

ELIOT NEWS

A Publication of Eliot Neighborhood Association
Volume 19 · Number 1
Winter 2010

The Story of the Neighborhood Owl

By Tony Green

The owl turned up on Tillamook Street right before Thanksgiving.

My wife, Shara, noticed some crows having a fit about something in an old birch tree in our yard on a Monday morning. To her surprise, there appeared to be a Great Horned Owl sitting on a branch 30 feet up. She told my cousin, Liz, an avid birder who lives behind us on Thompson Street. We pulled out the binoculars. We gawked. We pointed it out to passersby, including a troupe of children from a nearby pre-school. It wasn't just the crows who were upset. A pair of hummingbirds that live in our yard buzzed the owl repeatedly. But the owl -- he? she? -- barely flinched. At one point, it moved its neck suddenly and -- I swear -- a crow that was squawking at it jumped. We saw the owl's talons through the binoculars. They looked sharp and powerful. We figured a predator like that isn't easily perturbed. I called the Portland Audubon Society. They were impressed. They said Great Horned Owls are rarely seen in the city. Shara and I continued to tell everyone we could find. The owl was still in the birch tree at dusk when our daughters got home from school, so they got a chance to see it. Liz had the great fortune of seeing the great bird fly off before the sun completely set.

We figured that was it. It wasn't.

But be prepared: the end of the story is not fairy-tale happy.

"I really appreciate the shared neighborhood experience. It wasn't on YouTube or my iPod."

The week after Thanksgiving, the owl returned. This time it was sitting in a maple tree in a yard behind us. A whole new crop of neighbors got a glimpse of the owl. A naming competition ensued. Shara wanted to call the owl Hornblower because we had recently been watching a series about a courageous English sailor named Horatio Hornblower. Our neighbors were unimpressed. One wanted to call it Muhammad Owli. I can't remember all the names that



Hornblower AKA, Muhammad Owli

were bandied about. We talked about breaking out a window in the abandoned house next door to us to let it roost. We were all ready to go down to the Department of Fish & Wildlife and sign the adoption papers.

The next morning I was folding laundry when I saw the crows going nuts over by the maple tree. This time, seagulls had joined in the dive-bombing and yapping. Shara rushed through the back yard. She came back a few minutes later. The owl was now perched on the back of a house on Thompson Street. We took photos. We called The Oregonian, which sent out a photographer to take photos. Everyone was again abuzz about the neighborhood owl.

On Saturday, Shara found the owl in our backyard, lifeless with a huge gash on its neck. Our worst thought was that someone shot it. I called the Audubon Society and asked if I could bring it in. When one of the biologists in the Wildlife Care Center saw it, she said it was a large female owl. She said it was the time of year when Great Horned Owls fought over territory and also paired up. Maybe this owl

was injured in a fight with another owl. She said they would do their version of an autopsy.

We had come to see the owl's presence as propitious. But her death left us saddened, particularly by the awful possibility that someone would have taken a shot at such a beautiful creature. I called Audubon the next morning. The woman on the phone said there was no indication of a gunshot wound. What we thought was an injury was actually caused by internal hemorrhaging. The working hypothesis was that the owl had eaten some poisoned rats. The Wildlife Care Center had recently received a dead Red Tailed Hawk in similar condition. Both birds were well fed. If they had come across easy prey, like slow-moving rats, they would have kept eating them, even as the toxins built up in their bodies. More tests were planned.

The woman on the phone said the owl probably took about three days to die. That means when she first arrived before Thanksgiving, she was likely healthy. Was this another example of wildlife adapting to urban environments? Would

we be seeing more owls? We see hawks frequently. Two friends have seen coyotes in inner N.E. Portland. I'm also tempted to worry that the real moral of the story is that it's a reminder of our toxic urban landscape. The fact that farmers and ranchers use poison as well doesn't erase this feeling.

Which story do we take from this? I'm saddened by the owl's departure. But I also feel fortunate to have seen it at such a close distance. I also really appreciate the shared neighborhood experience. It wasn't on YouTube or my iPod. We would grab our neighbors as they walked down the street. They would tell us about the squirrel and the Cooper's Hawk that were badgering the owl. We went into each other's backyards to get the best view. At one point, I offered to show my neighbor, Steve, a really beautiful photo that the photographer from The Oregonian shared with us. I asked Steve for his email address.

He said: I'm offline.

So I will have to bring him a copy in person, which will give me a chance to see all the work he has been doing on his house. ●

Eliot Neighborhood Association

The Eliot Neighborhood Association is a nonprofit corporation whose members are the residents and business owners of the Eliot Neighborhood. Its purpose is to inform Eliot residents about issues affecting the neighborhood through meetings, newsletters and other activities. Members of the neighborhood association must be over 14 years old and live, own property, have a business, or represent a nonprofit within the neighborhood. The Eliot Neighborhood Association was founded in 1969. It is recognized by the City of Portland, is a member of the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, Inc., and has representatives on several other groups and committees.

