

OBSERVATIONS

FROM THE SIDELINES
by Kathryn Hall Bogle



ACCORDING TO Ted Parker and to Lenore and Vernon Gaskin, long-time residents of Portland, football games and fellowship drew 15 couples together about 40 years ago. They found it satisfying to celebrate the wins together and comforting to mourn the losses together, particularly when the rival teams of University of Oregon and University of Washington were pitted against each other.

"We had friends in Seattle who also liked the excitement of the sideline competition," said Lenore Gaskin, "and they formed their own group to exult when 'we' lost. We merged with the Seattle group about 30 years ago and we've been exchanging football week-end visits ever since."

The Seattle visitors were in Portland during the week of the Oregon-Washington game. "Football remains an interest, but with the passage of years, it is the fellowship in the group that binds us together," Parker noted. The Portlanders entertained the visitors at a costume party (*a la* Fantasy Island) at the home of Wilson and Ozzie Smith; they had breakfasts in smaller groups with Portland members and they wound up the visit with a cocktail party and dinner dance at Prince Hall. Freddie Bowmar is president of the Washington Contingent and his wife, Marylyn, together with Portland's president, Ted Parker and Izzie Parker, made arrangements for the 1984 football weekend in Seattle before they parted.

IT TOOK two cakes and double everything else to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of the four Robinsons last week. The Robinsons admitted they were a bit overwhelmed by all the attention showered on them by family and friends. Two books were kept to register engagements made for them and names of guests assembled in their honor. There were big family breakfasts, 20 to 30 people for luncheons through the week, cocktail parties, buffet suppers, a pit-barbecue for 40 and an elaborate reception for 200. The West ballroom of

Correction

Gavin Young, recipient of a \$500 scholarship from Zeta Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi, is an engineering major at Portland State University (not an English major). Gavin is the son of Mrs. Mary Jean Young of Portland.



John and Orell Keeton Robinson and Phillip and Odalee Keeton Robinson celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

the Red Lion at Jantzen Beach was the scene of the reception marking the end of the week of festivities for the Robinsons foursome.

The outpouring of love and affection honored Odalee Keeton Robinson, 70, a retired Multnomah Hospital practical nurse, and her husband of 50 years, Phillip H. Robinson, 72, a local barber, now retired. The celebration also honored Odalee's sister, Orell Keeton Robinson, 68, and Phillip's brother, John, 70, who had also pledged their troth that day in October of 1933. The two brothers married the two sisters in a double ceremony back in Monroe, La.

The two couples lived together under the same roof in Monroe and they continued the pattern as they gravitated North and West, seeking job opportunities in Chicago, Detroit and Oakland. In Portland they settled down as shipyard workers during the war years.

After the war, John Robinson worked as a maintenance man at Roy Burnett Motors. Orell found work at Providence Hospital and worked there 32 years, principally in the linens department.

"We never have argued," all four say. The Keeton girls came from a strong Baptist family and the Robinsons were children of a Baptist minister. "We always talked out our differences," one said. "We shared household chores, although Orell did most of the cooking," Odalee said. "We just lived as one family," said Phillip. "Our backgrounds are the same and we didn't differ very much," John added. In Portland

million-dollar lottery in Chicago. Illinois state assesses Mitchell's share as \$1,085,440.83. Mitchell is to be paid \$35,000 a year until he collects it all, he said. The big 6-3 Chicagoan, 52, has been a trouble-shooter for 18 years for electric problems in commercial firms doing business with Commonwealth Edison in his hometown. He intends to keep his job until his retirement.

What will he do with all that money? "I plan to build a house on my father's farm near Birmingham, and buy myself a condominium in Chicago," Mitchell said. Divorced, and without children, Mitchell will also travel a bit. A Cadillac limousine with a "lot of gadgets" is already on order.



WILLIE MITCHELL

they all attend Mt. Olivet Baptist Church on N.E. Schuyler St.

"When our six children came along," Orell Robinson said, "John and I shared their upbringing with Odalee and Phillip. Our kids had a double set of parents."

"That's right," Odalee chimed in. "Phillip and I always felt we were their parents too. We had no children of our own, and while our own nieces and nephews were growing up, we adjusted our working hours so that there was always a set of parents at home to keep tabs on the family."

Odalee and Phillip bought a separate home after 25 years. "When the kids reached adolescence," Odalee explained, "it was easier for just one set of parents to make decisions. Now 'we' have 12 grandchildren and three great grands, and Phillip and I steel feel we are wanted."

"It's been fifty wonderful years," the quartet agreed.

The six children are Rometta Taylor, Manfred Robinson, Lemuel Robinson, Jonetta Redditt, Garnett Croome and Harold Robinson.

