



Jacqueline Price whispers to Annie Leach.

Photos by Jason Pitt

Family, friends celebrate Miss Annie on 100th b-day

BY JAESON PITT
THE CHRONICLE

Annie Leach celebrated making it to the century mark Sunday during a festive party with friends and family members.

The May 17 celebration was held on the exact day that she was born in 1908. The multi-purpose room at the Golden Lamb Rest Home, where Leach lives, was outfitted for the event with balloons and flowers.

Leach, has, only called Winston-Salem home for a short time. She moved here from Asheville with her sister-in-law, Reba Patterson, five years ago. Patterson, who is in her 80s, was Leach's main caregiver for a time. Other family members have also supported Leach and embraced her as the matriarch that she is.

"(We) came to know her well ... when she moved here," said Debbie Baskins, Leach's great niece through Leach's brother, Percy Morrison. "We all kind of embraced her."

Leach was reared in Loray, N.C., right outside of Statesville. Baskins said the family's tradition of unity, strength and faith have been passed from generation to generation.

Like any 100-year-old, Leach has her good and bad days. She was relatively subdued during her party, but Baskins says Leach still often doles out advice to her family members, things like, "be patient."

"She never lets things stress her out and if it did you never knew it. She would always say 'Don't worry about it, it's going to be alright. If you're doing the best you can don't let things overwhelm you,'" Baskins said.

Beaucha Jeffries, Baskins' sister, recalled similar morsels of advice and wisdom.

"They all raised us to save for a rainy day, go to church, participate in the community, dress impeccably, and enjoy life," said Jeffries, who came from Atlanta for the party. "We embraced her as ours because she embraced us growing up; when the community was a little bit different. We helped to take care of his sister to honor him (Morrison)



Great-nieces Debbie Baskins and Beaucha Jeffries.

as well, and now she has all of these children."

Grace Presbyterian Church Pastor Dr. Samuel Stevenson and Alease Loggins, a member of Stevenson's flock, were also on hand. Stevenson and Loggins met Leach through her family members and have come to love her like kin. Church members often bring the Word to Leach at Golden Lamb.

"When we come, she participates, she sings, she still recites scripture. It's just remarkable!" said Stevenson.

Other party highlights included some of the youngest members of Leach's family reading proclamations in honor of Leach, one was from NBC Weatherman Willard Scott. A birthday greeting from First Lady Laura Bush was also read.

There were also musical tributes. Christine Price, of Grace Presbyterian, sang and played piano to honor Leach and a Golden Lamb employee sang a hymn dedicated to Leach, just before Jacqueline Price, Leach's primary caregiver at Golden Lamb spoke.

"She gives me good advice. She would tell me I could do it when I was going to school to become an Activity Director; she was there for me. She is an amazing lady and I, for one, am so happy to have Ms. Annie, and am so happy she came into my life. You're a wonderful person and I love you," Price said with joy gleaming through her spirit.

News Clips

Foundation wins award for annual report

The Winston-Salem Foundation has been named a Silver Award winner for excellence in communications by the 2008 Wilmer Shields Rich Awards Program. Sponsored by the Council on Foundations, the awards program recognizes effective communications efforts to increase public awareness of foundations and corporate giving programs.

The Winston-Salem Foundation received the award for its annual report "2007 Report to the Community/2006 Annual Report" entitled Integrity Moves. The award was presented at Philanthropy's Vision: A Leadership Summit conference, in National Harbor, Maryland, on May 5.

Entries to the awards program included annual or biennial reports, magazines/periodicals, special reports, public information campaigns and Web sites. This year, 213 total entries were submitted to the awards program.

Wilson-Oyelaran will give Salem graduation message

Dr. Eileen Wilson-Oyelaran will give the commencement address Saturday at Salem Academy and College, where she once served as vice president. She has been president of Kalamazoo College in Michigan since 2005.

In 1988 when her family left Nigeria for the United States, Dr. Wilson-Oyelaran became visiting scholar in education at North Carolina Wesleyan College and then associate professor and chair of

the department of education at Winston-Salem State University. In 1995, she became Dean of the College at Salem College, and rose to the position of Vice President of Salem Academy and College and Dean of the College. She also served as acting president of Salem College for a brief period.



Wilson-Oyelaran

The commencement will take place at 10 a.m. in May Dell Amphitheater on the school's campus, but is not open to the public. Salem is the nation's oldest continually operating institution for women.

Aggie racers finish in Top 20

The North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University racing team, Aggie Racing, placed 19 out of 95 registered teams at the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Baja event on May 1-3. The competition was hosted by Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, Tenn.

Daniel Acree, N.C. A&T associate professor and director of Aggie Racing, and his 14-member team participated in both racing and technical events.

Aggie Racing team members are: Jamel Banks, senior; Brandon Blango, senior; Edward Bushnell, senior; Michael Coatney, senior; Ted Andrew Craven, senior; Alvin Davis, senior; Christian Gustafsson, senior; Akeeno Mitchell, senior; Gregory Peterson, senior; Rafael Tilghman, senior; Aniekan Ukonne, senior; Michael Warwick, senior; Leon Carney, sophomore; and, Daniel Cox, junior.