Eliot Board

Board Officers

- Clint Lundmark - Board Chair; LUC - clintlundmark@gmail.com - 503.552.8678
- Julie Woelfer - Board Vice Chair; juliewol2@hotmail.com
- Julia Peters - Board Recorder - jpeters@voaor.org
- Tammie Lundmark - Board Treasurer - tammielundmark@gmail.com - 503.552.8678

Board Directors

- Angela Kremer - Board Member - ak_jf@msn.com
- Chris Yeagers - Board Co-Member - cyeagers@yahoo.com
- Marie D'Hulst - Board Co-Member - dhulstml@yahoo.com - 503.284.4392
- Eric Aronson - Board Member - earonson@ch2m.com - 503.282.4126
- Jim Hlava - Board Member - jim@cascadiabhc.org
- Joan Ivan - Board Member - ivan0117@comcast.net
- Kirsten Jenkins - Board Member; LUC - kirstenjenkins@hotmail.com - 503.515.6633
- Laurie Simpson - Board Co-Member; LUC - lauriejane63@hotmail.com - 503.280.1005
- Steve Simpson - Board Co-Member
- Naomi Sacks - Board Member - ncjsacks@yahoo.com
- Pauline Bradford - Board Member; LUC - 503.287.7138 (fax)

Other

- Mike Warwick - LUC Chair - mike.warwick@pnl.gov

LUC - Land Use Committee

Eliot Monthly Meetings

If you live or work in Eliot, you are welcome and encouraged to attend the monthly meetings of the Eliot Neighborhood Association, which are held the second Monday of each month at 7 pm at Emanuel Hospital. It's a great opportunity to meet your neighbors, stay informed about what's going on in Eliot, help build a stronger community, and have input into decisions that may affect you. Also consider joining a committee or becoming a board member (we have vacancies). Emanuel Hospital, Medical Office Building, West Conference Room, 501 N. Graham St.

ELIOT NEWS is published four times a year by the Eliot Neighborhood Association. It is delivered or mailed free of charge to every address in the neighborhood. It does not have a ISBN.

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www.eliotneighborhood.org
info@eliotneighborhood.org

Eliot Neighborhood Email List



Join the Eliot Neighborhood Email List! Get informed on what is happening in the neighborhood via email. The Eliot Neighborhood Email List "announcement only" Google Group is a notification service used to share information from the Eliot Neighborhood Association. It is used primarily to send out agendas and related information for Board, General Membership and other important meetings. Notifications may also be sent for items of interest related to Eliot Neighborhood Association such as event announcements, safety alerts and crime prevention. To subscribe send an email to eliotemallist-subscribe@googlegroups.com or visit <http://groups.google.com/group/eliotemallist>.

Wanna Help Eliot News?

Do you have a great idea for an article in the *Eliot News*? Do you like to write and want to contribute an article? Do you have something you want to get off your chest in an "Editorial" article?

Perhaps you're not a writer and would rather help deliver the newsletter? It is a great way to meet your fellow neighbors!

If you are interested in writing an article or delivering the *Eliot News* let us know. Maybe you want to help in some other way? Contact The Editor at eliotnews@gmail.com today!

Eliot Neighborhood Association Meetings

Eliot Neighbors, please join us for upcoming Eliot Neighborhood Association meetings. Get Involved. Find out what's new in the neighborhood. Join the board!

Upcoming Meetings:

- Board Meeting - January 11th
- Board Meeting - February 8th
- Board Meeting - March 8th

All meetings are held at Emanuel Hospital Medical Office Building, West Conference Room, 501 N Graham St, Portland OR.

Visit eliotneighborhood.org for more information.

ELIOT NEWS AD RATES

ELIOT NEWS has a per issue circulation of 3,000 and is hand delivered or mailed to nearly 100% of the homes and businesses in the Eliot neighborhood.

ELIOT NEWS is an 8 page 11" x 17" black and white tabloid newspaper published four times a year in January, April, July and October.

Ad deadlines are December 10, March 10, June 10, and September 10.

| Category | Size (H x W) | 1x | 2x | 3x | 4x |
|-----------|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1/16 Page | 1.8" x 4.9" | \$25 | \$42 | \$63 | \$84 |
| 1/8 page | 3.8" x 4.9" | \$37 | \$62 | \$97 | \$122 |
| 1/4 page | 7.8" x 4.9" | \$58 | \$108 | \$154 | \$194 |
| 1/2 Page | 7.8" X 10" | \$105 | \$195 | \$277 | \$349 |
| Full Page | 15.8" x 10" | \$188 | \$353 | \$502 | \$632 |

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New Graham Street Lofts Neighbors

By Tammie Lundmark

Have you noticed the relatively new pumpkin orange building on the corner of MLK Jr. and Graham St? It's the one I use to describe to my friends how to get to my house. You can't miss it! It's called Graham Street Lofts. It was built to create superior housing using revolutionary European construction designed to be comfortable and energy efficient. The ground floor of the 4-story building contains mixed-use units which have recently been filled.

SJ Harmon Photography was one of the first units to be occupied. They specialize in photography with a personal narrative approach wrapped in a fun fine art package. They are available for weddings, events, and portrait sessions. They also sell a variety of products including photo albums, canvas wrap prints, thank-you cards, and proof books. www.sjharmon.com

Great Magnet Recording Concerns has its post production mixing studio at Graham Street Lofts although their actual recording studio is located at 2827 NE Alberta St. Rob Weston, owner, has been in the business for 10 years. www.governmentproductions.com

Happy Hamster, Portland Computer Repair provides in shop and on-site computer and laptop repair service for the greater Portland area. Their mantra is to follow 3 simple rules: Always say yes, act transparently, and constantly innovate. www.happyhamstercomputers.com

River Organics, handmade Toiletries and Holistic Services occupies the south corner unit. They sell natural, handmade skin and body products as well as provide services including Massage Therapy, Reiki, Aromatherapy, Organic Facials, Acupuncture, Naturopathic Health Care and Chinese Medicine. www.riverorganics.net

When deciding to write an article about our new Graham Street Lofts neighbors, I thought I should try out one of the businesses to see

first hand what they offer. I had no need at the time for a photography session, I'm not musically inclined, and my husband works in Information Technology already maintaining our home computer. Thus, I thought the best use of my time would be visiting River Organics for some pampering. Lucky me!

