

Meek Future in Doubt

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"We know our kids, this is like a family," said Lucia Scoggin, a fifth and sixth grade teacher at Meek. "I think you get a better picture of each kid. You know what their situations are. The more you know about your students the more you can help them."

She points to the schools impressive record of reaching academic benchmarks and does not see the point in sending 150 students to a school that is in crisis. "Why send them to an under

performing school?" Scoggin said.

The school had been performing well and teachers and administrators were working on a school improvement plan for next year when news of the potential closure arrived.

Jackie Wallace has three children enrolled at Meek. She told Jim Scherzinger and Bettencourt that the funding crisis is forcing parents to move out of the district.

"We have no choice," she said. "If we stay, we're going to punish their education."

Black History Month



Charles Drew

perfected the techniques for separating and preserving blood. His techniques helped save thousands of American and Allied soldiers' lives during the Second World War.

Vigil to Memorialize Shooting Death



Byron Hammick Jr.

A candle light vigil is planned in memory of the man shot and killed by Portland police during a disturbance last February at the Motel 6 on Southeast Powell.

Byron C. Hammick Sr. and Lynnetta Jones, the parents of Byron C. "Bumpper" Hammick Jr. said they would love to have the support of the community during a peaceful memorial at the motel on Saturday at 5:30 p.m. The motel is located at 3104 S.E. Powell.

The memorial will mark the one-year anniversary of their son's death.

Ku Klux Klan Foraged Deep Roots in Oregon

Early residents bore witness to lynching, murder and intimidation

BY RON WEBBER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Black people have lived under discriminatory conditions for most of Oregon's history as well as in the rest of the nation.

In the past, social discrimination was common; black people were regularly refused admission to restaurants, theaters and hotels. Medical care was difficult to obtain, unions barred blacks from membership, employment practices confined them to certain jobs and integrated housing was resisted.

Passing a state public accommodations law to make discrimination illegal was a long and difficult struggle. It began in 1919 and despite repeated attempts was not successful until 1953. When an early Oregonian was asked what it was like living in Oregon, his response was simple and direct:

"Oregon was a Klan state... a southern state transplanted to the North... a hell-hole when I grew up. It has always been a very prejudiced state. It is today, believe it or not. There's a lot of prejudice even



The former Williams Avenue YWCA was managed by black women and became a community center. It was built in 1926 despite an effort by white racists to stop the project because they didn't want black people to build on the site. During its early years, the YWCA had classes in Spanish, sewing, hat making, Bible studies, exhibits featuring black artists and activities celebrating black history.

now, as far as that is concerned, but nothing like it used to be."

Shortly after the 1915 release of "Birth of a Nation," The Ku Klux Klan was reorganized. The movie was based on a novel, "The Clans-

man: A Historical Romance of the Ku Klux Klan," written by Thomas Dixon. By 1916, the film had worked its way to Portland.

For the next two decades "Birth of a Nation" would be shown,

banned and shown again. In 1931, the American Legion brought the film to Portland as part of a fundraiser. Sound had now been

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