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**Barbara O'Day**  
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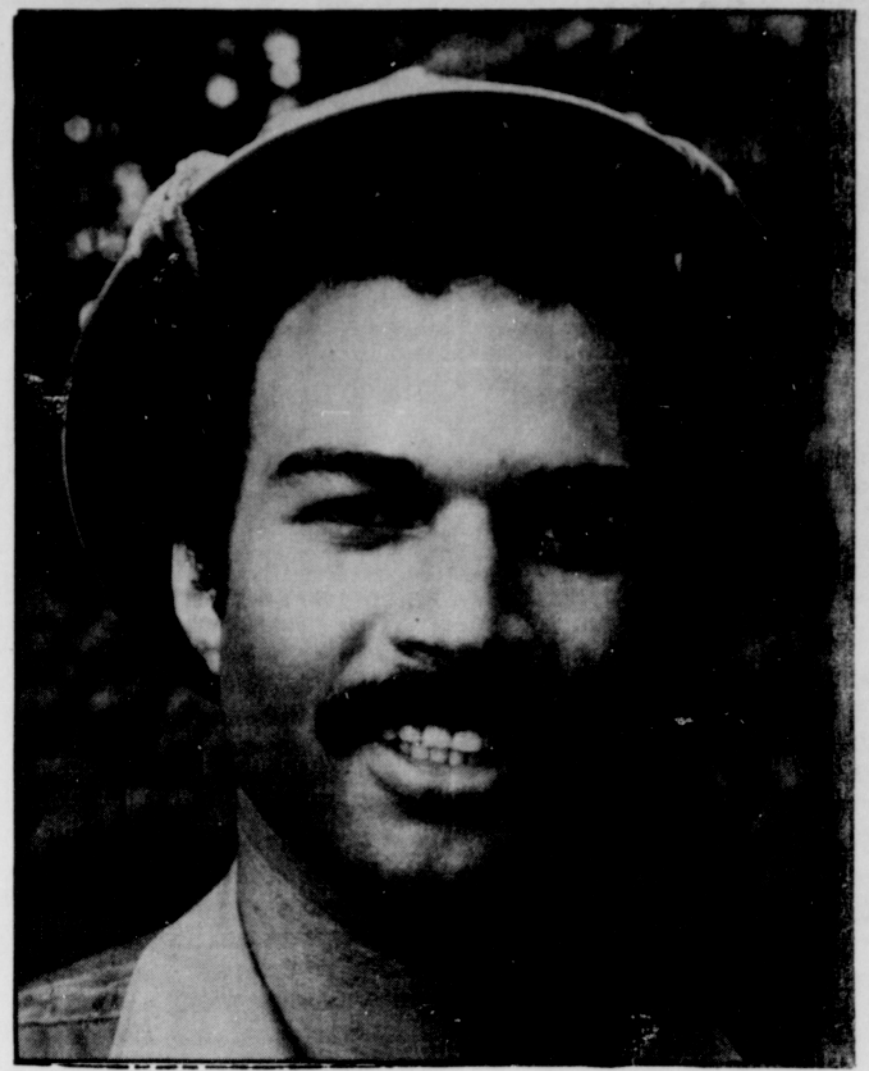
The U.S. Forest Service takes the occasion of African-American History Month to cite these examples of minority ability and achievement over the last 140 years.

**Sugar Refiner:**

In 1846 Norbert Rillieux of New Orleans perfected a vacuum pan that revolutionized the sugar refining industry in America and Europe (Dec. 10, 1846, Patent No. 4879). Dr. Charles Browne, sugar chemist of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, said "Rillieux's invention is the greatest in the history of American chemical engineering, and I know of no other invention that has brought such a saving to all branches of chemical engineering." The principles involved in this invention laid the foundation for all modern industrial evaporation. Rillieux, born in 1806, became at age 24 an instructor in applied mechanics at L' Ecole Centrale (University) in Paris and published papers favorably received all over Europe.

