

Chronicle Profile

Life's Work Begun At Age Seven

By Shelia Rucker
Staff Writer

Benita Michelle Parks is only seven, but she already has begun her life's work. In her crisp blue and white uniform, she was the youngest candy-striper at Forsyth Memorial Hospital on the Friday before Easter. There she spent six hours waiting on her great-uncle and three other patients in Room 444.

"The best part was helping them to eat, carrying their trays, bringing them fresh water and fixing them up to go to bed," Benita says. "The worst part is working with grouchy people, even though I know they can't help it."

It was Benita's idea to go over and help out at the hospital because someday she wants to work in a large hospital. "I want to work at a big hospital like Forsyth because I can help a lot of people," she says. "I have friends at the hospital who are nurses and also I copy my momma, who used to be a nurse's aide, too."

Benita plans to take classes this summer at the Red Cross in first-aid and CPR. She loves taking care of her family members when they are ill, and has mastered the art of taking temperatures and blood

pressure. In addition, Benita goes to Thomasville once a month to Liberty Rest Home. "My uncle's wife lives at the rest home and I like to go and help her out. Sometimes I help her eat and push her around in the wheelchair. Also, I help her to the bathroom. I like going to visit the other patients and talking to them, too."

Benita says that she has never wanted to become a doctor. She emphatically shakes her head and says, "No. I just want to be a nurse."

"Sometimes I think," she adds, "that I would like to be a college professor because big people would be easier to teach. But I don't think I'll change my mind about being a nurse. I like to take care of people and give them plenty of TLC — that is Tender Loving Care."

Benita is an active member of Friendship Baptist Church, where she is a junior nurse ("I have to take out the babies that cry down to the nursery.") attends Sunday School and sings on the Tots Choir. She is an above-average student at South Fork Elementary and has received such certificates as Student of the Month, Perfect Attendance, Reading Achievement and Reading Fever Club.

Benita says, "I like to read a whole book every night. I already have read about 113 books."

Somewhere between her activities at school and church, she finds the time to attend Brownie meetings, work on her drawing and macrame, attend ballet classes at the Frannel School of Dance, enjoy her friends and her twin brother Billy, and cook her specialty, cornbread, which she says "melts in your mouth."

Earlier this year, Benita entered the Little Miss Winston-Salem Pageant. This was the second time Benita had entered the pageant, and last year she was runner-up. "I liked both pageants very much," she says, "even though I lost this time. My talent was tap dancing and I liked that. I danced to 'Tie A Yellow Ribbon.' All the other girls were real nice to me and they liked my tap dance outfit. The best part was standing out there in front of all those people. The only part I didn't like was the questions they asked."

Benita's plans, of course, are to continue caring for others. "I would like to be like the nurses on 'General Hospital' and also like the nurses at school, especially Mrs. Craddock. I like her."

She plans to attend Winston-Salem State's Nursing School in the future. "I want to go to WSSU and be an AKA. I like their pretty colors," she says. "My momma has a friend named Mrs. Vivian Burke and

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Benita Michelle Parks
(Photo by Santana).



Marsha Atwater

Bass-Atwater Couple Wed

By Floria Oates
Community Affairs
Editor

Miss Marsha Louise Bass and Charles Dennis Atwater Jr. were married Saturday, May 1 at twelve o'clock in a ceremony at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church. Father Michael B. Curry, rector at Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church, officiated. A reception followed in the R.J. Reynolds Gallery at the Sawtooth Center.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall B. Bass of 3726 Spaulding Drive. Parents of the bridegroom are Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Atwater Sr. of Pittsburgh, Pa.

The bride attended Hampton Institute and received a master's degree in business administration from the University of Wisconsin. She is currently brand manager for Stroh's Light

at Stroh's Brewery in Detroit, Mich. The bridegroom graduated from Ohio University and received a master's degree in business administration from Indiana University. He is currently a commercial branch manager at Owens-Corning Fiberglass in Detroit.

Maid of honor was Brenda G. Bass, M.D., of Los Angeles. Bridesmaids were Marianetta Bolton of Detroit, Maxine Marshall of Cincinnati, Ohio, Cynthia Hudson of Pittsburgh and Joan Lofton of Raleigh. Camille Breathette was flower girl.

James B. Atwater of Dallas, Texas, was the best man. Groomsmen were David Johnson and Samuel Ross of Cincinnati, James Grier of Tallahassee, Fla. and James Carr of Philadelphia. Omari Hudson was ring bearer. The newlyweds will live in Detroit.

Lachenalia Garden Club Meets

By Shelia Rucker
Staff Writer

The Lachenalia Garden Club met Saturday, May 8, at Mrs. Russell Dohit's residence on Rosa Street. The meeting was called to

order by the president, Mrs. C. Campbell. The serenity prayer was by Mrs. Addie Ruth Acey.

Procedure was followed for reading of the minutes and treasury report. Topics of discussion included the

flower shop, rules and regulations for conducting meetings, the Garden Council meeting on May 12, and projects and means for increasing the memberships.

Luncheon was served by

the hostess. Those present at the meeting were Mrs. Donald Alexander, Mrs. Reginald Jones, Mrs. Clark Campbell, Mrs. Christine Gaither, Mrs. Addie Ruth Acey and Mrs. George Wall.

Boy Scout Troop 818 Activities Held

Boy Scout Troop 818 participated in a number of activities during the month of April.

On Saturday, April 10, the troop held a fishing derby at High Rock Lake, where Kevin East won \$10 for catching the largest fish.

At Zion Hill Baptist Church on Saturday, April 17, a first-aid skill class was held.

The final night was Mon-

day, April 19. A demonstration on emergency procedures was given by the Winston-Salem Rescue Squad and Michael Grier was awarded the Tenderfoot badge.

Troop 818 is sponsored by the Zion Hill Baptist Church. Parents who would like their boys to become members of the troop should contact Scoutmaster McDuffie at 727-0072.



Michael Grier receives Tenderfoot Badge from Scoutmaster Marshall McDuffie, as his mother Paulette Grier looks on.

Band Student From Page 6

with the 9-10 All-County Band.

R.V. Boone, her present band teacher, sees Lisa as a much-improved student in attitude and musical performance. "She shows more

initiative in learning, practices more regularly and is very cooperative in doing things that help our music program," he says. "I am very happy with Lisa's progress!" Lisa will succeed,

Boone adds, because of her strong determination to achieve.

Lisa Blalock, a 10th-grade clarinet player, won runner-up honors. She is the highest ranking 10th grader at Carver.

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