

'Reflections' Anchors Northeast Marketplace

Going with the flow in a changing neighborhood

BY RON WEBER

When not running one of her successful business, Gloria McMurtry is restless. For many years she filled her days off with jogging, 10k runs, hiking, skiing, camping and an occasional marathon. Today, her favorite hobbies are gardening and reading. She exercises her mind, just the way she always had exercised her body. Being trim and fit both physically and mentally is paramount to keep up her busy schedule.

Growing up a black child in mid-20th century Detroit was not an easy task, especially if you were female. But Gloria took it all in stride. An extremely independent young woman, she started helping her father in his construction business. Later she would own her own businesses, an incredible accomplishment for an African-American woman in the volatile Civil Rights Era.

McMurtry's first successful enterprise was a home construction business that remodeled interiors. As far back as the post World War II period, she re-

members watching her dad remodel homes. As many homes in those days came with unfinished basements, her dad specialized in that area. Her interest in the decoration field complimented her father's business. With a college degree in Interior Design, she would transform a bare basement or any other unfinished room in the house. The end result was an elegant design that complemented any part of the home or upgraded the entire house.

While living in Detroit, Gloria had two brothers and one sister. Her parents were first generation transplants from the South. As a young girl, she has found memories of spending her summers with aunts and uncles in Arkansas or Mississippi. She and her siblings would ride the train down and then at the end of the summer her father would drive them from Detroit and bring them all home in the car.

Not one to follow the footsteps of traditional mid 20th century women, Gloria also spent a number a years working sales



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Gloria McMurtry established the first business in the newly built Walnut Business Center, the former Fred Meyer location at the corner of Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Killingsworth Street.

for the Mobile Oil in the 1970s and early 1980s. This was an extremely daunting task for a

female during this period, but was almost impossible if you were a black woman. How-

ever, Gloria did not let this stereotyping bother her. She loved the job and was good at it.

continued on page B10

in Print
diversity

Participate in Democracy **Vote**
 Return your ballot by mail or bring it off at any designated voter site. Call 1-866-673-6683 to find a location near you.

The Portland Observer
 Published in 1970
 www.portlandobserver.com

Election Ballots On Way
 People of color find a political fit

& On the Web
www.portlandobserver.com

As it quickly becomes more and more an electronic world, The Portland Observer endeavors to meet the needs of our readers and advertisers by going online.

To contact **The Portland Observer** Call 503-288-0033 ads@portlandobserver.com

BLACK UNITED FUND OF OREGON

2828 NE Alberta Street
 Telephone (503) 282-7973
 Fax (503) 282-3482
 Web address: www.bufor.org

"WHERE EVERY PERSON MATTERS AND EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS"

SALUTES MINORITY BUSINESS WEEK

Please remember us in your company's Employee Giving Campaign!

For Country. **For Community.** **For You.**

Be known as one of 'America's Finest.' Become an FBI Special Agent.

FBI at work in the community
 Today's FBI demands that we become more diverse and we are working harder than ever to be inclusive — for all people, regardless of color, race, religion, national origin, political affiliation, marital status, disability, age, sex, or sexual orientation. To this end, we are redoubling our diversity efforts within the FBI and externally with such organizations as Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Race Against Drugs, the League of United Latin American Citizens, and the NAACP. Additionally, we're very proud to hold our bi-annual, 7-week FBI Citizen's Academy. During weekly 3-hour sessions, we bring together leaders from a multitude of ethnic and religious groups to gain an insider's view of the FBI.

Special Agents
 We have opportunities for Special Agents from a broad range of educational disciplines and professions, however, the FBI has special needs for candidates with critical skills among the following areas: **Computer Science or IT, Engineering, Foreign Counterintelligence, Information Systems, Security, Military Intelligence, Physical Sciences, and Accounting/Financial Management.**

FBI...Special People. Special Agents.

Brooks Staffing Supports Minority Businesses in Portland

BROOKS STAFFING
 A Division of S. Brooks & Associates, Inc.
 A Full Service Staffing Company

"Where Temporary Staffing leads to Permanent Satisfaction"

Experienced employees are carefully screened and unconditionally guaranteed.

- No surplus labor
- No insurance costs
- No interviewing
- No tax records

Simply sign the temporary employee's weekly time card. You will receive an itemized invoice, that's it! We give you the individualized attention you deserve!

Call, to start saving
503.284.7930

BROOKS STAFFING
 A Division of S. Brooks & Associates, Inc.
 A Full Service Staffing Company

1130 NE Alberta Street
 Portland, Oregon 97211
 FAX: 503.284.7977

www.sbrooks.com
jobs@sbrooks.com