

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Monday Ski Day Scheduled

You can ski Monday at Mt. Hood Ski Bowl and help the Portland Police Bureau's Sunshine Division. With a suggested donation of two cans of food, an all day lift tickets will set for just \$10, and \$8 discount. The ski resort will also donate \$5 from each lift ticket sold to the division which provides temporary emergency relief to needy Portland families.

Walk To Help Child Abuse

Support is being sought for a walk to help raise public awareness of child abuse and neglect in Portland. The LaWalk 95 will be held April 8 at Waterfront Park, sponsored by the Portland Legal Secretaries Association, NightRider Overnight Copy Service and Legal Northwest Legal Staffing Specialist. For more information call Lauren Harkins at 242-2514.

Beds Collected For Needy

The St. Vincent de Paul needs twin, double and queen bed mattresses and box springs, new and used. The charity is providing about 115 sets of mattresses every month, but need twice that many to fill the requests from needy families. Workers repair and rebuild mattresses, so they do not need to be clean or new to be useable. Call 234-0594 to arrange for pickup or take contributions to any St. Vincent de Paul store.

Marienthal To Play Sax

Eric Marienthal, an exciting saxophonist in contemporary jazz, performs with Vail Johnson, bass player with the Kenny G band, Wednesday, March 15 at 9 p.m. at Key Largo. Tickets are available at all Fastixx outlets or by phone at 224-TIXX.

An Evening With Maya Angelou

American author, poet and entertainer Maya Angelou, best known for her strong portrayals of African American women, comes to Clark College, Monday at 6 p.m., at the O'Connell Sport Center Gymnasium. Tickets for An Evening With Maya Angelou are \$25.

City Club To Host Clark Officials

Portland Commissioner Earl Blumenauer, Clark County Commissioner John Magnano and C-TRAN Executive Director Les White will discuss last month's defeat of the Clackamas to Vancouver light rail bond measure in Clark County and plans for the future at Friday's regularly scheduled luncheon of the City Club at 12:15 p.m. at the Benson Hotel.

Auction To Help Kids

The 3rd annual southwest Washington "Credit Unions For Kids" auction benefiting Doernbecher Children's Hospital will be held Saturday, March 11 at 6 p.m. at the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel. The event begins with hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar. The silent auction follows with something for everyone's budget. Tickets are available or donations can be made by calling Roxanne Schade at (206) 992-4279 or (503) 286-1315, extension 279.

SUBMISSIONS: Community Calendar information will be given priority if dated two weeks before the event date.



Celebrating Diversity

Workers at the Albina branch of Oregon Adult and Family Services celebrate Black History Month with a Cultural Awareness Day at the state office building on North Vancouver. A banquet of ethnic foods was served, a special speaker addressed the group and a presentation of African art was made. (From left) are Ethel Wangerina, Clara Peoples, Emlyn Harris, Erika Green, Roberta Robinson, Amy Davis, Helen Warren and Joan Gardon. (Photo by Donn Thomas)



Meals-On-Wheels Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Special events were held at the Multicultural Center on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. last week to celebrate Meals-on-Wheels 25th anniversary of its Meals-on-Wheels program. Tackling the challenges of puzzle making at the center are Christian Mosbrucker (from left) James "Chawn" Padden and Sally Lee. Volunteer drivers were honored and a special lunch with cake was served. (Photo by Donn Thomas)

'Williams Avenue' Visit Concludes

BY PROFESSOR MCKINLEY BURT

Well, not really, it never will entirely. We resume our sojourn in memory land where, last week, I said that recapturing some time-aged facts was like trying to catch the wind in a net. We continue south, beginning in the middle of the '2100' block.

Here on the west side of the street was a little complex of several story-tall buildings, first, there was the office of "The Portland Observer Newspaper", then owned by Mr. William (Bill) McClendon. Occasionally I wrote articles of interest to the black community. Later I shared the office as the site for my first public accountant's office (My rent was \$10 per month).

I'm not entirely sure about the timing/sequence of events here but next door was "Aunt Ruth's Restaurant" which featured delicious home-cooked meals, and somewhere, somehow at the rear of these two operations was Bob Bird's unlicensed, unrestrained Juke Joint and dance hall which featured funky music, funky dancing, nubile late teenagers and lots of very young soldiers down from Fort Lewis for the weekends. A lot of older married folks here met this way.

