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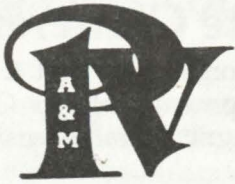
Prairie View A&M University

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FACULTY/STAFF N • E • W • S

A Monthly Publication for Prairie View A&M University
"A Member of the Texas A&M University System"

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 6

MAY/JUNE , 1999

Mrs. Veronica Lamb Hines: Wife, Mother, First Lady

Mrs. Veronica Lamb Hines has been "First Lady" of Prairie View A&M University since 1995 and if the responsibilities of the position weigh heavy, it does not show. Meeting her, it is easy to see why many believe she is a "class act" all the way.

Born in Galveston, Texas, the daughter of parents Willie Lamb and Berenice Foy Lamb (of New Orleans), young Veronica learned basic values such as love for God, family and the virtues of hard work and honesty. These were her basic staples at home and at Catholic Elementary, Galveston.



Mrs. Veronica Lamb Hines

Hines. "He (her dad) was quite an entrepreneur...on Avenue H," she further adds.

During her childhood, the marks of the Jim Crow system were evident in Galveston of the 1950's. It is easy to see that her dad's hotel was a cultural mecca for the area as she comments, "There wasn't any other place to stay in Galveston at the time." She illustrates that Galveston was a boomtown of sorts, "...before they completed the Houston Ship Channel... the city was wonderful!"

In a side note, as first lady, Mrs. Hines attended Freshman Orientation at PVAMU and met a woman from Galveston, who lived in the house where she grew up (the lady's family rented the place from Mrs. Hines' dad).

During her elementary years, the future first lady and her family moved to Houston where she attended Blackshear Elementary in 3rd Ward. The new environ-

ment proved invigorating, as she became involved with a local Girl Scouts chapter.

It was there that she met a Girl Scout master, named Mrs. Branch, who inspired her. "Mrs. Branch came to Pilgrim Congregation in 3rd Ward and she was the leader of our Girl Scout Troop. I feel like scouting should have honored her because she was wonderful," says Hines. She further adds, "Mrs. Branch put on a ball every year and the only admittance was to bring a toy and we had it at the YMCA on Wheeler."

Mrs. Hines' participation in Girl Scouts was pivotal because of the values she learned as well as the people she met. "One of the scouts in our troop went on to become the first African American female general in the history of the U.S. Air force," comments the first lady.

Because of her home life, school life and girl scouting, she developed unique ways to deal with the challenges of life. For instance, she believes, "Look first to yourself if you are not happy with the results of your life ... rather than seeking to blame others."

Another facet that had a shaping influence in Mrs. Hines' life was attending Jack Yates High School (Houston), where she graduated seventeenth in her class (1960). "When I was younger, Rev. Bill Lawson (now pastor of Wheeler Avenue Bap-



Grad School Interim Dean William Parker and Mrs. Hines

"I give my mom credit for teaching us a lot. You see, she was a teacher when she went to Galveston and met my dad," says the first lady recounting her elementary years.

"My dad had the only black-owned hotel in Galveston during the time and Blacks had to either stay in the homes of others or his hotel because we couldn't stay in white-owned hotels," says Mrs.

See **FIRST LADY** page 5

Award Winners Recognized at Extension State Conference

AUSTIN, TEXAS - Ten individuals received the Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View A&M University's Distinguished Service Award at the 1999 State Extension Training Conference held in Austin, Texas, March 23-26. The theme of the conference was "Extension Education - Addressing the Challenges and Opportunities of the New Millennium".

"We have positioned ourselves to approach the new millennium with five core principles in mind," said Dr. Linda Williams-Willis, administrator, Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View A&M University. "The program must be clientele driven, must be accountable, should have research based educational programs, must be innovative and must have a commitment to diversity and pluralism."

"This year's award winners demonstrated in their work habits several of these core principles which will lead our program successfully into the 21st century," Williams-Willis said.

