

# Black History Month



Henry McNeal Turner is remembered mostly as one of the first Bishops in the African American Episcopal Church, yet he was also a political organizer and college chancellor.

## Black Churches Thrived in Early Portland

continued ▲ from Metro

bought the Japanese Mission Building on 10th between Davis and Everett. The church remained there until 1916 when a new building was built on North Larrabee and McMillen streets.

A fourth church, The Mount Olivet Baptist Church was established in Portland during the 1890's after which it moved to the northeast side of town on First and Schuyler.

In a bizarre move, a local branch of the KKK donated the lumber for the church. Some felt the Klan wanted to get the church out of the downtown area where white churches were continuing to spring up.

In 1879, a Portland group of religious blacks felt they were far better off than those in the deep South and began encouraging others to move here. They formed the Portland Colored Immigration Society and provided temporary housing

for newcomers to the area.

Although numerous social clubs, political clubs and fraternal organizations were formed, many did not last due to members struggling to find work, housing and vital services or support important to their survival as a black person in a racist city.

One of the groups that became very successful was the New Port Republican Club. The group was influential enough to secure employment for a church-going black man named George Hardin, as a Portland Police Officer in 1894.

A century and two World Wars later, huge progress had been made in terms of Portland's black churches. A look in the current city directory will show more than a

thousand churches in the greater Portland area, many of which are African American in origin. Churches all over Oregon today welcome blacks, whites, Asians, Hispanics, Native Americans and

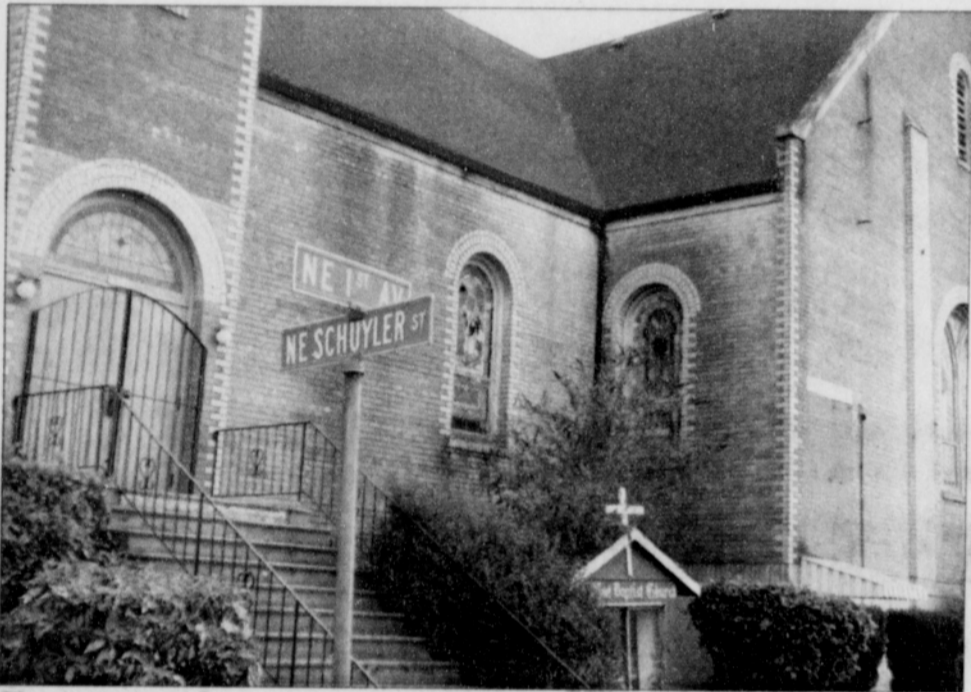
those of all races, creeds and colors. Within the churches and schools, there is no doubt more celebrated diversity than any other place in society today.

This is truly a much more wel-

comed sight than it was in the 18th and early 19th centuries. Seeing progress like this gives hope that the United States will never go back to where it was in terms of racism and prejudice in this country.



George Hardin was hired as a Portland police officer in 1894 with influence from the New Port Republican Club. Early African Americans relied on a networking system of churches, social clubs, political clubs and fraternal organizations to survive in a racist city.



The old Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, the longest surviving African American church in Portland, stands on Northeast First and Schuyler. Several years ago the congregation moved to a new location in north Portland.

## Photo Exhibit Shows 'Love in Our Times'



"Dancing Towards Liberation," (left) a 1953 photo by Griffin Jerome Davis and "One Love," a 1998 photo by Aida Muluneh (below), are among the works by African American artists on display this month at the downtown Nordstrom store.



In celebration of Black History Month, the downtown Portland Nordstrom is showcasing the works of renowned and up and coming African-American photographers in a premiere exhibit called "Love Now," an interpretation of love in our times.

The exhibit is a public tribute to the art and talent of black professional photographers, and to honor the contributions that African-Americans have made to society as a whole. The exhibit will be displayed the entire month of February.

"We are excited and honored to feature the work of these talented photographers," said Delena Sunday, a Nordstrom spokesperson. "The photographs are truly a celebration of life and the richness diversity brings to our communities."

BECAUSE  
CHOCOLATE,  
LIKE YOUR HEART,  
MELTS.



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY.

© 2003 P&G

© 2003 Bank of America Corporation.

THE SIT-IN.

THE BOYCOTT.

THE MARCH.

THE FREEDOM RIDE.

THE PICKET LINE.

THE WALLET.

You control one of the most powerful tools for change there is. We can help you strengthen it.  
Bank of America is proud to salute Black History Month.

Bank of America