

Family Album Northwest

By Kathryn H. Bogle

High on a sunny hill in Honolulu, a neat little white house nestles, secure in a garden patio of crimson bougainvillea and golden trumpet vine. Views from the large windows command a 180 degree panorama of the tops of downtown skyscrapers, the busy Honolulu harbor and miles of beautiful, blue, sparkling sea stretching beyond the horizon.

This is the home of Fred Milton James and his wife, Yunie Mitchum James, who grew up in Portland.



Yunie Mitchum, 1927
(from Earl Morrison Collection)

Fred is a former U.S. navy man. He retired after 40 years and five days of continued service. As Chief Steward aboard the U.S.S. Chicago for 11 years, he also saw 10 years of service on the U.S.S. Arizona, the ship that was sunk in warfare action. She remains trapped, possibly forever, in the depths of Pearl Harbor with 1,000 men still aboard.

Immaculate and trim in his nineties, Mr. James walks with shoulders back, head held erect and steady. He has complete command of himself. No deserter from the kitchen, Fred will, on occasion, prepare light meals for himself and Yunie. Cooking, or not, Mr. James clears the dining table and clears up the kitchen for his wife. He is apt to spend part of his day in his garden, snipping here and there to keep things under control.

It was during a Rose Festival some 40 years ago that the U.S.S. Chicago, a heavy cruiser, rode at anchor in Portland. Fred James, Chief Steward, was aboard. During that visit Fred met Yunie, and intimately won her hand. It was the second time around for each.

Mrs. James, a score of years younger than her husband, keeps active in the multi-racial social life of

the islands. Her particular interest has turned to developing and deepening her skills as an artist.

Enrolled in a private oil painting class in the city, Mrs. James also studies art history at the University of Hawaii.

Born in Novato, California, Yunie lived as a small girl with her mother and father as they prospected for magnesium in the desert country. A move to Bend, Oregon provided steady work in the woods for the men of her family and the family fortunes improved. But, the year was 1918, and the dreaded influenza was rampant. Yunie's mother succumbed to the epidemic sweeping through the land.

Yunie's father removed his daughter to Vancouver, Washington and placed her in Columbia Academy, a Seventh Day Adventist Boarding school there. The little girl was happy in her new environment. Her bright interest in music and art was fostered and encouraged by her teachers, as well as by her father, who was pleased to see his daughter following his own interest in pencil drawings.

With her graduation from elementary school at Columbia Academy, Yunie expressed a desire to know and live among people of color; people like herself, that she saw on occasional trips to Portland.

Mrs. Sally Standfield, a genteel lady in Portland's Colored Community, took over the rearing of Yunie during her adolescent years.

With her excellent training in the Bible at Columbia Academy, Yunie was welcomed as a Sunday School teacher at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church where she taught adults, and at A.M.E. Zion Church where she taught children's classes.

Mrs. Standfield send Yunie to Franklin High School for her secondary education. There Yunie showed herself to be a good student. Maintaining her interest in art, Yunie's latest art pieces were often sought for display in the halls of the school. She was graduated by Franklin High School in 1926.

Mrs. James has always liked to paint people and the human profile has intrigued her. That phase is now overshadowed by her newer interest in the Hawaiian landscape. She wants to capture the feeling of as many of the islands as she can.

For her home Mrs. James has used a soft quiet beige for the living room, spiked with exciting, refreshing splashes of bright lime green and cobalt blue in the furnishings. Bedrooms are crisp blue and white.

Everywhere in the house are beautiful expressions of Mrs. James'



Yunie Mitchum James, 1979

(Photo: Gilbert Deiz)

feeling for water. There are paintings of placid water, rippling water, water in violent action, water falling, water by day and water by night.

Our pictures of Mrs. James show the artist with one of her own paintings in the gardens of Mauna Luan at Hawaii Kai. Mrs. James was an afternoon guest, that day, of Mrs.

Wilson C. Walker. Photographer of the garden picture was Gilbert Deiz of Portland, Oregon and New York City.

Early pictures of Yunie James in Portland, is from the family album of Earl Morrison.

A Farewell to Friends



founder/director of the Mixed Company Modeling Troupe, supervisor of the Social Service Dept. for a head start program, psychology counselor for the William Temple House, on the budget and finance committee for the city of Portland, on the Albina Voters Registration & education Committee, Disc-jockey for 1 1/2 yrs. on radio station KBOO-fm (the jazz waterbearer), worked with radio station KQIV. A private family counselor, eight months with the Weyerly Childrens Home in S.E. Portland, a night club and stage entertainer/performer and actor.

I came to Portland in mid-1976. and in March, 1977, the *Portland Observer* wrote a front page story about a "world performer stopping here." Well, the story was about me and it is now November, 1979, and I am going back "home" to Los Angeles. I have accepted a top business position there.

In my three and a half years here in the Northwest, I have gained many, many new friends. Because of the large number, I chose to do it this way (article). I have accomplished a great deal in my short stay (i.e.,)

I leave Portland with peace and love to "all" and hope my journey to the Northwest has and will leave in the minds and hearts of many, a returned love, a certain trust, plus a belief in me, and a very positive attitude on attitude itself for... "ourselves."

I would like to apologize for the show I was to do with Gene Diamond, at the Red Lion Inn (Janzen Beach) on 10/29/79. I don't know what the problem was. I was ready and no one else was, so my farewell to all on stage will not take place and I am truly sorry for your inconvenience and support.

Gene Holmes

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Grisham joins prison board

President Jimmy Carter has appointed Daryl F. Grishman, of Chicago, Illinois, as a member of the board of directors of the Federal Prison Industries, Inc.

Grishman, a Chicago businessman, is chairman of the PUSH Foundation and the chairman of the Chicago Metro Division of the National Alliance of Businessmen. He is also a principal and past co-chairman of Chicago United, a grouping of executive officers of

prominent black and white corporations and selected community organizations seeking to broaden opportunities for minority citizens, including minority economic development.

He is a member of the National Board of Directors of the United Negro College Fund and of the Board of Trustees of Provident Hospital in Chicago.

He is also a director of the Cosmopolitan Chamber of Commerce.

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