

OBSERVATIONS

from the Sidelines
By Kathryn Hall Bogle

The snow-covered slopes of Mt. Bachelor in Central Oregon drew several ski-minded Portlanders to the Inn at the Seventh Mountain this past weekend.

The young Portlanders had made up their own spontaneous ski drive to weekend on the Century Drive but found their small part coincided with a much larger and well planned party of a vacationing group of 30 or 40 skiers from California and Washington state.

In the Portland contingent were Evelyn and Foley Gordon, Linda and Frank Metellus, Robin and Glenn Weatherspoon, Russel Johnson, Jeanine Tiebout, George Davis and Joe James.

The out-of-state skiers were hosted by the Four Seasons Northwest, a Seattle-based ski club headed by Beverly Johnson of Tacoma. Noell Holley is their vice-president of Outreach. Four Seasons Northwest is just one of several ski clubs in the farwest. There are none in Oregon, but the Camellia City Ski Club is of Sacramento, the Ski Ambassadors come from Colorado Springs, the Ujama Ski club is out of Compton, California and home base for Winter Fox Ski Association in Los Angeles, as well as for Four Seasons West.

All Seasons Ski Club, Inc., draws members from San Francisco-Oakland Bay area. There may be others in the Far West but all those named are affiliated with many others in the Midwest and eastern states united under the banner of the National Brotherhood of Skiers, Inc., of Chicago. Gus Pannell is president of the national.

Each year the NBS presents a Black Summit gathering and Black Summit 81 was held earlier their year at Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Principal goal of eighty-years old affiliation is "to promote winter sports within the community" according to Pannell. Further, the aims are to support and guide youth as "Olympic potentials or Olympic hopefuls." Fund raising events are given for race skill development in a "friendly, relaxed environment." Nearly 2,000 folks attended Black Summit 81.

Many of the clubs offer a number of activities for their members. All Seasons Ski Club sponsors skiing, an annual tennis tournament, golf, miniature car racing, canoeing, hang gliding, water rafting, back packing, water skiing, theatre

groups, dances, roller skating, bike trips, to name a few of their interests.

Membership in most of the clubs seem to be fairly open if one has the price and a sincere wish to participate in friendly sports.

Four Seasons Northwest closed their winter holiday at Mt. Bachelor with a disco dance and invited the Portlanders to their festivities at the Sun River Lodge. Next day the Portland group rode horseback in the snow-packed bridle paths along the Deschutes River.

Lets see now. What would be a good name for a Portland ski club?

Hawaii Rai beckoned to Carmen and Wilson Walker and away they went to check on a new condominium they have acquired there. A handy spring vacation supplied the time frame.

Mercedes and Carl Deiz and their daughter Karen Bell flew down to San Francisco for a pleasant week end of visiting with Bill Deiz.

Congratulations are in order for the admirable professionalism of Commissioner Charles Jordan during these trying days. We are proud of you, Commissioner.

Congratulations also to our own Herb Cawthorne for a courageous, uphill fight to retain his place on the Portland School Board. Each of us casting our one important vote in his favor helped to secure intelligent leadership again for the beleaguered board.

Tickets are going briskly for the Ebony Fashion Fair to be staged again at the Civic auditorium on April 24. Jacqueline Brown is co-chairing this year's fashion event with Alda Ruth Monroe. Ticket sales are under the watchful eye of Jeanne Hartzog, with Yvonne Williams coordinating the seating arrangements.

The informative programs, which many people keep in their memorabilia, are being assembled by Mildred Reynolds and Lydia Roy. Exciting and valuable door prizes, always a highly anticipated part of the Ebony Fashion Fair when the Links, Inc., present it, are in the "gathering stage" according to one of the best known women (bar none) in Portland, Geneva Jones. Directing hostess affairs are Links Bernadette Plummer and Fannie Chatman.

Clementyne Guy is president of the local chapter of the Links and



Model previews designs for Ebony Fashion Fair.

publicity is in the capable hands of June Brown.

Link Hattie Gaskin is recuperating at home after hospitalization. Her chores as treasurer for her chapter are being divided among other chapter members until she resumes her club activities.

The Governor's Commission on Black Affairs needs your cooperation. Letters with petitions enclosed now in the hands of many concerned citizens of Oregon, were issued over the signature of Pearl Spears-Gray, Chairperson of the Commission on Black Affairs.

