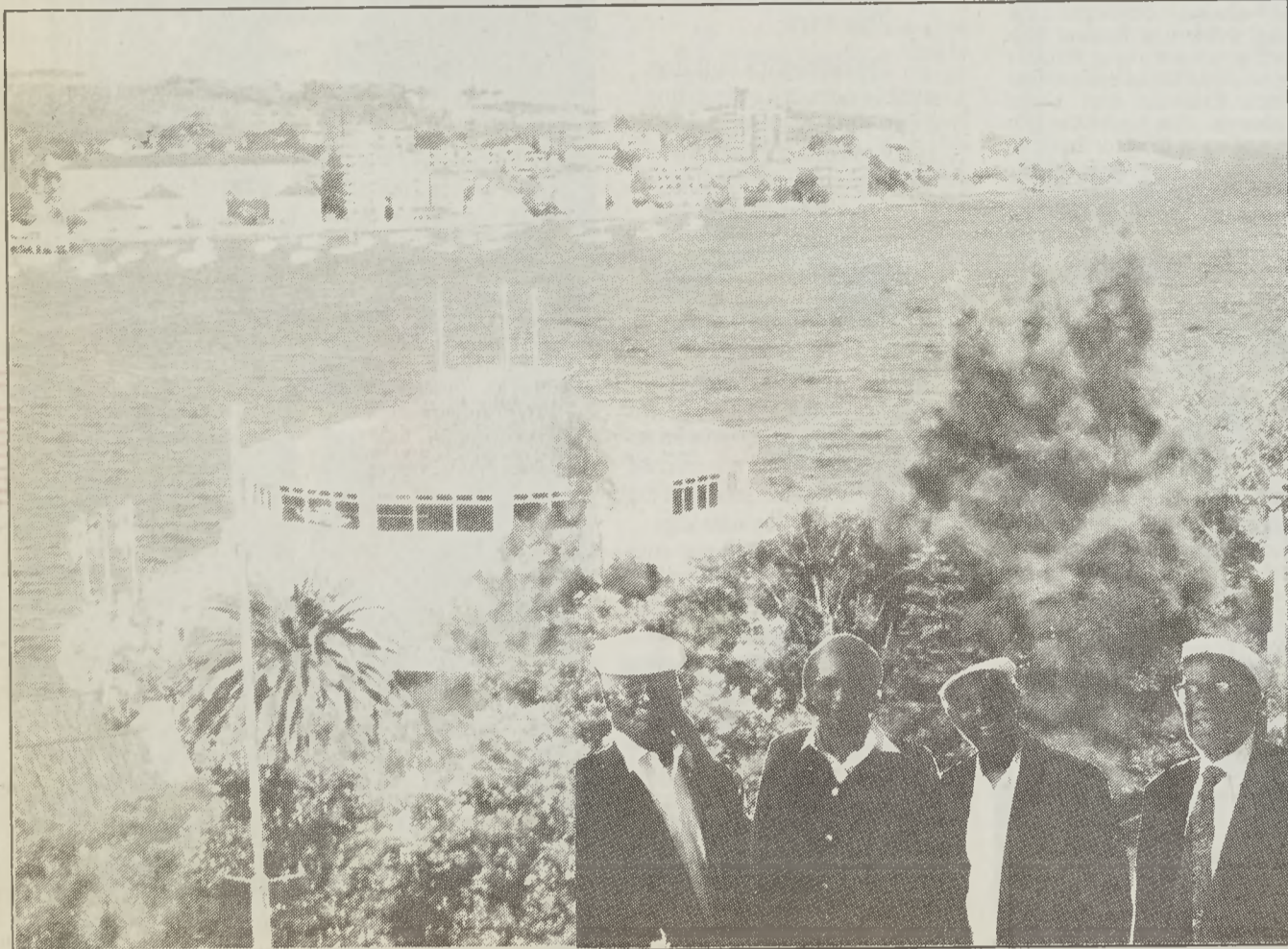


In The Land Down Under

Gospel Group Spreads Message To Enthusiastic Crowds



The Gospel Christian Singers (right corner) enjoyed Brisbane, Australia's wondrous beauty and and enthusiastic crowds.

