

Family Group, Dancers Highlight A & T Concert

GREENSBORO, N.C. - The Rod Rodgers Dance Company, the famous Newark Boys Chorus and a talented musical family, "The Descendants of Mike and Phoebe," have been selected to initiate the annual 1974-75 lyceum series at A&Y State University.

The Descendants of Mike and Phoebe will open the series with a concert on October 16. The dance company will appear on December 9 and the Newark Boys Chorus will appear on Feb. 18.

Dr. Howard T. Pearsall, director of the lyceum committee, said other artists will be added for appearances later in the year.

Currently one of the nation's most popular musical groups, the Descendants of Mike and Phoebe are four of the seven children born to musical parents, Alberta Edwards Lee and the late Arnold W. Lee of Snow Hill, Alabama.

The name, the Descendants of Mike and Phoebe, was chosen to honor their maternal slave ancestors.

The Rod Rodgers Dance Company is led by Rod Rodgers, a talented choreographer, dancer and director and himself a prodigy of parents who were professional dancers.

Since moving to New York City in 1963, Rodgers has performed with several major companies in addition to directing his own company.

He staged and directed "The Black Cowboys," which was performed by the Afro-American Singing Theatre at New York City's Center of Music and Drama. He also choreographed a television special, "Journey into Blackness, featuring Voices Inc., a musical theatre group."

In a few short seasons, the 32-voice Newark Boys Chorus has gained recognition as one of the finest groups of its kind. The youngsters, ranging in age from 7 to 14, have performed with Pierre Boulez and the New York Philharmonic, Eugene Ormande and the Philadelphia Orchestra and Henry Lewis and the New Jersey Symphony.

The singers perform a full range of selections including classical, renaissance, and rock and roll. They have appeared on a number of national network television shows.

Pearsall said one of the lyceum series' future productions will be a mini-minority group festival.

UNC To Hold

Poetry Clinic

A poetry workshop for persons interested in writing - or just listening - to poetry is being offered this fall by the Extension Division of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Part of the Extension Division's special interests program, the workshop will emphasize the craft of poetry, with attention given to the reading of one's own work, according to the instructor, Peter Trias.

"The course is for people interested in writing poetry, and won't be concerned so much with reading literature," Trias said.

He said the students will bring some of their own work in, reproduce it and give it to fellow students. The poems then will be read and criticized.

"Those who haven't written or would rather not bring their work in are welcome to listen and criticize. I'll make no demands on them," Trias said.

"I taught the course last year and everyone seemed to enjoy it. We all had a good time."

Trias holds a master of fine arts degree from the University of Iowa poetry workshop and has studied under poets Donald Justice and Caroline Kizer. His work has appeared in the New York Times and various literary magazines. Presently he works with the creative arts program, affiliated with Allied Arts in Durham, where he teaches poetry writing in the Durham elementary schools.

Workshop classes will be from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 3 to Nov. 21. Fee for the course is \$30.

For more information, call the UNC Extension Division at 933-1106.



Frances Mason stands proudly next to her bus.

Chronicle Profile

Women In Men's World

It's a man's world ... some people say. Women should do things in the home like cooking and cleaning. But, the fact is that women are doing many things today that only men were doing yesterday.

Take driving one of Winston-Salem's big buses for example. There are more than 13 black female drivers. Some have been driving for as far back as 1966. How did they get the notion to drive a bus?

"It was a big joke," said Frances Mason, who has been driving a bus for about five years. "I got on the bus with a lady driver and told her I was unemployed and she suggested that I drive a bus," Ms. Mason recalled.

The joke came when she turned in a "greasy" application and the manager of the bus company accepted it. "I had no idea I would get the job because I had wasted barbecue grease all over my application. The manager said, 'Oh, yeah, I want you to drive a bus.'"

Ms. Mason has been driving on route 11 long enough to have developed some concepts in being a good bus driver. "I have three concepts," she said proudly. "Courtesy, dependability and punctuality." She has a big sense of responsibility and feels she has an obligation to her riders:

"After all, my riders are paying my salary. One should show concern for each and every individual. It doesn't matter if he is riding on your bus or that he simply wants some information."

Ms. Mason recalled one incident that happened on the bus more than four years ago. A man got on the bus with a small box, she said. "I noticed that he was talking and I thought he was talking to himself, but he was talking to the box," she said with a wide grin. She later found out that the man had homing pigeons in the box and evidently was giving the birds instructions as to where to fly and when to come back.

