

Having Coffee and Dessert the *Old Fashioned Way*

By WYNDE DYER

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Anita Smith was born and raised in northeast Portland. She watched the neighborhood change from the African-American cultural hub to what it is now. One day she decided to stop watching and take part in the change.

It was time to represent her roots.

"I got sick of going into these coffee shops and seeing the same old bagels and scones," Smith said. "I mean, can't a sister get some peach cobbler or poundcake anywhere these days?"

Smith said she wanted to give back to the neighborhood - and to herself. Her

Anita Smith, the owner and president of Hannah Bea's Poundcake and More. She was tired of seeing the same old bagels and scones in northeast Portland coffee shops and commented, "Can't a sister get some cobbler or pound cake with her coffee."

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THE PORTLAND
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We would like to celebrate
Minority Enterprise
Development Week

I thank

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by acknowledging the of the many agencies and companies, that include
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you

for entrusting us with their goals to develop opportunities and provide superior capability, building services to Minority and Women businesses in the Portland Metropolitan area. You have raised the bar for others to follow and meet your leadership standard.

We thank both our clients and the DMWESB businesses for their hard work, and for being "Good Business" partners and We make a commitment to continue to work with you and the many leading edge business organizations like OAME, and the minority chambers to achieve greater success, and to continue providing superior quality services in the coming year.

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parents came to Portland from Texas in her 20s and told all their friends back home to come out west. Portland was a good place to make a good living. Hard work paid off in Portland, they said. Smith wanted to follow their example, so she opened up Hannah Bea's Poundcake and More. The espresso, sandwich and dessert shop located at 3969 NE MLK Jr. Blvd was the realization of a lifelong dream for Smith.

"I wanted to have a place of my own," Smith said. "I wanted a place with my music, my culture, my food and my

way."

But getting her way was never easy and all good things take time, Smith said.

I wanted to have a place of my own. I wanted a place with my music, my culture, my food and my way.

—Anita Smith, the owner and president of Hannah Bea's

At first, she sold homemade pound cake to her coworkers at Nordstroms. Cus-

tomers started to ask about the good looking desserts behind the cosmetics counter. Her poundcake clientele provided additional income for the single mother but when she didn't get a much deserved raise, Smith decided it was time to refocus her career goals.

She started to sell her desserts at Saturday Market and she established contracts with Marsee Bakeries and Embassy Suites. But things weren't working out the way Smith planned. She wanted to be more hands on with her

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The Rise of Ampere Electric

By SEAN P. NELSON,
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

What kind of advice can Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs Board of Directors Member and Ampere Electric Co. founder Ed Wilson give African-American contractors about success in the construction and electrical trades in today's tough economic climate?

He would like to see more African-Americans enter the construction and electrician trades. Many think minorities like them just can't do it.

"They can do it if they think they can. It's doable," he said.

Wilson, 53, founded Ampere Electric, a subsidiary of Soledad Electric, located at 7500 SE. Division, in 1992 and has built it from a shoestring subcontracting operation to taking on such projects as the lighting for PGE Park and the Interstate Max line.

Other projects his company has done include the lighting in front of the NIKE building in Northeast Portland; street lighting from Northeast Fremont to Shaver on MLK Jr. Blvd. and on Killingsworth, inside Emmanuel Temple Church; the Fourth Floor of the Portland Building in southwest Portland; the lobby lights in the Edith Green Federal Building downtown; and lighting at 23 parks around Portland.

Wilson started out working for the Maintenance Division of the Oregon Highway Department and attending night school at Portland Community College. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Technology in 1982. He then left the highway department and used his 401K to start Ampere Electric. After working as a journeyman electrician for 4 years, he took and passed his examination to obtain his Supervisor's License in 1993.

His sister Jacqueline Cook, 54, shuttles three weeks on and three weeks off from Berkeley, Calif. to Portland to serve as his accountant. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in

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