

Downtown comes alive over weekend with Streetscene

By PATRICIA SMITH-DEERING
Chronicle Staff Writer

They came by the thousands, by car, by skateboard, by bicycle, by motorcycle, mothers and fathers pushing babies in strollers or tugging wide-eyed toddlers by the hand, young lovers linked arm-in-arm, kids running wild through the streets crowded with the display stands of vendors hawking their wares.

And everywhere the wonderful mix of aromas from polish sausages with onions and green peppers, popcorn, cotton candy, spiraled French fries, and other culinary treats to make mouths water and delight the taste buds.

That was only part of the scene at last weekend's Streetscene. The two-day festival, produced by the Urban Arts of the Arts Council Inc. and this year, sponsored entirely by the organization, featured six stages that had specialties that would appeal to almost every taste.

There was the sensational Sandra Reeves-Phillips, well-known vocalist and actress, who held the crowd in the palm of her hand as she presented her one-woman show dedicated to "The Late Great Ladies of Jazz and Blues." But, her closing rendition of "Lean on Me," which she sang

in the movie of the same name, brought the crowd in Corpening Plaza Park to its feet.

Other favorites were the Cornelius Brothers and Sister Rose, who sang their hits from the '70s including their popular "Treat Her Like A Lady" and "Too Late To Turn Back Now."

At the end of their single concert on Saturday, they autographed photos and sold tapes, which caused one elderly black man observing the crowd to comment, "It's good to see black people making some of that money for a change."

The Chairman of the Board proved they are still "the premiere beach band." And the Voices of KMS, a local gospel group, took everyone back to church Sunday with their spirited renditions.

Returning this year was the Jazz Minister, blowing old jazz and blues tunes on his saxophone as passersby donated money in the large plastic garbage can he had placed beside him.

Aside from its entertainment, Streetscene has become known over the years for its arts and crafts. Among the more interesting by African-American vendors were the hand-carved wooden

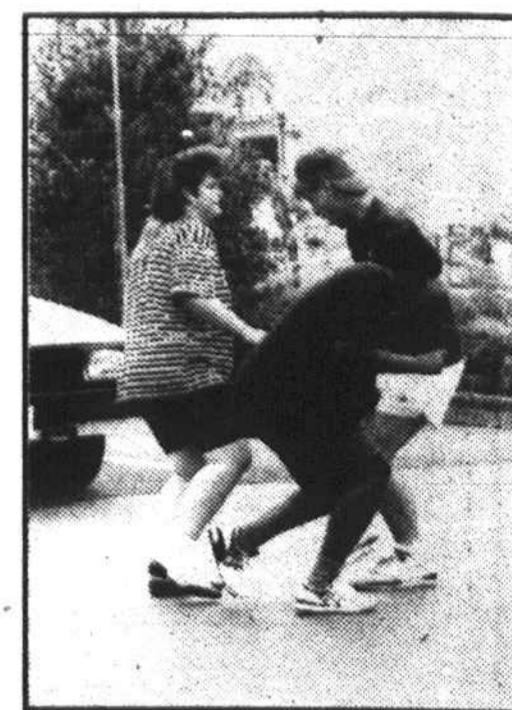
dancing dolls and soldiers made by George Servance Jr. of Thomasville, one of the folk artists and craftsmen at Folkscene.

All in all, this year's Streetscene was very successful, according to Reggie Johnson, executive director for the Urban Arts of the Arts Council Inc. Just how successful, Johnson couldn't say yet.

"We're counting the money now," he said. Because the Urban Arts could not find a sponsor for this year's event, the organization bore all of the expenses. Whether the event that seemed to be enjoyed by all of the thousands who attended will be held again next year depends on three things, said Johnson.

"A lot depends upon what we did in terms of revenue (this year), whether or not sponsors can be found, and on putting it (Streetscene) in a position to pay for itself through the concession stands."

But, Johnson is optimistic. He feels that as the community becomes more aware of how the event is funded, they will be more willing to support it through purchases of things like T-shirts, posters, and other products sold at the Streetscene concessions.



Photos by L.B. Speas Jr.
Above left, Sandra Reeves-Phillips captivated Streetscene watchers with her rendition of Billie Holiday's classic tunes; above center, Streetscene revellers jam to the music of one of the many groups providing entertainment; above right, one group of Streetscene folks couldn't resist dancing to the beat; and below, the local gospel group Voices of K.M.S. provided soul-stirring music at Sunday's Streetscene festivities.

