

COMMUNITY

New Book Describes Career of Renown Artist Ernie Barnes

▲ "Good Times" mural painter to have autograph signing at Special Occasions bookstore Saturday

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

The last time Ernie Barnes came to Winston-Salem, it was 1963 and he was a tough offensive guard with the Denver Broncos professional football team.

Barnes, a native of Durham, is returning to the city Saturday as a refined artist, hoping to interest people in his first book, *From Pads to Palette*, which describes his transition from professional football to becoming an artist.

"I was an artist when I was a football player," Barnes said from Durham on Monday. "The difference is when playing football you operate under different moral codes."

Barnes, 56, said his book is a story about perseverance and overcoming the hardship of suppressing his artistry to prove his manhood.

"Football was the path I had to take before I could emerge as a whole person. Art was always a part

of my consciousness," he said. "My mindset was always that of an artist, but it lowered the masculine quotient to be an artist, so I had to suppress that while playing football."

Barnes' career started at Hillside High School in Durham and he earned a scholarship to North Carolina Central University, where he majored in art.

Barnes said he kept mental notes throughout his five professional seasons with the San Diego Chargers and the Denver Broncos.

After he left Denver, Barnes



Ernie Barnes will sign autographs from noon to 3 p.m.

had a brief stint with the Saskatchewan Roughriders in the Canadian Football League, but an injury cut short his career.

At 26, Barnes decided he had proven his manhood on the football field and it was time to develop his art. His early paintings were mostly themes relating to his athletic experience, but he has spanned a 30-year career of painting all aspects of life.

Barnes' paintings received national attention in the 1970s from the television show *Good Times* and his appointment as the official artist of the 23rd Olympiad in Los Angeles. But over the years, his art has gained collector strength through the prestigious Grand Central Art Galleries in New York City.

Football was an emotional release that had outlived its usefulness, Barnes said. "I was a shy person, so naturally I was forced to go inside for happiness. That's what the book is about — surviving the hazards of being a male and holding on to your dreams."

Barnes' book has sold out at bookstores nationally since its publication in October.

He will be at Special Occasions Bookstore, 112 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Saturday from noon to 3 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE

A public meeting before the Public Works Committee concerning the rerouting of traffic from Waughtown Street to Fayetteville Street will be held November 14, 1994 at 7:30 pm in the Board of Alderman Committee Room, second floor of City Hall.

All interested citizens will have an opportunity to be heard relating to the proposed plan.

Church Hosts Anniversary

Bethlehem African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Pfafftown will observe its 113th year of service to God and the community on Sunday, November 13, the anniversary theme, "Reflecting on the Past, Serving the Present, Looking to the Future" will serve well to exemplify this day of celebration, praise and thanksgiving.

Commencing the day of jubilation will be the 11:00 am worship service during which the pastor, Reverend William H. Puryear will deliver the message centered upon the anniversary theme.

The annual Fellowship Dinner will follow the morning service leading up to the 3:00 afternoon program. The Reverend Clifton Griffa, pastor of Neely Grove A.M.E. Zion, Gastonia, will be the guest messenger. The church family of Neely Grove and the choir will accompany Rev. Griffa who was a former pastor to Bethlehem.

The anniversary theme will embody the afternoon service during the reading of the church history and a memorial in tribute to deceased members ("reflecting on the past"); organizations will present gifts of appreciation to the church ("serving the present"); as youth and young adults participate on program and through music rendered by Bethlehem's choir ("looking to the future").

According to old records and memoirs of the late Luther W. Pace, Secretary Emeritus of the church, and other older members, it has been established that Bethlehem A.M.E. Zion church was organized in 1881. There was no structure at the time. Indeed, the members gathered and worshiped in brush arbor as they made plans for their church. The first deed was actually recorded in 1888. Trustees listed on this deed were Charles Bailey, Henry Sprinkle, and Granville Glen. Many of their descendants are active in the church today.

Through the years, many other members and organizations have labored with love; and through their efforts and the very present help of God, the Women's Service Council was empowered to sponsor this anniversary celebration. Mrs. Elizabeth Howell is the president and Dr. Irene Pace Hairston, the program chairwoman. Current members include Mrs. Mozelle Miller, Mrs. Annie M. Jones, Ms. Mattie Gamble, Mrs. Ida Lash, Mrs. Virginia Anthony (honorary) and Ms. Nicie Lambeth (honorary).

