

# Cover Story

## Caring, Sharing: The Rockers

As children we read fairytales and believed within our hearts that the princess always got the prince and the two lived happily ever after.

As young adults we watched *Dallas*, *Dynasty* and *Falcon Crest* and learned that rarely life is such a crystal stair.

As adults we accepted the realities of life and made the decisions to either fall by the wayside or continuously reach for the stars.

Kenneth and Gwendolyn Rocker of Winston-Salem, N.C. have read the fairytales and watched the soap operas and have jointly accepted the realities of life while continuously reaching for higher ground.

The Rockers roots are traced back to Mobile, Alabama. The high school sweethearts graduated from Mobile County Training School in 1958. Kenneth was Valedictorian and Class President, while Gwen held the office of secretary. Upon graduation Kenneth enrolled at Talladega College and Gwen enrolled at Alabama State University. After one year at Talladega College Kenneth enlisted in the U.S. Navy.

In 1962 Gwen completed her B.S. in Physical Education from A.S.U. and accepted a teaching position at Williamson High School. On August 30, 1963,

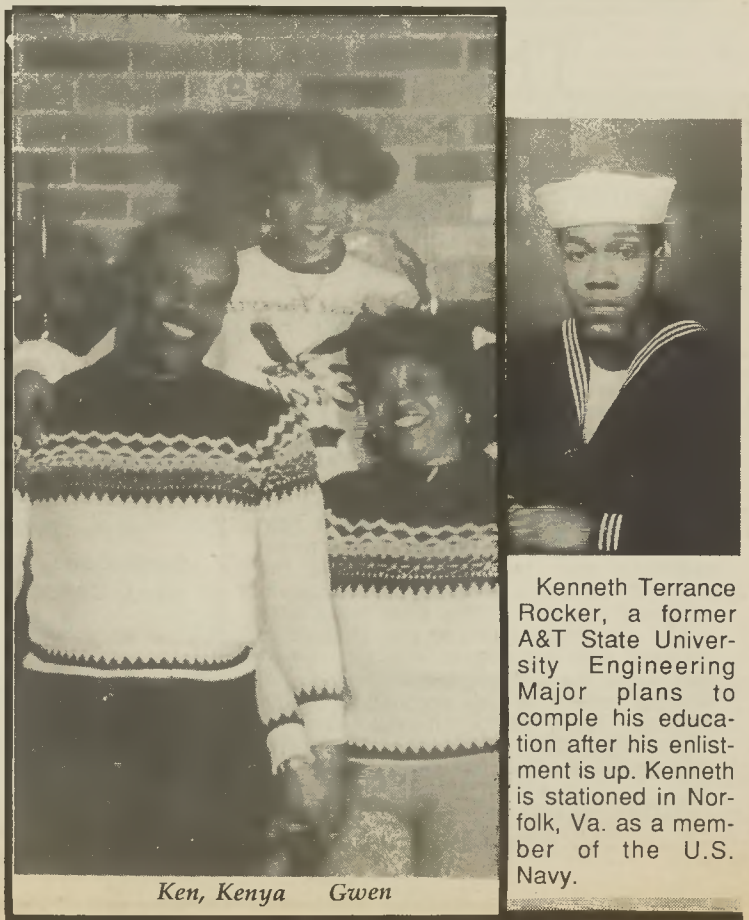
the "Twin City" through the school system and recreation department. Gwen taught school at Carver High School for nearly ten years. Her experience at Carver included meeting and befriending The AC Phoenix publisher, Rodney J. Sumler. Gwen also worked in the Winston-Salem Recreation Department for nearly five years.

Kenneth and Gwen Rocker have been blessed with two lovely, energy-filled children who they are immensely proud of. Kenya (who is not a junior), attended North Carolina A&T University for three years before joining the U.S. Navy. He, like his father plans to be an engineer in his own right after his duty is up. Kenya Trenethia Rocker is a sophomore at East Forsyth High School where she is active as Captain of the J.V. Cheerleading squad, Honor Student, Member of the track team and several other organizations.

The Rocker family is blessed and they realize that it is all for the grace of God. They are active

members of New Bethel Baptist Church where the Reverend Jerry Drayton is pastor. Kenneth is President of The Laymens League and Gwen is a member of Missionary Group #5.

The Rockers are extremely active in the community. Both are devoted members of the NAACP. Kenneth is former Chairman of the YMCA Board of Directors, an alternate on the Zoning Board, Member of the Salvation Army Boys Club and Member of the Pioneer Club. Gwen has served as a



Ken, Kenya Gwen

Kenneth Terrance Rocker, a former A&T State University Engineering Major plans to complete his education after his enlistment is up. Kenneth is stationed in Norfolk, Va. as a member of the U.S. Navy.

"In order to be an innovative parent, you must accept change...Each child must be approached differently, because no two are alike."

Gwen Rocker

There is no such word as perfection when one speaks of growing up, family ties and rearing children. Everyone goes through trials and tribulations within these categories. But then there are those exceptional families which all of us have wished to have been apart of at one time or another. The Rocker family, consisting of Kenneth, Gwen, Kenya and Kenneth Terrance are one such family.

Kenneth, and wife Gwen have a lot in common. Both are born in December, under the sign of Sagittarius. Ironically their children Kenneth, 22, and Kenya, 15, were both born in July under the sign of Cancer.

Kenneth and Gwen were married. The couple just recently celebrated their Silver Anniversary by renewing their wedding vows.

Kenneth went back to college thereafter at Tuskegee University. In 1968 he graduated with a degree in Electrical Engineering. While at Tuskegee, Kenneth received a scholarship through Western Electric - AT&T. The ties through the scholarship eventually landed the Rockers to Winston-Salem where Kenneth is presently Department Chief of Consumer Products at AT&T.

The move to Winston-Salem via New Jersey gave Gwen Rocker the opportunity to meet and learn the people of

Board Member of the local NAACP, Twin City Civitan Club and former precinct worker.

The Rockers were chosen *AC Phoenix Family of the Year* because of what they do, and not what they say. The values that were instilled in them is being passed along to their children.

life," said Gwen. She adds, "I prefer having my family than having a job. Ken is basically the same way in not bringing his job home."

Although Gwen has been out of the public school system for a while she is still teaching in her home. "I'm proud of both kids", she said. "We tried to instill in

always want them to use their minds", stated Mrs. Rocker. "When the final decision is made...let it

be your choice, she added.

The success of "The Family" in the Rocker home is not simple by any means. They do know where they have been, where they are

"I'm proud of both kids...We tried to instill in them to remember where they came from. We talk to them, and they know the things that have helped us to be the people we are. We want them to be aware of their heritage."

Gwen Rocker

As a teacher in Forsyth County Schools one might see a conflict of job and family for Gwen, but she managed to keep everything in perspective. "It was no problem separating job from home. You always have one or two situations that tend to linger, but I never let it interfere with my home

and where they are going. In succeeding as parents Gwen has the approach so many families need. "In order to be an innovative parent you must accept change," she said. "Each child must be approached differently, because no two are alike," she added.

The Rockers have led by example and set in motion the future success of their children. "I