Piedmont Opera Theatre to present Cinderella by Rossini

Piedmont Opera Theatre opens its 1990-91 season with the tuneful "Cinderella" ("La Cenerentola") by Rossini. Performances will take place on Friday, Sept. 21, at 8 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 23, at 3 p.m., and Tuesday, Sept. 25, at 8 p.m. at the Stevens Center in downtown Winston-Salem. The opera will be sung in English. Tickets range from \$6-\$20, with a \$1 discount for students and seniors. For reservations, call (919) 725-2022.

Rossini's opera varies somewhat from the traditional fairy-tale "Cinderella". The story concerns Angelina, called Cinderella because she is always cleaning the cinders from the fireplace. Her stepfather,



Gregory Rahming

Don Magnifico, has squandered the dowry left by her father, and their palace has fallen into disrepair. Cinderella's two stepsisters, Clorinda and Tisbe, treat her as their servant.

The Prince, here called Don Ramiro, needs to marry immediately or, according to his father's law, he will be disinherited. The Prince's wise tutor, Alidoro, disguises himself as a beggar and visits all the houses in the village looking for a wife for the Prince, who will be kind and loving. Of course, he recommends Cinderella, and when the Prince visits the house he falls in love with Cinderella on sight.

In due course, there is a ball, and it is Alidoro (not the traditional

fairy godmother) who ensures that Cinderella attends. Since the Italian censors wouldn't allow Cinderella to show her foot, Rossini couldn't let her leave her glass slipper as the clue to her identity. Instead she gives the Prince one of a pair of jeweled bracelets as a token of her love. Eventually, the Prince finds the lowly servant girl, who has the matching bracelet and recognizes her as his true love, Cinderella. Throughout the action, comedy is provided by Cinderella's father, who gets drunk at the ball, and by the two stepsisters in their desperate efforts to attract the Prince's attention. Rossini has filled the score with brilliant showstopping arias

and tuneful melodies, as he did in "The Barber of Seville."

The cast for Piedmont Opera Theatre's production of "Cinderella" consists of nationally known and talented local singers. The part of Cinderella will be sung by mezzo-soprano Melanie Sonnenberg, who was last seen here as Nicklausse in "The Tales of Hoffmann." The Prince, Don Ramiro, will be sung by tenor Glenn Siebert, making his Piedmont Opera Theatre debut. Siebert has performed with major opera companies both here and in Europe.

Tenor John Davies, a favorite with Winston-Salem audiences, will sing the comic role of Don Magnifico, Cinderella's father. Davies' most recent appearance here was as Figaro in last year's production of "The Marriage of Figaro." The part of Dandini, the Prince's valet, will be sung by bass-baritone Gregory Rahming, another newcomer to Piedmont Opera Theatre. Rahming recently completed a two-year tenure with the Miami Opera Young Artist Program and has earned enthusiastic reviews for his frequent appearances at the Ashlawn-Highland Festival in Charlottesville, Va.

The two ugly sisters are both Winston-Salem residents. Soprano Alice Pierce makes her Piedmont

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Newell represents city at United Nations environmental congress conference

By TRACY L. PROSSER
Chronicle Staff Writer

Alderman Virginia K. Newell's grandchildren are telling their mother to recycle, and until Newell attended a conference on environmental problems, their requests were being ignored. Now that Grandmother Newell is getting involved with environmental issues, she just may start recycling, Alderman Newell said.

This is an example of the awareness the World Congress of Local Governments for a Substantial Future is trying to begin in everyone's household. Newell represented Winston-Salem at the

congress, a conference held at the United Nations headquarters in New York City.

A portion of the stated mission of the congress reads, "Globally, local governments are often in the best position to correct unsustainable land use, construction, transportation, energy, agriculture and waste management practices of modern life."

The gathering of almost 2,000 representatives from 35 nations worldwide focused exchanging successful local strategies in an effort to implement a global environmental agenda. "Act locally, think globally," was the slogan used at the conference, said



Virginia Newell

Newell, who attended the conference in New York Sept. 5-8 in place of Mayor Martha S. Wood.

"Each country, city, or municipality, if you will, must take ownership of this earth and do what it is supposed to do," she said.

On the local level, recycling projects can be implemented before they become mandatory, as they are in some cities, Newell said.

Planting trees is another effort to improve the environment that can be made on the local level. "Trees make the good air. They give us oxygen and take on the carbon dioxide," Newell said. She

said people at the congress told her that many nurseries are willing to donate trees, and she would like to get local groups to plant them.