Rev. Puryear, the sponsors, officers and members invite all to attend. The church is located 6475 Yadinville Highway.

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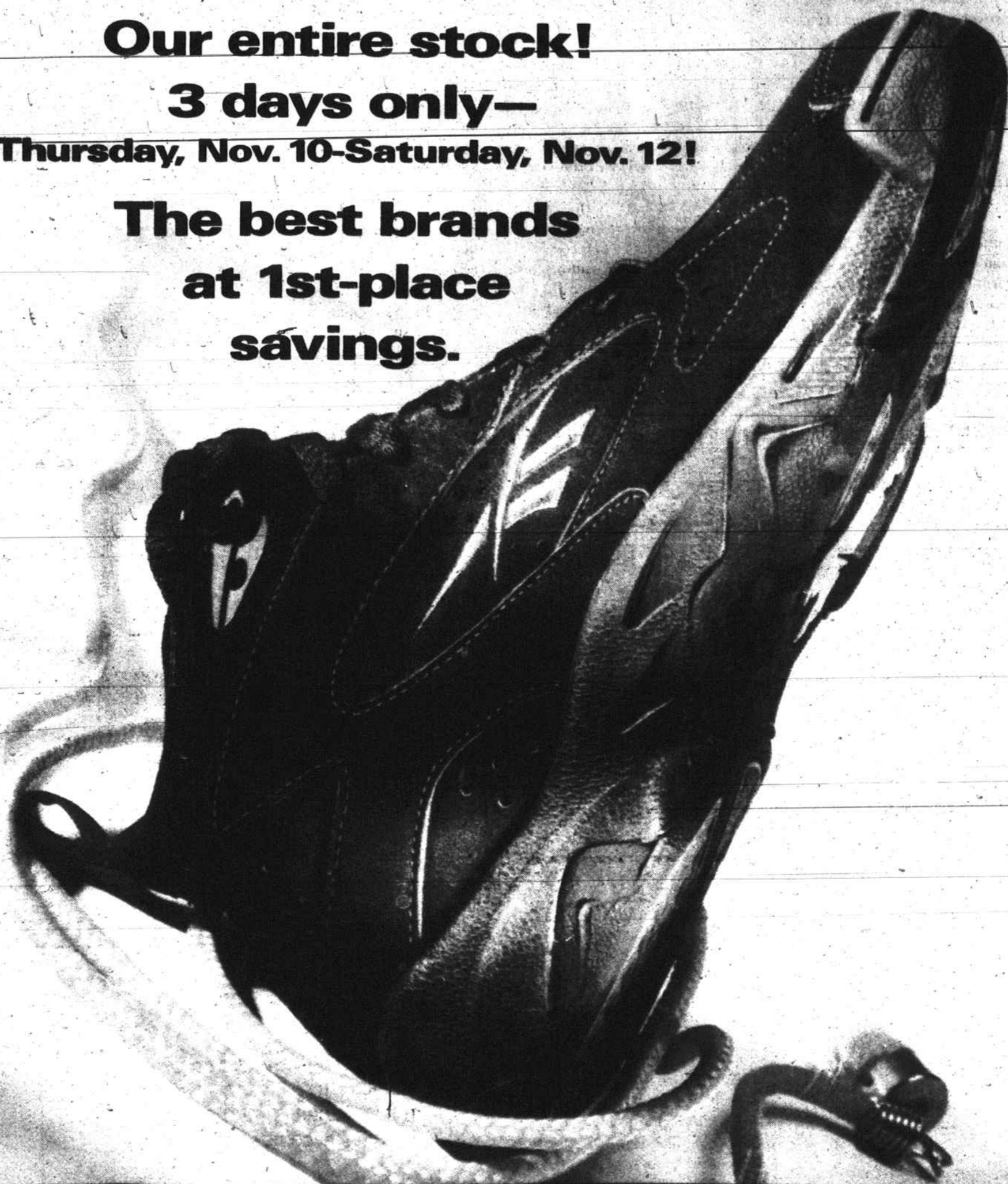
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