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OREGON MIRROR

REFLECTING THE PARTICULAR INTERESTS OF NEGRO MINORITIES IN OREGON

VOL. 11 NO. 1

PORTLAND, OREGON

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1962

GOV. FAVORS ALBINA HOUSING

Daisy Williams Project Big ?

What Is Argument? What Is Solution?

For quite some time now the Daisy Williams Housing project to be built in the Albina community, has been top news in our daily publications and a center of needless controversy between opposing organizations, versus the Portland Housing Authority, and many interested people, organizations, and businesses, because of the geographical location of the project in the Albina community. We have heard the arguments on radio, television, and read the articles in the newspapers voicing opposition to the site so designated by the Portland Housing Authority (of which the OREGON MIRROR is very much in favor) and thus far no one has presented a solution to the problem, they so bitterly oppose. There is no significant value in any topic of discussion unless both debating sides are properly prepared as to where their discussions would be of pertinent interest, and conclude with a solvent solution to the subject in question. In this article are some of the captions of statements made by organizations relating to the proposed site which the OREGON MIRROR believes are very weak and offers answers to their statements:

Statement: "Perpetuation of Segregation"

Reply:

The Albina area as a whole is populated predominantly by non-white families so where in the area could the Housing Authority build this project where there would not be a heavy concentration of Negro applicants for unit accommodations by their own choice. Remember, the Albina area is the only area of discussion.

Statement: "Close to Commercial Developments"

Reply:

Pray tell us of any greater asset for a housing unit for 58 low-income families than to be bordering on convenient shopping, blocks distance from bus transportation, close to churches of their choice, and adjacent to Knott Street Community Center (newly redeveloped) where they and their children can participate in clean wholesome recreation. (Remember, you organizations put up a good fight to have Knott Street Center redeveloped.)

Statement: "Segregated School"

Reply:

It is very true that Elliot School, the only school mentioned, is 99% Negro, so let us take a look at the other schools in the Albina area, and the non-white percentage ratio. Boise School on N. Fremont is 95% Negro, Humboldt School on N. Gantenbein is 80% Negro, and Highland School on N.E. 7th is 79% Negro, so where in the Albina area could the Daisy Williams project be built to avoid a heavy concentration of Negro students.

"If there ever has been a need for the people of the Albina area to revive the sense of community, it is now. We are led to wonder whether the true reason for the opposition to this project is not based on the fact that some of these individuals feel that they are spokesmen for the Negroes, and should be consulted first before any decision is made.

LEADERSHIP COMES FROM LONG SERVICE, DEDICATION AND HONESTY TO THE PEOPLE YOU REPRESENT. A WHEEL IS ONLY AS STRONG AS THE SPOKES THAT TURN IT.

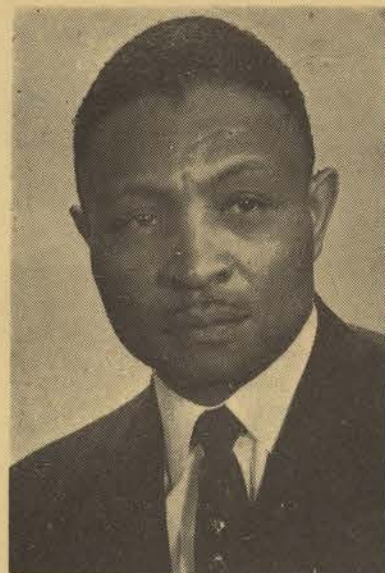
"Wonder" Bakers Hire Negro

Continental Baking Company (bakers of Wonder Bread) recently contacted the Urban League to secure its aid in recruiting and selecting a driver-salesman. Several very well qualified applicants were referred. James Thompson, formerly associated with the D.C. Williams Real Estate Company, was chosen and began his duties on February 26. Jim's route will include the north and northeast areas of Portland. Our congratulations to both Jim and Continental and to Jerry Fuller who suggested to Continental Bakers to avail themselves of the employment services rendered by the Urban League.



