

**Chronicle Profile**

**Gift Of Laughter Is Contagious**

By AUDREY L. WILLIAMS  
Staff Writer

Rebecca Carter wants a piece of the pie, including the pan it comes in.

Throughout her 36 years, she's had to settle for bits and crumbs, but now Carter is capitalizing on the hard times she's seen and her gift to make people laugh.

On Friday and Saturday nights, she performs a standup comedy routine at the Sandena Club on Mooney Street off South Stratford Road. Her first routine there was her first real break into show business.

But that's not enough, says the mother of four, and she feels time may be running out at her age. "I really haven't had what you call a decent break," she says. "I don't want to be on welfare and I don't want to live in subsidized housing the rest of my life, but I don't want to work every day either."

"I can't swim," she says, "but I want a house with a pool in the backyard, so I can at least wade in it."

Carter's sarcasm and desire to obtain some of the finer things in life can be attributed to her background as a sharecropper's daughter in Timmonsville, S.C. There, Carter says in addition to being very poor, she and her 11 sisters and brothers weren't allowed to walk on the same side of the street as white people,

much less look them in the eye. "People might get offended by some of the things I say because I talk about black life," she says. "But I'm talking about my life and more than half of the time it's true."

"I love making people laugh," she says. "My husband thinks I'm going through the change, though, but I can't see anything wrong with making people laugh 'cause we're all ugly enough as it is."

*"If I had had any ingenuity and common sense, I would have stayed myself right in New York. North Carolina isn't the place to be for a comedienne."*

-- Rebecca Carter

Carter could be described as a jack of all trades. She's been almost everything from a cotton picker to a bus driver for the city of Winston-Salem to a live-in maid in New York City.

"They knew I was from the country when I got to New York 'cause I walked around looking up at the tall buildings like I was walking on water," she says.

Dismissing her laughter and reflecting on what might have been, she fingers her cigarette and says, "If I had had any in-

genuity and common sense, I would have stayed myself right in New York. North Carolina isn't the place to be for a comedienne."

Throughout the conversation, Carter displays both moments of determination and disillusionment.

"Sometimes it just doesn't pay to get up in the morning," she says. "One morning I got up I had a flat tire, my dog had frozen to death and when I got to work late my boss wanted to fire me."

"Now people think that's funny," she says, "but it's the facts of life."

But Carter, who has been performing in numerous nightclubs throughout the Piedmont for four years, holds on to all the hope she can muster waiting for the day she will make it big in the world of comedy.

"I carry a Rev. Ike prayer cloth," she says. "Every night I pray that something good will happen to me."

"My mother had a prayer cloth and it's just something that's been in our family for generations," she says. "Sometimes you need something to help you have faith."

WAIR radio personality Daddio was the one she says helped her bring her talent out in the open. "People always told me I was crazy, but after he told me I was funny, I knew I had it in the bag," she says.



Rebecca Carter is making laughter with her life (photo by James Parker).

After hearing her roll out one-liners, Daddio and another friend encouraged Carter to try her act out at Club 311, where she was an instant hit.

Her presence at the Sandena Club, which has ventured out to provide stand-up comedy for entertainment, has made her somewhat of a celebrity in Winston-Salem.

Carter's material, which is unrehearsed, comes from the top of her head and may go practically any way her mostly all-white audience would like it. She tells jokes about everything from Reganomics to her life as a young black woman who never had a date until she was 18. Her date was a cousin who escorted her to the

Please see page A8



Newly elected officers for the local beauticians Chapter No. 2, left to right, Minnie Harris, Ida Johnson, Hazel Gaston, Anna Leak, Minnie Ervin, Essie Lennon and Thelma Steen. Not pictured are Rosa Feemster, Lenora Washington and Karen Alsbaugh.

**Winston-Salem Beauticians Meet**

The local Beauticians Chapter No. 2 held a Christmas celebration during the holiday season at the Benton Convention Center to climax the four-year term of out-going president, Mrs. Essie Lennon.

Mrs. Annie Pearson was crowned Beautician of the Year for 1983-84.

Pearson attended the local schools and graduated from La Mae Beauty College of Winston-Salem. She has been a member of the local No. 2 Chapter for more than 34 years. In the past she served as chapter president and chaplain, was elected Beautician of the Year for 1972-73 and Miss Congeniality in 1979.

Mrs. Pearson's other affiliations include membership in the Alpha Pi Chapter of Theta Nu Sigma National Sorority, where

she serves as chaplain and the National Beauty Culturist League of Washington, D.C. She is also of the Rose Community Club, past Worthy Majesty of the Elizabeth Chapter No. 310, where she also serves as chaplain and is a member of Mount Olive Baptist Church, where she serves on the usher and deaconess boards.

She is married to William Pearson and they have three children.

