

GLOBAL CONSULTANTS/CONSTRUCTION

Mercer Island, Washington



Hank Roney

For over 30 years Hank Roney has been self-employed in construction projects from implementation and development to completion. Hank's work spread across nine (9) states in the East, Midwest and Pacific Northwest.

To the many who know him, Hank Roney is a complex man: entrepreneur, businessman, community leader, activist; however, one simple goal has run through his entire life, that of working to improve the lives of Black people. Whether he was involved in one of the many construction projects, leading civil rights organization in the 1960's, negotiating affirmative action ordinances in the 1970's, or being politically active in the 1980's, he has always struggled to demonstrate that Blacks must share in the economic wealth of this country. Through his many endeavors, some noticeable, some unrecognized, he has made a contribution to the State of Washington, the Northwest, and to the many people whose lives he has touched.

Hank grew up in a small Texas community. Orphaned when he was seven, Hank's ties with his aunt and other family were deep and strong, strong enough to carry him through the jungle of poverty and violence familiar to many southern-born Blacks.

From his brothers, who had learned their crafts from their father, Hank learned all the buildings skills. When other boys were out playing games, Hank was building and rebuilding a brick wall under the critical eyes of his brothers, pouring concrete and papering houses. He perfected his skills in trade schools, but also studied music in Hawaii and attended other colleges.

Hank Roney came to Seattle in 1954, and was one of the first Black general contractors in the Northwest. He was also the first Black issued a contractor's license by the State of Washington. "Construction is a tough business," he said once. It's very difficult for a Black to establish a business. "Many times I was ready to give up, but then I would see someone who was less fortunate, and I kept on fighting." Today Hank Roney has to his credit several hundred construction and remodeling jobs in the state of Washington.

Hank was able to pass some of his expertise to his daughter, Theresa, and founded Global Consultants/Construction, Inc. Theresa was named President, and Hank is Executive Vice-President, his wife Elizabeth is Secretary Treasurer. Global has worked on projects as diverse as the West Seattle Bridge, the 3rd Lake Floating Bridge, mixing and placing 28,000 yards of concrete on the Cedar Falls Dam project. Global as a Joint Venture Partner won the "Build America" and the "Excellence In Construction" awards for the construction of the Duwamish Head Outfall Pipe Line for the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle in 1986.

He organized with his brother in 1961, the first organization for blacks in construction in the Pacific Northwest. He has been active with the central Contractors Association, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the N.A.A.P., the Urban League, and is president of the National Association, Northwest Chapter. He served on the King County Democrat Central Committee, and was elected to represent King County Democrat at the state level of the Democrat Party.