

OBSERVATIONS

FROM THE SIDELINES
BY Kathryn Hall Bogle



PEGGY HOUSTON SHIVERS, lyric soprano, was presented in an afternoon concert at the Allen Temple C.M.E. Church in Northeast Portland last Sunday by members of the Oregon Association of Colored Women's Clubs. About three hundred persons crowded the church auditorium to hear the "homecoming" program prepared by Shivers, who lives now in Colorado Springs but who grew up in Portland. Peggy Shiver, the daughter of Lirlean Cash Anderson, graduated from Jefferson High School and attended Portland State University before she moved to San Francisco. Later she went abroad to study and develop her career as a concert soloist. Advanced studies were taken at Ball State University in Indiana where she earned a Master's degree in Guidance and Counseling.

The first half of Shiver's program showcased her virtuosity. She opened with Care selve from the opera "Atlanta" by George Handel, and a selection from the opera "Ariana," by Claudio Monteverdi. She had spent ten years of her life studying and performing in Madrid along with her husband, Clarence Shivers, a well-known artist. Peggy counts this part of her life, spent at Escuela Superior de Canto, a conservatory for singers, as highly memorable in a career studded with high points. Some of the high points included her becoming a featured



Attending the OACWC Concert at Allen Temple, CME Church, were (l-r) President Pauline Bradford of OACWC; Carrie Holliday, concert co-chair; Betty Thompson, concert chair; Peggy Houston Shivers, featured singer; and Lirlean Anderson, Peggy's mother.

performer during the United States Bicentennial celebration in Madrid and being presented in "concert at the United States Cultural Center under the auspices of the United States Embassy there."

Songs by Enrique Granados and Joaquin Rodrigo appearing on her program marked this enjoyable period in the singer's life. Her repertoire includes songs in Italian, French and the German Leier as

well as Spanish.

For this hometown audience, Shivers selected a number from George Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess," and followed it with "I Love You, Porgy," as an encore from the same operetta.

Changing song style after intermission, Shivers also changed from the white evening gown worn in the first half to simple black and gold striped caftan for the second half of

her program.

The songs of the second half were held dear to the Portland community of the soloist's young life — her "extended family" as Shivers, in her remarks from the stage, identified this audience. Some of the song titles could be found in a church hymnal, but Peggy Shivers selected rarely heard arrangements by Noah Ryder and by Hall Johnson. These required an unusual voice range in the upper register, such as her own.

The closing hymn, "Battle Hymn of the Republic," arranged by Peter Wilhousky, demanded the higher reaches of superb lyric tones to which Peggy Shivers proved equal. Shivers' voice ascended with melodious and exquisite ease to the "D" note beyond "high C." It was a memorable and exciting performance.

Accompanist was Margaret Moore, an accomplished Portland concert pianist in her own right.

Greetings and floral tributes were offered to the soloist by Obrie Smith on behalf of the Skanner newspaper and by the Portland chapter of Peggy's sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha. Gifts from the OACWC were presented by Thelma Sylvester and by Carrie Holliday, concert co-chair. Betty Thompson, chair of the concert, presented a plaque from the OACWC membership. Pauline Bradford, president of OACWC, made closing remarks. She also extended an invitation to those present to attend the reception honoring Peggy and Clarence Shivers immediately following in the reception rooms of the church.

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Official Notice of November and December Meetings Biennial Election
Portland Branch NAACP
Please take notice of the following general membership meetings of the PORTLAND BRANCH NAACP, and of the election of officers, and National Board Members:
1. November 18, Mount Olivet Baptist Church, 116 N.E. Schuyler at 4:00. Report of Nominating Committee and election of Election Supervisory Committee.
If you have suggestions for NAACP Executive Committee or Officers, call Chairman of Nominating Committee, Thomas R. Vickers, 255-2780 before Nov. 15, 1984.
2. December 9 (SECOND SUNDAY because election results must be in New York Office December 20), Hughes Memorial Church, 111 N.E. Felling, at 4:00. Election of Officers, Executive Committee, National Board Members. Annual meeting.
Any member over 17 who is in good standing 30 days before any of these elections is eligible to vote, or hold office.
Hazel G. Hays, President Acting Secretary, Janet Clemmer

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