New officers installed for the new year are president, Thelma Steen; 1st vice president, Essie Lennon; 2nd vice president, Rosa S. Feemster; 3rd vice president, Minnie J. Ervin;

recording secretary, Auna Leak; assistant recording secretary, Hazel Gaston; corresponding secretary, Dorothy Aldridge; assistant



Annie Pearson

corresponding secretary, financial secretary, Ida Karen Alsbaugh; financial secretary, Lenora Johnson; and treasurer, Lenora Washington; assistant Minnie Harris.

**Community Calendar**

From Page A6

"Growing Up Too Fast In A Hurried Society" is the subject of the YWCA Mother's Network Program at 10 a.m. Marianne Meyer, a school psychologist, will be the guest speaker. Babysitting will be available at the Y Nursery. For more information call 722-5138.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 19**

•There will be a financial planning seminar on "How to Reduce Your Taxes Using an IRA" at 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn North.

•Pre-school story time will be held for 3- to 4-year-olds at the East Winston Branch Library at 10 a.m. and at the Southside Branch at 10:30 a.m.

•YWCA Student Holiday Fun Days will be held today and tomorrow from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and are open to boys and girls in grades K-6. For more information call 722-5138.

•The Forsyth County Domiciliary Home Community Advisory Committee will meet from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Northwest Piedmont Council of

Governments conference room at 280 South Liberty St.

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

•The Department of Social Services has begun its Crisis Fuel Program for families who have a heating crisis. You can apply in person if you or your family has an income of less than \$931 a month is experiencing a life-threatening related emergency due to lack of sufficient heating in the home. You can apply on the second floor of the Old Courthouse from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. The department has \$113, 984 to distribute to needy families. The maximum amount per family or individual is \$200. For more information call 727-8311

•The March of Dimes would like additional volunteer clerical support for its "Mother's March" fund-raiser Jan. 15. Help record the number of kits returned and make follow-up phone calls to people who have not returned their kits. For more information call 723-4386.

**Ideal Party**

The Ideal Community Club hosted its annual Christmas dinner during the holiday season in the Red Room at Winston-Salem State University.

Mrs. Payton Harriston was the featured speaker for the occasion.

The Ideal Club annually makes donations to the Crisis Control Center or to a needy family.

The officers for the new year are president, Mrs. Thomasine Holms; vice president, Mrs. Isabelle Smith; secretary, Mrs. Barbara Joyner; assistant secretary, Mrs. Jannie Sims; financial secretary, Mrs. Ruth Torrance; program secretary, Juanita Penn; treasurer, Mrs. Marion Wallace; hospitality, Mrs. Elizabeth Croxton; and chaplain, Mrs. Montrose Pitts.

Other members are Mrs. Shirley Lincoln, Mrs. Lois Crosley, Mrs. Dollma Hargraves, Mrs. Lucille Mason, Mrs. Mable McClain, Mrs. Sarah Song, Mrs. Beatrice Peoples and Mrs. Shirley Sinclair.

**TRUCKLOAD SALE CONTINUING**

**KERO-SUN**

PORTABLE HEATERS

Kero-Sun® Portable Heaters are available in 9 sizes listed and U.L. listed models that are rated from 7,400 to 19,500 BTUs per hour.

**NOW PRICED FROM... \$99<sup>95</sup>**

More Available... The All New "DOUBLE CLEAN" HEATERS Designed to be the cleanest most efficient kerosene heaters in the world.

MADE BY THE ORIGINAL MANUFACTURERS OF THE KERO-SUN® PORTABLE HEATERS

- 1 1/2" High Clearer Burn Covers
- Improved Exhaust System - Adjustment of Heat Output Over a 30% Level
- "Adjust-A-Flame" Adjustment
- All Models U.L. Listed

LIMITED QUANTITIES

"Master Service Dealer"

**Wachovia-Southern Oil Co.**

Airport Office (Formerly Wachovia Oil Co.) 1095 Fairchild Drive 767-7290

Downtown Office (Formerly Southern Coal and Oil Co.) 532 Northwest Blvd. NW 722-6191

VISA

**Haithrock Reports For Duty Aboard Destroyer**

Navy Ocean Systems Technician 3rd Class **Ronnie D. Haithrock**, son of Oscar P. Haithcock of 1515

Merrimon Place, High Point and Rosalie Barrett of 119 Flintfield Drive, has reported for duty aboard

the destroyer USS KinKaid, homeported in San Diego.

Navy Lt. **Albert B. Long III**, son of A. Ben Long of 228 Halcyon Ave., has reported for duty with 2nd Marine Division in Camp Lejeune.

Navy Seaman **Recruit Claude Goodwin Jr.**, son of Gwendolyn M. Goodwin of 821 W. 25th

St., has completed training at the Naval Training Center, Navy Recruit Training Command, Great

Lakes, Ill.

During the eight-week training cycle, trainees studied general military subjects designed to prepare them for further academic and on-the-job training in one of the Navy's 85 basic

occupational fields.

Included in their studies were seamanship, close order drill, naval history and first aid. Personnel completing this course are eligible for three hours of college credit in physical education and hygiene.