

# OBSERVATIONS

FROM THE SIDELINES  
by Kathryn Hall Bogle

**W**ILLA DORSEY, soprano, Oregon's First Lady of Gospel Song, who sings her gospel around the world, will be heard live in Portland at the Hilton Hotel this week. Dorsey will be the featured soloist for Multnomah County Commissioner Gladys McCoy's annual meeting of the Association of Oregon Counties.

Countless Oregonians hear Willa Dorsey's songs over KGW-TV on a late-late Sunday night program just before the station signs off. "It's an on-going program," the station's programmer says. "It's been running a long time—five, six, seven years," the programmer estimated. "There are no plans to alter anything about it. It's called 'Joy of my Soul.'"

Some famous Oregonians are among her TV fans. Neil Goldschmidt listens, Governor Victor Atiyeh is a fan, Senator Hatfield, City Commissioner Mildred Schwab, as well as City Commissioner Charles Jordan are also Dorsey fans. A traveler, Hubert Dilworth, business and personal manager for Leontyne Price, caught her 3:00 a.m. broadcast and was fascinated by the Dorsey sound. "It helped me to relax and to unwind after a hectic day in airports and travel," he said as he joyfully met Willa Dorsey backstage after the recent Price concert performances with James DePriest and the Oregon Symphony Orchestra.

"I've been at KGW for ten years," Dorsey said as she trod the carpeted corridors of "her" studio. "I've been here every Sunday night for ten years—on film clips, if not live. I've also sung at Neighbor Fair for seven years."

"I came to Portland first in 1963. I was a guest on Kirby Brumfield's show on KATU. At that time we were living in Los Angeles and I appreciated the good air of this state. The smog was not good for the voice and I quickly accepted a scholarship I had been awarded to concertize and to study at Warner Pacific College. I had been singing all my life—since I was two years old, and knew this was what I wanted to do. I am 50 years old now and singing. "He Arose" was my first song.

"My father and my mother were both singers in Atlanta where I was brought up," Dorsey said as we settled into her comfortable studio quarters at KGW. "My father taught me to memorize three or four stanzas of those songs they sang at that time. We started singing gospel when I was just out of high school. I attended Clark College which is a part of the Atlanta University system. I became a member of the Atlanta Philharmonic Society and I still hold a membership there.

"My professional boost came from Dale Evans through the Hollywood Christian Group which met with movie stars in Hollywood each month. It was Dale Evans who arranged for me to sing at the New York Worlds Fair in 1964. That was

my 'launching pad,' and I have not stopped running since."

The Dorsey career is managed, produced, and performed by Willa Dorsey.

Dorsey does her own musical arrangements. The orchestrations are worked out with an arranger-friend in Dallas, Texas. "I sing awhile, he writes," Dorsey explains.

Dorsey plays both piano and organ and frequently accompanies herself on one—or both. On tape, Dorsey has been known to play both by "over-dub" methods, and sing, too.

"I do have a sense of business and I do my own booking for concerts, radio and TV, and I have contracts drawn legally. Actually," Dorsey paused and grew reflective, "actually, the Lord is my booking agent. 1984 is booked nearly solid now."

Dorsey, from her launching pad, has completed 10 tours to the Orient and has made 32 trips to Europe, sometimes with her adult son, sometimes with an organization but, customarily, she travels alone. Hungary, Poland, Leningrad, Moscow, Israel, Japan, and Taiwan all have been on the Dorsey beat. She sings in 14 different languages including



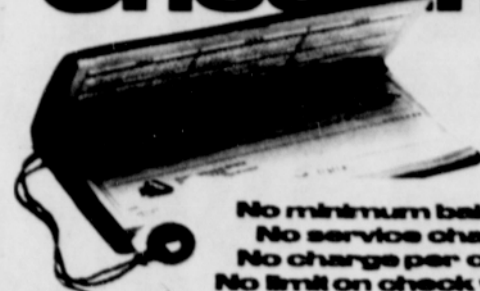
Oregon's first lady of Gospel, Willa Dorsey, will belt out her best to Portland fans this week.

Chinese, Japanese, Dutch and Swahili.

Dorsey says, "Every place in the world likes gospel. After we touch

Jesus, we reach out and touch our neighbors to make this world a better place. Spirituals are not forgotten and I shall be singing them too."

## Free Checking.



No minimum balance.  
No service charge.  
No charge per check.  
No limit on check writing.

## No fooling!

No fooling. Regular Checking at Far West is absolutely free. And it's just one of five options from which you can choose the checking account that's best for you.

There are many checking account extras, too. Like Mr. Moneybags\* and the Exchange 24-hour teller machines throughout Oregon and Washington, Merchant Check Guarantee and Overdraft Protection through MasterCard or VISA.

And with a Far West checking account you can get MasterCard and/or VISA at a reduced annual fee of just \$8.00.

Come to any Far West office now for free checking—no fooling!

It's the FAR WEST way



MAIN OFFICE: SW 5th & Washington  
Portland, Oregon Telephone 224-4444  
61 convenient offices throughout Oregon.

\*SM 1979 Far West Federal Bank

# Look for some important phone messages in your mailbox.

*caption written*



On January 1, 1984, the court-ordered breakup (divestiture) of the Bell System will occur. The breakup will directly affect how we will repair your telephone equipment; how we will bill you; and how we will handle your other telephone service needs.

### Changes Affecting You On November 21.

In order to make the breakup as problem-free as possible, we will begin making some of these changes on November 21, 1983. Two changes will directly affect you:

First, you'll have new numbers to call for telephone service and repair.

Second, your telephone bill will

have a completely new format.

### "It's in the mail."

We'll be using a variety of ways to inform you of all the details of these changes. So be sure to watch your mailbox during the next few weeks for our announcements (letters, bill inserts, booklets, etc.).

This information will include the new numbers to call for service and repair; and a detailed explanation of the new telephone bill format.

Meanwhile, if you have any questions, call us for the answers. Or send for your free "For Your Information" booklet describing all the changes occurring at the phone company. Because at Pacific Northwest Bell, we want to keep you in touch.

**For your information.**

**1 800 555-5000**

To get a free "For Your Information" booklet, fill out the coupon and send it to: For Your Information Program, Pacific Northwest Bell, P.O. Box 3456, Portland, OR 97208. And if you have more questions, call our toll-free information number.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

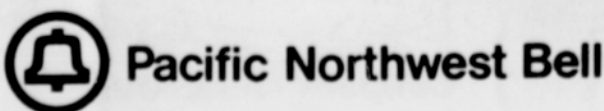
State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me the booklet for:

residence service     business service



## Symbolic fast gives support to Food Bank

The sixth annual "Fast for the Hungry" takes place on Thursday, November 17, to help support the work of the Interagency Food Bank. Several events are planned this week to support the Food Bank's "Fast for the Hungry," including a symbolic soup line on Tuesday in front of the Portland Building, a delivery of bread and water to the Portland City Council on Wednesday morning, and a Celebrity Fast no-food lunch at 12 noon on the day of the Fast, Thursday, November 17, in the Portland Building.

According to Dr. Lendon Smith, a Portland pediatrician who is serving as Honorary Chairperson of the Fast for the Hungry for 1983, "The basic idea of the Fast is that we are asking people to join with us in skipping a meal or fasting the whole day on the Thursday before Thanksgiving, November 17, and donating the money you would have spent on food to the Food Bank at 3939 S.E. 26th in Portland (97202)." Both Oregon Governor Victor Atiyeh and Portland Mayor Frank Ivancie have declared November 17 "Fast for the Hungry Day."