

# Social Notes

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revealed one of his favorite recipes, which is a baked fish meal of salmon or snapper cooked with several vegetables, herbs and spices.

On stage Holder is explosive, funny, outgoing. At a post-performance dinner held in his honor, he is a quieter, more reserved version of the man on

stage earlier. Holder says he enjoys learning things from people he talks to rather than having them ask questions about Hollywood and what will happen in his movies.

"I'm very shy," he says with his bass-drum voice, a voice that is rivaled only by James Earl Jones. "With an audience I have

a ball. But otherwise I am a very shy person."

At dinner, Holder occasionally chatted with guests and even honored a few requests to "say something in your deep voice." He didn't seem to notice the stares or "oohs" and "ahhs" of his dinner guests.

"I like to greet people and say,

'Hi, my name is Geoffrey,' and have them tell me their names," says Holder. "I love the differences in people. Difference creates exchange, and exchange makes life exciting."

It was Americans' curiosity in people, says Holder, that helped him get started in the entertainment industry.

"Americans are curious," he says. "They say, 'Hi, what's your name? What do you do? How much do you make?' but because people were so curious, I was able to make great contacts in the business."

A native of Trinidad, Holder came to America in 1953 with his brother's dance troupe and was able to get work on Broadway. He appeared in the stage version of Truman Capote's short story "House of Flowers," and it was during that time that he met his wife, ballet dancer Carmen de Lavallade.

"My wife is a gorgeous woman," Holder says of his wife of 30 years. "I saw her, asked her to marry me, and she said 'yes' ... two years later."

Holder holds nothing back in his one-man show and confidently relies on his spectrum of talents to create a high-energy performance. He is at one moment a dancer, with the grace of Fred Astaire, the next a New York bag lady, and then a hurried cab driver in the city.

Holder is convincing in his roles, and this he credits to his fascination with people.

"I am constantly borrowing images and gestures from real

people. Tonight I may make a mental note of your hairstyle and use it in another show," says Holder, gesturing to a woman in the audience.

Dressed smartly in an all-white leisure suit perfectly tailored to his large frame, Holder says, "It is fascinating to see people walk. I love to watch people walk. As performers, we must always be aware of details."

Probably best known as "the 7-Up man" from television commercials, conversations with Holder seem to naturally include the obvious inquiries about his soft drink testimonial.

"You expected me to have a 7-Up glass in my hand, I am sure," says Holder. "Seven-Up is wonderful, and I cry all the way to the bank."

Holder's trademark hearty laugh is genuine, and he uses it often in conversation. He says his work on commercial television was "tough and very competitive."

A versatile man, Holder is by no means limited to work in TV commercials. Called a "Renaissance man" by *Esquire* magazine, Holder is an ac-

complished choreographer, impressionist painter, costume designer and director. Add to this list his writing feats and culinary skills, and you get a very well-rounded, creative talent.

His directing and costume designing in "The Wiz" netted Holder two Tony Awards. He was also the director and choreographer of the Broadway musical "Timbuktu." His recent film credits include "Annie" and the James Bond adventure "Live and Let Die."

Holder has made previous visits to Winston-Salem and says, "I love this place. I have lovely friends here."

Included among his local friends is poet Maya Angelou, whom Holder calls "a pillar in Winston-Salem."

There is sincerity in Holder's voice as he speaks of the poet. "You people are lucky to have Maya here. She is a beautiful woman," he says. "Maya is life. We go back to 1957. She is an inspiration to me, and I'm glad she's here."

The 55-year-old Holder says he "loves living, really living" and says people should "get out and have fun. Let's just have a ball."

## Carl Russell honored with birthday celebration



Carl H. Russell

Carl H. Russell, local funeral director and community leader, was honored Saturday, Oct. 5, at a 75th birthday celebration held for him by family and friends.

The celebration was held on Billy Satterfield's farm and was attended by Russell's family, friends, church members, community leaders and politicians.

