

RUTH BOND

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Haiti was first post, with Good Neighbor Policy

Max Bond, husband, was Chief of Party, team of 6 or 7, two were women, sent to teach languages, home making, science.

Ruth Bond was "on the team" as volunteer; taught English. English was her field, she had previously taught at Kentucky State. Max had found scholarship for a young Haitian to study in US, however, the scholarship insufficient to support family, young man could not afford to give up his teaching job. Ruth taught his classes, gave the salary to the young Haitian, enabling him to study in U.S.

Max Bond had scholarship to University of Southern California

Ruth had baby, began studying for her PhD

Child care arrangement was disastrous

Ruth felt child more important and decided to stay home, never found opportunity to pursue her degree

Max went with TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority)

Ruth organized wives of dam workers, who had previously had no cash income, were wives of former sharecroppers, etc.

Government built housing for families, Bonds lived in one of the cottages (Max always encouraged Ruth to get involved)

Ruth began house beautification program, each cottage had its "TVA room:"

Drapes from dyed flour sacks from the commissary.

Rugs woven by hand

Quilts stitched from Ruth's designs

Ruth designed and cut pattern for "Black Power" quilt, signifying economic power for women that resulted from TVA. Interns from black colleges liked term; later revived it during civil rights movement in the 1960s. (Julian Bond, Atlanta-based activist, is nephew)

One Black Power quilt was given to David Lilienthal, head of TVA

Ruth voices objection to Smithsonian selling U.S. quilt patterns to China for cheap reproduction.

Grandmothers of TVA women had passed on the tradition of slave quilting

In Haiti, Ruth translated (from English to French) for U.S. potter setting up cottage industries
Also tutored English
Spouse of AEP Orme Wilson actively interested in Ruth's work in Port au Prince

Max sent to Liberia to establish the university at request of President William Tubman
Discussion of student strike
Max sided with students: transportation, food availability inadequate
Ruth taught at university in Liberia

Other teachers, librarians, sent out under Point IV (AID)
Ruth leafs through yearbook during this portion of interview

Discussion of family accomplishments
Mother was first black woman chosen "Mother of America"
Father was a bishop in the AME (African Methodist Episcopal) Zion Church
Home was a 20-room mansion in Louisville
Owner made home available to Bishop Clement, who had to house all
visitors to Kentucky because of segregation
Mother was fearless; father very fair complexion, sometimes mistaken for white
Bishop Clement took children along on his travels
Community service mandatory for Clement offspring

Ruth loved reading, would hide in powder room with a book to escape community meetings

Ruth believes she was only American woman accepted in Afghan homes in mid-1950s
Describes visits, also Afghan visits to Bond's home
AEP was Angus Ward, known in FS for eccentricity
Mrs. Ward, foreign born, very protocol conscious; "don't step toward her unless
she took a step toward you"

Ruth "organized a little something" everywhere Max was posted
Sewing for Tunisian children
Relief for Algerian refugees who had fled to Tunisia
Convoy of embassy women took food, clothing, etc. to refugees; embassy
official took credit
Taught English at YWCA in Sierra Leone
Tutored professor's children at university
Max always encouraged her to get out and use her skills

Ruth had dear friends in every country she lived in

Max took books upcountry in Sierra Leone; Max, Ruth and missionaries had to unload them;
local people refused to do "heavy lifting"

Ruth out of country during much of Civil Rights

Haitians expected Max to return as AEP
But he spoke out against powerful sugar industry

Further discussion of work with women in Afghanistan: sewing, cooking, home making

In Washington, became AAFSW vice president
As VP, formed a nucleus of black and white women to work with
the Eastern Branch Boys and Girls Club in southeast Washington

Pays tribute to FS women involved in AAFSW:

Polly Jones
June Byrne Spencer
Lesley Dorman
Pamela Moffat

Both Ruth and Max helped with AAFSW Book Fair
annual fund raiser for scholarship monies

Extensive discussion of her family
Accomplishments
Listings in "Who's Who", etc.
Huge home in Louisville
Mother was a friend of Marian Anderson

Addenda:
Children's achievements

RUTH CLEMENT BOND

Spouse: Dr. J. Max Bond (Deceased)
Spouse's Position: Education administration

Spouse Entered Service: 1944
You Entered Service: Same

Left Service: 1966

Posts:

Port au Prince, Haiti	1944-1947
Monrovia, Liberia	1950-1954
Kabul, Afghanistan	1955-1957
Tunis, Tunisia	1957-1960
Freetown, Sierra Leone	1960-1962
Blantyre-Limbe, Malawi	1962-1964
Washington, DC	1965-1966

Children:

Jane Emma Bond
James Max Bond
George Clement Bond

Volunteer and Paid Positions held:

A. At Post:

Haiti - Professor of English, Martisan Teacher Training School for Girls; translator and participant in Arts and Crafts project for Good Neighbor policy.

Liberia - Chair, Department of English, University of Liberia; tutored Liberian students already accepted in American universities; organized tutoring service in English for wives of foreign professors at University of Liberia;

Afghanistan - Substitute director of US commissary; worked with Afghan organization for women.

Tunisia - Organized FS wives to transport care packages and equipment to Algerian refugees on Tunisian-Algerian border; distributed care packages sent by American women to children in Tunisian hospitals; organized sewing group to make layettes for babies.

Sierra Leone and Malawi - worked with women's and youth (Malawi) organizations.

B. In Washington, DC: Student advisor for African American Institute; revitalized African-American Women's Association; organized Women's Auxiliary of Eastern Branch Boys Club; elected officer, Foreign Service Women's Association.

Listed in Who's Who of American Women; Women's Foreign Policy Council Directory; Soft Covers for Hard Times.