

African Festival Attracts Many



Barbara Kamara plays guessing game with little kids at last week's African Arts Festival in Kimberly Park.

Winston-Salem's annual African Folk Festival was held Saturday July 27 in the Derry Street Parking lot. The festival had many attractions with displays and entertainment galore.

Events that took place during the day-long festivities ranged from a stilt-walking contest to a head-balancing contest.

Charles Robinson, one of Winston-Salem's most talent-

ed artists, displayed his paintings. The Ajanka family of Durham, exhibited and sold African earrings. Mrs. Barbara Kamara was on hand with African objects. The young children particularly enjoyed trying to guess the identity of the objects.

Many of the city's recreation centers had displays of arts and crafts ranging from African masks to tie-dyed articles. Entertainment was

furnished by "The Black Entourage", an African dance group from Connecticut. Winston-Salem's own "Atsha" dancers also performed.

poems to the delight of the crowd to wind up the festival. Mrs. Barbara Gordon co-ordinated the festival which was a booming success and one of the more worthwhile things done in Winston-Salem. It was a cultural experience for all who attended.

Bad Checks Hurt Small Owners Most

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number of bad checks her husband received last year. She says their grocery store loses a couple of thousand dollars because her husband likes to help people and "he is soft hearted."

"We have a detective who works for us on his own time. He tries to locate people and get them to pay." However, she confirms there is not much the police can do.

"My husband just started to make people show their identification last year," the store owner said. For 30 years

the Ford's have been in business and now Mrs. Ford is weary and ready to give up the business because of the number of bad checks and break-ins.

Fredrick Douglas of Modern Pharmacy says he screens people carefully. "Sometimes I will go in the back and call to check on identification," he said. A druggist for 16 years, Douglas can just about spot an honest face. He manages to keep his losses at a minimum because of his keen sense of character.

He told the story of a man who came in the drug store to get medicine for his sick wife. He said the man stood up in the store and cried because his wife needed the medicine and he did not have any money. The man had promised to pay but he never did. "I could tell by just looking at the man he wasn't going to pay but I gave him the medicine anyway. I figured he really needed it."

The only thing black businesses have to protect themselves from getting an avalanche of bad checks is close personal observance and that is not foolproof.

Black Banks Needed Here

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revitalizing to the black community.

William Andrews believes that it can be done and is needed here. Alfred Scott of Scott's Realty states that efforts in this direction is good and necessary.

E.F. Wilson, a businessman and former mathematics teacher, recognizes that the time is appropriate to sum up the financial situation.

Garland Washington, Manager of G. & S. Cleaning Service, commented that the black bank enterprise will be something to look up to.

Around the country laws and policies are being tested by blacks to develop financial institutions. One such law is the Blue Sky Law. Over a decade ago the former

baseball great, Jackie Robinson organized Freedom National Bank in New York City; thus, helping to get the financial ball rolling for blacks again. Atlanta and other major cities soon followed this pattern.

Several decades ago in Winston-Salem a black janitor working in a white bank founded and organized in his spare time a bank which was named Forsyth Bank. Many old-timers remember this effort with a deep sense of pride because it was a success for many years.

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