

BLACK HISTORY MONTH *and the American Experience*

Finding Rewards in Old Town

continued ▲ from Front

Still, Thomas has found a way to balance his outreach with some business and keep his entrepreneurial instincts sharp. He devotes one day a week to his business-consulting firm WP&C Services, Inc. He also has developed a partnership between five churches including his own, NE Community Fellowship.

Thomas is also involved with the Office of Neighborhood Involvement and the Portland Police Bureau, working to identify a group of familiar faces that cycle through the police department and the mission. The bureau brainstormed strategies to end the cycle of these repeat offenders, dubbing them "Old Town's 35 Most Wanted."

Thomas has earned the trust of many offenders by simply talking with them, offering them food and clothing. He said he purposely leaves out the Bible lessons and hellfire sermons, focusing instead on "grace-based" ministry.

If we can minister to them in their brokenness, he said, they'll know who is there to help them when no one else will.

In his partnership with staff and volunteers, Thomas has realized that addiction doesn't discriminate based on class. After encountering addiction and grief in his own community, he earned certifications in addictions counseling.

He plans to start a Genesis Process program that he says will help others in the community and churches tackle the spiritual, emotional, physical and mental aspects of people's lives, whatever the addiction.

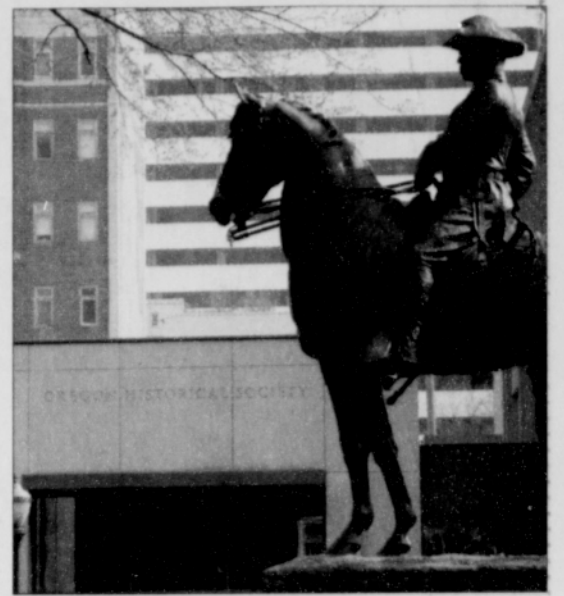
"People don't realize that even healthy people have lingering addictions," he said. "My vision is to take what we're teaching in the program and offer it to our communities and churches who need healing."



PHOTO BY ISAIAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Portland Rescue Mission plays an important role in Old Town, a major hub for the city's homeless.

The Oregon Historical Society sits along the downtown Parks Blocks. Inside, it's not difficult to spend a day exploring the exhibits or researching archives. Local history can also be explored by visiting much of the museum's collection online at www.OHS.org.

PHOTO BY ISAIAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Where Black History Never Ends

continued ▲ from Front

community, and environment. Creator William Toll "examines the tensions between social classes and ethnic groups, and the subsequent emergence of residential patterns and a government."

A section titled Focus on Oregon History "provides teachers, students, and the general public a sense of the diverse people and events that comprise the history of Oregon."

The African American History Page is an excellent place to explore the experience of the state's first black citizens.

The collection begins in Oregon's younger days, painting a bleak picture of racial injustice on account of early settlers. Subsequently, the site celebrates an emerging African American community who knew they must earn basic rights before gaining community respect.

Beatrice Morrow Cannady (1890-1974) was among the state's early, brave African American arrivers.

Information about Asian Pacific history follows the first large group of Chinese immigrants to arrive in the Pacific Northwest in the early 1850s.

A focus on women's history in Oregon features Abigail Scott Duniway, sister to *Daily Oregonian* editor Harvey Scott. Duniway was a novelist, newspaper publisher, teacher, pioneer, milliner, and suffragist.

OHS also has a bilingual exhibit, *Our Ways: History and Culture of Mexicans in Oregon*. The site documents the Mexican presence in Oregon, dating back to the Spanish explorers of the 1600s.

OHS is located at 1200 S.E. Park Ave. For more information call 503-222-1741.

"Advancing medical research and creating new jobs in Eugene."



PROJECT N° 30,149

Julia Walls, Research & Development Program Manager, Invitrogen

Lane County Eugene, Oregon, might not be the first place people think of when they think biotech, but it is becoming an important link in the chain of scientific discovery thanks to the arrival of Invitrogen. A leading producer of products and services to advance medical research, Invitrogen has been involved in some of the most significant scientific breakthroughs of the last two decades, including completion of the Human Genome Project and advancements in cancer treatment. They expanded their operations to Eugene in 2003 when they purchased Molecular Probes, a pioneer in fluorescent imaging. Invitrogen was

attracted to Eugene by the reputation and expertise of Molecular Probes. A Lottery funded grant helped convince them to stay and grow the business there. Ultimately, Invitrogen will invest \$15 million in Lane County and create 65 new jobs as they continue to work to fulfill their mission to improve the human condition through innovations in science and technology. The Invitrogen grant is just one of thousands of projects funded by Lottery profits. Since 1985 more than \$4.2 billion in Lottery profits has gone to economic development, education, parks and watershed enhancement across the state. itdoesgoodthings.org



It does good things™