

## The Skanner's Journey: The Early Years

**O**ur first issue came on the heels of the severe recession of 1974-75. Our front-page headline: Permanent Unemployment Stalks Blacks, expressed the desperation of local families. America's failure to invest in Black communities had consequences then – as it does now. From those early days, *The Skanner's* economic reporting highlighted local efforts to create jobs. We profiled startup businesses and held government accountable for its commitments to fairness in contracting and jobs.

reported on the city's equal employment opportunity ordinance, and on the minority contractors' lawsuit against the federal and state government. We also covered the contractors' efforts to win a fair share of contracts on TriMet's new transit

our readers about the Office of Civil Rights finding that school discipline discriminated against minority children.

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mall project. We reported that a police officer had beaten Tony Allen, 16, for backtalking, and informed

year since—and it would still be relevant.

Thankfully, there was good news to report too. Portland City Commissioner Charles Jordan, elected in 1974, had worked to create service centers for youth and for senior citizens. Portland Metropolitan Steering Committee won a \$400,000 federal grant to feed the hungry. The *Ebony* Fashion Fair raised money for The Links fund for disadvantaged youth.

As well as our hard hitting reporting, *The Skanner's* early issues included a column on veterans, a boxing column penned by literary giant Katherine Dunn, a ton of sports and fashion coverage, and an advice column that offered answers from three generations of women. Our music column 'Earl at Midnight' reviewed clubs, concerts and new releases. We put the spotlight on Black enterprises. And our pages were alive with images of Black people who were making a difference in our communities every day.



Ron Wyden (left) speaking to schoolchildren

## 40 Years of History

### 1970s

October 9, 1975, *The Skanner* publishes its first issue

June 15, 1978, "City-Wide Day of Tribute Honors Clara Peoples, Portland's Mother of Juneteenth"

March 7, 1976, Microsoft's first product, Microsoft BASIC, released in Seattle

January 1, 1977, Charles Jordan begins second elected term as Portland City Commissioner

December 11, 1977, Portland Transit Mall opens

April 6, 1977, Seattle Mariners play their first game, at the Kingdome

January 9, 1978, plan to desegregate Jefferson High School by busing black students Lincoln and Wilson is voted down unanimously by Portland Public Schools Board

Celebrate  
The Skanner anniversary with  
**#SK40YEARS**



President Bill Clinton speaks at an international conference at Portland State University; from left, PSU President Judith Ramaley, Vice President Al Gore, Clinton, and U.S. Rep. Elizabeth Furse.



Unveiling Pioneer Square, from left, Portland City Commissioner Margaret Strahan, Portland City Commissioner Mildred Schwab, Pioneer Courthouse Square designer Willard Martin, Portland City Commissioner Mike Lindberg, Mayor Frank Ivancie and Portland City Commissioner Charles Jordan



Powerful women: from left Judge Mercedes Deiz, Sen. Margaret Carter, Multnomah County Commissioner Gladys McCoy, and U.S. Rep. Shirley Chisholm