

# The Gathering



Once again it's time for "The Gathering!" August 26 and 27, 1994 will mark the eighth year of people coming from all over to celebrate friendship.

"The Gathering," an annual "reunion" of friends who grew up together in the 50's and 60's. Many of us went to different schools, lived in different neighborhoods, and moved in different social circles, but had one common bond linking us together: friendship. We were bonded in a way not present in the postwar years of the '40's nor the urban turbulence of the '70's and 80's. Parents and other adults were role models, and the community followed that ancient adage... "it takes a whole village to raise a child".

This year "The Gathering" will celebrate its eighth year. A reception on Friday, August 26,

1994 at the Holiday Inn/Airport kicks off the weekend activities, continuing with the annual family and friends picnic Saturday, August 27, 1994 at Columbia Park, and ending with a western-theme dance Saturday night back at the Holiday Inn/Airport. We anticipate 500-600 at the Friday night gala and close to 1,000 at the Saturday picnic.

We extend an invitation to you to attend, and provide press coverage, on one or all of the weekend events. Our committee and the 600 plus friends who attend this annual event feel that it is worthy of media coverage, especially considering the many negative things...violence, drugs, gangs...that capture the headlines in our communities today. We want to spotlight this very positive event and share with others the reasons why these friendships have en-

dured for more than forty years and are as strong as ever. "The Gathering" has a common legacy that we hope to pass on to the next generation.

Experience and witness firsthand why "The Gathering" is so special! It has become the most talked about and anticipated weekend within the black community, with friends coming from all over...Texas, Hawaii, Atlanta, Denver, California...for Auld Lang Syne! "The Gathering" is a testament to the "good ole' days" and lasting friendships.

If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact us, call Lynda Grice, The Gathering Committee at (503) 281-4263. We look forward to seeing you at the Eighth Annual Gathering of friends!



The Merry-Go-Round at Jantzen Beach Shopping Center

## First Meeting To Be Recreated On 50th Wedding Anniversary

It was a chance meeting on a park bench in front of the Jantzen Beach Amusement Park Merry-Go-Round 50 years ago when John Walling strolled past Blanche Kopke and her two sisters. Two weeks later John and Blanche were married!

Now, 50 years later, the Walling children are planning a surprise re-enactment of their parents first meeting at the

Jantzen Beach Shopping Center Merry-Go-Round, the same merry-go-round that was in the historic amusement park on Hayden Island the day they met. If all goes as planned, this Merrill, Oregon couple will again meet on a bench in front of the Merry-Go-Round on Friday, August 26, 1994 at 7:30 p.m.

The re-enactment would not be

complete without Blanch's two sisters, who will be flying in from Minnesota for the event. After a memorable spin on the historic Merry-Go-Round, which has been preserved so moments in time like this can be relived, the family will gather to complete the celebration.

Jantzen Beach Center is located on Hayden Island, on the Columbia River, off Interstate 5, Exit 308.

## Prepare Now For Winter Heating

to several days. Northwest Natural Gas customers can call 585-6611 or 1-800-523-7661 to activate a service, to ask questions about natural gas equipment, or to establish an account.

Customers can prepare now for the cold weather by ensuring that their furnace is in good working order: 1) Remove lint and dust from around the burner compartment; 2) Make sure that the fan turns easily and works properly. During the heating season, clean or replace filters monthly. A Northwest Natural Gas

It may be warm and sunny now, but cool weather is just around the corner. Northwest Natural Gas customers can avoid the fall rush by calling now to have their gas service activated.

"People who have moved to a new house or who have had their gas service turned off for the summer should call now to restore service," said Will Auran, manager of the Lower Willamette Valley District Office of Northwest Natural Gas Co. "The first hint of cold weather produces a rush of service requests, and we don't want anyone to have to wait for heat when the temperature drops."

Auran said the volume of service requests doubles during the fall rush resulting in service delays of up

customer service technician will make a brief inspection of the natural gas equipment in your home at no charge.

When the cold weather arrives, close crawl space vents on all but one side to reduce drafts in the home. The vents on the protected side of the house should be left open to prevent moisture buildup.

Northwest Natural Gas also provides free energy audits to its customers. The company's conservation consultants inspect insulation levels and provide advice on how homeowners can reduce energy usage and save money. Call Northwest Natural Gas to make an appointment for a free energy audit.

## Oregon Arena Minority Contracting: A Case Of The "Tale Blazers"

JAMES L. POSEY

The people at the Oregon Arena project ought to write a book on how to deceive the public.

