

RELIGION

Mount Zion holds Valentine's program

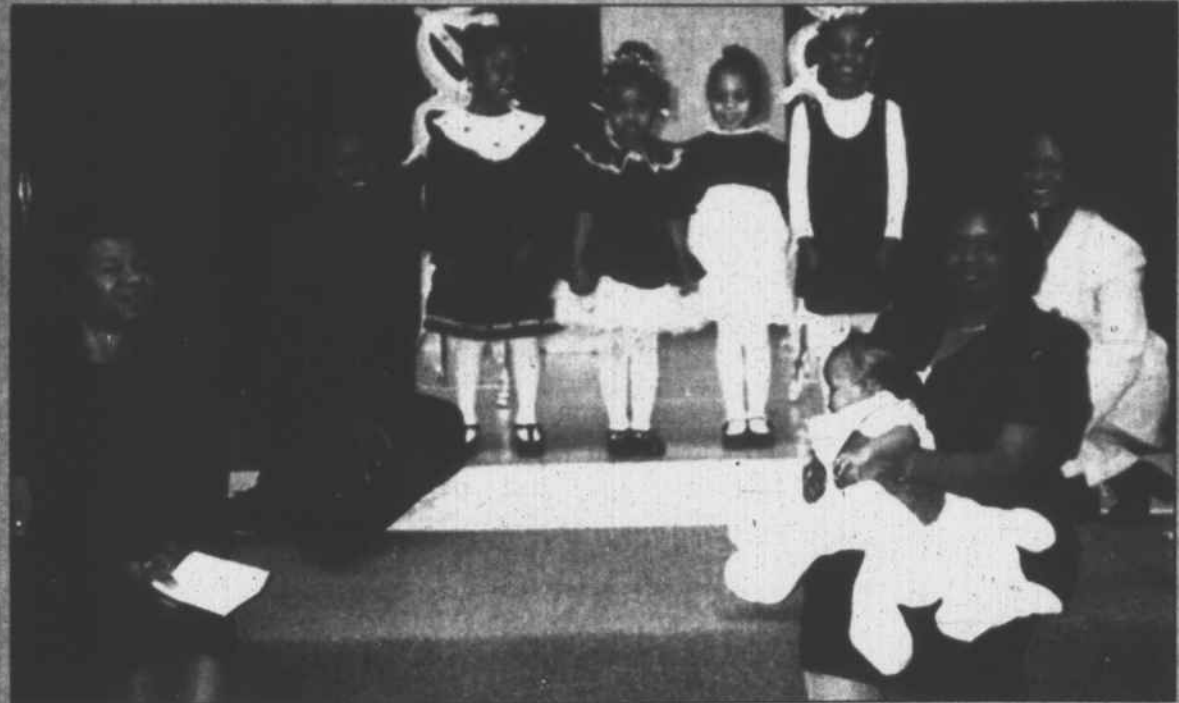


Photo by C.B. Hauser
Pupils of the Mount Zion Baptist Church Sunday School's Cradle Roll and Beginners Class pose with their teachers after they entertained the Sunday School on Valentine's Day. During the program the children quoted Bible verses and sang songs showing how they should love, obey and respect God as they love, obey and respect their parents. The teachers are, from left, Joan Blackney, Kristy Franklin, Chandra Irvin and Jackie Lane, who hold Jacona Lane. The pupils are, from left, Nia Franklin, Bailey Franklin, Kelly Gibbs and Genice Lane. Blanche Robison is Superintendent of Mount Zion Baptist Church Sunday School and Nadine M. Clements is Superintendent Elect.

WSSU Choir to perform at Hanes CME

Special to THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem State University Choir will be featured as special guests at Hanes Memorial CME Church, 819 North Highland Ave., Sunday at 10:55 a.m.

The choir's visit is sponsored by the College Ministry.

The Winston-Salem State University Choir is one of the oldest student organizations on campus. There is evidence to prove the choir actually predates the Department of Fine Arts, of which it is now a part.

