

Plant Gets Lighting On Fast Track

The electricians had just 48 working days to provide lighting service to Rundel Products' new 95,000 square foot manufacturing facility in Portland.

The crew had 295 pieces of highly-specialized equipment to install, energize and debug.

"Pre-planning was paramount to this project," said Rick Parrish, project manager for Heil Electric. "But we had a good crew of skilled craftsmen who worked through the tight time frame beautifully."

Parrish is a member of the Oregon-Columbia Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 48.

Rundel Products is the nation's second largest manufacturer of custom binders and other specialized packaging materials and the largest west of the Mississippi. It produces custom products for companies like Daytoners and Mentor Graphics.



Installing wiring for production equipment at Portland's new Rundel Products manufacturing and warehouse facility is Jim Reed, a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 48.

The large new facility is a dream come true for the company, which long ago outgrew its old facility where it had been operating on different

floors in separate buildings. Now, all operations will be contained in one state-of-the-art manufacturing and warehouse facility.

Foster Nomination Draws Support

President Clinton's choice of Henry Foster to be the next U.S. Surgeon General is drawing strong support from the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

"Dr. Foster would bring to this position the same energy, the same dedication, the same leadership that has earned him national acclaim throughout his distinguished medical career," union officials said.

Foster was cited for developing and directing innovative programs aimed at preventing drug abuse and teenage pregnancy, such as the "I have a Future Program," which encourages youngsters to delay child-bearing by boosting their self-esteem.

Foster has played a significant role in training hundreds of African



Dr. Henry Foster

American medical professionals who provide health care services for med-

ically underserved communities in the inner city or poor rural areas, the union representative said.

"He is a role model, especially for minority students in a profession still lacking diversity," the officials said. "It is disgraceful that Dr. Foster has been the victim of a smear campaign by radical right-wing groups. The abortion issue is being used to demonize doctors like Dr. Foster who perform a legal medical service."

The union has long advocated responsible reproductive health policies that protect a women's right to choose.

"The United States Senate should not allow the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster to become a litmus test for the radical right," representatives of the union said.

Paragon Cable Aims Telethon To Benefit Kobe, Japan

Paragon Cable cablecasted a special telethon to help raise much needed funds for the people of Kobe, Japan on Feb. 5.

This telethon, a national aid effort of the cable industry, helped survivors and the families of victims who have suffered through the worst earthquake to hit Japan in more than 70 years.

Its hosts included well-known Star trek actor George Takei, actress Amy Hill of All American Girl and host of the International Channel's new teen show Pulse for Asian Americans, and Emmy Award-winning broadcaster/producer Mario Machado.

All donations from the telethon will be delivered to the Japanese Red Cross Society through the American Red Cross.

Family Survives Duplex Fire

A working smoke detector is being credited for saving the lives of four family members living in a two-story duplex at 536 N.E. Skidmore.

The fire broke out last Wednesday night. The cause was blamed on children playing with a cigarette lighter. Smoke was coming out of the building's eaves and out the front door when firefighters arrived.

Fire department officials said nearly 10 percent of all fires this year have been caused by children playing with fire, a nine-year high for the Portland area.

Theisen Named As PSU Foundation Executive Director

Lee Scott Theisen has been named as new executive director of the Portland State University Foundation.

Dr. Theisen (pronounced "Tyson") comes to the PSU Foundation from the Arizona Historical Society Foundation in Phoenix, where he served as executive director since 1990.

He will start his PSU Foundation post in March, working closely with the Office of University Development to help secure new donations an gifts to meet Portland State's diverse urban and community-oriented missions.

"This is a great period of growth for Portland State," said Theisen. "This job provides an exciting opportunity to work for a university that has dynamic leadership and a clear idea of its urban mission."

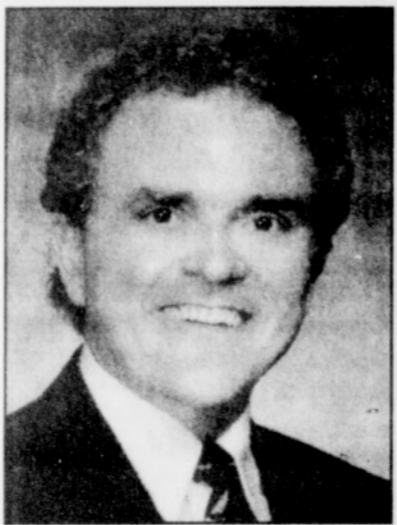
At the Arizona Historical Society Foundation, Theisen was responsible for guiding the society's strate-

gic planning, fund raising and community relations. During the past 4 1/2 years there, the foundation raised more than \$3.5 million in pledges and \$3 million in bequests. Theisen has more than 17 years of fund-raising experience.

PSU selected Theisen from four finalists as part of its nationwide search to fill the post, which had been vacant since early last summer.

"Lee is the final key addition to the development team at the foundation," said CD Hobbs, president of the PSU Foundation Board of Directors and vice president/chief operation officer of Hi-Tech Publications, Beaverton. "Lee will be instrumental in preparing us for the challenges of a major capital drive to fund PSU's strategy to expand as a major, innovative urban university."