Field Staff award winners included: • **Vernell Akins, Sr.**, program aide, Agriculture and Natural Resources - Bowie County; **Allen T. Malone**, Extension agent - CEP - Agriculture and Natural Resources - Dallas County; **Videl H. Saenz**, Extension agent - CEP - Agriculture and Natural Resources - Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy counties; and **Barbara Williams** - program aide, Family and Consumer Sciences/4-H & Youth Development - Harris County.

Winning awards in the Support Staff category were: • **Neta F. Foster**, program assistant - 4-H & Youth Development, Office Support category; and **Martha T. Ewane**, senior staff accountant - Fiscal Operations, Organizational Support category, Cooperative Extension Program headquarters.

Early Career Award went to: • **Stacie E. Washington**, Extension agent - CEP - Family and Consumer Sciences - Fort Bend County.

Specialist Award winner was: • **Timmie Neal-Shorter**, Communications Specialist, Cooperative Extension Program headquarters.

Administrative/Supervisory category winner was: • **Gloria J. Mosby**, Program Director - Communications, Cooperative Extension Program headquarters.

Supporter of Extension winner was: • **Arnold Brown**, county

Extension agent - 4-H & Youth Development - Harris County, Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

Dr. Barry Thompson, chancellor of the Texas A&M University System, gave the keynote address at the awards banquet and emphasized that education is extremely important for all Texans. The following persons also gave remarks at the banquet: Dr. Ed Hiler, vice chancellor and dean - Agriculture and Life Sciences and Director - Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and Texas Agricultural Extension Service; Dr. Charles A. Hines, president of Prairie View A&M University; and state representatives Tommy Williams and Henry Cuellar.

In addition to award presentations, the conference included county exhibits, program area workshops, and presentations focusing on impact statements, copyright laws/trademarks, housing and community service programs, civil rights, and the changing environment.

Guest speakers included: Dr. Colien Hefferan, acting administrator, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES); Dr. McKinley Mayes, director, Office of 1890 Programs, USDA-CSREES; Ruthie Jackson, regional administrator - USDA - Food and Nutrition Services - Southwest Regional Office; Donna Taylor, president, Human Capital Developers; John Garvin - director, Strategic Planning, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs and Curtiland

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Faculty Staff News

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Nortel Networks Donates Distance Learning Lab for PVAMU

By Yauna Estes and Bryan H. Barrows

The computer age is advancing on "the hill" as Nortel Networks dedicated a new distance learning laboratory Thursday, April 8, at Prairie View A&M University. The new lab, a part of the Department of Computer Science in the PVAMU College of Engineering, is a laptop friendly computer facility designed to serve twenty-four Internet users simultaneously.

The Nortel Networks Distance Learning lab can be utilized for formal educational settings, continuing education or advanced faculty/professional development. Through the lab setting, students at remote locations can receive instruction provided at other campuses more efficiently.

Computer Science department head, J.D. Oliver, said, "We witnessed history being made at PVAMU, when the people of Global Extend Research Solutions (sponsors of the project) spoke to us today. They could view us and we could view them." He further stated, "It is also possible to reach classrooms from all over the country, while never leaving the classroom. The goal is to reach more students and to expand the program into a multinational unit as a building block for learning."

"By donating Interactive Distance Learning (IDL) equipment to PVAMU, we have strategically placed a building block for research and development ... providing educational growth and assistance to industry," indicates Raphael Wilson, PVAMU computer science graduate and Nortel Networks product manager.

