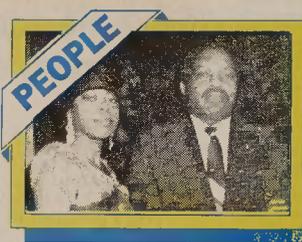


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Little sworn in; family, well-wishers witness event

TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

Larry Little couldn't have been more excited for a better Christmas present or a more important victory than the one he received Tuesday morning.

Pledging allegiance to North Carolina and promising to support, maintain and defend the U.S. Constitution, the former city alderman and Black Panther Party leader took the oath of entry into the state Bar Association.

The ceremony was a victory for Little whose bar exam scores were sealed in October by the N.C. Bar Association pending a hearing and investigation into his past asso-

ciation with the Black Panthers.

About 100 family members, friends and well-wishers gathered to praise and support Little at the swearing-in ceremony. Among them was the Honorable Judge William H. Freeman, who administered the oath to Little.

"It is a very personal delight for me to be here and to be able to do this," Freeman said. "I admire three things about Larry. One, he never does anything halfway. He also is a person that does not compromise. What he says he means and he stands behind it."

Little, 38, is a May graduate of Wake Forest University's Law School. He plans to begin private practice in late January.

"I think it's going to take me about a month to set up and I hope to get an office in the next couple of days," Little said Wednesday morning. "I'll have a general practice where I will touch a variety of areas."

Tuesday's admission to the Bar Association marked the climax of a hard fought battle, said Little.

"It's the culmination of a long, hard struggle," he said. "I had the idea I wanted to be a lawyer planted in my head 20 years ago when I read the 'Autobiography of Malcolm X'."

Little flunked out of high school during his senior year and joined the Panthers. He didn't begin his formal education until he

was 26 years old. He graduated with honors from Winston-Salem State University with a bachelor's degree in political science. Little later earned a master's degree in public administration. He thought that was the field for him until he tasted of the legal system while working with the Darryl Hunt Defense Committee, which Little founded.

"When I started the process (of studying law) in 1985, I knew I would have a struggle because of my background, my arrests when I was with the Panthers," Little said. "When the (N.C. Bar Association) sealed my test scores and called for

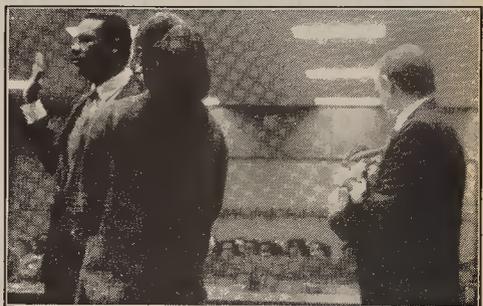


Photo by Charmane Delaverson
Former Alderman Larry Little is sworn into the state Bar Association as his wife, Glenda, looks on proudly.

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Men save family of four

City cites unemployed firefighters

TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

A mother and her three children are alive to see the dawning of the new year thanks to three Afro-

asleep.

Leonard Davis, 26, Reginald McCummings, 25, and Ervin Williams Jr., 30, were heading home after watching a Carolina basketball game when they saw thick clouds of smoke hovering over Hawthorne's home at 812 Broad St. Williams called the city fire department on his car phone, while McCummings and Davis ran to the house. Looking through the window, they spotted Hawthorne lying on the couch.

Flames had already begun to engulf the house when Davis and McCummings knocked on the door and windows, trying to get Hawthorne's attention, but she was sleeping soundly.

"I could see a foot sticking out from under a blanket," McCummings, a former firefighter with the city fire department, said. "I turned



Photo by Charmane Delaverson
Linda Hawthorne poses with two of her three children, 10-year-old Tiffany, left, and 11-year-old Chris, by the Christmas tree donated to them after the fire which devastated their home.

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"I don't think about yourself a time like that. ... I just hope someone would risk their lives to save me the way we did for her."
-- Leonard Davis

"It was about 11:25 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 7, and Linda Hawthorne had fallen asleep on the couch while watching television in her home at 812 Broad St. Her three children, Amber, 14; Chris, 11; and 10-year-old Tiffany, also were

City bank robberies rise considerably compared to last year

TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

A rash of bank robberies has plagued Winston-Salem during the last two months giving city police a fit as they attempt to arrest the perpetrators, said Captain E.L. Moreau.

There have been 12 bank robberies this year and half of them occurred after Nov. 1, Moreau said last week. There were only seven bank robberies in 1987, he said.

