

Bob Johnson

What's happening!

FESTIVAL TIME...It's that time of year again. Time for the annual Anita Stroud Festival in the Park. For those few of you who may not be familiar with this magnificent lady and some of her accomplishments, let me enlighten you.

When twenty year old Anita Stroud, from Chester, S.C., stepped off the bus in Charlotte some 60 years ago, she brought, along with her belongings, the dream of finding a job and saving enough money to buy a large farm to "raise all the children nobody else wanted." Miss "Neet," as she affectionately called by her children, hasn't gotten the farm yet, but as a friend once told her, and she agreed, she's got the most important part - the children.

Miss Stroud didn't give birth to any of "her" children. But she has given them what she says every child needs: "food, a home and someone to love them."

Even though she is ill right now, Miss "Neet" is at home making preparations to hopefully accompany her children to camp for the 40th summer. Eighty years

old, and stricken with diabetes and arthritis, this woman with boundless energy is responsible for sending a countless number of children to camp over the years. These are children who would otherwise be unable to experience camp living because of the economic situations in which their families live. She sends not only children from her Fairview Homes neighborhood, but from all over Charlotte and the surrounding areas.

Before she became ill, once a week you could find Miss "Neet" teaching Bible classes to her children (anywhere from 25 to 60 children, depending on the number that showed up) in the trailer in her backyard. You'd also find arts and crafts classes in that trailer once a week, and on holidays there were parties.

In Miss Stroud's apartment, there's a wall covered with awards. Among them is a plaque, dated March 29, 1971 from the President of the United States, commending Anita Stroud "for her humanitarian efforts" and "exceptional service to others."

Miss Stroud tells our children a way of life - responsibility, self-respect and determination. She says, "They need hope. They need to believe in something. They need to learn they're worth something. They need love."

The Anita Stroud Foundation, in its sixth year, was created to perpetuate the work of Anita Stroud. It's our obligation to help our children, and to show this "Black Angel" that someone else cares and appreciates. Anyone willing to help, mail contributions to: Anita Stroud Foundation, 300 Hawthorne Lane, Charlotte, N.C.

June 16 is the date for the 6th Anita Stroud Festival. It will be held in Anita Stroud Park, located between Fairview Homes on Oaklawn Avenue, and Double Oaks Apartments on Double Oaks Road. The festival will be sparked with many activities - local bands will perform and disco music will be rendered by local disc jockeys along with performances by local dance groups, just to name a few. If last year's festival is any indication, then this year's will be a real great affair. The public is cordially invited to participate in this function.

MAY FESTIVAL..."To Be Young, Gifted and Black" is the theme for a May Festival presented by "Project ME". Project ME is a hand on the arm of the Youth Services Department on the body of the Housing Authority. Project ME means that each young person has a project, and the project is himself.

The Festival will be held Saturday, May 26, in the stadium on the campus of Johnson C. Smith University.

There will be sack races, music of all types, dances, poetry, drill team performances, wrapping of the May pole and many other family related activities. Bring your chairs, blankets, picnic lunches and what have you, and join the Youth Services Division of Charlotte's Housing Authority in "Project ME's" 4-8 p.m. May Festival.

ATLANTA FUN...Atlanta, Georgia, commonly referred to as "Hotlanta" by those who venture for a taste of Southern hospitality, was the host city for the BATCH Traveling All-Stars match with the Gate City Racquet Club last weekend.

Sights such as The Underground, Piedmont Park, Figure Eight Disco, Paschal's Restaurant and Motel, Six Flags and The Varsity were visited by the Stars.

Seen playing tennis and having fun were Robyn Gool, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Crisco, Ernie Felder, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Young, Mr. and Mrs. Cornell Whitley, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Parker, James Cuthbertson, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Young, Tom Brown, Xavier Artis, Mr. and Mrs. Goldwyn Parker, Don Morgan, Fred Thompson, Lorraine Taylor, Eureatha Taylor, Polly Williams, Dana Berry, Derrick Milligan, Tony White, John Murphy, Eric Abrams, Brian Murphy and Doodie Murphy.



Bob Johnson

Newcomer Rockie Robbins Faces Great New Beginning Charlotte Woman

by Sherleen McKoy
Post Staff Writer

The road to success is often paved with mounting obstacles, repeated failures, utter despair and long duration.

Sometimes that very same road with the intervention of the hand of fate (usually on very rare occasions), may have just a bump or two before the initial destination is reached.

So it was with Rockie Robbins in the latter...a new face, a debut album and a great new beginning!

A native of Minneapolis, with little formal training or experience, Rockie relinquished a secure, lucrative position with Munsingwear to front a series of bands. Seeing that the disco mania dried up local openings for performing groups, Rockie decided to produce his own demo tape.

Once the tape was completed, it was mailed to record companies with simple faith. Ron Moss of A & M's A & R department listened to it, placed a call to Minneapolis and two short months later Rockie signed a contract.

"It was like a storybook tale," Rockie recalled. "I was aghast when I received the call from A & M." And so were his neighbors and friends who are accustomed to seeing Rockie jog around the neighborhood every day. Minneapolis is not especially known for producing new talent.

