

Oregon's Struggle for Racial Equity

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the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) and Women In Community Service (WICS), Hart inspired others to serve as agents of change. She helped operate Portland's first Black-owned cab company and was the first African American nurse to work at Portland's Physicians and Surgeons Hospital.

Harriet "Hattie" Redmond (1862-1952)

Harriet "Hattie" Redmond was a leader in the long struggle for Oregon woman suffrage, especially during the successful campaign of 1912. The right to vote

was especially important to Redmond as a Black woman living in a state that had codified Black exclusion laws in its constitution. Redmond's work for voting rights helped lay the groundwork for the Black civil rights movement of the mid-20th century.

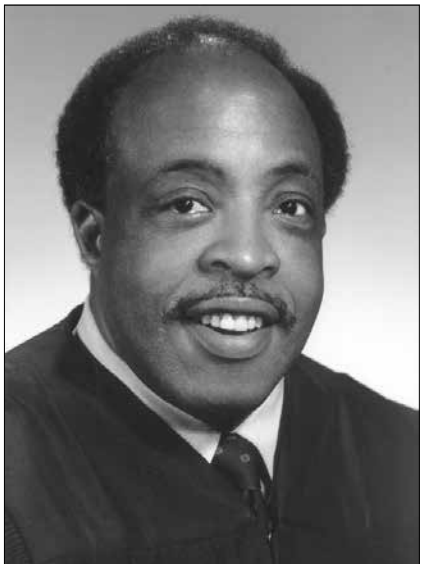
Thelma Johnson Streat (1912-1959)

Thelma Johnson Streat was a multi-talented African American artist who focused on ethnic themes in her work. Streat began painting at the age of seven and received art training at the Museum Art School in the mid-1930s. In 2016, Streat's mural, Medicine and Transportation, became part of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture's permanent collection and is currently on display in Washington, D.C.



DeNorval Unthank (1899-1977)

DeNorval Unthank received his M.D. in 1926 from Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, D.C. James A. Merriman recruited him to work care for Black workers of the Union Pacific Railroad in Oregon, and upon Merriman's move to Arizona, Unthank became the only Black physician in Portland. He was a co-founder of the Portland Urban League and was active in the passage of Oregon's 1953 Civil Rights Bill.



Lizzie Weeks (1879-1976)

Lizzie Koontz Weeks was an African American activ-

ist in Portland in the years after women in Oregon had achieved the right to vote in 1912. She organized Black women to empower them to be successful voters and was an early candidate for local party office. Weeks was the first female African American social worker employed by Multnomah County.



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