

THE PROFESSIONAL MAINTENANCE COMPANY, INC.



Rogers Wright

The Professional Maintenance Company, Inc., was founded in 1962 by Mr. & Mrs. Rogers Wright. A laborer by day at the Olympic Foundry, Wright also held a night job, a janitorial position in the Arctic Building in downtown Seattle.

A serious injury to a co-worker at the foundry pushed Wright into a major decision, whether to give up the inherent dangers that lurked at his day job or concentrate on turning his janitorial work into a business. He quickly turned one maintenance commitment into three and hired two employees.

Wright, a man of simple means and no formal education, then called on a friend, Sam Kimura, an insurance agent, for advice and financial assistance. He also hired Phoebe Franzel, an escrow officer for a savings and loan association, as a bookkeeper for \$50 a month. The Professional Maintenance Company was officially conceived.

By 1968, Wright had eight clients and seven employees. He also worked as well and still had no office for the company. Kimura wrote the checks and Franzel balanced the books. With the assistance of the Small Business Administration (SBA) for minority small businesses, Wright acquired the maintenance contract for the McCord Air Force Base. He invested \$7,000 into a truck, buffers and vacuums and upped employees by 35. The Professional Maintenance Company was growing.

Office space at 454 - twelfth Avenue, the Annida Building, was acquired in 1971. During this year, Wright also signed a government contract with Whidbey Island Naval Air Station. This put another 40 men and women on the payroll.

Wright's first downtown office building contract was consummated with Pacific Northwest Bell one year later and 12 more employees were hired to fulfill this obligation.

Wright's first ten years in business were substantial. With over eighty employees, three major contracts sealed and functioning smoothly and numerous smaller commitments, Wright was ready to expand.

In 1973, the Annida Building was for sale and Wright, again with the assistance of SBA, purchased the two-story office and apartment complex for \$100,000. He quickly added six garages to the rear of the building for storage space. It took Wright but six years to pay off this venture.