

# People

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## Close-Up

### Class of '52 hasn't changed

By AUDREY L. WILLIAMS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Lawrence "Lunkey" Wade still lugs around his camera and hasn't stopped harassing the girls -- only now they're 32 years older.

Sylvia Ford was the shy one in the Atkins High School Class of 1952 and, 32 years later, she's still that way.

Sure, times have changed. The poodle skirts and the polka-dotted, hanging bow ties are no longer the biggest fashion craze. But the only thing that's changed about the Class of '52 is that its members are a tad older.

Last week, class members got together for the first time since they graduated. They spent the weekend at the downtown Hilton getting to know each other again -- and reminiscing.

"We haven't changed at all," said Wade, who was the sports writer and photographer for the school newspaper, *The Maroon*. "I'm a still a devil. I had all the girls."

Annie P. Hairston, one of the reunion's organizers and a former member of the then-popular Etiquette Club, overheard that remark and intervened with a "Scratch that."

Most of the class members have remained in Winston-Salem and the talk of uniting once again began when Hairston and Thelma Mickens Cooper saw each other at a funeral.

The idea became reality Friday night. And, true to the cliché, a good time was had by all.

When asked about the most famous member of their class, the schoolmates had a ready answer: They are all stars.

Hairston, who was the banquet's keynote speaker, will be the principal at Kimberly Park Alternative School in the fall. School board member Beaufort Bailey, whose nickname then was "Ears," was also a member of the Class of '52, and then there's Dr. Fostina Holman, director of music education at Winston-Salem State University and Dorothy Farabee, a nursing professor at WSSU.

The list goes on.... In 1952, Atkins High was the only city school for black youth in Winston-Salem. Carver High, its biggest rival, was a county school.

It was at Atkins, the alumni said, that they were

*"We had a good, cohesive group. I guess that's the main thing that kept us together. We were segregated and the only black high school in Winston-Salem."*

-- Elliot Brown

encouraged to strive for excellence and perfection. General academic curriculum requirements meant courses in Negro history, Latin, French, geometry and physics. And Togo West Sr. was the teacher they feared and respected the most.

"He was so stern and had a shaking voice but he could really teach you some math," said Farabee, "if you weren't afraid to learn."

Although this was the first time the classmates had all gotten together since graduation day, the bond remains.



Members of the Atkins High School Class of 1952 from left to right are Mae Briston, Annie P. Hairston, Lawrence L. Wade Sr., Hazel D.

Black. Back row, left to right, are Sidney C. Royal Jr., Donald Foster and Beaufort Bailey (photo by James Parker).

"We had a good, cohesive group," said Elliot Brown, who still lives in Winston. "I guess that's the main thing that kept us together. We were segregated and the only black high school in Winston-Salem."

Integration, the classmates said, was two-sided, being both a help and a hindrance. They attributed their successes to the teachers who showed more than academic concern, a quality some say is less prevalent after desegregation.

Students commuted to Atkins on buses owned by Safe Bus Co., the now-defunct black-owned transportation business.

"We're no novice to busing," said Hairston. "We had to be bused. We were bused all our lives." Back then, only seniors got to use the front entrance; everyone else used the back. Smoking was unheard of. At Atkins, the young ladies wore dresses. Pants could get you sent home. In order to

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## Social Notes

### Staten honored



Leonard Staten, left, was recently honored with a belated birthday party given to him by his wife, Daisy Staten. Also attending the party was Mayor Wayne Corpening, standing, and Dr. Constance Johnson, right.

Leonard V. Staten Sr. was honored at a surprise belated birthday party and appreciation by his wife Daisy at the Holiday Inn West recently.

When Staten entered the ballroom, 100 guest shouted happy birthday and he was presented a birthday cake by one of the hostesses.

After the singing of Happy Birthday, Mrs. Alice Carter started the formal program. Dr. Constance Johnson gave the welcome address, and it was followed by Dr. Paul Craven's invocation.

While the buffet-style dinner was served, the Staten's daughter, Belinda Manns, sang two songs in tribute to her father, accompanied by Jim Bailiff,

minister of music at First Baptist Church.

Mayor Wayne Corpening, Dr. Paul Craven, pastor of First Baptist Church on Fifth Street and the Staten's pastor; Ms. Branelia McDaniel, speaking for her mother; Mrs. Ivy Nell McDaniel, former first lady of Union Baptist Church; Dr. R. L. Smith, family physician, and Mr. Nick Jamison, director of the city's recreation department all paid a special tribute to Staten.

Staten is a member of the city recreation commission and is maintenance supervisor for the senior citizen's housing complex.

