



Mrs. Frances Schoen-Newspaper Room
University of Oregon Libr
Eugene, Oregon
97403



PORTLAND OBSERVER

Volume XX, Number 41

"The Eyes and Ears of The Community"

October 24, 1990

**THIS WEEK
INSIDE**

One Church One Child, Banquet for "The Children Who Wait"



PAGE 2

House of Umoja Hopes for Early 1991 Opening

The House of Umoja, a Philadelphia-based safehouse for gang-related youth, is hoping for project reality in early January or February, 1991. The program was originally scheduled for mid-summer operations but was beset with numerous funding problems causing a delay in renovations.

Umoja incorporates traditional African tribal values, in which there is a mother and father figure, basic family principles of respect and love for the community, responsibility for one's brothers and sisters, accountability not only for oneself but the longer community as well, and strong work and educational ethics with group dynamic, tutorial components and counseling components. There will be a computer lot to aid with the tutorial component as well.

The Portland House of Umoja has guided significant corporate, government and community sponsorship in the entities of Nike, Inc., \$100,000; City of Portland, \$75,000; Portland Police Bureau Sunshine Division, \$10,000; Oregon State Drug and Alcohol office, \$14,000; and Washington Federal Savings and Loan, two donations totalling approximately \$195,000



in contributions thus far. Additionally, some 26 private contributions, numerous construction firms, accountants, attorneys, foundations, Congressman Ron Wyden and Les AuCoin have donated services, materials or cash to the program. Still, according to Loloene Poe, Chairman of the Board of Directors for Umoja, some \$100,000 is still needed to open the doors. Nike, Inc. recently held a breakfast meeting at its corporate head-

quarters to try and solicit more support from the business sector. Poe states the success of the meeting is unknown as results are still being calculated.

While the House of Umoja has been hailed as Portland's salvation from gang-troubled youth, it is not a controversy-free project. When first introduced in March, the concept was outlined to neighboring residents and businesses.

Some of the residents and businesses claim they were informed by Umoja and City officials that there would be no more than six or eight youth housed in the facility, supervised by two on-site specially trained adults. But, according to Poe, the House of Umoja at Seventeenth and Alberta (formerly the Black Education Center) is being renovated to accommodate 16 youth and two live-in adults. However, Jeff Parks, owner of the Royal Esquire Club, across the street from Umoja, when he was approached by City and Umoja officials, he was informed that a maximum of six youth would live there.

"If I had known that 16 former gang members were going to be my next-door neighbors, I would still be at City Hall today, possibly as a resident," he claims. Parks concerns are echoed by businessman Joe Benjamin, owner of Joe's Place, one block away. Benjamin, too, claims he was informed that no more than six youths would be there. But, both Parks and Benjamin indicate they are willing to meet with the House of Umoja to work out any problems. Meanwhile, work at the Seventeenth and Alberta locations was finally underway at press time.

Rice to Speak on Women, Minorities in the Workplace



Constance W. Rice, PhD.

The Walker Institute of Portland, Oregon has announced the speaker for its Fall Lecture: Constance W. Rice, PhD. Dr. Rice will continue with the 1990s theme of The Emerging Majority--Women and Minorities in the Workplace.

Dr. Rice, (Mrs. Norm Rice, First Lady of Seattle) is President and Owner of CWR, Incorporated, a Public Relations and Management Consultants' firm, Seattle, Washington. She is currently on the Board of Directors, U.S. West Communications, Washington State and Security Pacific Bank, Washington-Alaska-Idaho. She is also on the Board of Directors of Evergreen State College.

A former professor at the University of Washington and Seattle, Washington, Dr. Rice is known throughout the Northwest for her thoughtful, dynamic, insightful, and inspirational presentations. She will be appearing on Thursday, November 1, at 7:30 p.m. at Northwest Natural Gas on 220 N.W. Second, fourth floor. For additional information, contact Kay D. Toran, Vice President of Marketing and Public Affairs, 653-3140.



Local Color: Then and Now

Oregon Public Broadcasting special local color which aired last week on PBS (Channel 10) gave an interesting insight into Oregon Racism during the early migration of Blacks to this state.

It showed how far we Blacks have come since the early 1920s and how far we must go into the 21st century before we can truly say Oregon racism is "on the decline".

It was interesting to hear the "horror" stories as remembered by Otto Rutherford, Katherine Bogel, McKinley Burt, Fred and Regina Flowers, Bill Hillard, and others as they recounted just how racist this state was in years past.

Blacks who owned businesses in downtown Portland during those years tragically saw their dreams of early prosperity, and in most instances, survival, quickly diminished either their intimidation or The Great Depression. Relying

primarily on the "colored" trade, one by one, slowly but surely, they were forced to migrate back across the bridge or the Oregon State boundary to join the ranks of the already unemployed Black Population.