By Winfred B. Cross
THE CHARLOTTE POST

A lot of people didn't believe the Gospel Christian Singers were going to Australia.

Heck, some of the group's own church members didn't believe the news.

But they did. The singers, along with the Badgett Sisters, Joe and Odell Thompson, Claude 'Fiddler' Williams and Neal Pattman, were the only American artists invited to the Brisbane Biennial International Music Festival 93, held May 27 through June 6.

"It was just great," said Cleveland Young, 77, leader of the singers. "The service we got -- on the plane, in the hotel, everywhere -- was great. Whatever we wanted was right there. They kinda treated us like royalty."

So how can a local gospel group get invited to sing in the land down under? Easy. The group impressed festival director Anthony Steel who heard a tape of the group's

concert. "Basically, the director made a trip to New York, listened to some tapes and decided on the sound of the people he liked and said I want this one, this one and this one," said Jacqui Peters, who served as tour manager.

The singers have also appeared before sold-out crowds at Carnegie Hall in New York and the Lincoln Center in Washington, D.C. But both Young and Peters were a little surprised at how warm they were accepted in Australia.

"The places were packed out every night. It really surprised me," Young said. "I think we were all surprised. In Camberra, the capital city, we performed in City Hall and sold it out Sunday night. Then we came right back Monday night and sold it out again."

"When we got to Sidney, they wouldn't hardly let us get off the stage," Young said laughing. "It's almost hard to believe it. You almost had to be there."

Peters agrees.

"There was an exceptional reception everywhere we went. The audiences were very much into blues and familiar with gospel. You kinda think what you are doing is strange to them since you didn't see a lot of black people on the street," Peters said. "But I guess it's that common body of liturgical music that makes a cultural connection. Some of the people in the audience already knew some of the songs the group was singing."

The singers performed during the Living Traditions portion of the festival, which featured gospel, soul, rhythm and blues, negro spirituals and jazz. Young liked the diversity of the show.

"It was real good what everybody else did. What they did was great. It was a good change in the program. The people were not hearing the same thing all the time."

The group spent six days in Brisbane, four days in Camberra and one day and night in Sidney. To get to Brisbane, the group flew from Charlotte to Dallas to an over-

night stop in California. From there it was off to Honolulu, then New Zealand to Australia.

"It kinda tired me out riding so much. But we had a lot of fun," Young said. "Yes, I certainly would like to go back. If anyone ever gets the opportunity to go, they need to go."

Although it was a whirlwind tour, Young said the group had the chance to take in some beautiful scenery, including watching some camel rides. He even got the chance to celebrate his 77th birthday down under.

Young said he'll never forget the warm reception or a few other things.

"Their cars had the steering wheel on the right-hand side. And the money looked like play money. We laughed a lot about that. And they didn't have any jaywalking. I really liked that."

The Gospel Christian Singers will perform 2 p.m. Saturday at the Afro-American Cultural Center's Family Cultural Appreciation Day.

OFF THE SHELF

Editors Note: For the next several weeks this column will feature book reviews from area elementary students. This week's reviews were done by students from Tryon Hills Elementary School.

One Dog Day

By: Lewis, J. Patrick

One Dog Day by J. Patrick Lewis is a chapter book.

Chapter 1

They are about to have a dog race and they are waiting for everyone to get there to race across the lake.

So far, I like the book. Chapter 2

A twelve year old girl came with her dog and her dog had a lot of fur. They said her dog was going to sink like a rock. I'm getting to like it more!

Chapter 3

The girl is getting teased by the older men and she

sits with her dog and thinks about her mother and poetry.

I love it now!

If you want to know more read the book!

Lafayette Alexander
6th grade
Tryon Hills Elem.

