



# OBSERVATIONS

FROM THE SIDELINES  
by Kathryn Hall Bogle

WHEN MS. B.J. Williams Thompson and Miss America, Vanessa Williams, met at the Fred Meyer store on Interstate Avenue in Portland, they were not at the grocery check-out stands. Vanessa Williams was in town representing, as she said, "a new image for the Miss America pageant and a new image for America" to project to the world. Her visit to Portland was arranged by the Gillette people and the Fred Meyer Co. Ms. B.J. lives here. She is the daughter of Hazel Williams and the late Lucius Williams. Fred Meyer, Inc., sells "Little Mahji" paper doll sets, creations of Ms. J., and hosted Miss America.

Long lines of instant fans of Miss America waited patiently in the store while each one advanced to receive a signed photograph from the 1983-84 new American beauty. A beauty she is, with a heart-shaped face, flawless complexion, greenish-brown eyes and a million dollar smile. She is a graceful 5'6", weighing 110 pounds, with measurements 34-24-34.

Dozens of cameras flashed while Ms. B.J. and Miss America chatted. Ms. B.J. showed the visitor her Mahji paper doll and received the



Miss America (Vanessa Williams) meets Ms. B.J. (Williams) Thompson, dress designer, during Miss America's visit to Portland.

admiring comments of Miss America. They found they have much in common besides a family name.

Both are outspoken young women, sure of what they want out of life. Miss America, a 20-year-old music-theatre major at Syracuse University, wants a career on the

Broadway stage. Ms. B.J., not telling her age, is working on her doctoral degree in Public School Administration. Her dissertation is to be titled, "Behavioral Reactions to Body Adornment and School Dress Codes."

Miss America wants to be an ac-

dress. Ms. B.J. recently completed a black silk satin cocktail dress set with \$60,000 worth of real diamonds by Rogoway Jewelers—all for actress-singer Diana Ross.

Both young women like to travel and each yearns for a domicile of her own. Miss America will wait a while for her place to call "home." Ms. B.J. has already acquired a beautiful old 1920-era residence with six bedrooms. She will soon open the S.E. location to the public as *Ms. B.J.'s House*. The gray and white brick edifice, recorded as the DeMartino residence, is to be the center for Ms. B.J.'s designs. It is being revamped to accommodate B.J.'s pattern and sample making departments, her art and her office. Styled after *Christian Dior's House* in Paris, B.J.'s House will be a showplace for her haute couture fashion garments designed for her private clientele. Her markets will include designs for the business and career woman with medium to high income.

Ladies ready-to-wear has not been overlooked by B.J. After meeting with Vanessa Williams, Ms. B.J. will name her new collection "Clothes Fit For Miss America—1984."



Geneva Jones and Jim Pienovi, vice president of PP&L, at retirement party.

"COOKIN' WITH Geneva," the poster said. About 175 of Geneva Jones' close friends were on hand to "cook" with the popular lady at a "send-off-early-retirement" party given in her honor by management and other friends at Pacific Power and Light Co. She retired officially as PP&L Home Service Advisor on November 1. The whing-ding was unrolled at the Travelodge-Coliseum last Friday evening beginning with cocktails and dinner.

After dinner the place rocked with the laughs cooked up by KATU-TV's talk-show host, Jim

Bosley. A tender "roast" was served up by Jim Piernoul, vice-president of PP&L and by Gil Johnson, Energy Consultants Manager for the firm. They claimed that all of them had worked for Geneva for 23 years instead of the reverse. Son Roman Jones, Jr., up from California for the event, added his own sauce to the evening by telling about his mother's style of inspiring her children. Margie Boulet of KATU-TV sang a favorite song of Geneva's to the accompaniment of a small orchestra. Many friends paid tribute from the floor to Geneva for her warm and gracious manner. Flowers and gifts were numerous.

The irrepressible Geneva took it all in with a grain of salt as Gil Johnston handed her a key on a blue ribbon to "come back whenever she likes." As a matter of fact, Geneva is to be retained as a consultant by PP&L for TV appearances and special assignments.

In her responses Geneva Jones thanked PP&L for her "eventful career" which has afforded her the "rare opportunity to meet so many wonderful people." December 14 will find Geneva back on the air waves and back on special assignment at PP&L with Cookin' ideas for Christmas.

