



JOHN "BUBBA" BRANNON
...Enjoys playing checkers

John "Bubba" Brannon To Celebrate His 108th Year

By Cynthia Bell
POST Staff Writer
John "Aqua Bubba" Brannon of 435 Woodvale Place will celebrate his 108th birthday on Friday, April 14, 1978. He was born to the late Mr. and Mrs. Green Brannon in Spartanburg, South Carolina in 1870. Mr. Brannon now resides in Charlotte with his niece, Mrs. Laurel Twitty.

"Aqua Bubba" was married to the late Viola Brannon. He received his education after he had reached his manhood. His niece, the late Mrs. Willie Mae Porter, who taught in the Charlotte school system, taught him.

A carpenter by trade and a brick layer, Mr. Brannon and his brother James helped construct the Independence building and many of the other buildings in downtown Charlotte.

A former resident of the Old Brooklyn area (East Vance Street), Mr. Brannon enjoys playing checkers and watching baseball. "Aqua Bubba" still leads a spry, active life. He can be seen walking in the community talking with his friends, one of whom happens to be Frank Jaro who manages the A & P Food store on West Trade.

"You haven't heard a tall tale until you hear him tell one," says Mrs. Mattie Caldwell, his great niece. He loves to reminisce about the old days, telling tales about his father who was a slave. He also likes to tell tales about the days when used to hunt. "Possum and 'coon were his favorite things to hunt and he misses hunting them very much.

Mrs. Caldwell plans a small family party on Sunday evening, April 16 at 4 p.m. on her lawn at 908 Tracy Drive. She hopes to have six generations of their family present for the celebration.

For those of you who are forever complaining about your aches and pains, "Aqua Bubba" offers his remedy: Take a BC

Powder and drink a Pepsi Cola every morning and you'll never have any pains. He partly attributes this to the fact that he has never had any major sickness in his lifetime.

Even at his age, Mr. Brannon still journeys alone to Spartanburg and Asheville to visit his nephew and niece. Walter Rodgers and Cleve Lindsey are his 82-year-old nephews that he visits in Spartanburg. In Asheville, North Carolina, he visits his niece, 87-year-old Mrs. Bernice Littlejohn.

A faithful member of Ebenezer Baptist Church on 733 East Trade Street, he also has five great nieces and nephews, 42 great great nieces and nephews, and 33 great great great nieces and nephews.

City Offers

Tips For

Spring Cleaning

With the warm, Spring weather bringing out the Spring cleaners, the City's Sanitation Division and Clean City Committee offer these suggestions for disposing of trash.

Yard trash and tree and shrubbery trimmings: Lawn trimmings, shrubbery clippings and leaves should be placed in metal or plastic containers no larger than 32-gallon capacity which have covers and handles (cardboard boxes are not acceptable). Care should be taken to keep trash free of dirt and rocks. The trash will usually be collected from the curb; but, if placed in regular household trash cans, it will be collected during backyard pick up. There should be no more than three 20-gallon or two 32-gallon cans total for backyard collection.

Tree and Shrubbery trimmings: Tree trunks, branches and limbs must be no longer than five feet or wider than four inches in diameter.

UNC-Ch Dean Says

Babies Influence Parents As Much As Parents Influence Babies

By Carol Boren
Special To The Post
CHAPEL HILL—Babies influence parents just as much as parents influence babies. "Parents have been so trained in this country to assume they are shaping the child. But in any human relationship, both people change each other," says Dr. Ira J. Gordon, Kenan professor and dean of the School of Education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"The whole idea," he says, "is to say, 'look, the baby is doing things to you as well as you doing things to the baby.' Parents must look at each baby's behavior and who each baby is rather than assuming they can make that baby who they want, because they can't."

"Parents also need to be prepared for the fact that raising children is not all roses and sweetness," Gordon says. "If parents get anxious and tired, it's normal."

Based on experiments conducted in Gainesville, Fla.,

Gordon has formed what he calls the "Four P's" of early parent-child development: ping pong, passion, perseverance and patience. These stages are discussed in Gordon's latest child development book—"Baby to Parent, Parent to Baby."

If the four P's are observed, he says the parent can learn much about the child and be able to respond effectively to the child. And, a child also can achieve a positive approach to the world during the first year of life.

During a ping pong activity, Gordon explains, baby and parent are especially attentive toward one another. They participate in games like playing patty cake in which everyone wins.

Eye-to-eye contact or mutual gazing helps parent and child convey the message of love. Gordon says that mutual gazing is a crucial element of expression of passion between parent and infant.

Perseverance in parent-child

relationships is another necessity. Gordon believes that baby-sustained behavior or perseverance is critical throughout life. Parents must learn to allow a baby to get interested in something and stay with it without disruption, unless it might harm the child.

The behavior from a child's point of view is always sensible, Gordon says. Parents must learn to be patient with the child's expression of his individuality.

Gordon explains that these four P's occur throughout the child's first year and all of family life, and that each child responds at a different rate.

Gordon says he would not want anyone to read a book on parenting and assume that every bit of behavior is critical, or if the parent does one thing wrong, the child is doomed.

"Parents should not view the child's age or any other single factor as the critical variable, because a child dev-

elop at his or her own individual rate. For example, some parents might say that the baby should be smiling because he is 3-months-old, but that isn't always the case," Gordon says.

"Once a parent understands that the baby develops at his own rate, the parent can escape guilt feelings they might otherwise have," Gordon says. "If parents get those guilt feelings, they tend to be in moderate in their treatment of their child. They may smother and overwhelm the child."

"I think you have to maintain a sense of balance and a sense of humor about child-raising. No one thing, short of violence, that you do to the child is going to be that significant," he says.

"One element in child abuse is caused by the parents' lack of understanding of this pattern. Parents may demand too much from their children and punish them because they can't perform," Gordon

says. During the initial year of development, a child needs to begin establishing a sense of competency, Gordon says. Parents can strengthen this, he says, by learning when to step in and out of the child's action with the environment. Children who lack this autonomy are often raised by doting parents.

"Children should be able to grow without the love relationship changing. The personal relationship changes so that the child becomes your peer. You each share together ideas and plans."

Gordon's new book, "Baby to Parent, Parent to Baby," represents 10 years of work in which the parent-child interactions during the first year of child development were observed. Approximately 225 low-income families in Gainesville, Fla., took part in the research, which was part of a project sponsored by the Fund for the Advancement of Education of the Dept. of Health,

Education and Welfare. Gordon also attributes his expertise to his parenting of two children and his wife's influence. Based on his own experience and observations, he has written a total of 10 books and co-authored three others.

Gordon came to UNC-CH in 1977. Previously he spent 21 years on the College of Education faculty at the University of Florida at Gainesville.

Since 1965, Gordon has conducted several research projects supported by grants from the U. S. Office of Education, National Institute of Mental Health, Office of Child Development, U. S. Children's Bureau and the Fund for Advancement of Education.

Some of his early education studies have included infant stimulation, parent-child transactions and infant competence, improving the development of culturally disadvantaged children and studies of socio-emotional development.

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