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A POTPOURRI OF RECENT EVENTS

By GEORGE B. RUSS



MRS. JEANETTE D. PRATT



MISS GAYLE THORNTON

anything, so, I plan to make my life a success with the hope of inspiring others to cherish their lives."

Gayle Thornton is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Foye Thornton of Durham.

Mrs. Jeanette D. Pratt, of 2302 Crest, was one of the many persons who received rewards at the Duke University Annual Service Awards Presentation, on April 26th. Mrs. Pratt who is an employee in Physical Plant Services was the recipient of a Thirty Years Service Award.

Miss Minnie C. Lyons, a devotee of Foreign and Home Missions and the Durham County Missionary Youth Union finds solace working with the Crest Street Senior Citizens. Each Thursday the Crest Street Group meets in

Miss Lyons's home at 2321 W. Pettigrew Street. Here, they work with Arts and Crafts. April 25th was Birthday-time for all persons whose birthdays come-around during the first quarter.

The Helping Hand Missionary Circle of Union Baptist Church extends thank-yous and best wishes to all persons contributing to the success of its 22nd Anniversary celebration special thanks to Rev. Leon Sanders, pastor of the Jesus Hous of Prayer, Dowd Street; Junior, Tots and Senior Choirs.


The Tots Choir of U.B.C., under the direction of Mrs. Viola B. Thompson, will celebrate its anniversary on May 19th at 3:00. The Bishop


F. Yelverton, choir and congregation will highlight this anniversary observance.

SCHOOL FACT

By 1985, 76 percent of the labor force who are 25 years of age or older will have completed four years of high school or more, according to projections. This estimate indicates the increasing necessity for a basic high school education, plus additional job or skill training, observes Thelma Hinson, extension family resource management specialist, North Carolina State University.

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My first impression of the attractive, hazel-eyed teenager was, "She is shy."

It was a chilly, sunny Sunday afternoon when I met Miss Gayle Thornton and her family. We all were leaving church when Miss Gloria Lyons pointed Miss Thornton out to me. You see, Gloria knew I had been inquiring about Gayle; my interest stemmed from reading an article in the Durham Morning Herald: Gayle Thornton, a senior at Durham High School, was playing the leading role in the Senior Class Play, "The Unstable Molly Brown," and, "she is member of Union Baptist Church." I became intensely interested in making the acquaintance of the young lady. So, off I sped to meet the starlet. Fortunately, Mrs. Mary Shaw, an aunt of Gayle's was present and introduced me to members of the family: Mrs. Thornton, the starlet's mother; her grandmother, and a score of other relatives.

Gayle's quizzing light brown eyes flecked with green met my probing eyes squarely. "I've been asking about you, Miss Thornton. I wanted to meet "Molly Brown." I was one of the dancers in the play when I was in High School. A male, Raymond Fasion, at Sampson County Training School, played the role of Molly Brown at that time." Gayle's eyes were saying much more than her slightly parted lips. Mrs. Shaw spoke up, "Gayle, Mr. Russ writes for the Carolina Times." Gayle held a straight face, however, she readily cooperated; "I portrayed the role of "Molly Brown," the lead role of one of the best known and loved of all American Plays based on fact."

"I am sorry I missed your performance, Miss Thornton. When and where was the play presented." "Like a professional, Gayle came to the point at once. "The Unstable Molly Brown" was presented, March 29th and 30th by the Durham High School Senior Class. The play was held on campus in the Weaver Auditorium."

"Good! It was highly successful in that it carried the support of the Durham Community and the student body." "Do you plan to go into dramatics as a career?" "Not really. Playing the role of Molly was the thrill of my life. In real life, I have been impressed by many persons but never as closely to anyone as I was to "Molly Brown." Unlike Molly, I don't care to be accepted only by the Social Elites; I want to be accepted by everyone wherever I may be. "The Unstable Molly Brown" was an experience that will linger with me for a lifetime. "Molly was some girl," I answered lamely because I couldn't recall, at this time, the plot of the story. "I'm happy

for you, Gayle." She listened aggressively, but she made no reply, a smile radiated her countenance.

"And you're a senior?" "Yes. Next year I will be attending A&T State University. My major will be Elementary Education or Art."

How do you stack up for scholarships?

"I have applied for several scholarships however, at this time, I haven't received any replies. Nevertheless, I am looking forward to going to school in August."

By now, I am less aware of Gayle's shyness. Like most of today's young people, she has a natural easy-going sense of directions. "Besides the play, what other interests have you made outstanding progress?"

The milling-crowd of cheerful people greeting one another and making hasty departures disconnected our pattern of thought, and momentarily the passing parade of happy, well-dressed church people enjoying the Christian fellowship held my attention. The Thornton family had become restless and was politely inching toward the sidewalk. Besides, my own natives were giving me furtive glances.

Gayle's eyes smiled upward toward the gleaming Sabbath sun; then her youthful voice bridged the gap of disconnected thought-action between us; "I have been active in various organizations. In my Sophomore year, I was Homecoming representative, Vice-president of the Sophomore Class and Home Room, a member of the Student Council, and president of the Modern Dance Class, G.A.A. member."

"You have been busy!" "My interest was genuine. I wanted to ask, what is a G.A.A. member but my charming little friend was anxious to continue."

"In my Junior and Senior years, I was cheerleader this year, I am head cheerleader representative on a council, a member of F.H.A." Gayle laughed softly; "an most important of all, I was leading lady in the Senior play."

In a fatherly tone of voice I said: "I see you have been very busy. How does your grades stack up?"

"I'm a "B" student, I didn't really realize the real challenge of all my activities until this year. The play was an extraordinary challenge one that I accepted with pleasure. Just as Molly, I will also prove my title, "To be Someone."

Bless you! and for a sort of summation of your hopes and aspirations up to this point in your life, what do have to say?" I asked jokingly. However, Gayle spoke up quickly; "It has been said that life is only what you make it. You either put it to use, or you abuse it. I cherish life more than

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