**Refrigeration and Agriculture:**

Today's version of the refrigerated truck and the refrigerated box car (Dec. 7, 1954, Patent No. 2,696,086) were invented by Frederick McKinley Jones, the first Black member of the American Society of Refrigeration Engineers. The food industry and agriculture of the world was revolutionized by his inventions. This innovation not only permitted California and Florida to become the twin citrus capitals of the world (fresh vegetables included), but also enabled the meat packing industry to ship fresh meats to distant marketplaces. In thirty years this invention of Jones has increased the value of related industry and agricultural land by many billions of dollars. Jones also invented the automatic ticket dispensing machine (1939), and a two-cycle gasoline engine (1950).



**Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Dewey Tate, Forester, Eastern Oregon**

**Smoke Jumpers:**

During the early years of World War II, a battalion of Black airborne troops from the South were the first men to train in the art of parachuting into otherwise inaccessible areas to fight forest fires (1942-1943). They were based at the Cave Junction Ranger Station on the Southern Oregon coast. Later, Native Americans of Arizona and New Mexico learned the technique. In the ensuing decades this innovation has enabled the U.S. Forest Service to save billions of dollars of timber that otherwise would have been consumed in major conflagrations. In 1976 the ranger of this district sent a faded photograph and a 1943 news article about these pioneer jumpers to a professor of Black Studies at Portland State University.

**Minority Scientists, Engineers and Technicians (NAACP)**

In 1978 this region (6) of the U.S. Forest Service contracted with a local minority consultant to design and implement its participation in the national convention of the NAACP, which was held in Portland, Oregon that year. This as the first time that the Forest Service had been an integral part of the national convention of a major Black organization — a process that has been followed on these past ten years. A direct result has been the nation-wide employment of hundreds of Black scientists, engineers, technicians, secretaries, accountants, truck drivers, surveyors, foresters, draftsmen, mapmakers and many other disciplines, including law and personnel specialists.

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**Sealants Safeguard Children's Dental Health**

A simple, painless office procedure has been proven effective in preventing tooth decay in children, reports the Multnomah Dental Society.

This breakthrough in preventive dentistry is known as "pit and fissure sealants." Tooth sealants — tough acrylic resins bonded to the tooth surface — may someday eradicate tooth decay in children.

When a child's molars are developing, natural grooves and depressions form on the chewing surfaces. Bacteria and food particles collect in these "pits and fissures," and are difficult to remove even with conscientious brushing. As a result, more than 80 percent of decay in children's teeth occurs in these areas.

Using the same procedures implemented in cosmetic bonding, dentists apply sealants to the tooth surface, creating a hard, long-lasting physical barrier between the tooth and the cavity-causing bacteria. This procedure has been found most effective when the sealant is applied to the first and second permanent molars soon after they erupt, usually when a child is between the ages of six and ten.

The process of applying sealants is quick and painless. First, the dentist applies a mild acid solution to each tooth to roughen it slightly. The liquid plastics are layered over these surfaces and hardened to form a tough protective shield. Each tooth can be sealed in just a few minutes, without drilling or anesthesia, and the sealant usually remains firmly fused to the tooth's chewing surface for many years.

Food and bacteria are not able to penetrate the bonded surface.

As long as the plastic material remains in place, the tooth's chewing surface is protected from decay-causing agents.

Sealants not only prevent decay, but also arrest the development and spread of early decay that may be trapped beneath the sealant. Research shows that as long as the sealant provides a sound physical barrier between the beginning cavity and its surrounding environment, the cavity will not increase in size and the bacteria in the cavity will eventually die off, ending the decay process.

A growing number of scientific studies attest to sealants' effectiveness. One seven-year study of 400 schoolchildren provided conclusive evidence that sealants are nearly 100 percent effective in preventing decay as long as they remain bonded to tooth surfaces. If a tooth loses all or part of its sealant coating, the chances of its developing a cavity are about the same as if the tooth had never been sealed.

The Multnomah Dental Society recommends pit and fissure sealants for children as part of a total dental care program that includes daily use of fluorides, daily brushing and flossing, regular dental checkups, and a diet that limits snacks. Working together, these positive measures can result in a lifetime of strong, healthy teeth for all of our children.

OMSI, in cooperation with the Multnomah Dental Society, is presenting to the public an all-day Children's Dental Health Fair on Saturday, Feb. 27th, where more can be learned about pit and fissure sealants and other dental health related topics.