

# Pauline Bradford: *Albina Pioneer*

*continued from Front*

means the last. As in other cities, real estate agents made money by playing the races off against each other.

"There was a mass exodus by whites," Bradford recalls. "They were told their property values would go down - and then the houses were sold to blacks at inflated prices. Some older whites

stayed until they died, but then they were always replaced by people of color."

She said some homes fell into the hands of speculators who "never did repairs. They knew people would rent them no matter what because they couldn't go anywhere else."

The Bradfords' experienced more discrimination when they tried to get a mortgage from First Inter-

state Bank. They could buy a house in the suburbs, they were told, but the bank would not lend them money on their Albina home, despite having a good credit rating and a savings account in the bank.

To add insult to injury, after they refinanced their home through Benjamin Franklin Savings and Loan and took a cashier's check to First Interstate to cash, they were asked, "Is this check any good?"

Across the street from the Bradford home was the Farmer's Dairy, now known as the Standard Dairy complex housing Billy Reed's Restaurant. At that time it was a working plant where employees reported at 4 a.m., and not quietly. "You adapted to the noise and whatnot," Bradford says. "It was part of the neighborhood."

Union Avenue (now Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard) was a vibrant, busy place with banks, department stores, insurance offices, barbers, a five and dime, all served by an electric streetcar. The Egyptian Theater was in operation, as was the Palmer Bakery in what is now the Bardy Trophy building at Northeast Brazee Street.

Things changed with urban renewal and the removal of commu-

She later got a job with the Department of Agriculture when it was discovered they'd been bypassing civil service candidates and using temporary workers for permanent jobs. She worked part-time, while raising her three children, in the old federal courthouse on southwest Broadway.


In 1964, taking advantage of newly-available programs, she began going to class part-time at Portland State University, eventually graduating in 1970. She relinquished years of seniority and the pay that went with it to start a second career, teaching at Peninsula School until she retired in 1989.

All that was merely her professional career. Since 1945, she has been active in Immaculate Heart Catholic Church ("My children


member, a member and chair of the land use committee, delegate to the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods where she served a term as chair.

These days, she says, the neighborhood "has improved, but there are also a lot of problems." One she sees is new people moving in who have no sense of history or understanding of the people who lived here before.

She is upset, for instance, when newcomers speak disparagingly of what has been done to older houses. They may sneer at the artificial siding that covers some structures, but "without it the houses probably wouldn't have survived this long. People lowered their ceilings to cut their heating bills, and redid woodwork and put in linoleum because it



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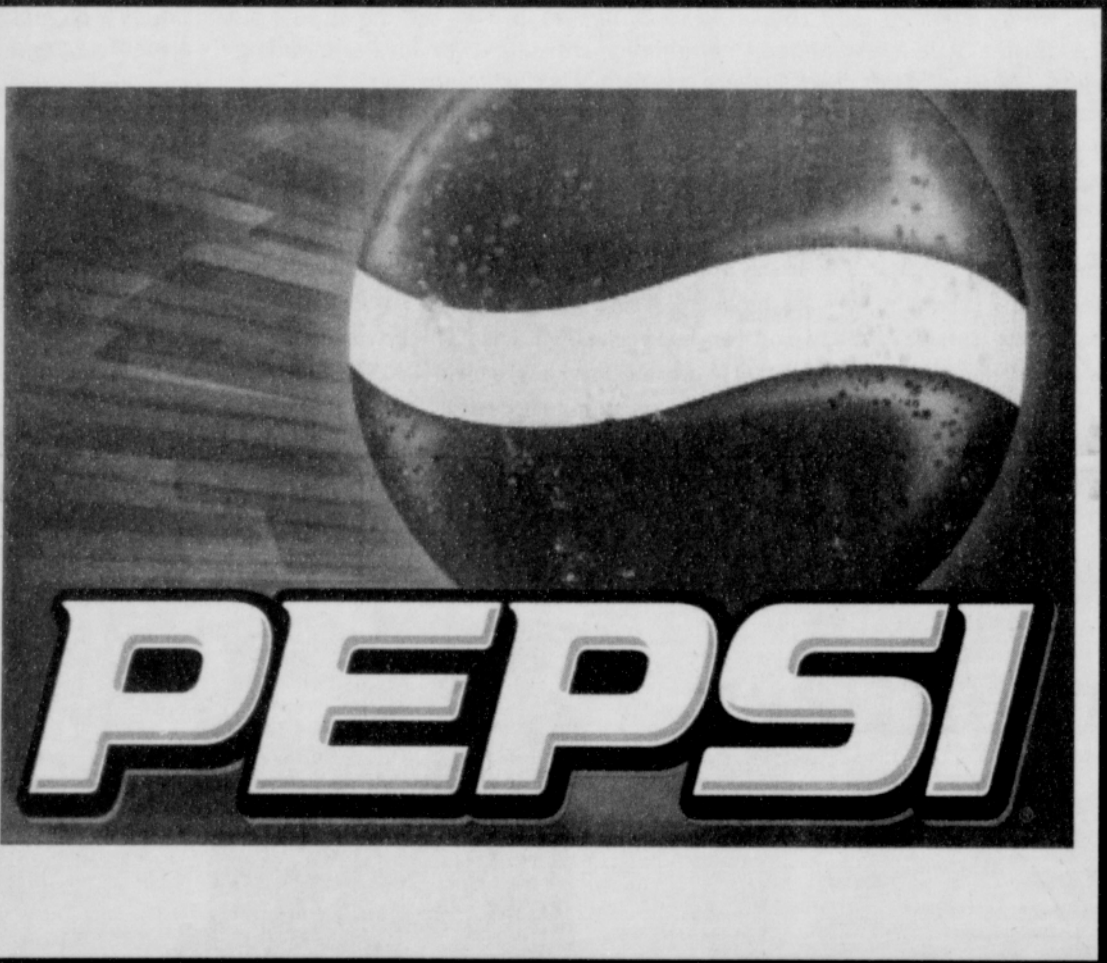


