

His Legacy Will Live On

Charles H. Washington

PUBLISHER AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Dec. 18 1951 - Dec. 8 2012

Enduring Courage

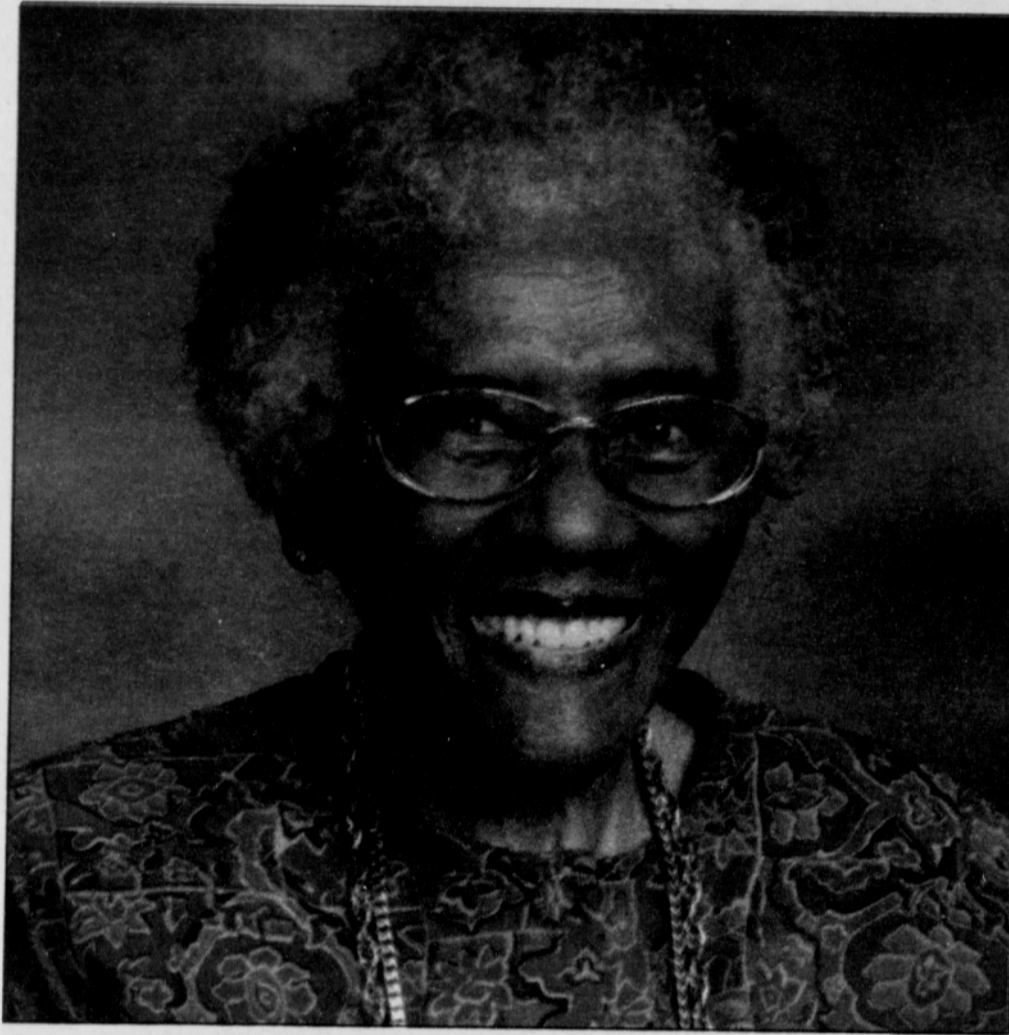
continued ▲ from page 4

Vancouver Avenue's Rev. J. W. Matt Hennessee led the celebration in Vancouver for Ida Jones's 100th birthday in 2008. The church helped her celebrate again last summer in Portland when she turned 104.

Mrs. Bertha (David) Baugh also built Portland connections early. A schoolteacher in Alabama before she and her husband came to Vancouver in September 1945, she was told by school officials that Vancouver "wasn't ready for colored teachers." She started teaching in the massive north Portland housing project called Vanport.

After Vanport went down in the flood of May 1948, Bertha Baugh became one of the first black teachers hired by Portland Public Schools. She and her husband made their home in Vancouver, but she spent 26 years teaching in Portland, mostly at George Elementary School. In 1972 she was named an Outstanding Elementary Teacher of America.

Baugh and Jones worked together with many more Vancouver citizens, black and white, on NAACP causes and events through the 1950s. The two friends still keep in touch



Bertha Baugh broke racial barriers as a long-time teacher.

by phone, taking turns calling every few weeks.

Through their church, school, service and family associations, they are known to hundreds of people in Portland as well as Vancouver. Ties like these have continued to develop along with the stories of Vancouver and Portland's distinct African American communities.

If each settlement has deep

roots, as the First Families book show, the connections between them have by now become a wonderfully tangled root mass – a supreme challenge for historians, a playground for genealogists, and a source of wonder for the rest of us.

Jane Elder Wulff of Vancouver is the author of *First Families of Vancouver's African American Community, From World War Two to the Twenty-First Century*.

FIRST FAMILIES
of Vancouver's African American Community
From World War Two to the Twenty-First Century
by Jane Elder Wulff

DEEP ROOTS STRONG BRANCHES

Sponsored by NAACP Vancouver Branch #1139
Chartered March 1945, Vancouver, WA

First Families Support NAACP

The book *First Families of Vancouver's African American Community* is currently available for \$20 with 100 percent of the proceeds benefiting Vancouver NAACP Branch #1139.

The civil rights organization is a historic treasure, first chartered by Vancouver's earliest black residents in 1945 to address post-World War II housing and job discrimination. The group continues to promote social justice, housing and job opportunities.

To order copies, you can contact Jane Elder Wulff at P.O. Box 308, Battle Ground, WA 98604 or email jwulff123@msn.com.