

Chronicle Profile

Acting is his passion

By ALBERT NICKERSON
Chronicle Staff Writer

It's a long road from the halls of the Little Theater to the bright lights of Broadway.

But actor Wilson Thomas hopes one day to travel to the Big Apple, where the streets are paved with gold, and see his name in bright lights on a marquee along Broadway's theater row.

"I'm refining my craft now," said Thomas, fresh from a performance of "Anything Goes," which ended Sunday at the Little Theater. "Hopefully, I will dedicate all my time to acting one day."

Thomas, a native of Fort Knox, Ky., said acting has always been his first love. After he performed in a high school production of "The Wild Flower of Chastity," he said he was bitten by the acting bug. "I really feel blessed to be able to act," he said. "I view it as a chance to give all that I can."

"Acting is making people more sensitive and aware of life."

Although performing is foremost in his mind, Thomas majored in engineering technology at Savannah State College in Georgia. He graduated cum laude with a 3.4 grade point average.

Thomas, however, still managed to find time for acting while in school. He was a member of the college's drama club (called "Players By The Sea"), which performed plays by such black authors as Langston Hughes and Douglas Turner Ward.

"I couldn't give up acting in college because it

was my passion," said Thomas, who graduated in June 1981.

After finishing college, he found a job with AT&T in its Winston-Salem office. He moved to the city in January 1982.

"I have enjoyed living here," he said. "This is really a really a good city for the arts."

Normally, Thomas rehearses after finishing work. "I must really enjoy acting if I still have enough energy to act after working all day," he said.

He played the part of a ship steward in "Anything Goes," a Cole Porter musical. "I guess

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- Wilson Thomas

you could say I was a piece of fluff," said Thomas, adding that he sang several songs in the musical.

Aside from acting, Thomas enjoys dancing and choreography. "Dancing is another one of my passions," he said. "I feel that I'm good at interpreting songs."

"The way I move or the rhythm that I have gives me the ability to interpret songs in an interesting way."

Another love is pottery. "It is another artistic gift," he said. "I enjoy making pottery," said



Wilson Thomas pauses backstage to recreate his role as the ship steward in the recent production of "Anything Goes." (photo by James Parker).

Thomas.

As a dedicated bachelor, Thomas, 26, said he has no immediate plans to get married. "I may start looking at 35, but not right now," he said.

In the meantime, he is perfecting his skills and awaiting the opportunity to perform in the big play. "By the time I'm 30, I would like to be a working actor," he said.

Thomas said he doesn't have another play scheduled, but that he hopes to work for Larry Hamlin and the N.C. Black Repertory Company sometime in the near future.

He is appalled by the lack of blacks in movies and on television. "The Soldier's Play" is the only quality movie about blacks being produced, he said.

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Military News

Tatum completes training

Marine Pfc. William Price Tatum III recently completed 11 weeks of recruit training at Parris Island, S.C.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William P. Tatum of Hardwick Court. He is a former student at Campbell University and has done post-graduate work at Franklin University and Ohio State University.

He reported for further duty at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Ronald L. Carter, son of Arthur E. and Lillian V. Carter of Griffith Road, has been promoted to his present rank while serving aboard the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Tampa, homeported in Portsmouth, Va.

Marine Pfc. Barry L. Boykin, son of Lucy M. and Bobby L. Boykin Sr. of Patterson Avenue, and Marine Pvt. Melvin D. Nivens, son of Louise Nivens of Sedgefield Drive, have completed recruit training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, S.C.

During the 11-week training cycle, they learned the basics of battlefield survival and were introduced to the typical daily routine they will experience during their enlistment. They also studied the personal and professional standards traditionally exhibited by Marines.

They participated in an active physical conditioning program and gained proficiency in a variety of military skills, including first aid, rifle marksmanship and close-order drill. Teamwork and self-discipline were emphasized throughout the training cycle.