Many people are not concerned about the trees that were knocked down during the tornado last year, Newell said. She would like to see a tree per month planted in the city, she said.

One of the biggest problems to the environment is the transportation system, which contributes to pollution and the depletion of the ozone layer. Local solutions to this involve car pooling, Newell suggested, and the construction of a rail system

between Winston-Salem and Greensboro.

"At the end, we created an international secretariat with a council similar to the United Nations," Newell said. The responsibility of the secretariat will be to monitor the environmental problems globally, she said.

In 1992, the group will participate in the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development. The secretariat could also be involved in planning regional conferences of local governments immediately following the conference.

Robinson gets another chance to run for School Board

By TRACY L. PROSSER
Chronicle Staff Writer

Vernon Robinson, a well known Republican African-American, will get his shot at running for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education.

At an emergency executive session of the Republican Party of Forsyth County Monday, Sept. 10, Robinson was elected to fill the vacated spot of Gary W. Templeton, a Republican candidate who withdrew from the school board race exactly 90 days before the election.

On Aug. 21, the Forsyth Coun-

ty Board of Elections ruled that Templeton could not be replaced on the ballot. Their decision was consistent with a ruling by the North Carolina Board of Elections not to allow Marshall A. Rauch of Gaston County, a candidate who withdrew from the race for state senator, to be replaced on the ballot.

A Supreme Court judge overturned the state board's decision and the ruling was not appealed. Subsequently, the local Board of Elections decided to allow a replacement for Templeton to be placed on the ballot.

The two Republicans vying for the candidacy were Robinson, categorized in the meeting as a theorist, and Peggy Bodenheimer, who has extensive practical experience with school involvement.

Robinson is an assistant professor of business at Winston-Salem State University. In addition to running for the school board before this year, he made an unsuccessful bid for State Senator in 1988.

In nominating Robinson, Nate Pendley told the executive committee Robinson was a proven campaigner who has instant credibility

on educational issues and a high visibility in the community. "He is a proven fundraiser," Pendley said. "He'll get 5,000 votes out of East Winston the other candidates won't get."

Robinson said he supports letting parents choose which school their child should attend. He said he would like real school reform, not just money added to the school system budget.

"Having lost three elections in a row," Robinson said after he was selected, "this feels a whole lot better than that."



Vernon Robinson

Rescue Mission to celebrate 23 years of service to Winston-Salem's homeless

Chronicle Staff Report

The Winston-Salem Rescue Mission will be celebrating 23 years of dedicated service to the homeless in Winston-Salem on Sept. 17. The public is invited to a special anniversary service which will be held at 7:30 at Gospel Light Baptist Church, Walkertown, N.C.

At this service, recognition will

be given to those who have helped this ministry provide an open door to serve the homeless 24 hours a day for 23 years.

Testimonies will be shared by those whose lives have been changed over the years.

A report of the accomplishments of the Rescue Mission will be given by Rev. A. Neal Wilcox, who has served as executive director of

the ministry since he and his wife Barbara, who serves as his secretary, came to Winston-Salem at the request of the newly formed board of directors in June 1967.

There will be special music and Dr. Fred Brown from Chattanooga, TN, will be the special speaker. Dr. Brown is a well-known evangelist and conference speaker.

The Rescue Mission opened its doors on July 22, 1967 to the homeless, hungry and hurting with 25 beds. It has since expanded and now cares for up to 85 homeless nightly.

In 23 years the mission has provided 425,832 nights' lodgings to the homeless. The kitchen has provided 1,181,441 meals to the hungry. There have been 10,562

men housed and 37,048 articles of clothing given.

Thousands of items of furnishings have been provided for the needy in the Mission Outlet Stores at 705 North Trade Street and the corner of Oak and Seventh Streets. Over 19,190 services have been held with an attendance of over 359,812 and 1,056 professions of faith and rededications.

The mission director, staff and board, as well as the thousands of clients who have been ministered to, thank the community for its financial support, donations of usable items, words of encouragement and prayers for the past 23 years.

Together they have made a great impact on the Piedmont of North Carolina.

COMMUNITY NEWS DEADLINES ...

The Chronicle welcomes community news and calendar items. Announcements should be concise and typed or neatly printed. They should include the day, time, place and sponsors of the event, plus a number to call for additional information.

Announcements should be addressed to the Winston-Salem Chronicle Community News, P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102.

The deadline for announcements is Monday at 5:30 p.m.