

# A photographer's journal of Nicaragua



Richard J. Brown, photographer for the Portland Observer, spent seven weeks in Nicaragua learning about and meeting its people. His photographs will appear here as a weekly feature.

Among the many places I visited in Managua, Nicaragua, was a squatters' camp not too far from the American Embassy. People moving into the city for many reasons find housing scarce. On land that does not appear to be in use, they clear and build houses and very soon create sometimes sprawling camps.

At the camp in which this house is, they were attempting to get the government to run electricity into the camp.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

INTERESTING FACTS

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Australian tribesmen used to try to hasten the sundown by blowing sand into the air.

The British eat almost eight ounces of sweets per person per week, more than any other people.

An Indian tribe once believed it could hasten cold weather by burning the wood of a tree that had been struck by lightning.



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Family and friends gathered on the lawn of the Washington County Courthouse Monday, Veterans' Day, for the unveiling of the pictured plaque to honor Walter R. Mitchell.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

## Harvest of Peace premiere

*Harvest of Peace*, a new documentary film about Nicaragua, will make its Portland premiere Nov. 21 at the First Congregational Church, 1126 S.W. Park (center on Madison St.) at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

*Harvest of Peace* is about a group of American volunteers who traveled to Nicaragua to harvest cotton. This diverse group of people, aged 17 to 70, from all parts of the United States, went to this war-torn Central American nation on a mission for peace. For two weeks, they lived with the *campesinos*—the farmworkers—of Apascoli, a remote village in northern Nicaragua.

*Harvest of Peace* is an impressionistic portrait of this journey. Scenes of daily village life—making tortillas, washing clothes by hand,

children playing—contrast with harsh realities: news of a nearby attack, the digging of a bomb shelter, the funeral of a young baby. In lighter moments, the North Americans and Nicaraguans play baseball, dance and relax together at the beach.

The film is a rich collage of visual imagery, music, and voices and sounds which blend together to present a thought-provoking look at what some U.S. citizens are doing to prevent war in Central America through people-to-people diplomacy.

The film is being presented by the Portland Central America Solidarity Committee as part of a campaign to encourage Portlanders to visit Nicaragua with the Volunteer Work Brigades.

## Beginning business workshop

The Small Business Administration (SBA) with the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), Active Corps of Executives (ACE) and Portland Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring a beginning business workshop on Tuesday, Nov. 19. The workshop will run from 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

The workshop will feature representatives from SCORE and ACE. All speakers have a working knowledge of small business.

The subjects covered will be marketing and promotion, record-

keeping, money management, success and failure factors, pros and cons of incorporating, and SBA programs.

Free management aids will be distributed and a film will be shown, if time permits. There may be time for questions and answers.

The workshop will be held at the Willamette Center, 121 S.W. Salmon St., Conference Rooms A and B, Portland, OR. There is a \$10.00 fee; pre-registration is required.

For information and registration, call SBA at 221-2682.

## Memorial dedicated in honor of veteran

by Robert Lothian

A memorial plaque honoring Walter R. Mitchell, a Hillsboro agronomist active in veterans affairs, was dedicated Monday during Veterans' Day ceremonies in Hillsboro.

Mitchell, an agronomist with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in Hillsboro, and chairman for four years of the Washington County Veterans' Council, died in April of heart failure at the age of 53.

The memorial, located in the veterans' service office in Hillsboro, honors Mitchell for his "utmost dedication to veterans," said Ora Faye Thogerson, Washington County veterans' service officer who worked with Mitchell for many years.

According to Thogerson, Mitchell served in the U.S. Army for three years as a second lieutenant and was disabled during his service. Mitchell entered the University of Maryland after leaving the Army, and earned a degree in agronomy, which deals with crop production and soil management.

Mitchell kept active in the Army Reserves in Portland, and retired as a major, she said. He was also very active in helping veterans, serving for

nine years as a leader of the Oregon Disabled Veterans' Council and for four years as administrator of volunteer services at the Veterans' Hospital in Portland. He volunteered many hours himself at the hospital, where he was "a general morale booster," Thogerson said. Mitchell wrote letters for veterans, he visited patients and their families, and he delivered care packages to patients, she said.

