

This Steering Committee was formed in June, 1987, for the purpose of considering suggested approaches to engage the Bon Marche Department Store in making a tangible contribution to the black community. It was mutually agreed by the Steering Committee and the Bon Marche that **A Tribute to the Northwest Black Pioneers** would be an excellent way to educate the community relating to the unique historical contributions of early Black Pioneers. With diligence, hardwork, and dedication (all on a voluntary basis) a spectacular Exhibit was created.

Beginning on February 17-22, 1988, the first Exhibit was displayed in the Bon Marche Department Store, in Seattle. During the 1989 observance of Washington State's Centennial, the Exhibit was displayed in the branch stores located in Tacoma, Silverdale, Longview, Everett, Northgate, Bellingham, Bellevue, Alderwood, Spokane, Yakima and the Tri-Cities. Each community created a local committee to work with the Steering Committee in the planning and presentation of its Exhibit. The additional entries profiled significant historical contributions of Black Pioneers and their descendants in each community.

The final Exhibit for the Northwest Black Pioneers will be displayed in Seattle. The Steering Committee and the Bon Marche take pride in making it possible to share these historical treasures. From this venture it may stimulate interest to plan and to develop a Black Historical Museum.

The Steering Committee and the Administrative Staff of the Bon Marche Department Store express their thanks to the members of the Planning Committees, the guest presenters and to the diverse populations who viewed these historical treasures relating to the black citizens of Washington State.



Left to right, back row: John Buller, Louise Thompson, Paul Mitchell, Dawnmarie Cooper, Robert Gary, S. Young
 Middle row: O.L. Mitchell, Elmore Williams, Barbara Jarrett, Nanette Mitchell, Bea Cox
 Front row: Spencer Show, Ralph Hayes, Burl Garnett.
 Not shown: Pat Stewart, Ralph Ruff, Dell Durden.