

LIFESTYLES

'Singing cook' keeps giving time and love

By Tammie Tolbert
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Charlotte's "singing cook" has found other ways to make his friends feel good, since an illness has sidelined him.

Hazel L. Walker, best known as the "singing cook," has been a fixture here since the 1960s.

Walker has been recognized as a great cook on the grill at Jake's Restaurant, where he was called an artist for his ability on the grill. Walker cooked at the French Quarter restaurant on 321 S. Church St. for 12 years. In 1995, The Charlotte Uptown paper dubbed, "Walker's finger lickin' chicken and his shrimp creole the best in town."

Now battling cancer, Walker spends much of his time at home.

"Walker is in the best of spirits and you won't find anyone more committed to spreading cheer and making people smile," said his wife of 13 years, Van Walker. "The nurses and doctors at the (Carolinas) Medical Center love him dearly," Van said.

Hazel still sings on the choir at his church, New Bethlehem F.B.H., and his favorite song is "I'm Going With The Lord." In 1984, he was mentioned in The Post for giving a superb concert at New Bethlehem. Hazel recently entered the church's annual art contest where he finished second, one point shy of first place. He has won several trophies and prize ribbons over the years. Now in his days at home Walker strums his guitar and paints Christian pictures.

Having grown up on Charlotte's westside, he is occasionally in touch with his friends: Bob Johnson, Billy Johnson, Wendell Hopkins, Vinson Thompson, Rudean and David Hicklin, Plato Grier, and John Holloway.

Walker visits the Cardinal Rest Home on Tuesday nights to spread cheer and words of comfort to the sick and shut in. Mrs. Walker says, "He is a top patient, he only complains when his food is not seasoned right." That is Chef Hazel, still at his best.



Hazel L. Walker, better known to his friends as the "singing cook," spends much of his time spreading good cheer to the sick.

Celebrations Barnette-Arnold

Corey Barnette and Shonda Arnold were married on April 6 at the Nazareth Primitive Baptist Church on 2230 Bancroft St.

The bride is the daughter of Katie Davis and Larry Arnold. Shonda attended West Charlotte Senior High School. She is a graduate of N.C. A&T State University in Greensboro.

Corey L. Barnette's guardian is Pauline Walker. He is a graduate of West Charlotte Senior High School and N.C. A&T State University. The maid of honor was Tina McNeil. The bridesmaids were Kimberly McCoy, Stacey Price, Yven Arvent, and Nikki Hodge. The flower girl was Shayne Arnold. The best man was Howard Jones. The groomsmen were Daryl White, Darvin Carr, Antoine, and Kalith Muhammad. The reception was held at the church's reception hall. The wedding trip was to Orlando Fla. The couple will reside in Greensboro.



Mrs. Barnette

Caldwell anniversary

On April 20, 1946, God united Rev. and Mrs. Wilch H. Caldwell Sr. in holy matrimony.

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Teach the children



PHOTO/PAUL WILLIAMS III

Brisbane Academy makes learning easy

Geraldine Brisbane-White believes that a school should have children excited about learning and asking the question, "What comes next?"

Brisbane Math and Science Academy was established three years ago with the intent to provide any child with an environment where they could fully concentrate on their academic studies. The academy's curriculum includes math, science, English, foreign language and art. The academy's grade levels are K-10.

"The students at Brisbane Academy often arrive excelling in various areas," White said. "We have a student in our kindergarten class who is already reading on a fourth grade level."

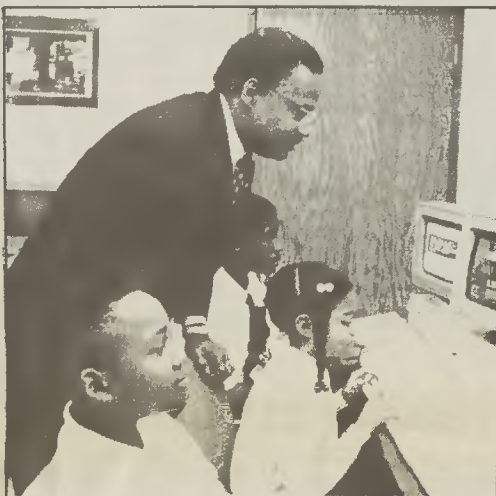
Brisbane's students like the school's emphasis on self-development.

"I like attending Brisbane Academy. If you have something to say, you can easily voice your opinion," said 10th-grader Sahirah Al-Uqeah.

"It is easy for me to express myself and not worry about what people are going to say or a lot of peer pressure," said 10th-grader Sunea Thomas.

White says that Brisbane Academy has a waiting list and it, like the school, includes children of various ethnic backgrounds.

Carl Smith, a manager at Burger King patiently assists students at Brisbane Academy. Burger King donated \$10,000 to the school and purchased six Pentium-based computers to be installed on Monday.



PHOTO/PAUL WILLIAMS III

Chester Williams, a senior vice president at BB&T eagerly pays attention while the students work with the computers that BB&T gave to the school. The students will soon become a part of the internet.

Horoscopes

ARIES: (March 21-April 20)

If you insist on perfection you will be in for considerable frustration. Be willing to relax your rather unreasonable standards, not everyone in your circle will live up to those expectations, no



matter how hard they try.

