

Dr. Banks finds happy niche in medicine

By CHERYL WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

At age 39, Dr. Virginia Newell Banks' life is complete.

She is a doctor at a hospital in Ohio; she has three kids she adores and a supportive husband and parents.

"I've achieved a lot of my goals that I set," she said.

Dr. Banks, the daughter of George and Virginia Newell, is chief of infectious diseases at Huron Road Hospital in Cleveland.

Recently, she was in Winston-Salem with her three children, Todd, 9, Matthew, 5 and Mary 2 1/2 to visit her parents.

Pausing for an interview she reflected on her life and the many roles she has played as student, career woman, mother and wife.

Known to many people in Winston-Salem as "Decanne," Dr. Banks grew up in Raleigh and came to Winston-Salem along with her family in 1965. She finished high school here at R.J. Reynolds High School.

She set her heart from the seventh grade on toward becoming a medical doctor, and she succeeded. She geared her high



Banks

school and college curriculum as much as possible toward premed.

She attended undergraduate school at a small women's college in Oxford, Ohio.

Her medical background includes attending medical school at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, interning one year at the Cleveland Clinic and doing two years of residency at University Hospitals of Cleveland.

She is certified in both internal

medicine and infectious diseases.

She spent a two-year infectious disease fellowship at University Hospitals of Cleveland.

In her job as chief of infectious diseases in Cleveland, Dr. Banks said that she does a lot of teaching and working with medical students. She is also in charge of infection control at the hospital.

Her job also involves taking care of AIDS patients, she said. "Cleveland isn't one of the larger AIDS centers like New York or San Francisco, but we're starting to get our share of AIDS patients," she said.

African-Americans have been left out when it comes to AIDS education, Dr. Banks said.

And she has taken it upon herself to pass along all the information she knows about the disease. "I find myself in Cleveland being invited to churches, schools and clubs to speak about it," she said. "One of the ways to prevent AIDS is through education."

Her job keeps her very busy, but Dr. Banks said that with some help, she is able to have time for other things.

"It's difficult, almost impossi-

ble, to juggle it all," she said. "I find you have to be extremely organized."

"It's very important for women who have careers and family to realize they aren't superwomen," she said. "I have tried to be superwoman. I came to the realization that you're never going to be an ultimate anything."

Her husband, Kenneth, an attorney, has been supportive of her career efforts for the most part, she said. "But I think he does have his chauvinistic qualities," she said. "I know he would like for me to be more of a homemaker."

The future for Dr. Banks will probably involve more school. "I don't like stagnation," she said. "I'd still like to learn."

"I might get an MBA degree when the baby gets a little older," she said. "A law degree might be on the agenda, I don't know. But right now I've got to raise my kids."

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Area Weddings And Engagements

Dawson-Michael

Sheila Rene Dawson and Jay Benjamin Michael were married Saturday, June 27, in an 11 a.m. ceremony at St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. Dawson of Winston-Salem.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse B. Michael of Winston-Salem.

The Rev. Paul officiated.

Serving as maid of honor was Sonya A. Glenn of Winston-Salem.

Serving as matron of honor was Angela M. Jeffries of Charlotte.

Bridesmaids were Teresa Y. Williams, Carla E. Turner, Phoebe Wells and Gwendolyn Wells, all of Winston-Salem.

Best man was Rodney Mitchell of Moreno, Calif.

Ushers were Kevin Bratton of Winston-Salem, Roger Jeffries Jr. of Charlotte, Marty Pittman, Napoleon Crowell Jr. and Richard Garlington, all of Winston-Salem.

The bride is a graduate of Winston-Salem State University. She is employed by the law firm of Kennedy, Kennedy, Kennedy and Kennedy.

The groom is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and attends the University of North Carolina School of Medicine in Chapel



Sheila D. Michael



Vicki T. Moore

Hill.
The couple will live in Carrboro.

Thomas-Moore

Vicki Venice Thomas and Harvey Lee Moore were married Saturday, June 17, in a 2 p.m. ceremony at Piney Grove Baptist Church.

The Rev. Charles Allen officiated. The prayer was given by the Rev. Alphonza L. Thomas II.

The bride was given in marriage by Alphonza L. Thomas Jr. Serving as matron of honor was Felicidad Mattison of Baltimore.

Serving as maid of honor was Vanda Dare Thomas of Winston-Salem.

Bridesmaids were Tonya Hurt and Veronica Summers, both of Winston-Salem.

Best man was Michael Moore of Spartanburg, S.C.

Ushers were James A. Dobbs Jr. of Columbia, S.C., Darren Cunningham and Chris Moore, both of Spartanburg, S.C.

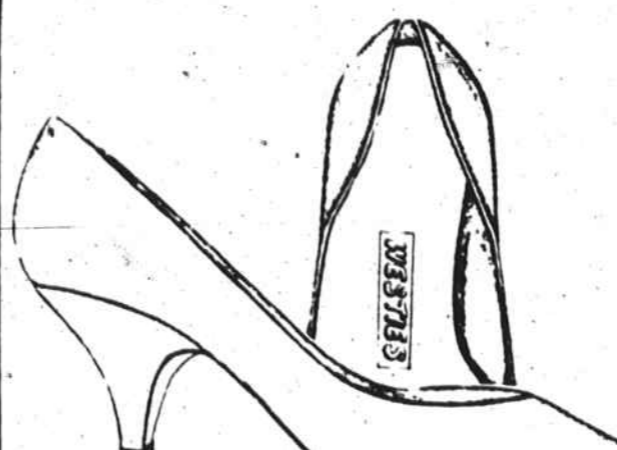
The bride is a graduate of Rutledge College and Aurora Beauty College. She is the owner and manager of Hair Raves Beauty Salon in Winston-Salem.

The groom is a graduate of Manosia Beauty College and Spartanburg Barber College. He is the manager of King's Unisex Hair Designers in Columbia, S.C.

The couple will live in Winston-Salem.

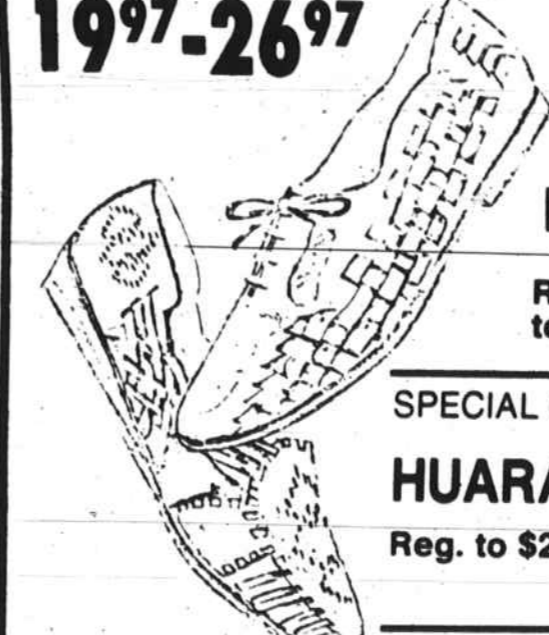
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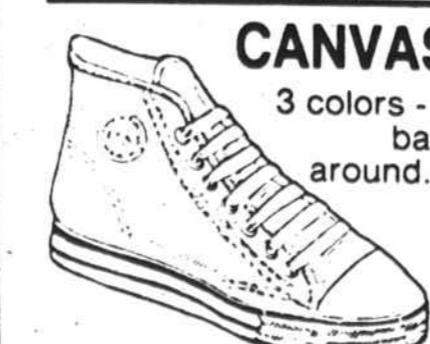
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