

After 38 Years!

Irma Kirkpatrick Retires From "Traveling Chorus"

By Teresa Simmons
Post Managing Editor
When Irma Kirkpatrick stopped singing with the Angelic Gospel Chorus it started many wondering. It's not that Mrs. Kirkpatrick is ill and cannot sing. Instead she has chosen to retire from the traveling chorus after 38 years.

"The last two weeks I haven't been singing with the chorus. People are beginning to ask 'why?' Now I'll have more time to visit the hospitals and the needy. Sometimes I just want time to sit down and read the Bible. But the group will go ahead and make it without me. We have been like a family over the years." Mrs. Kirkpatrick plans to spend much of her time with senior citizens also.

"When I went to the meeting," Mrs. Kirkpatrick continued, "I told everyone that I will always be there for them."

Mrs. Kirkpatrick and the chorus are well known throughout the Carolinas. "So many people have come up to us and said that we have inspired them. After hearing the group they made up their minds to start a group."

The retirement from the Angelic Gospel Chorus does not mean that Mrs. Kirkpatrick is giving up singing. She is a member of the Hymn Choir at Antioch Baptist Church where Rev. Preston Pendergrass pastors. She is also a member of the church's Chancellor Choir and the Community Choir involving four churches - The Grier Heights Community Choir.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick works for Mayflower Moving Company, enjoys singing, church work and spending time with her children:



Irma Kirkpatrick
.....Involved Christian

Nancy, Diane and Jimmy. Church activities have always been important to Mrs. Kirkpatrick. She not only sings on the choirs but she also teaches Sunday School and is Young Adult director. She works for the Woman's State Con-

vention of N.C. as chairperson of the Central Orphanage Committee No. 1 and is worship chairman of the One Day District Three, and Group One of the Woman's State Convention, N.C. She is also president of the Waves of Joy Union.

Now that Mrs. Kirkpatrick has retired from the chorus she fills that time with her other duties for God. This also includes many offers to speak on church programs. The remaining 10 mem-

bers of the chorus will certainly miss the voice and presence of Mrs. Kirkpatrick on those many voyages to spread God's Word. "I know that the chorus is working for the Lord and anyone working

for the Lord will make it. Whoever wants to serve God can. Once the Lord saves you, if you have something to share with others in work, in song or prayer, becomes a joy to share."



Gloria B. Elliott
.....Governor's School student

**Charlotte Native
Featured In Concert**

Ohio - Gloria Barringer Elliott, a student of the North Carolina Governor's School and honor graduate of Torrence-Lytle High School, was recently featured as soloist in the May Festival Concert of the Columbus Symphony Chorus and the Columbus Symphony Chamber Orchestra. (The combined forces were under the direction of Chorusmaster Ronald Jenkins.)

Ms. Elliott, daughter of Anna Grier Barringer and the late Curlee Barringer of Huntersville, sang solo portions of the "Benedictus" and "Agnus Dei" of the Schubert-MASS in E-flat.

The Columbus Symphony Chorus is a group of more than 150 singers from the central Ohio area chosen by competitive audition. Highlighting its 1983-84 winter season, the chorus

was critically acclaimed for its performance of Prokofiev's ALEXANDER NEVSKY, sung in Russian.

Ms. Elliott attended Winston-Salem State University and holds both bachelor and master of music degrees from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL. She has been a member of the chorus since 1980 and is known for her presentation of classical, opera, and lyric repertoire. Her experience includes solo appearances with chamber ensembles, choirs and orchestras.

On Sunday, July 8, at 4 p.m. she will be presented in public recital at the Catawba Presbyterian Church, McCoy Rd., Huntersville. Her appearance is made possible through contributions of patrons, the Catawba Session and the Building Fund Committee. The public is invited.

**Miss Janice Brown Is
Bride Of Jerry Oates**

Janice Elaine Brown wed Jerry Oates Sr. during a lovely ceremony recently at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church.

Rev. Andrew Cuthbertson, pastor of Pleasant Hill, presided over the ceremony.

The bride wore a white gown decorated with pearls trimmed in flowers. She carried a bouquet of two-toned pink flowers embedded in lace trailing white ribbons.

Outfitted in a raspberry rose designed, puff-sleeved gown, the maid of honor was Stephanie Jordan. She carried flowers with ribbon streamers and a brandy candle holder. The four bridesmaids, Lola Oates, Marchelle Oates, Wanda Edney and Cassandra Chambers each wore gowns of suede rose with a rose design. They also carried brandy candle holders.

Mother of the bride wore a beautiful rose dress accented with a white corsage.

The groom's mother donned a stunning pink dress with a white corsage.

Miss Crystal Delain was flower girl and Master

Michael Jackson attended as ring bearer.

Terry Oates was best man to the groom. The ushers included Bobby Short Jr., Tracy Gilliam, Thomas Porter and Dexter Oates.

Music for the very special occasion was provided by Andrew Cuthbertson Jr., organist. Cuthbertson also sang with the accompaniment of Terry Oates.

The bride was given in marriage by her father. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Brown, reside at 232 Woodman Ave.

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Short, parents of the groom, live at 2701 Kenhill Dr.

The bride is a 1978 graduate of West Mecklenburg High School and a 1981 graduate of Rutledge College. She's employed as a Credit Clerk at A&P warehouse.

A 1978 graduate of West Mecklenburg High School, the groom graduated from N.C. A&T State University in 1982. He is a two-color press assistant at Package Products.

A reception for the wedding was held at the church.

Black Children

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For Cunningham the intangible rewards he gets from Corey are immeasurable. "Being with Corey I get an idea of what pressures young people are dealing with today. That perspective of knowing where he is vital to me. Besides that being with Corey gives me the opportunity to try new experiences that I normally wouldn't try, like going to Carowinds and video arcades," commented Cunningham.

In return Cunningham feels he offers Corey a friend. "I don't try to be a surrogate father. I'm just a friend who gives him time and who is attentive to his needs."

Neither Cunningham nor Corey is pressured by a time schedule in which they spend time together.

Those times are spent in several ways Cunningham or Corey may go to the Y to work out, swimming, on a picnic or bowling.

During the three years that Cunningham and Corey have been together Cunningham stated that seeing his little brother do well in school has been the special highlight of their relationship for him.

For anyone considering the program Cunningham advises, "I would encourage black men to look at the crimes that are committed by the youth today. I feel that many kids who are on the waiting list would appreciate the time given by a positive role model.

If interested in becoming a big brother please contact Claire Hurst at 377-3963.

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