

Stories by Barbara Carpenter and Sarah Powers

The book, Williams' first and the first biography of Vickers, took Williams 10 years to research and write.

Vickers, a Canadian who retired in 1988, sang the most demanding of roles — Tristan, Peter Grimes, Otello, Enee. "No other tenor in recent memory mastered all four

WILLIAMS
Portrait by Roger Robinson

"I believe he richly deserves a book as he passes into legend. Stories of him abound in the business, but few have seen print. I found his colleagues eager to speak about him, but still baffled by many parts of his complex persona," she says.

One of those interviews did her body good. She was writing about repetitive motion injuries when she met Richard Rossiter, who'd developed a new system of weights and stretches to treat these injuries. He demonstrated on MacDonald. After 30 minutes the soreness she'd had in her

'Can Do Crew' comes through

About 20 staffers from the Statesman Journal at Salem, Ore.,

last summer spiffed up the grounds at the Women's Crisis Center, a local transition home for women who are victims of domestic violence.

The employees are members of the paper's "Can Do Crew." They volunteer their time to help with community projects. The crisis center, where they planted shrubs donated by a local nursery, was the group's second project this year. "We wanted to create a more

healing and beautiful atmosphere around the center — symbolic of the healing the women are experiencing," says **Steve Hyatt**, human resources director at the paper.

In early 1999, Crew members painted the inside walls at Mano a Mano, a nonprofit that assists Hispanics in Salem. Last fall they helped build a dog walking path at the Salem Humane Society. The path was named after the Statesman Journal's former distribution manager, Kevin Carnahan, and his wife Debi. "Debi died due to medical problems at the end of 1998 and Kevin died in a car accident a few weeks later. They were big supporters of the Humane Society," Hyatt says. In December, the Crew refurbished the inside of a homeless shelter.

A year ago Hyatt founded the Crew. Its purpose is more than altruistic; it's also meant to promote diversity among employees, he says. From 15 to 30 employees from various levels and departments, their spouses and children participate on each project. This "breaks down barriers and opens up doors. The atmosphere created [by working together] on projects inspires familiarity. It fosters a sense of cooperation and teamwork which has far-reaching benefits at the office," Hyatt says.

Statesman Journal employees or community residents suggest the projects. The paper's Diversity Committee then chooses one quarterly. Local businesses and newspaper advertisers often donate needed materials.



Members of Salem's Can Do Crew take a break from yard work at the Women's Crisis Center.