I wandered into the spa on a Saturday morning and met the owner, Michele Blair who told me a bit about her background and showed me the array of health and beauty products she sells to individuals as well as other area spa's. I was treated to the magnificent array of smells from the variety of lotions, bath salts, face masks, massage oils, and creams on display. Originally from London, Ms. Blair owned a holistic spa in Ohio for the past 8 years. Her collection of aromatherapy products were sold to wholesalers throughout the U.S., many of which were located in the Northwest. This eventually brought Ms. Blair to Portland where she opened River Organics. Her skin and body care products are hand-made and use high quality natural and organic ingredients, mostly obtained from small local farms and suppliers.

The décor in River Organics is simple but elegant and has the calming effect you would imagine at a spa. There are two small private rooms for clients to enjoy the variety of holistic services. I chose to have a mini facial and set my appointment for the next weekend.

Facials are such a nice treat. After filling out a short medical history form with questions on current products I use and any facial concerns I had, all while sipping tea, I headed into a private room. With calming music playing, Ms. Blair asked me to take off my shoes and lay on my back on the massage table. She then worked her magic for the next 20 minutes. I was treated to various soothing aromas while my face was massaged, exfoliated, covered in steam towels, and basically pampered. A



Graham Street Lofts

full body massage is lovely but a facial massage is simply amazing.

Along with full facials, River Organics offers mini facials for those who either don't want to spend as much, take as much time, or who come in-between their regular facials. I personally recommend a mini if you've never had one done and just want to try it out. Ms. Blair performs the same services in a mini but condenses the time.

After my fabulous facial, Ms. Blair recommended a skin care

regiment based on my skin type. She's a proponent of using minimal products allowing your skin to breathe. I left feeling relaxed, refreshed, and my face felt smooth and rejuvenated. I've already put River Organics gift certificates on my wish list to my husband and hope to be returning soon to try out other services they offer.

River Organics is located in the Graham Street Lofts building at 2508 NE MLK Jr Blvd. They are open most days and by appointment. ●

Your ELIOT REAL ESTATE REPORT from...

Kirsten Jenkins
Eliot Neighborhood Real Estate Specialist

"Call me today for a free market evaluation of your property."

| Active Listings | bed | bath | sq ft | price |
|-------------------------|-----|------|-------|-----------|
| 210 NE Morris | 5 | 2 | 2806 | \$327,850 |
| 508 NE Sacramento | 3 | 3.1 | 1902 | \$489,000 |
| 28 NE Graham | 4 | 3.1 | 2980 | \$499,900 |
| 56 NE Morris | 4 | 3 | 4006 | \$568,900 |
| 505 NE Knott | 5 | 2.1 | 3486 | \$625,000 |
| Pending Listings | bed | bath | sq ft | price |
| 78 NE Stanton | 3 | 1.1 | 2472 | \$239,900 |
| 310 NE Fargo | 3 | 1 | 2319 | \$259,900 |
| 310 NE Morris | 3 | 2.1 | 1328 | \$264,000 |
| 501 NE Monroe | 3 | 3 | 1426 | \$299,000 |
| Sold Listings | bed | bath | sq ft | price |
| 103 NE Fargo | 2 | 1 | 1400 | \$220,000 |
| 246 NE Fremont | 3 | 1.1 | 2246 | \$239,225 |
| 131 NE Tillamook | 5 | 2 | 2710 | \$250,000 |
| 42 NE Thompson | 3 | 1 | 1142 | \$247,000 |
| 617 NE Fremont | 3 | 2 | 2504 | \$269,000 |
| 531 NE Morris | 2 | 1 | 1894 | \$275,000 |
| 608 NE Graham | 3 | 1 | 2360 | \$290,000 |
| 505 NE Monroe | 3 | 2.1 | 2344 | \$291,000 |
| 3523 NE 7 th | 3 | 2 | 2672 | \$350,000 |
| 526 NE Stanton | 3 | 1.1 | 2016 | \$362,000 |
| 70 NE Fargo | 4 | 1.1 | 2308 | \$384,900 |
| 3203 NE Rodney | 4 | 2.1 | 3855 | \$460,000 |

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The Future of Eliot

By Mike Warwick

The next couple of years will see new plans and projects proposed that will affect the future of Eliot. There are outside interests driving these that do not necessarily have Eliot's interests at heart. It is important for us, as residents, to make our interests known. Both the Eliot Land Use Committee and the Board are here to do that and, in some cases, we are already preparing, but we need to be sure we are accurately representing the neighborhood, so participating in neighborhood meetings is critical.

Portland is known for its "planning" and "process." For neighborhoods, that means we as residents have ways to influence the plans and zoning that affect us. Portland uses "comprehensive plans" to provide structure and certainty for both developers and neighborhoods. These plans have a 20-year horizon and are updated as the end of the plan period nears.

