



**FISK JUBILEE SINGERS**  
...Nationally famous

**At West Charlotte High**

**Famed Fisk Jubilee Singers To Perform In Charlotte Friday, March 8**

By Loretta Manago  
Entertainment Editor

When the Fisk Jubilee Singers perform Friday, March 8 at 7:30 p.m. at West Charlotte Senior High School, they will bring with them a past that is rich and full.

The original Jubilee Singers were formed in 1866, a year after the Civil War. The American Missionary Association had opened a school in Nashville in an abandoned Union army hospital barracks and was given the name Fisk. Its mission was to educate freed slaves.

As part of the curriculum, a music instructor George White came from New York to join the staff. Initially, White taught his students operatic arias, excerpts from patriotic anthems, temperance songs and popular duets and quartets. While the students diligently learned "the white man's music," White discovered that they had a song, all their own, that was both moving and touching.

White encouraged his students, who were former slaves to sing these songs. But they were reluctant. Those songs which conveyed hardships and messages like, "Nobody Knows De Trouble I've Seen" and "Go Down Moses" were songs that they wanted to forget.

Five years after the University had opened its doors, in 1871 financial trouble began to plague the institution. Money was not available for repairs nor to feed the 400 students enrolled at that time. A decision had almost been made to close the institution. But White had an idea. He proposed to the missionary association that he take a group of his students north to raise money to keep Fisk open. The board called White's idea farfetched. But White remained undaunted. He selected nine of his best students, sold most of his material possessions and headed North to keep Fisk alive.

To say that the singers and White were well-received is an overstatement. During those first concerts crowds would taunt them, hurl insults at them and sometimes there wasn't enough money to cover traveling expenses.

The turning point came for the Singers in 1871 at a slated performance for the National Council of Congregational Churches. The singers so moved the audience that it was said that all day the sky had been cloudy and dark, but when the singing swept

through the church, the sky then opened and the sun streamed through the windows. There was one man in that audience who would have a dramatic effect on the group. That man was Henry Ward Beecher.

Minister of the Plymouth Baptist Church and a noted abolitionist, Beecher at the conclusion of that performance asked White to cancel all of his other engagements and come straight to his church. Although, at that time White could not accept Beecher's offer he did begin to think that now people were taking his group seriously, he had better come up with a name for the group. Before he was inspired to give them the name, Jubilee Singers in honor of the Jewish Jubilee Year, they were simply called "colored students from Fisk University."

Once Beecher started promoting the Jubilee Singers, the fame of the group spread like wildfire and at the end of their

first year they had paid off \$1,500 of debts and took home another \$500, which was used to purchase 25 acres of land, the present site of Fisk University. Having only rested a week after the first tour the Jubilee Singers were back on the road. Their acceptance of an invitation to sing at the Second World Peace Jubilee in 1872 led to a tour of England, Holland, Scotland, Germany, Sweden and Russia.

Through the Jubilee Singers, Fisk University was introduced to the world as an educational institution with a great tradition of musical excellence and cultural integrity. By 1876, the Jubilee Singers had raised funds estimated at more than \$150,000.

Today, the Jubilee Singers are still an enduring tradition at Fisk University. They come from all sections of the country, representing the ardor and dreams of youth as well as the tranquility and understanding of maturity.

**Al, Roger And Wilbur Need A Home!**

By Loretta Manago  
Post Staff Writer

Al, Roger and Wilbur, ages 10, 9 and five, respectively would be a welcomed addition to any family with lots of love, energy and stability to give them. Although the foster homes that they are presently residing in have supplied them with adequate care, what Al, Roger and Wilbur need most is a home.

