

IN AND AROUND ROCKY MOUNT

By R. D. Armstrong

Funeral services for James ERastus Batts, principal of Phillips School in Edgecombe County, was conducted from the Mt. Zion First Baptist Church here Saturday afternoon with Rev. George W. Dudley, pastor, of the church officiating.

The deceased was a native of Rocky Mount and received his early education here and received his Bachelor of Science degree from North Carolina Central University in Durham. The Master of Arts degree was awarded to him from Howard University in Washington, D. C. Batts did further study at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

The Rocky Mount educator participated in World War II serving in the European Theatre and took part in the "Battle of the Bulge".

He became principal of Phillips High School in 1959 after having coached at Patillo High School in Tarboro prior to entering the armed services.

During the eulogy here Saturday afternoon, Batts was described as a progressive leader, and a distinguished educator and administrator. He was affectionately known by his friends and those in the field of education as "Ras" Batts.

Interment was in Northeastern Cemetery here. Survivors are his wife, Mrs. Temple Braswell Batts, of the home in Tarboro; one daughter, Mrs. Ann Batts Sye, Virginia Beach, Va.; two brothers, Roscoe of Rocky Mount and Bennie of Scarsdale, N. Y.; three sisters, Mrs. Mary Bennett, Mrs. Queen Paige and Mrs. Dollie Sanders all of New York City and one uncle, Allen Harrison.

Miss Patricia D. Tillery of Scotland Neck, was crowned "Miss Taugadetta of '75" at the eighth annual Taugadetta held here last Friday night in the OIC Auditorium. The annual event was sponsored by Chi Chapter of Tau Gamma Delta Sorority.

The title of the program each year is "The Lady In Pink". Fourteen young ladies from area schools participated. The first runner up to the title holder was Miss Doris Taylor of Whitakers. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. James Taylor of Whitakers and the second runner up was Miss Natalie Denise Whitehead of Rocky Mount, daughter of Officer and Mrs. Frank Whitehead. Others participating in the colorful event were Misses Adrienne Bryant Ruby Cherry, Delores Cooley, Kietha D. Lawrence, Cynthia McKnight, Shelia Perry, Tora Phillips, Jacqueline Phillips, Linda Richardson, Mary Scott, and Sheri D. Vines.

The officers of Chi Chapter are Mrs. Bessie B. Dancy, basileus; Mrs. Celopatra Pittman, First Anti-Basileus; Mrs. Juliette Nelson, Second Anti-Basileus; Mrs. Dorothy Pope, Grammeatus; Mrs. Bertha Joyner, Epistaleus; Mrs. Lelia Macklin, Tamiochus, Mrs. Dozella Bullock, Chaplain; Mrs. Doretha Walston, Dean of Pledges and Mrs. Llana Joyner, Parliamentarian. In addition to the officers there are seventeen members in the chapter.

The observance of Black Business and Professional Week here scheduled for May 2-8 has been changed and will be held during the last week of May, it was announced.

A prominent speaker will deliver the principle address at a banquet which will be the culminating event during the week-long observance. The name of the speaker was not revealed by the spokesman, but it was learned efforts are being made to engage former Chapel Hill Mayor Howard Lee to appear. A number of outstanding events relative to black businesses in this area will be included in the programs during the week.

Mrs. Hattie B. Jordan, prominent local beautician and head of the Rocky Mount Center of Edgecombe Technical Institute cosmetology department, was named Queen of the North Carolina Cosmetologists Association during the Association's annual meeting in Wilmington, last week.

Mrs. Jordan represented Chapter 21 of the local Beauticians Club several weeks ago when she was crowned Queen of Chapter 21 and was named "The Beautician of the Year."

Mrs. Jordan will represent North Carolina at the National Convention this summer in Nassau, Bahamas. If successful there she will receive an all-expense paid trip to Paris, France.

