



OBSERVATIONS

FROM THE SIDELINES
by Kathryn Hall Bogle

Edward W. Perkins, a career diplomat in the foreign service of the U.S. State Department, made a brief and unofficial visit to Portland last week.

Transferred from Ghana where he had been based for several years, Perkins' more recent post had been in Liberia where he was Deputy Chief to Ambassador William Swain from 1981 to mid-May of this year. Since May, Perkins has been in Washington, D.C., receiving briefing on his newest assignment.

"Beginning in September," Perkins said, "I shall have Washington as my base. My new assignment is to be Director of West African Affairs, managing U.S. relations with 16 West African countries — including a disputed portion of the Western Sahara near Morocco. I'll get back to Ghana for visits and to Senegal, Mali, Togo and other countries of the Volta."

Perkins enjoys seeing the world — and to young people he recommends registering in some form of foreign service. Perkins, himself, joined the U.S. Marine Corps as a starter. He met and married Lucy Liu in Taiwan 22 years ago. Their daughter, Katherine, 18, was born in Japan; their 13-year-old daughter, Sarah, was born in Thailand. Among them, their family speaks Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Russian, German and Russian.

As Director of West African

Affairs, Perkins pointed out that three-fourths of the countries he'll be dealing with use French as their common language and he forecasts for himself a summer of intensified study of that language.

For young career-seekers, Perkins suggests: "Look at the world. Foreign service offers a lot of opportunities. An education in technology in addition to the classics can be useful. Look at banking. Chase-Manhattan has offices in Liberia, Ivory Coast, Lagos, London and Paris.

"Look at joining a multi-national corporation. Firestone, Goodrich, Sperry-Rand, and McDonalds and Colonel Sanders. All of them are in Paris and London. Private industries need help too, in foreign trade.

"Going back to foreign services of the United States," Perkins said with unabated enthusiasm, "the opportunities are there — if you have a respect and knowledge of other languages. Foreign service has undergone a revolution in the last 20 years. You can be married and your spouse now is allowed also to pursue a career in the service along with the partner — 'tandem' they call it.

"Attitudes toward minorities have changed, too. There is an attempt to restore a balance. Connected with the diplomatic service is the information service, the Foreign Commercial Service, which fosters U.S. business abroad, working as a liaison between U.S. and foreign



Edward Perkins, newly designated Director of African Affairs of the U.S. State Dept., and Mrs. Perkins. (Photo: Kathryn Hall Bogle)

countries. The Agricultural Service offers and promotes sales of U.S. agricultural products and machinery abroad — for instance: how to bake bread, U.S. style, is often cheaper than the way a particular country has been baking bread."

Perkins laughed and said, "If I've forgotten to mention something, tell

them to write for a brochure from the Information Board of Foreign Service, Dept. of State., Washington, D.C. 20520."

The travelers spent most of their time with Mrs. Holmes, Perkins' mother, and renewing acquaintances with other Portland friends.



Pictured are a few of the "thank you" luncheon guests at U of Portland: Audrey Haynes, George Grant, Cella Forbes, Herb Cawthorne, Bob Henderson, Jim Winters, Donald Davidson, Richard Cole, Ernest Hartzog, Leodis McDaniel, Jim Halth and Vernon Chatman. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Marking the close of the fourth successful year of the Oral History programs about 35 educators in the Portland Public School System, considered "key" people in promoting the Oral History programs, were recently invited as honored guests to a "thank you" luncheon on the University of Portland campus. Interest in the popular program is shared by both University of Portland and Portland State University, through participation by faculty members of both institu-

tions.

Thomas Odo, new president at U of P, pledged continuing support of the program, and recognition was given by Herb Cawthorne to Dr. Darrell Millner of PSU who prepared the curriculum package for use by the public schools in their social studies classes.

Vernon Chatman, coordinator for the Oral History programs, arranged the luncheon for University of Portland.



The Volunteers of America, Oregon Inc. honors their Child Care Center teacher, Daisy Mae Dickson after 38 years of dedicated service. VOA Executive Director Thomas M. Anderson looks on.

Daisy Mae Dickson, a dedicated teacher of nursery school classes for over 37 years, was honored recently on the occasion of her retirement by Executive Director Thomas Anderson and staff of Volunteers of America. Said Anderson, "Daisy Dickson was hired in 1946 to work at our Vanport Child Care Center and moved with us a year later to the present quarters of the center at 234 S.E. Seventh Avenue. She is a walking history book

of this agency's day care program for young children, having cared for three generations of children who have come to this center in those years."

Dickson loves children and she says, "Although I'll not be working regularly at the center, I'll be glad to fill in as a substitute teacher now and then — after all, they seem like my family after so many years." Meanwhile, Dickson plans to do missionary work for her church following a little vacation travel.

The Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center announces, through Director Sue Busby and Jeff Ditzler, IFCC Student Theatre Coordinator, the winners of the IFCC Student Theatre Awards Show. Awards, a la Oscar, were made after votes were cast by members of the student production.

Best Actress award went to Linda Brown, a 16-year-old St. Mary's Academy student, for her role as Norma Hubley, mother of the bride, in a one-act play, "The Wedding," an adaption from "Plaza Suite" by Neil Simon. Best Actor award went to Lamont Douglas, 17, who played opposite Brown as Roy Hubley, father of the bride. Winners will be seated with members of the student production executive board for the following year, according to Busby.

Cast of "The Wedding" included Trish Jordan, 15, and Ronnie Tolbert, 16, who carried the roles of bride and bridegroom. The play was one of a trilogy called "A Look at America," which also presented, "I Remember Mama" and "You Have to Stay on the Horse."

The IFCC Summer Production Camp continues through July and



IFCC award winners Lamont Douglas and Linda Brown star in "The Wedding." (Photo: Richard J. Brown)



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August with an August 12 and 13 presentation of "Treasure Island."

The IFCC calendar also shows an August 6 Summer Dance Fest in the Park. Busby extends an invitation to young people from 10 years through high school to become a part of Portland's newest and finest student theatre production company. There is a small fee for registration, says Busby, but there are also scholarships available. Call the Firehouse at 243-7930 for details.

Street Beat

by Lanita Duke and Richard Brown

Currently, the issue of merit pay for teachers is riveting pros and cons among the population. The Street Beat team wondered how Portland felt with, "Should teachers receive merit pay as an incentive to insure their students are learning?"



Sonia Dixon
Tektronix Employee

"I was a teacher once in Jamaica and I got all of that. If they paid better, the quality of education would improve."



Kim Tyrrell
Food Service

"I think they should. They are doing a good job if they are making it better. They would do a better job if they were making more money."



Orville Cline
Retired

"If they do a better job they should get paid for it. I don't know if they can institute a system that would be fair to figure out who's a good teacher and who isn't."



Ed Gilroy
Sales

"They should have merit pay. It is like any other business. Those people who perform to the maximum should be rewarded for it."



Trudy Sims
Housewife

"I don't think so. I think they are educated and paid to teach children and that should be enough."



Larry Grant
Educator

"No, I don't. I don't think you could have a system that is equitable to weed out those who are competent vs. those who aren't. But for math and science teachers, they should use it to attract more into the field."

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