

Famed Gospel Singer

Appreciation Service Planned For James Maxwell

Remembering back 50 years ago may not be such a pleasant task for some people. Often times those familiar gospel songs still sung today kept hope within the family structure during turmoil. Today gospel songs continue to mean a great deal to those who are directly or indirectly familiar with the struggles of a once enslaved race.

James Maxwell has been singing those gospel songs now for 50 years. He will be honored 5 p.m. Sunday, September 16 at Greater Gethsemane AME Zion Church, 531 Campus treet, by friends, fellow church members, relatives and many others who have heard his booming, melodious, baritone voice lift up burdened hearts.

Influenced by his uncle, Green Barber, Maxwell began singing seriously at the age of 16. "I was converted at an early age, around eight years old," Maxwell began. "God called me to sing. Then in 1944 my mother died and I made a promise to her that I would continue singing."

There were many opportunities for Maxwell to lend his voice to rhythm and blues and other secular music. "God has been real good to me. I have traveled through snow, rain, sleet, in the mountains and not once have I had a wreck. God had to be there."

Maxwell actually began singing at age five in the Rose of Sharon Holiness Church in Salisbury, the town where he was born. He moved to Charlotte as a teenager and began singing with the Golden Bell Quintet. By 1938 he had landed a job in the composing room of the Charlotte Observer and practiced with the group after work.

The gospel group entered a singing contest at a Lancaster, S.C., high school and won. As a result they sang for weeks on the Grady Cole's



James Maxwell
.....Melodious voice

WBT radio program. The Golden Bells received so much mail that the WBT radio station gave them their

own 15 minute radio program which stayed on the air for five years. The Golden Bells Quintet traveled

over 20 states and made two records.

Later Maxwell became the manager and baritone singer for the Southern Sisters and Brothers Gospel Group. For six years the group traveled over 21 states performing on radio, in churches and in other gospel programs.

Today the group is known as the Napoleon Brown, James Maxwell and the Southern Sisters. The group's members include Maxwell's devoted wife, Willie, Charlie Mae Ship Ashley, Margaret Dovie, Marion Felder, the pianist and Juanita Felton, musician. The group has produced two well-known albums.

Maxwell loves and respects his church, and fellow church members at Greater Gethsemane AME Zion Church. Rev. Dr. George E. Battle Jr. is his pastor. Maxwell and his singing group performs annually for the deaconess programs at the church. This has been a ritual for almost 10 years. As a member of Gethsemane for 25 years, many have recognized his services to the church as unselfish. He was inducted into the C.N. Jenkins Gospel Hall of Fame in 1980.

He is also a member of the Democratic Executive Committee; Precinct Chairman of Precinct 12 and a member of the Smallwood Community Organization.

Maxwell and his wife Willie have four children.

God has not only gifted Maxwell with a beautiful voice, but he has also given him a colorful personality. He is dedicated to serving God through song and not only sings with the group, but often sings solos at revivals and other church affairs. Maxwell is one gentleman who never tires of serving God.

Children Of Divorce

New at the Park Road Center YWCA is a seminar on separation and divorce, companion programs for children and parents. The five-week series begins Monday, September 17, 5:30-7 p.m. for ages six to eight with parents, cost of \$15, Wednesday, September 19, ages nine through 12.

The program, developed as a unique and supportive seminar for those who are part of a separation or divorce process, is being cosponsored by the United Family Services.

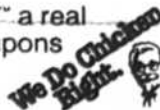
Children will meet with their peer group and a trained instructor to discuss and deal with questions and feelings about separation; parents will also meet in their own seminar. Participants are encouraged to bring bag suppers for "together time" over dinner.

For further information and/or registration, contact Donna Arrington, 525-5770, 9 to 5 weekdays.

No Contest.



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Let EASTERN



Take You Out For A Fun Weekend!

ATLANTIC CITY

October 19-21
Philadelphia Airport

Yes, that's right! Only \$206 per person double occupancy round trip to Atlantic City on Eastern. This price includes airfare, round trip limo from the Philadelphia airport to the hotel, and two nights lodging at the Sands Hotel in Atlantic City. This package is based on a minimum group size of 10.

You will depart on Friday morning, October 19, and return on Sunday evening the 21st. Upon arrival in Philadelphia you will travel by limo directly to the hotel for check-in. Then you will be on your own to visit the casinos, visit the Boardwalk, or see one of the exciting shows. Meals are not included in this package. We must have 10 traveling together round trip in order to get this special airfare.

A deposit is required in order to confirm the space.

LEAVE OCT 19 8:00 AM ARRIVE 9:15 AM EA NO. 590
RETURN OCT 21 6:36 PM ARRIVE 7:59 PM EA NO. 575

ATLANTA ADVENTURE

COST: \$198 per person (double occupancy)
LENGTH OF STAY: 3 days and 2 nights
INCLUDES: Accommodations at Atlanta Hilton Airport Transfers
3 hr. sightseeing tour
Round trip airfare via Eastern

LEAVE OCT 12 8:45 AM ARRIVE 9:46 AM EA NO. 655
RETURN OCT 14 8:47 PM ARRIVE 9:41 PM EA NO. 530

INVITATION TO BROADWAY

October 26-28

COST: \$241 per person (double occupancy)
LENGTH OF STAY: 3 days and 2 nights
INCLUDES: Accommodations at Sheraton City Square

- One of the following:
- (1) Any Broadway Show that's playing.
 - (2) Visit to Playboy Club
 - (3) Dinner and Show at Rodney Dangerfield's Club

LEAVE OCT 26 8:05 AM ARRIVE 9:31 AM EA NO. 350
RETURN OCT 28 12:00 PM ARRIVE 1:31 PM EA NO. 515

Minimum group size is 10 (ten), deposit required, non-refundable. Air travel via Eastern Airlines. Travel during September 10 - November 12 (1984). Travel is restricted to specific flights and days.

Taxes and tips not included

For Details Call 376-0496



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