The clean-up project initiated several months ago at Unity Cemetery here continued to claim the attention of City Officials last week when City Manager Cyrus Brooks had a reply from Congressman L. H. Fountain in regard to federal aid to get the job done.

Brooks had made contact with Congressman Fountain several weeks ago while he was visiting Rocky Mount for the dedication of Tri-County Industries. In his reply, Congressman Fountain, pointed out as far as he could ascertain, there were no funds available for such projects, but he would continue his efforts to help Rocky Mount with a bad situation.

Unity Cemetery is a privately owned burying site for blacks here. The City operates and maintains the Northeastern Cemetery, but does not provide for the upkeep of the privately operated Unity area.

Nobody knows who is responsible for anything and because of that situation, the area has become an "eye sore" and a possible crime area.

During a recent study by City Engineers it was estimated it would take approximately \$100,000 to get the job done. The City Attorney has ruled the site cannot be declared an abandoned cemetery because burials still take place there, plus the fact, many of Rocky Mount's older citizens are buried there.

Many of them keep their plots in good condition, but there are many who could care less. It is a bad situation any way you look at it and the only remedy in sight now is some help from the federal government through Congressman's efforts.

Miss Ozella Hudson was named "Miss U. N. A. A." (Universal Negro Improvement Association) during a recent pageant staged here in the OIC Auditorium.

Miss Hudson is the fourteen year old daughter of Mrs. Susan Hudson of Rocky Mount and Ozell Hudson of Spring Lake. The first runner up in the pageant was Miss Lucretia Whitehead of Tarboro. She is the daughter of Mrs. Selestia Whitehead. The second runner up was Miss Venus Joyner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Joyner of Elm City. The third position went to Miss Robin Armston of Battleboro. Her mother is Mrs. Linwood Armston.

A young Rocky Mount Man, Henry Williams, presented part of his graduate study research findings at the annual meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in Atlantic City, N. J. Tuesday, May 4.

Members of the society include last year's Nobel Prize Laureate in the field of physiology and medicine. Williams' presentation dealt with the recovery of a unique



"GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD" - The passion play which will be presented at White Rock Baptist Church, Sunday, May 23, 8:00 p.m. under the direction of W. F. Shelly, assisted by John H. Gattis, organist; Mrs. Luvenia Parker, pianist and Mrs. Virginia Alston, narrator. This is a scene from the W. F. Shelly production.

WRITERS FORUM

By George B. Russ

Nature has set the mother upon such a pinnacle, that our infant eyes are first uplifted to it; we cling to it in manhood; we almost worship it in old age.

The mother-image of other generations have taken on a different aspect in this industrial-age of liberation, but the basics of motherhood remain unchanged. She remains the "Divinity of Infancy." Her smile is the sunshine, her words the mildest law of childhood, no matter how goes the tidal-wave in the affairs of men when her loving care is no longer desired.

Mothers constitute the only universal agent of civilization. Nature has placed in her hands both infancy and youth. The vital interest of America hangs largely upon the influence of mothers. One says "largely" because one would not fail to give proper credit to other influences. The public schools are the great assimilative force of the nation. But even back of the public schools is the mother's influence. The mother takes man's whole nature under her control. So intense is the power of motherhood that the mere remembrance of a praying mother's hand laid on the head of infancy, has held back many a son from guilty acts when passion had grown strong. The often times scoffed truism "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world" expresses the feeling of universal human nature. Therefore, it is no wonder that Mother's Day is one of the most widely-accepted observance to mankind that we have.

Writers Forum has selected a wonderful person as its mother-of-the-year: Mrs. Annie C. Smith.

Mrs. Annie Carlton Smith, the wife of Howard Smith, resides happily at 1019 Chanticleer Drive. A fine upstanding Christian woman who firmly believes that the "heart and hearth" revolves around the father-image. Her

great spirit and robust energy is equal to her mildness of temperament and patience;



MRS. ANNIE C. SMITH

honesty is her greater character preponderant. Second however to her love and care for her family. Her immediate family is small in number, therefore, each member shares a double-portion of giant size love and tender-loving care from "mama" or "drammama." Mrs. Smith has one son, Wayne; two grandsons, Melvin and Brian; and, last, but decidedly not least, is Matricia, her daughter-in-law, whom she loves dearly.

