



A shot from across the lake at the dance pavilion of the Robinhood Park and (right) here's one for the what happened department — George Booie, manager of the park.



George Booie

Picturesque People From Days Past

You no doubt have discovered that the history of this locale is studded with some very unique characters worth learning of and remembering. Select any one and you will find a contribution in the shadows of his or her life.

Take Lee A. Smith who was a barber with white patronage. He owned a place just north of the Salem Square, across the street from the Old Belo Home. His place was built on the site of an Old Salem structure. The Old Salem Restoration Corporation bought Mr. Smith's dwelling and rebuilt the historical building.

Mrs. Lillian Smith relates that Mr. Smith, her father-in-law, was the developer and owner of the Reyno Park, an amusement park that offered swimming for the adults and rides for the children. The park, according to Mrs. Lillian Smith, was located in the Happy Hill section.

If you like music, then you would have enjoyed the pleasing sounds of Oscar Hairston, known to his peers as "Hossy Boy". His group of accompanists were musicians from their very soul. The instruments played by the troubadours consist of a bazooka, a washboard, a Spanish guitar, a mandolin, and a bass fiddle.

The group played to the farmers, during the tobacco season, at the warehouses. They were regulars at the Zinzendorf and Robert E. Lee Hotels. They had an audience where ever they performed. When they

rehearsed at Mr. Hairston's home, the yard and sidewalks were lined with adults and children.

Can you imagine five grocery stores being concentrated within a two block area. There was Mrs. Florence sales on the corner of Johnson and Second Streets, the southeast corner, and Jerry Barber who occupied the southwest corner of the same streets. John H. Ponnell who operated in the next block just west of Johnson Street, in the five hundred block to be exact, and Royal Puryear operated in the six hundred block of Second Street some years after occupying the building of John H. Pannell Grocery.

Above the Pannell store roomed two old gentlemen who were recognized as notables of the neighborhood.

One was Bill Barr who did nothing in particular that was evident of his existence and Ed Marshall who can be remembered for the saving of baseball players and Mack Sennett Girls' pictures taken from Piedmont cigarette packs.

The fifth store was operated by a white merchant, but the competition was never so great that no one made a profit. The blacks tried to effect a co-op but, they were not successful. Will Turner was another Black merchant who kept a well stocked store as all the a-forementioned.

To diversify, we have Porter Smith who operated a blacksmith shop on Third Street under the Norfolk and Western Railroad

bridge east and in the shadow of the Nissen Wagon Works building. There was George Harris and his candy store in a building on the northeast corner of Sixth and Depot Streets. Depot is now Patterson Ave. Mr. Harris was noted for his taffy which was of the best quality. The school children frequented his candy store before and after hours at the Depot Street School.

If you can remember the Easter Monday dancing at the Rose Garden, located in the Bruce Building, you are dated. Cunningham, Cam Bitting, Hooks Royal and other musicians such as

Hampton Haith, Waddell Johnson, James Young, George Hill, Schuler, Cromwell's Broadcasters, Blue Simpson and many others; rendered the rhythm for most of the gala affairs.

Mebane Intermediate School that is to be demolished soon, bears the name of the first Black woman to serve as principal in the city of Winston-Salem. Mrs. Lillie M. Mebane, according to her son, John M. Mebane, retired, U.S. Army, of Fayetteville, N.C. completed the training at Slater Industrial Academy on the 4th of May, 1897 and on May 22,

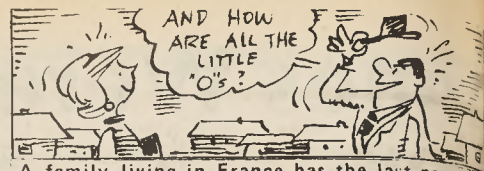
1901 she received a diploma from Slater Industrial Normal. Both certificates were signed by S.G. Atkins.

Mrs. Mebane did her practice teaching in the bevel sided structure that once stood at Bruce and Wallace Streets. Mrs. Mebane, upon completing her practice teaching, came back to instruct in the practice teaching school of which S.G. Atkins was the principal. This school was a public county school.

In 1908 William Henry Mebane and Miss Lillie McClester Hayes were married at the St. Paul Episcopal Methodist

Church at Seventh and Chestnut Streets. The Mebanes were the first to be married in the church since its completion. In the early twenties, Mrs. Mebane was made principal of Columbia Heights Primary School. She was a dedicated pioneer in the field of education and was active in the community and her church. Mrs. Mebane became ill in 1931 and did not recover; passing in January of 1932. Through the efforts of Jack Atkins, the school was named for her in 1953, honoring her for her worthy contributions.

—George Booie



A family living in France has the last name

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Park Begun By Philanthropist

Robinhood Park was completed and opened the summer of 1937. The park was developed by Aladine Robinson, owner of Howard Robinson Funeral Home. The park facilities covered 17 acres. There was a dance pavilion projecting over a lake that was used for boating. Later the lake developed into a good fishing spot. There was also hiking trails, picnic areas, camping grounds and an area set aside for baseball.

Hundreds of local youth benefited from the summer camp activities. Underprivileged youth were sent to YMCA Camp Aladine Robinson by civic groups that promoted benefit pro-

jects for that purpose. Union picnics, several churches uniting to hold their annual outings, brought thousands of lovers of the outdoors to Robinhood Park from as far away as Danville, Virginia. The park gave employment to students and others.

Aladine Robinson was a philanthropist and civic leader; having faith in Black youth. He helped many Blacks of this community by securing their educational loans. His pattern of supporting education is continued today by his widow, Mrs. Birdie G. Robinson, a retired teacher of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County School System.

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The Hanes Team



Harold Brown

Meet Harold Brown of Hanes Knitwear, another member of the HANES TEAM. Harold attended Pennsylvania State University and studied Mechanical Engineering. Before joining Hanes some five years ago, Harold ran a small manufacturing company. This background of responsibility and decision-making more than adequately prepared him for his present job with the HANES TEAM. Harold is manager of Manufacturing Administration and Staff Planning.

Harold's job is important. He collects information on Hanes Knitwear's six manufacturing plants here in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Harold collects and analyzes information such as how much the plants produce and what it costs to produce it. He also helps make sure that the policies of each plant are consistent with the others. Harold says he's a lot like a clearing house for information. The HANES TEAM needs people like Harold Brown. He helps make sure we continue to work as a team and that means a lot to us.

We're proud of our people and we want you to get to know our HANES TEAM.



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