In the illustrious past of the choir, names such as Noah Ryder appears as one of the founding fathers of both the choir and the

Department of Music. After Noah Ryder, the choir was led by Dr. James A. Dillard.

Other composers/conductors include Dr. Roland Allison, Dr. Permilla Dunston, Dr. Robert Morris and Dr. James B Kinchen Jr.

The choir is now under the direction of D'Walla Simmons Burke.

The ensemble has performed commissioned works such as "On Imagination" and "I, Too" by Undine Smith Moore, "Recent Reflections on Deep River" by Michael Williams and "Come Sunday" arranged by S. Van Dixon.

The choir also performs with the Winston-Salem Symphony

Orchestra and the Gateways Festival Orchestra when major works are programmed.

The choir received a \$1,000 cash award and trophy from the American Negro Spiritual Festival in Cincinnati in 1991 under the baton of Burke.

In 1993, the choir was invited by the National Black Music Caucus in Nashville to perform as one of the featured choirs.

In 1997, the choir was the only state university group to perform during the inauguration of the governor.

The choir is known for its renditions of Negro spirituals and South African arrangements and is sought after throughout the southeast.

Lyons' co-defendant feels 'retried'

By LISA HOLEWA
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LARGO, Fla. — The Rev. Henry Lyons' co-defendant angrily told a prosecutor Monday she was "being retried all over by you," after he informed jurors of an earlier embezzlement conviction.

Bernice Edwards' lawyer later rested his defense case.

The embattled Baptist leader is scheduled to speak March 6 for the one day session of the Rowan Baptist Association. The event will be held at New Bethel Baptist Church.

Until now, the jury hearing the racketeering trial of Lyons and knew only that she was on federal probation when hired as public relations director for the National Baptist Convention USA, which Lyons led.

Pinellas County Circuit Judge Susan Schaeffer ruled Monday that defense lawyer Paul Sisco had "opened the door" for prosecutors to cross-examine her about the 1993 felony conviction by questioning her about it and a misdemeanor conviction for petty theft.

"That is correct," Edwards replied curtly, when asked by Assistant State Attorney Bill Loughery whether she had been convicted of conspiracy to embezzle. The jurors were not told she embezzled the funds from a Milwaukee school.

"I paid the restitution for it and I completed the probation in its totality. ... Today, I'm being retried all over by you," she said.

"Yes, I'm sorry for a mistake I made over seven years ago. But I'll share this: I worked for my money. I earned my money. And I spent it the way I saw fit."

It was her third day of testimony. Lyons opted last week not to take the witness stand to defend himself against allegations he and Edwards swindled more than \$4 million from companies seeking to market products to convention members.

Prosecutors say the pair used the money to finance their own lavish lifestyles, buying a \$700,000 waterfront home, diamond jewelry and luxury cars.

"This was my money. I worked for it. I earned it," Edwards angrily told Loughery earlier Monday. "I conducted my business this way because this is the way I did business."

Her lawyer has described the Milwaukee woman as a



Rev. Lyons

struggling single mother of three who was "brought along as window-dressing" by prosecutors hoping to convict Lyons.

Lyons' lawyers have said his failed business deals are not criminal matters.

Prosecutors began calling rebuttal witnesses Monday afternoon, beginning with a Globe Life Insurance Co. executive who told jurors the company paid the convention for a mailing list of its touted 8.5 million members, not a list of African-Americans, as Edwards testified.

Judge Schaeffer told jurors she hoped to have the case to them by the end of this week to begin deliberations. Closing arguments could begin as soon as Tuesday afternoon and are expected to last two days.

Lyons also is charged with grand theft, accused of stealing almost \$250,000 from the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith intended to rebuild burned black churches in the South.

He also faces a federal trial in April on 54 counts of bank fraud, wire fraud, extortion and money laundering.