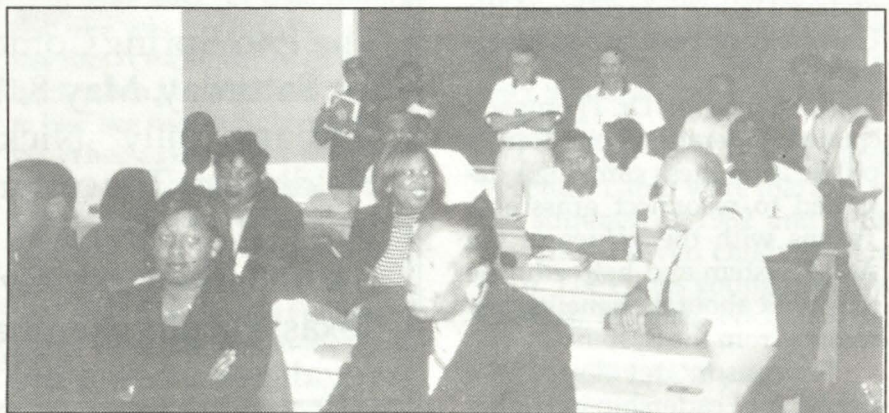
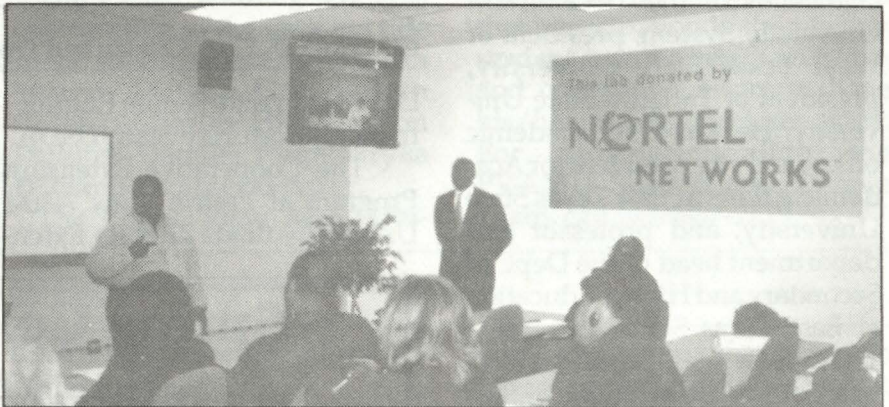
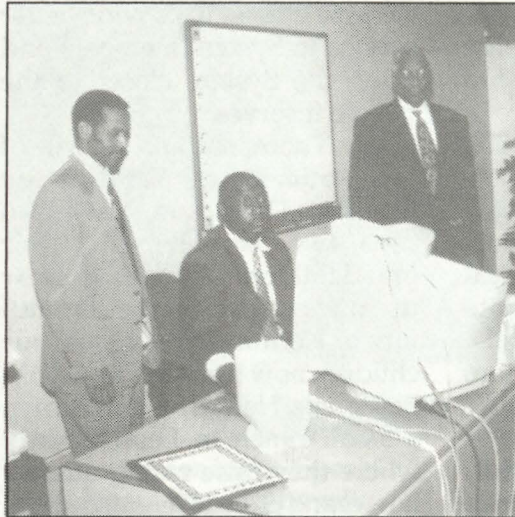
Wilson believes IDL will add

value to the curriculum and provide the university with what can be considered a "teaching tool of the future". The lab will also serve as a site for video conferencing and allow faculty and adminis-

trators to interact with colleagues at locations worldwide.

State-of-the-art equipment housed in the laboratory includes two front-ceiling mounted monitors; a rear monitor; a document camera; a personal computer; VCR unit; tiltscreen LCD touch panel; microphones; speakers and audio-video integrated control systems.

The total cost of the equipment comprising the lab donated by Nortel Networks is \$60,000. Commenting on the \$60,000 donation, J. D. Oliver states, "We are extremely grateful for this donation from Nortel that will allow us to prepare our students for this technology."



Chancellor Barry Thompson Named Commencement Speaker

Dr. Barry B. Thompson, chancellor of the Texas A&M University System, will be featured speaker for the PVAMU Spring Commencement program.

Chancellor Thompson has served as head of the Texas A&M University System since September, 1994. He is noted for his sense of vision, optimism, leadership and inexhaustible spirit.