The Portland Plan

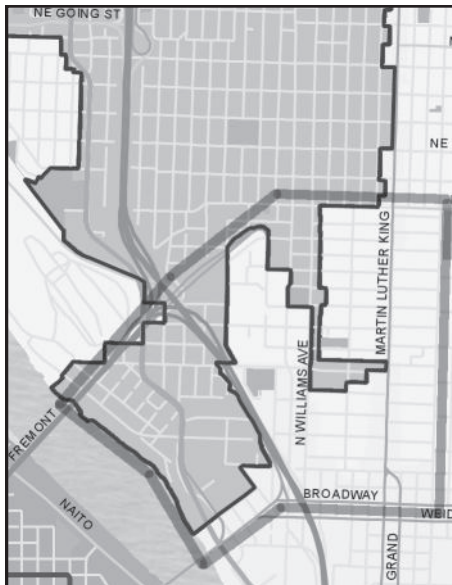
The Portland Plan is nearing the 20-year mark. It covers the entire city and includes revisions to zoning, so it can affect how every property can be developed and used in the future. The Central City Plan is a subset of this larger plan dealing with the "central city" which includes the Lloyd District on our southern boundary. The Rose Quarter is within the Central City and will be included in that plan. Conclusions from the Rose Quarter Development Project and N/NE Development Economic Initiative will be reflected in revisions to both the Central City and Portland Plans. I recently heard that the planning process is likely to begin with the Rose Quarter and Eliot as soon as the plans for the Quarter are settled this spring.

The most significant impact of comprehensive planning is zoning changes. These can take the form of changes to what is allowed in existing "zones" as well as changes to the zoning of individual parcels of land. Areas where new zoning may be proposed include the area

south of Russell and west of Williams and the area along MLK. It is unlikely residential zoning in Eliot will be changed although we may pursue "downzoning" in the historic core of Eliot if there is sufficient support. That would make it more difficult to construct modern in-fill condos and "skinny" houses.

Urban Renewal Areas

Eliot is also included in two Portland Development Commission (PDC) urban renewal areas - Interstate and Convention Center. The Oregon Convention Center Urban Renewal Area (OCCURA) includes the Lloyd District, the southern portion of Eliot, and extends along MLK and parts of Alberta and Killingsworth. The area expires in 2013 and there are projects the City, citizens, and developers would like to see PDC continue to support, including programs that help businesses and property owners along MLK.



ICURCA In and Near Eliot

The N/NE Economic Development Initiative is considering what properties north of Broadway to include in an expanded Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area (ICURCA); see map. There are three options: to limit expansion to that area currently included in the OCCURA; increase the area from the sidewalks to the adjacent commercially zoned properties; and to include all of Eliot (except the hos-



Columbia River Crossing

pital which wants to be exempted). Expansion beyond the current boundaries brings potential benefits to properties included. For commercial properties, these include subsidies and loans for business expansion and development. For residential properties these include assistance for low-income homeowners and for development of low-income housing.

Unfortunately, Eliot's experience with housing development is that it comes at the expense of our existing historic single family housing. Expansion to include Eliot's residential areas poses a real threat to accelerated demolition of this housing in favor of high rise, low-income units and condos. Accordingly, Eliot is opposed to expansion in these areas but in favor of expansion to properties along MLK not suitable for single family housing.

Rose Quarter Development

The development of the property immediately north of the Rose Quarter could be stimulated by new uses at the Quarter. Unfortunately, large parcels in this area are in public use and not zoned for development. There is suggestion that this area should be included in both the Rose Quarter Development Strategy and in the Central City Plan. In Eliot this is roughly from Vancouver west to the river and south of Russell. West of I-5 the area may extend no further than N. Tillamook. Most of the land is owned by Portland Public School District or the City. Private land owners have expressed interest in residential development like the Pearl, but only if the public land was rezoned and slated for sale.

If the Rose Quarter is developed as a "24-7" community based primarily on entertainment facilities, it would benefit from an adjacent residential neighborhood. A dense residential neighborhood would also stimulate location of services currently missing in Eliot, especially a full service grocery store.

Columbia River Crossing

The Columbia River Crossing

project has been surrounded by confusing claims and actions by project supporters and detractors. Despite its distance from Eliot, it and other planned transportation projects will impact Eliot, largely negatively, despite their merits for the larger region. The Multnomah County Health Department responded to the CRC impact statement saying the project will negatively impact the health of county residents, especially those along I-5. Their comments apply generally to any and all transportation projects that increase auto traffic. Read the entire response at: http://www.co.multnomah.or.us/health/documents/CRC_%20DEIS_response.pdf.

In brief, they claim: the projected traffic increases (roughly 40% more during the PM commute) will increase pollution and noise related health problems; facilitating increased commuting will increase obesity rates; the planned bike lanes are too narrow for safe bike commuting; and they decry the potential of new ramps to disrupt existing communities and further divide those currently bisected by I-5. With respect to the last point, the most recent proposal is even worse as it puts a 12-lane freeway down the middle of the Hayden Island shopping center dividing island residents in two, isolating them from each other, and moves the freeway adjacent to a mobile home park occupied by mostly elderly, fixed-and-low-income residents.

