

# On N MISSISSIPPI AV Avenue

## Three Story Sculpture Unveiled

High up in the treetops, a metal falcon is perched surveying its surroundings. Its body is fashioned from horseshoes, a hatchet, a screwdriver and other objects donated by neighbors with a collective 80 years in the Boise neighborhood. Nearby, a dragonfly and a beetle are nestled on branches—both made from recycled objects with deep stories to tell.

The sculpture coming to the ReBuilding Center on Mississippi Avenue is called Community Trees and is scheduled for unveiling on Wednesday, July 9 at 6 p.m. as part of a celebration including African dance, poetry, and neighborhood stories from long-time community residents.

The artwork features tree trunks sculpted from cob that are topped with branches and leaves crafted from reclaimed metal and household objects donated by community members.

"We wanted this to become a neighborhood landmark visible to the public all hours and seven days a week," said Shane Endicott, executive director of Our United Villages. "A place where people could come for generations, and point up and show their children or grandchildren the object they had donated and what it turned into."

The trees are also a creative demonstra-

tion of reuse and sustainability, since nearly all of the components come from recycled and reclaimed metal or industrial byproducts.

"If I never made another sculpture again, I'd be happy knowing that I worked on these trees. I'm very excited at how they turned out," says Mike Suri of Suri Iron, who created a total of eight enormous trees, complete with hundreds of branches, leaves, and blossoms.

The trees reflect all four seasons. Spring features hundreds of white blossoms composed of nail heads; the summer and fall leaves, painted various shades of green, orange, and red, were created from industrial punch-outs; the final trees on the right—winter—showcase the intricate patchwork that forms the bark and trunks.

And then there are the artifacts, also created by Suri Iron, that were crafted from donated community objects.

"We started asking people last winter to bring in an object with a story that they would like to have as part of the community sculpture," says Kate Erickson, community outreach organizer for Our United Villages. "We were amazed by the beautiful, touching stories that people shared with us."



Sculptor Mike Suri (right), Ronnie Boicourt (center) of Suri Iron, and a ReBuilding Center volunteer coordinate the installation of a tree top made from reclaimed metal.

Jeff Goebel donated three spoons in "memory of Patricia and Carl Goebel, world travelers, authors, parents of five, and the heads in a great love story." The wings of the bird were fashioned from a

commercial light gel holder, donated by Jefferson High School, home of Portland Public School's first TV studio. And Linda Hunter brought in a small peacock that was turned into a medal-

lion hanging from the neck of the bird. The ReBuilding Center, 3625 N. Mississippi Ave., is the nation's largest nonprofit reuse center for salvaged construction and remodeling materials.

## Rosa Parks' Belongings up for Auction

### Collection could earn \$10 million

(AP) -- Arlan Ettinger will never forget the response he got when he took one of civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks' hats to a meeting at the Apollo Theater in New York.

"It was a fairly plain-looking black hat. And then I said it was Rosa Parks'. And their mouths just opened up without saying a word and tears" flowed, Ettinger said. "It was a very, very powerful moment. You could see the impact this woman has had on everyone."

A probate court judge in Detroit has asked Ettinger's auction house, Guernsey's, to find a buyer — preferably a museum, university or other institution — for thousands of Parks' personal items.

Among them are her presidential and congressional medals, a post card from Martin Luther King Jr. and the hat Parks is believed to have been wearing on Dec. 1, 1955, when she refused to give up her bus seat to a white man, cementing her spot in civil rights history.

Ettinger, whose New York-based company has auctioned off items ranging from the possessions of Presidents John F. Kennedy and Franklin Roosevelt to Jerry Garcia's guitars, estimates the Parks col-



Civil rights icon Rosa Parks in 1995.

lection could be worth \$10 million.

When it comes to the civil rights movement, "Rosa Parks was its heart and soul," he said.

Parks, the diminutive woman whose actions sparked the yearlong Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott and threats that eventually led her and her husband to Detroit, died in 2005 at age 92 with many of her most treasured possessions still with her.

There's the Presidential Medal of Freedom she was awarded by President Bill Clinton, along with the rose-colored chif-

fon dress she wore for the ceremony and the photo of her with the president. There's a tattered schoolbook, "How to Speak and Write Correctly," that she kept from her student days.

There's also a letter she wrote telling of King's house being bombed on a night she was with him at a meeting just a month after the bus boycott began.

"We do not know what else is to follow these previous events, but we are trusting in God and praying for courage and determination to withstand all attempts of intimidation," Parks wrote in her clear, flowing script.

Parks left nearly all of her estate to the Detroit-based Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development, which was created to teach young people leadership and character development. But her 13 nieces and nephews, which feuded for years with the people she appointed to handle her affairs, filed a legal challenge to Parks' will six months after she died.

A settlement was eventually reached, although terms of the deal were sealed. Guernsey's, which had inventoried Parks' possessions, was asked by the court to sell them.

Ettinger said the proceeds from the sale will be split between the institute and Parks' relatives. There's no deadline for the sale.

## Designer Achieves Trend Status

continued ▲ from Front

bly" method. He argues that people use too many negative words, so a positive word needs to catch on as a replacement.

Already making progress towards that goal, the company had a recent breakthrough to national television when prolific African-American comedian Reginald Ballard wore one of Haynes' shirts. Haynes reports that he has sold more than 1,000 shirts over the past six months.

It hasn't been easy for Haynes. Years ago he went to another shirt company's bankruptcy sale to buy a silk-screening machine, and he has only recently paid for the machine fully.

However, he senses the investment is finally paying off as he hears urban youth using "bubbly" in conversation without knowing the origin of the term.

Look for Haynes at local street fairs and festivals or call him at 503-221-0288 or 503-875-6835.

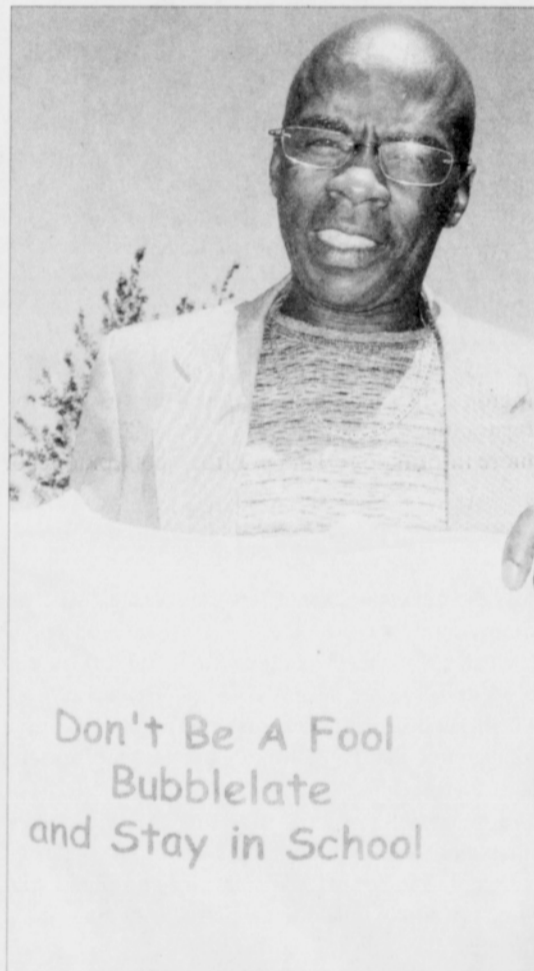







PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Tony Haynes keys on the word "bubble" to create a line of positive T-shirt slogans.

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