Dr. Thompson received a B.S. degree in Biology, Secondary Education at Texas Tech University and an M.S. degree in Educational Administration, Physical Science from East Texas State University. He possesses a Ph.D. in Educational Administration, Sociology, from Texas A&M University.

Before becoming chancellor, Dr. Thompson served as interim chancellor of the Texas A&M University System, president of West Texas State University, president of Tarleton State University. He was chief academic officer and vice president for Academic Affairs at East Texas State University, and professor and department head of the Dept. of Secondary and Higher Education at East Texas State University. Thompson was professor and head of the Department of Secondary Higher Education at the University of Texas at Pan American.

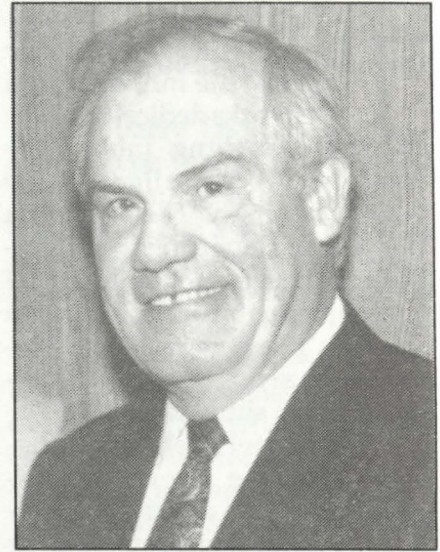
As chancellor, Dr. Thompson created "Operation Lone Star", a public awareness campaign designed to reconnect grassroots Texans with the values of the A&M System and help educate the public about the benefits they receive from the System.

Thompson developed the Center for Leadership in Higher

education to identify potential leaders within the A&M System and to provide them with the training and education necessary to serve in future management positions.

The chancellor reorganized the System Administrative and General Offices to provide better service to System members and bring the System closer to the people it serves.

Dr. Thompson and his wife of forty-one years, Sandra Sue Davison Thompson, have two sons, two daughters and four grandchildren. Thompson grew up in west Texas in the community of Kermit. Three of his four children now teach in Texas public schools. He and his family own a small ranch in Leon County where they raise racing quarter horses and polled Hereford cattle.



Dr. Barry B. Thompson

Dr. Barry B. Thompson is a descendant of a long line of Texans, with his first relatives coming to the state in 1846.

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SPEAKER Continued from page 2

DeVilje, director, Equal Employment Opportunity Staff, USDA.

The Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View A&M University holds its State Extension

Training Conference on an annual basis, and recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the organization during this time.

Spring Commencement slated for May 8

The 1999 Spring Commencement is scheduled for Saturday, May 8, 1999 at 10:30 a.m. in the William "Billy" Nicks Building (University Fieldhouse). The commencement speaker is Dr. Barry B. Thompson, Chancellor, The Texas A&M University System, College Station, Texas. Faculty members are to wear academic regalia and assemble at 9:30 a.m.

PVAMU Speech & Debate Wins National Championship

"Only the Strong Survive!"

by LaShawn Conner and Bryan Barrows

The Prairie View A&M University Speech and Debate Team has proven "only the strong survive" as the team captured the 3rd National HBCU Speech and Debate Tournament at Morehouse College (Atlanta, Georgia), April 9-10. Dominating the individual events category, PVAMU eliminated fierce competition from Spelman, Morehouse, Xavier and Lincoln Universities (to name a few) to win a fourth straight speech and debate tournament title.

The winning trail did not begin at Morehouse for PVAMU as the PV team captured St. Mary's University Tournament (San Antonio, TX.) in 1998, collecting an impressive 99 points to win first place sweepstakes honors.

The team traveled to Texas Southern University, decisively winning that forensic tournament with 93 total points during February '99. In March, the squad went to Montgomery, Alabama, where they won their third sweepstakes honor by trouncing



the competition in the "SpeakOff" at Alabama State University.