Regardless where individual Eliot residents stand on the bridge, for or against, it should be clear it will have negative health and community impacts on every Eliot resident and those along the length of the I-5 corridor through north Portland. Eliot residents should also be aware that the bridge will make congestion along I-5 in Eliot worse. There are plans to "improve" this area as well. The plans I have seen include widening the freeway which will remove some businesses and put the freeway in the backyards of Eliot residents south of Russell. •

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Solarize Northeast Kicks Off



Would you like to save money, save energy, and help save the planet? An exciting new initiative can help you and your

Northeast Portland neighbors do all that and make your home more comfortable at the same time.

Solarize Northeast is a volunteer-driven community effort of the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods to bring solar elec-

tric technology and the benefits of weatherization to Northeast Portland homes. Modeled on a project developed by Southeast Uplift, interested neighbors will join forces to enjoy significant savings through the bulk purchase of solar electric (photovoltaic) panels. One or more contractors selected through a competitive proposal process will perform site assessments and install panels on participating homes this spring.

The project will also offer to help residents find resources to

make their homes more energy efficient, increasing comfort and reducing utility costs. Residents may choose to participate in the solar option, the weatherization option or both.

In addition, a series of workshops will be offered covering the basics of going solar, tax credits and other financial incentives, the details of connecting to the power grid, how to finance the purchase of solar panels, and the basics of weatherization. There is no fee associated with the Solarize North-

east project, and all the workshops are free.

You can sign up for the program at the Solarize Northeast website:

<http://solarize.necoalition.org/>. There you can also learn more about the project and view the workshop schedule. You must sign up by April 15, 2010 in order to participate. Questions can be directed to the program manager, Kelly Rodgers, solarize@necoalition.org, 503-823-9134. ●

N/NE Development Initiative

The North/Northeast Economic Development Initiative is an analysis of past and planned investments, possible boundary adjustments and priorities for new investments in the Interstate Corridor and Oregon Convention Center Urban Renewal Areas. The Portland Development Commission (PDC) is conducting the N/NE Economic Development Initiative in partnership with the community to ensure that PDC investments enhance livability and economic opportunity within the two urban renewal areas and the city at-large.

Parts of Eliot Neighborhood are in both the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal and Oregon Conven-

tion Center Urban Renewal areas. Changes to either URA could impact – positively or negatively – jobs, business expansion, revitalization, our historic building inventory, street improvements, and more in the neighborhood.

Monthly public meetings are held right here in Eliot Neighborhood at the newly restored Billy Webb Elks Lodge – 6 N Tillamook Street. For more information contact Joleen Jensen-Classen, 503-823-3352, jensen-classenj@pdc.us. Or visit www.pdc.us/four/nnestudy for the upcoming meeting schedule, a library of meeting materials, and a lot more information. ●

Rose Quarter SAC

In July, Mayor Adams announced the formation of a task force whose purpose is to make a recommendation on how to revitalize the Rose Quarter and what to do with the aging Memorial Coliseum. In August, the 32 member Rose Quarter Stakeholders Advisory Committee members were announced and Eliot Neighborhood was identified as a stakeholder.

The SAC meetings are typically held every other week at the Portland Development Commission office, 222 NW 5th, on Tuesdays starting at 5pm. The meetings are public with a short public comment period at the end of each meeting.

Follow the process on the website where you can review meeting notes or watch video of the meetings, peruse a library of important documents, post your comments, and even post a concept design. For more information on the SAC visit:

rosequarterdevelopment.org. ●



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Legacy Emanuel Hospital

Legacy Health System, a nonprofit organization, includes Emanuel Hospital & Health Center, Emanuel Children's Hospital, Good Samaritan Hospital & Medical Center, Meridian Park Hospital, Mount Hood Medical Center, Salmon Creek Hospital, Legacy Clinics and CareMark/Managed HealthCare Northwest PPO. © 2007

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- Eliot E-Mat Café
2808 N.E. MLK Jr. Blvd., 503-280-8889
- Goldrush Coffee Bar
2601 N.E. MLK Jr. Blvd., 503-331-5955
- Russell Street Gallery and Pie Diner
807 N. Russell St., 503-281-0758
- Tiny's Café
2031 N.E. MLK Jr. Blvd., 503-467-4199
- Waypost
3120 N. Williams St., 503-367-3182

Bars/Taverns

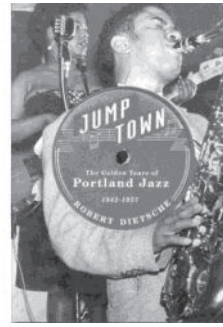
- 820
820 N. Russell St., 503-284-5518
- Alu Wine Bar
2831 N.E. MLK Jr. Blvd., 503-262-9463
- Bill Ray's Dive
2210 N.E. MLK Jr. Blvd.
- Gotham Tavern
2240 N. Interstate Ave., 503-517-9911
- McMenamin's White Eagle Café & Saloon
836 N. Russell St., 503-282-6810
- Secret Society
116 NE Russell St., 503-493-3600
- Sloan's Tavern
36 N. Russell St., 503-287-2262
- Widmer Gasthaus Pub
929 N. Russell St., 503-281-3333