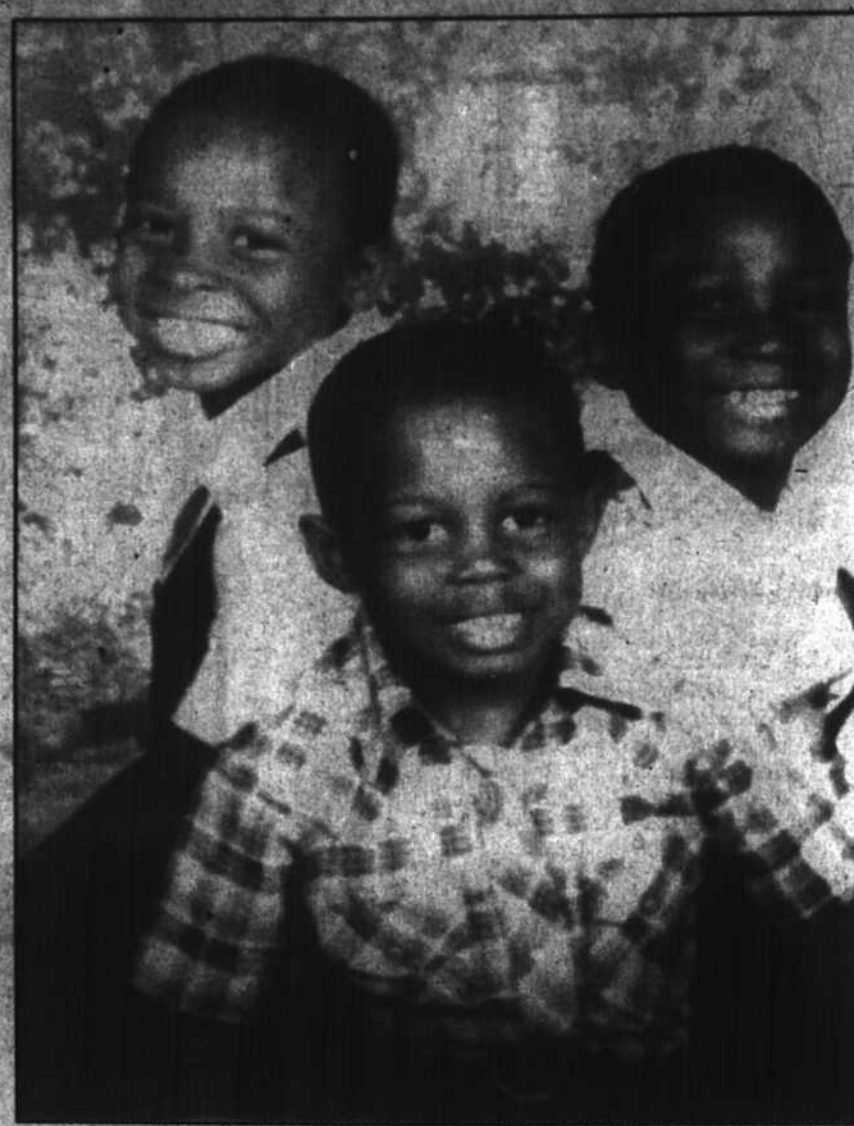
Other than those basic needs Al, Roger and Wilbur are typical youngsters. They like to play outside together. And just like brothers, they fight and argue, but are close and somewhat protective of each other.

As the oldest, Al has the greatest need for the stability that a family can give him. He has large round, sad eyes and handsome plump cheeks and a medium dark complexion. Because of the turmoil that occurred early in his life, Al is a little nervous and anxious and lacks self-confidence. A second grader, Al enjoys school, but has trouble grasping math. His attitude is good and although he gets along well with others in school, he is a bit defensive.

Roger has a smile that could charm his way into the heart of the most hardened person. More extroverted than his brothers, he loves and easily trusts adults around him. Part of his openness stems from the fact that he wants to be loved. Inquisitive and curious Roger likes hugs and physical affection. In school, Roger is a slow learner, but he tries hard and wants to do well.

As the youngest, Wilbur is an imp, pleasant, and easily wins the attention of those around him. An active five year old, Wilbur seeks out love and attention by sitting on laps, hugging and trusting those around him to care for him. Considered slightly behind his age group Wilbur's only medical problem stems from a broken arm left untreated when he was nine months old. Specialists don't feel that it should be corrected unless he has problems later.

In order to adopt these three brothers, prospective couples must have sufficient income to support another child, room enough in their home for another child and be young enough to see the child grow up. There wouldn't necessarily be a long waiting period before adoption could take place. Caseworkers at the Children's Home Society will work immediately with black couples who wish to adopt. For more information contact the Children's Home Society at (704) 334-2854



Al, Roger And Wilbur  
...Typical youngsters

or write to: 301 S. Brevard St., Suite 302, Charlotte, NC 28202. Won't you be the ones to give Al, Roger and Wilbur a home?

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**WomanReach**

WomanReach, Inc. is offering a seminar on Saturday at 2 p.m. called "One Is Not The Loneliest Number: Living Single & Liking It!", at the WomanReach Center, 1416 E. Morehead. Karen Smith and Ruth Tansill will facilitate this workshop.

For more information and to register call a WomanReach peer-counselor Monday - Saturday, 10 - 4 p.m. at 334-3614.

All women are welcome at WomanReach, where all services are Free, a United Way Agency. WomanReach facilities are handicapped accessible.

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