

Mental Health Association Bike-A-Thon October 20

The Forsyth Mental Health Association and the Pfafftown Jaycees will sponsor the third annual bike-a-thon on Sunday, October 20. Co-chairmen Jim Council and Joe Napier have announced that riders will register at 1:30 p.m. at Memorial Coliseum for the twenty-five mile ride that will take them to Stanleyville and back to the Coliseum via Old Town. First aid and emergency equipment will be provided and a doctor will be on hand. "Opus 7", a rock group, will provide musical entertainment in the parking lot during the entire afternoon. The Winston-Salem Polar Twins will also be there to meet the participants, sign autographs and distribute passes and several hundred half-price tickets to many of those who finish the ride.

The Twins will be opening their hockey season at the game to be played at the Coliseum immediately following the bike-a-thon at 7:45.

Everyone in the community is urged to participate in the bike-a-thon either as a rider or as a sponsor. Each rider will solicit as many sponsors as possible to each pledge at least \$.10 a mile for each mile completed. Check points and refreshment stands will be placed at five mile intervals along the course to validate the riders route cards. These cards will be presented to the sponsor when the riders return to collect the pledged money.

Many prizes will be awarded to entries in several categories. The rider who turns in the most money will be the big winner,

with prizes also going to the youngest rider, oldest rider, fastest time on the course, family with most participants, and the family who collects the most money. Prizes include watches, a stereo record player, a one hundred dollar savings bond, and fifty dollars worth of groceries to the family who collects the most pledges.

The money raised in this effort will go to support existing Mental Health programs such as aid to Forsyth patients at John Umsted Hospital and operation of an information and referral service for those needing help for emotional problems. New programs that the money will aid are a social club for recovering mental patients and seminars in human relations for management personnel and law enforcement officers.



Pat Stevenson... "I didn't choose to be a police officer... my friends chose it for me."

Chronicle Profile

Women In Men's World

If you ever park over-time in the downtown area of Winston-Salem, the likelihood of getting a ticket is very great. The chances of a female police officer writing the ticket is even greater. But, the chances that the ticket or citation will be written by Pat Stevenson is greater still.

Ms. Stevenson is one of more than five black female police officers on the force. She once wrote 124 tickets in a single eight-hour working day. "I can write anywhere from one to 50 tickets in fifteen minutes," she said in a recent interview. "Some officers have written as many as 140 in one day."

Ms. Stevenson, an attractive soft-spoken woman, said she didn't really choose police work. Her friends chose it for her. "When I was 19 my friends told me I looked like a policewoman." So, she applied for a job but was too young. "I kept my application active and when I turned 21 I went back and they hired me a few months later," she said, sounding pleased with the result of her persistency.

Today, (one year and two months later), after eight weeks of training and stating her position plainly to her friends, she is a duly sworn officer of the law. Although she is a traffic officer she has full power of arrest and will if you get out of hand... even her friends.

"A lot of my friends don't think I'll give them a ticket as quick as I will anyone else or quicker... but I will." In addition, she said many blacks have asked her not to give them a ticket. But, "when you're wrong you're wrong... no ifs, ands or buts about it," she said, somewhat like Joe Friday.

"All of my friends have learned that I have a job to do and they're not going to keep me from doing it."

The biggest reason for Ms. Stevenson joining the force, she explained, was because she is companionable. "I'm humanist. I love to be around people and I like to do things for people." Contrary to the feelings of many that the police do not really help, she said the police department is very understanding. "The police, in many instances, have paid peoples' rent and have even bought food for some."

The police department has undergone significant change in recent years and Ms. Stevenson feels that the change facilitates good relations between them and the community:

"Our department consist mostly of young officers (25 to 44 years of age). These are people who have grown up in the community and have an understanding of what the community needs... and they're able to get it."

She said some of the older police officers presented the community with a feeling of resentment. "When I was younger," the Winston-Salem native remarked, "whenever I saw a policeman get out of his car he would have his hand on his gun like he was going to shoot somebody. A lot of people got the misunderstanding that they weren't friends like it was supposed to be."

But, things have changed today, she believes. "People are given the chance to participate in law enforcement through the reserves and the Explorers. (The Explorers sponsor recreation programs and summer camps for young boys.)" She said the department is always open to the public to discuss problems.

One thing about her job that seems bewildering is the fact that it is not men who give her the most trouble:

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Many people, especially those who have been in the military, believe that each morning when all the police officers are gathered together the commander reads the "quota" for the day. That is, each officer is told to make a certain amount of arrest or write a certain amount of tickets in order to get promoted or receive a bonus. But that's not true, according to Ms. Stevenson.

"We don't have a quota," she said in an irritated tone of voice. "We do not get a commission for writing a certain amount of tickets and the average amount of tickets depends on the area you're working in."

There are seven beats in downtown Winston-Salem. The majority of the tickets come from the industrial district. Places like R.J. Reynolds and the factories are high risk districts for parking violations.

Ms. Stevenson is a graduate of Anderson High School and attended N.C.A. & T State University in Greensboro for two years. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James B. Stevenson of 1220 Nowlin St. She has three sisters, Mrs. Jacqueline Booie, Catherine and Rosalyn Stevenson; and one brother, James Stevenson III.

E.H.P.



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