

# OBSERVATIONS

FROM THE SIDELINES  
by Kathryn Hall Bogle



**S**HE IS a soft, gentle lady, quiet and reserved in her manner. Quiet, yes, but not inactive.

Important to her are family, friends, the tenets of a strong religious faith, the practice of good health habits and a life-long pursuit of excellence. The order of these things may alter from time to time but they remain as markers, dedicated in the life of Marva Graham, M.D.

Reared in Baltimore, Marva Melvin was the only child of Dorothea and Archie Melvin. "Bookish" as a growing girl, Marva easily turned to books for interest and companionship although her parents habitually engaged her in their adult conversation and companionship.

Following her natural style, Marva applied herself to studies when she was ready for college and, in 1960, she became a Phi Beta Kappa graduate in pre-medicine from Howard University.

Not exactly all of her time had been spent in bookish study, however, for it was not long after her graduation that Marva became the bride of Alvin Graham, M.D. Dr. Alvin Graham just "happened" to be the son of the Rev. and Mrs. H.O. Graham, the Presbyterian minister and his wife of the Baltimore Church where the Melvins had worshipped for years.

Dr. Alvin Graham was ready to open his first office as a general practitioner in a small town in the west, having just completed his family practice study at San Luis Obispo, Cal. Bride and bridegroom settled in Cayucos, California.

In Cayucos, the Grahams became the only black residents in this little city of 2,000 white people. Most of the residents were retired persons comfortable in maintaining their life style in the leisurely pace of a small town snuggled close to the famous Hearst Castle.

"The population had no hesitancy in receiving us and becoming my husband's patients," Dr. Marva Graham says. She adds with a laugh, "Some of them told us, 'If he is black and made it this far, he's got to be good.'"

"We enjoyed it there," Dr. Graham continues. "I did some of the lab work for the office and busied myself with the townspeople. Our first child, Russell, was born there in Cayucos. We stayed about five years and then, since we both like to travel, we decided to give ourselves a year off to nose around in Mexico and Guatemala.

"We did just that and found ourselves doing volunteer work as medical missionaries at the Presbyterian Church Hospital in Guatemala City.

"I also found myself pregnant. With twins. We had to reassess our plans and make new ones for a family of five, with three little ones under five years of age.

"As quickly as our twins, Carlos and Courtney, were born, we headed back to the states and to our first look at the Pacific Northwest. I had been prepared to see a rain forest area but found Portland a delightful city.



MARVA GRAHAM

"Alvin began surgery practice at St. Vincent hospital; I left the babies in the care of a Guatemalan lady who had come with us and I started research work at University of Oregon Medical School. All seemed smooth, but (this was in 1966), then my husband was drafted for service in the Vietnam War.

"We tried to keep as close together as possible. For part of the time the children and I were in Baltimore with my parents, and part of the time we were together in Honolulu. My husband switched his studies to radiology and began to serve a residency in Honolulu. The residency was completed in Baltimore.

"This was about the time of 'women's lib.' I began to wonder if my brain was atrophying and I thought aloud about entering medical school. I met good natural support for the idea from my family.

"That settled it for me. I applied and was accepted for medical study at the University of Oregon. I enrolled on time, and when he could, my husband followed me to Oregon this time.

"I enjoyed my experience 'on the hill.' Oh, there was a minor thing or two for, after all, I was the only black woman in the school. But,

otherwise, I was accepted completely.

"I put the children in private school (Oregon Episcopal Schools) as in our family the education of children is first. It took a lot of organization at home to keep things running well. We like to travel and we have little interest in expensive clothes and expensive cars so the budget adjustment was simplified.

"In 1977 I was graduated from U. of O. medical school. I combined my residency years and internship at the Veterans Administration hospital in Portland. When I received my Oregon license to practice, I worked a year at Callahan Center where injured workers are treated and rehabilitated.

"My husband, Dr. Alvin Graham, is now a radiologist at the Kaiser Sunnyside location.

"I spend my time now with my family. The children are growing up and, later on, I plan to return to my profession."

Dr. Marva Graham will be one of the speakers at the Tactical Resource seminar being arranged by the Black Women's Network on Saturday, July 17, at the P.O.I.C Training Center on N.E. Union Ave.

D'Norgia Price is president of the Black Women's Network.

**BENITA LYNN** Talley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Talley, and Michael Anthony Gilliard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Gilliard of Miami, were united in marriage on Saturday, July 10th at the Mallory Avenue Christian Church. The one o'clock afternoon service was conducted by Elder Perry Parker.