Lunch/Dinner

- Afrique Bistro
102 NE Russell St., 503-943-6616
- Chuck's Market, J&S Grocery
2415 N. Williams Ave., 503-281-6269
- Echo
2225 N.E. MLK Jr. Blvd., 503-460-3246
- Mint
816 N. Russell St., 503-284-5518
- Pizza A Go Go
3240 N. Williams St., 503-335-0300
- Popeye's Famous Fried Chicken
3120 N.E. MLK Jr. Blvd., 503-281-8455
- Queen of Sheba
2413 N.E. MLK Jr. Blvd., 503-287-6302
- Russell Street Bar-B-Que
325 N.E. Russell St., 503-528-8224
- Sparky's Pizza
2434 N.E. MLK Jr Blvd
- Toro Bravo
120 NE Russell St., 503-281-4464
- Tropicana Bar Be Cue
3217 N. Williams Ave., 503-281-8696
- Under Wonder
128 N.E. Russell St., 503-493-0371

A Review of *JumpTown*

By Kirsten Jenkins



When most people think of jazz, Portland, Oregon, is not the first place that comes to mind. And yet, for a golden decade following World War II, the Eliot neighborhood, a thriving African American neighborhood that would soon be bulldozed for urban renewal, spawned a jazz heyday. Such luminaries as: Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker, Oscar Peterson, Dave Brubeck, John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Dizzie Gillespie, Louis Armstrong, and local talent; Wardell Gray and Doc Severinsen headlined Portland clubs. The fact that Portland was a port city with a busy railroad, and had a bustling shipbuilding industry, made it ripe to become a jazz Mecca. *JumpTown*, by Robert Dietsche is a fascinating blend of music, politics, and social history.

"Action central was Williams Avenue, an entertainment strip lined with hot spots where you could find jazz twenty-four hours a day" writes Bob Dietsche. He sentimentally recalls, "you could stand in the middle of the Avenue (the Rose Quarter, where the Blazers play basketball today) and look up Williams past the chili parlors, past the barbeque joints, the beauty salons, all the way to Broadway, and see hundreds of people dressed up as if they were going to a fashion show. It could be four in the morning. It didn't matter; this was one of those streets that never slept." Any reader, but especially residents of Eliot, past or present, will get a nostalgic feeling, thinking about how very cool it all was, how sad that it was so short lived, and that almost all of those beautiful buildings are gone. One building that remains is the Dude Ranch, the triangle shaped struc-

ture on the pie shaped block that divides Weidler from Broadway, now known as the Leftbank Building. "There never was and there never will be" according to Dietsche, "anything quite like the Dude Ranch. It was the Cotton Club, the Apollo Theatre, Las Vegas, and the Wild West rolled in to one." In July of 1945, the Dude Ranch, with its tap dancing MC and its celebrity clientele, its strippers (called shake dancers), ventriloquists, comics, jugglers, and torch singers, was the hottest club in town. Less than a year later, the doors were locked. Some people downtown thought it was a public nuisance. Billie Holiday, Nat King Cole, and a host of other all-stars, had to be canceled. There were hatcheck girls, cigarette girls and cowgirl waitresses dressed to look like Dale Evans, with cardboard six-shooters snug in their holsters. Massive hand-painted murals of Black cowboys lassoing Texas longhorns covered the walls. The Ranch was packed, like every other place in this postwar boom town. Thousands of service men were passing through, home from the islands of the pacific and crazy for entertainment. Among the well dressed shipbuilders, maids, and Pullman porters, were Bugsy Siegel-like characters dressed in sharkskin suits and broad Panama hats, in from St. Louis for a friendly games of cards or dice, and a racially mixed party of people who couldn't care less that they were on the cutting edge of social reform through integration, in the city that had be called "the most segregated north of the Mason-Dixon line" (Dietsche, 2009).

Find out about: The Acme, The Chicken Coop, Paul's Paradise, The Cotton Club, McElroy's Ballroom, The Castle, The Frat Hall, Uptown Ballroom, and the Golden Canopied Ballroom at Jantzen Beach, where Louis Armstrong played for eight years. It is a fun read about the amazing energy and history that was happening in our beloved Eliot neighborhood during the 40's and 50's. ●



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The White Eagle Saloon: A Building Full of Colorful History & Stories

By Roy E. Roos

Our neighborhood is so fortunate to have buildings that have survived for nearly a century or more. Every building has seen much use from many people over the years and has many stories to tell as well. The White Eagle Saloon & Café at 836 N Russell Street is a great example of a simple building known for its colorful past. The White Eagle, as it is now known as, has not only serviced many different people from different walks of life, but also is full of stories of events passed through several generations. In 95 years of existence, the building has served the same function as a saloon, tavern, or pub. Perhaps the walls are trying to talk as mysteries still shroud this building and reports of haunting by ghosts continue.

Early in its history, the White Eagle was known as the B. Soboleski & Company Saloon. The original saloon was established in 1905 in an earlier 1880s wood framed structure at this location. The present simple brick two-story structure was completed in 1914, replacing the old commercial building. Barney Soboleski and William Hryszko, who were Polish immigrants, established the new business. As Portland was experiencing an unprecedented boom, business was very good for these enterprising individuals, who probably started with very little working capital. Barney Soboleski lived in the building while his partner William Hryszko resided in Walla Walla, Washington. Brother Joseph Hryszko worked in the saloon as a bartender and lived in one of the rooms upstairs. The saloon was one of 11 that operated on lower Russell Street after the turn of the 20th Century.

During the early days of operation, this establishment offered free lunches to entice more customers, a practice done by many saloons and taverns around Portland. This helped many unemployed and transient males from going hungry, many of who were recent immigrants. The Portland City Council banned this in 1913. Most of the regulars though were Albina workers from the railroad, foundries, and dry-dock. The place filled up, especially between shifts, becoming a social gathering place for the area's Poles, Russians, Germans, and Slaves creating a scene of ethnic mixing and mingling. It was also a watering hole for a large variety of sailors who came from docked ships on the waterfront.

