

photos by Mike Cunningham

Atkins Days Are Here Again

Members of the Atkins Class of '53 shared memories at last weekend's reunion activities. At left, Rosa G. Curry, Barney Hart, Catherine Hart and Barbara Thomas review old photos; top left, Ben Griffin chats with Zelma Horton; and top right, Sue J. Porter takes a break from the festivities.

Atkins High School grads of 1953 return for 36th reunion events

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Community News Editor

Nothing was going to keep William Lowery from his 36th high school reunion festivities. He had not seen the members of his class since he graduated from Atkins High School in 1953, and this

New Jersey. "I thought it would be fun not only to see them but to share experiences and ideas and to brainstorm on our careers and our future. I wanted to see where the road had led all of us since high school."

For Mr. Lowery, the road since

coaching and serving as an official at athletic games now take up much of his time. Mr. Lowery said that his fondest memories of attending Atkins are related to his involvement with the school's Carl Diton Choral Society.

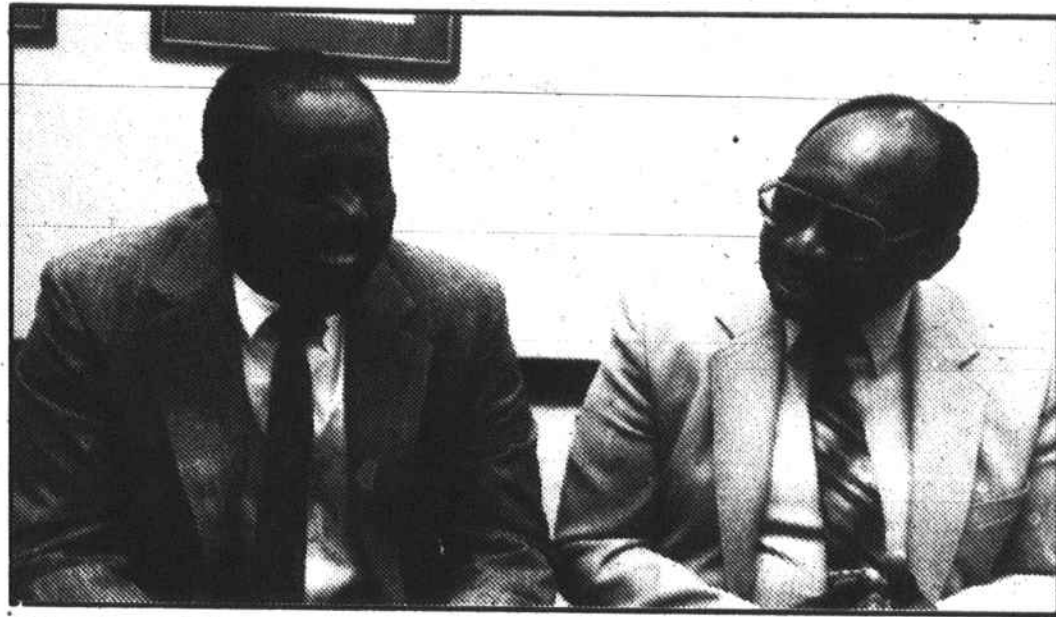
After chatting for a few minutes Mr. Lowery and a classmate, Clarence Rader, remembered that they had known of each other during their high school days at Atkins. Although they had not seen one another in 36 years, both were involved in the school's music department and remembered having run across one another in high school. Mr. Rader was a saxophone player with the Atkins band.

He had attended a reunion prior to this year's gathering and was anxious to return for the 36th anniversary reunion. So anxious, in fact, that he left nothing to chance, like a missed airplane flight.

"I flew myself in for the reunion," said Mr. Rader, who lives in Maple Grove, Minn. "It takes about five hours to fly here in my plane. I have a Beechcraft Bonanza."

Now the director of aviation for U.S. Western in Minnesota, Mr. Rader entered the Air Force after graduating from North Carolina A&T State University. He said he flies corporate executives "all over the world, literally. I've flown them to China and Europe."

After graduating from Atkins in 1953, Mr. Rader said that he found himself right in the midst of the hotbeds of civil rights activities. He was at A&T when the country was buzzing over George Wallace's vow to personally stand in doorways to block racial integration. And he was at an Air Force base in Selma, Ala., during the movement's first marches and demonstrations.



Clarence Rader of Minnesota and William Lowery of New Jersey catch up on their days in Atkins' music department.

Mr. Rader has attended past reunions and returns to Winston-Salem about twice each year. He looks forward to the reunions, he said, because he gets to catch up with former classmates who now are scattered across the country.