The award winning students contributing to the national title were Rieco Moore; Quevarra Moten; Melissa Gill; Calvin Collins; Charles Hill; Carlton Perkins; Damien Pugh; Eryka Williams and Ingrid Baker.

The Prairie View A&M Uni-

versity Speech and Debate Team is under the direction of Ms. Jacqueline Davis who stresses that participation is open to any student who expresses an active and committed desire to hone his/her public speaking skills. For information about the PVAMU Speech and Debate Team, call (409)857-2229.

FIRST LADY Continued from page 1

tist Church) was a beginning minister and we were all very impressed with his speaking style and that's why I suggested him for our inauguration her at PV," says Mrs. Hines.

After leaving Yates H.S., young Veronica was off to pursue an undergraduate degree at Howard University, in Washington, D.C. According to Mrs. Hines, "A number of people who have come into their own today were there at Howard during the 1960's when I was there. Stockley

Carmichael was even in my class at Howard."

It was also on that campus that she was to meet the love of her life. "I met Charles in college back when Howard was *the place to be*," the first lady intimates.

When asked what she found attractive about Charles A. Hines, she replied, "Charles was mature, he knew what he wanted and he was very dependable."

"I met Charles at a Halloween party when he was in his senior year and I was a freshman," says

Mrs. Hines noting that he was in college on the GI Bill after having spent time in the military. She says with pride that he gave her his "Alpha Pin", considered a distinct honor and an indication of affection.

Charles A. Hines and Veronica Lamb were married in the summer of 1962 and from that union seven children were born. The Hines young men are: Charles, Michael, Nicholas and

See FIRST LADY page 8

New Certified Distance Educational Professionals at PVAMU

The PVAMU Computer Science Department recently dedicated a state-of-the-art distance learning lab donated by Nortel Networks, Inc. One its part, the department made preparations to use the lab with its three newly certified distance learning professionals. They are Dr. Berhane G-Wahid, Miss Betty Iroku and Mrs. Myrtle Tompkins. Each have participated in the distance education certification training program offered by the Center for Distance Learning Research at Texas A&M University, College Station.

The training sessions received by the three PVAMU employees involved 48 hours instruction, a presentation using videoconferencing technology and a report on a competency transfer activity. This certification program consisted of up-to-date video-based distance learning classrooms, computer communications and multimedia laboratory facilities.

The training of personnel not only maintains the necessary future development strategies of the lab but also lays a foundation to train faculty and students who



will soon be users of this technology. The future of distance learning is brighter than ever as many educational institutions and corporations are investing in it to facilitate their training and business meetings from a distance using the videoconference technology. This investment will also put PVAMU as one of the institutions of "the first class" in the state as it maintains its competi-

tiveness for the new millennium.

The newly certified distance educational professionals at the Computer Science Department would like to extend their acknowledgment to Mr. J. D. Oliver, head of the Department of Computer Science for being instrumental in securing funds for their training and investments in the new distance learning lab.

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Texas A&M University System Theater Arts Collaborative Begins First Workshop

COLLEGE STATION - The Texas A&M University System Theater Arts Collaborative will offer its first summer workshop in the picturesque East Texas town of Jefferson beginning May 16.

The workshop, which will run from May 16 through June 2, will develop five new student-written plays and offer course instruction in collaborative theater, design, acting, playwriting, and directing.

Students from A&M System schools with theater programs

can earn six credit hours in theater. Since the workshop is during the period between the end of the spring semester and the start of summer school, most students will still be able to attend summer school at their home institutions.

The collaborative was a dream of the heads of the seven theater programs in the A&M System. Since each program offered different strengths, they felt a collaborative program would allow them to pool these strengths and offer students a greater educa-

tional experience.