Pictured here with Governor and Mrs. Mark Hatfield in discussion, is Dr. Booker T. Lewis, Candidate for Legislature in North-District and Mr. Arthur A. Cox, Sr. Governor Hatfield expressed his desires towards Dr. Lewis' success in the forth coming campaign.

CHURCH DEDICATION SET



J. S. WINSTON

Dedication date has been set for the new building of the Albina Church of Christ. The date is Sunday, March 25th at 2 P.M. The new address is 3908 N.E. Mallory.

Dedication address will be made by Evangelist Rev. J. S. Winston of Cleveland, Ohio.

Rev. T.D. Jackson, Pastor of the new Albina Church of Christ, stated that Evangelist Winston will speak nightly at 7:30 P. M. through March 30th.

Gov. Mark Hatfield stated that he was very much in favor of The Daisy Williams Housing Project being built in the Albina Area. The Gov. said that some of the issues being discussed, such as the perpetuation of segregation are not complete facts, in as much as we have laws passed by the Legislature protecting the rights of Minority Groups. Also, Housing Laws assuring these citizens the right to purchase property in areas of their choice. In closing, the Governor mentioned the great need for housing of low income families.

THOMPSON SEEKS ELECTION

Mrs. Gussie Thompson is the mother of three children and has a three month old grandson. Her husband Bill is an electrical engineer with Bonneville Power Administration. Mrs. Thompson, a former elementary school teacher and newspaper columnist, has been active in PTA and civic as well as church affairs for many years. Moving to Portland from Chicago in 1952, she continued her interest in politics and is currently serving her second term as alternate-vice chairman of the Multnomah County Democratic Central Committee. She was recently elected to her second term as president of the East Central Democratic Women. She was appointed to the Multnomah County Welfare Commission by former Governor Holmes.



Mrs. Thompson is interested in the acute need to provide additional accredited facilities at the college and vocational levels for today's high school graduate. She believes that our highly industrialized society increasingly disorganizes the lives of our senior citizens and that our state legislature is the best place to combat the very difficult problems of both age groups.



T. D. JACKSON

The OREGON MIRROR

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Please Forward Mail to - 7972 S.E. Foster Rd.

EDITORIAL

Difference Between Development
Commission and Housing Authority

by Edgar Williams

There seems to be some confusion in the minds of a lot of Albina people over the two federally-sponsored programs for community betterment: On the one hand -- URBAN RENEWAL; and on the other -- PUBLIC HOUSING.

URBAN RENEWAL is the activity administered by the PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, and in the area North of Fremont Street is taking the form of a COMMUNITY REHABILITATION program in which PROPERTY OWNERS are encouraged in many helpful ways to improve their houses.

PUBLIC HOUSING is the activity administered by the HOUSING AUTHORITY OF PORTLAND, and in the Albina area is taking the form of the development of a 58-unit, LOW-RENT, HOUSING PROJECT in which low-income families will be provided with new court apartment facilities at a rental they can afford to pay.

The confusion in many people's minds seems to have stemmed from proposals that the PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION and the HOUSING AUTHORITY OF PORTLAND "work together", in the COMMUNITY REHABILITATION area North of Fremont, and that the HOUSING AUTHORITY build its rental units on "SCATTERED SITES" in the REHABILITATION AREA instead of in a COURT-APARTMENT-TYPE housing project adjacent to the Knott Street Community Center. The HOUSING AUTHORITY actually "initiated" the idea of "scattered sites" housing in Portland and strongly favors this type of public housing because it can be so ideally integrated into a community. However, the Housing Authority's prolonged research on this subject has revealed that it would not be ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE for it to develop a "scattered-sites" project anywhere in Portland at this time. The reason is that "scattered-sites" housing costs 20% more to BUILD than conventional, court-apartment-type housing, and that the cost of MAINTENANCE and of UTILITIES for a "scattered-sites" project is so high that it cannot be absorbed into the Housing Authority's present total program within the limits of maximum subsidies available through the federal government. As the REHABILITATION PROGRAM of the PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION is in an area that is not zoned for multi-family residences, it is not possible for the HOUSING AUTHORITY to coordinate ITS development with that of the PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION in the rehabilitation area.