Mitchell was also a member of the Hillsboro Optimists' Club, and he was active in Mended Hearts, a group for people who have had open heart surgery.

As if that weren't enough, Mitchell volunteered as a tutor in Hillsboro area schools and as a leader of several youth groups. He was also active in Allen Temple Christian Methodist Church in Northeast Portland, where he was a steward and member of the senior choir.

"And he was doing all this with his heart condition," said Thogerson. "We would have a world of movers and shakers if each of us gave as much as he did."

Mitchell is survived by his wife, Marion Mitchell, a Portland high school librarian, and two children, Deana and Ray.

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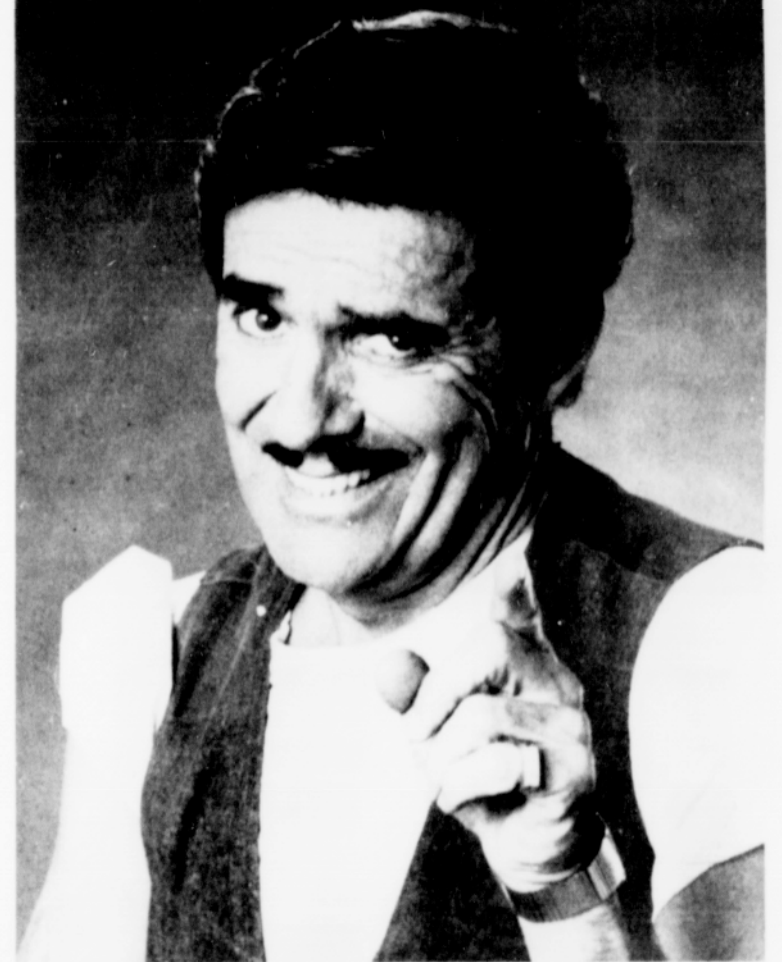
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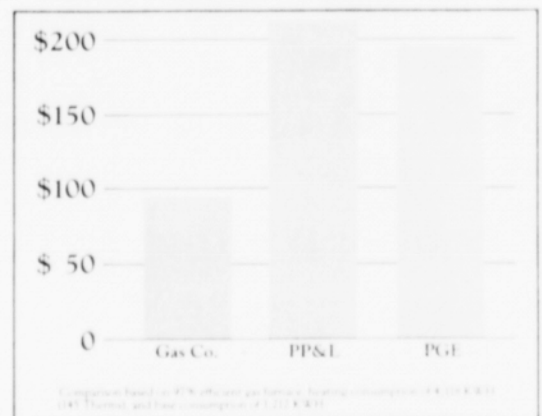
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