

## IN AND AROUND ROCKY MOUNT

By R. D. Armstrong

R. Kelly Bryant, Jr., assistant secretary, North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company of Durham and a native of Rocky Mount, was the principal speaker at the first annual observance of Black Business Awareness Week held here last week.

The observance was sponsored by the Business and Professional Women's Club of Rocky Mount, an affiliate of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc.

The theme of the week-long program was "New Dimensions in Community Service".

Bryant told the banquet audience that one time his late father, R. Kelly Bryant, Sr., operated five grocery stores and a restaurant in Rocky Mount. The depression in the late 1920's and early 1930's dealt a severe blow to him.

"If today's services had been available to him then, that we have now, that man's future might have been quite different", he declared. His father was an early black business man having opened his first store in 1911.

Bryant added that this type of loss has happened to many minority businesses and is still happening today, he asserted.

The speaker addressed himself to the topic, "There Is Darkness at the top of the stairs." He gave an analogy of darkness at the top of the stairs by relating a story of a rural church where a deacon of the church voted against the installation of a chandelier in the sanctuary. The reasons the deacon gave were we do not have anywhere to put it, we don't have anyone to play it, and if we are going to do anything, we ought to put more lights in the church.

To him, there was some darkness at the top of the stairs. Bryant then posed the question, "how many of us have, or have had, darkness at the top of our stairs?" These are times when we are frustrated, he continued, we are discouraged and our future moves are uncertain.

He described at length the success the Durham Business Chain had achieved by working together. He said the Chain had promoted and encouraged minority businesses along with educating them and serving as a stimulation to carry on.

Bryant warned against being misled or fooled by the old adage that blacks should buy from blacks because of ethnic ties. The majority business community has long since made a play and an appeal for the minority ethnic dollar.

Continuing, Bryant stated, "it is useless to go into what is being done in window dressing employment, sale pitches and advertising in this direction. Our appeal to you is to take our extended black hands and work together and together get on with the business of making money."

In concluding his message to the Business and Professional Women's Club, Bryant said, "we in America, and especially in this community, must move together in building racial strength and unity. We must consult with one another, and help one another more closely than ever before." Every ethnic group does this, he added.

Six awards were made at the banquet to local businesses for their contributions to the Black Business Awareness Program. The top award went to A. H. Bryant, representing his mother, Mrs. Nannie Bryant Parker, for operating the oldest black business in Rocky Mount. The business, now Wright's Chick's Shack, was opened in Rocky Mount as a grocery store in 1909.

Other awards were made to Soul Clinic Men and Ladies Boutique, Alston's Grocery, Your Church Supply House, Brown's Chicken & Barbecue Restaurant and Taylor's Discount Shoes.

Certificates were awarded to all participating firms that had listed with the organizations directory.

Mayor Fred Turnage commended the Business and Professional Women's Club for improving the exposure of black businesses and the part they played in bringing the community to where it is today.

The oldest Black Business award was made by Mayor Pro Tem George W. Dudley, pastor of the Mt. Zion First Baptist Church and the first member of his race to sit on the Rocky Mount City Council.

Mrs. Vivian Tillman, coordinator of the week's observance, presided at the banquet session. Mrs. Eula Gray is president of the organization.

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When a young child attends school for 1,260 days without missing a day, that is really news.

Young Cynthia Denise Lancaster, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Lancaster of Henry Street here, completed the sixth grade at the Annie W. Holland Elementary School last week. She had previously spent one year in a local kindergarten. Combining the time in kindergarten and six grades at Holland School, Cynthia had completed seven years in school without a miss.

There are no records available, but we believe that this is an attendance record for any child in North Carolina

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The annual "Baby of The Year" program was held at the Mt. Zion First Baptist Church recently. The annual event sponsored by the Deaconess Board of the Church, which also featured a mini-fashion and talent program.

The winner of the "Baby of The Year" was Stephanie Hunter, whose parents are Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hunter. The first runner up was Samuel Russell, Jr., the second runner up was Marcia Edge and third runner up was the child of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Gray.

Mrs. Nancy G. Joyner, a member of the Deaconess Board, was honored with the Deaconess Award and those featured in the mini-fashion and talent program were Bryan C. Andrews, Jennifer Farmer, Vanessa Penny, Chonita Melvin Riddick, Donald Rogers, Kim Michelle Tillman, Lusandra D. Whitfield, Barbara Williams and Grace Wilson.

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Terry Knight, a rising senior at Rocky Mount Senior High School, has been selected to attend a one-week, all-expense paid Minority Introduction Program (MITE) at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, June 14-17.