Rockie said that he has always had an "inner desire" to sing. Born the oldest of six children, he said that his mother was a singer in the Kansas City and St. Louis area before she came to Minnesota, met and married his father and settled down to raise a family.

"My mother's ability passed on to me," Rockie said jubilantly. "Needless to say, she's very happy with me, my



SINGER ROCKIE ROBBINS

...Enroute to huge success

father too."

Rockie, 30, said that his musical career began three years ago. Having written five of the nine tunes on his LP, "Rockie Robbins," Rockie stated that he considered it to be an honest album, one void of over-production.

He personally selected each cut that carried purpose and meaning for an actual situation.

"People need an alternative," Rockie emphasized, "with disco being so heavy."

Richard Evans, co-producer of the album, who has worked

with Natalie Cole, Dinah Washington, and Maynard Ferguson, to name a few, said, "I know what the sisters out there like and when I heard Rockie doing 'Be Ever Wonderful,' the old Earth, Wind and Fire thing, I knew he was a killer from the jump... he has one of those incredible voices that's going to be around for a long, long time..."

Rockie's songs are about love and the tunes flow effortlessly from ballad to funk to disco to reggae.

On his promotional tour in

Charlotte on Monday and Tuesday, Rockie praised the South.

"This is my first time down South," he said enthusiastically. "It's not only a professional experience for me, but a learning one. I see a new way of life that I can appreciate. It makes me proud to be black."

At this point in his life, Rockie is content with "work-

ing myself into the minds of Americans as a capable singer by making music that makes people feel good."

Rockie, his wife and six-year-old son have no intentions of leaving their home in Minnesota anytime soon.

As for his newly found success, Rockie said with elation, "I'm enjoying every second of it."

Highway System Helps

"Get It Together"

RALEIGH—North Carolina is called the "Good Roads State"...and for good reason.

Some 75,000 miles of roads, ranging from simple unpaved secondary roads to multi-lane interstates, crisscross the entire state and comprise the largest state-maintained highway system in the nation.

The system serves North Carolinians efficiently, economically and safely in transporting thousands of people and goods wherever they need to go daily.

But that is not all. North Carolina's highways play a major role in the balanced growth and economic development policy of Governor Jim Hunt for the state.

As Governor Hunt noted in his 1979 State of the State message to the General Assembly, "Our economy, of course, rides on our transportation system — highways, ports, airports, railroads and public transportation."

Accessibility is a prime factor a business or industry considers when choosing a location to expand, relocate or build.

Manufacturers look for good roads to provide their labor force convenient and safe

transportation. Emphasis on home-to-work roads is receiving more and more emphasis by the State Board of Transportation.

Manufacturers must also have roads that insure prompt receipt of raw materials and rapid shipment of finished products.

In turn, the North Carolina Board of Transportation and the North Carolina Department of Transportation staff are committed to carrying out Governor Hunt's policy to develop a highway system that flows easily east and west connecting the state's mountains and piedmont counties with its deep-water ports.

Hunt recently announced that so far in 1979 North Carolina has already attracted over \$1 billion in planned investment. North Carolina exceeded the \$1 billion figure for the first time in 1976. In 1977, the state attracted \$1.45 billion in new and expanded industry. The figure exceeded \$2 billion in 1978.

In yet another respect, the highway system is a key in economic development through its contribution to the travel and tourism industry of North Carolina.

Among 563

Juniors Honored

A Charlotte woman was among 563 juniors honored for academic achievement recently during a special reception at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Camille Joleta Taylor, 20, is a home economics major concentrating in child development.

Nominated as Junior of the Year from the home economic department, Camille plans to attend graduate school at UNC-G, and pursue her studies in child development.

Following graduate school, Ms. Taylor says she would like to teach or work in a pediatrics clinic.

Her hobbies include reading, movies and bicycling.

A graduate of Myers Park High School, Camille is the daughter of Mrs. Geraldine R. Taylor and the late Willie Taylor of Charlotte.