"There is evidently an increase in the number of bank robberies over last year, but it is by no means a record," Moreau said. "Several years ago we had 18 bank robberies and -- years before that -- one year we had 27. That involved a group of five or six people working us and High Point."

Nevertheless, the city's average number of bank robberies rests at around seven a year, he said.

If there was a bank that has been hit hard during this "robbery season", it's the First Union National Bank's Fourth Street branch. The bank suffered its second midday robbery in eight days Dec. 20. The branch at 310 W. Fourth St. also was robbed Dec. 12. Nobody has been charged in either robbery.

Other banks hit include: Piedmont Federal Savings and Loan Association at 395 S. Stratford Rd. on Dec. 12, BB&T main office branch off West Third Street on Dec. 9, First Union's Ogburn Station branch on Dec. 11 and Wachovia Bank and Trust had its Waightaville branch robbed on Nov. 1.

Suspects have been arrested and charged in the Wachovia and BB&T robberies, Moreau said.

Customers frequenting 24-hour teller machines also have been hit hard this robbery season, said Moreau.

"I can't really give a full figure for the number of after hour teller machine robberies because some of them have been done by opportunity," Moreau said. "A lot of persons have been getting money or making a deposit when they've gotten robbed, but others have just been in the area of a machine when their purse was snatched."

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Educator Hoyt Wiseman to retire after 38 years of service

TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

During the last 38 years, Hoyt Wiseman has seen Afro-American and white students united in the classroom the first time in the city-county school system and has watched the declining interest in the education profession, but still nothing makes more of an impact than seeing his former students taking active and productive parts in their communities.

Wiseman, 65, is retiring after nearly 38 years as a principal and teacher in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School system. The years have been many but they've been quickly, Wiseman said.

"The years have been good years and have gone by quickly because I've enjoyed what I've done and I've worked with some good people," Wiseman said. "When I go into a bank or a store and a cashier there calls my name and says I was their teacher or principal that makes all the years worth it."

A Winston-Salem native, Wiseman is a product of the school system he has spent his working life in, having graduated from Atkins High School in 1939. Reflecting on his childhood in the old Columbia Heights community -- where WSSU's Kenneth R. Williams auditorium now stands -- Wiseman remembers the encouragement and motivation he received from his mother.

"My father died when I was 12 years old, so the

biggest portion of our (he and his three brothers') rearing was done by our mother," Wiseman said. "She wanted us to have an education, so she encouraged and prodded us to do our very best. She always reminded us that every person we meet going up will be the same people we meet going down."

After high school, Wiseman served 32 months in the second World War and worked toward his degree in elementary education at Winston-Salem State University. He later received his master's degree from New York University and did graduate work at N.C. A&T and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Wiseman chose the education profession because in it he saw the opportunity to help uplift future generations of Afro-Americans.

"Back when I was in college, blacks chose teaching because it offered a way to be committed to raise the entire level of living of the race," said Wiseman. "Back in the fifties black leaders had a strong commitment to seeing that children learned."

But even with the education and the determination, it wasn't easy for an Afro-American to secure a teaching job in the late 1940's and early 1950's, Wiseman said, remembering spending four of his post college years working with the city's recreation department. He worked as director of the old Columbia Heights center and, even after Wiseman began teaching, he spent ten summers working

at Kimberley Park and Brown recreation centers and managing the first Winston Lake swimming pool.

Wiseman's first teaching job was at the now defunct 14th Street Elementary School. He began teaching sixth and eighth graders. He remembers a more experienced Irma Banks taking the then young and inexperienced Wiseman under her wings.

"She was my mentor then. She was always helping young inexperienced teachers, and that's something I picked up on and did later in my career," Wiseman said.

After spending about 12 years at 14th Street School in the roles of teacher and assistant principal, Wiseman went to Brown Elementary School in his first job as principal. In 1967 he was principal at North Elementary School, and, after four years, he was transferred to Forest Park Elementary School -- the final stop in his illustrious career.

Having spent so many years in education, Wiseman has seen a lot of things change in the way in which children are presented knowledge, and many of those changes have not been for the better, he reflected.

"There was a day when whatever the teacher said went," Wiseman said. "When the teacher said something, momma got it, daddy got it and then you got it."

That group of Afro-American teachers and administrators, who were so committed to instructing Afro-American youths in the history of their race and to making sure



Photo by Charmane Delaverson
After retirement, Wiseman plans to relax, do some traveling and some volunteer work.

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