A full week has been planned for the orientation of prospective to the program in engineering at North Carolina State. Young Knight has shown his interest in engineering and higher mathematics during his high school work.

In addition to his high scholastic record at Senior High School, he also plays in the concert and jazz bands at the school.

His sister, Natalie, is a sophomore at Hampton Institute where she is majoring in Textile apparel which will lead to a career in fashion buying. She is also an accomplished pianist and an organ specialist.

Terry and Natalie's parents are Mr. and Mrs. John Knight of 918 Shepard Drive. Knight is a counselor at Nash Technical Institute and Mrs. Knight teaches in the Rocky Mount School system.

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Miss Lorna Jean Hines of Rocky Mount was one of more

## WRITERS FORUM

By George B. Russ

The Recreation Department of Union Baptist Church has become of age. Gone are the uncertainties of existing as a church oriented department; small talk about the lack of cooperation on the part of the church leaders of parents; or, of the instability of its own departmental heads. When a meeting is called for the Recreation Department's leadership, these persons rally to the call and thrash out whatever business is needing attention. They say and do: The Recreation Department has become an integral part of the church's program, and is widely accepted by all; sports enthusiast or the nonchalant bystander.

A Board of Directors, made up of UBC persons, govern the affairs of the Department: president, Abner Mason, Sr., secretary, Mrs. Sylvia Parker, social committee chairman, Miss Shelia Mason, Abner Mason, Jr., Charles Parker and Pat Holeman; advisors; Rev. N. B. Sanders, deacon McDuffie Holman; treasurers, Mrs. Elaine Pratt, Mrs. Mary Holman.

1975 seems to have been the year for forging ahead in the area of expansion of the UBC Bowling League. During the month of September, members of the UBC Mixed Adult League organized a Bantam Mixed League; involving the total Bantam community in wholesome recreation. And recreation being our goal, steps were taken to involve area churches; letters were mailed to Mt. Gilead, Mt. Level and parents of interested boys and girls. A fair response developed from our letters. Active Bantams are: Burley Jones, Floyd Parker, Freddie Womack, Frank Pratt, Versall Mason, Jerome Mason, Cecily Phillips, Sophie Hawkins, Angela Bowling, Anthony Hester, Jill Taylor, Clyde Penny, Jr., Patrice Penny, Joyce Overby, Pam Overby, Douglas Burt, STEVIE PARKER, Sterling Herndon.

The 5 and 6 year olds of the Bantam League are called "Peanuts." The Peanuts are Veronica Mason, Sean Parker, Douglas Burt, Kendrick Bledsoe, Michelle Huey, Nicole Malachi.

The Bantam ideal has proven to be a favorable annexation to the Recreational Program. Five members of this league were represented in the Junior City Tournament April 10-11, held in the Fair Lanes Bowling Center of Durham: Burley Jones, Frank Pratt, Cecily Bowling, Sophie Hawkins, achieved first place in the



DR. AND MRS. GRADY D. DAVIS

singles. May 22 awards time. for these better than average bowlers: handsome trophies and a party from the Brunswick Village Lanes management.

Many thanks have been showered upon parents, coaches and aids, especially, Mrs. Nancy Mason, Mrs. Martha Lee, Mrs. Rosalyn Parker, Mrs. Velmar Malachi, Burnell Phillips, Ms. Pearl Bledsoe, Ms. Pat Best and Clifton Parker.

While a great deal of interest is manifested in the Bantams, other phases of the league have shown great progress. On the women's team, "The Five Squares", Marth Lee, captain, Sylvia Parker, Roslyn Parker, Bonnie Edwards, Nancy Mason gave outstanding performance during the Durham Orange City Tournament. On February 21-22, five members of the UBC Mixed Bowling League participated in the Durham-Orange Women's City Tournament, at Brunswick Village Lanes.

Representing the league in doubles, Sylva Parker and Nancy Mason won 3rd place in class B doubles. Mrs. Parker was placed 8th in singles.

In the area of State representation, the five member team; Mrs. Roslyn Parker, Mrs. Nancy Mason, Ms. Marth Lee and Ms. Patricia Best, captain; Mrs. Carolyn Bethea was drafted as an extra to serve as substitute player, entered the North Carolina State women's bowling tournament in Charlotte, March 27-28. "Our team chose at its name, "Bo-Jangles." The uniforms were green shirts and black pants, with black lettering on the shirts.

