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Romare Bearden, one of America's most famous black artists, was born in Charlotte and spent his childhood here. October 11, Channel 36 will air a special about him, "Romare Bearden: Mirrors of Life," to commemorate a major exhibition of his works opening October 12 at the Mint Museum. (Photo by Pat Bates)

WRET-TV To Mirror Charlotte

Native Romare Bearden

The life and works of Charlotte native Romare Bearden, one of America's most famous black artists, is the focus of a special program, "Romare Bearden: Mirrors of Life," to air Saturday, October 11, at 7:30 p.m. on Channel 36. Public Affairs Director Sylvia Stevens and Bearden discuss life in Charlotte during the early 1900s, the influence of jazz and music on Bearden's work, his youth in Harlem, and his art form in general. Ms. Stevens, along with producer Pat Bates and a Channel 36 crew, was dispatched to New York for the interview that is the basis of the program. The program coincides with and commemorates a major retrospective exhibition of Bearden's work over the last decade. The exhibition, entitled "Romare Bearden: 1970-80," will open October 12 at the Mint Museum in Charlotte. It is funded by Phillip Morris, Inc. and the National Endowment for the Arts and is an assemblage of 60 major

works from what many consider to be Bearden's most productive period. Bearden was born in Charlotte in 1914 and spent his summers until the age of 14. He moved to Pittsburgh and then to New York City. As a youth in Harlem, he was introduced to and strongly influenced by the musical and cultural innovations of jazz by artists such as Earl Hines, Duke Ellington, James P. Johnson, Fats Waller, Chick Webb and Cab Calloway. Channel 36 program Director Nat Tucker said, "In 'Romare Bearden: Mirrors of Life' we have a rare chance to look in depth at what makes an artist 'tick.' And it's especially fascinating and exciting when the artist comes from our own city. All of us feel fortunate to have had a part in producing this special and we're confident our viewers will be tremendously pleased with what they see." It was not until he graduated from New York Uni-

versity in 1935 with a degree in mathematics that he decided to become an artist. His only formal art training consisted of a year and a half of study under George Grosz at the Art Students League. In the two years after he left the Army in 1945 Bearden was featured in a number of one-man shows at New York's Samuel M. Kootz Gallery. He lived in Paris from 1950 to 1954 and studied at the Sorbonne. There he met a number of European artists and met American artists and writers there, among them poet Samuel Allen and novelists James Baldwin and Albert Murray. When he returned to the United States, Bearden took up songwriting for a while but soon returned to painting. Since 1961 his works have been exhibited in one-man shows at such museums and galleries as Cordier & Ekstrom and Michel Warren Galleries, New York; the Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh; Williams College, Mass.; the Corcoran Gallery, Washington, D.C.; the High Museum of Art, Atlanta; The Studio Museum in Harlem and the Museum of Modern Art in New York. About his work, novelist-critic Ralph Ellison has said, "Bearden's art is not only an evaluation of his own freedom and responsibility as an individual and artist, it is an affirmation of the irrelevance of the notion of race as a limiting force in the arts. These are the works of a man possessing a rare lucidity of vision."

Hunt Commends CMS

Students On Test Results

Governor Jim Hunt congratulated the students of Mecklenburg County today for the showing they made on the 1980 North Carolina annual testing program of basic educational skills. "The results show that the students tested well above the grade level of the average student in the nation in almost every skill tested," he said. "I want to commend everyone - the teachers, the parents, the students - for this achievement." The test results show first graders in Mecklenburg read better than the national average for this grade and were above the average in math. Second graders were about a year ahead of the national average in both skills. Third graders exceeded the average in spelling, language arts, and math, while sixth and ninth graders scored higher than the national average in all areas. John Belk, chairman of the Jim Hunt Re-Election

Committee for Mecklenburg County, said the scores are the results of Hunt's emphasis on improving the educational opportunities for the state's children. The first tests were administered statewide to first, second, third, sixth and ninth graders in April, 1978, and have been given every year since at the same time. The first Unity Prayer Breakfast Meeting in support of Bertha Maxwell, candidate for the House of Representatives, will be held from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Saturday, October 11, at Johnson C. Smith University Church. Guest speaker will be the distinguished Dr. Benjamin E. Mays. He is president emeritus of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga., current president of the Atlanta, Georgia School Board of Education, and former teacher and mentor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. Mays, who is 90 years old, has received 40 honorary degrees and authored "Born To Rebel." Prayers of faith, hope,

love, peace and unity will be delivered by Rev. W. White, pastor of Little Rock AME Zion Church, Rev. E. Newberry, pastor of Memorial United Presbyterian Church, Rev. J. Mc-

