



MRS. RONALD LEE MATTISON
...The former Miss Petricia Malone

Petricia Lee Malone Weds Ronald Mattison

Petricia Lee Malone and Ronald Lee Mattison exchanged wedding vows July 17 in University Park Baptist Church.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Malone of 3108 Clearview Drive. The parents of the bridegroom are Mr. and Mrs. Saylor D. Mattison of 1712 Vantage Place.

Dr. James E. Palmer of University Park Baptist Church and Rev. Lester Wallace of Macedonia Baptist Church officiated at the 4 p.m. ceremony. Music was rendered by organist, Gerardo Stroud, and pianist, Ronald Maxwell. Soloists were Lester Wallace and William Kerry.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore an ivory gown of silk organza over taffeta. The wedding gown was designed with a Victorian neckline and modified empire bodice of brussels lace, seed pearls and sequins. A ruffle of lace, pearls and sequins were joined at the seam of a deep "V" shaped yolk forming a cap sleeve and tapering at the center back. The full A-line skirt flowed from the empire waist to a scalloped border of brussels lace, seed pearls and sequins ending in a cathedral train.

The bride chose Emilye Mobley and Rita Rorie, both of Charlotte, as her maids of honor. Bridesmaids were Janet Cureton, Ardella Malone, sister of the bride, Pamela Mattison, sister of the groom, and Brendlyn Wallace, all of Charlotte.

The maids of honor wore long gowns of blossom chiffon, designed with a scooped neckline and a ruffled collar of antique lace. The dresses were sleeveless and fitted at the waist with full gathered skirts, wide ivory satin sashes, matching hats and mesh shortie gloves.

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TAPS Eases Burdens Of Teen Mothers

By Lori Grier
Post Staff Writer

Teen-aged pregnancies is a problem that has been with us longer than we'd like to remember. Whether we admit it or try to do something to decrease the problem, this epidemic won't go away on its own. It will spread from generation to generation.

The best part of teen-aged pregnancies is knowing that schools like TAPS (Teen-aged Pregnancies Services) and the people who work there are trying to ease the burdens of these teen-mothers. Because of schools like TAPS and people who care these teen-mothers haven't given up on life and have a very promising future.

The Post interviewed Mrs. Eulada Watt, Mrs. Mildred Glenn, the previous teen-mothers including a newcomer, and Mrs. Cynthia Johnson for the final series on teen-aged pregnancies. They told The Post what we can do to decrease the problem of teen-aged pregnancies and about the future which lies ahead for teen-mothers.

Mrs. Eulada P. Watt, of Gaston County, is a 1963 graduate of Reid High School in Belmont, N.C. She received her B.A. in Psychology at Fisk University in Nashville and her M.E.D. of Counseling at Teacher's College Columbia, New York. The member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. loves to exercise, walk and read when she has time. She is the mother of Brian, 14, and Jason, 19. Presently she is the Coordinator at TAPS School.

"I was a counselor at TAPS for two years and felt like I had a good handle on the program. When the opportunity of being the coordinator was offered, I took it. It's a combination of counseling skills and administration," explained Mrs. Watt.

How can we decrease the problem of teen-aged pregnancies?

"It's a very complex problem. There's no quick panacea to rid the problem. Our society is such that it aggravates it. It's not the lack of information but making sure the information is received," she added.

TAPS Schools provide information to teen-mothers daily. Every week at its assembly program, women who have children and careers are invited to talk.

They have a Career Day program which enables former TAPS' students who have careers to relate their experiences of teen pregnancy. Vivian Nivens of Channel 18 was recently at the Career Day pro-



Diane Holmes
...Teen-mother

gram. Dr. Bertha Maxwell gave awards to students who showed the most improvement. Harvey Gantt and Stanley of the Male's Place have also been guest speakers at TAPS.

"If parents can't talk to their kids, they should let someone who is more experienced with kids talk to them," Mrs. Watt continued. "Love is an important part. Kids need affection and they need to know they are loved."