Democrats To

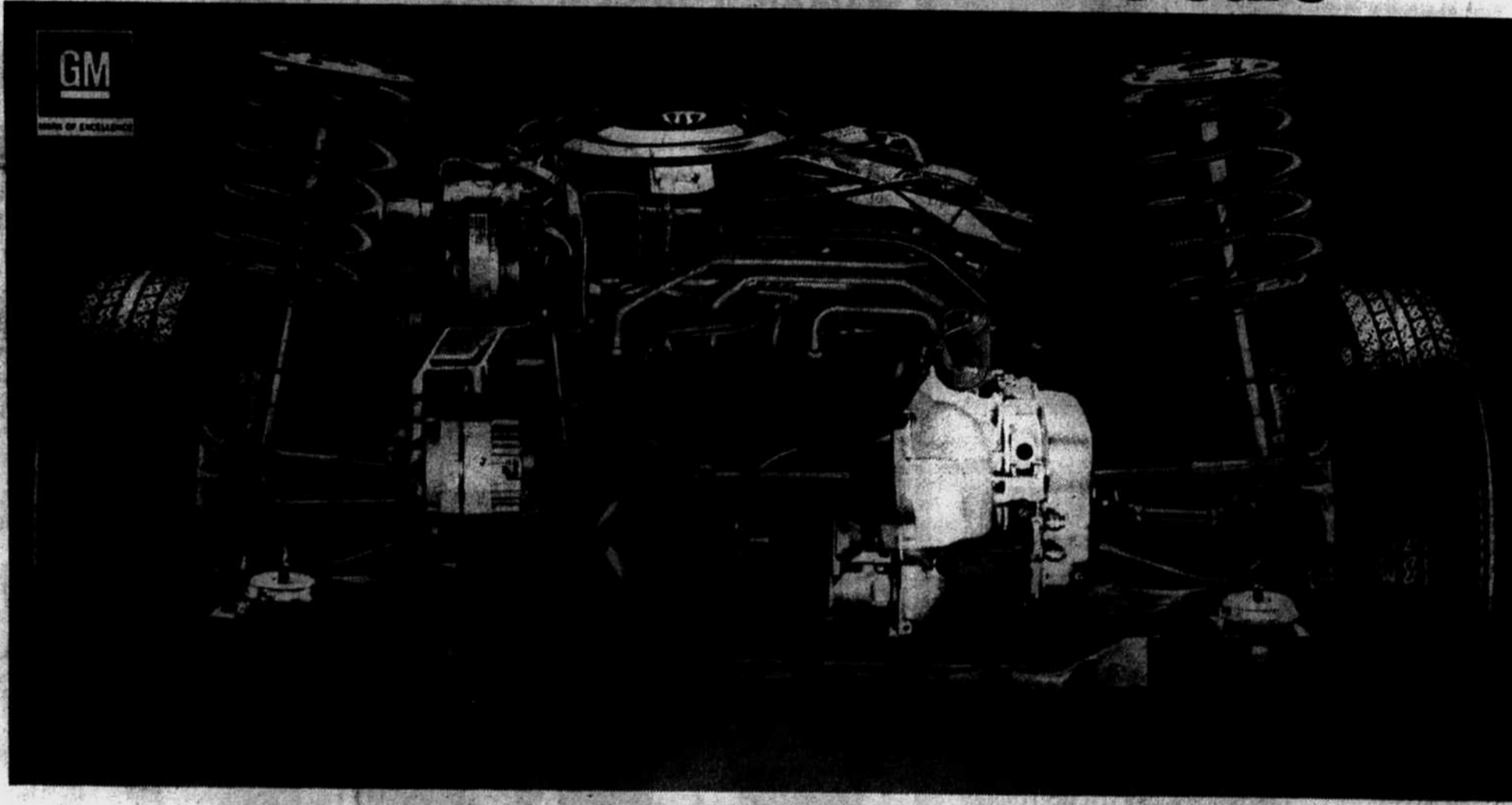
Hold County

Conventions

RALEIGH—Russell Walker, chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee, said that Democrats across the state will get down to some old-fashioned politicking next week. Walker was referring to the annual Democratic conventions which will be held in each of the state's 100 counties at 12 noon, Saturday, May 19. The county party chairmen will choose the site of the conventions in their respective counties.

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GM's New Front-Wheel-Drive Cars



With a host of standard features including transverse-mounted engine, MacPherson Strut suspension, rack-and-pinion steering, front disc brakes, radial tires and more.

The above photograph contains a remarkable story. It is the heart of the new front-wheel-drive Chevrolet Citation, Pontiac Phoenix, Oldsmobile Omega and Buick Skylark. And it has a number of features that are standard equipment.

Transverse-mounted engine. Because the engine sits sideways, we can reduce overall length, yet design a car with plenty of room for passengers and luggage. The one you see here is the available V-6, a 4-cylinder engine is standard. (These GM-built engines are produced by various divisions. See your dealer for details.)

MacPherson Strut front suspension. Helps us design a roomier passenger compartment.

Rack-and-pinion steering. Offers quick, easy response.

Front disc brakes. A new low-drag design with audible wear indicators.

Radial tires. A new design with a special rubber compound to lower rolling resistance even more than "conventional" radials.

Delco Freedom® battery. Maintenance-free, never needs water.

Maintenance-free wheel bearings. Completely sealed bearing assemblies are preset for precise clearance and lubed for life.

And more. The aforementioned features are just some of the standard items you get on these exciting new front-wheel-drive cars. You also get others like self-adjusting brakes, carpeted passenger compartment. Body by Fisher construction and many more.

Take a test drive. If you've never driven a car with front-wheel drive before, we're convinced our front-runners for the '80s offer you a great, new and rewarding experience.

If you have driven front-wheel-drive cars before, well—these are about to bring something brand-new to the ball game.

Look into buying or leasing at your GM dealers today.

GM's Front-Runners for the '80s.

Chevrolet Citation, Pontiac Phoenix, Oldsmobile Omega, Buick Skylark.