## Columbia nuclear contamination spurs action

by Catherine Siegner

As radioactive waste piles up at nuclear reactor sites across the U.S., many people are beginning to realize we have a big problem in finding a way to dispose of it. And though no two people, including government officials and scientists, seem to agree on the methods, most will speak with one voice when a disposal site is suggested anywhere near where they live. "Not here!" the chorus resounds. "Put it someplace else."

The Hanford Oversight Committee, recently formed by several Northwest environment and peace groups, is no different. Its opposition to having the federally owned "nuclear reservation" on the Columbia River near Tri-Cities, Washington, designated as the nation's first high-level radioactive waste repository is "scientific," they say, not political, although members admit the final site selection, as well as studies of possible sites to date, have been highly politicized.

Committee members Joe Ryan, American Friends Service Committee, Seattle; Rebecca Timson, Wash. Public Interest Research Group; Larry Caldwell of Richland, Wash.; and Chuck Bell, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Portland, heavily criticized government geological studies of the Hanford site at a recent press conference, and objected to what they termed "fast-tracking" the development of Hanford as a waste site by federal authorities.

Timson noted the government's own survey of Hanford's appropriateness as a waste site has been "utterly scrapped" and that new studies are planned. She said the federal Department of Energy's conclusions regarding Hanford's suitability in its "Site Characterization Report" issued November, 1982, were found to be "overstated, misleading or simply incorrect" by another federal agency, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), which added the DOE's estimate of the time it might take high-level waste to seep through basalt flows under Hanford and into the Columbia River was "grossly underestimated."

(The DOE's projection was that it would take 13,000 years for radioactive elements from Hanford to reach the Columbia. Using the same

data but different assumptions, the USGS and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission said a more realistic projection was from a "few hundred years" to within 20 years.)

Timson said the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, which established siting guidelines, mandates a site be picked on its geological features, not because "the federal government already owns the land. Under the guidelines, the government has prepared, Hanford doesn't qualify."

Caldwell, a former Hanford worker, said he's concerned about the attitudes of Tri-Cities residents toward nuclear waste storage in their backyard. "The Hanford 'mind-set' scares me to death. It's a 'can do' attitude, regardless of the danger."

He cited four episodes of what he called "mishandling" of nuclear materials at Hanford: an alleged "near catastrophe" in 1972, when plutonium dumped into the Z-9 Crib concentrated nearly to a critical mass (a state necessary for detonation); and two alleged leaks of radioactive waste—one in 1973 of 115,000 gallons during a 55-day period and one of 140 gallons per minute from a contaminated reactor storage basin.

Caldwell said Hanford already receives thousands of gallons of radioactive waste from around the country as well as high-level reactor waste shipped in from reactors in Japan and Sweden.

"We would get approximately half of the 77,000 metric tons of waste now stored at reactor sites in the U.S. (if Hanford is picked as the federal repository)," he added.

Ryan said the American Friends Service Committee got involved in the Hanford issue after being approached by the Yakima Indian Nation, which became concerned about the process of siting a high-level waste dump.

"The Yakima Indian Nation has hunting, fishing and gathering rights on the Hanford Reservation," he explained. "That is not a good place to store radioactive waste because of the danger of leakage into the Columbia River. It should be put in the best possible place to isolate it from the human food chain."

All four agreed Hanford should be removed from consideration be-

cause its basalt formations cannot safely guarantee waste from leaching into the water table and from there, downstream toward population centers along the river. Granite was suggested as a much more stable material for waste storage.

Timson said of five original sites picked for study by the federal government, "only Hanford and Nevada are being actively considered."

Although a state's governor may veto a site within that state's borders (which may, however, be overridden by Congress), other areas, including Nevada, have shown reluctance in accepting a waste site, she said. Elected officials in Washington State, including Governor John Spellman, have not shown strong opposition to the Hanford site, Timson added.

Bell, the sole Oregon representative on the committee, said he toured Hanford in September, 1983,

with the state Energy Facility Siting Council. He said representatives of Rockwell International (the project investigator as well as the prime contractor if the site is chosen) kept talking about "when the waste site would go in, not if it would."

"I just want Oregonians to remember if radioactivity leaches into the Columbia River, it's not going to remain just on the Washington side," he said.

The committee plans to seek new groups to join in its efforts, continue public education on Hanford via an AFSC slide show, and maintain scrutiny over the federal government's process of site selection.

A timeline it distributed shows January, 1985 as the final Environmental Impact Statement deadline, with July, 1985 designated for a presidential decision on a site. The earliest possible date for completion of USGS final studies is shown as September, 1987.

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