The double ring ceremony, carried out in traditional fashion, provided a lovely setting for the bride.

For her wedding the bride wore an eggshell satin gown, hoop-skirted with a table overskirt trimmed with touches of lace. Bodice was of lace. Her veil, made with three lace-edged tiers, fell from a molded cap of satin set with seed pearls and lace. She carried a bouquet of white roses and baby breath.

Maid-of-honor was Deana Talley, sister of the bride. Two other sisters, Karla and Stephanie, joined Maria Powell and Delores Guidry as bridesmaids. All wore identical lavender toe-tip silk gowns with sheer, long-sleeved jackets trimmed with lace and lavender satin ribbons. The bridesmaids carried bouquets of roses, carnations, and baby breath, and in their hair they wore clusters of baby breath.

Three-year-old Makeda Stewart was flower girl and three-year-old David Parker was ring bearer.

Best man was Luther Tucker of Miami, a classmate of the bride-



MRS. BENITA GILLIARD

groom. Groomsmen were Benjamin Talley III, Toney Caywood, Ricardo Stewart, and Ernest Harris III. Acting as ushers were Martin McCleendon and Samuel Johnson. All the men in the wedding party wore silver grey attire with lavender carnations in their lapels.

Both bride and bridegroom were May graduates of Grambling College. The bride majored in Computer Science and has been inducted into the USAF as a Space Systems Officer. Gilliard received his degree in marketing and Production with an associate degree in business administration. He also has joined the U.S.A.F.

The newlyweds will spend a brief honeymoon in Oregon before flying to their individual assignments as commissioned officers at Cocoa Beach, Florida.

**DELTA SIGMA THETA** regional conference, scheduled for July 15 through July 17, drew nearly a dozen members to Pasadena from the Portland Alumnae Chapter this week. They will meet with other Delta members at the Pasadena Hilton.

Among those attending the Conference are: Addie Jean Haynes, president of the local chapter; Evelyn Hairston, vice president; Aletha Chavis, treasurer; June Key, corresponding secretary; Ellen Law, Marian Gilmore-Loving, Jewel Bowman, Laura Glossen, Yvonne Williams, and Mattie Peterson.

Theme of this year's regional gathering, according to Mrs. Haynes, will emphasize "Women Helping Women."

## Black alumni plan reunion

The first University of Oregon Black Alumni Reunion will be held August 27-29 at the Hilton Hotel in Eugene. Derrick Bell, Dean of the University of Oregon Law School, will be keynote speaker at a banquet on Saturday, August 28th at 6:30 p.m. Other events include Friday, Aug. 27th Registration and an evening get-acquainted disco dance from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Saturday's activities will be a picnic from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. followed by the banquet and a second dance, again from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Sunday morning there will be a no-host farewell brunch.

According to Kenneth Adair, Chairperson of the University of Oregon Black Alumni Committee,

the purposes of the Reunion are to renew acquaintances and develop friendships and networks. There are also plans to develop a Black Student Scholarship Program at the University of Oregon to "help our own."

Other members of the Reunion committee are Rose Ann Butler, Greg Gudger, Armando LaGuardia and Pearl Hill. For registration and information call Kenneth Adair (287-7691) or write to U. of O. Black Alumni Committee, 3736 N.E. 18th, Portland OR 97212. Fee for the three days' activities is \$25, which includes the picnic, two dances and the banquet. After Aug. 3 the fee is \$30 per person.



"With this ring I thee wed." Bishop Adolph and Mattie Wells repeated their wedding vows. Bishop U.S. King officiating. (Photo: ViAnce Easter)

## Couple repeats wedding vows

by ViAnce Easter

Bishop Adolph and Mattie Wells celebrated their 25th, Silver, Anniversary June 22, 1982, by repeating their vows at the Paramount Theatre, to help kick off the Full Gospel Pentecostal Association's convention.

Bishop Wells is the International Bishop of the Full Gospel Pentecostal Association and Pastor of Emmanuel Temple, F.G.P.C.

Bishop U.S. King of Oakland, California officiated the ceremony. Attending were many outstanding speakers and choirs from throughout Oregon and Washington, from Moss Point, Mississippi, San Francisco, Oakland, Los Angeles, and Dallas, Texas.

Those in attendance included Bishop Cane of Spokane, Washington, and Vice President Edna Travis of Takoma, Wash.

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