Whatever Happened To The Class Of '69

"Not the end, but the beginning"

said the Atkins High Yearbook, 1969

...Education is a continuous process ...from the cradle to the grave...

Nine years ago the bright and beautiful seniors of Atkins High went forth to change the world. As another graduation season approaches, we looked up a few of the classmates to see: "Whatever Happened to the Class of '69."

Yvette McCullough
Staff Reporter

The senior year in high school can be a time for making preparations for graduation and making plans for college. It can also be a time for deciding ambitions, signing yearbooks and also selecting the class superlatives. The superlatives range from the one most likely to succeed or to the most popular to the best looking girl or the most athletic guy.

The 1969 Class of Atkins High School was no different. They picked their most likely to and their most populars. We decided to take a look at some of the 1969 superlatives from Atkins, that are still in the city to see- What really happened to the Class of 1969?

The honor of being "Best Athlete" went to Willie Griffin who is presently a teacher and assistant basketball and cross country coach at South Park. After high school Griffin narrowed his 115 basketball scholarship offers down to one, Wake Forest, where he became the first black to attend Wake on a basketball scholarship.

Willie Griffin "Best Athlete"

Willie Griffin-teacher, coach

In college Griffin majored in psychology and minored in Physical Education. After he graduated from college he played one year of professional basketball in Europe and nine months in Madrid Spain. When he returned back to Winston Salem he taught a year at Fairview before coming to South Park.

Alfred Adams "Best Dancer"

Griffin likes teaching at South Park and feels he's a model for the students. "My reward in life is to do something worth while and as a guidance through coaching and teaching, help these children see the light as I saw it and show them the right way to go." Griffin said.

Pamela Reynolds Murrell won the title of "Best Instrumentalist" but her career hasn't led toward the music path. Pamela works for the Housing Authority and is presently the manager of Sunrise Towers, a 200 unit apartment complex for the elderly.

Rosa Belton "Most Dependable"

Rosa West-Employed by city of Winston-Salem Recreation Dept.

"I was more interested in business because I felt I could go further in business than in music." Murrell said.

Murrell has worked for the housing Authority for seven years and has been manager for two years. She has a daughter who is a second grader at Mineral Springs Elementary.

In the future Pamela would like to continue working with the housing authority and continue working toward her degree at Winston-Salem State University in Business Administration.

Rosa Belton West won the honor of "Most Dependable" and has found that the title has followed her through life.

"Being "Most Dependable has influenced me to help others in my teaching profession, and also at my present job in the recreation department."

Rosa is a graduate of North Carolina Central University with a B.A. Degree in Elementary Education. She taught for three years in the Burlington City Schools, and is presently employed at the Recreation Department for the city. She is also presently attending graduate school at A&T University working toward her masters.

Mary Herriot "Most Popular"

Mary Herriot - Mighty Wonder Record Store and R.J. Reynolds

As for future plans Rosa would like to return to teaching.

"Teaching is something I have [illegible] to do and I won't feel I have fulfilled my goal in life if I don't return to teaching."

The honor of "Best Dancer" was won by Alfred Adams who is presently a civilian employee working for the Winston-Salem Police Department. After high school Adams attended WSSU on a Track scholarship, where he majored in Health and Physical Education.

Adams is the Coordinator of the Police Incentive Program and works with [illegible] though he is not fulfilling his career expectations he said he "can't complain."

The "Most Popular" female was Mary Herriot who works fulltime for R.J. Reynolds and part-time at The Mighty Wonder Record Shop. She thinks she was voted "Most Popular" because, "I met a lot of people at school and just about everyone seemed to like me."

Mary said that if she had the chance she would relive her high school days.

"I loved it. I wish I could go back," she said. "It was fun just because it was Atkins and because it was an all black school."

Mary Herriot said she planned to go to college and study accounting or Business Administration.

Pamela Reynolds "Best Instrumentalist"

Pamela Murrell Manager of Sunrise Towers

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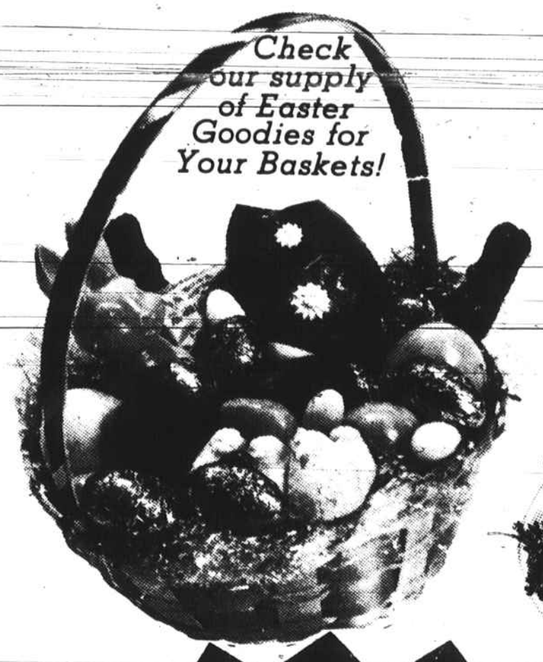

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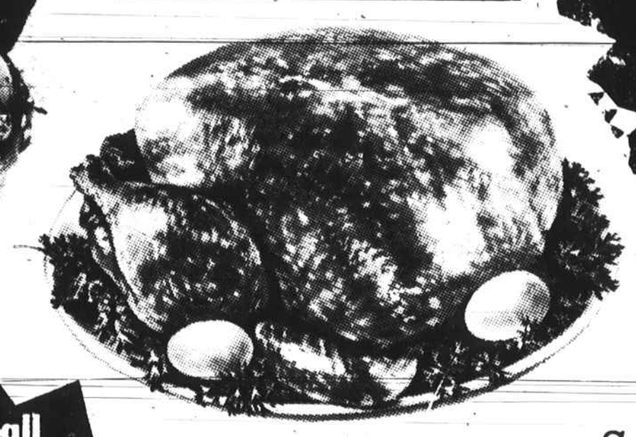

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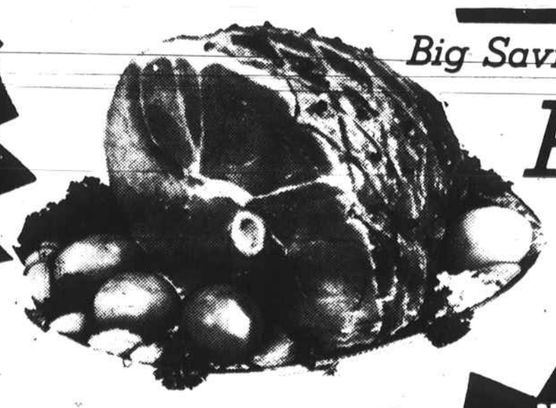

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