is purchased full fare.

BBB experience with these certificate offers is that they can be misrepresented. For example, while a free or inexpensive portion of a trip may be offered, the full cost of this portion may be made up by charging a high rate for another portion.

The goal of the majority of these offers is to attract as many people as possible to a location where an often high-powered sales pitch can be made.

Consumers should be particularly wary of unsolicited telephone promoters which ask for credit card information over the phone. Some have been known to charge fees without the consumer's permission. The BBB strongly recommends that you never give credit card information to someone you do not know.

Also be aware of regulations in certain states that are designed to protect consumers against misrepresentation by unscrupulous vacation certificate promoters. Some states will take action against those who misrepresent their offers. Other states also require certain types of land or time share promoters to register with their state's attorney general or real estate commission.

Call your BBB for information about a specific offer before you try to get something for nothing. The BBB also suggests that you not accept an offer unless you are truly interested in what's for sale.

This bulletin brought to you by the Better Business Bureau of South Florida Educational Foundation, Inc.

Christmas Tree Essay Contest

The World Forestry Center is holding its fourth annual Christmas essay contest for children 12 years and younger. By entering an essay on "The Importance of Trees at Christmastime," a child may win a Christmas tree for their family!

Essays should be fifty words or less and neatly printed on 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper. Entries should be submitted by Friday, December 4, and must include name, age, address and telephone number. Incomplete entries will not be judged.

Each essay will be judged according to the writer's age and all essays will be judged on December 4. Writers of the ten winning entries will be notified the following week.

Ten trees, each six to seven feet tall, will be awarded to the top finalists. The finalists may come to the Center during the holiday season, and select their trees from among the freshly cut Douglas fir trees for sale at the Center's Christmas tree lot.

Mail all entries to: World Forestry Center, 4033 S.W. Canyon Rd., Portland, OR 97221

For more information, call (503) 228-1367.

Children's Holiday Ornaments

Children from 8-12 years old can make special ornaments for the holiday season in this class, offered by the World Forestry Center. The class will meet on Saturday, December 5 from 1 to 3 p.m., in the Center's Miller Hall Woodshop. Cost for the class is \$7 for WFC members and \$8.50 for others; parents are welcome to attend free of charge.

Children will create their ornaments from cones, spices, bark and other natural materials. Ornaments range from whimsical to colorful, and each is suitable for giving as a small gift or as a tree decoration.

For more information, contact the World Forestry Center, 4033 S.W. Canyon Rd., Portland, OR 97221, (503) 228-1367.

Scouts Collect Food For the Needy

Saturdays, December 5th and 12th, Scouts from the Columbia Pacific Council, Boy Scouts of America, will be assisting the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the collection of canned food for their annual Christmas food campaign.

The Boy Scout Council and the St. Vincent de Paul hope to collect nearly 400,000 lbs. of canned food to feed 10,000 needy families during the holiday season.

Over 200 Scout units representing 5,000 Cub Scouts and Explorers will be participating in this holiday good turn. Scouts receive a special segment patch from St. Vincent de Paul recognizing their participation in the food collection.

Those wishing to help the Boy Scouts and St. Vincent de Paul should place canned food in the collection bags distributed by the Scouts. Bags should be placed on front porches for pick-up by the Scouts from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., December 5th and 12th.



The deepest known depression in the surface of the earth—Marianas Trench—is nearly a mile deeper than the world's highest mountain, Everest, is high.

Wholesale Pricing On Groceries Gone Public

Did you know that for almost 30 years you could have bought some of your groceries at wholesale prices? The Bee Company, for over 30 years, has offered the public weekly shipments of name-brand groceries at genuine wholesale prices. You'll find canned and packaged goods, pet foods, as well as frozen and close-dated deli products on the shelves. The best feature is that you do not have to buy by the case. You buy just what you want to buy, just the amount you need. Located at 800 N. Killingsworth, just east of I-5, they are open Monday through Saturday 9:30 am to 6:00 pm. Isn't it about time you save on your grocery bill?

PHONE 283-3171
They'll Tell You All About It

Budget

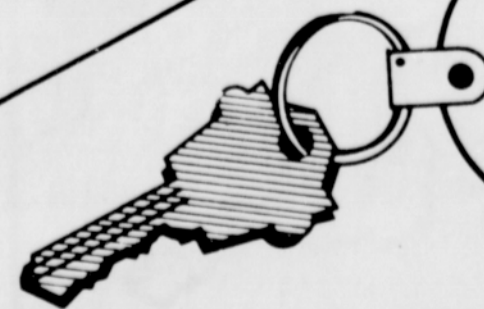
Tapes and Records
DOWNTOWN

631 SW Alder
(Just off Broadway)

226-0624

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Walnut Park Lock & Key
533 N.E. Killingsworth
503-288-6338



8:30-6:00 Mon.-Fri.
10:00-5:00 Sat.

24 hr. Emergency Service