We consider the PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION'S REHABILITATION PROGRAM an excellent one for the specific purpose it is designed to serve--the uplifting of a community through the voluntary participation of the property owners of the community in improving their own properties.

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S function in the development of its 58-unit Daisy B. Williams housing project in Albina, however, is completely separate and distinct -- serving an entirely different purpose than that of the PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION in this instance.

Perhaps a clarification of these two programs in two different areas of our community can best be achieved if it is realized that the HOUSING AUTHORITY is engaged ONLY in the activity of BUILDING HOUSING for LOW-INCOME FAMILIES and of RENTING such housing to such families AT A RENTAL THEY CAN AFFORD TO PAY. In selecting sites for our new housing projects, we try so far as practicable and possible to buy property in areas where low-income families are presently living in deteriorated, run-down, and sub-standard dwellings. This is the major reason we selected for the Daisy B. Williams project a site next to the Knott Street Community Center in Albina. Our selection of this site has met all the requirements of the federal government, as recently pointed out by Dr. Robert Weaver, Administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency in Washington, D. C. We feel that the 58-unit, Daisy B. Williams low-rent housing project in Albina will serve to raise the morale of the Albina community, give hope to the people of the community that Albina is starting to move forward instead of further deteriorating, and provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing for at least a few of Albina's low-income families who would prefer to continue to live near their friends and relatives in Albina.

LETTERS TO
THE EDITOR

To the Editor: As a Williams Avenue businessman, I am naturally interested in the Housing Authority's program, and doing anything possible to uplift the Albina area.

I have been quite concerned for several months with the opposition that has been voiced in regards to this project by the people who state they are speaking for our community. I have discussed this with numerous customers of mine and several clergymen from this area and find that a majority of the people who live in this area are in full support of the authority's program.

I am at a loss to understand how the Democratic Party, through their two organizations -- Central Committee and the Young Democrats -- can arrive at a conclusion such as they indicated through the papers without taking time to discuss this with the people who live in the Albina area.

Neither I nor other businessmen in this area had been contacted by either group.

The representatives on this committee who indicated that they are speaking for the people in this area to my knowledge never have represented the people in this area, nor am I personally aware of them trying to get the pulse of the people involved.

To the Editor: It is questionable that much of the opposition to the low-cost housing should come from one self-styled leader whose residency in Portland is less than two years.

As a taxpayer and business woman of the Albina area for many years, I am quite capable of evaluating this situation. In any case I would hesitate to be swayed by the opinion of anyone coming from an environment where the sunlight of democracy was in eclipse.

Since the Democratic Committee has decided to take a stand in the issue, I would like to know just where were they when the property owners expressed themselves at the public meeting held by the Housing Authority at the Knott Street Community Center? I did not know that providing standard housing for low-income groups was to become a political football, or else many meeting en masse.

I feel that some of the leaders of the opposition to the Daisy Williams project are not interested in the less fortunate, but only in their own egoism.

I congratulate the Housing Authority for their stand.

SAM HOOSON,
2636 N. Williams Ave.

MRS. VIVIANE L. BARNETT,
1810 NE 1st Ave.

To the Editor: For over 18 years I have belonged to the Immaculate Heart Church. Having lived, worked and raised my children and grandchild in the Albina area, I feel that the Urban League, NAACP and others are making a mountain out of a mole hill. They are using the Daisy Williams project to split a community and cause confusion in the area.

When the Immaculate Heart property was spoken for, not a word against the project was heard. This site, had it been chosen, is located in about the same section. However, this site cost more than the Portland Housing Authorities could pay; for this reason they selected the present site. Then the rabble-rousers got busy. All we have heard since is their pet theme--segregation. Strange, it was not mentioned before.

Since E. Shelton Hill, John Holley and Harry Ward seem to be the instigators of this controversy, I feel their organizations would make better progress without them. Their resignations would be appreciated by a number of the people, as it seems they have outlived their usefulness.

