

# PORTLAND OBSERVER

## SENIORS OF THE WEEK



Julia Reed



Louise Perrodin

by Jimi Johnson

Friends for over 60 years, Mrs. Juila Reed 84, of Tacoma, Washington and Mrs. Louise Perrodin 88, of Opelouses, Louisiana enjoy times like this, when they get together and share past and present experiences with each other.

These two beautiful seniors were recently in Portland for the National Church of God In Christ Convention held at the Memorial Coliseum. After meeting in Beaumont, Texas some 63 years ago, they have stayed in touch with each other, and get together whenever the opportunity permits.

Mrs. Perrodin says she loves to travel and is "enjoying the Portland hospitality" she has been receiving. A member of the C.O.G.I.C. for over 45 years, Mrs. Perrodin has served several capacities in the church.

A mother of 5 children, 24 grandchildren, 41 great-grand children, and 9 great-great-grand children, Mrs. Perrodin said "young people should try

to get a good education, and seek the Lord".

Mrs. Julia Reed keeps active by working in her garden. "I love flowers" says Mrs. Reed, a member of the Church of God In Christ of Tacoma, Washington.

Born in Newiberia, Louisiana, Mrs. Reed moved to Tacoma in 1978 from Beaumont, Texas. A very attractive senior, Mrs. Reed has 6 children, 20 grand children, 29 great grand children, and 4 great-great-grandchildren. Her advice to young people is "be yourself, go to church, and try to make your life the best you can".

Both women agree that Portland is a wonderful city, as they have been "hosted royally".

### METRO EXCEEDS MINORITY CONTRACTING GOALS FOR COVENTION CENTER PROJECT

Disadvantaged and women-owned business contracting goals for the Oregon Convention Center project have been met or exceeded, according to Rena Cusma, executive officer of the Metropolitan Service District. Metro is responsible for building and managing the \$85 million facility in Northeast Portland.

Cusma reported that, to date, disadvantaged businesses have received more than \$5,466,646 in business from the center's construction, 10.8 percent of the construction budget, and women-owned businesses have received more than \$1,532,277 in business, 3 percent of the construction budget. Contracting goals are 10 percent for disadvantaged businesses and 3 percent for women-owned businesses.

"Metro will continue to build from

this base of success to work with our contractors, the labor unions and the minority community to increase participation as new trades and subcontractors take their place on the site," Cusma said.

Minority employment on the site has averaged 9 percent of the work force, and women represent 2.5 percent of the work force. All contractors and subcontractors on the project are required to implement affirmative action plans, and must be certified as equal opportunity employers with the city of Portland.

Metro will require the Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission, which is responsible for operation of the center, to develop aggressive minority and women hiring programs for the permanent jobs that must be filled once the center opens in September 1990.

### 19 BLACK CIVIL WAR VETERANS MISSING IN ACTION FOR 125 YEARS TO BE REINTERRED AT SPECIAL MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Beaufort, SC (May 12, 1989)--The Veterans' Affairs Office has announced that a special reinterment ceremony to honor 19 Black Union soldiers missing in action since 1863 will take place Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, at the National Cemetery in the city of Beaufort at 1:00PM. Anthropologists at the University of South Carolina have documented the remains as those of members of the 55th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment of Infantry, and possibly members of the legendary 54th Massachusetts, the first Black regiment in American history. The 54th was formed in February, 1863, with the sanction of President Abraham Lincoln.

The soldiers' remains were discovered during new construction on Folly Island, South Carolina. The area was the scene of some of the most brutal combat of the Civil War, in particular, the campaign to take Charleston. The 54th Massachusetts, which counted among its ranks two sons of legendary Black abolitionist Frederick Douglass and the brothers of writer Henry James and philosopher William James, departed Boston by boat in May, 1863 and bivouacked at Beaufort. In July, the regiment saw action on James and Morris Islands off Charleston, where it saved the Tenth Connecticut from defeat and massacre. Without food or rest, the 54th volunteered to lead

the final assault against Fort Wagner, a gigantic impenetrable earthen-work bastion, guarding Charleston. Though the regiment fought heroically, the assault failed and the 54th suffered heavy losses.

"Our nation owes these brave men of color a great debt. America was made greater by their awesome, and unfortunately, often unrecognized gift," said Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis. A memorial to the 54th Massachusetts, and its fallen leader, Colonel Robert Shaw, by sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens, was dedicated at Boston Common on May 31, 1897. Booker T. Washington and William James addressed the memorial dedication crowd.

The critical contribution of Black soldiers to the Union effort is not widely documented. In the months following the gallant efforts of the 54th at Fort Wagner, more than 180,000 Black soldiers enlisted in the Union Army, almost 10 percent of the total force. The first Black soldier to receive a Congressional Medal of Honor was Sgt. William Carney of the 54th Massachusetts, for heroism beyond the call of duty at Fort Wagner. Sgt. Carney was the first of seventeen Black Civil War soldiers to be awarded the Congressional Medal Honor. In President Lincoln's opinion, the bravery of Black soldiers tipped the balance of the war in favor of the Union.

Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, Grammy award-winning jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis, other local and national political leaders will participate in the ceremony.

The soldiers' remains will be buried in full accordance with 1863 Army Regulations. The ceremony will be performed by 144 Black and White Civil War re-enactors and a period military band and fife and drum corp. Governor Dukakis will present the Massachusetts regimental flag to the Color Guard and a commemorative plaque of the occasion.

This year marks the 125th anniversary of the cessation of hostilities between the States.