Michael Williams, organ, and D.W. Andrews Jr., voice, provided musical entertainment for the occasion.

Louise Wilson, executive director of Experiment in Self-Reliance, narrated the program, which was attended by more than 200 guests.

The Rev. Phillip R. Cousin Jr. of St. James AME Church spoke at the program. Others honoring Russell included Mayor Wayne Corpening, Eunice Ayers, Patrick Hairston, Mazie Woodruff and William Henry Andrews.

Russell's daughters, Carmen R. Bonham and Camille R. Love, also participated in the program.

Special guests included Judge Harvey Lupton, Dr. and Mrs. W.H. Hoffer Jr., Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Oliver, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Phillips Jr., Louise Smith,

Alderman Larry Little, Alderman Ernestine Wilson and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Foote.

Out-of-town guests included Dr. R.L. Smith, Helen S. Latham, both of Durham, Sarah Hasty, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Yarborough IV, all of Greensboro, Verner Sprinkle, Zelner Miller, Ernest Miller and Bessie Philson, all of Rural Hall.

Russell is a member of St. James AME Church and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

## Along the Garden Path Garden Club meets

The first fall meeting of the Along the Garden Path Garden Club was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Bonner, 2403 New Walkertown Road.

The meeting began with the club song and the reciting of the collect.

Emmaline Goodwin read the minutes and Ruth Shoof gave the treasurer's report.

The agenda included a report

from Julia Johnson, who attended the Federation of Gardens of North Carolina Convention in Greensboro.

New officers for 1986-1987 were installed by Eunice Long.

Other members attending were Meta McClennon, Roberta Cook, Sinclair Crowder, Verna Grier, Elomonia Henderson, Creola Foote and Savilla Wilson.

## Calendar

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Section, will share group worship at 10:45 a.m. at Mount Zion Baptist Church. For more information call Annie Alexander at 767-4129 or 727-8230.

### MONDAY, OCT. 14

• Attorneys Harold and Harvey Kennedy will speak about personal injuries at 7 p.m. at the East Winston Branch Library. The program is part of the library's Monday Night Law Series. For more information call 727-2202.

### TUESDAY, OCT. 15

• The National Shakespeare Company's production of "Othello" will be held in Winston-Salem State University's Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. For more information call Marilyn Roseboro at 761-2150.

• The Northwest Piedmont Chapter of the North Carolina Association of Certified Public Accountants will hold its monthly meeting at Stouffer's Winston Plaza Hotel. The dinner meeting will begin at 7 p.m., following the 46th Annual Accounting and Taxation Symposium. The speaker will be Hans W. Wanders, president of Wachovia Corp. Registration fee is \$12; for more information call Mike Callison at 760-3210.

### WEDNESDAY, OCT. 16

• The Winston-Salem chapter of the Howard University Alumni Association will hold its regular monthly meeting at 7 p.m. at 3405 New Walkertown Road. Call 723-6636 for directions; for more information call Larnetra Richardson at 725-4430 or 784-7997.

### THURSDAY, OCT. 17

• The Winston-Salem Urban League will sponsor a "Male Responsibility" training workshop from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the league's office, 201 W. Fifth St. Stanley Graham, a health educator with the Mecklenburg Health Department, will conduct the workshop for male volunteers who will make presentations to young males. For more information call Khalid Fattah Griggs at 725-5614.

### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

• The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test will be given Saturday, Oct. 19, at all eight Winston-Salem/Forsyth County high schools. Applications are available in guidance offices. There is a fee of \$6.75 for taking the exam, but the fee may be waived for students unable to afford it.

• The 1986 Winston-Salem Friendship Force is going to Wanganui, New Zealand, and directors Fred Barkley and Ann Johnston invite interested persons to participate. Forty goodwill ambassadors will be selected to represent Winston-Salem. Departures will be in late March, and applications are available in all local libraries. Interviews for selecting applicants are scheduled for Oct. 21 and 24. For more information call the Friendship Force office at 945-2882.

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