Ms. Mason, mother of two boys (David, 14 and Donald, 10), is proud of her job and feels that driving a bus is a good field for women to get into. "You make good money and there's not too much work involved," she informed. "It's simply a matter of being alert and having good coordination."

She said the hazards of driving demand that a person be able to move her hands, eyes and feet and think very fast and at the same time. "This makes you master of the wheel," she concluded with an air of complete confidence.

Probably the newest black female bus driver is Mrs. Rosa Roberts, a humorous, beautiful black woman. She started driving about six months ago and has enjoyed every day of it. "I was sittin' on the porch one day and I saw this lady bus driver drive by. I said to myself, 'I'm gonna drive me one of them busses.'" The jovial Mrs. Roberts said in a recent interview that she likes to be out in the public. "It's good for my moral."

She never drove a bus before she started with the bus company, but said "I can drive anything. If it's got wheels on it I can drive it." She said she doesn't brag but simply states the facts. "If McLean trucking company wanted me to drive for them I would," she said amidst laughter.

Mrs. Roberts is somewhat the "life of the party" down at the terminal. The male drivers joke with her openly and she responds like Red Foxx. One man asked her if she had corns on her hands and she said, "Yeah, I got two hands full of 'em."

Although some of the mechanics complain about the women being there, Ms. Roberts said they would miss them if they weren't there. Some of the complaints come from the ladies asking the men to do things for them. "We ask the mechanics sometimes, 'Do we need water?' They know we ain't gon' put it in."

Driving a big bus doesn't make the women any less feminine, however. "I likes to be feminine," Mrs. Roberts said smiling. "But there's a time and place for everything. When I'm on the job I do what I'm supposed to do."

She drives on Route 13, where she lives, and knows most of the folks. That makes it easier for her because she likes to talk and joke with people. "Five-fifteen is my fun hours. It's the best time of the day because everybody's gettin' off work and eager to talk and tell of their hard day," she said in a tone of voice much like that of a chaplain. "All of them are nice folks."

She refers to the bus as "my bus" and to her riders as "my people". That is an indication of the kind of person she is: jovial, funny, rhetorical, happy, and kind.

Mrs. Roberts is a graduate of Carver High School and lives at 4241 Jasmín Drive. She has five children, Lewis - 12; Charles, 11; Janice, 10; Daniel, 9; and Howard, 8. Her husband is a chef cook at the Hilton Inn.

The bus company is having Ladies Day Saturday to honor the female bus drivers and rightly so. They are an asset to the bus company, black people and the communities in which they live.

F.H.P.

State Welcomes New Members

Winston-Salem State University's continuing trend of growth and change is evidenced in the area of faculty and staff development. Academic Dean Lafayette Parker, in a recent report of the Board of Trustees' at WSSU noted that at the beginning of this 1974-75 school year there are 104 state funded faculty positions and approximately 25 funded primarily through federal funds. He further reported that of the total faculty, the percentage of doctorates has increased from 23 per cent in 1969-70 to nearly 39 percent in 1974-75. To date there are twenty-two new faculty and administrative staff members joining the WSSU community this Fall. We extend a sincere welcome and offer best wishes for a successful, progressive year to the following persons by department:

Business - Mr. Zemma Heglar, Instructor; Ms. Arleane Salley, Instructor; Dr. Marlene Simpson, Assoc. Professor of Business.

Education - Dr. William L. Burnett, Assoc. Professor of Education & Psychology.

English - Ms. Shirley Francis, Instructor.

Health & Physical Ed. - Mr. Henry Taylor, Instructor.

Music - Mr. Lee Vernell Cloud, Instructor; Mr. Jerry Head, Jr., Instructor.

Natural Science - Dr. Nathaniel Hewitt, Ass't. Professor of Biology.

Nursing - Ms. Sandra M. Hanlen, Ass't. Professor of Nursing; Ms. Alice E. Johnson,

Ass't. Professor of Nursing; Ms. Evelyn Jones, Instructor; Ms. Martha Moore, Instructor; Ms. Rebecca L. Powell, Ass't. Professor of Nursing.

Social Science - Dr. Richard Krajcik, Ass't. Professor of Political Science, Mrs. Nathaniel T. Parkman, Coordinator Urban-Rural Program.

Alamance Co. Program - Ms. Mary M. Love, Instructor in Education.

Computer Science - Ms. Elva J. Jones.

Registrar - Mr. Leon Greene. Residence Activities Coordinator - Ms. Elaine Blowne.

Director of Public Relations - Ms. Charisse A. Cannady.

Director of Urban - Rural Cooperative - Dr. Doris S. Lyons.

A further welcome to all new staff members throughout the campus.

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