

**TRIBUTE**

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E. Alston, said, "It is a great feeling to see this marker. We tried to get this done once before, but we were unsuccessful. Now, here it is."

Mayor Carolyn Allen was pleased that the Red Wings were formerly recognized as a part of Greensboro's history. She discussed the importance of baseball to America yesterday, today and in the future. She thanked all who made the event possible and deemed the ceremony and marker "a very appropriate honor."

The Rev. Belvin J. Jessup gave the invocation, and the Rev. Preston C. Jones Sr., pastor of New Goshen United Methodist Church, performed the dedication of the historical marker. Anthony Taylor, grandson of third baseman Herman Taylor, issued the welcome. Betty Artis shared the history of the team, and James Tonkins introduced the special guests. Tonkins also presented a special plaque to T. Dianne Bellamy-Small for her dedication and hard work in promoting the team and preserving its memory and history in the community. Pamela Shoffner acknowledged the sponsors of



James Tonkins, formerly second baseman for the Goshen Red Wings, presented a plaque to T. Dianne Bellamy-Small for her dedication in organizing this tribute for the team.

organized in the early 1930s in the Goshen Community under the leadership of Frank Bristol Morris, the principal of Goshen School. Goshen School was the elementary/high school for all black children from the surrounding communities of Mt. Tabor, Red Hill, Stoney Hill and Climax. It also served as a center for community activities and was the original home of the Goshen Red Wings.

The Goshen Red Wings began as a sandlot baseball team, competing against other community teams around Guilford County. Competition was fierce. Two of the community games that attracted large crowds were the Collins Grove community and the St. Peter community. And since many of the players had ties to North Carolina A&T, they looked forward to the annual Easter Monday game against A&T. Other teams came from Stoney Hill, Red Hill, Guilford, Mt. Zion, Terra Cotta, Florence, Bass Chapel, Summerfield, Jackson, and in Randolph County — Randleman and Staley.

In 1947, the Goshen Red Wings became an organized ball club under the leadership of Arthur Crump, Sam Kelly, F.B. Morris, Elreta Alexander, and Muriel Watkins. After become a part of the Carolina League in 1947, the Goshen Red Wings became the Greensboro Red Wings and played against league teams such as the Winston-Salem Pond Giants, the Charlotte Black Hornets, the Raleigh Tigers, the Durham Bulls, the Danville All Stars, the Norfolk Royals, and the Richmond Giants. The players made very little money, but their objective for playing was the sheer love of the game. The Goshen Red Wings were one of the first Negro League teams to play in War Memorial Stadium.

Martha Donnell recalls that when the games moved to the stadium, the Goshen crowd followed. Still dressed in their Sunday fines, the citizens of the community would "pile into" the few cars and trucks in the community. Her cousin drove a large truck for Woods Coffee and Tea, and many of the people rode with him on the truck. "They really supported that team, and they yelled so loud. It was really something" Donnell said.

Several players also played with National Negro League Teams such as the Cleveland Buckeyes, the Kansas City Monarchs, the Indianapolis Clowns, and the Baltimore Elite Giants. The team continued to play until the mid 1950s, and sports caster Charlie Harville would attend the games and cover them for the media. By this time, blacks were being admitted into the major leagues, and interest in the Negro leagues declined.



Charlie Harville, former sports caster for WFMY-TV of 40 years, talked with Eugene Evans about the Saturday afternoons on the field, as they headed toward the picnic tables for lunch.

the event. The audience joined in a rousing chorus of the Negro National Anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing." The Rev. Andrew W. Brown Jr., superintendent of the Greensboro District of the United Methodist Church, did the closing prayer, and the Rev. W.L. Gladney blessed the picnic meal. Although it was not written on the program, the audience joined in the singing of "Take Me Out to the Ball game" as they hugged, laughed and talked on their walk to the field for a picnic.

For the Goshen community, baseball was more than just a game. It was "a family affair, a social event that helped to bond the community and give the people a sense of pride," said T. Dianne Bellamy-Small, who organized the event. Everyone in the community was involved in some way, and the association enhanced the spiritual bond among them.