Saturday night, March 27 was the night for our team's event. All things considered, the strange city and strange bowling lanes, coupled with overwhelming excitement, our team stacked up well

ment Saturday, April 3 and Sunday April 4.

"UNC Deacons" is the team's name. The names of the players are Captain, Charles Parker, Ellis Davis, Willie Holman, James Petty and Clarence Parker.

Team events were held at Fairlanes Bowling Center, on Saturday, while doubles and singles were held at Brunswick Village Bowling Lanes, on Sunday. The "UNC Deacons" came out nicely.

The Union Baptist Church's Mixed Bowling League works hard but their efforts are rewarded. The annual banquet held at the close of the season is one of the league's fringe benefits. This year's convivial occasion was held on Saturday, May 22, at the Downtowner Motor in Durham at 8 p.m. The threefold affair consisted of well planned social hour, buffet supper and presentation of trophies. The latter was presided over by pretty Ms. Patricia Best, newly elected president. Gilbert Johnson, further cheered the bowlers with an inspirational talk. Others following Johnson: pastor, Dr. Grady D. Davis, and Willie Holman, out going president.

Presentation of awards: Males - Individual Achievements - High Series, High Game, Scratch/Handicap; Clarence Parker, High Average; Henry Walker, Jr. Females: Sylvia Parker

Marie Council. Most Improved Bowlers: Male-Clifton Parker. Female: Dee Leawell. First Place Team, Champions: "Ebonies" Charles Parker, Captain, Bonnie Edwards, Nancy Mason, Ellis Davis. Second place team, "Wrecking Crew", Marie Council, Captain; Roslyn Parker, Day Reed, and Gilbert Johnson. Third place team "Four Tops" Henry Walker, Captain; Lee Walker, Japhine Reed, Lee Walker, and Mac Jones. Recipients of participation trophies: Charles Parker, Bonnie Edwards, Nancy Mason. The first place team's church trophy was presented to Dr. Davis by Ellis Dee.

The 1975 president Key Chain given by Brunswick Village Lane was bestowed upon the out going president Willie Holman. The presentation was made by Mac Jones.

Marie Council, the recipient of a Master's degree in education, May 23, at North Carolina Central University, was given special recognition.

Special recognition was given James Pretty for his 159 Triplicate games. A vote by the organization decided that Roslyn Parker and Walter Garrison are winners of the Sportsmanship Award and the ice-breaker technique award goes to "the modest, shy" Mrs. Mary Holman.



JESSIE WRIGHT

### S. C. YOUTH PICKED TO TAKE PART IN HEALTH PROGRAM

DENMARK - Jessie Wright, sophomore biology major has been selected to participate in the Summer Health Careers Program for undergraduate students at the Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina.

The Program Committee selected 18 students on the strength of their academic performance and all-round excellence. Jessie is the only participant from Voorhees. Participants were also drawn from Benedict, Clafin and South Carolina State Colleges.

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than 5,000 graduates from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill during the commencement exercises held there on May 9.

Miss Hines received her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from A&T State University in Greensboro. She was awarded the Master of Science degree in Public Health Nursing from UNC - CH.

Since August, 1975, she has held the position of Director of a home health agency (visiting nurses) based in Carrboro, serving a five county area in the Chapel Hill-Durham region.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Hines of 889 Ellison Drive here.

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Joe Walston, a popular singer along the Eastern Seaboard, appeared in concert here Sunday afternoon, June 6. The concert was sponsored by Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC).

Walston is a graduate of Carver High School in Pinetops and has appeared in a number of shows along the east coast. He also has appeared with the Buddy Rich Band and at Brandi's Whaff and Club Harland in New Jersey.

Walston is married to the former Floros Fox of Rocky Mount and they have two children, Darwin and Karen. Her mother, Mrs. Lugenia Fox resides here now.

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The cloud of conflict we have referred to several times concerning the Edgecombe County School System and one of its veteran administrators, James Tyson, is finally heading for a peaceful settlement, it was learned here last week-end.

It appears that the two lawyers, representing Tyson and those from the School Board, came to an agreement in Tarboro last Thursday afternoon. What the arrangement was, we have not officially learned. The lawyers and the Board of Education met in an executive session, which did not allow the admittance of the news media.

We did learn, however, from a very reliable source, that an agreement had been reached at the stamp of approval would be made at the regular meeting of the Board of Education in Tarboro on Monday, June 7.

The whole thing centered around the replacement for an assistant superintendent who died last summer, who had also been serving as the Director of the ESEA Title One program in Edgecombe County.

With the differences settled, and the hatchets buried, schools in the county will close on a much "sweeter note" next week.