

people

Social Notes, Service News, Club News

Close-up

Multi-Talented Housewife Has 'Little People' Up For Adoption

By AUDREY L. WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

There's been a lot of hoopla about the not-so-attractive pudgy little Cabbage Patch doll and Winston-Salem resident Sandra Potter says there is no possible way she would pay the price some are paying for this season's hottest gift item.

"I wouldn't pay that much for a doll," says Potter. "I'd rather give it to a church."

The original handmade dolls of Xavier Roberts carry a price tag of \$125, but Potter, a housewife and mother of six, has been making the "Little People" (the original name of the dolls before they were mass produced by Coleco Ind., a toy company) since last year for a selling price of \$30 to \$40.

Potter, a multi-talented housewife who has been sewing since high school, says her first interest in the dolls came when she saw a little girl in her church with one of Roberts' original Little People. "I just thought her doll was so cute," she says.

Potter soon discovered the Xavier Roberts People Pals doll pattern and began making them herself. She says she's gotten better since her first creation and she now has enough material to make 31 dolls.

Her dolls are made from a polyester fabric called "southern comfort," the original material Roberts used.

"Before the dolls became popular," says Potter, "you could just go in the store and buy the material. With this fabric, you can just throw the doll in the washer."

"Those dolls that everybody's killing themselves over to have are plastic-face dolls that Coleco is mass producing," she says. "If they (customers) realized the difference, they probably wouldn't buy them."

Potter's dolls may as well be the original dolls, with the exception of Roberts' own touch. The patterns were designed by him and an assistant. Her dolls come with belly buttons, birth certificates (made by Potter), toes and the puckered faces, the same as Roberts' dolls, and she uses real baby clothes to dress them.

Her dolls can be purchased at Charles Department Store and she says the black dolls have gone over well

with both children and adults, although last year most of her customers were adults.

"I'm not really out pushing these dolls," says Potter, "and I haven't launched an all-out campaign. I'm really selling my babies by word of mouth."

As a mother and housewife, Potter says she has often found ways to save money and capitalize on her creative talents. She also makes clothes, bedspreads and macrame. Her time now is being consumed with the dolls and teaching another friend how to make them.

"When I started selling my dolls, most of my competition was white," she says, pointing out that she's the only black person she knows of who makes the dolls. "They would go to the plants and sell them there and everybody would just buy them up. When I would try to sell my dolls, some of the black people would say they were too expensive."

But Potter says when the media began promoting the

"When I would to sell my dolls, some of the blacks would say they were too expensive."
-- Sandra Potter

dolls, and consumers started buying out the stores, her business picked up.

"These dolls have been out about five years," says Potter, "and right now I really think it's just a fad. But with the birth certificate and you naming it, it's easy to imagine them being real babies."

Two of the dolls Potter displays in her home belong to her daughters and she says all the hoopla about the dolls hasn't phased them.

"My little boy hears the Cabbage Patch dolls advertised on the radio and he thinks they're mine," says Potter with a laugh. "My little girls had the dolls last year and if it had been new to them, they probably would have been just as excited as everybody else, but they're used to them."

The rarity of the original Roberts dolls are making them a haven for collectors, but Veleska Edwards, a 16-year-old Winston-Salem native, isn't about to let go of



Sandra Potter: On the way to becoming Winston's Xavier Roberts (photo by James Parker).

hers. Edwards, who coaxed an aunt into buying the \$125 doll for her in a local shop when she was 14, says it was love at first sight.

"When I saw it," she says, "I just fell in love with it and I just had to have it. When the Cabbage Patch dolls came out this year, I didn't realize they were the same as mine because Cassandra Lizzy (her doll) was a 'Little People' doll."

Edwards, whose doll came with a birth certificate and

adoption papers, says she's always been a collector of dolls, but when she saw the "chubby little black doll" in the window, she was convinced that it was the one for her.

"I'll be keeping her for a long time," she says, "and I wouldn't sell her for anything."

"It's just like someone said," says Potter, "they're highfalutin' rag dolls."

"I'm always looking for something new," she says. "There's no telling what I'll be doing next year. Maybe I'll make hats. I've always liked them."

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

•The Pacesetter's Travel Club is sponsoring a Christmas dance from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. at Roots Night Club on Liberty Street.

•John Bennes, who uses the stage name James Reard, will present the 10th holiday reading of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" at 8 p.m. at Reynolda House Museum of American Art.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

•The Winston-Salem Jaycee Women will join Jaycee Women Chapters across the nation in lighting candles of remembrance for those who died in Lebanon and of hope for peace in the year to come. The chapter is asking all local residents to place lighted candles in their windows tonight.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

•The Get Together Club of Kernersville and Walkertown will have its annual dinner program and gift exchange at 2 p.m. at the home of Maxine Johnson.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

•An adult fitness class will be held at Belview Recreation Center from 10 a.m. to noon. For more information, call Al Jones or Sharon Isaiah at 788-7381.