"Lee's enthusiasm, his broad-based background and expertise made him the perfect match for this position," said Regina Borum, executive



Lee Theisen, PSU Foundation Executive Director

director of PSU's Office of University Development. "Together we will work toward helping PSU garner the resources needed to meet its priorities and mission."

Theisen will help lead fund raising efforts for PSU's planned con-

struction of its \$28 million Urban Center Building and University Plaza. The building and plaza are considered to be a signature project of the University District Plan. The plan produced by PSU, the city of Portland and Portland neighborhood groups—helps guide new development on the PSU campus and surrounding neighborhood in south downtown Portland. The Urban Center Building is expected to house PSU's urban-related programs, a distance-learning center and retail shops.

"The addition of Lee as another professional fund-raiser at PSU is very important and is something I've looked forward to for a long time," said Borum.

Prior to gaining directorship of the Arizona Historical Society Foundation, Theisen served as a marketing consultant in Indianapolis. From 1983 to 1989 he was executive director of the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites. From 1977 to 1983 he

was director of the Central Arizona Museum of History in Phoenix. Prior to that, he worked four years as an exhibits officer and archivist for the National Archives in Washington, DC.

A native of Wisconsin who was reared in Iowa, Theisen holds a doctoral degree from the University of Arizona in American History, with a minor in Latin American History and Art. He also has a M.A. degree in American History and a B.A. degree in Film, History and Political Science from the University of Iowa.

The PSU Foundation is guided by a 33-member Board of Directors, representative of civic, business and cultural leadership in the Portland metropolitan area. The Foundation helps direct funds raised by PSU to support a wide range of activities, including scholarships, faculty development, research and education equipment, and special programs and speakers.

Education Secretary Makes Oregon Visit

U.S. Education Secretary Richard Riley was in Oregon this week to salute Oregon's Goals 2000 plan, the nation's first program setting academic standards for all students.

Riley was invited to speak at a legislative forum at Willamette University in Salem and to carve an "Ed Flex" provision in Goals 2000 which will allow six states to grant waivers of certain federal regulations in order to better serve students.

"The nation has turned its atten-

tion to school improvement and turned to Oregon as the leader," said State School Superintendent Normal Paulus.

In announcing the approval of Oregon's Goals 2000 plan, Riley said, "I realize it is not a coincidence that Oregon was the first Goals 2000 state plan to be approved the U.S. Department of education. Oregon has long been recognized as a leader in education reform efforts to improve teaching and learning for all stu-

dents.

"I commend you on the quality of the plan and implementation efforts already underway which reflect the hard work of so many people - policymakers, practitioners, parents, business and community leaders - throughout the state," Riley added.

"Your leadership and vision which tie education reform to the achievement of high standards by all students are an example from which others can benefit."

OSU Presidential Scholar Overcomes Obstacles On Path To Success



Tara Johnson

At the start of her high school career, Northeast Portland resident Tara Johnson fit the mold of the typical high school dropout: Low-income and the oldest of three daughters in a single-parent household.

But four years later, Johnson beat the odds, graduating as Grant High School's only accumulative 4.0 valedictorian. Now, at 19, Johnson is an Oregon State University presidential scholar, studying bioresources research and microbiology with an eye to a career in plant genetics.

It's been a tough path for the college freshman, with Johnson facing and overcoming obstacles throughout high school, ranging from racism to raising cash for college. But it's her mother's love and determination that has helped strengthen her resolve to succeed, she said.

Her mother, Lulu Stroud-Johnson, said she's not involved in one-woman heroics - just in raising her children the way her parents raised her.

"I was raised in a family that is extremely strong and made it a point to support the children," Stroud-Johnson said. "So, you see, it is just natural for me to support my children. I do what I have to do to empower my children, and hopefully, I have empowered them."

Without a parent's active involvement, it's not difficult for children to fall victim to the stereotypes that repress success, Stroud-Johnson said. Then, filled with hopelessness, children stop trying an end up dropping out of school.

Countering racism also can be a factor for minority students, both mother and daughter said.

"It's subtle, but racism is there," said Tara Johnson. "There's a lot of it you encounter."

Stroud-Johnson, with co-speaker Wynonna Jackson, will discuss racism in Portland Public Schools during a free public forum at OSU on Feb. 22. It will begin at 6 p.m. in Room 206 of OSU's Memorial Union, 26th and Jefferson.

Stroud-Johnson has two daughters still attending Portland's Public Schools: Tova, 17, a Grant High School senior, and Kelva, 15, a Grant freshman. Both teens maintain straight-A grades.

Running a full-time typing business out of her home and struggling to find time to be a mother, Stroud-Johnson says she makes her children's welfare a priority. But even the best parental efforts can fail if children don't develop their own desire and determination, she added.

Tara, who follows an intense study schedule, acknowledges that she is driven to success. But it was only with her mother's encouragement that she reached her goal of being named an OSU presidential scholar, she pointed out.

Presidential scholars are considered the state's top students and receive \$2,490 a year toward tuition expenses, said Donna Vuchinich, OSU development officer. "The goal of the program is to encourage the best and brightest to remain in Oregon."

"My mom's been my single greatest encouragement," Tara Johnson said. "She truly is a full-time parent. She always encourages us to do well in school and to get good grades."

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