

Summer 2004

No 'Feet Up' for These Retirees

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Recommended Citation

Thompson, Beth Rogers (2004) "No 'Feet Up' for These Retirees," *Linfield Magazine*: Vol. 1 : No. 1 , Article 5.

Available at: https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine/vol1/iss1/5

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No 'feet up' for these retirees



Everett Curry



Georgann Percival



Ted Henry '61

Forget the rocking chairs. That's not what three Linfield employees have in mind as they retire June 30.

The trio – Ted Henry '61, director of Linfield's academic computing center; Georgann Percival, associate professor of health and English as a second language; and Everett Curry, director of planned giving – will wrap up a combined 67 years of service.

It's a second retirement for Curry, an American Baptist minister who has led churches in Oregon, California and Hawaii. "I actually planned to retire four years ago," he said, but son Kevin '92 had heard Linfield was seeking a planned giving director. Kevin called and pleaded, "Dad, they need you."

"I've enjoyed seeing Linfield when it is reaching some important goals," he said, "and I meet really interesting people who love the college or they wouldn't be talking to me."

Bruce Wyatt, vice president for college relations, described Curry as "a very warm, caring person. He came to us with a strong background in institutional development, and he's done a wonderful job of working with alumni and supporters of Linfield."

Curry has promised his wife,

Barbara, to work fewer hours, but he plans to resume his consulting practice. He also has offered to continue to be available to Linfield. "I'm not a 'feet-up' retiree," he said.

Neither is Percival. She joined Linfield in 1976 to teach nutrition in the consumer and family studies department. When that program closed, Percival shifted gears and earned a master's in teaching ESL at Portland State University in 1991. She has continued to teach nutrition, as well as ESL.

"I've been lucky enough to work in two departments with wonderful people," Percival said.

Sandra Lee, ESL director, said Percival has bridged international students' ESL and degree programs and has led the use of technology in language classrooms.

Taking students beyond the classroom, Percival has gamely pitched tents in the rain, driven unwieldy 15-passenger vans and chopped mounds of vegetables for Japanese curry cooked over a campfire, Lee said.

Percival said she longs to visit Japan and parts of the United States she hasn't seen. She also wants to return to Colombia, where she served in the Peace Corps in 1968-69. Closer to home, she wants to do

volunteer work and nurture her yard.

Like Percival, Henry has served Linfield in multiple roles. He joined the college in 1969 as a math professor and assistant football coach. In 1974, he became the computer center director. He and work-study students *were* the computer center. At the time, Linfield had a hulking IBM 1620. Thirty megabytes of disk space, 96K of memory. They began putting all administrative files on the computer and by the time a consultant's report arrived saying that couldn't be done, it was.

In 1991, Henry retired from coaching along with head coach Ad Rutschman '54. "Developing young people gave me as much pride as winning football games," Henry said.

He has seen Linfield players get bigger as computers have gotten smaller but far more powerful.

Irv Wiswall, Linfield's chief technology officer, said he wondered when he arrived 12 years ago what it would be like working with "this sports guy." He quickly realized Henry's understanding of Linfield and people was invaluable.

Wiswall said Henry has carried the team spirit that wins football games to his work in Integrated Technology Services. "Ted is an enormously hard worker, with patience and tenacity," Wiswall said.

Henry is excited about his newest sport, golf. He and his wife, Elsie '89, also enjoy traveling and recently visited Hawaii.

Nope, no porch rockers for these three.

– Beth Rogers Thompson