

# Nothing slows her down

Tonya Widemon  
News Editor

Gatha Lassiter sits looking at the opened mail scattered on her dining room table. She has to keep them there where she can find them, Lassiter says, because she is always on the go and does not have time to search for the letters that come in from the many community organizations that she is affiliated with.

Her affiliations include an impressive list of programs for senior citizens. She is a member of the Golden Age Happy Circle, a group of about 60 senior citizens in Chapel Hill. The organization is associated with the Federation of Senior Citizens of North Carolina, a state organization of which Lassiter is an advisory board member.

She is also coordinator for the fourth district of the N.C. Senior Citizens and, since 1974, has served as site manager of the Nutrition Program of the Chatham-Orange County Community Action Program (CAP).

It is hard to believe that Lassiter is actually a retired community worker.

"My legs got so that I couldn't walk," she says. "But, I was so wrapped up in my work, and wanted to see it continue."



Mrs. Gatha Lassiter

In 1973, Lassiter was given a retirement party. But, as soon as her legs were better, she was back out into the community, as active as ever.

"I get paid for four hours of work," Lassiter says. But she puts in eight to 12 hours a day with the Nutrition Program at the Multi-Purpose Center which is located on School Lane.

Her day starts long before the scheduled 10 a.m. At 8 a.m. she travels over seven miles to pick up senior citizens and take them to the Center.

Lassiter has been working with the meal program at the Center since her appointment.

"One thing I want is a kitchen so that elderly people, who get little income, can do the cooking," she says. "But, we don't have a place that

can pass the inspection to do cooking." So the food is brought in and served.

The program feeds 30-35 people. Anyone in the community is welcome. The only requirement is that the person be 60 or older. The cost of the meal is determined by the individual's income. The center also provides arts and crafts and speakers on various topics.

Although her work with the Nutrition Program takes up a lot of Lassiter's time, she still participates in other local activities.

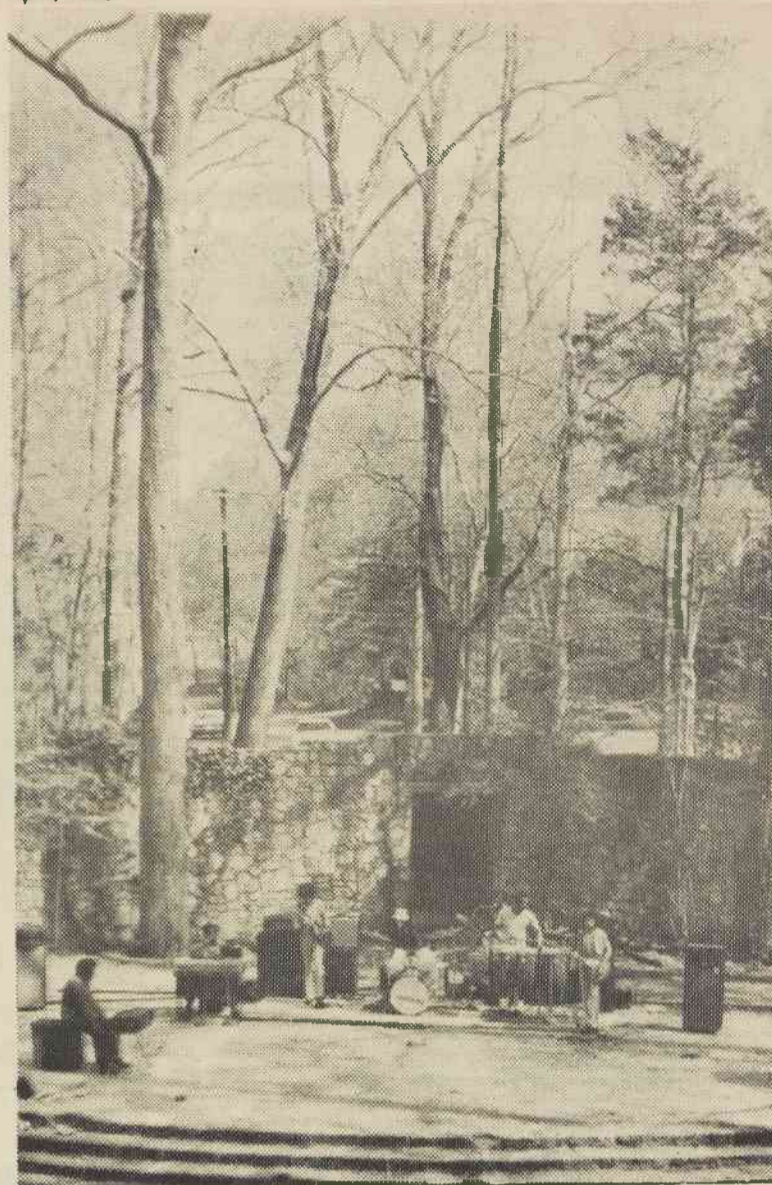
Soon, the Apple Chill Fair will be held on the main business section of Franklin Street. The citizens will sell throw pillows, plants, ham biscuits, terrariums, crocheted items and decorated baskets at a booth.

Recently, Lassiter and other senior citizens became involved with still another community action program sponsored by the Black Student Movement (BSM). (See "Black Ink," March 1975) Students call and sometimes visit senior citizen partners to see how they are doing.

But, Lassiter's partner has not been able to catch her yet, she says, because she is hardly ever home.

"I spend all my time working," she explains, "but my arthritis bothers me sometimes, so I can't get around."

Still, it does not seem to slow her down.



