

distinguished and well-earned titles fall away as he happily responds to "Cliff" and "Dad."

House schedules revolve around the schedules of the vice president of the university, but "Cliff", the husband, is carefully mindful of his wife's domain and of her individuality. Much of his business entertaining is done elsewhere to spare Mrs. Smith's energies, although occasionally, she does entertain at small dinners at home.

This handsome pair, who were childhood sweethearts, where married 27 years ago in a Catholic nuptial mass back in Washington, D.C. Nina Smith laughs and says, "When I was 12 years old I told my father I was going to marry that good-looking boy across the street. And I did!"

They both attended Dunbar High School, the famous school in Washington, D.C., so well known for educating and molding many of the nation's Black leaders -- those fortunate to have been enrolled there when they were young.

Nina was ready to marry Cliff as soon as she graduated from Dunbar, but her father had her life planned otherwise. First, there had to be more education, he said, to prepare her for the practical side of living.

Nina is glad she heeded her father's advice. She enrolled in a school of nursing in Boston in the beginning. Later, she was graduated from the Philadelphia General Hospital, a huge institution with 2700 beds. Nina specialized in post-operative surgical nursing and in orthopedic care.

Diploma practically in hand, Nina and Clifford Smith were married and greeting guests lucky enough to be invited to their wedding just two weeks after Nina was graduated.

A job in the family proved to be a handy thing as Clifford had entered graduate school. "I worked as regularly as I could," Mrs. Smith recalls. "I started at Washington Hospital Center in Washington. Usually I worked as a "charge" nurse. I worked in hospitals with mixed staff, racially, in whatever city we found ourselves.

"Subsequent moves from Clifford's career as a student, and then for his professional working career, meant that our first two daughters, Sharon and Debra, were brought up in New England. Patricia will know the mid-west and the far west. Sharon is married now and lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband, a 6'9" basketball star of the Dallas Chaparrals.

"All of our girls are above average scholastically, but there are no engineers among them. Debra is not now living in our home with us, but she is in Corvallis with us attending graduate school. Her interests are in drama and literature.

"Patricia, at 16, is a Corvallis high school senior. Her hobby is horseback riding. Here in Corvallis she has her own horse, Satin. We stable Satin at a place in the outskirts of town.

"Our family is happy here and we are buying this house. For all of us, living in a small college town is a rewarding experience. Our neighbors are our friends and we see many of them at church at St. Mary's where we attend. The deer and opossum wander through our gardens at night, and Shannon, the family dog, runs along with Cliff when he jogs in the mornings.

Corvallis knows the Clifford Smiths are in town. the Smiths laugh and tell the story about the elderly gentlemen who called them on the telephone. "Is this the Smith residence?" the caller asked. Trisha answered in the affirmative.

"Are you Black?" he asked.

"Yes, I am Black," the lovely girl responded.

"Is your mother Black?" the caller persisted.

"Yes," was the answer.

"I hear your father is Black." At this point Trisha handed the telephone over to her father.

"Well," the caller went on, "We need some entertainment at our club meeting and I thought if you could come sing for us or dance, or sent someone..."

The end of story? Clifford Smith, the vice president of Oregon State University, a professor of Engineering, a consultant for NASA, made a little preliminary explanation to the telephone caller. Then, two weeks ago, Dr. Smith went to the caller's small group. He made a



MRS. NINA SMITH

talk on "Environmental Engineering" and scaled it to fit their level of understanding.

Mrs. Smith finds time to be treasurer for the Corvallis branch of the NAACP. She is also a member of the OSU Folk Club, an organization for faculty wives.

In the coming autumn, Mrs. Smith will be back in school and at a hospital for a refresher course in nursing. Following the completion of her brush-up period she plans to teach or to become an administrator in some phase of her profession.

(Photos: Richard Brown)

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