By the 1910s due to strong competition, the saloon was rumored to have turned to illegal activities such as gambling and prostitution. In 1914, Barney Soboleski sold out his portion of the business and both the Hryszko brothers

now were owners and the name was changed to Hryszko Brothers Saloon. This was also the time a new brick-framed building replaced the old one. The upstairs was enlarged and the rear was extended to the back of the property. Stories fly that the new building was designed to house expanded gambling activities in the back and brothels upstairs and in the basement.

In 1917, the name was changed to the Hryszko Brothers Soft Drinks Emporium in response to an Oregon Prohibition law passed. As some old-timers later recalled, it was only a name change as vice activities reportedly continued inside the establishment. A bank vault door to the basement was believed to be used to hide booze during prohibition. Some also speculate that shanghaiing took place here as tales go that the basement was once connected to an underground tunnel network leading to the waterfront. This practice was the act of an unsuspecting patron passing out in a back room from "spiked" drinks, being liberated of his money, and in extreme cases, waking up aboard a ship headed out to sea. No strong evidence backs this tale here but that activity did occur near the docks in NW Portland.

Things seemed to have settled down after Prohibition ended. In 1938, the name was changed to the Hryszko Brothers Restaurant & Beer Parlor as a function of a normal modern bar took place. After several more years, Robert Hryszko, the son of William took over the management. During World War II, the name was changed to the Blue Eagle Café and the business flourished as workers from the busy shipbuilding yards frequented the tavern. In 1949, the name was changed to the White Eagle Café & Saloon, reportedly due to the presence of the white eagle on an early Polish flag.

During the 1960s, the White Eagle backslid towards its former more rowdy reputation and was dubbed a "biker bar". By the end of the decade, the second generation Hryszkos decided to sell the business to another immigrant from New York City, Tony Ferrone. They introduced live music to the establishment as workers from the surrounding industries visited. In 1978, Charles Hughes, a former worker from the Hyster Company, purchased the White Eagle. He soon helped clear the establishment of its rowdy biker reputation and business improved as more workingmen frequented it. His prudent technique was not to discriminate against bikers but refusing the entry of guys who wore their jackets with their own club logos. In 1997, the White Eagle



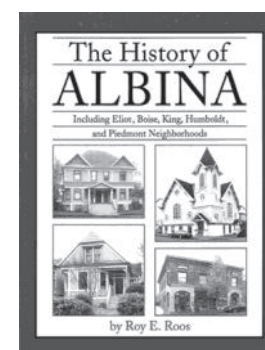
White Eagle Saloon

was nominated and later placed on the National Register of Historic Places due to association with ethnic heritage, social history, and entertainment/recreation. In October 1998, it was sold to McMenamins, the local pub chain that enjoyed much success in the 1990s earning a reputation for saving many historic buildings.

The White Eagle remains full of stories and legends. Reports of the building being haunted by several ghosts run abound and have even been mentioned in daily papers as far away as Buffalo, New York. For many years, paranormal occurrences have been claimed throughout the building. According to legend during its earlier years, a jealous lover murdered a white prostitute named Rose upstairs and weeping has been heard for years from her ghost. Also, a Chinese bouncer was said to have mysteriously disappeared and his aggressive ghost continues to haunt the basement. Waitresses were reportedly pushed down the stairs and mop buckets thrown around. A third ghost named Sam was said to flush toilets upstairs. Sam was a close friend of the Hryszko family who lived and worked at the saloon and his picture hangs on the wall at the bar. Most of the stories intermingle with facts as Sam actually died in Salem and none of the other events were reported in newspapers. The mysteries about the White Eagle may never be solved or proven, but it is interest-

ing that so many people have reported so many sightings and occurrences. A few ghost stories add a historical flavor to a building with a shrouded past. The Eliot neighborhood is so fortunate to have this landmark as so many of the nearby buildings have been torn down between the 1960s and 1980s. Once part of a collage of storefronts on a busy block, it today stands nearly alone. Even though it is not rough and rowdy anymore, the White Eagle still operates as a social gathering place as it did when built. Rooms upstairs, with their original historic flavor, are rented out at reasonable rates.

* much information from City of Portland National Register Nomination for White Eagle Saloon, August 1997.



An excerpt from the book *The History of Albina*, available at Broadway Books at 1714 NE Broadway, Rejuvenation Inc. at 1100 SE Grand, and Powells Books at NW 10th & Burnside.