Tobacco Road Movement plays at the BSM picnic in Forest Theatre.

## Album Review

# Earth, Wind and Fire: Creative spirits

Allen Johnson  
Sports Editor

That's the Way of the World (Columbia). The creative enthusiasm of Earth, Wind, and Fire literally bursts at the seams with their beautifully conceived and long awaited new release. A certain energy permeates each cut, assuring the listener that these nine immensely talented young men have given total effort to their music and more importantly, have thoroughly enjoyed it.

Composed as the soundtrack for an upcoming motion picture by the same name, "That's the Way of the World," features many of the ingredients that characterized the success of previous album releases "Head to the Sky" and "Open Our Eyes." Choice cuts include "Shining Star," "That's the Way of the World," "All About Love," "Yearnin' Learnin'" and "Reasons."

"Reasons," a particularly memorable selection reminiscent of Earth, Wind, and Fire's earlier, and unfortunately less heralded material, offers an unusually generous helping of orchestration. For those of you who remember the group's "younger" days, such renditions as "Where Have All the Flowers Gone" and "They Don't See" will quickly come to mind.

Another noticeably new wrinkle on "That's the Way of the World" is "All About Love," a "rap song" which composer and group leader Maurice White prefaces with the words, "We never spend time talkin' to ya, so we figure we'd lay it on ya and let you know how we feel about love." The selection combines excellent lyrics, harmony, and instrumentation.

"Yearnin' Learnin'," an obvious

spin off from the hit single, "Mighty, Mighty" is a fast-paced tune speckled with brass, Sly-like vocals, and a very wicked piano. Keep an eye on "Soul Train." They'll be coming down the line on this song pretty soon.

"Shining Star" is another foot-stompin', handclapping rendition which will bring pure hip-swinging delight to Don Cornelius' platform heeled cohorts. It beckons comparison to "Kalimba Song," "Power" (another early effort) and the concert version of "Kalimba Song" (a surprisingly unique performance of the original).

Also included on an LP packed with a number of melodic goodies are three interludes of traditional African music performed by Saini Murira and the Matepe Ensemble which spice an already impressive collection of songs.

The spirit of Earth, Wind and Fire is intense and sincere. The purpose of their music goes far beyond commercial success.

"In our musical efforts to communicate," relates Maurice White on an album cover note, "we've set a new goal in the presentation of this album. This is a musical score, put together with you in mind.

"Each song is an event, relative to an experience we've lived while trying to achieve perfection in our everyday lives. We laugh, we cry, we worship, we enjoy.

"You might recall an old saying: You reap what you sow. That's the way of the world. God bless you."

*Nightbirds* (Epic). It was bound to happen sooner or later. Patti LaBelle, Sarah Dash and Nona Hendryx have finally received due recognition as one of the most thoroughly exciting, provocative, and entertaining

groups in contemporary music. After firmly establishing themselves as one of the hottest live attractions in the nation, the talented trio of ladies collectively called LaBelle has been on a literal tear, meriting appearances on national television, in national magazines, and before large, electrified audiences.

Now these ladies have added yet another dimension to their success and popularity—a hit single. "Lady Marmalade," the story of a businessman's brief interlude with a "lady of the night" on the streets of New Orleans, is one neat, beautifully adorned package of rock and soul. People who never spoke French before in their lives are clapping their hands, twisting their hips, snapping their fingers, and singing the words, "Voulez-vous coucher avec moi ce soir? Voulez-vous coucher avec moi?"

Interestingly, probably half of those people remain unaware that they're asking someone to sleep with them.

And even more people remain unaware that the sound of LaBelle has been with us for quite some time, dating as far back as 1961, when Nona Hendryx, Sarah Dash, Patti LaBelle, and Cindy Birdsong (later a Supreme) composed Patti LaBelle and the Bluebelles, and recorded their first hit, under the somewhat unlikely title of "I Sold My Heart to the Junkman."

Now the sound of LaBelle is, as Margo Jefferson of NEWSWEEK terms it, a "high-energy, often quite political rock balanced by rhythms and harmonies that recalled the best gospel choirs and blues women."

And "Nightbirds" epitomizes their pulsating music, providing more than a fitting showpiece for the vocal wares LaBelle has to offer. Included among its ten selections are five

songs written by Nona Hendryx ("Somebody Somewhere," "Are You Lonely?," "Nightbird," "Space Children," and "You Turn Me On.")

The most impressive cuts from an album laden with impressive cuts are "Lady Marmalade," "What Can I Do for You?," and the title track.

## Programs expand

The BSM will be expanding its community action programs next year. Plans are already underway to organize an Investigative Committee on Community Affairs (ICCA) and a Special Projects Committee (SPC).

The ICCA will be designed to investigate and expose racist and discriminatory actions in the Black community. The SPC will facilitate community programs such as the

program for the aged, which was organized earlier this year.

Students interested in helping with the organization of these new programs may contact: Bobby Wynn and Lester Diggs about the ICCA. Contact Buddy Ray or Mike Covington about the SPC. Or, leave a note in the BSM office, Suite B, Carolina Union.

### Black Power (For all the beautiful Black Panthers East)

But the whole thing is a miracle—See?

We were just standing there  
talking—not touching or smoking  
Pot

When this cop told  
Tyrone

Move along Buddy—take your whores  
outo here

And this tremendous growl

From out of nowhere  
Pounced on him

Nobody to this very day  
Can explain

How it happened

And none of the zoos or circuses

Within fifty miles

Had reported

A panther

Missing.

Nikki Giovanni