

**Chronicle Profile**

**Mr. Bill Reaches Out To Less Fortunate**

By EDWARD HILL JR.  
Staff Writer

When Bill McClain graduated from college in 1966, he could've very well have taken his degree, gotten a job with someone's firm and lived very comfortably.

Instead, he made the sacrifice necessary to pursue his personal mission in life: to bring something special to the lives of the young and the physically and mentally handicapped.

McClain attended Atkins High School and starred in basketball, earning all-state honors in 1966. He went on to Brevard Jr. College on a basketball scholarship and later played at Greensboro College.

McClain then tried his hand at coaching for a short period as an assistant at Shaw University, but decided he wanted to do something "more meaningful."

"I've always liked to read a lot, and, in my reading, I found that the best basketball players come out of the state of Indiana," says McClain. "The reason was that they start their basketball programs at an earlier age than most areas. So I decided I wanted to do the same for the kids in this area."

McClain approached Ann Weaver, physical fitness director at the Glade Street YWCA with the idea, which proved to be good timing since the YWCA was looking to organize more programs for children.

After getting the go-ahead, McClain went out and got male and female players from Winston-Salem State University and Wake Forest University to

volunteer to help with a clinic.

Twenty-six youth, ages six through 16, signed up the first year and the clinic has steadily grown in two years. McClain says he expects 40 registrants for the next session, which begins in May.

"The one thing I wanted to avoid in this clinic was to place a lot of importance on winning and losing,"

*"My main objective is to allow (the handicapped) to have the same social outlet that the non-handicapped have."*

-- Bill McClain

says McClain. "I made it a point to de-emphasize winning and concentrate on physical conditioning, discipline, sportsmanship and social interaction. These kids have enough pressures from parents and coaches. They can easily become burned out before they reach high school."

McClain says he has since added a reading and tutorial component to the basketball clinic, "because we want to help them become as well-rounded as possible."

But the basketball clinic is only part of Mr. Bill's Productions; the other objective is to provide recreation and entertainment for the physically and mentally handicapped.

"I realize how fortunate I've been without any physical handicaps," says McClain. "Basically, I see

myself as a subcontractor to organizations like the YWCA, the Forsyth County Mental Health Center, Goodwill and the city recreation department. I get great satisfaction out of bringing some joy into the lives of the less fortunate."

Mr. Bill's Productions features fashion shows, parties and discos.

"My main objective is to allow them to have the same social outlet that the non-handicapped have," says McClain. "Fashion shows where they get to model their hairstyles and their clothes give them a real sense of pride."

Mr. Bill's Productions also provides entertainment for Willie M. youth, who are emotionally disturbed and potentially violent.

"Mr. McClain comes by on special days and holidays to play disco music and provide entertainment for the Willie M. kids," says Mary Hayes, a recreation therapist for the county mental health program. "They always look forward to his coming. He plays a role in that he helps them to execute or sharpen social skills. What he does also helps them to prepare to go back into their homes or into group homes."

While McClain says he enjoys what he does and receives great satisfaction from it, he adds that it is becoming increasingly difficult for him to continue with no funding.

"I'm going to try to find a way to continue doing what I'm doing and justify my time and efforts," says McClain. "Hopefully, someone will see that



Bill McClain, a man with a mission, checks out his equipment as he prepares to entertain the Willie M. kids (photo by James Parker).

there is a great need for these types of programs to continue and will come forward as a sponsor or investor."

**Surprise Roast Held For Moore**

A surprise celebration and roast was held recently honoring Col. Bobby L. Moore's retirement from the U.S. Army. The ceremony was held at Andrews Air Force Base Officers Club.

The reception, planned by Moore's colleagues and friends, featured the work Moore did during his lifetime.

He was presented with many gifts. Among them was a family photographic collage of his military

career with family and friends interspersed throughout.

Moore was a member of the Adjutant General's Corps with expertise in personnel management, administration and human resources. He also has combat credentials as a green beret in Vietnam, as a paratrooper and as an Air Defense Missile Officer.

He graduated from North Carolina A&T State University in 1958 and has



Col. Bobby L. Moore

served on the staffs of both the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Army. He has won numerous awards and medals, including the bronze star.

Moore is the son of Mrs. Eula M. Matthews of Barkwood Drive.

**Black Repertory Co. Slates New Play**

The North Carolina Black Repertory Co. will present Charles Fuller's "Zooman and The Sign" April 1-3 at the Arts Council Theatre at 610 Coliseum Drive. The productions will begin at 8:15 p.m. and tickets are available at the Arts Council Box Office.

"Zooman and The Sign" won last year's Obie and Audelco Awards as the outstanding play of the year. Larry Leon Hamlin will be the director and cast members will include, Ramon Moses, Johnny Poindexter, Wilson Thomas, Evia Jordan and E'lise Rodney. Ron Campbell is the stage manager, Larry Tuten, lighting designer; Steve Summers, set designer, and Duane Jackson, sound.

New York actors William Kennedy Jr., Jesse Holmes and Cynthia Pearson will be starring in the production.

In the play, a little girl,

Jinny Tate, is shot and killed while sitting on her own front steps. Her killer, a gang leader named Zooman, has no remorse for his taking a young life. But worse is the fact that the killing of little Jinny was witnessed by many of her family's neighbors on the block and none will come forward, for whatever reason, leaving the Tate family in frustration and becoming the catalyst for inner-family conflicts in addition to the traumatic experience of losing a member of the family, especially, the youngest.

**Antlers Attend Meeting**

Members of the Twin City Antlers, the Marching Unit of Camel City Lodge No. 1021 and Garden of Iris Temple No. 220, attended the quarterly meeting of the North Carolina Antlered Guard Department of the Improved Protective Order of Elks of the World.

The meeting was held recently in Goldsboro and

Captain Constance Bradley, the organizer of the unit, was accompanied by 2nd Lt. Louise Kirk, Sgt. Edna McLaurin, Col. Gladys Jackson, who is chaplain and advisor for the visit.

Kirk was appointed chaplain of the State Antlered Guard Department. Bradley received the

appointment of co-chairperson for a special fund raising project.

The local unit will be the host for the Antlered Guard personnel who will be participating in the parade May 15. The State Association Elks will be in session on May 13-17 at the local Hilton Inn.

**Club Marks St. Patrick's Day**

The Clara Nesby Home Extension Club recently celebrated St. Patrick's Day.

Mrs. Laura Crockett, Mrs. Mavis Miller and Mrs. Mildred Batchelor were the hostesses.

Mrs. Jo Ann Falls gave a presentation, "On Ideas for Better Eating." Included in

her presentation were the following guidelines: eat a variety of food, maintain an ideal weight, avoid too much fat and cholesterol, eat adequate fiber, avoid too much sugar, avoid too much sodium and include recommended amounts of iron, calcium, vitamin B-6 and zinc.

Members presents were Mrs. Elsworth Banner, Mrs. Ella Whitworth, Mrs. Ida Simmons, Mrs. Eliza Williams, Mrs. Clara Nesby, Mrs. Essie Brown, Mrs. Louise Jones, Mrs. Laura Crockett, Mrs. Mavis Miller, Mrs. Mildred Batchelor and Mrs. Louise Davis.

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