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"The Eyes and Ears of The Community"

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Mrs. Frances Schoen-Newspaper Room
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Follow Your Money: Union Member's Advice

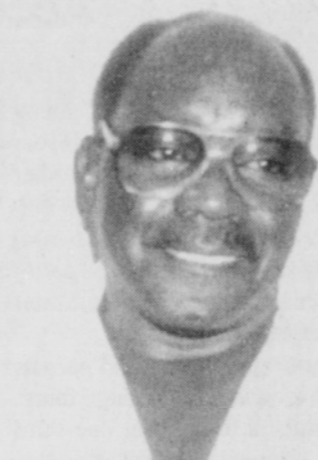
BY JAMIE PARTRIDGE
AND DONNA HAMMOND

As World War II ended, thousands of Portland blacks were thrown out of their jobs at the shipyards. Tom Carr, who had worked with a union card as an electrician's helper, learned that his blue card was no longer valid. Only white union cards were valid (held by white craftsmen), according to Carr.

By 1959, after years of bouncing around as cannery worker and poultry worker, to railroad cook and track layer, Tom Carr landed another union job in the shipyards. The only construction union in 1959 which would accept African Americans—the laborers Union, local 296.

UNION WAGES AND BENEFITS "I joined for the money," says Carr. Now, at age 68, Tom Carr is six years into a good union retirement pension after 31 years as a member of local 296. Working in ship repair and in construction, Carr enjoyed wages and benefits worth 2 to 3 times that of a non-union laborer. "Medical, dental, vision, we have it all, plus job security. The employer has to accept you if you are sent out by the union dispatcher. And you can't be fired without a good reason. If you're harassed, the union backs you up, that's why I stuck with it," says Carr.

Laborer's work is not easy work. Its cleaning and picking up after other craftsmen, such as electricians, carpenters, sheetmetal workers, boilermakers, or pipefitters. Its dirty, dangerous and



Tom Carr - Retiree Laborer 296



Percy Hampton-Laborer Local 296



Mrs. Monica Beasley waiting for a dispatch from Willie Hart

back-breaking work. In construction, its all-weather work.

30-40% of Laborers local 296 is Black. It's the type of work where African American males have traditionally been allowed. But its union. Being a member of local 296 is the difference

between making five dollars per hour and making fifteen, according to their current president of the union, Willy Hart.

Hart would know. Before joining local 296, he worked non-union construction, non-union bricklaying, and as

a trucker, warehouseman, herdsman, cannery worker, and "everything in between". Leaving school at grade 10, Hart bounced from job to job until settling in with local 296 in 1973. "Pay your dues and follow your money is what my brother-in-law told me. He was president of the union at the time. Now I'm in his position."

According to Hart, he is the third Black President of the local, since the first Black officers were elected in the '60s.

BLACKS EXCLUDED BEFORE 1946

African Americans didn't always hold positions of authority in the Laborers Local. 296—was a "Jim Crow" local until 1946, says Hart. Only in the '60's and '70's, with momentum of the civil rights movement, did significant numbers of Blacks become members.

Percy Hampton remembers that his father was not allowed to join. The older Hampton had to join another construction local (320) in Klamath Falls and travelled from Portland every month to pay his union dues. Other Blacks joined a union local in Vancouver, Washington in order to work as "casuals" in the Portland Kaiser shipyards.

Percy Hampton was familiar with laborer work. So when the younger Hampton dropped out of college, and got frustrated with hopping from minimum wage job to minimum wage job, he settled into local 296 in 1974. Now sixteen years later, having worked both in the shipyards and in construction, PLEASE SEE FOLLOW ON PAGE 4

Portland Music Association Kicks Off the New Year

The Portland Music Association kicks off the New Year Tuesday, January 8th, 1991 with a hot line-up for the PMA New Talent Showcase.

The showcase is held the 2nd Tuesday of each month following the PMA General meeting at Key Largo. \$3.00 admission.

8 P.M. - 1:30 A.M.

Featured Bands:

Bad Mothers-Original rock/pop band featuring all women musicians featuring clever, irreverent girl-bop tunes.

Ralph Archenhold Band-A crack team of seasoned professionals backing a talented songwriter and lovable entertainer. A delightful blending of folk, rock, country, and swing.

Red Over White-A musical breath of fresh Northwest talent combines rock, blues, gospel, funk, and country into a concise package creating a sound that is uniquely their own.