The baseball game was the only entertainment they had to look forward to, according to Martha Donnell, who also helped organized this event. According to her, the community strongly supported the team. More than 400 people would come out on Saturday evenings to enjoy the game and meet with friends and family. The ladies of the church would sell hot dogs, lemonade, homemade ice cream, snow balls, hamburgers and serve roasted peanuts to improve the church and the community. The children played games and ran errands to get water and drinks for the players. People would gather under the big shade trees to watch the Goshen Red Wings in their "Sunday-go-to-meetin" finery.

The Goshen Red Wings were

**FESTIVAL**

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is "An International Celebration and Reunion of Spirit." Black theaters from Europe, the Caribbean, Africa and the United States will perform more than 25 productions during this "marvtastic" week of celebration. Theater artists, administrators, producers, presenters and scholars from Brazil, Cuba, Jamaica, Bermuda, London, Ghana, the Republic of Benin, Nigeria, South Africa, and America, including the Pulitzer Prize winning playwright August Wilson, will address issues relating to world black theater.

Wilson and other scholars will participate in an International Colloquium/Workshop entitled "The Black Theatre: The Black Family on Stage." The workshops and seminars are free and open to the public.

Celebrity performances will be presented by Glynn Turman and Barbara Montgomery in "Do Lord Remember Me," Dick Anthony Williams and Lincoln Kilpatrick in "Dink's Blues," Ella Joyce in "Fences," Andre De Shields and Mary Bond Davis in "Ghost Cafe," Micki Grant in "Sunbeam," Ntozake Shange in "elington is not a street," and Karen Malina White in "Chain."

In addition, actress, singer, producer, and director Hattie Winston, as well as Anna Maria Horsford, will attend the festival. Winston's Broadway credits include "The Tap Dance Kid," "Two Gentlemen of Verona," and "The Me Nobody Knows."

Horsford became one of America's best loved women during her five-year run as "Thelma Frye" on NBC's "Amen."

The powerful musical "The Glory of Gospel" will open the 1997 National Black Theatre Festival. This exhilarating musical documentary was written, choreographed and directed by Mabel Robinson. Robinson's work is not strange to the Winston-Salem, Piedmont Triad area, or for that matter, to the world.

Acclaimed artist and sculptor Donald Brown will unveil his bronzed bust of Larry Leon Hamlin during the festival. A native of England, Donald Brown studied at Wolverhampton, England, where he received a bachelor's honors degree in fine arts sculpture.

Stephanie Mills and Theresa Merritt, from "The Wiz," will be honored during a day at the 1997 Festival, Tuesday, Aug. 5. Mills played the diminutive Dorothy, and Merritt played Dorothy's loving "Auntie M" in the movie version of "The Wiz." Festival participants will be able to mingle with Mills and Merritt at the elegant, grand Celebrity Reception.

Another highlight to expect at the festival will be the reunion of two television icons, Ja'Net DuBois and John Amos of "Good Times" fame. They will both receive the Sidney Poitier Lifetime Achievement Award on Monday, Aug. 4.

The Youth/Celebrity Project, another component of the

Festival, will allow young people of all ages from around the country to interact with celebrities and theater professionals. Individuals and companies that wish to sponsor tickets for youth to attend some of the productions may contact the North Carolina Black Repertory office. This program is free to participants.

Also the Vendor's Market will be located at the Benton Convention Center. It is a bazaar comprised of vendors from around the world displaying and selling their unique wares.

The Reader's Theatre will present Theatre Conversation at Midnight and Before High Noon Stagecoach Shootout Redux. These readings will showcase 15 or more new plays by up-and-coming playwrights. Garland Lee Thompson, director of the Frank Silvera Writer's Workshop, will once again serve as curator of the series.

The 2nd Biennial NBTG Golf Tournament will be held at Reynolds Park Golf Course on Saturday and Sunday Aug. 9-10.

Olivia Thompkins, theater enthusiast, has already purchased her tickets. She has attended this historic event since its beginning in 1989. In fact, Thompkins has even followed the festival to Atlanta. "I enjoy it. There is nothing else like it. It gives you the kind of spirit that keeps you moving, looking, listening and wanting more of what you see. You get to meet so many new people, and it is very exciting," Thompkins said.

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