

## Area Weddings And Engagements

### Pigford-Lowery

Doretha Ann Pigford and Angus Lowery Sr. were married Saturday, Dec. 6, in a 3 p.m. ceremony at Union Chapel Baptist Church.

The bride is the daughter of Seretha Johnson of Winston-Salem.

The groom is the son of Walter Lowery.

The Rev. Konnie G. Robinson officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by her brother, Ronnie K. Johnson.

Serving as matron of honor was Alyce Haynie of Winston-Salem.



Doretha P. Lowery

Bridesmaids were Evette Johnson, Sharon Tucker, Norma Wolfe, Patricia Attucks, Betty Turner and Barbara Harriet, all of Winston-Salem.

Best man was James Grace Sr. of Winston-Salem.

Ushers were Clifford Giles III, Darryl Giles, Antonio Giles, Jules Giles, Angus Lowery, Dan McGill and Lorenza Wolfe, all of Winston-Salem.

The bride attends Winston-Salem State University. She is employed by Amp Inc.

The groom is employed as a brick mason and a boxing instructor for the city.

The couple will live in Winston-Salem.

### Close-Up

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often difficult for both parents to arrange to stay with their children for the duration of their hospital stay or for the entire family to be lodged.

The Ronald McDonald houses, she says, make it possible for parents to be only a telephone call away from their hospitalized children.

The Winston-Salem unit can house as many as 10 families at any one time, and Ms. Montgomery says that there is usually a waiting list. The hospitals and social service agencies generally make referrals to the house, which has housed more than 400 families in its two-year history.

The house, now decorated with Christmas trees, gingerbread houses and other seasonal decor, has a cozy, homey feel to it. Ms. Montgomery says that every effort is made to make the families feel as much at home as possible.

There is a large living room area, which looks and feels much the same as any family's living room, and a huge kitchen area, fully equipped with modern appliances.

Ms. Montgomery says families cook their own meals, and each family is assigned an area in the kitchen in which to store their food items while they are staying at the house.

But in addition to all the convenient appliances and facilities, there is something else that is perhaps even more useful to the families that make the Ronald McDonald houses their temporary homes. That is the feeling that no one is alone in the crisis.

"We're not trying to just be a hotel here," Ms. Montgomery says during a tour of the house's bedrooms. "We don't have televisions in the rooms because we want to give families a chance to get to know each other and talk to each other and share some of the things they each are going through."

She mentions that not long ago there was an instance when a child of one family had gotten sick at the house and desperately needed medication. A father of one of the other children, Ms. Montgomery says, rushed out to get the medication for the child so that his parents could remain with him.

At any home there are a few house rules that families must follow. Ronald McDonald House is no exception. Families staying at the home are responsible for keeping their rooms clean and for helping to maintain the kitchen and laundry areas.

Volunteers help out with whatever needs doing at the house. Ms. Montgomery, who also lives at the house, is the only full-time staff member of the Ronald McDonald House.

### YMCA rethinks

From Page A1

would like to have and would like to pay for," he said.

Work also has to be done on attracting more adult members, Joyner said. Of the 1,100 current members, 600 are adults, he said. Fifty-eight percent are males.

"The membership committee has been struggling with the fact that we only have 600 adult members, whereas we have the potential to serve more than that with what we offer," he said.

Joyner said the facility will suffer financially if the adult membership doesn't increase.

Since the Winston Lake YMCA is working toward generating 60 percent of its operating budget, membership fees and program fees are crucial, Joyner said.

"For every 100 members that we don't recruit, it represents \$20,000 a year," he said. "It becomes a serious problem if we continue to drop members, and it becomes a tremendous success if we can add 100 members."

To help reach the future membership goals, Joyner said, the Winston Lake YMCA wants to recruit 500 adult members over the next several years.

To attract those members, the YMCA is considering working with churches, schools, colleges and universities, he said.

"We're looking at different payment plans such as monthly, three-month and six-month plans," he said. "We're also open to suggestions."

"I think it's important that volunteers and the board and community have input into how we can encourage people to participate in this YMCA," Joyner said.

Board members can help by being ambassadors for the Winston Lake YMCA and helping to recruit new members, Joyner said.

The YMCA conducts two membership campaigns during the year. The last one, in November, netted 116 members.

Joyner said that the Winston Lake YMCA had hoped to enroll

between 150 and 200 new members. Although the effort wasn't as successful in terms of numbers as had been hoped, he said, it was successful in getting the word out about the YMCA.

"These kinds of things will help people to understand what our purpose and objectives are in the new Winston Lake YMCA," he said.

Joyner also hopes to introduce more people to the Winston Lake

YMCA at its annual meeting and awards banquet on Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. at the facility, located at 901 Waterworks Road.

With more tangible goals in mind, Joyner feels the YMCA is on the right track. "I'm still optimistic, but I also feel I'm a bit more realistic about how quickly you can move than I was 18 months ago," he said. "I still feel that we have a tremendous opportunity and a tremendous challenge."

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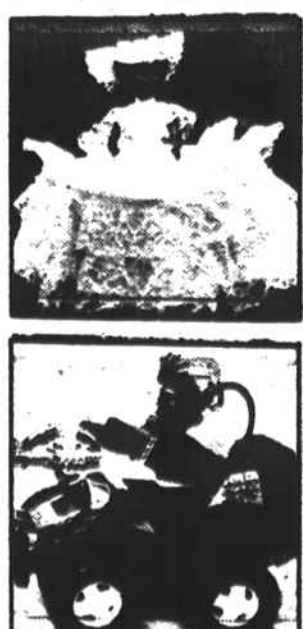
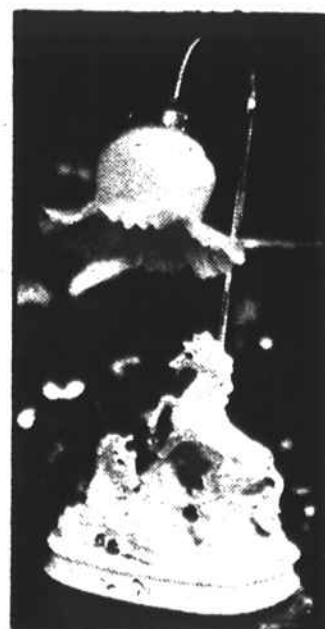
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