Sing Me A Window

By: O'Donnell, Elizabeth Lee

This book is about music and rhymes. It's about everyday life. It is also about a father, a daughter, and a bear and about daytime and nightmares. You can read about a girl's wishes and dreams. The book also tells how people hear music in different ways and it is about colors.

I liked this book because it is soft and gentle. It was funny. I liked the characters and the illustrations. I liked the fat, brown bear the most. I also liked the lullabies.

Matthew Ferrell
4th grade
Tryon Hill Elem.

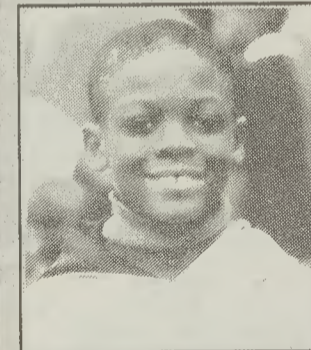
There Was Magic Inside

By: Galchut, David

There Was Magic Inside is about a boy who wishes he

was a prince. While fishing, he finds a box with magic inside. I liked the book because the boy did something wrong, but he told the truth about it. It tells you to tell the truth and you will be rewarded with something good. Everyone who tells stories should read it.

Lamar Horton
5th grade
Tryon Hills Elem.



Honest Abe

By: Kunhardt, Edith

Honest Abe by Edith Kunhardt was about Abraham Lincoln and his family. Honest Abe is a good book. The best part was when he freed the slaves. The sad part was when his son died and when someone killed Abe.

Lamar Horton
5th grade
Tryon Hills Elem.

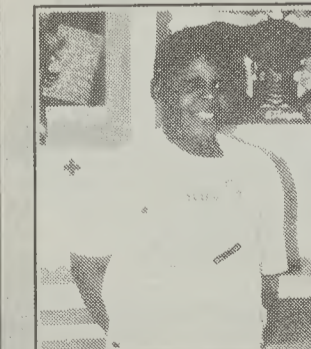
It's Raining, It's Pouring

By: Pooley, Sarah

This book was about things you can do on rainy days. It told about things you can do to keep busy when you can't

go outside. The book has rhymes, stories, and things to make and do. This book is for keeping you away from the T.V. all day long. Plus it makes you use your brain.

I liked this book because it gives me something to do on rainy days when I can't go outside. The other reason I like this book is because you can make things and they do not cost a lot of money.



Joseph Bennett
5th grade
Tryon Hills Elem.

Fishburne Hits Stride

"I don't think I ever wanted to be an actor, I've just always been one," says Tony Award-winner Laurence Fishburne who knew from an early age that his creative impulses had to be directed toward theater. "By the time I made a conscious decision that I really wanted to pursue acting seriously, I had been doing it for eight years." Now, after a career spanning nearly two decades on stage and in motion pictures, Fishburne stars in one of his most challenging roles to date, that of volatile rock 'n' roller Ike Turner, in Touchstone Pictures' new drama with music "What's Love Got To Do With It (opens nationwide Friday)."

The son of a juvenile cor-



rections officer father and a math teacher mother, Laurence was born in Augusta Ga., and grew up in Brooklyn N.Y. It has been written that

See FISHBURNE On Page 2B

Bassett Does Turner

"Stay calm. Say your prayers every morning. Ask for strength--and just do it!" says actress Angela Bassett of the creative process for undertaking the most challenging role of her career -- that of legendary rock 'n' roll diva Tina Turner, in Touchstone Pictures' new drama with music "What's Love Got To Do With It (opens nationwide Friday)." "This role is so multi-faceted, the demands were enormous," she says. "And, unlike other biographical movies, this feature is about a woman who is still very much with us. But I told myself that there was no reason I couldn't do it. It was given to me as a blessing." Thus speaks a woman with the wisdom to recognize the



blessings in everything she does.

Born in New York City, Bassett spent the first five years of her life in North

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