

Offer Saves Northeast Recreation Site

YMCA turns center over to neighborhood

The Northeast YMCA will change its name and ownership but continue operating as a community center and health club.

The YMCA of Columbia-Willamette Board of Trustees has accepted an offer to purchase the facility at Northeast 38th Avenue and Broadway. Dan Dolan, president of A-Boy Supply Co. submitted the offer and intends to lease the facility to a group of people who are Northeast Family YMCA members.

The group will take over operations on Feb. 1, as the Northeast Community Center, a non-profit health and fitness center.

"We wish them success and will work together to make this transi-



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
The Northeast YMCA has decided to sell its longtime facility on Northeast 38th and Broadway to a group who will maintain the structure as a community resource and non-profit health and fitness center.

tion as smooth as possible," stated Bob Hall, local YMCA president and chief executive officer. "Our board moved swiftly on this decision to ensure no interruption in service for the new owners, the community and any of our members who choose to stay with this facility. I am thrilled that we found a very positive solution which will preserve this northeast community resource."

Plans call for programs currently available at the facility to be offered by the new center. Programming, activities, and services will be expanded to attract new members. The Northeast Community Center has immediate plans to launch a membership drive.

The YMCA announced last month that it could no longer afford to own and operate the center. The organization will continue its presence in northeast Portland with childcare services, teen programs and youth sports.

Jefferson Neighborhood Meeting

Participate in planning the future for your neighborhood school at a Parent and Community Meeting for the Jefferson neighborhood.

The meeting, on Thursday, Jan. 20 from 6 to 8 p.m., is an opportunity to meet your neighbors and learn about exciting opportunities that Jefferson is offering students. It is also a good opportunity to meet the district's new superintendent, Dr. Vicki Phillips.

The meeting is at the Jefferson Campus auditorium, 5210 N. Kerby St. Child care and refreshments are provided.

Exhibit Illuminates Vanport, Shipyards

African Americans helped power WWII

A new exhibit titled "The Shipyard Workers of World War II: Labor and Art," will be on display in the Central Library's Collins Gallery through Feb. 14. The gallery is located on the third floor of Central Library, 801 S.W. 10th Ave. Admission is free.

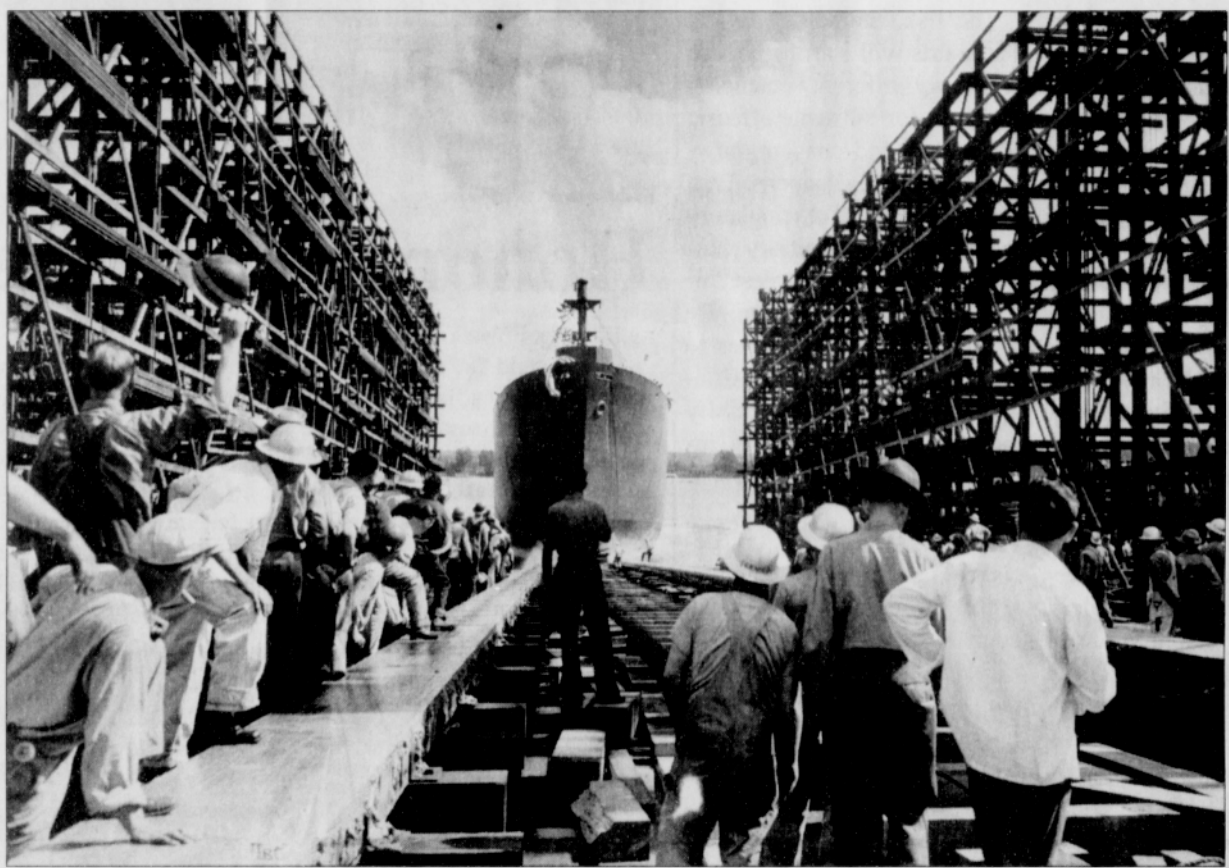
Presented by the Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission and cooperation with Kaiser Permanente, the exhibit includes rare artifacts, historic photographs, paintings, ship manuals, books, and ephemera that focus on the story of the three World War II shipyards operated by the Kaiser Company in the Portland-Vancouver area.