In her letter Spears-Gray states: "As you know, Governor Victor Atiyeh has, by Executive Order EO-80-18, established a Governor's Commission on Black Affairs."

"The Commission has the responsibility of monitoring existing programs and laws in the areas of education, employment, economic development, health and law as they impact upon the Black population of Oregon.

"The Commission is also responsible for the identification and researching of problem areas and issues of Blacks, and to recommend actions to the Governor, including legislation.

"The Commission is to maintain liaison between the Black community and government entities, with special emphasis on encouraging Black representation on state boards and commissions."

Gray singles out bills presently before the House and Senate in Salem affecting the operation of the new Commission.

"House Bill 2041," continues Gray, "is being considered by the Ways and Means Committee. This bill establishes a Commission on Black Affairs to implement the above responsibilities.

"Senate Bill 5559, which sets up the Budget for the Commission, is also being considered by Ways and Means. The proposed budget is very modest, but without it, the Commission would be severely limited in carrying out the mandates of its charter."

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Dick Bogle

Maybe I'm just getting old and grumpy but I've felt lately that jazz buffs pay a heavy price to listen to their favorite kind of music.

Take a weekend or so ago in Seattle as an example. My favorite lady and I journeyed north to the Queen city to see and hear Esther Phillips who was appearing at a place called Michael J's.

It has been just about 30 years since I had heard her sing. That was here in Portland at an old club at the West end of the Steel Bridge called the De Lisa. I was a kid washing dishes on a Union Pacific dining car during the summer and one of the crew's waiters, Jasper Grant, a real man about town asked me to go with him.

I could hardly wait. I don't know what excited me the most, looking forward to hearing "Little Esther" or being with Jasper who knew lots of women.

Either way I knew I was in for a good time. Maybe some of Jasper's magic would rub off on me, and if I was kool I just might get lucky and have one of those "older" women Jasper knew give me a break.

I don't really remember how that part turned out, but I do remember falling in love with Esther's talent and the Johnny Otis Band.

So, we make a bee line for Seattle and stop by Michael J's to buy tickets for the late show, set to begin at 11:30 that night.

The fact the tickets cost \$10.00 each didn't bother me too much after all I was going to see and hear Esther. Now here is where the heavy price we had to pay just to hear our kind of music comes in.

At 11:15 we were there, but so were about a hundred other fans jammed in a small space between the front door and the main room of a very long and very narrow night club. We stood for what must have been a good half hour, just waiting for the management to clear the club of first show patrons.

Then the rush for seats. We ended up three quarters of the way back and sat and sat and sat some more.

Finally about 12:30 the show started. I heard Esther before I actually could see her and it was quite a thrill.

Now, I wear bifocals and I only mention that because she was so far away that I had to tilt my head back to see her at all. But when I did that the bottom part of my bifocals came into use and they are designed for close up seeing, thus a blur. If I looked through the top part, another blur.

But there's nothing wrong with my ears and Esther was dynamite especially on "What A Difference A Day Makes" and an old Dinah Washington tune which is still heavy to this day, "Long John the Dentist."

Three of the four musicians accompanying her were Portland players: Lester McFarland, bass; Carlton Jackson, drums and Todd Carver, guitar. She brought her own keyboard player, George Spencer.

One would never have known just listening that this was only the second night the group had ever played together.

Jackson, one of Portland's fine young drummers kept the group kicking by doing everything just right, while guitarist Carver had the

audience applauding on several of his rapid and innovative solos. Lester supplied a nice moderate bottom to the whole set, perhaps not playing as loudly as he sometimes does around town.

I wasn't familiar with Spencer but he is a mature electric piano player who plays with much creativity and excitement.

It was an excellent performance and the mostly young Black crowd loved it. I just wish they had seating for senior citizens with bifocals.

Tax help available

April 15, 1981 is the deadline set for sending in tax returns.

For those who needs assistance, Federal Income Tax assistance will be available from 9:00 a.m., to 1:00 p.m., on Monday, April 13, 1981 at the Albina Human Resource Center, 5022 N. Vancouver Avenue. This service is intended primarily for low-income and/or elderly citizens of the neighborhood.

Appointments can be made by telephoning 280-6901. Persons requiring such assistance should bring their W-2 forms; property tax statements or documentation of rent payment; record of any interest paid or received; and (if applicable) documentation of the amount of Social Security benefits. It will be helpful to bring a copy of the 1979 returns.

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