In Support of Dr. Maxwell

First Unity Prayer Breakfast

Meeting Will Be Held Saturday

Coy, pastor of East Stone-wall AME Zion Church, Rev. F. Holder, pastor of Amity Presbyterian, and Rev. J. Palmer, pastor of University Park Baptist Church. Rev. H. Diggs, pastor of Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church, will appear on the program and Rev. Coleman Kerry, pastor of Friendship Baptist Church will introduce candidates who are running for various seats and positions. A Continental breakfast will be served and a charge to the community to participate in the voting procedures will be made. The Greater Charlotte Community Chorale will provide the music.



Dr. Bertha Maxwell

NAACP Sets 37th Annual Convention

Delegates to the 37th Annual Convention of the North Carolina State Conference of Branches meeting in Asheville, N.C., October 23-26, will be afforded the opportunity to hear their National NAACP Board of Directors Chairperson, Mrs. Margaret Bush Wilson, who is one of America's outstanding Civil Rights Leaders. Mrs. Wilson's place of birth is St. Louis, Mo. She is a charming and dynamic personality, in a sense, was born into the NAACP. Her father, the late James T. Bush Sr., led the battle there against restrictive covenants in housing. Her father was noted as being the first successful black real estate broker in St. Louis. He mobilized his black business colleagues into the Real Estate Brokers Association of St. Louis and recruited lawyers for the fight which culminated in the Supreme Court decision of Shelley vs. Kraemer. Her mother, the late Mrs. Berenice Casey Bush, served on the Executive Committee of the St. Louis, Mo. Branch.

Mrs. Wilson graduated with honors from Summer High School in St. Louis, 1935; she attended Talladega College in Alabama and graduated cum laude with a B.S. in economics. She continued her education at the Lincoln University School of Law, set up in 1939, after the Supreme Court ruled that Blacks to the University of Missouri Law School or provide equal educational facilities elsewhere. The state of Missouri set up Lincoln University Law School, where Mrs. Wilson received her Law degree. She graduated in three years. Mrs. Wilson is deeply concerned about the economic status of blacks and linking that status to national economic growth.

Each week a Unity Prayer Breakfast Meeting in support of Bertha Maxwell will be held. The places, times and speakers will be announced in the POST prior to these engagements. The public is cordially invited. A series of motivational meetings for Unity to Elect Bertha Maxwell to the House of Representatives began by featuring Dr. Jesse Jackson. This civil rights activist spoke at Johnson C. Smith University October 8. Jackson was also in town to support the Carter-Mondale ticket. He was accompanied by Alexis Herman, Director of the Women's Bureau Department of Labor.



STUNNING DELORES WILSON
...Picture of sophistication

Delores Wilson Is Beauty Of Week

Adjectives describe nouns - everyone learned that in high school. The one that best describes our beauty, Delores Wilson, is stunning. Whether she is on the job as head secretary at Spagh Jr. High or playing softball, Ms. Wilson is a picture of sophistication. She also enjoys reading and bowling. Ms. Wilson is a graduate of Durham Business College where she was a B Honor Roll student. She also worked part-time as librarian while attending school. Today she feels her job as a secretary is challenging. Actually it involves more than many people realize. "My job has a lot to do with dealing with personalities. I deal with about 50 teachers and many students. I love working with students," Ms. Wilson stated. One to be involved in her work, Ms. Wilson is just as active in church activities.