Since trained personnel selected the present site I am in favor of the project being placed where they feel it is most needed.

Had the Immaculate Heart Site been selected, I would not have opposed placing it there.

I believe low-cost housing is needed and wanted in this area very much.

ETOILE H. COX,
5526 NE Jessup St.

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PACKING IN CROWD



In above picture, left to right, are Hank Stevenson, Larry Fields, Chico Waters and Ray (Boone) Leary.

The Four Classics are still packing them in nitely at the Cotton Club with their renditions of such numbers as "Stand By Me", Fools Rush In" and their fabulous version and performance of the "Twist", which realy rocks the house. It's a must to see and hear them.

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Albina Citizens Group Form Assoc. on Housing Issue

A group of citizens in favor of the Daisy Williams Housing project and any other improvement that is designated for the Albina Area, met at the home of Mrs. Loy Sing Yee, 202 N. E. Graham, Sunday, March 18, 1962.

The group selected the name of "Albina Taxpayers & Civic Association", who's purpose will be "striving towards community betterment and equal opportunity for all".

Chosen as temporary officers were: Mrs. Nevada D. Barnett, Chairman, Mr. Booker Gibson, Asst. Chairman, Mrs. A. Cox, Sr., Secretary, Mrs. Loy Sing Yee, Treasurer and Mr. Don Alford, Director of Publicity.

The association decided that an immediate pole should be taken of the residents and interested people in and out of the Albina Area as to their opinions in regard to the controversial Daisy Williams project.

Mr. U.H. Leverette in behalf of the Billy Webb Lodge IBPOE offered the use of the Club-room for all future meetings of the group.

The association membership is open to all people and welcome members who are willing to work for all improvements and eradication of the stigma from the name Albina.

To date, A large number of people have expressed their approval of the project by placing their signatures on the petition favoring the site location for the project.

The little people of Albina are speaking.

Albina Business Man Blasts Demo-Committee

Howard R. Lee, owner of Lee U Rent Inc., 2716 N. Vancouver Ave., stated: The resolution of the Democrat Central Committee should be disregarded. It was first turned down by all committees in the local convention after careful examination of the facts which showed that the Knott street project should be supported. These committees were overruled by Chairman Frank Roberts, who brought it to the floor in an undemocratic manner. Opposition was squelched by Roberts, who allowed Wally Priestly, seeking support from the Urban League and the N.A.A.C.P. in his race for State Representative, the almost complete ownership of the floor. With only one side presented with distorted and incomplete facts the Resolution was incorporated in the platform. Personal political ambition of these two men was the most important factor, as was the promotion of the resolution passed last Thursday, an indication that facts are not important in some political activity.

I am personally ashamed that the Democratic party should put itself on record as opposed to public housing where it is needed, that it would seek to legislate where a site will be located, that it would discriminate against colored home owners desirous of improvement and upgrading of their neighborhood, and for setting forth a policy for arguments against housing in Jewish, Skandinavian, German, Italian, or any other ethnic

Booker T. Washington Members Kickoff Political Education Club

Officers and members of The Booker T. Washington Club in a meeting at The Desert Motel, officially launched their new Political Education Club and elected officers. The new organization is a Non Partisan Group open to Republicans, Democrats and Independents.

The necessary need and purpose for this Club is to seek out non-registered people and acquaint them with the importance of registering and voting.

The Political Education Clubs initial goal is to present to its members information data on Aspirants for Public Office and educate their members of the importance of members to the importance of studying records and issues on candidates seeking office. Elected as Pres. was Arthur A. Palmer, owner of The Desert Motel. Don Alford, Managing Editor of the OREGON MIRROR newspaper was elected Vice President.

An open invitation will be extended to all Candidates, regardless of party, to come to their club house to discuss

platforms and programs with their groups and to bring literature to be studied and circulated by the Political Education Club.

A resolution was passed unanimously favoring housing in the Albina area.

