

At 100, woman looks back on life

By JEN YOUNG
THE CHRONICLE

Maxwell Banks Grier never thought she'd live to see 100. When she was a child, a close relative died at that age. A very young Grier reasoned 100 marked the end of the road.

"I always thought that when I got to be 30-years-old, I'd be going too," Grier said with a chuckle.

"But that did not happen. I'm still here."

Wednesday, the retired educator turns 100. In the 70 years since she passed the mythical age she figured would mark the end, Grier has carved out a life for herself. She married "the love of her life," raised a daughter and helped raise five grandsons — all of whom are ministers. She voted for the first time and earned a bachelor's and master's

degree — the latter at age 60.

"It's been a full life, she says. People want to know how I got to be where I am," she said. "At first I didn't have an answer. The only thing that came to me was live right. That is the thing that I've tried to live all the way through."

Humble beginnings
Grier was born Dec. 2, 1898 in Statesville. Her mother died when she was almost three and her father

had a tough time caring for the active toddler.

"My hardest time was from 2 and a half to three," she said. "My father tried to take over but there wasn't much he could do. He had his work to do."

The youngster spent time in several homes before finally ending up in the care of the late Millie Ann Aery.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1998

Thanksgiving blessing

Six generations of family gather for holiday feast

By T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The Dillinger-Miles family will follow a Thanksgiving ritual familiar to millions of families across the nation today.

The turkey and ham will be meticulously prepared with lots of tender loving care, and then slowly baked in the wee hours of the morning.

Loved ones will begin pouring into the cozy house around noon, armed with sweet potato pies, potato salad and other holiday favorites carefully packaged and safeguarded with aluminum foil.

And just before heads are bowed, prayers are said and bread is broken — every available chair in the house will be dragged to a large dining room table.

But the Dillinger-Miles clan isn't your typical family. And they have six remarkable distinctions to prove it.

This Thanksgiving, six generations of Dillinger-Mileses will be huddled around the table as the big bird is sliced.

"It's not too many people who have lived to have six generations," family matriarch Nina Dillinger said. "Everyday I just thank the Lord."

Although 89-years-old and hampered by arthritis, there is no question that Muh — as many of her great-great-grandchildren affectionately call her — is the ruling matriarch of the Dillinger-Miles family.

On this particular morning, as Dillinger slowly walked across the street from her home to her granddaughter's house, many family members — young and old — formed a human shield around her, protecting her from the traffic and the November chill.

"The children are awful good to me. I appreciate all of them. I don't have no complaints at all," Dillinger said.

Dillinger is also the keeper of the family's oral history. She traces the family's roots to the tiny town of Mulberry, where her grandparents were raised, and where her great-grandparents were slaves.

For more than 60 years now, the family has called Winston-Salem home. Dillinger moved here from Lenoir with her late husband and their only child Jewell Miles.

Jewell Miles and her late husband have four children — Ninette Bass, Junell Sawyer, Vivian Cunningham and Lee Miles.

Jewell Miles' children have 10 children combined.

Although, over the years, marriage and maturity have caused addresses and last names to change, the family says they are closer than ever.

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Members of the Dillinger-Miles family pose on the front porch. Six generations of the family will gather today to laugh, eat and enjoy each other's company.

CIAA tourney makes move to Raleigh

Locals say loss of tournament will hurt

By T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Hobart Jones is a little disappointed but not shocked.

After bringing tens of thousands of fans and millions of dollars to Winston-Salem, the CIAA will leave the Twin City for Raleigh in 2000.

Jones, a Winston-Salem resident who's been a fan of conference for as long as he can remember, said although he enjoyed having the tourney in his own backyard, he understands why CIAA officials wanted a change.

"Sometimes you can put up a lot of money, but if the people don't come out and support it, it doesn't make a difference," Jones said.

Jones added that restaurants and other businesses could have done more to appease tournament-goers since many visitors argued that "the whole town shuts down at 10 (p.m.)."

The CIAA — a 12 school conference comprised of historical black colleges and universities — is the third most profitable basketball tourney, trailing only the ACC and Big East tournaments in revenue generated.

In a statement released last week, Bernard Franklin, chairman of the CIAA Board of Directors, said Raleigh was chosen for a variety of "financial and non-financial factors."

"The deciding factors in selecting Raleigh as the new host city were its proximity to all member schools including three in the host city area, more opportunity for student involvement, a state-of-the-art facility with more lower-level seating and expanded opportunities to attract corporate support," Franklin's statement reads.

Officials in Winston-Salem, Raleigh, Fayetteville and Richmond had been hard at work preparing bids since early this year. Although Winston-Salem officials put on a good face, most admitted that with Raleigh, they faced a more than formidable competitor.

"I'm a little disappointed," said Ben Ruffin, co-chair of the Winston-Salem CIAA Steering Committee. "I was thoroughly convinced that we had the best proposal."

At more than \$2 million — Winston-Salem's bid was the most financially sound. The vote to move the tournament was also close, with five board members voting to leave the tourney here and six voting for the move to Raleigh. No other city received votes.

Ruffin — who also serves as chairman of the UNC board of governors — said Winston-Salem

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Judge's report could help exonerate magistrate

By T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

When a magistrate sentenced a local woman to five days in jail for ringing a bell, it left many questioning magistrates' treatment of African Americans and the amount of power they wield.

A month later, those questions are still being asked.

Leaders of the NAACP, officials from the Forsyth County Sheriff's Department and a representative from criminal magistrates court met with Chief District Court Judge William Reingold on Nov. 16.

Sheriff Ron Barker and NAACP President

Bill Tatum were among those in attendance at the meeting, according to sources.

"Basically the meeting was held to find out what Judge Reingold has learned in terms of possible violations with the magistrate's office," Tatum said last Friday.

The magistrates' office has been under the microscope since the jailing of Loretta Horne Oct. 27 by Magistrate Stacie Onders. Horne went to the the magistrate to get information.

After twice ringing an intercom in the lobby of the Magistrates Court — located on a ground level of the Forsyth County Detention Center — Horne was handcuffed, charged with contempt of court and slapped

See Bell on A11



Harold Fields reads to children at Hampton Elementary School in Greensboro. Fields was recently awarded the William Anderson Service Award for his work with children. See story page A4.