

Friends recall OPS vet's calming style

By Pat Malach
Emerald Editor

Friends of Oakley Glenn remember the 20-year Office of Public Safety veteran as a calm and stabling influence on campus during some of the most volatile years of the 1970s.

Glenn, a former director of OPS, Eugene police department veteran and civil rights activist, died Friday after an extended illness.

Jan Medrano, a management assistant in the president's office, said she remembers Glenn as one of the main reasons the campus never got too out of control.

"There was a lot going on during the years Oakley was here," she said. "Anytime you felt things were a really volatile situation and things were going to blow up, Oakley was just so fair and straightforward, he had a way of calming everybody down. You just watched things go from a boiling point to a light simmer."

One of those boiling points from the 1970s occurred when anti-war demonstrators threatened to destroy the campus ROTC headquarters. Police were in place as the demonstrators approached.

Glenn described the incident

to Register-Guard writer Don Bishoff for a 1990 article:

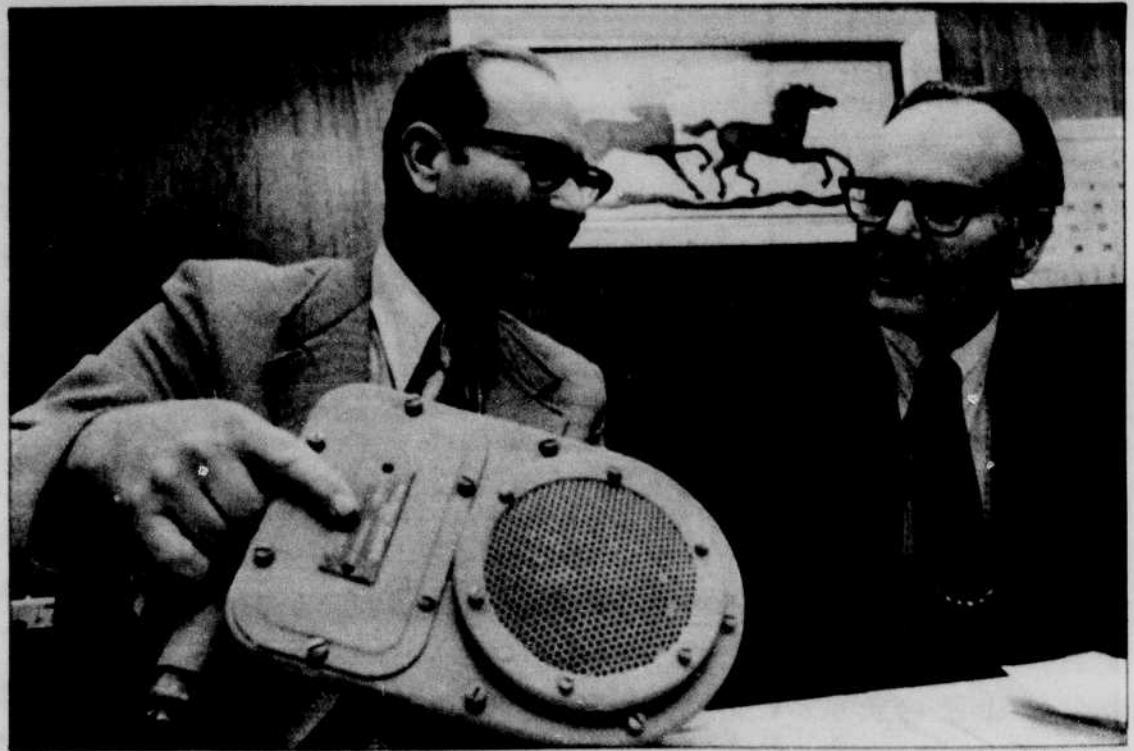
"I told the guy with the pepper fog machine to start 'em up — and they wouldn't start," Glenn said. "And here they came, hundreds of them, yelling and screaming and carrying placards. I didn't know what the hell to do."

"Then I looked over and saw one of their leaders. I told him: 'We have a bad situation here. There's too many (police) and if they're charged, somebody's going to get hurt.' He called two of his people together and came back and said, 'You move your people out and we'll move ours out.'"

They did, and that was where it ended.

Glenn retired from the University Sept. 20, 1990. He began working with EPD in 1949. In 1970, he served a dual role as head of the OPS as well. Glenn began working full time as director of OPS when he retired from EPD in 1975. When Glenn took the full-time job in 1975, he was asked by then-Gov. Tom McCall to set up and revamp the campus security system.

OPS Associate Director Tom Hicks, who worked with Glenn from 1983 until Glenn's retirement in 1990, said his fairness



Former OPS Director Oakley Glenn (right) and Harold Babcock display an emergency call box used on campus in the early 1980s. Glenn died Friday in Eugene.

and ability to treat everyone equal were his greatest assets. And his sense of humor didn't hurt.

Glenn is best remembered for an incident when protesters staged a sit-in in the OPS office. He brought out coffee and doughnuts and declared an open house.

"They ate up six or eight dozen doughnuts, decided it was enough and left," he told Bishoff.

Archivist Keith Richard remembered Glenn as "a very understanding person."

"Someone with a stick up his back could have caused a lot of problems," Richard said.

Glenn was also one of the first civil rights activists in Eugene in the early 1960s. He was the principle author of the city's first human rights ordinance, said his daughter Gail Curran, an administrative assistant in the Dean of Students Office.

He also worked for several years as chairman of the Lane County Fellowship for Civic Unity, an early civil rights group.

A funeral for Glenn is scheduled for today at 1 p.m. in the First Christian Church, 1166 Oak St. Contributions in Glenn's name can be made to the University Foundation for minority scholarships.

Guatemalan speaks of ongoing human rights fight

By Katy Moeller
Emerald Contributor

Maria del Rosario, a member of the Committee for Peasant Unity (CUC) in Guatemala, spoke to more than one hundred people Tuesday at the University about the human rights struggles of the indigenous people of that country.

Del Rosario began her discussion with basic information on the social and political situation of Guatemala. The indigenous people comprise 65 percent of the population, she

said, and represent 80 percent of the manual labor in the large plantation factories that export products from Guatemala. Although indigenous people represent a majority in terms of population and manual work, del Rosario said they are being denied representation.

"This 65 percent of the population, the majority obviously, is not represented by the government, is not represented in the laws nor are these people included in the day to day workings of government," she said.

Del Rosario spoke about the need for agrarian reform.

"Seventy percent of the land that is cultivable is in the hands of two percent of the population," she said. "While the people are dying of hunger, this is a country that continues to export agricultural products."

Del Rosario compared the current oppression of the indigenous people to the historical precedent set by Christopher Columbus.

"When we talk about people being massacred, about homes

being burned, about attacks against the villages, people who have disappeared, we are not talking about something that took place 500 years ago," she said. "Unfortunately, we are talking about something that has been taking place in the last decade."

Del Rosario addressed the recent decision by the United Nations to declare 1993 the "Year of the Indigenous Peoples." She recognized Native Americans of the United States for their effort in achieving this, but suggested that perhaps this was

merely a symbolic effort on the part of the U.N.

Del Rosario wrapped up her speech with an appraisal of fellow CUC member Rigobeta Menchu. Menchu, also a Quiche Maya, won the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize.

Del Rosario quipped that "usually this kind of award is only given to suit and tie kind of people. ... The Nobel Peace Prize was given to a woman. An indigenous woman. A woman who has been down trodden. This is a significant event."

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