



GENNIE DENNIS AND CATHERINE LOCKHART

...Whirly Bird volunteers

Lockhart's Love Sprouts Wings

By Audrey C. Ledate
Post Staff Writer

Catherine Lockhart is a woman in love: with children, with the elderly, and with the Lord.

An 18 year veteran teacher with the Bible Story Hour, Lockhart also teaches a bible class at the Salvation Army Boys Club on West Trade. She is the founder of the Whirly Birds Baton Twirlers.

"I was very interested in kids who had nothing to do with their time," she recalls. "I wanted to have something for them besides the bible class. Most kids don't have the opportunity to participate in a baton group or anything else."

So, four years ago, she began to organize her group of baton twirlers, even though she didn't know the first thing herself about baton twirling.

Lockhart and her sister, Gennie Dennis, had picked up some red uniforms in a thrift store. These, she took to Bertha Harris, whom Lockhart calls "my mother in the Lord." Harris, who heads the Bible Story Hour, has long served as an inspiration to Lockhart. The two women discussed the idea for a baton twirling group and, after praying about it, came up with the name, "Whirly Birds."

The name derives from the dove that settled over Christ as he was being baptized by John. The group uniforms carry a white dove on the chest.

Boys and girls from all the Salvation Army Boys Clubs in Charlotte participate in the Whirly Birds. At present, the group numbers 53, ranging in age from 10 to 17.

Lockhart especially credits Mike Foss, executive director of the Boys Clubs; Frenno Burton, director of the W. Trade St. Boys Club; and Sam Watts, program director, with helping to support the Whirly Birds.

The first year, Lockhart's daughter, Christine, helped out. She had been involved with the band at West Mecklenburg and knew the routines. The second year, a volunteer was recruited from the Drum Majorettes of America to teach the children.

This year, the Bible Story Hour is paying two teachers to direct the group.

Both Lockhart and Dennis have made the uniforms the past two years, with material furnished by the Salvation Army Boys Clubs. Next year, they hope to be able to order custom uniforms.

The Whirly Birds have marched in the Carrousel Parade, the Concord Christmas parade, and other parades. This past week, they marched in the Johnson C. Smith homecoming parade. Says Lockhart, "We have more parades than we can fill."

A number of the Whirly Birds have been members since the group was formed. One of them, Lisa Hancock, is drum majorette this year.

Lockhart is hopeful that in the future baton twirling camps can be set up for those who want to excel in that activity.

The youth volunteer, whose own two children - Cynthia and Christine - are grown, is married to James Lockhart. He is "very supportive," she says. "He loves the Lord, and he loves to help any way he can."

She is active in New Covenant Ministries and, at one time, had a radio program on WQCC, called "Good Morning, Miss Mary." Dennis has two sons, Kevin and Ervin, who are both drummers in the Whirly Birds. She is a member of Myers Tabernacle, where all

three are ushers.

Lockhart says anyone wishing to help can make a donation to Bible Story Hour, in care of George and Bertha Harris, 2156 Colony Road, Charlotte. The Bible Story Hour, according to Lockhart, is a non-profit organization that helps a lot of people and teaches bible classes throughout the area.

"I was raised in a Christian home," she states. "When my mother died, Bertha Harris came along and she watered the seeds that were planted."

Now, in turn, Lockhart is watering many seeds with projects like the Whirly Birds.

Course Explores Golden Age Of Radio

Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? Or what happens when Fibber McGee opens his closet.

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The course explores popular culture as reflected in the radio programming of the '30s, '40s, and '50s. It will be taught by Michael Childress, who grew up listening to his parents, grandparents, aunts

and uncles reliving their experiences with radio drama. His interest grew into a collection of about 400 original radio show tapes.

Cost is \$12.75 for the course, which will meet Tuesday from 8-9:50 p.m. Registration for new students will be December 9-12.

If you don't know The Shadow - or Fibber McGee and Molly or The Great Sildersleeve of The Lone Ranger - or if you have fond memories of sitting with your ear glued to the radio, tune in to this CPCC course. For details, call Joe Alvarez at 373-6762.

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Highly respected and recognized as a leading authority on skin care and cosmetic techniques, Jerry's expertise and fashion knowledge proved invaluable, not only in pro-

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Tall, slim, striking, Canadian-born Jerry began his career with Elizabeth Arden in Canada as Training Director before being appointed to his current position.

Because Jerry maintains the philosophy that a woman's make-up, like her personality and lifestyle, should be a constantly evolving

process, he feels the dawning of the high tech era in beauty is a giant leap forward. He states, "With the Beauty Makeover Computer, a woman can instantly access new ideas, and with the assistance of a makeup consultant, objectively recognize which new trends enhance her individual fashion outlook."

"Elizabeth," the Beauty Makeover Computer will be at Belk SouthPark until November 24. Jerry Hamilton-Catty was in Charlotte on November 11-12 to work with "Elizabeth."

North Carolina Pageant Searching For Little Stars

This is an invitation to little girls, ages four to seven years old in North Carolina who would be interested in participating in the 1986 North Carolina National Little Star Pageant which is the Official State Preliminary to the National Little Star Pageant which will be held in the Fall of 1986 in Orlando, Florida.

The North Carolina Pageant will be held August 15-16, 1986 at the Sheraton Hotel in Greensboro, North Carolina. The State winner will receive a round trip flight for herself and one parent to Orlando for the National Finals; a cash award; a natural color portrait; a swimsuit from Pelican Swimsuits (a division of HKH Industries, Inc.); a National Little Star Logo Watch and accessories and the official Tiara, Sash and Plaque.

Tinkerbell Good Grooming Products will award a gift to the Top 5 Award Winners and a special plaque to the Winner of the Good Grooming Award. National Little Star Plaques will also be awarded to the Superlative Winners for Most Poised, Best Personality, Best Party Dress and Miss Photogenic.

The National Little Star Pageant is the most imitated pageant in the Country for girls ages four to seven years old. Over \$200,000 in Cash and

Prizes will be awarded in the Regional, State and National Pageants held each year.

For further information, please write or call: Betty Lou Minasin, State Director, North Carolina National Little Star Pageant, Department PR, 1701 Mineral Spring Avenue, North Providence, Rhode Island 02904, telephone No. 1-800-654-6308.

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