

# Close-Up

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form of a story.

Her own parents, aunts and uncles told her stories which allowed her to expand her imagination and to develop communication skills. She says storytelling "was a great form of communication for me, and it should be a shared thing. Parents can read a story from a book or get to know it so well that they can tell it to their children from memory."

The process, she says, should by all means be a two-way street. "Parents should share their own experiences with their children and allow children to share their experiences," she stresses. "There can be a lot of growth in a single story."

During her years as a performer, Ms. Jenkins has had a pretty good view of the changes in children, and she says there have been several such changes.

Referring to today's youngsters as "space-age children" and "electronic children," Ms. Jenkins says today's young people have many technological distractions, and parents must be conscious of providing them with selectivity in what they choose to focus on.

"Children have to have thoughtful parents who will help them select what they spend their time on," Ms. Jenkins says. "Their parents have to be sure to select what they hear and what they watch so that the programs will help them grow."

She also says that she finds today's babies are stronger and are able to focus on things at much earlier ages. She attributes this to the fact that parents are exposing their children to things at earlier stages in their development.

Ms. Jenkins loves what she does, but it is not all she does. She is an accomplished table tennis

enthusiast -- and has trophies to prove it -- and she also enjoys collecting business cards. And she is very proud of the collection of spinning tops she has put together during her visits around the world.

But don't call her a "ping-pong player." She plays *table tennis* -- and would thank you to know the difference.

"I don't play ping-pong," she says. "Table tennis is strenuous, and that's why I like it. I enjoy playing and I won a first-place trophy -- although I had to win about 88 games to get it."

"I started collecting business cards because I meet so many interesting people in my travels," she says. "I meet fascinating people on airplanes and just in general. I met a lamb shearer once, and I met Minnesota Fats on a street in Chicago. He gave me his business card, which said, 'I've been Hustled.'"

Ms. Jenkins estimates that she gives about 400 to 500 concerts and workshops a year. But she is still happy with her work and has no intention of letting it go anytime soon. For now, she plans to continue to teach the world to sing.

"It's the kind of thing you just do," she says, flashing the smile that appears throughout her conversations and accompanying it with a hearty laugh. "People always say, 'Ella, do you ever get tired of this?' or, 'Ella, when are you going to retire?' As long as I feel I have something to give, I won't give it up. Besides, you never fully retire as long as you have something to give."

"I feel good when I think that I've shared some of my rhythms, rhymes and games with children, and I feel just great when I meet a child who can reflect some of my songs."

# Calendar

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registering from the same family. For more information call 722-5138.

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

• The Bethlehem Community Center Inc. is sponsoring a child-care program. Meals will be available at no separate charge to enrolled children at Bethlehem Community Child Care Center, Happy Hill Child Care Center and Kimberly Park Child Care Center. Meals will be provided without regard to race, color or national origin.

• The Miss Carolina Dreamgirl Pageant for girls 2 to 22 will be held in Mebane Saturday, Nov. 22. The pageant is a benefit pageant for International Summer Special Olympics and is being sponsored by the Hawfields Civitan Club. Entry deadline is Nov. 1. For applications and more information write: Miss Carolina Dreamgirl, Route 1, Box 206, Mebane, N.C. 27302, or call 578-2949 or 563-4356.



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MASTERCARD — VISA — CHOICE — DISCOVER

# Columnist

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"Good Morning America."

In addition to the Pulitzer, his journalism honors include the 1984 UPI Award for Best Commentary, the 1983 United Nations World Hunger Media Award, the 1978 Columbia University Tobenkin Award, the 1974 National Headliner Award, the 1974 Sigma Delta Chi Award, several Associated Press column-writing awards, two Lincoln University Unity Awards for investigative reporting, the Howard University Journalism Prize and many other honors from civic, professional and academic organization.

He served on the 1983 and 1984 Pulitzer Prize selection committee, and on the 1981 and 1982 News and Documentary Emmy selection panel for the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

A former president of the National Association of Black Journalists, Payne has worked diligently to improve media employment practices and to expand the coverage of black and Third World communities.

Payne was born on July 12, 1941, in Tuscaloosa, Ala., and raised in Hartford, Conn. A graduate of the University of Connecticut, he spent six years with the Army in air defense and in army journalism. While in Vietnam, he served as an information officer and also wrote speeches for General William C. Westmoreland.

Payne and his wife, Violet, and their three children live in Huntington, N.Y.

# Epps

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During their formative years, children spend most of their time in school. Parents play a key role in assuring that their children get off to a good start.

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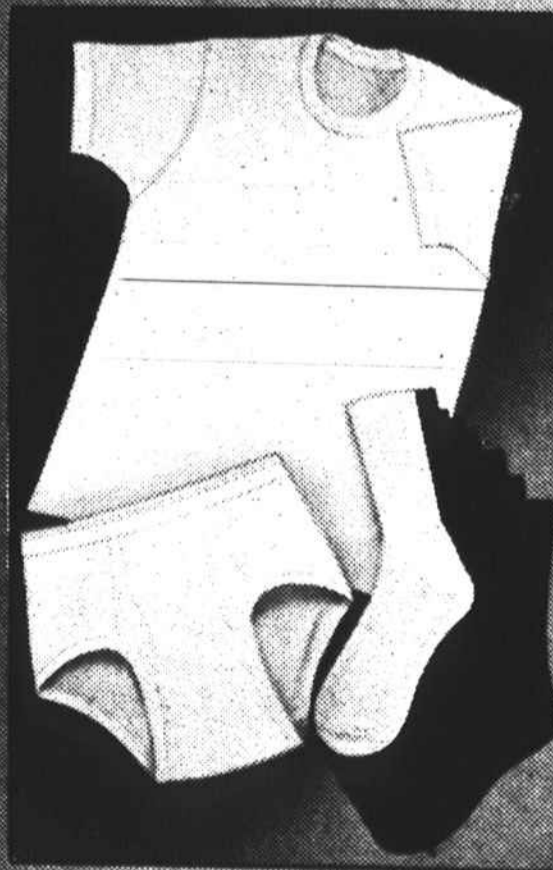
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