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Close-Up

Her school notes 45 years

By ALBERT NICKERSON
Chronicle Staff Writer

McLean Stenographic and Tutoring Service is located in a small, red, brick building on Patterson Avenue, standing in the shadows of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.

Although the business is small, it has performed a prodigious service to the community by providing 45 years of secretarial training to young men and women of the city.

Former graduates and friends gathered in the small, two-room school on Sunday to honor its founder, Naomi McLean. Some brought cards, other flowers, and some just brought warm, good wishes to McLean, who was affectionately called "Mrs. McLean" by her former students.

Visitors to the historic school saw hundreds of photographs and other memorabilia of the institution, which has been located on Sixth and Patterson avenues since 1943. There was a two-hour ceremony in which friends, acquaintances, and well-wishers paid tribute to her. Dr. Marion R. Blair, pastor of Wentz Memorial United Church of Christ, gave some informal remarks about McLean and pinpointed the significance of her work. "She was the kind of person who recognized greatness in us when others didn't," said Dr. Blair.

The program also included selections by former graduates, such as "Bless This House" and "Farewell Dear Graduates".

"They told me I was crazy when I started my school," McLean said. The list of honors in her name are numerous and include a listing in "Who's Who of American Women 1974-75." She also has

written columns for the *Afro-American* newspaper and presently is a columnist for the *Chronicle*.

"I'm proud of my school, because we have accomplished a lot," McLean said.

"The class was important because it taught me the basics," said Virginia Smith, a member of the class of 1944. More importantly, the class schedule was flexible and McLean arranged special sessions for the students. It was this personal and informal touch which McLean offered the students which

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-- Dr. Marion Blair

was all-important.

After Mrs. Smith completed the course, she obtained a job as a secretary at Atkins High School and later was employed by North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Co.

Now, she is manager of the Wachovia Bank office on Patterson Avenue.

McLean was born on Nov. 16, 1918. She was the daughter of James Archibald and Mattie Belle (Hairston) McLean. She attended Winston-Salem Teacher's College and Livingstone College before graduating from Central Christian College in Virginia with a bachelor's degree. She also attended the Phyllis Wheatley Business Institute before it closed.

There were no black business schools in the area when she opened hers in 1943, she said.



Naomi McLean: A school she started 41 years ago is still producing quality students (photo by James Parker).

She started with one typewriter and few manuals, holding classes in the afternoon. As part of the instruction, she gave shorthand, typing, applied secretarial skills and keypunch. Before desegregation, she would have 40 to 50 students in a class.

Another graduate was Roberta Nelson. She graduated in 1964 after taking the typing, shorthand and machine transcript course. "She was a very tough teacher and she made you do your homework until you got it right."

Nelson credits the school with giving her the opportunity to obtain her first job. After graduating from the school, she got a job with the personnel

department of the local school system. Later, she received a job with R.J. Reynolds in its personnel department. Now, 14 years later, she is senior office assistant in the personnel department.

"Yes, I credit the school with giving me the opportunity to get a good job," said Nelson.

McLean said that although she doesn't have as many students now, she doesn't plan to retire. She is now performing other services such as preparing resumes, research papers, and other professional services.

"I feel just fine and I enjoy my work," she said. "I have no reason to retire and look forward to next year's anniversary."

Program profiles poet and noted painter

Gwendolyn Brooks, Pulitzer prize-winning poet and poet laureate of Illinois, and Lois Mailou Jones, painter, teacher and promoter of visual arts, will be in Winston-Salem on Saturday, Sept. 29 and Sunday, Sept. 30 for poetry reading, painting exhibitions, a film and a conversation between both artists. The program is sponsored by the Delta Arts Center at 1511 East Third St. and the Reynolda House Museum of American Art.

Jones will be at Reynolda House on Sept. 29 at 3:30 p.m. and will be at the Delta Arts Center for a reception and exhibition from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Jones will also be at the Delta Arts Center on Sunday at 3:15 p.m.

On Sunday, Sept. 30, Brooks will have a poetry reading at Reynolda House at 3:30 p.m., followed by a poetry reading at Delta Arts Center at 5:30 p.m. and a conversation with Jones at the Delta Arts Center at 6:15 p.m. A reception for both artists will follow at Delta Arts Center at 7 p.m.

Brooks grew up in Chicago. She currently is a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters and is honored with the Shelby Memorial Award by the Poetry Society of America, the

Society of Midland Authors and the Kuumba Liberation Award.

She is the recipient of over 40 honorary doctorates, including ones from Northwestern University, the University of Pennsylvania, Duke University, the University of Wisconsin, DePaul University, the University of Massachusetts and the City University of New York. Some of her numerous writings include "A Street in Bronzeville," "Annie Allen," "Maude Martha," a novel; "Bronzeville Boys and Girls," "The Bean Eaters," "In the Mecca," a book-length poem; "The Tiger Wore White Gloves," "Primer for Blacks" and "To Disembark."

She has judged major poetry contests and writing competitions and has lectured and conducted poetry seminars and workshops at colleges and universities around the country.

A Gwendolyn Brooks Cultural Center has been founded at Western Illinois University and The Gwendolyn Brooks Auditorium has been named for her at Jenner Elementary School in Chicago. Her most recent distinction is having the Gwendolyn Brooks Elementary School in Harvey, Ill., named after her.

