

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Wallpapers On Review

Wallpapers by internationally-recognized designer Bradbury and Bradbury will go on display in a benefit, Feb. 10 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 147 N.W. 19th.

Gene Harris Performs

The Gene Harris Quartet performs Friday and Saturday at the 8 p.m. at Red Lion/Downtown. The quartet with Dennis Springer, Marc Fendel and Nola Bogle will perform Sunday 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the Benson Hotel.

Meeting Honors Activist

A public meeting celebrating the life of Gloria Martin, 79, author, civil rights activist and leader of the women's movement, will be held Saturday, Jan. 20 at 5 p.m. at the Koinonia House, 633 S.W. Montgomery St. Martin died Nov. 22 of cancer.

All-Teen Dance Is Friday

A drug-free "all-city teen dance" will be held Friday at Memorial Coliseum for youth, ages 14 to 18 with student I.D. Portland DJ Mix Masta K.D. will keep the music jumpin'.

Gauguin Art On Display

Art works by Paul Gauguin, Emile Bernard and 19 other artists from the turn of the century are on display through Sunday at the Portland Art Museum.

Joan Baez Tickets On Sale

Tickets are now on sale for a Portland concert with Joan Baez and Dar Williams. The Feb. 5 event will be begin at 8 p.m. at Civic Auditorium.

Semi-Formal At Shenanigan's

A semi-formal dinner and fashion show featuring African dance, singing and poem reading will be held Friday, Jan. 26 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Shenanigan's, 4575 N. Channel. Cost is \$25 per person. Call 335-8091 for information.

Living Legends Opens Tuesday

"Living Legends" American Indians Today" opens Tuesday in the Children's Museum at 3037 S.W. Second Ave. Kids and adults will experience the diversity of American Indians and the contributions they've made to other cultures.

Senior Volunteers Sought

Seniors 55 and older are encouraged to consider sharing their skills of a lifetime with a not-for-profit organization. Call Helen Wahl at the Multnomah County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program at 415-7787 for more information.

Tree Disposal Offered

Christmas tree recycling is offered Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. from the St. Andrew parking lot at Northeast Eighth and Alberta behind the community center. A \$3 or \$4 donations will benefit a low-income housing program.

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

Local Company Manufactures New Park Cover

Waagmeester, Incorporated, a second-generation company located on Northeast Alberta, soon will complete one of its largest structures—a cover for the tension structure over Cathedral Park's stage. Thanks to the firm's expertise and generosity and donations from a granting committee and another local company, a brand-new, heavy-duty waterproof canopy will be installed for the first of a series of free concerts in the park this summer.

Concert Series Chair Clarice White recently received the last installment from Metro Central Enhancement Committee, which gave \$10,500 toward the purchase. David Berg from Simpson Timber's Oregon Overlay Division also presented Simpson's contribution of \$2,380 to company President and Co-owner Steve Waagmeester.

While the canopy manufacture was in progress at Waagmeester's large pieces of the heavy material were spread over the shop floor. Len Breazeale, sewer, and Kurt Waagmeester, awning manufacturer, two of the firm's 12 employees, were marking the outline of one of four huge sections for the cover, which consumed more than 150 yards of eight-foot-wide material.

"For the past seven years, musicians and vocalists from every style of music have performed in Cathedral Park under a disintegrating cover that let in the wind and rain, was an eyesore and a security risk," says White. "The dark stage area under the old orange



Steve Waagmeester, left, stitches the heavy-duty waterproof material for Cathedral Park's new stage cover, which will be raised for the park series' first concert on Sunday, July 28. Checking his progress is David Berg, Environmental Health and Safety Manager for The Oregon Overlay Division of Simpson Timber Company, a major contributor to the massive project.

canopy encouraged vandalism and vagrancy while the canopy was up and made it difficult to see the performers.

"Fortunately for those of us who love North Portland's Cathedral Park, five entities came together to rectify these problems." First, Waagmeester agreed to give Friends of Cathedral Park neighborhood Association and in-kind contribution that amounted to an \$8,000 savings. Then, Portland Parks and

Recreation Supervisor Jim Gardiner and Deputy Director David Judd agreed to install the canopy free for the FCPNA series each year for five years, provided the association raised the rest of the money for the project.

The Metro Central Enhancement Committee donated \$10,500 with the proviso that White's group obtain matching funds. "Simpson Timber came through in the nick of time with a grant of \$2,380," White says,

"exactly what we needed to complete the project."

White and Berg watched Waagmeester's co-owner stitching the beautiful material with a 7-31 class sewing machine used by his father, "Bud," when he began the company in 1945 in his basement. The father, Winfred Waagmeester, was a sail maker's mate in the Navy, whose parents came over from Amsterdam in the late 1880s.

