

Chronicle Profile

She'd rather be helping students

By AUDREY L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Velma Friende could probably tell you where every crack and leak is at Atkins High School. She's been there for 35 years.

Four of those years were spent as an honor student at Atkins, who went on to graduate class valedictorian. The remaining years have been as a teacher and director of guidance.

However, this is the last she'll see of Atkins, at least from behind the desk she's occupied for 19 years as the director of guidance.

At 55, she's going to a new school. Beginning this fall, Friende will become the director of guidance at Mt. Tabor High School.

"I feel rather sad about leaving Atkins, but I consider it a new challenge," she says.

A graduate of Bennett College in Greensboro, Friende earned her master's degree at North Carolina A&T State University and later came back to Winston-Salem, where she landed her first job teaching her favorite subject, French, at "old Carver," she says.

When guidance counseling was introduced in the early 1950s, Friende says she found herself intrigued with the new system of relating to and directing students.

But as the guidance counseling movement grew, the veteran educator says she was well on her way to being prepared when she was placed in guidance in 1965.

"I was fascinated by the individual attention I could give students," she says, "so I started taking courses in counseling."

Friende was later certified in counseling and has made her mark there since. She was recently awarded the Tom Elmore Award at Wake Forest University for her dedicated work and service to the profession.

Although she and her husband, the late Billy Friende, had only one child, Billy Jr., who is now a practicing attorney, there's always been a special place in her heart for the young.

"I do have that innate desire to help children," she says, "and with the advent of integration, a lot of the black students are in the background. The masses are being hurt and the dropout ratio is increasing.

"I think my sensitivity toward their problems is what keeps me going," says Friende. "I empathize with them. I sympathize with them and I do what I can to help them."

The daughter of a property manager and a mother who gave up her teaching career to become housewife and mom to Friende and her three sisters and brothers, there was no doubt that the children of the family would receive an education.

"They instilled in all of us a desire for education," says Friende.

The result of the Hayes children was two teachers, a financial counselor and an attorney, she says.

Out of the four of them, Friende is the one who made the front-page headlines. When the county's public schools first integrated in 1971, a random selection was made to move black teachers into predominantly white schools. Friende was in that random selection and moved to R.J. Reynolds Senior High. The local NAACP protested.

"I stayed there two days," says Friende. "I never did unpack my things. They all stayed in the trunk of



Because Velma Friende is so sensitive to the needs of the youth, she says she could never leave them and go into school administration (photo by James Parker).

my car."

At Atkins, Friende played an important role in seeing that the school remained accredited once the "approved" rating was lifted from black schools in the South. Before then, black schools were approved, and not accredited, she says. She chaired accreditation steering committees at Atkins in 1978 and 1983.

She has also steered a many students in the right direction, she says, including Howard Shaw, now a guidance counselor at the school system's Career

Center, Happy Hairston of the Los Angeles Lakers, Ike Hill of the Chicago Bears and numerous others who are doing well in various areas.

It has been suggested by higher-ups in the field of education that she join the administrative ranks, but she says not only would it be a bother, it wouldn't allow her to be in direct contact with the students.

"I don't like the concept of administration," says Friende. "I'd rather be out there with the students where I know I'm helping."

Mineral Springs hosts awards day

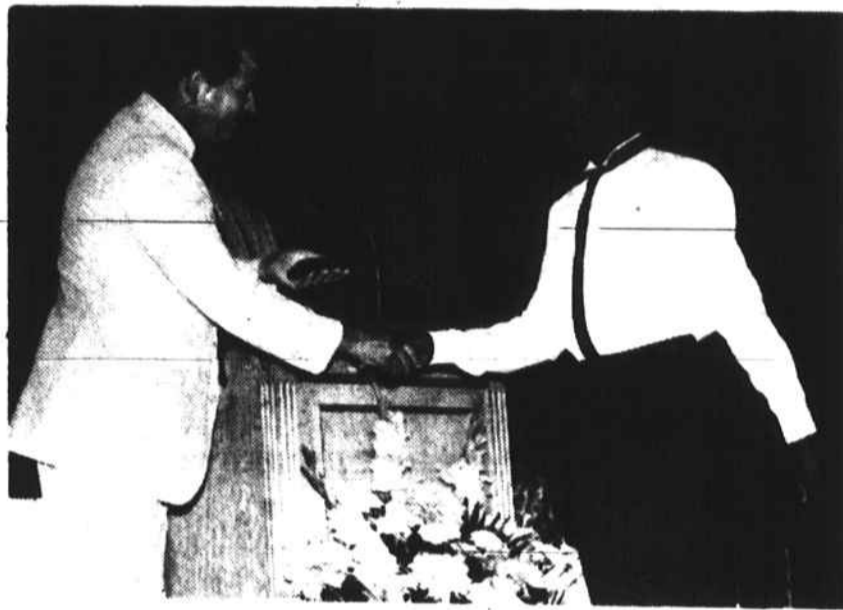
The 1984 Awards Day Program was held in the Mineral Springs Junior High School Auditorium on May 30. Dr. J. Ballard, minister of United Metropolitan Baptist Church, was the guest speaker.