Shaded Gray-A rock band from Vancouver playing their own original compositions as well as a variety of songs ranging from Richard Marx to Pink Floyd to Chuck Berry.

The Movement Still Continues "Legacy to Martin Luther King Jr."

PSU

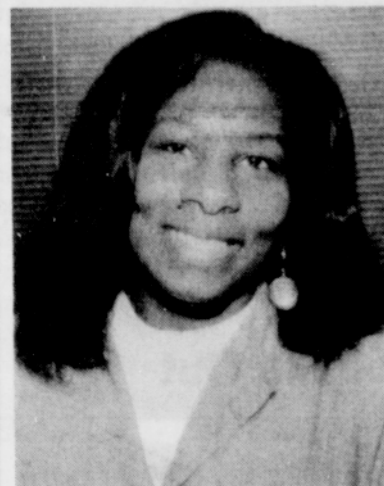
January 19, 1991

Lecturer: Norman Hill, National President APRI

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Next Week

His and Hers talks about
Jealousy.
Portland Women Wins
Nationwide Mature Model
search.

Food Stamp Benefits Increase

Many Oregonians facing poverty will receive more food stamps beginning in January as the result of the higher cost of home heating brought by cold winter weather. The increase is in the range of two to three dollars worth of stamps.

Food stamp recipients may use either the standard allowance or their actual utility costs if they are higher than the Standard Utility Allowance when applying for food stamps. In either case,

their utility costs are likely to increase because of the winter cold. In addition to utility costs, food stamp benefits are based on household income, number of persons in the household and living expenses.

The increase will only come to households not receiving the maximum food stamp benefits. They may get an increase of several dollars per month with the new Standard Utility Allowance. Those households currently receiving maximum food stamp benefits will not get an increase

with the move to a higher allowance.

Adult and Family Services, a division of the Department of Human Resources. The stamps are distributed by Adult and Family Services and by Senior and Disabled Services. Together, these agencies provide food stamps to some 90,000 Oregon households, representing 209,000 citizens. The program is a key financial ingredient in the household budgets of Oregon's working poor as well as those who cannot work.

Play it "Till 1951"

BY PROFESSOR MCKINLEY BURT

Don't be alarmed, I now what year it is. It's just that the advent of 1991 brings to mind that quote from a jazz classic at the top of the 'black charts' circa 1941, "Boogie Woogie on the St. Louis Blues." [Earl (Fatha) Hines].

Think that's corny? I wouldn't advise a lot of you to tell your grandparents that. Probably, they were acting' up in 1941, the jitterbug, slowgrind, fox trot, whatever. These 'dances' have succumbed to a violent metamorphosis, parallel to the development of similar gyrations in the socioeconomic sphere, so, in fact, their grandchildren are now "acting", just what, exactly is 'new' about the current scene...about 1991? "The more things change, the more they stay the same", it has been said.

It is a matter of 'perspective', isn't it? Your viewpoint-quite often it hangs upon something as simple as whether you are an optimist or a cynic. In lieu of having developed any better approach to the 'New Year', I have settled for one very simple resolution; go for a "PERSONAL BEST", as described in my 'Perspectives' column this week. I haven't the slightest doubt but what I (and this newspaper as well) will achieve this goal. Getting right on the establishment's case-and with Black History Month approaching-let me give the 'WEATHER REPORT' in my usual informative and sometime satirical manner.

"MAJOR FROST HITS CALIFORNIA CITRUS CROP: GROWERS FACED WITH FINANCIAL DISAS-

TER!" Well, you know whose fault that is don't you? Federick McKinley Jones is responsible. He is the black mechanical genius who invented and patented the modern version of the REFRIGERATED BOX CAR (No. 2,780,923; February 12, 1957, and No. 2,696,086, Dec. 7, 1954. And he contributed to California's grief by inventing the modern REFRIGERATED TRUCK (No. 2,475,841; July 12, 1949).

Good Lord! How could he do such a thing? Go and create a hundred billion dollar economic infrastructure in the states of California and Florida-from citrus fruits to avocados and from lettuce to tomatoes-all this wealth made possible by his advanced technology. This African American, self taught engineer and draftsman also gave America more than 60 other fruits of his incredibly fertile mind. These ranged from the first portable x-ray machine to the two-cycle gas engine we are all familiar with in our power mowers, and the automatic ticket dispensing machine encountered at our movies and other public events.