"We use 1/8" diameter needles," Steve Waagmeester told White. "This machine is so strong it could literally sew two pieces of 1/4" plywood together."

This fall, after Waagmeester's busiest season, he arranged to have Parks & Recreation bring the old, disintegrating canopy to the covered outdoor basketball court at Alberta Park. "They were great," Waagmeester said of the parks maintenance people, "they were there early, and they would not allow us near while they off loaded the cover without hard hats (very conscientious)."

Waagmeester cut the old canopy apart in one day to build a pattern, but the toughest part for the company was getting started, Waagmeester says. "Our space in here was full of boats, and this has been our busiest 'off-season' ever. This fall we did a cover for five steam generators and the reactor from Trojan to help with transport of the pieces for decommissioning at Hanford," he explained. "I told them I would manufacture the cover

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Fred Buckman (left), president of PacificCorp, joined recently with community volunteers to plant trees on Alberta Street as part of Pacific Power's new "GreenStreets" program. "GreenStreets" is designed to give commercial streets an environmental and economic boost. The tree planting event on Alberta Street was sponsored by Pacific Power, Friends of Trees, and local neighborhood associations.

"First Jazz"



Nola Bogle

Gene Harris, proclaimed "one of the greatest blues pianists in the world" by the Wall Street Journal, will headline the Jazz Society of Oregon's First Jazz '96 in January.

Friday and Saturday, January 12 & 13, the Gene Harris Quartet will play in a club setting at the Club Max, Red Lion/Downtown, 8pm.

Sunday, January 14, in the Mayfair Room

of the Benson Hotel, The Gene Harris Quartet will be joined by an amazing array of local talent, including the Dennis Springer Quartet, the Marc Fendel Quartet, and the Nola Bogle Quintet. Doors open at 2pm, music is from 3pm to 9:30pm.

Tickets—Friday & Saturday: \$15 advance, \$17 door; Sunday: \$20 advance, \$22 at door. Call Fastix: 224-TIXX. For information, contact the Jazz Society of Oregon 234-1332.

1949 Cotton Bowl Team Were 'Heroes'

They were all heroes—those gallant young men and their coaches in December of 1948 when the Oregon Ducks flew south to the 1949 Cotton Bowl game in Dallas.

Co-champions and undefeated in Pacific Coast Conference play, the Oregon Ducks' dreams of roses evaporated when Rose Bowl officials instead picked California, Pacific Coast co-champions who were also undefeated in conference play.

Invited to half a dozen minor bowls, Duck Head Coach Jim Aikens was holding out for a major bowl bid—Cotton, Sugar, Orange—even though it then took special permission from the Pacific Coast Conference to play a major bowl elsewhere.

The clock was ticking. The sports world was watching. Duck fans were holding their breath. Reputations and careers were on the

line.

Then North Carolina turned down the Cotton Bowl match against Southern Methodist University and Cotton Bowl officials began flirting seriously with Oregon. The Duck team even scheduled a meeting to vote on whether to accept the Cotton Bowl invitation—if it arrived. News reports at the time said the Duck fans were "jubilant."

But three young black men were not smiling—Chester Daniels, Duck guard and place kick expert; Woodley Lewis, starting left half; and Win Wright, end. These three Duck athletes were very aware of Texas segregation laws. In 1949 it was till illegal for blacks and whites to complete in the same game. Or eat in the same restaurants. Or stay in the same hotels.

"The three asked for a meeting with Coach Jim Aikens," relates UO archivist Keith Ri-

chard. "If we go (to the Cotton Bowl), we play and not sit on the bench," the trio insisted. Without a pause, the coach answered.

"If you can't play, we all stay home," Aikens promised.

The invitation arrived. SMU agreed to play against the integrated Duck team and the Cotton Bowl directors said the black players could play.

The Oregon Ducks—all the Oregon Ducks football team—were on the field in Dallas, Jan. 1, 1949.

The precedent had been set the year before when Pennsylvania State University put two black players on the field against SMU in the 1948 Cotton Bowl. Segregation laws were just beginning to unravel around the edges even though it would be another dozen years or so before U.S. marshals helped the first African-American children integrate Little

Rock, Ark, schools.

Like Penn State's black players in 1948, Oregon's Ducks still could not stay in the team's hotel or eat in most public restaurants.

Daniels, Wright and Lewis 47 years ago were guest in "the home of a wealthy Negro Physician," according to news reports at the time. But, they did eat most of their meals with the team in a special dining room at the Melrose Hotel—team headquarters.

In 1949, the final score was SMU 21, Ducks 13. But the Ducks didn't lose that day.

This year all members of the Duck football team will stay in the same hotel, eat together and line up—together—on New Year's Day in Dallas, thanks in part to the 1949 Duck Cotton Bowl team.

Given the hopes, the stakes and the context of those times, "They were heroes," says Richard.