

Historic preservations and urban tribulations

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

How do you locate 'African American Historic Places'?

No problem! Just get in a cab at the airport of almost any major city and tell the driver, "take me to City Center!"

Some would say, "surely, you jest?" and others' equally uncomprehending, would refer you to a particular publication of the National Trust For Historic preservation, 'African American Historic Places'. It is not the case that this 623 page, excellently designed guide doesn't live up to the promises of its front pieces: "The buildings, sites, districts, structures, and objects in this volume are among the 62,000 listed in the 'National Register of Historic Places' to date" (1994).

The National Trust describes its mission with enthusiasm: "...the only private, nonprofit organization chartered by Congress to encourage public participation in the 'preservation'

of sites, buildings and objects significant in American culture and history... an appreciation of the 'diverse' character of our American cultural heritage and preserves and revitalizes the livability of our communities by leading the nation in saving America's historic environments."

What you say! Lord, that sounds good, but there is a fundamental problem. This program, as well-meaning and as helpful as it is, was initiated in 1966 by Congress through the National Park Service (Dept. of the Interior). By that time, as you well know, president Lyndon Johnson's "Great Society, Model Cities and Urban Renewal (Removal) were gaining more momentum by the day. Across America, inner-cities better known then as "ghettos", the principal habitat of the nation's "Negroes" (sic), were being transformed into "City Centers."

As street cars and light rail disappeared -- along with key African

American economic and social structures (and much else worthy of preservation) -- the ubiquitous 'transit malls' were brought on stage to accommodate the long queues of noisy, smelly, gas-burning buses. As I recited here last month, access to a glorious, smog-free suburbia was implemented by applying acres of concrete to the hope, dreams and futures of millions of hyphenated Americans.

I will always remember a time at the university when my office was in the 'Urban Studies' building. The time was the early 1970's and I encountered a book which contained key passages that I remember to this day: "Urban Renewal: People Politics And Planning", Bellush and Hausenicht, Anchor Books ed., 1967. One particular passage had special significance for me since I had moved to Los Angeles during the critical years of urban "removal" in Portland -- returning to find a

concrete desert where nostalgia should have reigned.

"All individuals with in a community have the necessary prerequisites or resources for effective participation regardless of their location within the structure of the community. We intend to analyze the validity of this assumption, and then - to anticipate our conclusion-discuss some implications of the ideology of citizen participation for planners and the planning process."

I immediately thought, "are these folks serious, I've talked with dozens of old friends who were property owners (before the removal) and, because of my years of accounting experience quickly was able to determine that they were not paid anywhere near the true economic worth of their properties -- for the most part." And the same economic shortfall applied in the case of the African American property owners who were "urban renewed" by the Emanuel

Hospital project."

Here, and overly-ambitious, multi-layered development plan to be funded through the Federal "Taylor Act" was still-born -- instead of upscale high rise apartments and business opportunities which the displaced could not have afforded in any case, the city was left with acres of abandoned, drug culture-infected buildings and residences which resembled nothing so much as a war-torn area of Vietnam, of course, there was the same loss of tax revenues as occurred with the MLK/Union Ave. debacle.

Next week we will closely examine this concept of community participation (and leadership) -- real or fancied. And we will examine and earlier, long-term historical process of "urban renewal" that traditionally and deliberately has been ignored in this country. We refer to the extensive loss of very valuable, black-owned downtown real estate in Amer-

ica's major cities -- "take me to city center".

Several years ago I had an opportunity to review in this column a very important but hard to find book which is directly relevant to this phenomenon; E.G. Riching's "Evidence of Progress Among The Colored People." Published in 1908, it graphically (and proudly) documents the great economic strides made by African Americans in urban America by the turn of the century.

Last year, I was emphatically reminded of this 100 year-old 'renewal' process when I participated in Portland's "African American Building History project." This excellent and very important program was funded by that "National Trust for Historic Preservation", and competently administered by Ms Cathy Galbraith, executive director of Portland's Architectural Heritage Center."

Continued next week

Wells Fargo donates for development

Wells Fargo announced two major grants to non-profit community organizations at news conferences held in Eugene and Roseburg, both on Sept. 17.

The bank donated \$13,391 for English as a second language classes in Eugene, and gave \$20,000 to boost economic development in Douglas County.

Here are the details:

Eugene—The classes are the result of a partnership between St. Vincent de Paul Society, Centro Latino Americano, Lane Community College, Centro de Fe and the neighboring community. The free classes are offered three times a week year round during the day, even free childcare, snacks and transportation are provided.

