

Mrs. Bertha Maxwell:

Survival Is Pulling Yourself Up By Your Bootstraps

By JOANNE MOORE
Post Society Writer

Black survival, says Mrs. Bertha L. Maxwell, director of Black Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, is simply, "a matter of pulling yourself up by your bootstraps when you ain't even got no boots."

Mrs. Maxwell, who recently received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum Development and Educational Administration, is apparently surviving that struggle.

She was born in Seneca, South Carolina, during what she describes as a time of depression and poverty when present were only those things that were necessary for her to live.

"I was born into an existence or an environment where there were not a lot of material things but a great deal of love. I had very little, but yet present were those things that were essential to my survival," said Mrs. Maxwell.

A woman of intense feelings which she expresses with little hesitation, she says that she is a sum total of all her experiences.

"When I view my life, I think of three significant things that have occurred and have caused me to go through a process of change," Mrs. Maxwell explained.

"First I was born to poor parents and lived in a small town. I went through segregated schools and at the age of 16 I went to Washington, D.C. to live. It was a great experience that facilitated maturity."

She continued, "The second change came when I returned to Charlotte and became the wife of Horace Maxwell. He encouraged me to go to Johnson C. Smith, and since then she says that he has continued to be a force pushing her on."



MRS. BERTHA MAXWELL
...UNCC Professor

The beginning of her third phase came when she became the mother of a little girl.

"The experience of becoming the mother of Tawana, who is 10 years old now, added another dimension to my growth," Mrs. Maxwell said smiling. "I suppose it's what any woman feels when she experiences motherhood."

She admits that other events in her life have contributed a lot to molding her. Her various work experiences have been very significant in developing many of her attitudes.



HUBERT JEFFERSON
G.E. Employee

Hubert Jefferson, a General Electric employee and long-time Republican, Monday announced his candidacy for nomination to a seat on the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners.

Jefferson, in announcing his candidacy, said: "I feel at this time it is more important than ever that we participate actively in the governing process. I have been active in civic affairs and I have been a precinct chairman of my political party. I feel now is the time for me to seek a more effective way to serve my community. Although I am a black candidate, I seek a seat on the Mecklenburg County Commission because I sincerely want to be of service to all the people of this county, and I seek the support of all people."

A life-long resident of Charlotte, Jefferson has been active in Boy Scout work, YMCA and YWCA programs and his church. He served 12 years as a Scoutmaster, eight years as a Boy Scout Neighborhood Commissioner, and two years as a District Commissioner. He was a volunteer instructor in various subjects at the McCrorey Branch of the YMCA and the Phyllis Wheatly Branch of the YWCA. He is chairman of the Trustee Board and the Finance Committee of the first Mount Calvary Baptist Church and is an instructor for its Sunday School teachers. Jefferson served as a Heart Association Volunteer Instructor for children with

rheumatic fever and participated on three March of Dimes Telethons.

The engineering parts specialist with GE's Medical Systems Division served three years in the U.S. Navy during World War II and two years in

the Navy during the Korean war.

He is a graduate of Second Ward High School and attended A&T State University for a year, Johnson C. Smith University for three years and Central Piedmont Community College for one

year. He is married to the former Rosia Johnson of Charlotte. They have a son, Keith T. Jefferson, a junior at A&T University, and a daughter, Cynthia D. Jefferson, 19, who lives at home.



SILVER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRANTS. Mr. and Mrs. Clyde J. Mungo of 3104 Ridge Ave. observed their 25th Wedding Anniversary last Saturday with a reception at their home.

The affair lasted from 4 until 7 and was attended by a number of friends, relatives and their children who shared in their joy, their anniversary cake, and all the trimmings.

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Dr. James Hightower To Make House Calls?

Dr. James P. Hightower, general practitioner who specializes in high protein and blood diseases, has moved his office from Winston-Salem to Charlotte.

The move could revolutionize the practice of local physicians because Dr. Hightower has announced that he will make house calls, anytime.

"I wanted to move to a larger city," the graduate of Lincoln College in Indianapolis and North Carolina A&T State University said last week when asked why he closed his office in Winston-Salem to move to 221 1/2 W. Trade St. here. "There is a greater need for drug addiction and alcoholism and mental health in this city."

Dr. Hightower holds a certificate from the North Carolina Department of Mental Health in Drug Abuse, Alcoholism, and Mental Health. He is a member of the National Medical Society, Forsyth Mental Health Association and the American Counselor's Society for Professional Psychological Counselors.



DR. JAMES HIGHTOWER
...Newcomer To Town

As a churchman, he is a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church of Winston-Salem and a member of the Board of Missions and Church Extension of the Winston-Forsyth District.

He is married to the former Miss Anna Genieve Burton of Indianapolis, Ind., and the father of three children.

She taught for several years in the local school system and after she received her masters degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, she became principal of Morgan St. Elementary School, an all-black school.

Following desegregation efforts, Morgan St. was closed and Mrs. Maxwell became the principal of Albemarle Rd., then an all-white school in an all-white neighborhood.

"My experience as principal of Albemarle Rd. was definitely a traumatic one but it was at that point that something very significant happened to me. I began an encounter with myself," she said.

After leaving Albemarle Rd., Mrs. Maxwell was hired at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

"When I started teaching at the University I went through a kind of immersion, a different stage of my development. Internalizing a lot of things, I began then to liberate myself as a black person," she informed.

Mrs. Maxwell realizes that she will continue to have experiences that will affect her attitude and cause her to grow. Just as she has done in the past she intends to take advantage of what life offers and learn from the good and bad parts.

UNC-C has already provided her with an experience which she says she'll never forget.

In August of 1972 she visited West Africa.

"The University's facilitation of my trip to Africa has allowed me to enlarge my way of looking at life. I looked upon my trip as a homecoming. It increased my understanding of what I should be about at UNCC," Mrs. Maxwell informed.

This dynamic woman should be commended for her achievements however she expressed that there is no glorification is simply earning a degree.

Mrs. Maxwell received her degree on January 28 from the Union Graduate School, an experimental school with very innovative programs.

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