"Of the 125 teen-mothers at TAPS, very few are happy. You see some pretty down kids. Some make the best of their situation. Others are real strugglers," related Mrs. Watt.

What kind of future lies ahead for teen-mothers?

"Because of our Career Day program, the teen-mothers can learn independence from AFDC and public assistance. Some will have to settle for menial jobs for a while. The women who speak at the programs don't paint a rosy picture for teen-mothers, but they offer some 'nope.' Vivian told them to have some goals and stick to them," mentioned Mrs. Watt.

She concluded, "There's less stigma for teen-aged pregnancies today. Coming to TAPS is an individual decision for teen-mothers. TAPS provide the opportunity for them to receive support during a very trying period. It's a good program and I hope it continues."

Mrs. Mildred Glenn of Charlotte is a 1942 graduate of Second Ward High School and a 1964 graduate of CPCC. She is a member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, pastored by Rev. J. A. Cuthbertson, where she is an usher. She is also a member of the Elk Lodge where she was recently named Grand Daughter Ruler Top of the Elk. Mrs. Glenn is the mother of two children—Michael Witherspoon, 37, and Mrs. Janice Witherspoon, 38.

"I like people, and I like caring for people. I have always wanted to take care of people," stated Mrs. Glenn who has worked for the Charlotte Nurse's Registry for six years. Pre-



Mrs. Mildred Glenn
...Private nurse

sently she is doing private work as a nurse.

What can we do to decrease the problem of teen pregnancies?

"Girls should take advantage of family planning classes to help prevent pregnancies at such an early age," she advised.

Our first teen-mother is newcomer Diane Holmes, 19, of Charlotte. She is a 1981 graduate of Garinger High School and has been a majorette for seven years in the House of Prayer Marching Band. She is also a Junior Usher at The House of Prayer For All People, pastored by Elder Gibson.

The mother of 21-month-old Carlton Xavier, became pregnant at age 17 because of a situation which just happened.

"I was upset, because I wasn't ready to become a teen-mother. My family was upset, but I knew a baby was my responsibility. The baby's father talked me out of having an abortion, and my friends continued to take me out to different activities," explained Diane.

Diane experienced no health or emotional problems during her pregnancy. She tried not to let too much upset her and admitted that she was spoiled rotten.

"When Carlton first starting walking, I was so happy. He's so smart, because he tries to talk and imitate people. Sometimes he plays with his father and other times he doesn't. I think he is more accustomed to my immediate family," related Diane.

Diane is pessimistic about decreasing teen pregnancies. "It seems like we've used every method to prevent it—birth control pills and family planning classes. I doubt if we'll ever have anything to decrease the problem."

ahead for you?

"I have been attending CPCC for two years for LPN courses to become a nurse. I hope to get a job at Southern Bell and become an operator. I would like to get married, and own a car and a home," commented Diane.

"Being a teen-mother is

Third in a series

a great experience but a hard responsibility. You have to work for two people (mother and baby), buy clothes, food, etc. It shouldn't happen at such an early age," confessed Diane.

As you recall, Sandra, 17, of Charlotte became pregnant at 16 with her son, Vance Latorice. Sandra told The Post, "We should talk to kids about sex and encourage parents to talk to their kids so that we can decrease the problem of teen-aged pregnancies."

She plans to graduate from South Mecklenburg in 1983 and attend CPCC for computer operating and secretarial classes.

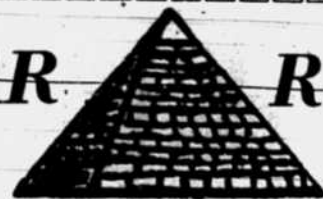
"I plan to keep a lot of determination and never give up," declared Sandra. "Janine Jackson, 16, of Chester, S.C., became pregnant at age 15 with her son, Steven DeAngelo. She gave her solution to decrease the problem. 'I believe parents must sit down and talk to their kids more about sex.'"

She plans to graduate from Garinger High School in 1983 and enlist in the Army where she will study Computer Science.

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