During a meeting in College Station among members from the A&M System Colleges of Arts and Sciences and the Texas A&M Colleges of Liberal Arts and College of Science, participants discussed the possibility of linking with the Collective Leadership for Change in Higher Education project, funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. One of the national program's goals is to implement projects aimed at improving collaboration and quality in higher education.

Former PVA&M Football Coach Billy Nicks Slated for Induction into the College Football Hall of Fame

Morristown, NJ - The National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame revealed its 1999 Class of Inductees for the College Football Hall of Fame. Among the seven inductees is former Prairie View A&M University coaching legend William J. "Billy" Nicks.

Nicks, who served as the head football coach in 1946 and from 1951-65, is the winningest coach in the history of Prairie View A&M University football. In 16 years as the head coach at Prairie View, he recorded a 5-2-2 mark in 1946 and a 114-28-4 record from 1951-65. In his 24 years of coaching football, he compiled an impressive career record of 189-55-6, including a 70-22-5 record at Morris Brown College.

While at Prairie View, Nick's teams won five national championships, eight Southwestern Athletic Conference titles and produced five undefeated seasons. His teams produced back-to-back national championships in 1953-1954 and 1963-1964. In addition, Prairie View compiled a 11-1 record in bowl games under Nicks.

In the process, he received coach of the year honors in 1953, 1958 and 1964 by the Houston Informer, in 1963 by the NAIA, in 1958 by the Pittsburgh Courier, in 1959 by the Pigskin Club of Washington, D.C., in 1964 by the Southwestern Athletic Association and the 100% Wrong Club, and by the Atlanta Daily World in 1959 and 1964.

Among those who played under the athletic tutelage of Nicks are Pro Football Hall of Famer Kenny Houston and Otis Taylor, the 1971 AFC Player of the Year. Also, former AFL All-

Pro running back Clem Daniels, defensive back Jim Kearney of the Kansas City Chiefs and tight end Alvin Reed of the Houston Oilers received their college training under Nicks.

"He ranks up there with the

great coaches," said Daniels, who played for Nicks at Prairie View from 1955-58 and was captain of the 1958 championship team. "Bear Bryant, Eddie Robinson, Jake Gaither, you name them. He is right up there with them."

National Alumni Association Schedules Convention for July 21-24 in San Antonio

Alumni and friends of Prairie View A&M University will meet in San Antonio from July 21-24, for the 25th National Alumni Association Convention. The alumni will gather to celebrate their connection and support to this historic institution of higher education. The alumni association was organized in 1901. Over the course of this century, thousands of Prairie View graduates have entered virtually every professional sphere in the workplace and made milestone accomplishments to the state of Texas, the nation, and to the international communities.

July 22 has been designated as "University Day". During the morning session, Dr. Charles A. Hines, President, will deliver the State of the University Address. This will be followed by the Panther's luncheon. Dr. Hortense E. Kilpatrick, Director of Alumni Affairs, is pleased to announce that Lois Jean Moore, Ph.D., President and CEO of the Harris County Hospital District, Houston, Texas will be recognized by the university as a distinguished alumna. Tribute will be paid for her outstanding achievements and contributions to the city of Houston, Harris County, the state of Texas and to the nation's health

care system.

Two important workshops will take place at the convention. Mr. Ronald W. Kent of the Texas A&M Foundation will speak on the ABCs of Planned Giving. An additional highlight of the convention will be a workshop on African American art. Harriet O'Banion Kelley with her husband Harmon Kelley, M.D. have created a collection of African American art recognized as one of the nation's most outstanding. The collection has been shown throughout the county including the Smithsonian Institute. It is used by museum professionals, art dealers, and scholars as a resource for information, support and research. Dr. and Mrs. Kelley are both alumnus of Prairie View. Numerous other programs and activities are planned for the convention.

Dr. Kilpatrick says she is "eager for all former students to meet in the lovely city of San Antonio and to participate in the convention. A trek through the history of Prairie View will be captured in a university magazine and available at the convention."

For registration and ticket information, call the National Alumni Headquarters (409) 857-5817.