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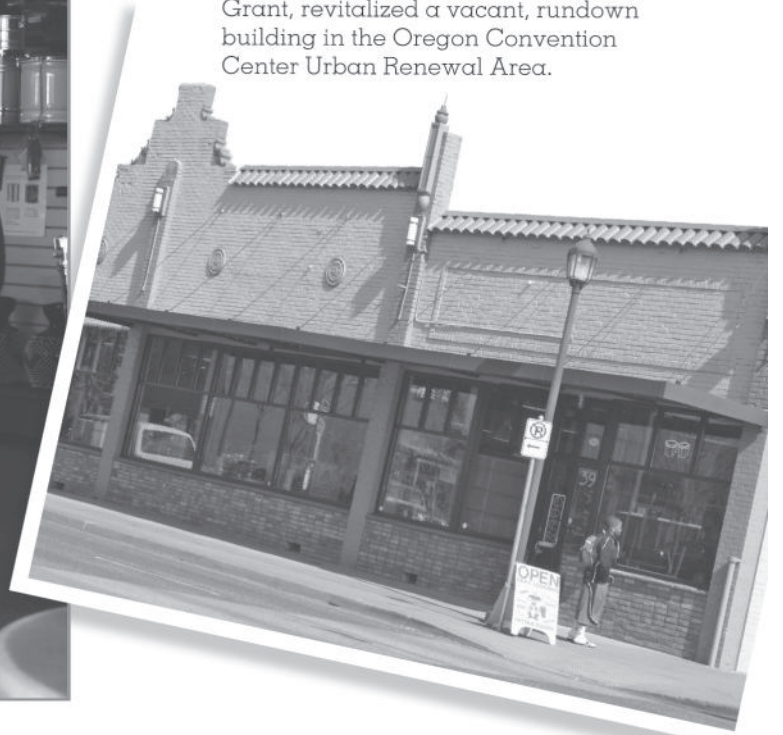
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Rhythm Traders moved to their new location on NE MLK, Jr. Blvd. and, with the help of a PDC Storefront Matching Grant, revitalized a vacant, rundown building in the Oregon Convention Center Urban Renewal Area.

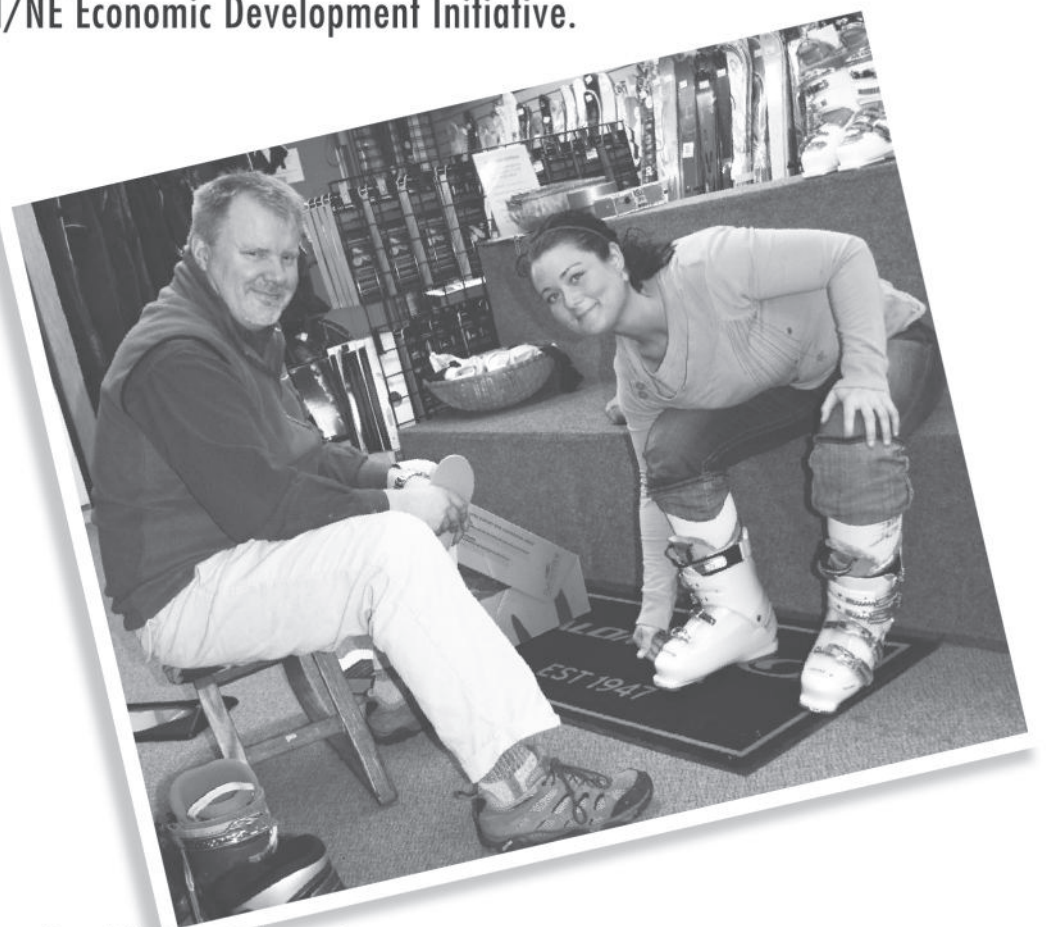


The Portland Development Commission has partnered with hundreds of property owners, small and large business owners, non-profit and government agencies and citizens in North/Northeast Portland to support job creation and business expansion, housing projects, development of commercial buildings, and revitalization of neighborhoods with community gathering places, street improvements, parks and open spaces.

Opportunity lies ahead: the N/NE Economic Development Initiative.



The Mountain Shop also benefited from PDC's Storefront Program.



N/NE Economic Development Initiative Community Advisory Committee

**Meetings are held on Wednesdays from 6 pm - 8 pm at
Billy Webb Elks Lodge, 6 N Tillamook Street**

Upcoming Meeting Dates: January 6 • January 20, 2010

For more information contact Joleen Jensen-Classsen,
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