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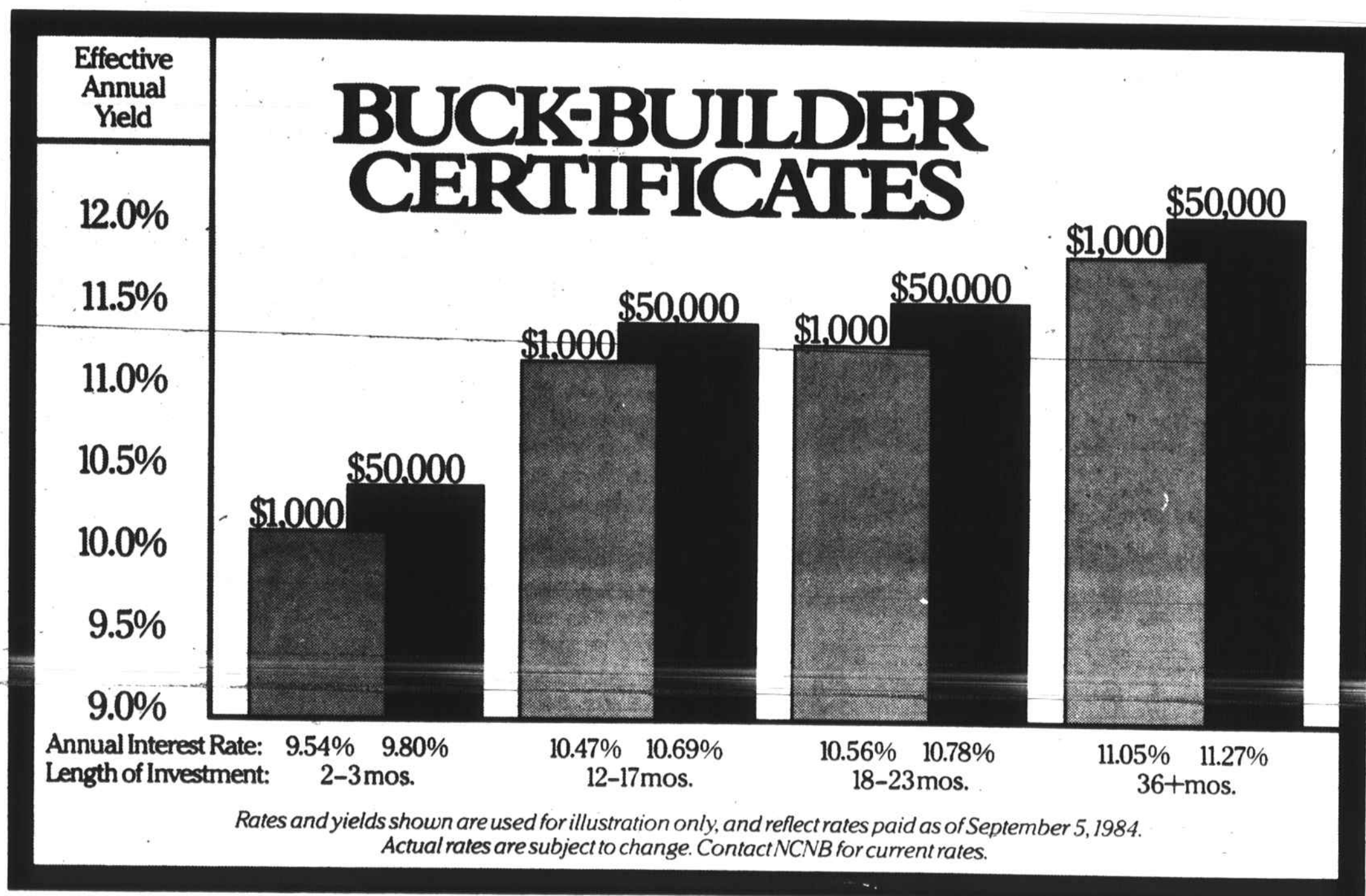
Navy Seaman Apprentice Don C. Belford II, son of Don C. and Patricia A. Belford of Brownsboro Road, has reported for duty aboard the destroyer tender U.S.S. Puget Sound, operating from Gaeta, Italy.

Navy Midshipman Darren A. Sawyer, son of Barbara and Benjamin Brown Sr. of Selkirk Drive, is undergoing summer training at sea.

He is a member of the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps unit at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Va. This summer, he has been assigned to the submariner rescue ship

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Beef Up Your Bucks.



Now NCNB certificates let you flex the muscle in your money. From \$1000 up, you pick the amounts. From 60 days to 60 months, you pick the time frames. You build the program that works best for you. As you can see by the examples in the chart, the more you invest and the longer you invest, the better your return. And, your deposits are insured to \$100,000 by the FDIC. What's more, invest \$10,000 or more in a certificate and qualify for Deluxe Banking:® no service charge checking, interest-on-checking, a standard-size safe deposit box, personalized checks, special rates on credit cards and personal loans, plus other services. All told, nobody offers you more ways to build up your bucks. Which, after all, is what you expect when a bank works to be the best in the state. One neighborhood at a time.



There is a substantial penalty for early withdrawal of time deposits.