

Chronicle Profile

From Child Development to Community Development



Miss Helen Gwyn and Friends

"I am by no means a politician," says Helen Gwyn firmly.

She is, however, president of the East Winston Neighborhood Restoration Association, which means that she must take a keen interest in local government and city planning. "I was drafted," she smiles.

The organization is about one year old, and is composed of residents of the East ward, particularly those on Hattie, Jackson, and Cameron Avenue. Miss Gwyn has lived on Jackson Avenue "for many years", she says, and she was concerned with the fate of the neighborhood.

"I wish something could be done for the renters," she says.

She explains that the absentee landlords who own many of the houses do not keep them in good repair, which forces low-income renters to live in substandard dwellings.

The East Winston Neighborhood Restoration Association is hoping to get HUD approval for a program which will allow renters to buy their homes at low interest rates, and which will train persons in the neighborhood to rehabilitate the houses. The program would not only improve the houses in the neighborhood; it would also provide a useful trade

for those who are trained to do the work.

"The main thing we've been doing over the past year is fighting that water tower plan," says Miss Gwyn.

The city wants to put a water tower somewhere in the neighborhood, although the site is not definite yet.

"First they wanted to tear down three houses to build it," Miss Gwyn recalled. "And of course we objected to that. There's enough of a housing shortage as it is! Then they wanted to put it on the Catholic Church's land. I don't know where they'll want to put it next." The group is also trying

to get the city to build a park on the site of the old Fourteenth Street School.

When she isn't being a neighborhood leader, Miss Gwyn is a businesswoman, co-owner of the Tiny Tots Day Care Center at 2322 Patterson Avenue.

"We've been in this location for 14 years," said Miss Gwyn. "We started out at First Baptist Church."

Kids have changed in fourteen years, Miss Gwyn noted.

"They're smart these days," she explained, "and that's both good and bad. Because children are exposed to television they know a great

deal about 'adult' subjects at an earlier age, which makes them more advanced than previous generations, but as products of a permissive age, they are also learning at an early age what liquor tastes like, and about 4-letter words.

"Even the names are different," she pointed out. "Today's children all have unusual names. The parents make them up. A few years ago they all had ordinary names. I don't think we've had a Margaret or a Helen since we left First Baptist."

"The toys have changed, too. Everything the children bring from home to

play with has a battery. Even the dolls."

Miss Gwyn is a graduate of Winston-Salem State University who majored in primary education, and then decided to work with even younger children. Every year, her tiny tots appear in WSSU's homecoming parade. A collection of plaques and a trophy attests to their parade participation.

A few years ago, the little ones appeared on a float depicting, "The Old Woman in the Shoe"; this year it was, "Star Wars." The times they are a-changing.

League Honors Members

By Yvette McCullough
Staff Writer

Members of the Professional Business League recognized three 20 year members, Sunday at the league's 20th anniversary ceremony, which was held at New Bethel Baptist Church.

The three members were honored at the event; Ruby Cain, Mildred Searcy, and Annie P. Wilson. They were presented plaques for their services. Also recognized for service to the league were Judy Redd and Roberta Carter. Ruby Cain was also voted the most inspirational member.

The theme for the program was, "Women who

are empowered for action... moving... moving, towards the end of a century." The guest speaker for the anniversary service was Dr. Meada S. Gibbs, chairperson of the Business, Education, and Administrative Services Department of A & T State University.

Dr. Gibbs told the audience that she finds that blacks are still concentrated in the lower level paying jobs. "For every one black hired, two whites are put into the system," Dr. Gibbs said. "We are not lawyers, we are not doctors, and with the recent Bakke decision, there's no telling how that will affect our lives."

She said that at one time blacks thought that the only thing they could do was teach and preach. She said that this is not true anymore.

"I'm not saying that there is anything wrong with those professions, but many doors have been opened for women and blacks," Dr. Gibbs said. "We can't meet the supply if we are not prepared to take advantage of the opportunity."

Preparing children for the career paths is the first goal, Dr. Gibbs said. She said that the school system is not encouraging students

See Page 11



20 Years of Service

Dorothy G. Wheeler (left to right) presents plaques to Professional league members Ruby Cain, Mildred Searcy, and Annie P. Wilson for their 20 years of service.

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Wives Hold Brunch

The Faculty Wives of Winston-Salem State University held a brunch at the residence of Chancellor and Mrs. H. Douglas Covington on Saturday, Nov. 11.

Officers currently serving are Clara Gaines and Helen Simms, co-chairmen; Mildred Taylor, secretary.

treasurer. The program for the year revolves around the following interest groups: campus beautification, supper club, bridge-pinochle, physical fitness, and special projects. Two social events are planned for the year during February and in the spring.

Sorority Celebrates Founder's Day

By Barbara Eikner
Special to the Chronicle

The Alpha Mu Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority celebrated its Founders' Day on November 12, 1978 in the Red Room on the campus of Winston-Salem State University. Greetings were made by Soror Charlena Garrison, while a tribute and historical review of Sigma Gamma Rho was given by Sorors Gwendolyn Jones, Brenda Talbert, and Martha Linton. Soror Alma Peay made special presentations to Soror Maxwell Greer, a charter member of

Alpha Mu Sigma and a member of Sigma Gamma Rho for more than 37 years.

A special presentation was also made to Shelia Winters and Elizabeth Gill, the youngest members of Sigma Gamma Rho and members of the undergraduate chapter on Winston-Salem State University campus.

The newly elected officers of Alpha Mu Sigma for the 1978-1979 year are as follows: Basileus— Mary Muldrow, Anti-Basileus— Alma Peay, Grammateus— Minnie Evans, Anti-Grammateus— Brenda Talbert, Tamichous— Romelia Mason, Epistoleus— Barbara Eikner.

Garden Club Visits Guild

The Lachenalia Garden Club met Sunday, November 12, 1978, at the home of Mrs. Donald M. Alexander.

After the regular meeting, the Christmas House Committee made their report of the decorations. Plans were discussed, concern-

ing making Christmas Moravian cookies for serving during the Christmas tour, December 10, 1978 from 2:00-6:00 P.M.

All the club members present visited the Winston-Salem Craft Guild annual holiday show at the Benton Convention Center.

Senior Citizens Meet

Several members of the Forsyth County Council of Older Adults attended a special program sponsored by the Walkertown Senior Citizens Club on Thursday, November 9th.

Mrs. Katherine Clement was mistress of ceremonies at the program, which fea-

tured the Senior Citizens Rhythm Band and a skit entitled, "Happy Senior Citizens" by Mrs. Leatha Tyner and Mrs. Juanita Hairston. Mrs. Nova Taylor performed a reading, and solos were performed by Mrs. Willie T. Miles, and Mr. Rayford Mann.

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