

Women's Work Book On Disk

Portland Community College's award winning book, photo exhibit and community relations campaign, Women and Their Work, spotlighting 18 PCC women graduates on the job in non-traditional careers, is now a computer program.

Teenagers who saw the photo exhibit that is touring Oregon communities, or studied the book in high school career classes, said they identified with the women role models.

There is Yolanda Dials, an African-American construction worker who builds high overpasses and had the courage to overcome alcoholism and learn how to provide for her children.

Or Alicia Geminiani, an autobody repair technician, who enrolled in college, even though she was afraid to and needed her brother's help to get started. Her fear didn't stop her from pursuing her dream.

In its most recent incarnation, the information is electronically formatted on disk and is called The Gallery of Success. It features role models for girls and women and like the book, focuses less on the facts about a career and more on the women who have found satisfaction and self-sufficiency in their careers.

The Gallery of Success uses personal stories to convey career

information. "Behind every successful person is a story, usually a story with some element of drama and struggle," said project manager Rebecca Hagen. "The Gallery shows how people go about pursuing a career that fits for them, how they surmount troubles and how their work life relates to others."

Local references have been removed to make the program more accessible to a national audience. The computer program is the third phase of the Women and Their Work project--earlier facets included a book published in January 1994 and a traveling photography exhibit made available at the same time. Portland Community College sponsored all phases of the project.

The Gallery of Success uses work-place photographs, colorful screens, graphics and text to demonstrate various career options. The structure of the program mimics an art exhibit. The viewer browses through a computerized portrait gallery. The viewer can explore things like a quotation from the woman, an article telling her story, salaries in that field, a career description and hints on how to find more information.

To run the program, one needs a fairly up-to-date IBM compatible computer running Windows.

six free megabytes on the hard drive and an SVGA monitor.

"Some copyright restrictions apply," said Hagen, "but we have made this as accessible as possible. The program is free to schools and agencies, but most importantly, it can be loaded on other computers, copied and given away to others who want to use the product."

Hagen said the college hopes to send the program to as many agencies and schools as possible, but the supply is limited.

Future plans include putting it on the World Wide Web.

The World Wide Web contains a wealth of information," said Hagen, "but is surprisingly devoid of occupational role models, particularly those who are female."

"Wouldn't it be great if by the year 2000, a girl could get on the Web and find hundreds of working women to take inspiration from? Since women are said to perform two-thirds of the world's work, this is really not too much to ask. In the meantime, we have 18 compelling stories to share."

To request a copy of the program, please write to the Gallery of Success, c/o Division of Industrial Technology, Portland Community College, P.O. Box 19000, Portland, Oregon 97280-0990.

Please contact Susan Hereford at 503-977-4421 or Rebecca Hagen at 503-977-4130 for more information.

Light Rail Construction Check Received

Flanked by the legislators who pushed it through Congress, Deputy Transportation Secretary Mort Downey last week presented Tri-Met and the Portland region its largest ever one-year grant for light rail construction.

The \$158.5 million check includes \$30 million for the Hillsboro portion of Westside MAX, the first time federal monies have been directed at this project.

The appropriation is the largest rail transit construction grant in the nation for the current federal fiscal year.

Deputy Secretary Downey passed the check to a host of happy officials, including Sen. Mark Hatfield, Rep. Elizabeth Furse, Hillsboro Mayor Gordon Faber, Metro Executive Mike Burton, Portland Commissioner Earl Blemenauer, and Tri-Met General

Manager Tom Walsh.

These officials and other local leaders joined in a celebration at the site of the future Civic Stadium MAX station on Southwest 18th Avenue across from the stadium. Construction workers poured concrete and attended to rail installation while officials looked at plans for a mid-rise apartment building on a portion of the station site.

AMA Celebrates Families

The Albina Ministerial Alliance will hold its second annual "AMA Family Supper" February 29 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at St. Andrew's Community Center located at 806 N.E. Alberta. This annual event celebrates families building community.

There will be music, african drumming, and storytelling by Nywesi Askari. Come celebrate with food, family and fun! It's all you can eat \$3 for adults and \$1 for children. Sponsored by your community Safeway. Call 503-285-0493 for more information.

James Names District Officer

Roy James has been named district business officer of bank of America's Eastern District, with 24 retail bank branches including branches in Gresham, Pendleton, Oregon City, Bend and La Grande.

In his new position James is responsible for working with commercial business clients to accommodate their lending needs and assisting branches by providing commercial business lending support.

James has 15 years banking experience. Previously, he served as a manager of the bank's Eastport Plaza branch. He joined B of A in 1992,

coming from U.S. Bank, where he served five years as a branch manager.

James graduated in 1978 from Northeastern State University in Oklahoma with a bachelor's degree in marketing.

He serves on the boards of the Urban Bankers Association of Portland and Rose Community Development.

Bank of America Oregon is the stat's third largest bank, with 87 branches and assets of \$3.65 billion. It is a subsidiary of Bank America Corporation, one of the nations's largest banking companies.