To the Editor: The public hassle that is going on regarding the placing of the low cost housing, I feel the decision should be left up to the people in this area instead of the Urban League or any other organization of so-called leaders.

The people of the Albina area have given no one, no organizations, permission to represent us. We shall represent ourselves. The project will help beautify a rundown area. It is close to all public transportation and shopping centers. It will give incentive to others to beautify their homes.

So let these self-imposed leaders talk their heads off. We, the people of the Albina area, think the proposed site is a good one.

ALEX EVERS,
124 N. Knott St.

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We thank Thee that the needle has need of the spool, and that Thou dost call us to work together with Thee. Grant that there may be no tangles or knots in the thread of our lives to hinder Thy sewing.

Even as the thread, with perfect obedience, follows the needle in and out of the fabric, so may we follow Thy leading this day and every day.

And grant, O Father, that when the spool is empty and the thread of our earthly life has come to an end, we may look on the finished robe and marvel at the perfect pattern Thou hast perfected whild using the thread of our imperfect lives.

We ask it in the name of Thy Son who has given us His seamless robe to wear, so that we may come into Thy presence unashamed. Amen.



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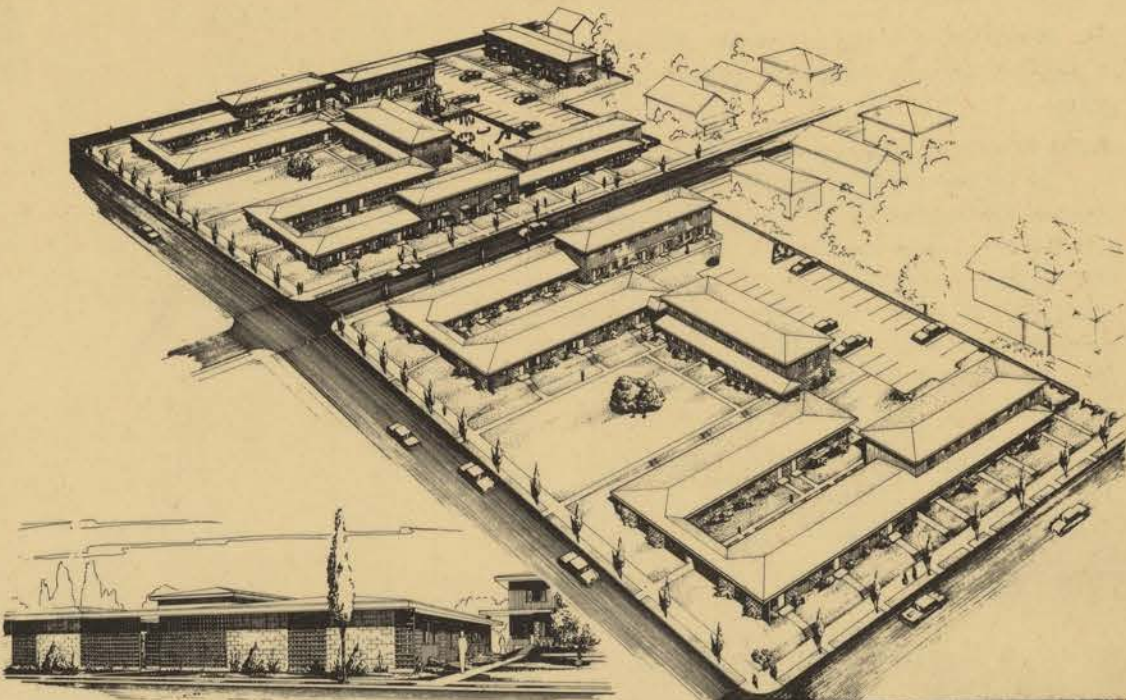
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'LULL BEFORE THE STORM'



Floyd Patterson, heavyweight champion of the world, right, shakes hands for the first time with the leading contender for his title, Sonny Liston. Note the size of Liston's much publicized fist. The grimness with which they greeted each other could foretell the type of fight a meeting between these two ring stalwarts might produce.

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