Work provided by the shipyards was responsible for bringing many African Americans to the Portland area. "The Shipyard Workers: Labor

and Art" examines the role of the home front workforce, its impact on population, housing and schools, and the decisive role it played in shaping the metro area we live in today.

In addition to the exhibit, the new book "Waging War on the Home Front: An Illustrated Memoir of World War II" will be available for purchase. Written by Chauncey Del French and edited by Lois Mack and Ted Van Arsdol (Oregon State University Press, 2004), the book is a compelling first-hand account of how the war changed the lives of those at home and features 150 full-color illustrations augmenting the shipyard stories.

For more information, visit www.multcolib.org/events/collins or call 503-988-5469.



This historic photo of workers at the Kaiser Shipyards is on display at the Central Library in an exhibit dedicated to labor and art.

Medal Sought for War Hero



The Links, Inc., an African-American group with local members is trying to get national recognition paid to World War II hero Dorie "Dorie" Miller.

Dorie Miller saved many lives

The Links, Inc., an African-American service organization, with more than 10,000 members across the world, including Oregon, are joining forces with U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas and other state and federal legislators, to gain national recognition for WWII hero, Dorie "Dorie" Miller.

Many legislators have been working diligently for many years to have the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously awarded to this deserving hero. On May 20, Congresswoman Johnson introduced a bill, H.R. 4445 toward this objective.

In 1939, at the age of 20, Dorie Miller, a native of Waco, Texas enlisted in the Navy as a Mess Attendant. This was one of the few positions available to African-American sailors while serving in the segregated military.

On the fateful day of Dec. 7, 1941, Miller was collecting laundry when

his ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft, and as a result, the captain of his ship, the USS West Virginia, was hit in the stomach with shrapnel. As the captain lay in a pool of blood, Miller dragged him to a place of greater safety. As the ship continued to be bombarded with artillery, Miller

Ironically, the captain of the USS West Virginia, who Miller had moved to safety, was the only naval personnel from the USS West Virginia to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor.

manned a machine gun, with which he had no prior training, and was able to shoot down at least three of the 29 Japanese planes that were lost by the attackers that day.

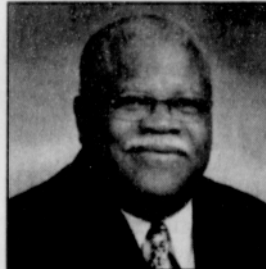
Dorie Miller continued to serve his country in the Navy during World War II. However, in 1943, he

and 654 shipmates were killed in the line of duty when Japanese sank the aircraft carrier USS Liscome Bay on Gilbert Islands, the ship that Miller served on after being transferred from the USS West Virginia.

Ironically, the captain of the USS West Virginia, who Dorie had moved to safety, was the only naval personnel from the USS West Virginia to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. Based upon Dorie's significant acts of heroism, given his military classification, for Miller to not only attempt to save his captain, who was incapacitated, but to instinctively attempt to save other lives, deserves the Medal of Honor.

It is the goal of The Links, Inc., to collect 1,000,000 signatures in an attempt to encourage legislators to posthumously award Miller, the first African-American naval personnel of World War II, Congressional Medal of Honor.

Betty Cabine, the president of the Portland Links chapter is asking members of this community to respond positively when contacted or approached, to support this worthwhile and long overdue national recognition for a fallen hero.



Social Security Reform:

Don't Forget the Unfair Rules Hurting Hundreds of Thousands of Educators

By Reg Weaver, President, National Education Association

Amid the Social Security reform talk of impending shortfalls, investment yields and transitional costs, it's easy to forget that retirement policy affects real people. For example, it has seriously affected Janice Quas, a woman who went to her high school prom in the late 1960s while her boyfriend went to Vietnam.

"But it's okay, because he came back alive," she says of the man who became her husband and father of their three children. After working as a stay-at-home mother, the two of them both decided to go back to school, and Janice became a teacher at age 38. She still teaches second grade today in Illinois.

Her husband recently passed away, leaving Janice heartbroken to lose her high school sweetheart. Her voice gets hard when she talks about the unfair discovery she made after his death.

"I found out that since I became a teacher, and pay into the state retirement system as a public employee, I am no longer entitled to all of my husband's Social Security benefits."

What Quas is experiencing as a widow and teacher is felt by millions of public employees all over the country.

The reason: arcane provisions in the Social Security law titled the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Program (WEP). These laws were originally put in place to keep high-paid public officials and their spouses from "double dipping" by receiving the full benefits of both the national Social Security and state-backed pension programs that cover public employees in about half of the states. In practice, however, they have had the effect of denying lower-paid public servants the benefits they or their spouses have earned. For example, mid-career professionals moving from the private sector are dismayed to learn that becoming a teacher will mean the loss of Social Security they earned in their previous career.

As the President of the nation's largest teachers union, the National Education Association, I join Quas and millions of others who've dedicated their lives to working with children in asking the Administration and members of Congress to change the law so America's educators can receive the Social Security benefits that they deserve. Even before we consider any major overhaul of the Social Security system, simple fairness dictates that we fix this anomaly that punishes people for choosing careers in public service.



NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
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Great Public Schools for Every Child
NEA's 2.7 million members are the nation's leading advocates for children and public education