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Mrs. Willie Mae Buckner keeps very strange bedfellows. These two huge snakes wrap affectionately around her neck during recent interview.

Lady Shares House With Boa Constrictor

by James Smith
Staff Writer

In most instances, it's the children or the wife who has the run of the house.

But not in the case of Ms. Willie Mae Buckner of 412 E. 15th Street.

In her case, it's "Bangla" and "Billy" who have charge of that domain.

By the way, "Bangla" and "Billy" are Ms. Buckner's snakes.

That's right!

Bangla is an African Rock Python which is 11 feet in length and Billy is a seven-foot Columbian Boa Constrictor.

Ms. Buckner, who became fascinated with snakes at a very early age, now has only two snakes whereas at one time, she was the proud of owner of 23.

"I use to travel around with fairs and carnivals giving shows and lectures," Ms. Buckner said. However, now she is a driver for the Winston-Salem Mass Transit Authority.

"Snakes are basically like humans. They want to be loved just as everything and

everybody," she exclaims. "Many people think of snakes as being slimy and nasty. But, See Snakes, Page 2

Panther Leader Plans Suit Against County

by Robert Eller
Staff Writer

The Joseph Waddell Peoples Free Ambulance Service is considering filing a suit against the county for alleged discriminatory practices as a result of Monday night's county commissioners meeting, according to Nelson Malloy, Executive Director of the service.

In that meeting the commissioners approved a new franchise for the service but at the same time denied the group's request for permission to charge a fee for the service.

The commissioners approved a \$100 per month grant as a subsidy to the service but Malloy and the Panthers were not happy with the amount. In an interview following the meeting Malloy said the \$100-a-month grant was, "totally inadequate and insufficient."

According to Malloy, ser-

vice representatives wanted to offer a motion that would give the service an equal subsidy with the county rescue squads. He said that to be equal to the rescue squads the service would need to receive \$500 per month.

"In 1975 the 11 rescue squads answered about 5,000 calls and received \$13,200," Malloy said. "In the same year we answered 2,400 calls. At \$100 per month we would receive only \$1,200. That See Ambulance, Page 2

Powell Instrumental In Rehiring Officer

A police sergeant who was suspended from his job in early July for helping a bail bondsman to catch a man who had jumped bail, has been allowed to return to his job.

Sgt. J.C. Cowden, an officer with the Winston-Salem Police Department for more than eight years was suspended recently in a hearing.

A spokesman for the police department said Sgt. Cowden was suspended for 30 days without pay but through the

efforts of Orville Powell, was reinstated back on the job.

The spokesman further stated that Thomas A. Surratt, police chief, said he recommended that Cowden be fired because he was in the wrong. However, Powell was quoted as saying although Cowden was in the wrong, "it was not a mistake of the magnitude that would require a dismissal."

Police law, according to See Police Page, Page 2

Street Vendors May Help

Downtown Needs Better Atmosphere



Many merchants believe that street vendors and more outdoor activities will help improve the downtown mall. Chester Wiles feels that way too. He sells food stuffs and Chronicle newspapers on the mall.

Downtown Winston-Salem got a positive shot in the arm a few days ago when Chester Wiles decided to operate a street vender. "The downtown mall needs to have some kind of activity going on every day of the week," Wiles said. "Excuse, me sir, how about some roasted peanuts?" It was lunch time and Wiles had attracted a nice bit of business.

Wiles believes that more street vendors should operate on the mall. "It's an asset to the downtown mall," Wiles said. "It gives small enterprise a place to start." In addition, he said, "It shows that our country

is still a place of dreams and expectations that can become a reality."

Some of the merchants on the mall share Wiles' view point too. "Most of the merchants feel that having street vendors is a good idea. They've come by and congratulated me and hope that I will stay here."

Lately, there has been some controversy over the reasons for the demise of the downtown area. Some attribute the demise to winoes and the increase in the number of shopping centers. The Board of Aldermen recently assigned a special committee to study the problem. But, See Downtown, Page 12