In addition to English, class participants also learn basic life skills, including how to read bus schedules, how to interact with school administrators and teachers, how to write a check, how to use the telephone and how to read a utility bill.

The class schedule was created for Hispanic women who can not attend other local ESL classes that take place in the evening and have limited child care available, said Alysia Strand, St. Vincent de Paul

Society's Housing Programs coordinator.

"The Eugene and Springfield population is 5.6 percent Hispanic and of the adults in that group, 80 percent have difficulty reading and writing English," said Strand, quoting statistics from the Eugene/Springfield 1995 Consolidated Plan. "The majority of this 80 percent are females with children, who also have limited opportunities to practice speaking English."

The classes began recently with 18 Hispanic women participating, most of whom are from Eugene. Childcare is being provided to about 20 children through this program. Organizers anticipate that up to 60 women will eventually participate in the classes, which continue the rest of the year.

Roseburg—The \$20,000 grant was made to the non-profit Umpqua Community Development Corp. (CDC) for its Microloan Program. The program lends amounts of up to \$5,000 each to Douglas County entrepreneurs who have no other access to capital to start or expand a business.

"We support the Microloan Program because it does more than just make loans," said Bill Hubel, Wells Fargo Southern Oregon district man-

ager who is based in Medford. "This program also trains the loan recipient in the skills necessary to make the business a success and follows them through every step of the way until the new business can stand on its own."

Mike Foglia, Wells Fargo's retail banking senior vice president and market area manager, presented the check, along with Sutherlin Branch Manager Bob Lewis, who serves as the volunteer chair of the Umpqua CDC board of directors.

The CDC was formed in April 1991 to provide affordable housing and economic development opportunities for the families of Douglas County, Lewis explained.

The Microloan Program, created in 1994, was initially capitalized partly through a \$10,000 grant from First Interstate Bank and has assisted about eight area businesses to date.

Through its Charitable Contributions Program, Wells Fargo Bank seeks to invest in the communities in which it does business.

The company has committed to donating a total of \$300 million over the next 10 years to deserving community organizations in the 10 states in which it does business.

FDA approves new wound car dressing

AcryMed Inc., a medical device company specializing in advanced technology products for wound care management, has received clearance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to market and distribute AcryNoodles Absorbent Wound Dressing.

The company intends to release the product under the brand name AcryDerm Strands Absorbent Wound Dressing into the \$335 million moist wound dressing market within three months. AcryDerm Strands Absorbent Wound Dressing, covered by United States, New Zealand, and European (pending) patents, is a high exudate absorbent moist wound dressing that is intended for use in heavily exuding cavitated acute and chronic wounds.

The engineering of the product has incorporated the company's core technology which is also used in AcryDerm Sheet Advanced Wound Dressing, currently marketed in several geographic regions of the United States.

"Wounds encountered in the clinical environment have increasingly challenged healthcare professionals and manufacturers to develop innovative protocols and devices to return patients to health rapidly and in a cost effective manner," said AcryMed President and CEO Bruce Gibbins. "AcryDerm Strands Absorbent Wound Dressing, the company's second product to incorporate

our core technology, has been developed and cleared for market in response to that challenge."

AcryDerm Strands Absorbent Wound Dressing was designed specifically to aid in the treatment of cavitated wounds which have moderate to heavy exudate. Presented in a bound strand-like format, the dressing has the flexibility to be easily placed into a deep wound. Clinical studies have shown the dressing to effectively manage moderate to heavy exudate and to significantly enhance autolytic debridement while

providing patient comfort.

The dressing can be used effectively with a wide variety of wounds, including burns, abrasions, pressure ulcers, diabetic ulcers, arterial insufficiency ulcers and venous stasis ulcers.

AcryMed Inc. is a closely held medical device company that specializes in the development and distribution of sophisticated wound care products that can be used in all stages of wound care protocols in the professional hospital and alternate site healthcare markets.

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Voters react to Dole's attacks

Just as he feared, voters seem to be reacting badly to Republican Bob Dole's decision to denigrate President Bill Clinton's ethical standards, according to polling data and voter interviews.

Dole, who trails Clinton by a wide margin two weeks before the Nov. 5 election, hesitated for months before deciding to unleash the "character issue" because of concerns it might offend voters and reinforce his own image as a hatchet-man.