Lois Mailou Jones, a professor emerita of design and watercolor painting in the College of Fine Arts at Howard University, was born in Boston. She studied at the Museum School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, where she was the recipient of the Susan Minot Lane Scholarship, and continued her studies at the Designer's Art School in Boston. Her studies have been at such schools as Howard University, Columbia University, Academia Julian and Academie de la Grande Chaumiere.

From 1928-29, the artist served as head of the art department of Palmer Memorial Institute, a school for black students founded by Charlotte Hawkins Brown. In 1930, she joined the staff of Howard University, where she was active until 1977. She taught many students who have become prominent black artists, including David Driskell and Elizabeth Catlett. She received two Howard University research

grants and traveled to Haiti to survey contemporary African Art. The artist has published two books, "Caribbean and Afro-American Women Artists" and "Lois Mailou Jones Paintures, 1937-1951." She has received numerous awards for her accomplishments as an artist, a teacher and a promoter of visual arts.

Jones' works are included in the collections of numerous museums and galleries, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Hirschhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the Phillips Collection, the National Museum of American Art and the Palais National in Haiti. She has received major retrospective exhibitions at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston (1973) and at the Phillips Collection in Washington in 1979.

For more information, call 725-5325 or 722-2625.

Carver seniors hold meeting

The Carver Senior Citizens met at the Rupert Bell Recreation Center on Sept. 11. They reported a very enjoyable trip to

Atlanta on Aug. 24. The group will visit the Rev. Anna Lester's church on 23rd Street for their next outing.

People On The Move

Scippio has new office

Mrs. Theldora Small Scippio recently was elected president of the local chapter of the National Council of Negro Women. She is a graduate of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, with a bachelor's degree in sociology. She is listed in the 1976-77 edition of *Who's Who Among College and University Students*.

Mrs. Scippio is currently a sales representative for Dorsey Laboratories. She was recently one of 12 sales representatives from across the country selected to attend a special sales meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska. She also serves as executive director of the Home of Hope breakfast program, which feeds hungry people

each morning. Mrs. Scippio belongs to several other organizations, such as the National Association of University Women, the National Council of Negro Women, and the Top Ladies of Distinction. She is a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and is the daughter of the Rev. Moses Small and Mrs. Thelma E. Small.

Alfred W. Kwaskpui joined the law firm of Beverly R. Mitchell on Sept. 1. The firm has moved to suite 630 in the First Union National Bank Building.

The National Council of Negro Women held its annual International and Membership Tea on



Theldora Small Scippio

Sunday, Sept. 16 in the First Baptist Church at 700 Highland Ave. The theme for the celebration was "In Christ There Is No East Or West."

Sickle cell walk slated

The Greensboro Senior Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club will sponsor a walkathon for the Triad Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation on Sept. 22 at 9 a.m.

The Triad Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation provides sickle cell disease screening and supportive counseling for sickle cell victims in a six-county area.

Registration forms for the walkathon may be picked up at the Triad Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation office at 1102 East Market St. Call the foundation office at 274-1507 for more information.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

at 8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m. 10:00 p.m. 11:00 p.m. 12:00 a.m.
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

- An "Informance at an Exhibition" will be held in SECCA's Main Gallery at 8 p.m. Dancers and choreographers Sharon Kinney and Jerry Schwender will create a dialogue between the audience and their choreography, which will be based on the sculpture exhibition in SECCA's Main Gallery. A *informance*, as opposed to a performance, is designed to inform the audience about the choreographer's intentions through discussion and commentary after the performance.
- The Southeast Winston Jr. Cadet Rescue Squad D will meet today from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Bowen Park at 25th and Bowen Boulevard. If any boy or girl wants to learn CPR or take blood pressure, please call J.L. Washington or Denise Binn at 723-9052
- The Student Nurses Association of Winston-Salem State University will sponsor a bake sale today from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the East Winston Shopping Center.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

- The local NAACP youth organization will hold its monthly meeting today at 4:00 p.m. in the NAACP office at 2817 New Walkertown Road in the JetWay Shopping Center. All youth officers are encouraged to be present and on time. Any interested youth who would like to join the local NAACP are asked to please attend this important meeting.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

- The East Winston Branch Library presents a four-part series for adults entitled "Plan Your Finances" at 7 p.m. The speaker for this program will be Ms. Deborah D. Womac, Assistant Home Economics Extension Agent. The topic for tonight's program will be "Analyze Your Financial Success." For further information call 727-2202.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Big Brothers/Big Sisters will have a booth at Hanes Mall on Sept. 22 and 23 as part of the United Way Agency Fair. Most United Way agencies will have a booth manned all day on both days to allow the public to see what agencies are funded by the local United Way organization. Volunteers are needed to be at the booth to answer questions about Big Brothers/Big Sisters and hand out brochures if requested. Please call Jackie if you have a couple of hours at 724-7993.
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters has 400 tickets to Lakeside Amusement Park in Roanoke, Va. They are good for any Saturday in September. The tickets are for admission to the park and include rides. Please call or come by for your tickets right away at 113 Fayette Street.
- The Early Childhood Center at Winston-Salem State University is accepting applications for its fall program. The program is designed for children three to five years old. Several spaces are available for three-year-olds. Activities include reading, math, science, music, art, language arts, cooking, drama, field trips, swimming and health care techniques. The children will be served snacks in the morning and afternoon and a nutritional meal at noon. Center hours are from 7:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. The fee is \$35 a week, payable one week in advance.