"I come back because I have the opportunity to see people like Bill (Lowery) that I have not seen in three years," said Mr. Rader. "It's a chance to play catch up and to

find out things about people all across this country."

It takes work to track down people who live in several different areas of the country, but the reunion planning committee has worked since February making sure that as many class members as possible were contacted. Williamae Grasty, a member of this year's reunion steering committee, said that approximately 64 class members attended the activities held last weekend at

the Holiday Inn North.

"People love to come back for the meeting of classmates. They love to come back and recognize old classmates," she said. "We had quite a few who were here for the first time."

The Atkins Class of 1953 now meets every three years for reunion festivities. The next reunion will be held in 1992 during the last week of June. Mrs. Grasty said that the class meets at the same time of year for each reunion so that class members will know exactly when to make vacation plans.

She said that the highlight of this year's reunion for her was simply the opportunity to attend the event.

"I had a heart attack in 1987 so just being there was the highlight for me," she said, noting that the class members held a special memorial service for the seven members who had died since the 1986 reunion. "I was there and I gave the welcome address. So, the highlight for me was just getting up that morning."



Barbara Nelson and Barbara H. Carvana share a hardy laugh during the reunion brunch at the Holiday Inn North.

seemed like a grand opportunity to catch up with old friends.

"I felt that it would be enlightening and rewarding to see them again," said Mr. Lowery, a civilian personnel officer at Fort Dix in

high school has included a 20-year army career, much overseas travel and life in Bordenton, N.J. At Atkins, he sang with the Hildeberg Chorus and he said that he still does a little singing in New Jersey. But

Area Weddings And Engagements

Ames-Jones

Olivet Benbow Ames and William Neal Jones were married Saturday, June 10, in a 6 p.m. ceremony at First Church of Religious Science in Chicago.

Dr. Carlton Whitehead officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Benbow of Winston-Salem.

The groom is the son of Lola

Jones of Harvey, Ill.

The bride was given in marriage by her parents.

Serving as maid of honor was Debra Smith of Chicago.

Bridesmaids were Arvella Barron of Chicago and Niki Ingram of Philadelphia.

Best man was Joseph Howard of Chicago.

The usher was Glenn Brooks of Chicago.

The bride attended R.J. Reynolds High School and received

her undergraduate degree from Smith College. She completed graduate studies at Northwestern University. She currently is a partner with James H. Lowry & Associates, Management Consultants.

The groom is a graduate of Northwestern University and is employed as a sales executive in the Sweet's Construction Information Division of McGraw Hill Inc.

The couple will live in Chicago.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JUNE 30

• Members of the Atkins High School Class of 1969 will hold a sip, chat and chew hour at Sassy's, 28th St. and Indiana Avenue, at 5 p.m. Admission is \$3 at the door. Proceeds will benefit Atkins Middle School. Members also will meet July 28 and Aug. 18.

SUNDAY, JULY 2

• The Atkins High School Class of 1960 will meet at 4 p.m. at the Summit Square Apartments club house on 12th and File streets.

MONDAY, JULY 10

• The Comprehensive Epilepsy Program will conduct a seminar on "Caring for the Child with Seizures" at the YWCA at 6:30 p.m. The program

will cover basic medical information on seizures, including first-aid, seizure medicines and common side effects and preventive measures. Child care will be available free of charge. For more information call 722-5138.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

• During the month of July, paintings by artist Bo Coble will be on display in the art and music gallery of the main library. Mr. Coble began his artistic training in the public schools.

• "FutureSight: Innovations in Art Holography" will be exhibited at the Nature Science Center through Aug. 20. The exhibit, from the Museum of Holography in New York, explains the art and science of holography.

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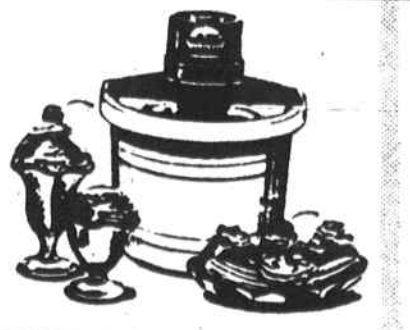
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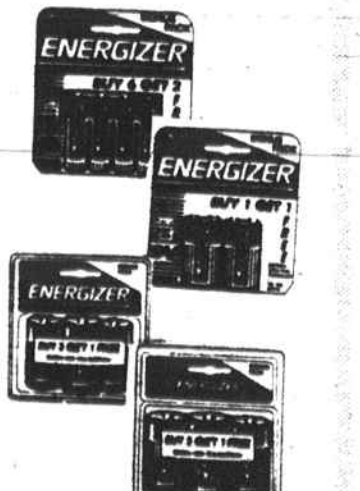
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