Since he went on the attack last week in a speech listing what he called a litany of Clinton's ethical transgressions, he has seen his position in the race erode even further. Two polls released on Tuesday put him more than 20 percentage points behind the Democratic president.

In a New York Times poll, 63 percent of respondents said Dole was spending more time attacking Clinton than explaining what he would do as president, a 13 point increase over those reporting the same unfavorable impression last week.

Only 19 percent thought Clinton was spending more time on attacks than policy explanations, even though his campaign has in fact run many negative advertisements about Dole.

Another survey by the Pew Research Centre earlier this month asked if Dole had been too personally critical of Clinton. Fifty three percent said he had, 40 percent said no.

Only 21 percent said Clinton had been too personally critical of Dole, while 70 percent disagreed.

Interviews with voters who took part in a Reuters survey showed even Republicans were turned off by Dole's tactics.

"Dole's campaign has been absolutely horrible," said Michael Williams, a recently retired oil company manager from Amarillo, Texas, who said he would nevertheless vote for the Republican nominee.

"He seems to be throwing mud, which is what the middle class is not looking for. They want specific answers to specific problems. I wouldn't be surprised if Dole loses by a landslide," Williams said.

Henry Engle, a dairy worker from Ewart, Michigan, said much the same, although he too plans to vote for Dole. "Dole's campaign has been quite negative. He has been extremely personal. I don't like the advertising I'm seeing," Engle said.

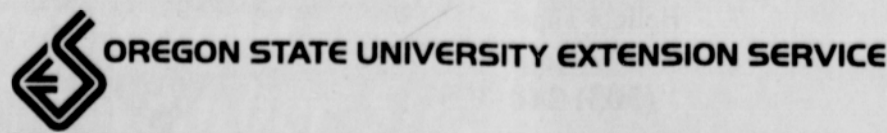
Warren Wise, a teacher from North Canton, Ohio, and another Dole backer, said the decision to go negative near the end of the campaign made it look as if he was panicking.

NOVEMBER

Garden hints from your OSU Extension Agent

- Put lime on western Oregon lawns.
- Check potatoes in storage and remove any going bad.
- *Western Oregon:* plant garlic for harvest next summer.
- *Western Oregon:* bait garden, flower beds for slugs during rainy periods.
- Fruit tree sanitation: to prevent possible spread of leaf diseases, rake and destroy leaves from trees that were diseased this year.
- Place mulch around berries for winter protection.
- Tie red raspberry canes to wires; prune to 1 foot above the top wire or wrap the canes around the top wire. Check for holes made by crown borers at base of plant, treat with registered insecticides if seen.
- *Western Oregon:* good time to transplant landscape trees and shrubs.
- Prune roses to "knee-high" to prevent winter wind damage.
- Still time to plant spring-flowering bulbs, but don't delay.
- Renew mulch around perennial flower beds after removing weeds.
- *Western Oregon:* Take cuttings of rhododendrons and camellias; propagate begonias from leaf cuttings.
- Place mulch of manure over dormant vegetable garden area. A 3- to 4-inch layer of leaves spread over the garden plot prevents soil compaction by rain.
- Cover rhubarb and asparagus beds with strawy manure.
- Plan erosion control; use mulches, fir boughs, etc., to prevent compaction from rain and from soil washing.
- Moss appearing in lawn means too much shade, poor drainage, low fertility, soil compaction, or thin stand of grass.
- Watch for wet soil and drainage problems in yard during heavy rains. Tiling, ditching are possible solutions.
- Rake and compost leaves that are free of diseases or insects.
- Provide winter protection to built-in sprinkler systems; drain the system, insulate the valve mechanisms.
- Reduce fertilizer applications to houseplants.
- Prepare lawnmower, other garden equipment for winter storage. Drain and store hoses carefully to avoid damage from freezing.
- Tie limbs of upright evergreens to prevent breakage by snow.
- Plant window garden of lettuce, chives, parsley.
- Plant shrubs and trees that supply food and shelter to birds, such as sumac, barberry, and holly.
- Clean and oil tools and equipment before storing for the winter.
- Give winter shelter to tender evergreens; protect from wind and from desiccation.
- Place a portable coldframe over rows of winter vegetables.
- After blooming, trim chrysanthemums down to 4-6 inches.

Recommendations in this calendar are not necessarily applicable to all areas and varying climates of Oregon. If you desire more information, contact your county office of the OSU Extension Service.



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