### Mel Brown Sextet Wins Fifth Annual Hennessy Cognac Jazz Search And Will Open Sunday, June 18 At Playboy Jazz Festival

(Los Angeles, California - May 19, 1989) The Mel Brown Sextet from Portland, Oregon recently jazzed their way to win the Grand Prize at the Fifth Annual Hennessy Cognac Jazz Search held at The Palace in Hollywood on May 17. As Grand Prize Winners, the Mel Brown Sextet has been awarded \$2,000, courtesy of Hennessy Cognac, and will perform as opening artist for the Sunday, June 18 Playboy Jazz Festival.

Doc Severinsen, leader of the famed Tonight Show Orchestra, hosted and judged this year's four-city Jazz Search. "The Hennessy Jazz Search is a wonderful opportunity for talented musicians to compete and get some great exposure. We've been to New Orleans, Detroit, New York and L.A. and have heard some exceptional talent," said Severinsen. "There were certainly no losers here tonight at the finals, but Mel Brown's high-energy sound really had the crowd on its feet. They were clearly the stand-out performance of the evening."

All members of Mel Brown's group are seasoned jazz vets. The Sextet has performed with Richie Cole and Ernestine Anderson and has opened for Joe Williams and the Steve Lacey Sextet. Group members have played with luminaries such as Diana Ross and Robert Cray.

Judging the finalists along with Doc Severinsen, who performed with the "Tonight Show" Orchestra at the 1983 Playboy Jazz Festival, were some of the most prestigious names in the music industry. Keyboardist George Duke is one of the industry's most influential artists both as a musician and successful record producer and is one of the stars of this year's Playboy Jazz Festival. Harold Childs is Vice President and General Manager of Warner/Reprise Records, Jazz and Progressive Music. Emmy award winning composer Allyn Ferguson is Vice President of Grove School of Music and is a composer for films and television shows. Chuck Niles from KKGQ-FM, the official radio station for the 1989 Playboy Jazz Festival, emceed the evening.

The competition was developed to discover and nurture the budding careers of talented jazz musicians. A truly international competition, the Hennessy Cognac Jazz Search received well over 600 entries this year from all over the U.S. and Canada as well as Japan and Brazil. Now in its fifth year, the Search has received over 2,000 entries from all over the world.

### INNOVATIVE AGREEMENT ALLOWS PRIVATE FUNDS TO FINANCE

### MAJORITY OF PDC'S RENTAL HOUSING REPAIR PROGRAM; HOMESTEAD PROGRAM SLATED TO USE NEW FUNDS IN JUNE

Private funds are now replacing scarce federal housing dollars through an innovative agreement signed in October 1988 between the Portland Development Commission (PDC) and Security Pacific Bank Oregon. Since January 1989, PDC has financed \$737,000, over 75% of its neighborhood investor-owned home repair loan program, through the private lender agreement.

According to PDC Commissioner Neil Kelly, "PDC's federal housing funds for Investor Rehabilitation Loans were recently cut by \$981,000. It's only through innovative approaches, such as the Security Pacific agreement, that PDC is able to maintain its vital eastside neighborhood home repair programs."

In October 1988, PDC and Security Pacific Bank Oregon reached a two-year agreement involving a "lump sum" deposit of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. A total of \$3 million in CDBG funds were deposited locally and began earning interest. Security Pacific, in turn, made an additional \$4.75 million available to be blended with low-interest PDC funding for its housing loan programs.

To date, the Commission has approved 20 loans using Security Pacific funds with applications pending on an additional 13. These loans

will produce over a million dollars in property investment by renovating 54 housing units in Portland neighborhoods, primarily in the inner-Northeast area. The loans are a mix of approximately \$737,000 in Security Pacific funds together with \$227,350 in public funds.

Currently, the loans being made under the private lender agreement are in conjunction with PDC's Investor Rehabilitation Loan Program. This program provides low-interest loans for investors to repair rental properties, many of which are vacant due to the need for renovation.

Beginning in June 1989, Portland's Homestead Program is also slated to begin using Security Pacific funds for financing the renovations of seven vacant houses being offered to low-income Portlanders at a May 20, 1989, Homestead open house event.

Both the Investor Rehabilitation Loan Program and the Portland Homestead Program are important components of the city's Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy which is working to reclaim vacant and abandoned housing.

Portland Development Commission is the city's urban renewal and economic development agency.

For more information, contact: Becky Carter, PDC, 796-6869

### ALBERTA STREET FESTIVAL

July 8  
10 am - 11 pm  
Information Line  
288-8569

### SPELMAN AND MOREHOUSE COLLEGES OFFER EARLY COLLEGE SUMMER PROGRAM

Students who are high school graduates and upcoming high school seniors can get a head start on college at Spelman and Morehouse Colleges in Atlanta.

The Early College Summer Program offers accredited college level English and Mathematics, along with tips on college survival skills, time management and career planning.

The program, which runs from June 23 to July 28, accepts both residential and non-residential students. To learn more about the Spelman and Morehouse Early College Summer Program, call Patrick Royster (404) 681-2800, ext 470, or Pauline Drake (404) 681-3643, ext. 700. You must apply by May 31st, so call now!

### Rep. Carter To Hold Community Meeting

State Representative Carter From District 18 Announced A Community Meeting Today For May 27, 1987.

A Breakfast Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 - 11:00 A.M. at The Cascade Hall Auditorium, Portland Community College, 705 N. Killingsworth, Portland, Oregon, 97217.

Residents are encouraged to attend and discuss areas of community concerns and be updated on current legislative issues.

Please join representative Carter on Saturday.

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