The Smith family, all three generations are active members at Northeast Baptist Church. Aside from a busy schedule of efficient home management which includes caring for "papa's" many farm pets: "sheep, cows, pigs 'n hogs; chickens, turkeys, ducks; up-dating the deep-freezer, smoke house and larder, Mrs. Smith sings with the Northeast Senior Choir; teacher of a Primary Class in the Sunday School Department; presently, the church's official announcer and services the Bulletin Board regularly, she performs her duties as deaconess.

The Carltons, Annie's paternal-family, have been actively involved in the Northeast Baptist Church affairs all of their lives. Now the Smiths are making their

presence felt through consistent, fervent services to the church.

Annie, her three brothers and three sisters, grew up in the Oak Grove township. Here, Annie attended the County public schools; Union, Pearson. She graduated from Hillside High School. She graduated from high school a much wiser young woman, the winner of two medallions; one in Mathematics, the other in English, but she had no wish to go to college. So, finding a job was place first on her agenda. With her usual business acumen, Annie shopped around for a job, but jobs were hard to come by in those days therefore she accepted a job as maid at F. W. Woolworth, The East Main Street Store. Here, she applied her knowledge of housekeeping to being a good department store maid. Within a few months, she was transferred to the Lunch Counter.

While working on the Lunch Counter, she made the acquaintanceship of the tall, dark, handsome bus-boy, Howard Smith. If it was love at first sight, one isn't sure, however, he didn't carry her lunch tray for very long. The tinkle of wedding bells inside Annie's pretty head made her eyes sparkle and add a certain glamour to her work. And within a few months, Annie and Howard were married.

Mrs. Smith accepted the responsibilities with her usual brisk businesslike aplomb. And when the time arrived, she took a leave of absence and gave birth to a fine, bouncing boy, Wayne, who is now a fine young man, employed by the city of Durham as an engineer.

When she returned to work, Mrs. Annie C. Smith began where she had left off, this time with deep seated plans to do her best to forge ahead at top speed. Her reasons were obvious, the more help she gave her spouse, the faster they could build a home, plan for

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A POTPOURRI OF RECENT EVENTS

By George B. Russ

A Mother's Day Special: May 9, at 5 o'clock, the Union Baptist Anniversary Convention, held at Markham Chapel, was a bell-ringing success. Sunday, May 2, was Anniversary time for the New Hope Musical Convention Choir. This year will mark its 78th Birthday.

Additional bows will be given when this amalgamation of singers appear at Union Baptist on May 2. They will sing your old favorite songs and new tunes to keep your feet tapping. Prof. Robert Laney will be present to sing his speciality, "Old Time Religion" and Prof. Lucille Jones will add her unique arrangement of "Just Inside the Gate."

Mrs. Margie C. Laney, another member of the Council clan, is at her singing

bacterium from coastal sea waters in Maryland. The young Rocky Mount man is currently on leave from his position at the University of Maryland to pursue his doctorate degree in microbiology. Williams is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Henry Williams, Sr. of 716 Atlantic Ave., in Rocky Mount. He and his family live in Severn, Md.



PROF. E. C. COUNCIL

The Seniors Ushers 57th anniversary celebration was a huge success. The Senior Board was all there and "looking good." Ms. Irene Hall had selected winners to sky-rocket the occasion therefore she left the business of orbiting to the persons in charge. The Black Ensemble, under the baton of

CHURCH NEWS

Funeral services were held Sunday, May 2 for Mrs. Mildred Jenkins at the Gethsemane Baptist Church, with Rev. V. E. Brown, officiating.

Mrs. Jenkins, the daughter of the late Evander and Lula Carter was born August 4, 1913. She joined Gethsemane early in life.