Never in my life have I seen such a masterful job of shoving out the "B.S." on minority contracting and job hiring, particularly as it relates to African-Americans. As the Arena project begins to take real form and rise towards the sky, the massive structure of concrete and steel becomes a monument to lies and deception. While the Oregonian newspaper and other major media sources have not been perpetuated the lies of late, a recent series of pronouncements in community newspapers have helped spin this great yarn.

It's pretty incredible. From day one, Mayor Katz, Rep. Ron Wyden and most other public officials lauded the accomplishments of the project before it even broke ground. And you've got to hand it to them, from

the very beginning, the Arena folks did a splendid job of neutralizing community-based organizations.

Another excellent strategy was to employ a local negro "front man," who already had plenty of experience selling over-rated and over-priced cars. And while we are not talking about automotive retail sales, we are talking about making the public believe they are getting something that they are really not.

Speaking of negroes, a few weeks ago Drake/Turner brought to town their national company negro, Hilton Smith. While it is obvious that Smith is getting paid by Turner to keep the minority contracting thing in line, they also tried to use his association with the National Association of Minority Contractors to rebuff the efforts of the Portland chapter, the National Association of Minority Contractors of Oregon (NAMCO) to expose the real participation of African-American contractors and workers on the project.

NAMCO attempted to get the

City to lay out a full scale accounting of who has worked on the Oregon Arena project and identify in specific detail where the money has gone. In other words, NAMCO was trying get the City to seriously monitor the project for compliance and to determine factually whether or not resources spent on the building of this magnitude is materially benefitted the residents of Northeast Portland. There were particular concerns about the utilization of African-Americans who are believed to be unemployed at around 15%. Similarly, African-American contractors are historically absent or used primarily as "fronts" on such major construction projects.

As it turns out, until just recently, the City had no real mechanism for monitoring compliance on this or any other project. The City had to take the Arena project's word for its accomplishments. And since the City had already endorsed the project, I assume there was a less-than-real interest in uncovering defi-

ciencies in performance on the project.

Nevertheless, the City is making progress and moving ahead to complete a disparity study to assess discrimination in the contracting industry. Crucial to that is the fact that the city attorney has also hired a full-time compliance counsel. All this is good, but most assuredly is too late to reign in the Arena project. Consequently the Arena project will undoubtedly feel free to make up fanciful tales about their accomplishments in the absence of any real scrutiny. And in all likelihood when the project is completed, the story will be the same. No matter how many games the 15 or so Black athletes stain their uniforms to win in the new arena, as far as this project is concerned, once again Black people in this city will be the big losers, courtesy of the "Tale Blazers".

James Posey is a small business owner with a background in social work and community activism.

## Oregonians Warned To Beware Of Insurance Scam

The Oregon Insurance Commissioner and New York Life Insurance Company are warning Oregonians of an insurance scam targeting primarily elderly residents.

In several instances a con artist has contacted the close relatives of recently deceased people and encouraged them to send money that will entitle them to a death benefit payment from New York Life. The man is not affili-

ated with New York Life, and the company has made it clear that the payment does not entitle the consumer to any death benefits.

"This scam targets consumers when they may be most vulnerable - while they're grieving for a loved one," said Kerry Barnett, Oregon Insurance Commissioner. "Insurance companies usually communicate directly with their customers in writ-

ing or through licensed agents. We are warning people to treat any offer like this with great suspicion."

The commissioner is urging Oregonians to make certain they are dealing with a licensed insurance agent before giving that person any money or a credit card number. Al-

though the individual has used New York Life in the past, consumers should watch for similar ruses using other insurance companies, as well. Any person receiving a contact like this should call the Consumer Services section of the Insurance Division at 378-4636, extension 600.

## The Fifth Annual Iris Court Community Fair

The fifth Annual Iris Court Community Fair will be Saturday August 27, 1994 from 11am to 4pm.

This event is in celebration of five years of positive community interaction in Community Policing.

This day will host fun for the entire family community; informational booths, great entertainment and motivational speakers.

Groups who will be performing include the gospel group Heaven Bound, the soul R&B group Unison, Deverse and Doc Rock.

Come and help to celebrate five years of positive Community Policing at Iris Court 315 N. Sumner Street, the fun starts at 11am Saturday August 27, 1994.

For more information or to host a community informational booth please contact J.W. Friday at 823-5790.

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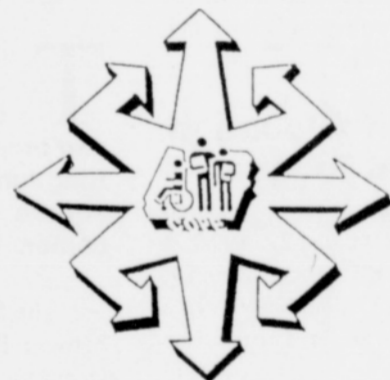
Will baby-sit at my N. Portland house.

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