

METRO *Life*

Growing Old With Dignity



by Jim Wilson

Oregon is the national leader in providing community-based care to senior citizens, offering a range of less costly care from helping people stay in their own homes to adult foster care and assisted living facilities.

This is a true story: A 62-year-old Marion County woman lives with a congenital heart condition, has undergone two open-heart surgeries, and lives with her 73-year-old husband on his Social Security earnings.

Her heart condition prevents her from vacuuming, scrubbing and doing many other household chores.

Yet the couple are able to continue living in their own home because the state pays for two hours of housekeeping a week.

"It's better to be here in our own home together than to have to be put into a home that would take care of us," the woman says.

That has been Oregon's thinking for a decade, and it is drawing

renewed national attention because it works for seniors--and it saves tax dollars. In recent weeks, we've greeted or scheduled visitors from the NBC and ABC networks, MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour, AARP, the Alliance for the Aging, and Texas and Japan.

They understand that, like Ben Franklin's death and taxes, growing old is a virtual certainty that prompts us to think about our own futures and often to worry about those of our parents.

This couple who receive weekly housekeeping services are among more than 25,000 Medicaid-eligible seniors statewide whom the state helps. Fewer of them are in nursing facilities today than 10 years ago; more are maintaining their dignity, independence and quality of life by staying in their own homes or living in the relative freedom of adult foster homes or assisted living facilities.

These people usually are poor,

and the odds are 3-to-1 that they are women. They receive services such as nursing, housekeeping, cooking or laundry. The need is growing. Consider the numbers.

• The state's 75-plus population grows more than 4 percent annually, and Oregon's over-65 population increased 30 percent in the 1980s. By contrast, the statewide population is growing about 1.5 percent a year.

• Curry County has the state's largest percentage of over-65 residents, followed by Wheeler, Tillamook, Josephine and Lincoln counties. In the 1980s, Deschutes County experienced the fastest growth of people over 65.

• Forty percent of seniors live in metropolitan Portland.

Serving elderly people in community-based care is even more attractive because we can care for three people for the cost of one who is placed in a nursing facility.

What Oregon has done for se-

niors is what manufacturers have often done for consumer products--built better products and brought them to market at a lower price.

The savings add up. We figure that, since we began emphasizing community-based care in 1981, Oregon Taxpayers have saved \$225 million. If the Oregon system had been in place nationwide, the savings would have been \$20 billion.

Ask your parent or other senior if they'd prefer to live at home, getting the assistance they need, or in a nursing home. You won't have to wait long for the answer.

Supporting that response are studies in Oregon by the federal government and the University of Minnesota which showed that seniors in community care are happier and more satisfied, lived longer, and received care that cost less.

In Oregon, we've proved the merit of helping seniors continue living where they most want to be.

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Former Leader Of Hemlock Society To Address City Club

Two experts on assisted suicide will explain their points of view to the City Club at the Club's weekly Friday program at 12:15 pm, August 27, in the Rose Ballroom of the Portland Hilton, 921 SW 6th Ave. The press and public are welcome at this event.

Writer Derek Humphry, best-known as founder of the Hemlock Society, at right-to-die advocacy group, and currently vice president of Americans for Death With Dignity, will talk about the battle to create a legal right in the U.S. for every competent adult to choose "a physician-assisted, humane and dignified" death when he or she becomes terminally ill. Susan Tolle, M.D., an internist

and director of the Center for Ethics in Health Care at Oregon Health Sciences University, will clarify the ethical and legal differences between withdrawal of life support and euthanasia. Tolle will explain the impact of Senate Bill 286, the Health Care Decisions Act, on patients and families who wish to refuse life-sustaining treatment and be comfortable with their decision.

The speakers' presentations will be followed by a question and answer session for City Club members.

For more information call: 222-2582. Limited free seating in back available on a first-come, first-served basis. Doors open 11:30am.

Saturday Academy

Saturday Academy is pleased to announce the appointment of William C. Crane as special assistant to the director of the academy. Creators of extraordinary learning circumstances for highly motivated children in grades 6 through 12, Saturday Academy is based at the Oregon Graduate Institute of Science and Technology.

Crane joins the Academy staff after many years as a teacher and administrator of not-for-profit corporations. A musician by training, he has taught many ages a wide range of topics, including musicology, medical ethics, and French.

His responsibilities at Saturday Academy will include development and curriculum expansion in the arts and humanities. The growth of Saturday Academy has been impressive in recent years. Having just celebrated its tenth anniversary, the academy enters its second decade with a significant variety of programs. Among them are: the

Apprenticeships in Science and Engineering, an intensive mentoring program one-on-one between young students and distinguished scientists; the Student Watershed Research Project, a water-quality assessment training program utilizing actual research by young people; the Women in Science and Technology Lecture and Banquet, an annual event, designed to encourage girls and young women toward professions in science and technology; and, a broadly diverse program of classes available throughout the year.

Saturday Academy operates in eight sites around Oregon in addition to the Portland area program. Seeking to serve motivated young people from all circumstances, the Academy provides scholarship funds to students for its activities requiring tuition.

Saturday Academy invites inquiries about its programs at telephone 503-690-1190.

