

# West Charlotte Lions Club Athletic Achievement Banquet

By Bob Johnson

On the day of his death, in his eighteenth year, Elliot, "the Apostle of the Indians," was found teaching an Indian child at his bedside. "Why not rest from your labors now?" asked a friend. "Because," replied the venerable man, "I have prayed to God to render me useful in my sphere, and He has heard my prayers; for now that I can no longer preach, he leaves me strength enough to teach this poor child the alphabet."

That little story epitomizes the community posture taken by the men of the West Charlotte Lion's Club, a viable part of The International Association of Lions Clubs. To foster this attitude the West Charlotte Lions Club, Inc., not affiliated with West Charlotte High School in any way, sponsors a youth Athletic Achievement Awards banquet.

This year's banquet was held Friday, March 27, at McDonald's Cafeteria. A 6:30 p.m. reception kicked-off the program that ended around 9:30 p.m.

Choosing the winners for this year's achievement awards was no easy task. Yet, through their untiring efforts, the selection committee chose 19 deserving seniors from the local high schools and allowed them time to deservingly bask in the sun, a bright spot they made for themselves through their hard work and dedication.

The 1987 Athletic Achievement awards recipients were Jamie D. Oxendine and Trey Ishee from East Mecklenburg; Sharon Kelly and Shannon Lamm from Garinger; Carolyn "Suzette" Eppley from Harding; Freddie Brown and Tina Jackson from Independence; Charles A. White and Andrea S. Bostian from Myers Park; Brian K. Nicholson and Julia Anna Greene from North Mecklenburg; Larkin Murphy and Tammy Walter from Olympic; Joe Peterson and Robin Brown from South Mecklenburg; Yenton Lee Bell Jr. and Cassandra E. Smith from West Charlotte; and Derrick McGowan and Carol Hesting from West Mecklenburg.

Banquet speakers can oft times spend too much time stating facts and figures while trying to get a point across to the audience, thus causing sleepy, ho hum feelings among the participants. Harold Johnson, Sports Director for WSOC-TV, was anything but boring while he implored the young people to continue to do well because life was just beginning for them, at least in the adult world. Johnson's delivery was stuccoed with humorous points that candidly brought this point across.

Ray Gooding, Community Affairs Director for WBT-WBCY radio stations and better known for his Sunday night "Hall of Fame" show where he plays old, good hits, was the master of ceremony.

Oren McCullough, president of the West Charlotte Lion's Club gave a very cordial welcome speech to the guests, while they settled into an evening that was the pinnacle of success from all aspects.

Other dignitaries who were present and said a little to spur these young people on were: John Baker, Sheriff of Wake County and former pro football player, who made the award presentations, Minette Troesch, City Council Member at-large, Rod Autry, Vice Chairman Mecklenburg County Commission, Dr. Roy S. Bigham Jr., Lions Deputy District 31-C Governor, John L. Stickle, past president of the World's International Lions Club (introduced guest speaker) Carrie Winter, chairman of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board, Sarah Stevenson, member of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board, Charlie Dannelly, City Councilman-District 2, Lion Ennis Graves, Dr. J. B. Humphrey, president of the General Baptist State Convention, and Lion (Rev.) Regional W. Dalton-Cooperative Ministry, Friendship Baptist Church.

The delicious meal for the evening consisted of turkey and dressing, peas and carrots, mashed potatoes, salad and iced tea. The dessert was peach cobbler.

The West Charlotte Lions Club is in its third year of existence. The club helps the youth of our community through the (The Lions Club) Youth Activity Committee, was responsible for the banquet. The major function of the Lions Club, however, is to assist the blind in any manner possible, from prevention to rehabilitation.

The Club sponsors glaucoma, diabetes and blood pressure clinics that are free to the public. A glaucoma clinic will be held May 25 at the Bethlehem Center, 2705 Baltimore Ave., from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.



John Stickle took great pleasure in introducing the speaker for the annual athletic achievement banquet held by the West Charlotte Lions Club.



Ray Gooding acted as master of ceremony at the Athletic Achievement Banquet held by the West Charlotte Lions Club. Seated at the head table with him are: (left to right) Oren McCullough, president of the local Lions Club, Mr. and Mrs. John Stickle, Dr. Roy S. Bigham, Sarah Stevenson and Carrie Winters, both school board members.



Larkin Murphy of Olympic and Tina Jackson of Independence were the recent athletes of the year at the West Charlotte Lions Club Athletic Achievement Banquet which was held at McDonald's Cafeteria.



Pictured above are the West Charlotte Lions Club's choice selections for athletic achievement.



Harold Johnson, sports director of WSOC-TV entertains the audience that attended the recent Lions Club banquet with a timely message, lively anecdotes and a bit of humor.



Some of Charlotte's noted citizens, parents of award recipients and others were in attendance at the annual West Charlotte Lions Club Athletic Achievement Banquet.



John Baker, presents one of the athletic achievement recipients with a plaque for her efforts in the field of sports.