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*Some people who have moved here recently don't have a sense of the history of this place. It's okay that they don't, but they should be aware of what came before before making judgments.*

- Pauline Bradford, longtime Portland resident and community leader.

nity housing, at Memorial Coliseum, the I-5 Freeway, and the aborted Emmanuel Hospital expansion. The loss of housing and local customer base caused local businesses to wither and die.

In 1979, the Bradfords' moved to Northeast First Avenue, immediately south of her aunt's old house. It was the only suitable one-story house she could find that was available, she says, and because of its location it was "like coming home." At that time, nearby Northeast Broadway contained mostly small local businesses. Much of the character of the neighborhood was gradually pushed aside by car dealerships.

Meanwhile, with John working at the Post Office, Pauline at first did "a little of everything" - including work as a waitress, as a maid at Emmanuel Hospital, and later as a clerical worker for the Internal Revenue Service.

went there, so naturally I was involved in the PTA, fundraising, the whole bit."). She was also active in the NAACP, Urban League of Portland, and the Harriet Tubman Club of the Oregon Association of Colored Women's Clubs, the oldest African-American women's organization in the U.S.

She rose to president of the club's Northwest Region, and was responsible for bringing the group's national conference to Portland. She is a member of the Alpha Delta Kappa sorority, and a past officer of Delta Sigma Theta.

Also, since the mid-1980s — she can't remember just when — Bradford has been active in the Eliot Neighborhood Association.

As with many others, an issue drew her in: a proposal to put a school for delinquent youth on Williams, which she considered a very bad idea. Unlike many others, she stayed on, serving as a board

was easier to keep clean. It's a matter of style. There should be more acceptance of different cultures.

"Because money wasn't available for improvements because of (financial) red lining, people here did things for themselves. Now, because of our work to eliminate red lining, newcomers are able to take advantage of that."

As for complaints about noise generated by some businesses, "That's the price you pay for an urban setting. Increased density, bringing people closer together, will bring its own problems. Some people who have moved here recently don't have a sense of the history of this place. It's okay that they don't, but they should be aware of what came before before making judgments."

Fortunately, the neighborhood has Pauline Bradford to advise it on such things and hopefully will have for many years to come.

## Celebrating 223 Years of Life



A birthday dinner party was held on Saturday at the China Moon Buffet on Southwest Macadam Boulevard in honor of Althea Rosetta Rand-Harden of Portland, Jeanetta Harden-Lauderdale of Williamsburg, Va., and Herman H. Harden Sr. of Portland.

Family members, close friends and out-of-town guests came out to celebrate the trio: a mother at 84, daughter at 63 and son at 56. Mrs. Lauderdale's daughter, Felicia Lauderdale-Jones and son-in-law Robert V. Jones of Williamsburg, Virginia, hosted the event and a good time was had by all.

*Herman H. Harden Sr. and his sister Jeanetta Harden-Lauderdale (from left) and their mother Althea Rosetta Rand-Harden (right) all celebrated their birthdays together during a family reunion last week.*

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## School Cuts Draw Massive Protest

(AP) — A massive crowd of parents, students and teachers from around Oregon traveled to the state Capitol in Salem on Monday to protest state funding cuts for local schools.

The education boosters decried Gov. Ted Kulongoski's \$5 billion funding proposal as inadequate to prevent larger class sizes and a shorter school year in some places.

Organizers said the rally drew more than 2,000 people to the front steps of the Capitol, although Rusty

Wolfe, a state police trooper assigned to the Capitol, said he thought the number was closer to 1,000.

Various speakers said it will take a sustained lobbying effort to persuade legislators to boost the amount of state aid to schools.

Other speakers called on the Oregon Lottery Commission to increase money available for school support by slashing the rates bars and taverns are paid to offer video games. Democrat Kulongoski, in issu-

ing his \$5 billion proposal for schools, said the state must live within existing tax revenue.

Republican House Speaker Karen Minnis said Monday that Oregon voters' rejection of two tax increase proposals in the past two years has made it clear that people want government to live within its means.

"If we give more money to schools, it means you have to take it from somewhere else in the budget. Where's it going to come from?" the Wood Village Republicans said.