

school education than students living in the Jefferson or Vancouver high school districts.

Civil Rights Era and the Northwest

By the time young Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had things stirred up in the south, Portland had settled into a "generational transition." Children of the African American families who migrated here during the WWII hiring boom were now young adults themselves. *Cornerstones of Community*, a book on local African American history, speaks of the frustration of this new generation of blacks. They grew up here and were fed up with the continual racist behaviors of local white citizens. While King and his associates were working their way through the south, "mini-riots" were starting here in Northeast Portland. Black Muslim groups started to appear and a small Black Panther group was formed. A group known as the Black Berets also appeared on the scene. As the heat was turned on in the south, Portland's African Americans rallied and demonstrated "along side of King." Civil rights were not just an issue in the south. Portland and the Northwest would have to change too.

After the "King" Years

After Martin Luther King's death, African

American Christian churches and upcoming groups such as the Black United Front and Black United Fund would

Although words like *peace, integration, desegregation, equality, civil rights, and equal opportunity* all helped bring us

Saluting Black History Month

Linda and Lilian Sevier

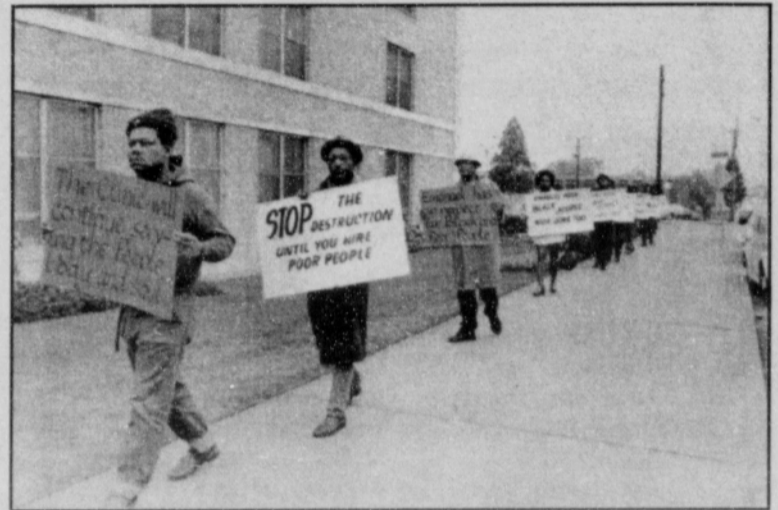
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Blacks protesting about equal job opportunity at Emanuel Hospital. (Courtesy of OHS)

struggle to keep the focus on Dr. King's non-violent and peaceful approach to solving problems. Violence and property destruction was minimal here in Portland as compared to the South, yet the frustration of African Americans was high and the message was the same.

The Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights were for the "freedom" of all people, not just whites.

closer together, we still have a long way to go.

By 1990, Portland's 33,530 African Americans would still find their center in North/Northeast Portland. Whites still fared better in the job market. Local colleges are still "far more white than black." A new phrase called "racial profiling" was talked about on the streets, in police departments and in the courtrooms.

Black History Month Events

Black Pioneers of the Oregon Country

Feb. - March 14

The End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center will feature the exhibit "Black Pioneers of the Oregon Country" which runs throughout February until March 14 in honor of Black History Month. The Pioneer Family of the Month exhibit is on the Hammer Family. In the Willamette Trades & Craft Workshop hands-on activities, presenters will focus on medicine, sewing and toys. Visitors can see old medical instruments and salves and can practice making old fashioned splints. The End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is located at 1726 Washington St. in Oregon City. Call

503/657-9336, ext. 0. Their website address is www.endoftheoregontrail.org.

Northwest Afrikan American Ballet Saturday, Feb. 10

There is probably no other concert in Portland that has the passion, intensity and vibrancy of the Heritage Concert, nor the audience participation, interaction and enthusiasm. The 6th annual Heritage Concert will be performed on Saturday, Feb. 10 at 8 p.m. at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall at Southwest Broadway and Main St. For more information, call 503/287-8852.

African American Poetry Saturday, Feb. 10

Barnes & Noble is celebrating Black History Month by offering readings from two authors: J. Patrick Lewis who wrote *Freedom Like Sunlight*



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