

OBSERVATIONS

FROM THE SIDELINES
by Kathryn Hall Bogle



Winner of the Russell A. Peyton Award, Mrs. Gertrude Crowe.

GERTRUDE Crowe, a civic worker for many years, was chosen as the 1982 recipient of the Russell A. Peyton Human Relations Award. The award was given by the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission at a luncheon at Tuck Lung restaurant on Friday, December 10.

Principal speaker at the affair was Derrick A. Bell, Jr., dean of the University of Oregon Law School. Bell lauded Mrs. Crowe as being "a veritable symbol of the solution to our individual and organizational dilemma."

The plaque, the tenth to be given at MHRC annual luncheons, was awarded to Crowe for "her charitable contributions to the entire Portland community and her sincere dedication to serving and practicing the rights of low-income and indigent people."

Mrs. Crowe came to this city in 1942. Soon after her arrival she became a church and community worker interested in the area of civil rights.

In an interview Mrs. Crowe said, "I joined the NAACP when Phil Reynolds was president in 1943. I served as a board member with him and acted as treasurer for many years. I also was one of the organizers of the NAACP Credit Union." Crowe attended regional and national meetings of the NAACP, acted as secretary of the Credit Union for four years, supervised the youth group for a number of years and "joined in all demonstrations and marches conducted by the NAACP."

Crowe, a former active volunteer with the United Way, the March of Dimes, the Portland Council of Churches, and other charitable or-

ganizations, loyally maintains her membership in NAACP.

In the early days of the Lyndon Johnson administration's "poverty program," Mrs. Crowe "walked from door to door" urging people to take advantage of the opportunities available to them through the programs such as legal aid services, Laubach reading services, pre-natal care, Planned Parenthood services and educational opportunities.

Upon such contacts, Crowe found that many people needed general basic support before they could take advantage of Poverty Program offers. She then busied herself acquiring food, clothing, shoes and household conveniences from local agencies. It became evident soon that the need was even greater than anticipated. She was a founder and became first director of "life," the Low Income Family Emergency Center established in 1966.

Russell Payton was among the many friends who made donations to LIFE. In 1970, LIFE became a United Way agency serving people throughout the Tri-County area.

Among other recipients of the Russell Peyton Awards have been: E. Shelton Hill, A. Lee Henderson, Marie Smith and Harry Ward. Orchids to Mrs. Crowe.

THE READING Achievement Center will hold a "Holiday Open House" at its quarters in Columbia Plaza on N.E. Fremont Street on Friday, December 17th. Hours are from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., according to Jeanne Hartzog, director. Parents are invited to bring their children to become acquainted with the Center's instructors who give special help to people of all ages who have reading disabilities.

IN A lighter mood: The Monday Morning Bridge Club, organized five years ago, will have "Breakfast with Martha" on December 20. Martha Jordan will be hostess for 12 card-playing guests at her home to celebrate the club's fifth year and the approaching holiday. The twelve guests have been directed to wear dressy lounging attire (all of them are former active career-women) to denote their release from the Monday morning punching of the time-clock.

THE NORTHWEST Afrikan American Ballet will make its premiere appearance in Portland on Sunday, December 19, at the Cascade Auditorium of the Portland Community College campus on N. Killingsworth.

Under the direction of Bruce Smith the company brings together dancers from the Herero troupe of dancers, other performers from Jefferson High School dance classes and from the Talking Drum. Smith, himself a drummer, formerly of "Pleasure," traveled to Africa in 1981 to study dance and drumming with African master-drummers in four regions of Senegal.

The case of 25 included Ruby Burns, and African dance teacher, who has given numerous lecture-demonstrations to classes in the public schools of this area. Says Smith, "We intend to provide rhythmic perspectives on the roots of black genius through the traditional music and dance of West Africa."

Performance time is set for 6:00 p.m.



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The night the stars come out, Dec. 19, 8 p.m. to 12 midnight on KPTV Ch. 12, to benefit the United Negro College Fund.

KPTV 12

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