She is survived by five sons: William Jenkins, Leon McClary of Durham, Joseph Lett, Evander Lett, David Lett, of New York; two daughters, Mrs. Louise Craig of Durham and Mrs. Marie Hannah of Mebane; one brother, Raymond Carter of Wueene, N. Y., twenty-one grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren.

Burial was in the Beechwood Cemetery.

Courtesy of Scarborough and Hargett Memorial Chapel and Gardens.



LARRY D. BULLOCK

Final rites for Larry Douglas Bullock were held Sunday, May 2 at the Red Mountain Baptist Church in Rougemont, Rev. Nealie Harvey, pastor, officiated.

A native of Durham Larry was the son of the late Albert and Vera Bullock. He was born March 3, 1951. He departed this life April 29 after having been wounded while on duty with the Durham Police Force.

Survivors include his Mrs. Brenda Bullock; his mother, Mrs. Vera Bullock; three sisters, Mrs. Josephine Peaks, Bahama, Mrs. Linda Vanhook, Hampton, Va., Mrs. Vercy Harris, Rougemont; two brothers, Linwood and Bennie, Durham, eight nieces and ten nephews.

Burial was in the Church cemetery.

Courtesy of Scarborough and Hargett Memorial Chapel and Gardens.



REV. ROSA GAINES

Final rites for Rev. Mrs. Rosa Gaines were held at the United Holiness Church Rev. R. L. Walker, officiating.

Rev. Gaines was born in Commerce, Ga., the daughter of the late Harrison and Emma Hunter. In Georgia she was a member of the Jonah's Chapel Baptist Church, later becoming a member of the New Covenant Holy Church, where she was later called into the ministry.

She served her church faithfully. She was Mother of the Church and President of the Missionary Department.

She is survived by her husband, John; one daughter Linda Gaines, of the home, one son; Gilbert of Bronx, New York; one sister, Mrs. Charity Strickland of Thomasville; and one grandchild.

Burial was in Glenview Memorial Park.

Courtesy of Scarborough and Hargett Memorial Chapel and Gardens.

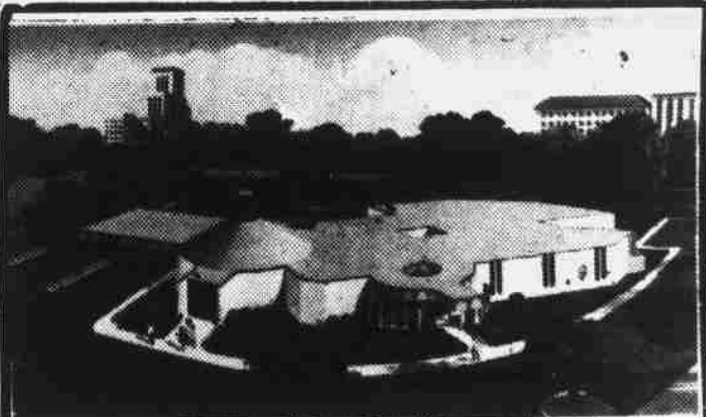
Thank You!

From Marion B. Williams

1905 S. Roxboro Street Durham, N. C.

To my church, St. Joseph's, members and many, many friends: You were so kind to me during the passing of my sister, Mrs. Rebecca Gregory, Freeport, L. I., N. Y., member and organist of The Church of God. My family wishes to express their profound gratitude to each of you for your kindness, condolences and prayers. May God bless each of you.

Marion B. Williams and Family.



Scarborough & Hargett Memorial Chapels

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SUNDAY
MAY 9, 1976

9:30 A. M. -- CHURCH SCHOOL

10:55 A. M. -- WORSHIP - Sermon - The Rev. H. P.

Sharper, Pastor, Abyssinian Baptist Church, Newark, N. J.

The Lady Ushers ushering.
The Senior Choir leading the singing - Mr. John H. Gattis, Organist-Director