PCC Announces Harold Williams As Chair Of College Board Of Directors



Harold Williams

Harold Williams, a member of the Portland Community College Board of Directors since 1990, was elected to chair the board for the 1993-94 year at the directors' July 15

meeting. Williams represents Zone 2 or the PCC district, an area which includes portions of north and northeast Portland. Zone 2 is one of seven seats in the five-county, 1,500 square-mile PCC district.

Williams most recently served as the 1992-93 vice-chair of the PCC board.

A Portland businessman, Williams is president of CH2A Associates, a contracting firm. He is active in Northeast community affairs and is past chair of the Coalition of Black Men and is a member of the Urban League of Portland. Williams received bachelor and master degrees from Portland State University. He lives in northeast Portland and has three children.

Assuming duties as vice chair is

Marcia Atkinson, who represents Zone 6 which is composed of portions of Beaverton, Aloha, and Northwest and Southwest Portland. Her interest in PCC comes from her experience as a community college student and instructor.

A graduate of Green River Community College in Auburn Wash., she also earned bachelor's and master's degrees from City University. Before her election to the PCC board, she taught business management courses at the college. Atkinson is president and owner of HRGROUP, a human resources management consulting firm. Her professional background includes human resource and sales experience with Intel, Sequent, Frito-Lay and NC Machinery. She lives in northwest Portland.

5-Year-Old Boy Injured Playing With Potato Cannon

On Friday, August 20, 1993, at approximately 9:42pm, East Precinct Uniform Officers, along with medical personnel, responded to SE Mitchell Street, regarding a 5-year-old boy suffering from severe burns to his face and hands, which were the result of playing with a potato gun, also known as spudzookas. The 5-year-old, Anthony Dale Robinson, was taken to Emanuel Hospital Burn Center, where he is being treated. At the scene, officers spoke with the boy's father, Steven Dewaine Robinson.

Reportedly, the father had con-

structed a homemade potato cannon and was using gasoline as a propellant. While the father was preparing to launch the potato, his 5-year-old son held a beaker containing gasoline. Upon igniting the cannon, there reportedly was an explosion and the boy was suddenly engulfed in flames, dropping the beaker. Following questioning by detectives, the father was released, pending further investigation.

According to medical officials, the boy sustained second and third degree burns over his face, scalp and hands. It's expected that the boy will

be in the hospital for several weeks.

"People tend to forget how dangerous these potato cannons can be and certainly young children should not be allowed to play with them," said Wayne Svalir, the investigating detective.

Potato cannons or guns, as they are sometimes called, are usually constructed using a plastic pipe and hair spray as the propellant to launch the potato. Generally speaking, they are not regulated under the same restrictions as handguns or other firearms, which use gunpowder as it's source of ignition.

Support The NAACP's National Black Dollar Days Demonstration (August 31 - September 8)

by ShaRee Rhone, Branch President

The NAACP is conducting its Annual Black Dollar Days Demonstration August 31 - September 8, the Labor day week.

Once again, we are asking black consumers to vote their economic interest by spending \$2 bills and Susan B. Anthony dollar coins for their purchases prior to, and during Labor day week.

By participating in this national demonstration, Black Americans will tell white merchants if they want to continue to enjoy black consumer sup-

port, we expect our fair share of the jobs and business opportunities. Our message is plain. You cannot count our money without counting us; either count us in, or count us out.

We cannot continue to accept an economic relationship where black family income is 58%

that of white family income; 36% of black Americans live below the poverty level; and black unem-

ployment is twice that of white unemployment.

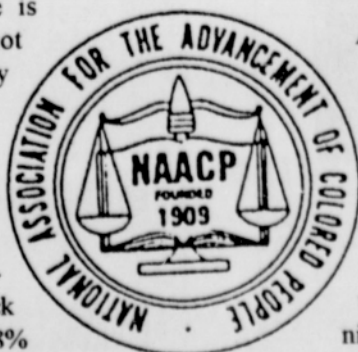
In 1991 black Americans earned more than \$200 billion and spent more than \$170 billion on various goods and services. Total black income exceeds the gross national product of all but nine nations in the world.

We must spend our dollars wisely by doing business with those who do business with us. Doing busi-

ness with the black community is hiring us, promoting us, and utilizing black businesses for a share of purchases of goods and services.

Black Americans must also support, and help to build their own businesses. Last year black Americans spent more than \$12 billion, over six percent, of our total black income, with black business. We must keep a larger share of our money in our own communities.

We encourage blacks and others, who believe in economic equality, to support Black Dollar Days, August 31 - September 8.



Minority Convention & Tourism Advisory Committee Planned

Oregon Convention and Visitor Services Network announced plans to incorporate a Minority Convention and Tourism Advisory Committee within their current operating structure, according to Roy Jay, president and chief executive.

Jay indicated that the formation of this committee was part of the operations' long range plan to receive more input from ethnic minorities regarding visitor and convention services. There is no other qualified agency within the state that has ever, effectively, addressed this category,

said Jay. Jay cites that there is an estimated \$50 billion annual industry involving Blacks and other minority conventions and tourism. Jay stated that many hotels and other businesses have expressed interest in participating in the programs and projects.

OCVSN, a private entity, which has been in operation since 1988, is responsible for providing numerous convention and visitor leads and referrals to Oregon businesses which has resulted in millions of dollars in revenue.