



THOMAS BOOTHE AND ROSALEE BOOTHE

Man On The Move

by Kathryn Hall Bogle

HE'S MANY persons—that Thomas Boothe. Or, better, he is a person with a great variety of interests.

Daily, he sits with bank officers, methodical, sober-minded, calculating, unhurried and deliberative folk—usually. The people Boothe works with fit the major pattern of bankers everywhere. They have made a study of how they (and even quite possibly, you) can make money.

But, Boothe is not a banker. He is a consultant in business management. He joined American State Bank in the latter part of 1975 as Consultant and Director of Marketing. He was head of their staff training, was on hand to encourage the name-change and accomplished early work on the location choice for the establishment of its two branches. Bank owners wanted community acceptance for the fledgling institution.

American Bank's Venerable Booker has not been sorry. American Bank closed its year with assets. Boothe had worked earlier as a consultant in business planning with Oregon Bank and Portland Federal Savings (now called Far-West).

Born in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, a tropical vacation land in the beautiful Caribbean ocean, Boothe remembers his boyhood of boating, fishing, and visiting the little retail stores set up for the tourist trade. It was beautiful, Boothe recalls, but it was rural and slow and there was never enough money in most families who stuck to the traditional ways of the islands.

"When I was eight years old," Boothe relates, "my mother and I went to New York City to visit relatives there. They encouraged me to stay and go to school. So, you might say, I grew up in Brooklyn. Oh, there were occasional visits back home and to Puerto Rico, but we learned to think of Brooklyn as home."

"I have my doctorate degree in biochemistry from New York University," Boothe said. "I am interested in cancer research (did a paper for my thesis on this) and I worked eight years at the U. of O. Health Sciences Center in the ophthalmology department when I first came to Portland."

For relaxation, Thomas Boothe turns to his music. He plays flute, drums, alto sax and guitar and holds John Coltrane as his inspiration. He is often heard with the "Calypto Caravan," an Afro-Cuban band—or "Oyoyo," a group he co-chairs with Chuks Ogbuobiri. Boothe's musicianship gives him a treasured memory when he recalls a very special night when he sat in with the Duke Ellington Band when Ellington played at Harvey Dick's Roaring Twenties Room at the Hoyt Hotel. He has also played with Billy Larkin with the Portland Opera Jazz ensembles, and enjoys playing flute *a cappella*.

"Restoration and peace come to me in solitude," Boothe said. "I like to be with moving water. It's good for the soul to be with Nature. Sometimes I ride my motorbike up into the mountains and just let the clouds, the butterflies and the quiet

do their work. The sunset and the ocean have given me the mood to compose around 25 pieces of music, principally for the flute.

"My wife, Rosalee—she's also from St. Thomas—asked me to help her with her own compelling interest: 'The House of Exodus.' It's my wife's concept of something she can do to help alcoholics and persons on drugs. She saw two persons in her own family trapped and involved—saw them ill and in death from alcohol abuse.

"I've been in the background with my wife's project because she looks upon House of Exodus as her own contribution of something beneficial to the world. She took formal training at U. of Oregon and at U. of Utah, and, in 1977, she opened a free clinic.

"In 1978 Rosalee received a grant from Multnomah County with finances to help. The County realized that there was no other agency in N.E. Portland for the treatment of alcoholism. It was not until 1979 that my wife asked me to become more active in the affairs of House of Exodus.

"Now the agency has become a business," Boothe continued. "We have moved twice since then and we now have a large building and access to a whole block on N.E. Alberta. There are 20 people on staff, including volunteer persons. We have seven counsellors, four house managers, and two instructors who teach socialization, alcoholism, nutrition and hygiene."

Clients pay on a sliding fee scale, according to Boothe.

"House of Exodus is seeing about 1,000 persons a year," says Boothe. "Our clients are our products. We are also a residential treatment center and can house clients. Some of our clients are with us because of a drug addiction or because of some other drug related problem.

"I'm particularly pleased with our active youth component. Many young people, including children, need help, not necessarily from drugs or alcohol problems. We can help raise their self-esteem by helping them find jobs or involving them with our youth theatre (which, by the way, was funded by the U.S. Dept. of Labor for the summer months).

"Our Exodus Clean Team," said Boothe, really warming up to his subject, "is going just great. It really is a group of citizens interested in keeping our city clean. We, and they, believe that a clean spirit, clean property, a clean mind and body all produce a clean citizenry. A clean community is the result."

In his "spare" time, Boothe has become a licensed pilot to fly small planes and helicopters. He also is president of the Contractors Management Association, is a member of the Oregon Building Congress, a member of the Portland Commercial Club, a vice-president of the Royal Esquires, and is the treasurer of the Albina Rotary Club. In addition, he has the greenest lawn in his block. Ask him how he accomplishes that, and he touts the greening potion he as a bio-chemist mixes himself.

Free speech fight continues

Ethnic and women's studies programs are under attack in Portland and across the nation. In response, two free speech case battles have been fought in the west by a coalition of local and national support groups. The cases concern Clara Fraser and Merle Woo.

Clara Fraser, a veteran labor and civil rights activist and founder of national Radical Women, won a seven year old political ideology and sex discrimination suit against Seattle City Light in State Superior Court in Seattle Aug. 9. Judge Goodloe awarded her seven years' back pay, reinstatement at Seattle City Light and adequate attorney's fees, which will total, say supporters, well over \$100,000.

Clara Fraser



Fraser was illegally fired eight years ago because of her advocacy of affirmative action and pro-labor policies and her feminist, civil rights and socialist convictions. She contested her firing and won decisions in her favor from the Seattle City Human Rights Department, the Seattle Mayor and Hearing Examiner of her City hearing. Twice she was awarded thousands of dollars in

back pay but her victories were always overturned. Her August 9th appeal was of the split decision of a city hearing panel which ruled against her in July, 1980.

Merle Woo is a popular lecturer in Asian American Studies at U.C. Berkeley, a widely published poet, a socialist feminist and a member of Radical Women and the Freedom Socialist Party. She has protested the firings of staff, tutors and faculty who are community activists and has fought to keep the Ethnic Studies Program intact.

She is the first lecturer fired under a newly implemented University policy which states that lecturers may only teach for four years. This prohibits some 2500 lecturers throughout the California state college system from being rehired after

more than four years of full time teaching. The ruling is designed to maintain a constant turnover and discourage unionization among lecturers, the lowest rank in the teaching hierarchy. It also eliminates a number of experienced, popular and progressive teachers like Woo.

Both cases have received nationwide support from writers, feminists, unionists, people of color and gays. Activists like Florence Kennedy, Dick Gregory and Gloria Steinem were long-time supporters of Clara Fraser's case. Merle Woo, who was fired in June 1982, has gathered over 1,000 signatures protesting her firing and national support grows daily. Congressman Ron Dellums of California added his support to the cases at the July 16 Portland Observer Achievement Awards Banquet. Actor Ed Asner also announced his support recently.

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