As recounted by these Black Pioneers, the only jobs available were as Pullman Car Painters, shoeshine boys, dishwashers, or maids. Working in department stores or other white establishments was not only unthinkable but in many instances, it was against the law.

Blacks could not eat, drink, sleep, or attend a movie in downtown Portland until the war ended in 1945. The only somewhat enjoyable living environment was in Vanport, which disappeared in the 1948 flood. Many old-time Black Portlanders recall that Vanport, too, was as racist as downtown with its population being 3:4 white.

Bill Hillard recalls growing up in

Southeast Portland where he was not allowed to deliver the Oregonian door-to-door. Today he is the Oregonian's editor.

Helen Law remembers attending the University of Oregon, where as a freshman, she and other Blacks were not allowed to reside on campus.

The others who appeared on the show all had memories of the "good old days", which in reality were bad.

But one thing about the show which will remain vividly in the minds of many is that in watching, Blacks in Portland, young and old were once again given a "bit of history" to go along with the culture of Black America.

LOCAL COLOR

Return to a part of Oregon that is less than proud—her history of civil rights...



... as told by those who were there.

To this embattled faction we say "thanks". To Portland we say "when"!

HISTORIC PORTLAND LANDMARK RELOCATED BY KAISER PERMANENTE



The 83-year-old Town Hall in north Portland begins moving to its new home on the Edgar F. Kaiser Health Center. Built by Finnish immigrants, the education and conference center was moved by Kaiser Permanente

An 83-year-old landmark building in north Portland is resting on a new site following a weekend move Oct. 13. Town Hall, which was built as a social center by Portland's Finnish immigrants, was transported a block and-a-half atop giant dollies to a new location near North Interstate Avenue.

Declared a historic landmark in 1970, Kaiser Permanente purchased the wooden structure six years later and refurbished

it for use as an education and conference center.

The move of Town Hall is part of the long-term development plan for Kaiser Permanente's Edgar F. Kaiser Health Center. The plan calls for expansion of patient services a nearby Kaiser Permanente facilities, more parking close to these buildings, and construction of a building to house the program's Center for Health research (currently located in

southeast Portland).

Kaiser Permanente contracted for the Town Hall project with Brockamp and Jaeger, Inc., of Oregon City. Crews from subcontractor Emmert International, based in Clackamas, handled the actual move. Emmert has been moving structures for more than 20 years throughout the United States and in other countries. According to Emmert International, Town Hall is reportedly one of the largest buildings ever moved on wheels in Oregon. The building, which measures 50 feet wide, 100 feet long and 50 feet high, was moved atop eight Emmert hydraulic transportation dollies, each dolly resting on six industrial mine tires.

In the coming months, Town Hall will be set onto a new foundation now being constructed. An elevator will be installed and the building's wheelchair accessibility will be enhanced. Town Hall will continue to be used as an education and meeting center for Kaiser Permanente.

Kaiser Permanente is a group practice health maintenance organization providing a full range of medical care to 375,000 people in Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington, and dental care to more than 125,000 people in the same area.

Schools Schedule Grandparents Week

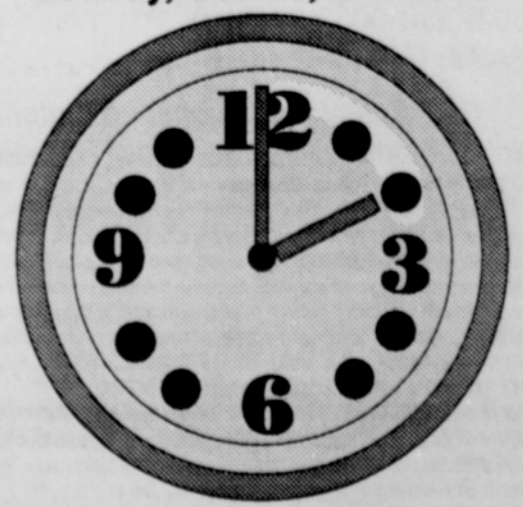
Portland Public Schools next week (Oct. 22-26) welcomes senior citizens, friends and neighbors during Grandparents and Special-Friends Week.

Observed since 1975-76, when 701 guests attended, the annual event now draws more than 14,700 visitors to 62 elementary, 17 middle and 10 high schools.

Schools typically set aside one day during the week for classroom visits, assemblies, musical programs and various other activities. Some schools also host receptions and lunches activities. Some schools also host receptions and lunches catered through PTAs and other support organizations.

Don't Forget!

Just a reminder to set your timepieces back Sunday, Oct. 28, 2:00 a.m.



Index

- News 2
- Religion 3
- News 4
- Locker Room 5
- Entertainment 6
- Trick or Treat 7
- Business 8
- Classifieds 9
- Sub-Bids 10
- Bids 11

Business Profile is now located on the Business Page