She is the church announcer, member of the Missionary Board, church secretary, program chairman, and church usher at Link's Chapel AME Zion Church in Iron Station. A native of Lincoln County, Ms. Wilson has lived in Charlotte for the past 10 years. She is married and has two children, Dione, age 4 and Tamara, 2. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. John Sanders of Charlotte. "My mother, Christine Sanders, is my favorite person," Ms. Wilson revealed, "She's always willing to help out with the kids in the most difficult situations." Ms. Wilson is an individual who knows exactly what she wants out of life. "I want to continue to live in Charlotte and I would like to seek a position in radio or television broadcasting," she added. She possesses the voice and the looks, all she needs now are the breaks. Her favorite entertainer at present is Michael Jackson. "His music soothes my soul," she explained. And when it comes to the beliefs she feels that to "Take each day at a time and just hope for the best," is the wisest philosophy. Our Leo beauty has two vital wishes. "I think it would be good if we could see a Black president. I hope I live long enough to see that. I also would like to see more women given opportunities for administrative positions." Only time will tell but Ms. Wilson may become a broadcaster, administrator or maybe even the first black female president you never know.

Experts: This Is Time To Buy That New Home

Experts Say Rates Will Go Up Before They Come Down

If you would like to buy a home or start a small business, most experts agree that this is the time. Interest rates may go up before they come down. But despite this many are shying away from home loans. According to Walter S. Tucker, president of Mechanics and Farmers Bank, there were more inquiries for home loans five years ago. "That was when the going rate was about 10 percent," he continued, "We expect the average rate to be between 11 and 12 percent, but since this stage of 12, 13 and 14 percent a lot of people have been backing off."

The present interest rate is 13 to 13 1/2 percent," Tucker established. "For investments (such as small businesses) it is 15 percent or prime rate plus two points. However, most credit worthy borrowers such as Duke Power, Belk or Ivey's may borrow at the prime rate (13 -13 1/2 percent)." Tucker admits that it is hard to tell whether or not rates will continue to rise or not, but he still believes that this is a favorable time to purchase a home or start a new business. "Today small businesses are totally steady because the cost of money is passed on to consumers. And once in homes 80-90 percent of Blacks usually stay there," Tucker concluded.

NCNB Bank's vice president, Graham Denton, advises to buy a home in the near future. "Interest rates are high for mortgages (13 1/2 to 14 percent) but the likelihood is that they will be higher in the near future." If one wants to purchase a home within the next six months, now is as good a time as ever, but if you hold off the rates will probably be better," he stated. As far as small business ventures are concerned, Denton notes that this may not be the best time unless the business is well capitalized. New business loans are higher than the 13 1/2 prime rate. For best borrowers like General Motors or other big companies, who are in financially good shape, the prime rate will probably be quoted.

BUYING A HOME Three words-- buying a home. Seems simple enough but in reality it is a decision many should make with caution, depending upon circumstances and income level. Presently there are more homes available than people are willing to buy according to Sam Young, president and owner of First Southern Properties. "Within the last two months (July and August), there have been strong sales in the general market," Young revealed, "but there are a lot of people who want to buy but are afraid." Realtors, according to Young, expect the interest rate to go down. "It may mean 13 1/2 to 12 percent. Now is just as good a time as any to buy a home," he advised, "There are lots of



Walter Tucker
...M&F Bank president

bargains. The following is advice from Young on purchasing a home. --be realistic, buy what you can afford; --make sure all bills are in reasonably good shape; --have some money for a down payment; --use a competent realtor to help determine the category you qualify for and; --seek counseling from the realtor. "Every month you pay rent you are losing money," Young remarked, "And when you look for a home look at realtors with creative financing. They can find ways that are helpful in purchasing homes." When it comes to insurance for the home, Young advises trusting a company with a strong record of service.

STARTING A BUSINESS "Conditions are not as favorable as they would be if we were not in a recession. But starting a business involves so many things including the economic condition, but that should not be the determining condition." The above statement came from Charles B. McKeel, assistant district director for management assistant of the Small Business Administration. But how about the 50 percent failure rate of new businesses in only the first year and 20 percent more failures within two years? "There's not much faith in figures," McKeel stated, "Everyone keeps quoting everyone else. It's difficult to determine why businesses are discontinued. There may be merges or the business may just sell out without any loss." Even though there is no real accurate count of failures, McKeel remarked the risk of so-called failures are high. "After five years if one out of five businesses are still in business, this is a good record." Many factors determine if the business will be a success or not. McKeel named a few: --type of business; --how much they know about the business (one must read, can receive counseling in general operating aspects); --capitalization (one should have 25 percent of what it takes to establish business - the rest can be in loans); --location; --strength of the business; --insurance is needed.



THE HEIR as well as the HAIR can often be trained properly through the use of a BRUSH...