•Adult ceramics classes for ages 19 and over will be held at Belview Recreation Center from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call Al Jones or Sharon Isaiah at 788-7381 for more information.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

•The Winston-Salem State University Department of Music will present a Community Music Program for ages nine to adult in January. Instruction will be given in piano, beginning and intermediate levels, musicianship and handbell ringing. Call Dr. Faustina Holman at 761-2191 for additional information.

The Chronicle welcomes Community Calendar notices. Announcements should be concise and typed or neatly printed. They should include the day, time, place and sponsors of the event, plus a number to call for additional information. Announcements should be addressed to the Winston-Salem Chronicle Community Calendar, P.O. Box 3134, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102. The deadline for announcements is Mondays at 5:30.



The Greater Winston Kiwanis Club held a tree trimming party at the Children's Group Home.

Social Notes

Kiwanis Club Holds Trimming Party

As a part of its special Christmas project, members of the Greater Winston Kiwanis Club held a tree trimming party at the Children's Group Home on Dillon Farm Road recently. Bill McClain, special projects chairman, said the

project was especially appropriate because of this year's international Kiwanis theme, "Year of the Handicapped Child," and because it was a new experience for the children.

Larry Anthony, president

of the organization, said, "The project was a success as well as a great experience for our members. I would like to extend thanks our

Jackson, the Rev. L.V. Lassiter Jr. and a special thanks to our Santa Claus, Reginald Scarborough."

The Greater Winston Kiwanis Club is planning another special project at the first of the year.

Evans-Nichols

Jacqueline Vernice Evans and Denorris Carlyle Nichols were married Dec. 17 at a 4 p.m. ceremony at Friendship Baptist Church, with the Rev. S.E. Tyndall officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Bernice Cross of 100 Cassell St. and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Powell of 514 W. 125th St.

Evans is currently a senior majoring in early childhood education at Winston-Salem State University.

Nichols is employed by J.C. Walker Company.

The bride was given in marriage by her uncle, Bernard Evans. Mrs. Sharon Rawlinson served as matron of honor, while Miss Angela Evans served as maid of honor.

Bridesmaids were Carolyn Harris, Denise Norris, Michelle Evans and Carolyn Cross.

Willie Rawlinson served as the groom's best man. Ushers were Mark Saunders, Elmo Linton, Reginald Nichols and Monte Coker.

The couple will live in Winston-Salem.



Jacqueline E. Nichols

Club Hosts Party

Members and friends of the Flower Niche Garden Club held its second annual Christmas party recently at the home of Mrs. Carolyn Boyd of Wallingford Road.

Mrs. Lois Hauser and Miss Louise Smith led the party in pokeno and pinocle.

Those attending were Mrs. Florence Rennie, Mrs. Olivia Deree, Mrs. Marian Wooten, Mrs. Glennie Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Delray Hartsfield, Mr. and Mrs. James Davenport, Dr. and Mrs. Charlie Hauser,

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Dobson, Mrs. Gwendolyn Green, Clyde Davis, Mrs. Roberta Cook, 4th District Garden Club director; Mrs. Leola Sadler, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lowery, Mrs. Mary Warren, Mrs. Jessie Ballentine, Mrs. Vivienne Conley, Dr. and Mrs. Clarence Smith and Mr. and Mrs. William McKoy.

Seasons greetings were extended by president, Edythe Williams, and gifts were distributed by Mrs. Gwendolyn Green and Mrs. Grace Lowery.

Alumni Throw Party

The Brown Alumni Chapter of Winston-Salem State University held its annual Christmas party recently at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Williams on Spaulding Drive.

The covered-dish affair was planned by the social committee of Renee Streeter, Virginia Hairston and Cupid Kellum.

Members attending the dinner were Bert and John Collins, Barbara Harriet, Helen Williams, Winslow and C. Randleman Taylor, Marie Matthews, Bernice Davenport, Jean Salter, Sandra Ireland, Josie Clemmons, William Phillips, John Moore, Paul Poore, Vicki Summers, Tony Gaines, Eleanor Bryant, Lorraine Little, Annie and

Bennie Lassiter, Delores Phillips, Joniest Moses, Sadie Daniels, Debbie Daniels and Doris Moore.

Other guest and members attending were Garrett Phillips, Norman King, President Georgia Dunlap, Dolphus Parker, Darlene and Rupert Bell, Wanda Hill, Joseph Yarborough, Mildred Griffin, James Stewart, Selena Nichols and William Brown.

A plaque was presented to Winslow A. Lowery in appreciation of his dedication and service as former alumni director of the WSSU Alumni Association. The Brown Association also made a Christmas presentation to its shut-in member, Clarence Staplefoote.

Monticello Park Is Lit

On Christmas Eve, Monticello Park will be lighted by 500 luminarios as a part of the neighborhood project instituted by the Pomland Oakhills Community Club. Members of

the Forget-Me-Not Club celebrated their second annual Christmas party recently at the home of Mrs. Remele Summers of Indiana Avenue.

Correction

In the Dec. 1 edition of the Chronicle, a headline, "Bowman Gray To Start Minority Recruitment," indicated that the school of medicine was about to begin minority recruitment.

Bowman Gray is ranked 48th in minority admissions among all 127 medical schools and ninth among private medical schools. The press release did not contain the above information.