### Bethune honored



Maxine Waters

powerful woman in politics in California; and a political force to be reckoned with in the future," will keynote the opening

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The Winston-Salem Section of the National Council of Negro Women Inc., commemorated the birthday of Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune on Saturday, July 10. Mrs. Bethune was born on July 10, 1875 in Maysville S.C.

Mrs. Bethune founded Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Fla. in 1923. She served as its president until 1942, when she entered government service. She also helped establish mission schools for black children. She received the Spingarn Medal in 1935 and was named Mother of the Century by the Dorie Miller Foundation in 1954.

The Mary McLeod Bethune Statue was placed in Lincoln Park, Wash. in 1974. Each year, the National Council of Negro Women and the National Park Service co-sponsors in Washington, programs which include musicals, plays, documentaries, speeches and personal reminiscences by persons who knew and worked with Mrs. Bethune to emphasize aspects of her life and work within the larger context of the history of black people in America.

On May 8, 1955, Mrs. Bethune died. It is with renewed dedication that the organization celebrate and launch a vigorous program to preserve and live the legacy of Mrs. Bethune. Mrs. Bethune's legacy "I leave you love. I leave you hope. I leave

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### Waters attends AKA convention

Assemblywoman Maxine Waters of California will be among an impressive array of powerful women who will address Alpha Kappa Alpha's 51st Biennial Meeting July 22 through July 27 at the Washington Convention Center in Washington.

In making the announcement, Faye B. Bryant, national president of the Greek-letter sorority, said Waters is an example of the women who have been invited to the confab to address the more than 10,000 attendees expected to participate in the AKA confab. Other speakers include Congressman Katie Hall (D-Ind.,)

and Cardiss Collins (D-Ill.), Elizabeth Dole, secretary of transportation; Dr. Ruth V. Lowe, general superintendent of Chicago Public Schools, and C. Delores Tucker, past secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In addition, Swette Charles, first runner-up to Miss America, will be the special guest at the undergraduate luncheon. Finally a power women in entertainment, Gladys Knight, along with the Pips, will headline entertainment set for Tuesday, July 24.

Assemblywoman Waters, who has been dubbed as "the most

### Yarborough is outstanding future teacher of 1984



Anthony Yarborough

Anthony Yarborough of Winston-Salem was recently chosen as Outstanding Future Teacher of 1984. The Outstanding Future Teacher Program is sponsored by the Student NCAE/NEA.

Each local chapter is asked to select its Outstanding Future Teacher(s). The selection is made on the basis of an interview by a committee of faculty and chapter

officers. The criteria for selection are membership in SNCAE/NEA, student teaching experience, leadership, scholarship and contribution to SNCAE/NEA.

Yarborough is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew L. Yarborough III of Winston-Salem. He has the highest cumulative average in intermediate education and is a cum laude graduate of Winston-Salem State University.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JULY 13

The North Carolina Black Leadership Caucus will host its 7th annual conference, focusing on legislative action and voter education at the Greensboro Holiday Inn Four Seasons from 10 a.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and playwright Ossie Davis will be the guest speaker. For more information contact Earline Perry.

SATURDAY, JULY 14

New York "Ashanti Break Dancers" will host a De'z and a Breakdancing Workshop at the C.E. Gains Center at Winston-Salem State University from 9 a.m. to noon. The cost per person will be \$3. For more information contact the Continuing Education Department of WSSU at 761-2121 or 761-2010.

The Atkins High Class of 1952 will hold a very important meeting for all class members at the Patterson Avenue YMCA at 7 p.m. The reunion is scheduled to be held in August.

SUNDAY, JULY 15

The Warren, Lowe, Chandler, Hazlip, Martin and Crouchfield families will host their reunion at the Greensboro Holiday Inn, Highway 158 in Stokesdale at 11 a.m. Dinner will follow at 1 p.m. Morning service.

MONDAY, JULY 16

Summer sewing classes will be held today through Friday at the Polo Park Recreation Center and Our House. For more information call 761-2121.

Aug. 11-17 to take in all the sights, hear on your own at the World's Fair. Make reservations now by calling the following numbers: 721-1588, 722-4662 and 722-4620.

A special part of the summer reading program today at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. and Wednesday, July 18 at 10 a.m.

### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Forms are being accepted for the 4th annual 1984 Miss North Carolina Dream Girl Pageant, scheduled to be held Aug. 15-16, 1984. For more information call 919-294-0245.

Special stamp on sale at 10 a.m. at the Winston-Salem Post Office. For more information call 761-2121.