

# OBSERVATIONS

FROM THE SIDELINES  
by Kathryn Hall Bogle



Bill Deiz is back home in Portland. And loving every minute of it. He's down at City Hall working as Commissioner's Assistant for Mike Lindberg. He likes his job. He likes his boss. He likes people and life. And it shows.

There he was doing well in San Francisco anchoring and reporting at a 24-hour radio news station near the Embarcadero with newscasts going to San Jose, Contra Costa and environs. He lived in a luxury apartment with a gorgeous view over in Marin County. He could see the sunlight sparkling on the waters of the Bay and he was getting more and more homesick all the time for Portland and its mists and rains.

Three or four months ago Bill's telephone rang. It was a friend, Geoff Larkin, in Portland. Larkin was leaving his job at City Hall, he said. Would Bill like to come up and try for it?

Lindberg arranged a two-day orientation period for Bill to meet Lindberg's staff people and to go through a time-packed whirl through some of Lindberg's responsibilities in city government. The job would call on all Bill's expertise in handling people, for as Lindberg's assistant, Deiz would act as press liaison, speech writer, newsletter writer and appointed stand-in for Commissioner Lindberg in the several Public Works bureaus of the city.

"I liked Mr. Lindberg right away for his being so approachable," says Deiz. "He is always accessible to staff and he listens to what we have to say. I'm still amazed at the way the staff clicks together. It is a close-knit, enjoyable group—hand-picked to work in harmony with each other. We even spend some off-hours together."

"I'm sure it helps in my job that I grew up in Portland—went to Boise, Portsmouth, Roosevelt High and was graduated from Portland State in political science. I know and love the city and its people."

"A few years ago I had an urge to work in California. And I went into radio and T. V. For a while I anchored at KCOP-TV (13) in Los Angeles—I had had some experience at that in Portland at Channel 6. I spent some time with KPIX-TV in San Francisco as a general assignment reporter. The style there was fairly sensational and I moved on."

"I had a glorious, creative year in a partnership business of my own. We called it 'News-Team.' We specialized in video-tapes doing a public relations job for companies on the upswing. We did work for Warner Bros., Getty Oil, and even for Hugh Hefner's Playboy which was aired in New York. We even did a tape on the process of extracting gas from garbage. In fact 20th Century-Fox launched us at Hollywood Bowl."

"Looking back, it was gratifying. I did it. It taught me a lot about the bottom line. If you have a better product, or service, you can sell it. Nobody does you any favors. If you have the skills, or a good idea, sell it!"

Deiz, at the start of his career, also had a fling at music. Self-taught and playing by ear, he was proficient enough at piano, guitar and bass to play Soul Music with the Harlequins, an integrated group formed in Portland who gravitated to Los Angeles and became the Seven Souls. Deiz becomes a little nostalgic for that period of his life, remembering working with Henry Moore, Ivory Hudson and Ron Edge.

"I miss the music environment of Los Angeles," he says frankly. "I write music now for guitar and voice—folk, jazz, and ballads."



Staff conference with City Commission Mike Lindberg involves Bill Deiz (left), assistant to the Commissioner.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)



MR. & MRS. HAROLD WASHINGTON

Back in the present, Deiz is engaged in the 911 emergency telephone service to the public. Under Mike Lindberg, Deiz is working on improvements in the current dilemma of two ambulances answering a call with two bills to present to the same family.

Phones of 911 can respond now within 10 seconds of receiving a call, Deiz said. The Lindberg office is also endeavoring to establish a "re-ring" service to offset false alarms (some dialed by children) coming in to 911.

Offices of all the Commissioners were busy this week discussing the pros and cons of various placements of a site terminus for a heliport and Lindberg's staff was there to hear the presentation first hand. Decisions on the site will be made later.

Annette Barnes and Harold Washington were wed on January 14th at the United Church of Christ. The Rev. Don Severson tied the knot for the two educators in a simple candlelight ceremony before their families and a few friends.

The bride wore a braid-trimmed forest green velvet suit with full skirt and short jacket setting off her petite figure. A small hat of matching velvet completed her costume. The bridegroom wore a conventional dark blue suit. Attending the bride was Joyce Jones. Groomsman was Jeffrey Washington, son of the bridegroom.

Mr. and Mrs. James Eugene Bonner were hosts at their home following the ceremony for the couple. A wedding supper with beautiful cake and bubbly champagne sent the newlyweds off to a brief honeymoon in California and Nevada.

Mr. and Mrs. Washington will be "at home" at their hill-top home in West Linn upon their return.

Thank you, Philemon Reid, for letting the *Observer* display your drawings of Martin Luther King on the cover of the section devoted to that great man in the 1982 memorial issue. The full page commanded admiration of your talent portraying Dr. King in a reflective mood.

It is good to know that copies of that drawing made by you are available at the art gallery at the Broadway.



VIOLA DUNN

Once again it is time to sing "Happy Birthday" to our precious former Portlander, Mrs. Viola Curry Dunn. Born January 24, 1875, Mrs. Dunn was feted by her family and friends on her 107th birthday in Los Angeles.

Mrs. Curry Dunn lives in her own home and is maintained by her large family in an interesting way. The family keeps a year-round live-in housekeeper on the premises to attend to Mrs. Dunn's daily needs, but, in addition, each day of the week one person among her descendants provides her with the family love, and comfort, and outings appropriate for the day. One daughter, Mrs. Allen (Chlotilde) Woodward, keeps the schedules operating for her mother.

Mrs. Dunn, though sight and hearing are limited, is alert of mind and enjoys a visitor or an outing.

Programs for the observance of Black History Week are popping up for viewing of date and place. Pat Walker speaks up for Jack and Jill and their chosen date of Sunday, February 2 at 3:00 pm over at Matt Dishman Center.

Jack and Jill will present a free program—a Black History Affair with performers all of stellar calibre. Herb Cawthorne will repeat about 15 or 20 minutes of his matchless portrayal of Martin Luther King, the Grant High Black Student Union will send its outstanding

choir, Elizabeth McLaglan, author of a "Peculiar Paradise" will be there to autograph copies of her book (she may give a little talk about it, too), and Nyewusi Askari, director of the Sojourner Truth Reading and Dance Theatre will bring his troupe to entertain.

Cora Smith is president of the local chapter of Jack and Jill.

Dr. Samuel Brown entertained a number of friends at his North Arlington Place home during the weekend. The occasion was to honor the birthday of Mrs. Delores Leggroan.

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Isn't it odd that the normal body temperature for just about every human being on earth is exactly 98.6 degrees?

Oddly, the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court has no more vote in deciding opinions than the other eight judges on the court.

The first state to require license plates for automobiles was New York, in 1901—but instead of the state making the plates, each auto owner had to make his or her own.

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