Next to this complex was the house of a "Mrs Tuggle", an energetic and kindly black woman who supported her family with a most unusual occupation. The house was set back to accommodate a huge front yard where Mrs Tuggle was seen to operate mostly at night. She had a nightly sequence of first watering the ground to drive thousands of earthworms to the surface. Then, at about 2 a.m., she would begin

gathering them in hundreds of special containers. Beginning about 3 a.m., fishermen from all over the Tri-county area would begin arriving too purchase "the fattest, fish-loved worms in the state" (and she cooked me some of the best blackberry pies ever made).

A block further down or so was the "Red Hut", little more than a shack with a restaurant in front and a big time 24-hour crap game in back. Portland for a time was a wide-open port city with merchant seamen and gamblers from all over coming to patronize Albina's gambling houses where tens of thousands of dollars often changed hands in a single session. Of course those were the days, too, when cash-flush residents could walk the streets night or day, drunk or sober, without fear of robbery. A solicitous citizen would walk you home or call you a cab.

The next corner, Williams and N. Broadway was a hyperactive intersection. At the N.W. was the "Broadwill" Drug Store owned by an elderly German. But the store is best remembered for "Lee", the popular, gregarious Chinese pharmacist who was a key player in the neighborhood social scene. Across the street, N.E. Corner, was a Catholic Social Center. And on the S.E. corner was the Safeway store I described last week as being competed right out of business by the black "Neighborhood Grocery" ("we" knew what "neighborhood" meant back in those days).

The S.W. corner was the site of the Madrona Record Shop (downstairs) operated by "Mrs. Dorothy Garrett", a super popular Music Mecca for the entire city because daily - arriving black dining car waiters and pullman porters from the east kept the store advised on new hits long before other shops

in town, her brother also operated a thriving African American Business, a coin-operated device distribution company which supplied juke boxes, cigarette machines and pin ball machines to most of the Northeast side 'we' just don't do some lucrative things anymore -- too much college education?

Upstairs in the same building was the office of Dr. DeNorval Unthank, physician and tower of strength to the community. So many of our parents and grandparents were delivered by this epitome of humanism; so many in Vanport that after the 1948 flood the Red Cross used his medical records as a way to account for black families and individuals who may have been missing.

A block west, on the same side of Broadway was the huge "Dude Ranch Night Club", jointly owned by four partners, two black and two white. A free-wheeling supper club in the truest sense, the classy joint drew its patronage from the tri-county area, featuring black waitresses dressed in western-style outfits (mini-minis), a casino section with crap table, roulette wheel and slots. I believe a large warehouse occupied this corner at present.

Sorry to have left out so much but time and space do not permit more of the journey. I have not forgotten the "Beacon Cab Co.", black-owned and brash, or Chester's Auto Paint Shop, one of the largest in Portland and catering mostly to car dealers; or the Medley Hotel, an African American hotel on N. Interstate that also featured a casino operation downstairs. The restaurant facility was operated in the 1970's by a black couple from eastern Oregon who had owned and run the thousand acre "Bar X Ranch" in the Wallowa foothills.

Boise-Eliot Elementary Multicultural Fair

Mark your calendar to attend the Multicultural Fair Friday, March 3rd, 6:00-8:00 p.m., 620 N. Fremont.

Learn about the multicultural curriculum and visit 29 cultures without leaving the walls of our school! This annual curriculum event is also a fund raiser for the Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) Program and Boise-Eliot's enrichment programs which benefit all our students. Food and globe balloons will be on sale in the gym. Books will be on sale in the library. Child-made souvenirs from various countries will be available for you to purchase in many of the classroom. Select a souvenir and take pictures of the many cultural displays in the classrooms.

Poetry, Music To Fill Hall

"A Night of Bohemian Wonder-ful," a evening of art, poetry reading and music by Shannon Huston takes place Friday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the PSU King Albert Hall, 1890 S.W. 11th. The event is free and part of a series of celebrations in honor of Women's History Month.