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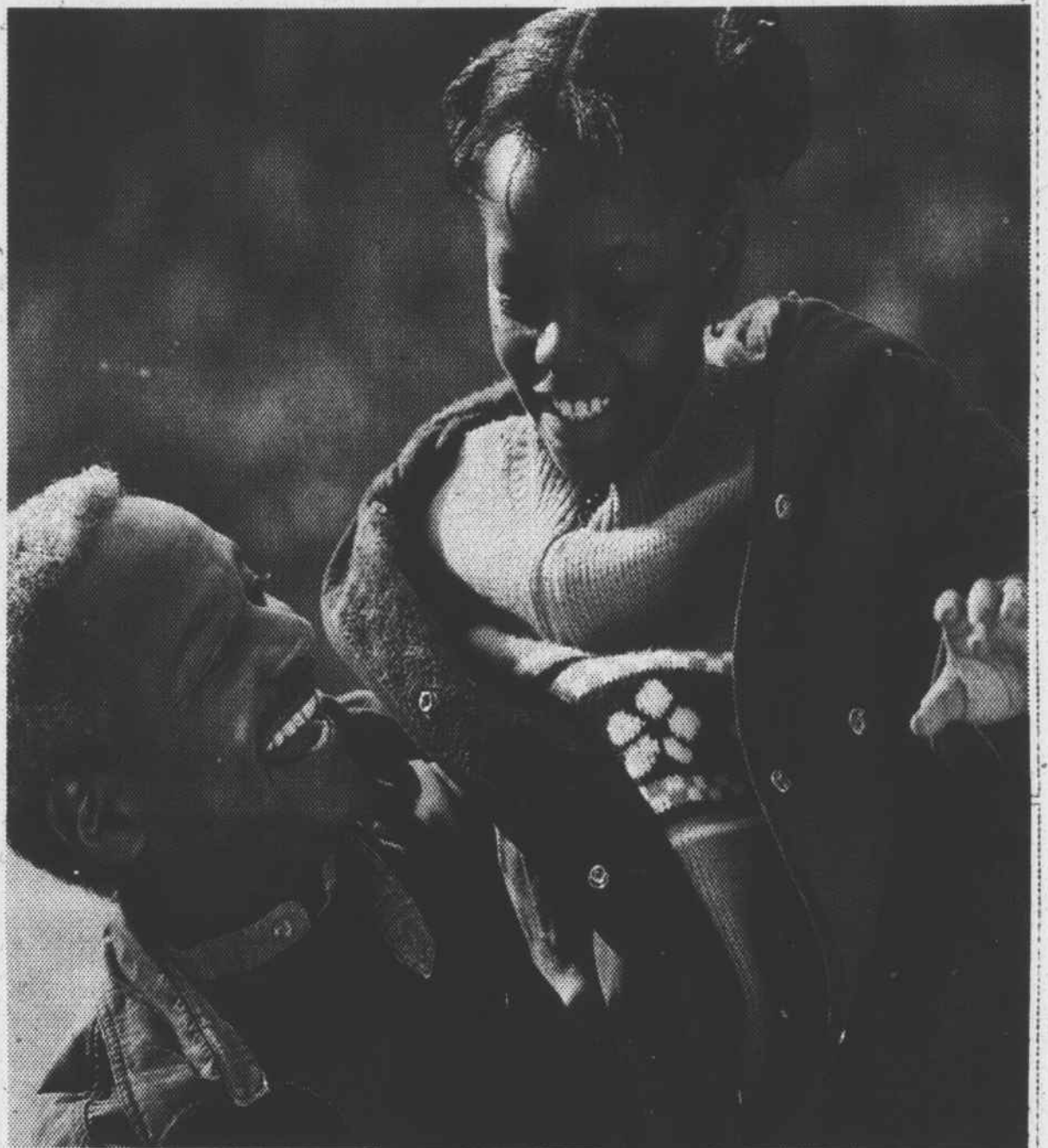
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