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For Your Wellness

By Reuben L. Wright, Health and Human Performance Department



Benefits of Regular Exercise

Regular physical activity has many health benefits other than just becoming more fit. A recent article in the Journal of the American Medical Association and the New England Journal of Medicine list the following health benefits:

- **Heart Health** - In an analysis of 43 scientific studies on physical inactivity and heart disease they found that on the average inactive people develop heart disease twice as often as active

individuals. Inactivity also increases the risk for high blood pressure, obesity, high blood fat levels, and the blood is more likely to clot.

- **Osteoporosis** - Exercises such as walking, aerobics, and weight training help prevent calcium loss from the bones. Regular exercise is essential for good bone strength.

- **Weight Control** - Exercise helps prevent and control excess body fat by burning more calories and building lean tissue

(muscle mass). It is the amount of lean tissue that determines how many calories our body expends every day, thus the fit person burns more calories even at rest.

- **Mental Health** - Many studies show an association between physical activity and good mental health. Fit people seem to have a better self image, feel better, and have more energy and are tired less often. Some studies show an increase in endorphin levels in the brain to help one's mood, the "fitness high."

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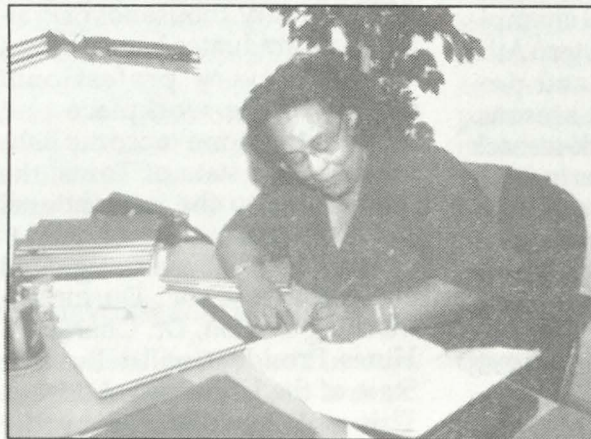
Timothy. The Hines young ladies are: Tracy, Kelly and Christina.

Following his graduation from Howard U., a young Charles Hines continued his career in the U.S. Army marking an interesting challenge for his new wife. "The first house we had, I remember, the neighbors had laid carpet and curtains and I was shocked that they did all this since they were only going to be there for about six months," states Mrs. Hines. "I had never lived in an integrated setting and it was a different kind of adjustment for me in Ft. Benning, Georgia," she further says.

Following the Ft. Benning experience, Charles Hines went to Vietnam and later he was sent to Officers Candidate School (OCS) marking an important milestone for progress in the military.

The army wife faced the new challenges ahead forthrightly as the couple moved from assignment to assignment every twelve to twenty-four months. "You never had to do spring cleaning

because you knew that in twelve to twenty-four months you were going to have to move," she de-



clares.

"Next, they sent Charles to Germany and they told us (the family) that we couldn't go, so I went back to Howard. Then they transferred him to Ft. Benning and later to Ft. Belvoir, Virginia," as Mrs. Hines strove to provide comfort for her husband and new family.

To be sure, Veronica Lamb Hines, was a dedicated army wife. She says, "I was a team

mother and I organized Girl Scout troops at several places." Mrs. Hines started a Girl Scout Troop

in Virginia and another in Kansas, even taking her troop to a chalet in Germany, often spoken of in songs that girls scouts sing.

When asked what she is passionate about, Veronica Hines lists family and the sport of bridge as high on the list. To these two passions, Mrs. Hines

is truly dedicated!

Summing up the first part of her life with President Hines, "It was good for my kids to grow up in the military atmosphere and while I wasn't a very active military wife (in terms of social activities), as he became a general, I began to do more service on boards and such."

Part I of II. Next Issue Mrs. Veronica Lamb Hines: The Making of a First Lady.