



Staff Sgt. Byron Brown  
.....W. Mecklenburg grad

### Brown Completes AT Controller Course

By Teresa Simmons  
Post Managing Editor

As a little boy, Byron Brown grew up believing that one day he would fly like the soaring birds. At that time, with one brother and three sisters, there wasn't much money to provide him with special plane kits.

Instead, he used his imagination. He took shoe boxes and sticks from trees. From there he shaved the sticks for wings, weighed down the shoe boxes with clay and, believe it or not, made the superficial airplane fly.

Later, he began buying his own models and building them. When high school days rolled around it seemed only natural for him to enter the Airforce ROTC program at West Mecklenburg High School. From his instructor, Lt. Colonel Ken Smith, he learned one of life's most valuable lessons: "He always told me I could do anything I wanted to. Things will come if you work hard enough." Thus we have a success story.

After graduating and working one year for an insurance company, Sgt. Brown entered the Air Force as Airman First Class (two stripes). What regularly takes two years to achieve he accomplished in eight months; he became a Senior Airman (three stripes). For his fourth stripe, he was tested in two parts - one part about the general regulations and history of the Air Force, and the second about his specific area. Out of 2,120 eligible, only 350 were promoted, and Sgt. Brown placed 10th among those.

His most recent adventure was the completion of the Air Traffic Controllers' School at the Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi. As class leader and an honor graduate, Sgt. Brown's average was 95.

Now that Sgt. Brown has completed the Air Traffic Controllers School, he will become an Air Traffic Controller at Pope Air Force Base in Fayetteville.

He has decided what he wants from life. "I plan to go to college while I am in the Air Force and acquire my degree in Airport Management. I also want to obtain my pilot's license." As a civilian, Sgt. Brown would like to pursue a career as an Airport Manager.

So far, he has shown limitless leadership abilities. He was named "Maintenance Person of the Month" and was the day shift supervisor. During this time, the staff's production and quality of work improved because of the training programs instigated by Sgt. Brown. All of these accomplishments were reflected on his evaluations.

Sgt. Brown is the son of Mary L. Brown of Charlotte. He is a member of Progressive Baptist Church.

Perhaps Sgt. Brown's many successes spring from the confidence he has acquired from working hard. "I believe there are opportunities for everyone regardless of race. But you must work hard because nothing is given free to anyone."

## Wingate Awards Merit-Based Scholarships To Local Students

Kristin J. Childers, Betsy Jo Pearson, and Mary Lee Petty, all of Charlotte, have been awarded merit scholarships to Wingate College.

Ms. Childers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elden P. Childers, 4628 Westridge Dr., Charlotte, received a renewable G. M. Stewart Scholarship valued at \$500. A senior at Harding High School, Ms. Childers is a member of the National Honor Society, Big Brother-Big Sister, and Future Business Leaders of America. She was also a junior marshal and re-

ceived a DAR History Award. Ms. Childers plans to major in early childhood education at Wingate College.

Ms. Petty, daughter of Mr. Roy Lee Petty, Jr. of Concord and Mrs. Rosemary P. Petty, 6100 Channing Court, Charlotte, received a renewable \$500 G. M. Stewart Scholarship. A senior at Garinger High School, Ms. Petty is a member of the Science Club, French Club and Wildcat Club. She also plays basketball and softball for a church league,

and she participated in an academic law internship. Ms. Petty plans to major in accounting at Wingate College, then pursue a career in law.

Ms. Pearson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Joe Pearson, 9626 Pleasant View Lane, Charlotte, received a renewable \$300 W. M. Perry Scholarship. Ms. Pearson is a senior at Independence High School where she is a member of the National Honor Society, Fine Arts Honor Society, Spanish Club and Drama Club. For four

years, she has been a member of the Youth Symphony of the Caro-

linas, and she was selected for "Who's Who Among High School Stu-

dents." At Wingate, Ms. Pearson plans to study accounting.

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