FROM CHICAGO came Willie Mitchell to join the festivities for his relations, the Robinsons. His visit caused quite a stir at the reception for people knew that Mitchell was a September 17th winner of a

Gospel Harvest

Harvest time means full gospel fellowship, Monday, Nov. 21st, 6 p.m. at Sirlains, 8025 N.E. Sandy Blvd. Order from the menu; bring a friend. Rev. Allen is special speaker from N.W. Christian Center.



JANICE WILSON

Wilson earns bank award

Janice Wilson, vice president and manager of the Walnut Park branch of First Interstate Bank, is the 1983 recipient of the Ralph J. Voss Civic Leadership Award.

The Voss award is presented annually to a First Interstate Bank employee who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in community affairs. The award carries with it a \$1,000 contribution by the bank to a charity designated by the recipient.

Ms. Wilson has been active in many civic organizations and activities.

In 1979 she was named an Outstanding Young Woman, nominated by then-Mayor Neil Goldschmidt.

Ms. Wilson was on a leave of absence from 1978 to 1980 to the City of Portland as Executive Director of the Bureau of Human Resources. Her responsibilities included the successful completion of the Wacker Siltronic training program.

Boycott artists, athletes who play in South Africa

In December, 1982, the General Assembly of the United Nations passed a series of resolutions calling for an end to academic, cultural, sporting and other exchanges with South Africa as a part of an international campaign against the system of apartheid. The United Nations recognizes that performances by international stars in South Africa give legitimacy to the regime and communicate a message of approval and acceptance of its strict policies of racial segregation. The U.N. also notes that the South African government, in order to attract entertainers and thus counteract its cultural and diplomatic isolation from the rest of the world, encourages astronomically high fees for performers.

Following the United Nations' lead, national cultural boycott campaigns have been launched by the National Black United Front and TransAfrica, with support from the AFL-CIO, the American Friends Service Committee, Clergy and Laity Concerned, the Congressional Black Caucus, NAACP, the National Urban League, Operation PUSH, the Organization of African Unity, the Phelps Stokes Fund and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, among others.

In mid-September of 1983, Arthur Ashe and Harry Belafonte kicked off the campaign, Artists and Athletes Against Apartheid, at a press conference in Washington, D.C. Thus far the effort involves

sixty U.S. artists and athletes who refuse to perform in South Africa. The group includes such celebrities as Bill Cosby, Paul Newman, Diana Ross, Tony Bennett, Muhammad Ali and Wilt Chamberlain. The aim of the campaign is to solicit pledges from performers and athletes who refuse engagements in South Africa.

One group which has already had considerable success in persuading others not to perform in South Africa is the O'Jays. In June 1983, the group conducted a symposium on the cultural boycott:

We made a commitment to ourselves and Black people to do all we can to persuade all entertainers, both Black and white, to stay away from that place until humanity is restored. . . . Sure it's tough not to appear before so many loving and supportive Black fans in South Africa, but they have asked us not to come now. It's kind of like saying their house is all in disarray now and they don't want us there until they have cleaned up.

In Portland, Portlanders Organized for Southern African Freedom has been formed to mobilize local support for the nationwide boycott of artists and athletes who have performed in South Africa. Concerned individuals and organizations are urged to support this boycott by formally resolving to participate in this international effort by endorsing this campaign.

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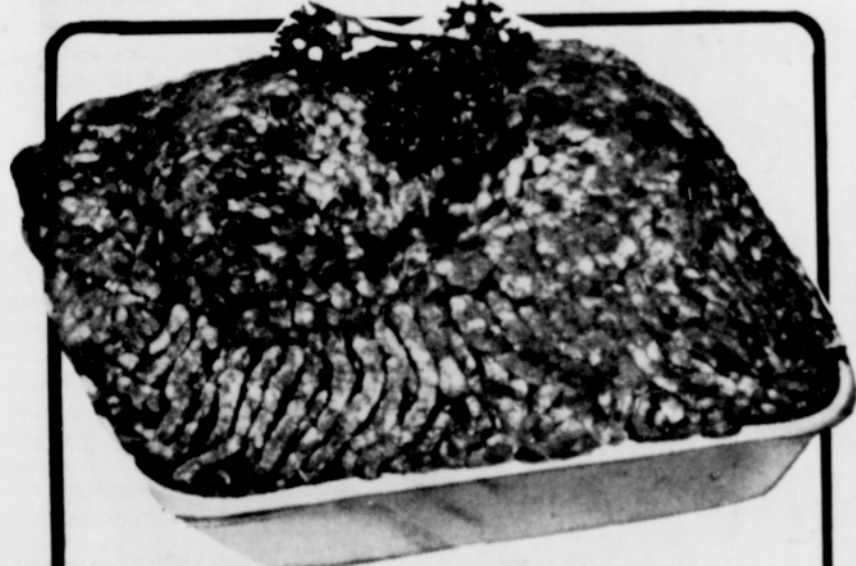
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