

# FREEDOM DAY CELEBRATED

## Message On Freedom Day

Juneteenth has come again, the Freedom Day Celebration. We ask young people to get your education so you can be select in your choosing in life.

Thanks go to Mrs. Brenda Davis and Ms. Emily Harris, all of the community care volunteers and Clara Peoples with Bethel A.M.E. Church

for holding a big celebration. Eight hundred people participated, and there's talk of next year going for rides and a parade in our community with

pride.

Thanks went out to those who have gone on before us for the sake of freedom for the black American.



## In Portland The Tradition of 'Juneteenth' Unites African Americans

Area residents marked the 121-year anniversary of freedom from slavery June 19 during the annual observance of "Juneteenth Day." The holiday marks the time of the year when many black Americans in rural areas of the south and Texas, first got news

of the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing the slaves, signed by President Abraham Lincoln on Jan. 1, 1863.

About 800 people participated in a Portland observance at Portland's Bethel A.M.E. (African Methodist

Episcopal) Church.

The church has historic roots in Portland, dating back to 1889. The first church building was at Northwest 10th Ave. and Davis St., later the congregation held services at Southwest Sixth Ave. and Stark St. and at

Northwest 13th Ave. and Everett St.

In 1915, Bethel A.M.E. built a church at North Larrabee Ave. and McMillen St. in the vicinity of the future Memorial Coliseum. The old church was tore town in 1958 by order of the city to make room for a parking lot.



Samuela A. Organ of Portland was one of the many people who helped stage "Juneteenth," a holiday marking the end of slavery in America.

### Juneteenth

June 19

Jan. 1, 1863, the date of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, is solemnly commemorated in many American black communities. It is, however, only one of a number of "freedom day" celebrations held on various dates, for the end of slavery was a gradual process and often a local one which evoked local observances. Thus the date on which General Gordon Granger arrived in Texas, June 19, 1863 -- with the avowed intention of enforcing Lincoln's proclamation, is commemorated as "Juneteenth" in eastern Texas and beyond, and a considerable body of tradition and lore has grown up about it.



Good food was part of the freedom day celebration at Portland's Bethel A.M.E. Church

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