Advertise In
The Portland Observer
Call 503-288-0033

IN MEMORIAM OF A GREAT INVENTOR

BY PROFESSOR MCKINLEY BURT

I shall use this final day of 'Black History Month' to put the spotlight of genius on my favorite African American inventor. It is not just that Frederick McKinley Jones is an innovator who provides a multitude of opportunities to provide the reader with an inspiring account of what can be accomplished with strong motivation and an energetic imagination -- but, on the other side of the coin, presents a worst-case-scenario for "Black History. Lost, strayed, stolen."

How can I even begin to detail for you the trillions of dollars in wealth that the patented inventions of this grammar school dropout have created for those who have, in most cases, denied his very existence. For openers, let us examine two of his contributions, technology that is recognized and appreciated by every man, woman and child on earth -- and on every continent in some form or another.

I would submit to you, the Refrigerated Box Car, Patent No. 2,696,086, Dec. 7, 1954, and the Refrigerator Truck, Patents include No's 132,182; 159,209; 2,509,099...2,850,001; 2,926,005 and many, many others dating from April 28, 1942 to Feb. 23, 1960. For a complete cataloging see the alphabetical index in my book, "Black Inventors of America."

I think it was in the description of this inventor's impact on our modern way of life and the development of our infrastructure, that I gained the most pleasure in my presentations around the country. Whether it was enthralled students in a large lecture room on a college campus or the smaller audience of television studios, the swelling pride and the acknowledgement of the documentation was almost palpable. The body language, the murmurs of assent, the eye contacts--all told of an insightful and emotional experience that would include the speaker. An African genesis.

The best of these experiences was at Howard University in Washington D.C.; the engineering professor said, "this is a restive and 'revolution-minded' student body, yet, you are the only speaker over the age of forty to ever get a standing ovation from these young people." Be that as it may, I like to feel that it was our cultural hero, Frederick McKinley Jones for whom the applause resounded. After all, he was the genius who wrote the play and, then, came on stage himself to see that the script was properly followed (add, automatic ticket dispenser, the two-cycle

gas engine).

Of course I needed a few kudos like that to sustain myself; the times were the early 1970's and I was pioneering a new concept to the America and the world--that the black men and women of America had developed many of the technological innovations that made the Industrial Revolution possible. There were no grants, no company sponsors and few believers at first. When my small savings were exhausted my American Express Card soon escalated to

five grand, and you know what happened then. Besides, the small publisher had no monies for national book promotions. It helped immeasurably when Dr. John Henri Clarke, the dean of African American historians pronounced my book the best of its type. And

more recently, when a colleague stated that over the years I've gotten more of our youth into science and engineering than any single individual in the country. Industry heard that one as you probably can tell by details of my more recent workshops and educational developments. In any case, I opt for the position declared by Isaac Newton, "Whatever I have accomplished, it was because I stood on the shoulders of giants."

And wasn't Mr. Frederick McKinley a giant? Had there been reams of pages I could have not only gone on and on about his refrigeration devices that transformed the world's eating habits, bringing fresh meats, fruits and vegetables to our tables wherever we might be and making them instantly available--but his enriching tens of thousands by adding hundreds of million in value to the lands of California, Florida and Texas growers and ranchers, not to mention the parallel development of banks, homes, freeways, malls, railroads, long haul truckers, warehouses, terminals, you name it. Better make that "hundreds of billions."

But guess what? When I wrote the "American Refrigeration Society" for information on this great man, a member of their organization whose seminal inventions had changed the nature of the modern world, it took months of prodding to get a reply. Back from New York came a single business-size envelop which contained one piece of paper; a photostat of his membership card, giving the date of his death and a crisp notation, "Owes \$25.00 membership dues."

Rule #1 of Banking

IF YOU REALLY NEED MONEY,

they won't give you any.

Rule #2 of Banking

IF YOU HAVE PLENTY OF MONEY ALREADY,

they'll be happy to lend you more.

Rule #3 of Banking

FIND A NEW BANK.

WHY DO BANKS SEND CHOIRS OF JINGLE SINGERS OVER THE AIRWAVES TO OFFER US LOANS. THEN TURN US DOWN FLAT?

Why do they hire benevolent Hollywood actors to remind us how much they care, then treat us like numbers?

Perhaps banks have gotten so big, they've forgotten what it's like to be small. What it's like to dream of starting a little business. Or buying a little house.

These are the very reasons Albina Community Bank is in business. And we are pretty sure we are unlike any other bank you've ever heard of (in part

because we're not singing it to you).

Unlike most larger banks, we don't have countless shareholders pressuring us simply for profits.

Our main shareholder is a community trust dedicated to rebuilding North and Northeast Portland.

We don't have gleaming glass-and-marble skyscrapers. Our office is small and modest, just like most of our customers.

And we don't have conference rooms filled with executives in exotic locales.

Our CEO is Leon C. Smith, a man who, you may be surprised, will be happy to meet with you in person.

Our mission is to help low- and middle-income families get the funds they need to rebuild our community.

And to aid in funding that mission, we offer a wide variety of checking and savings accounts. All FDIC insured.

To learn more, call us at 287-7537. Or stop by our office on NE Alberta.

Because not only are we a new bank. We're an entirely new kind of bank.



Albina Community Bank

1130 NE Alberta St., Portland OR 97211 (503) 287-7537
Member FDIC