



## 'LIFE IN VANPORT' ORAL HISTORY FILM FESTIVAL

Preserve the stories of Vanport residents by producing a 3-5 minute digital video recording and share these stories with others through the "Life in Vanport" Oral History Film Festival.

This is an opportunity to explore and record the memories of African American citizens who lived in Vanport, Oregon between 1929 and 1945, prior to the Vanport flood and the forced relocation to other areas.

The following links provide information about oral history and the Vanport Era. We encourage you to research "How To" information on the web, as well as stories about the Vanport Era. If you are interested in this project, but do not have an individual to provide the oral history, let us know and a match will be provided for you.

### RESOURCES

#### CREATING ORAL HISTORY

<http://chnm.gmu.edu/digitalhistory/links/pdf/chapter6/6.3.pdf>

<http://www.visionaryproject.com/lewiselma/>

<http://www.oralhistory.org.uk/advice/>

<http://www.loc.gov/vets/>

<http://www.historians.org/pubs/Free/WhyStudyHistory.htm>

#### VANPORT HISTORICAL INFORMATION

<http://www.mefedia.com/watch/30676016>

<http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cchouk/vanport/>

<http://southwestportland.katu.com/content/survivors-1948-vanport-flood-be-honored>

If you have questions regarding the Oral History Film Festival email [npmtc@comcast.net](mailto:npmtc@comcast.net)

### HOW THE FILM FESTIVAL WORKS

(Must be 18 years or older)

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS JANUARY 2012 THROUGH DECEMBER 2012

Produce a 3-5 minute video oral history of people retelling their experiences about "Life in Vanport."

#### SUBMISSION

One entry per month per producer. Submit on DVD to NPMTc, 415 N. Killingsworth St., Portland, Oregon, 97217. May submit one entry per month throughout contest.

#### VIEWING

Monthly entries will be available for public viewing and voting at [www.npmtc.com](http://www.npmtc.com) beginning January 2012 through December 2012.

#### VOTING

Each month's entries will be voted on by the public. In January 2013, the winning entry will be viewed by a panel of judges who will determine the grand prize winner.

#### PRIZES

Each month's winning entry will win a prize with a value of \$25 or more. The Grand Prize entry will win \$1,000 cash. The Grand Prize will be awarded in January 2013.

#### NEED A CAMERA?

Digital Video cameras will be available for loan by individuals trained to use digital video recording equipment.

#### NEED TRAINING?

Individuals needing training may be eligible for training on digital video recording and editing equipment.

#### NEED A SUBJECT TO VIDEO OR A VIDEOGRAPHER?

We realize you may have a story, but don't have anyone to film it. Or you may want to produce a video, but do not have a person to interview. Let us know and we'll provide a match. Email us at [npmtc@comcast.net](mailto:npmtc@comcast.net) and use MATCH in the subject line.

## Thressia

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At 14, you could get an adult job, she remembers. And during hard times, many of the young men she knew signed up for the services. She found work at the Lone Star Rifle Co. making shell casings for M1 rifles.

"I worked on the line and we made 38,000 rifle shells in 8 hours."

Colbert remembers the crime sprees of Clyde Barrow and Pretty Boy Floyd. And that during the Depression many people were constantly on the move looking for a way to survive.

"So many people don't have jobs," she says. "Times are repeating themselves pretty fast, because at that time people did not have jobs and they came from every direction."

Colbert's husband moved north to Portland, Ore., where he found a good job at a railroad company, and she followed him in 1942. She rented a room at the intersection of N.Larrabee and NE Broadway, and found a job at Gunderson's shipyard working from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., cleaning ships. One of a team of 12 women, she was paid from \$1.35 to \$1.42 an hour.

"They said some of those ships hadn't been cleaned in 12 years," she says. "We were cleaning those ships and getting them ready to go overseas and back."

"The guys were joining the Longshoremen and getting pretty good pay. But those guys weren't cleaning the ships. The union hall was at 4th and Morrison and they had jobs."

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