Oh, but in death he has paid dearly for bringing Californians to the brink of economic disaster (by making their empires possible). In my book, "Black Inventor's of America", I have assembled some pertinent background information-but, it wasn't easy, for surely this man has been punished, there being so little of honor and memory to be found.

For instance, when I first started researching Jones's background, I wrote both the American Refrigeration Society and The American Air Conditioning

Society (both with New York addresses in 1968). Informed that the two technical societies had merged, but had no evidence that such a man ever existed, I, nevertheless, kept up a barrage of queries for over a year before getting any result.

"Dear Mr. Burt, we are afraid that you are going to be terribly disappointed, but the enclosed document is all that we could find on the party in question." Enclosed I found a photostat of his membership card. It was stamped, "DIED 1957, OWED MEMBERSHIP DUES OF \$25." So much for our black American genius who gave the world so much-but, is there anything "new" here? Will some of us still wonder why the detractors of the 'Baseline Essays' scream "It's all fiction, it never happened."

What 'I' wonder is how it is that so many of our well-heeled black leaders and organizations plead for respect and recognition from the nation-and for inspired efforts to motivate our children to educational excellence-but it was the establishment General Electric Company which is 1988 contributed \$25,000 to save the birthplace of Lewis Howard Latimer, the pioneer black electrical inventor who patented the filament which MADE EDISON'S LIGHT BULB POSSIBLE!

Like I say, what's 'new'? "The more things change the more they stay the same." A 'school kids' project or a large 'black church benefit' could have done the same thing.

HMO Medicare Option Offers Seniors Quality Care Security

Medicare. For many people, the word brings to mind reams of paperwork, confusion and fears of rising premiums and a loss of security. Many seniors have turned to Medicare Supplement plans, but were faced with higher costs and inconsistent coverage. But seniors can reduce the hassles and stress of dealing with Medicare with a Medicare plan from a Health Maintenance Organization.

The good Health Plan Medicare Option from Sisters of Providence is a prepaid health care plan for Medicare beneficiaries. It adds coverage and stability to Medicare benefits and provides a stable source of high quality care. This program recently lowered its monthly premium to \$34.50—premium that is lower than most supplemental insurance and covers much more. The monthly premium for a typical supplemental insurance policy can range from \$40 to \$120, depending on the type of plan.

The enrollment period for the good Health Plan Medicare Option plan is open all year, unlike many programs that have limited time period for enrollment. Those interested in coverage from the good Health Plan Medicare Option effective February 1, 1991 must enroll by January 5, 1991.

Good Health Plan members assign their Medicare benefits to the Plan and receive health care services from the Good Health Plan. In return, the Good Health Plan manages the individual's health care program and handles all the paperwork involved in claims processing.

One of the primary differences between the Good Health Plan Medicare Option and a supplemental insurance is that the Good Health Plan has no deductible and can have a substantially lower monthly premium.

For example, for a patient who visits their physician once a month and has one inpatient surgery in a year, the out-of-pocket cost the good Health Plan medi-

care Option is \$534.00. A typical supplemental insurance policy could cost the patient as much as \$2,200.00 for the same services.

The Good Health Plan Medicare Option is sponsored by the Sisters of Providence health system in Oregon. The Good Health Plan provides comprehensive and convenient health care from more than 1,000 private-practice physicians and six regional hospitals. Patients may choose their own physician from the Plans' 250 Primary Care Physicians, a feature that may not be available through other HMO Medicare plans.

Services covered through the good Health Plan Medicare Option include: routine office visits and physical exams, hospital care, emergency and urgent care anywhere in the world, eye exams and eye glasses, laboratory and x-ray services, ambulance, medical equipment and supplies, physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy, skilled nursing facility and home health care, outpatient mental health visits and nutritional services. Co-payments are required for some of these services.

Two major medical centers serve Good Health Plan Medicare Option members: St. Vincent Hospital and medical Center on the west side of Portland and Providence Medical Center on the city's east side. Providence Milwaukie Hospital, Newberg Community Hospital, Tuality Community Hospital and Forest Grove Community Hospital are available for plan members who live in those communities.

The Sisters Of Providence is one of the ten largest health care systems in the United States. In Portland, it includes St. Vincent Hospital & Medical Center, Oregon's first hospital, and Providence Medical Center. Since Mother Joseph and four other young Sisters of Providence arrived at Fort Vancouver in 1956, they have carried out their mission of teaching, caring for the sick and helping the poor.