Steven Davis, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Davis, was awarded the Bruce E. Tarkington Trophy for the highest grade point average; Terry Crews, son of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Cesoris, received the Citizenship Trophy; Raymond McCall, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond McCall, outstanding achievement award; Grayson Horn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Horn, and Mona Eastes, daughter of Mrs. Martha J. Eastes, were the winners of the

math award; Sharyl Spell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Holmes Jr., and Dirk Willard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Willard, were winners of the science awards; Tonya Styers, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Styers Jr. and Tracey Hawkins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hawkins, were winners of the social studies awards; and Wendy James, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank James and Christine Culbreth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Culbreth, were winners of the language arts awards.

Candance Dixon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Dixon, was the winner of the band award; Kimberly Blakley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Garland

Blakley, was the winner of the chorus award; Gregory Dorsey, son of Mrs. Lucinda Lawson, was the winner of the art award and the National Scholastic Award; Anita Galyean, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Galyean, received the Strings Award; Lynn Morris, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Morris, was the winner of the home economics award; Elizabeth King, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. King, received the typing and business exploration award; James Franklin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Franklin, was the winner of the journalism award; Cherri Kier, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Kiger and Anthony Coles, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coles, were winners



Dr. Zane Eargle, superintendent of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, presents the Health Award to Eddie McDaniel.

of the physical education award; Tracey Williard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Williard Jr., and Eddie McDaniel, son of Mrs. Versell Fuller, were the winners of the health awards, and Brent Stanley, son of Mrs. Carolyn Stanley, was the winner of the draftman-

ship award. Peyton T. Hairston, principal of Mineral Springs Junior High School, presented the awards. The ceremony was attended by several school administrators and many parents and community leaders.

Deltas honor members

In observance of May Week, members of the Winston-Salem Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority recently honored sorors who have been members of the sorority for 50 years.

Sorors honored were Margaret Booker, Annie H. McClennon and Marian B. Wilson of Winston-Salem and Laura Fox of New York.

Booker, a Shaw University graduate, was initiated there and is a retired teacher from the Charlotte School System.

McClennon, also a Shaw graduate and initiated there, is a retired teacher from the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System.

Both Booker and McClennon were instrumental in starting the

undergraduate chapter of the sorority at Shaw.

Wilson, a graduate of Fisk University and initiated there, is a retired social worker from the Winston-Salem Department of Social Services.

Fox is a graduate of West Virginia State University and is a retired YWCA director.

Graduating Sorors from the Gamma Phi Chapter at Winston-Salem State University were also saluted.

May Week members are Sorors Pulette Everette, Consuella Greenwood, Ruth Washington, Julia Johnson and Eddis Reinhardt, who serves as chairperson. Soror Modesta Earl is president of the Winston-Salem Alumnae Chapter.



Left to right, Annie H. McClennon, Margaret Booker and Marian Wilson. Not pictured is Laura Fox.

Business college accepts graduates

National Business College has announced that Selena Renee Valentine and Sharon Washinton has been accepted at National Business College in Roanoke, Va.

Valentine is a 1984 graduate of North Forsyth High School and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Gaither. She will attend at the Roanoke

Campus while pursuing her studies in the Real Estate Management Program.

Washington is a 1984 graduate of North Forsyth High School and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Isiah Washington. She will also attend the Roanoke campus pursuing a career in the business management program.

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