TAURUS: (April 21 - May 21)

There are changes that need to be made at home. Even though your suggestions may not be met with enthusiasm, go ahead anyway, in the long run you'll be glad you pushed. Take time out for yourself, it is essential to your peace of mind.

GEMINI: (May 22 - June 21)

Usual routines may be altered, due to unexpected situations that arise. Nip your ego in the bud and behave with courtesy and compassion at work, more will get accomplished this way instead of playing dictator. Act from your heart and not your head with love.

CANCER: (June 22 - July 23)

A feeling of isolation may overtake you, so make the effort to

reach out and touch someone. Relationship issues need to be attended to, so state your needs clearly. If you are feeling stuck at work, hang in there and the solution will appear with little effort at all.

LEO: (July 24 - August 23)



Don't let your ego get the best of you, inducing you to do something really too risky at this point. If you want to advance at work, the time may not be quite right yet. You may experience an awakening in the near future which will affect your attitude.

VIRGO: (August 24 - September 23)

Due to a stunning success in business, or if your love life is improving, you feel like you're sitting on top of the world. Enjoy it! You don't have to give up anything just because things are finally going your way for a change. Strive for the best.

LIBRA: (September 24 - October 23)

Some negative feelings may arise during the week, from issues about trust and betrayal. There is more than hope, there is a real opportunity for success, but only if you are willing to embrace current

changes with an open mind. Be willing to listen to others' ideas.

SCORPIO: (October 24 - November 23)

Continue to insist on quality and honesty in all of your dealings, especially in issues close to your heart. Do remember in all your interactions with others that the absolute truth is quite hard to come by. You have only your personal truth and limited perspective to work with.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23 - December 21)

Concerning your love life this week, pay attention to sexual attractions and go for someone who is safe and kind. Push yourself to the limit, for you will only kick yourself later if you fail to accomplish that which is within your grasp. Don't let soul searching get out of hand.

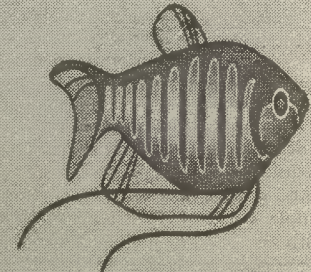
CAPRICORN: (December 22 - January 20)

Do something extravagant this week. Although money is usually associated with this activity, time could be your biggest commodity. Take some time for yourself. Harmony at home will bring you a great deal of satisfaction. Review your investments to see if returns can be better.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 - February 19)

It's time to talk about your need for independence within your closest relationships. Listen carefully to those words of love, and try to read between the lines. There are a number of things which you can't do alone. If help is not on the way, do the best you can and leave the rest for later.

PISCES: (February 20 - March 20)



Remove your emotional armor if you really want to get through to someone. Without such a willingness to show your own vulnerability, no one else will feel that they can trust you. The feelings that you have for someone right now are best kept secret, you'll have your chance.

IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Most think of you as courageous and willing to jump into everything you do with zest and optimism. And you do tend to plunge in and risk dangers that others fear. This trait is definitely obvious concerning your career advancement, and sometimes in the romance department.



Around Charlotte

•From 6-10 p.m. on April 26, the Drug Education Center, Inc. will celebrate Teen Day at the McCrorey YMCA on 3801 Beatties Ford Road. Activities will include swimming, basketball, a dance, prizes, and more. Teen Night is open to youth between the ages of 12 and 18. Admission is free. For more information, call Liza Southerland at 375-DRUG.

•At 7 p.m. on Sunday, the Black Political Caucus will hold a meeting at 1801 Oaklawn Ave. The Candidates and Issues Committee will make candidate recommendations for the May 7 primary. For more information, call Johnnie Collins at 393-1200.

•The Teen Health Connection, a health care clinic is providing physical and mental health services to youth 11-22 and their families in Mecklenburg County. To schedule an appointment between the hours of 9 - 6 p.m., call 344-8336.

•At 5 p.m. on April 28, at the Greenville Neighborhood Community Center, the West Charlotte High School National Alumni Association will have their regular scheduled meeting. Angie Bynum, the founder of Students Against Violence Everywhere will be present.

•At 6 p.m. on April 27, Brisbane Academy Math & Science Preparatory School will hold its third annual banquet at Oasis Temple at University Place. The guest speaker will be NASA astronaut Dr. Benard Harris. The master of ceremonies will be Stedman Graham from Stedman Graham and Associates of Chicago. Tickets are \$40. For more information, call William or Geraldine White at 598-5208.

•At 8 a.m. on April 27 the H.L. McCrorey YMCA will have its annual charity golf tournament at the Oak Hill Golf Course at 4800 Oakdale Road. The entry fee is \$75 per person or \$300 per team. For more information, call Cedric Thomas at 394-2356.

•Today at 4:30 p.m., the Family Counseling division of United Family Services will host "Working With Challenging Children and Adolescents" at Myers Park Baptist Church. The seminar is open to clergy, teachers, parents, social workers, counselors, and members of the court system. Participants completing the workshop will receive six hours of continuing education credit. The workshop cost is \$90. For more information, call John Jordan at 332-9034.

•Mecklenburg County Women's Commission will have a Group Counseling and Child Observers of Domestic Violence meeting today at 6 p.m.. Although not required, mothers of the children will be allowed to participate. For more information, call Ellen O'Toole at 336-3790.

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