



THE BELL JUBILEE SINGERS - Seated left and William Kirkpatrick. Standing left to right are Cecil Sturdivant, James Maxwell, James McLilly and Napoleon Brown.

On National Charts Bell Jubilee Singers Have Two Hit Records

How does it feel to have a hit record and to be in great demand for public appearances? "Fine... just fine!" James McLilly, manager of the Bell Jubilee Singers, said recently. "Just fine!"

Mr. McLilly and the members of his quartet have suddenly blossomed as one of the nation's leading spiritual groups and they are making public appearances in such far-away places as Chicago, Ill. and other points in the Midwest.

Their first record, "Do You Know The Man" has sold over a million copies and is still

Chamber To Seek Opinions

The Charlotte Chamber of Commerce will make a precedent-setting effort to obtain the best cross-section of membership opinion ever attempted for their 1973 Program of Work. The Program of Work Committee, headed by newspaper editor Steward Spencer, will solicit the opinions, feelings and reaction of some 4,000 members of the local Chamber by sending out a four-page questionnaire to each of them.

"In addition," said Spencer, "our committee will want to sample the reactions and opinions of the citizens of Charlotte who are not Chamber members and who are interested in the future of this city."

Spencer says the questionnaire is the result of a number of hours of research on community problems and Chamber projects which have been on peoples' minds for a period of time.

"We want to determine if these problems and projects are real in the minds of our membership or whether they are of concern to just a few people," he said.

"And we want to let both Chamber members and Charlotte citizens know that the Chamber values their opinions."

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going strong. Their second, "Blessed Jesus", is getting steady play over radio stations throughout the country and it is climbing the ladder with such rapidity that it is almost certain to go over the million mark.

Also, the group has an album that is fast climbing the hit charts through the nation. The success has come about as a result of hard work and perseverance. This is the way Mr. McLilly tells it:

"I started thinking about singing in a quartet when I was just a little boy," he began. "And I began singing with the quartets in my hometown when I was very young."

The dream became more than just reality when, with the help of other quartet singers, Mr. McLilly formed the Golden Bell Quartet in 1938. The group found success immediately and was widely recognized as one of the leading spiritual groups in the southeast when they found reasons to break up almost 10 years later.

After considerable search and some moments of despair, McLilly started singing with Napoleon Brown, Cecil Sturdivant, William Kirkpatrick and James Maxwell and shortly thereafter. The

group decided to call themselves the Bell Jubilee Singers.

Brown became the lead singer and Sturdivant was the second leader. Kirkpatrick was the tenor, and Maxwell the baritone. Mr. McLilly sings bass.

The group enjoyed moderate success with appearances in churches, concert halls and various other places, including a lengthy stay on WBT Radio each Sunday morning.

They were toying with some old standards during rehearsal when they came upon the idea of rearranging the old song, "Do You Know The Man From Galilee."

Once perfected, the song was recorded by New Recording Company of Portland, La. at Arthur Smith Studios here and the rest is history.

With Radio Station WGIV giving it constant play, "Do You Know The Man" soon became the No. 1 hit among the station's spirituals. WLOX in Knoxville, Tenn. helped it along the way to national fame.

The Bell Jubilee Singers will observe their 25th anniversary here Sunday, Sept. 17 with four other spiritual groups at the Charlotte Park Center.

Grier Excels

In Marine Corp Training

PARRIS ISLAND, S.C., - "I could have 'aced' it if I had been a couple of steps faster" is the way a happy Marine recruit here explained his near perfect score on the Corps' tough Physical Readiness Test.

Private First Class Ray Grier, who completed 11 weeks of recruit training here earlier this week, scored an amazing 298 points out of a possible 300 on the test. The test is comprised of pullups, situps and a timed three-mile run.

"Just a few steps faster and I would have been home free with that perfect score. I thought I had it," said the tall youth who hails from Charlotte, N.C. and who entered the Marines three months ago for three years.

Grier, who has high praise for the Marine recruit training, was a member of platoon 353 of the 3rd Recruit Training Battalion while here.

"They (our Drill Instructors) really worked us hard but this just made us all try harder. That's what a Marine recruit's training is all about," he explained. "When my body felt as though it had to quit, I just kept pushing and it paid off," said Grier.

Grier did 20 pullups in less than two minutes and 80 situps in less than the allowed two minutes. He ran the three miles in 18 minutes, and four seconds. "Those four extra seconds fouled up my perfect score," he said. An 18 minute three mile run would have earned Grier 300 points.

Private First Class Grier's next duty assignment is Camp Lejeune, N.C., where he will attend motor transport school in preparation for an assignment in that occupational specialty.



PFC RAY GRIER
... Marine Recruit

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