The team completed all

events within time and finished the first day's events a few hours early. They also had the opportunity to share their spirited Aggie Pride and spent several hours assisting other teams with passing tech inspection.

Team members are working past exams to make improvements to their car and hope to finish in the top 10 in Illinois later this month.

WSSU to offer music business program

If you are interested in becoming the next major music producer or in working in the recording industry, a new degree program being offered at Winston-Salem State University this fall entitled "The Bachelor of Science in Music Business with Emphasis in Sound Recording Technology" may be just for you.

This degree emphasis is offered through the Department of Fine Arts in the College of Arts and Sciences. The track will provide students with an opportunity to learn advanced recording techniques in WSSU's recently renovated recording studio. The emphasis will expose students to the math and science principles that have driven innovation in the recording industry for the last 100 years with studies in physics and fundamental circuit design.

In addition, students will strengthen their musical backgrounds by studying in a vocal or instrumental area. Graduates of the program will have a deep knowledge and understanding of the methods and theories of modern recording and be ready to make an impact in the recording industry, or further their studies on the graduate level in recording or electrical engineering.

For information about the new degree emphasis and new course offerings, call Dr. Anthony Artimisi at 336-750-2528 or e-mail him at artimisit@wssu.edu.

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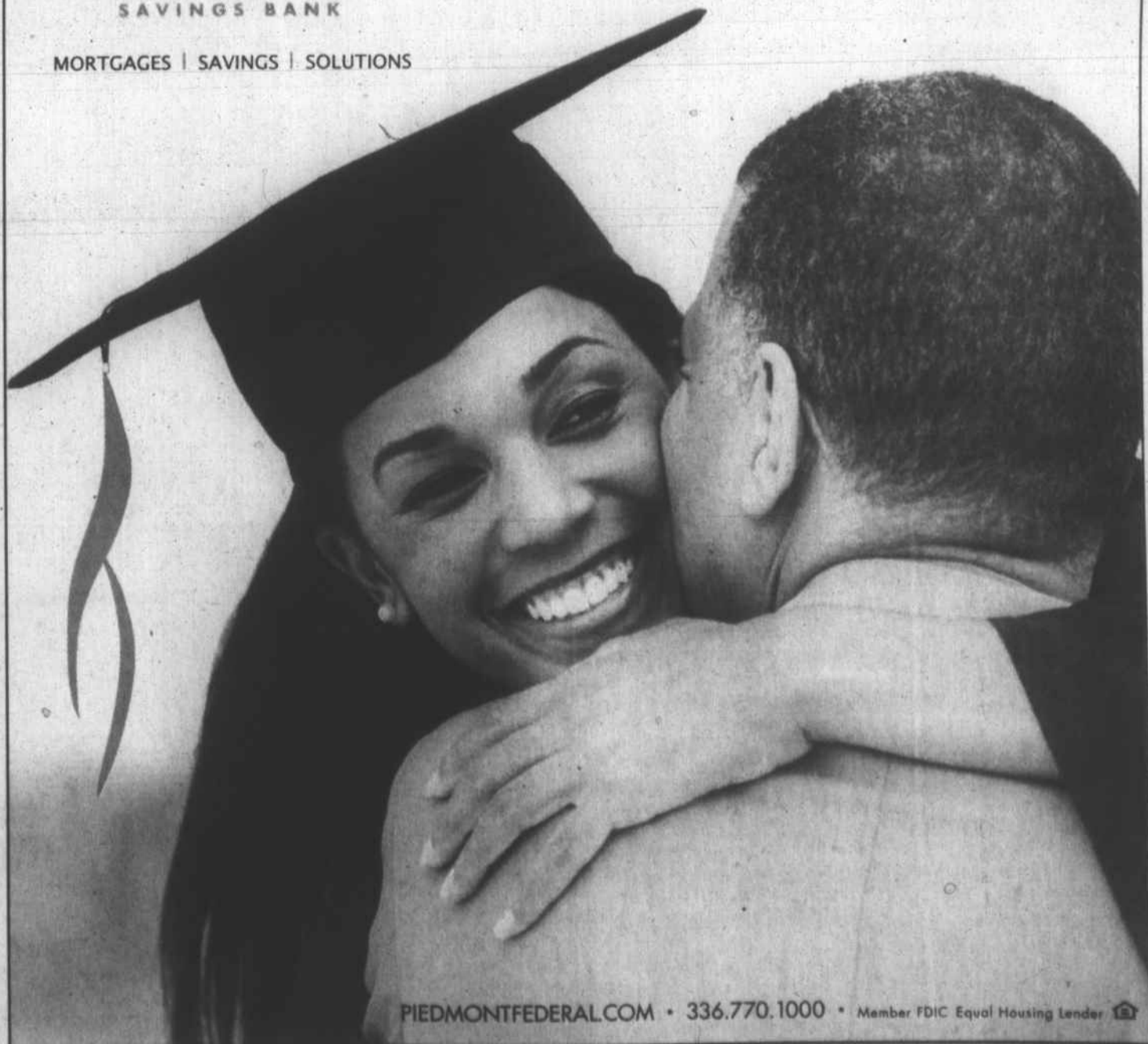
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