

**Focus**

A SUPPLEMENT OF

The  
Portland  
Observer

*Editor in Chief,  
Publisher*  
Charles H. Washington

*Editor*  
Larry J. Jackson, Sr.

*Copy Editor*  
Joy Ramos

*Business Manager*  
Gary Ann Taylor

*Creative Director*  
Robert Parker

4747 NE Martin Luther  
King, Jr., Blvd.  
Portland, OR 97211

503-288-0033  
Fax 503-288-0015

e-mail:  
thefocus@portlandobserver.com  
subscription@portlandobserver.com  
ads@portlandobserver.com

Deadlines for  
submitted material:

Articles: Friday by 5 P.M.  
Ads: Monday by Noon

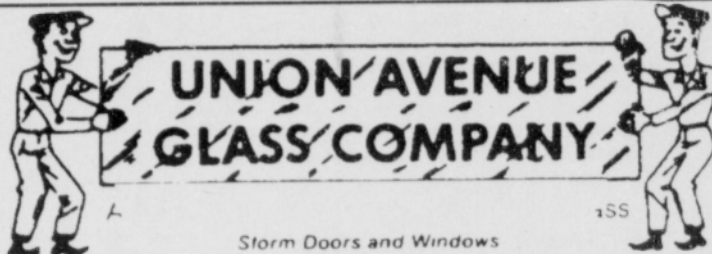
Focus welcomes freelance  
submissions. Manuscripts and  
photographs can be returned  
if accompanied by a self-  
addressed stamped envelope.

All created display ads  
become the sole property of  
the newspaper and cannot be  
used in other publications or  
personal usage without the  
written consent of the general  
manager, unless the client has  
purchased the composition of  
the ad.

1999 The Portland Observer

**Honoring Portland's  
Black History**

One hundred and fifty years ago, there were a little over three hundred African Americans living in Portland. By law, Oregon did not even allow blacks into this state until 1940. Through their hard work and perseverance despite discriminatory practices against them, blacks in Portland have made great strides. Please join us as we examine the proud path of this ever-developing African American community who have boldly changed the face of Portland's history.



Storm Doors and Windows  
All types of Plate and Window Glass  
Storm doors and Windows

**Honors  
Black History  
Month**

4709 NE MLK Jr. Blvd. Portland, Oregon 97211  
**LORRAINE HLAVINKA** Phone 249-5886  
Woman Owned Fax 249-1083

**Portland's Evolving  
African American  
Community**

BY RON WEBER FOR  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
**Union Station**

Portland's population of 2,800  
in 1860 grew to 17,600 in 1880 and

quintupled once again rising to  
90,000 by 1900. In 1870, only 346  
African Americans were counted in  
the city census. Many lived right on  
the edge of Portland's downtown



A black railroad brakeman sits in an ornately furnished car with his lantern on the floor. beside him. Many African American men at the turn of the century in Portland were Union Station laborers. (Courtesy of OHS)

**Gerald M. Chase  
Richard L. Weil  
CHASE & WEIL, LLP**

**Attorneys at Law  
722 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Suite 240  
Portland, OR 97204  
503-294-1414**

***Pays Tribute To Black  
History Month***

commercial center. The area was close to the Union Railroad Station on the West Side of the river in what today would be the lower northwest area. The railroad was known to specialize in African American labor. The Transcontinental Railroad was completed in 1869, opening scores of opportunities for black workers. George Pullman, owner of the Pullman Railroad Car Company used African American men almost exclusively as Red Caps (baggage handlers) and Pullman Porters. Many used their earned wages to buy homes and raise their families in the Union Station area. As Oregon had been called "a very prejudiced state" in the early 1900's, the concept of black people buying property in Portland often met with disfavor.

**North Broadway**

By the end of the century, there were just a little over one thousand African Americans in the city. Black citizens began to grow in what was now called "the North Broadway area," across the Willamette River