

# What's happening!

By Bob Johnson

HOLIDAY FUN...Thanksgiving according to history books was a time set aside by the Pilgrims to give thanks to God for a good harvest, and they celebrated with special services, huge turkeys, dancing and overall relaxing from the toils of everyday life.

Today it is a tradition to set aside this time and give thanks to God for a good year, and to do some celebrating, much in the same manner as the Pilgrims. However the Pilgrims didn't have a Midway Lounge or a proprietor as affable as Mike Cotton, which brings us to the reason for this little composition.

Brother Cotton for the last 3 years has honored his friends on Thanksgiving day with an anniversary party. It is his way of saying to them "thank you for your participation during the year."

This year's bash was the biggest and best yet according to Mike. There was more food, a wider assortment of beverages, more pretty women and better music. The fun began around 8 p.m. and the mood was set by the tune "You Plus Me Equals Love" by The Undisputed Truth. The fun filled evening was characterized by a lot of dancing, laughter, picture taking and just plain getting off.

Some of the friends whose ears still ring with the tune of number 250 on the box are Jimmy Strickland, Shirley Robins McKay, Tasta Cherry, Delores Woods, "Chocolate" Sullivan, Phyllis Holt, Barbara Floyd, Christine Osborne, Virginia Massey, Jimmy Smith, Darrel Taylor, Carolyn Hailey, "Killer" Lloyd, Walter Brewer, Marshal Smith, Hazel Freeman, Diane Simmons, Butch Simmons, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard White, Mr. and Mrs. James Duncan, Lotus Wright, William Galloway, Shirley Moore, Karen McGill, Judy James, Doris Jett, Art Norman, Freedy Scott, Michael Tolar, William Boger, James Byrd, Vernal Osborne, Bruce McClure and Jimmy McKee.

Yes Willie and Dave, you missed a real whoop-it-up party.

TESTIMONIAL DINNER...A testimonial is a statement or statements testifying to a person's good character or to his worth, not necessarily monetary. When you add the word dinner, this means you get to eat while listening to or participating in the testimonies.

Last Saturday night at the Omni International Hotel in Norfolk, Va., I had the pleasure of attending a very warm and moving testimonial in honor of Jack Holmes, the first black disc jockey in Virginia. On October 4, 1947 black history was made in radio. On November 27, 1976 black history was made at the Omni in the form of a testimonial dinner given by the Irresistible 14.

The program, which had as its theme "Ain't That Black Enough," consisted of cocktails, entertainment by Nickey James' Trio and Blood Hollins group, dinner and dancing.

Joe Fisher, operation manager for radio stations WCKO-FM and WRVD-AM in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, was the MC for the program. Joseph Jordan, Vice Mayor of Norfolk, Joe Medlin, National Director of Brunswick Records, Manny Clark of WGIV Radio, Father Walter C. Barrett, Associate Pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church of Norfolk, Va., Henry Allen president of Cotillion Records and Chuck Harris president and treasurer of Irresistible 14, an organization composed of a group of professional men in the record industry whose aim is to assist in promoting the progress of black people in the record business, were just a few of the people sharing the head table with the honoree Jack Holmes.

Hosea Williams, head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Atlanta Chapter was scheduled to be the guest speaker. However, due to bad weather in Atlanta his plane was terminated. Even though Mr. Williams didn't show, the spontaneous remarks from the guests seated at the various tables who knew Mr. Holmes, and were helped by him at one time or another in their careers, gave the program a uniquely spirited and honest flavor.

Mr. Jack Holmes, a pioneer in this business spoke very emotionally about his family, the experiences that he's had, and the multitude of friends he has acquired as evidenced by the turn out.

Some of the people who helped to share in this moving experience were Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Harris of radio station SRC in Durham, Bob Jones of WEAL in Greensboro, Manny Clark of WGIV in Charlotte, Stan Price of Delite Records, Leroy Little an independent record promoter, Kit Massie of ABC Records, Melvin Moore of PY Records, Milton (Butterball) Smith of TK Productions in Miami, Fla., Stephanie McCoy an independent promoter, Harold Morrow from Durham, and Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Smith of ABC Records.



Bob Johnson

## Miss Brenda Davis Is Bride Of Elder Wilbert Swaringer

Miss Brenda Jean Davis became the wife of Elder Wilbert Marshall Swaringer Jr. in a beautiful 4:30 p.m. ceremony that was held on Saturday, November 27 at the United House of Prayer For All People at 2321 Beatties Ford Road. Elder Stanley Guy officiated.

Mrs. Swaringer is the daughter of Mrs. Mattie Davis, of 3124 Southwest Boulevard, and the late Mr. Hughie Davis.

Elder Swaringer is the son of Mrs. Consuwalla Lynch and Mr. Wilbert M. Swaringer.

The wedding ceremony took place with music being done by Elder Harold Rice and Mrs. Sophia Goodman, as organists, and Mrs. Thomasina Jackson and Mrs. Betty Clapman, as soloists.

The bride was elegantly dressed in a white chiffon gown with a portrait neckline. The gown's bodice was made of embroidered Alencon lace and the bishop sleeves were chiffon with embroidered Alencon lace adorning the cuffs. A cummerbund accented the waistline of the skirt which flowed into a long chapel train. Her headpiece was a floor length mantilla which was edged with the same Alencon lace that adorned the bodice and sleeve cuffs.

The maid of honor was the bride's sister, Ms. Iris Howard of Washington, D.C. She wore a floor length knit cerise gown with a scooped neckline and a cape. Her headpiece was of a matching knit fabric.

Wearing floor length knit dresses with scooped necklines, the bridesmaids, Gwendolyn Dunlap, cousin of the bride, Yvonne Fentress, Barbara Bell, Ozelma Smith, Katrina Davis, and Regina Davis, sisters of the bride, were beautifully arrayed in colors of the rainbow. Their headpieces also matched their gowns.

The junior bridesmaids were Michelle Howard and Rhoda McMichael. The flower girl was little LaShanna Patton.

The groom's best man was Elder Hubert Swaringer, of



MRS. WILBERT MARSHALL SWARINGER JR. ...She was Miss Brenda J. Davis

Philadelphia, Pa. His ushers were Edmond Dunlap, Elder D. Styles, Elder W.E. Rouse, David Flowers, Elder H. Dillard, Elder J. Wynn, Roosevelt Bell and Hughie Davis, the bride's brother. The candle lighters were Roosevelt Bell, Jr. and Carlton Baxtor. The ring bearer was Edmond Dunlap, Jr.

The mother of the bride wore a cerise knit floor length U-necked gown with long tapered sleeves and a drape. A rhinestone pin accented the front of her gown at the waistline. She wore a white corsage.

The bridegroom's mother wore a knit two-piece baby blue gown that was trimmed with old-fashioned lace. She also wore a white corsage.

The former Miss Davis is a graduate of York Road High School and Central Piedmont Community College. Presently she is employed by the Providence Convalescent Residence. Elder Swaringer is a graduate of Norfolk State Col-

lege and an employee of the United House of Prayer in Bronx, New York.

After the ceremony and a beautiful reception, which was held in the Social Hall of the Church, the couple left for a wedding trip in Atlanta, Ga. They returned to Charlotte on December 1. When they leave Charlotte they will travel to New York, where they will reside.

### Garinger To Present Musical "Oklahoms"

"Oklahoma" is the first fall play for the Garinger High School drama department.

The musical play will run from Thursday, December 9, until Saturday, December 11. Performances will begin promptly at 8 p.m. in the Garinger auditorium, said a statement from the drama department.

Tickets will be sold at the door, \$2 for students and \$2.50 for adults.

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