

Willie Mae Dreams Of College

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff Writer

At this Thanksgiving season of the year when we count our blessings, Willie Mae Robbins, 18, has high aspirations that her dream of going to college will soon be realized.

Willie Mae, who graduated in a wheel chair during the recent school commencement, was stricken with multiple sclerosis as a young girl and completed requirements for her diploma as a home-bound student of Steve Wells.

"I am so thankful," said Willie Mae, that I could join my graduating class and attend some of the final activities at the high school."

Willie Mae has applied for admission to St. Andrews Presbyterian College at Laurinburg where she wants to major in sociology and English, patterning a career after her favorite social worker, Hallie Blanton, of the Kings Mountain District School, who has become a good friend of Mae's over the past four years

she has been a home-bound student.

Navigating a wheelchair for the past five years of her life has not deterred the young woman from enjoying life. She keeps busy at home with crafts skills and decoupage. She enjoys map reading and likes to keep up with movie stars with Stevie Wonder heading the list of her favorite rock artists. She also enjoys creative writing and sewing and Mrs. Blanton reports that Mae had high marks on school subjects, especially excelling in social studies, English and geography.

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Blake Robbins, Mae became a home-bound student about four years ago. Up until that time she had been able to attend school intermittently. She has enjoyed a good working relationship with Hallie Blanton, working out some of the problems to meet her academic needs.

Mrs. Blanton describes her student and friend as a quiet, personable young lady who has high goals for her life and is courageous,

refusing to let an affliction keep her from pursuing her goals in life to become a social worker.

While Mae's parents are working at Spectrum, Mrs. Robbins on third shift and Mr. Robbins on first, the young woman enjoys her nephew, David, age 10, and Sophia, age nine, who, along with their mother, Pauline Crank, make their home with the Robbinses in the Ebenezer Community.

Mae does some cooking, prepares her own breakfast and snacks for the children after school. She is active in Shiloh A.M.E. Zion Methodist Church, is learning to macrame and has several pieces of string art which she recently completed.

She has no problem wheeling her chair all over the house and wherever she wants to go, experiencing some stiffness in her legs, arms and shoulders at times.

A strong-willed individual, Mae is a pretty girl who is proud of her accomplishments and good education. She is eager to learn and her friendly

smile is contagious to new friends who visit her.

The whole family will be going to the nearby home of Mr. and Mrs. Blake Robbins, Jr. for Thanksgiving Day and Mae looks forward to it.

She hurries to the mailbox every day, anxiously awaiting her application request from St. Andrews Presbyterian College.

College is her lifelong ambition, says her mother,

who is quite proud of Mae whose face beams when you mention school. She loves it.

"We all count our blessings," said Mrs. Robbins.



Photo By Lib Stewart

THANKFUL FOR BLESSINGS - Willie Mae Robbins smiles as she displays her string art, one of her many hobbies, for which she is grateful this Thanksgiving season. Mae wants to pursue a career as a social worker.

Over-Feeding Hurts Plants

Mother Nature often takes better care of plants outdoors in the warm season than we do when bringing them inside for winter. This season of human care is upon us, so be careful with your plants.

The people who earn "black thumb" reputations as plant growers do it usually by making two very common mistakes. These are, over-watering and over-feeding.

If you want to change your reputation from a black thumb to a green thumb, North Carolina State University extension specialists suggest following two "rules of thumb" in taking care of your houseplants this winter: — Wet the soil thoroughly and then leave it alone until the soil surface is dry to the touch, then water it again. Resist the temptation to pour in a little every time you think about it. This is a great temptation for plants located near a water supply—such as the kitchen sink.

—Cut the recommendation on your household fertilizer container by half, and feed the plant no more often than every other month. Over-fertilizing is very easily done. One of the dangers of this is, salts in the fertilizer build up in the potting soil. Salt, as everyone knows, causes problems with plants and can even kill them.

Although it isn't one of the "big two" mistakes with houseplants, temperature extremes cause problems too.

Most pot plants do best at a daytime temperature in the middle 70s and a night temperature between 50 and 60 degrees. There are exceptions, but these temperatures cover most house plants.

Lighting is another plant-care factor. Plants need darkness, so don't leave them in a room that is even dimly lit at night.

Wall Chart Shows Progress

A large wall chart showing day-to-day progress of construction on the new Governmental Facilities Building (City Hall) is posted for visitor's use in Council Chambers of City Hall.

Mayor John Moss said the public is invited to chart the construction progress daily.

Anticipated completion date is next Fall.

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ACT Talent Show Slated

A gala show in 12 big acts.

That's how the first annual Association of Classroom Teachers (ACT) Talent Show is being billed.

The variety show is set for tonight at 8 o'clock in Barnes Auditorium. Tickets are 50 cents for students and \$1 for adults.

John Pettus is general chairman of the project, which may become an annual event "if things go well tonight."

The acts are made up of ACT members who are working within the Kings Mountain District Schools. Pettus said, "This is an opportunity for the teachers to show the talents they possess outside the classroom."

At the same time ACT hopes to swell its scholarship fund. Scholarships are presented by ACT to deserving graduating seniors at the end of each year. ACT will also sponsor a faculty basketball game next February to add more money to the fund.

Tonight patrons at Barnes will see a program that includes Teresa LeFevers, accompanied by Ellen McCurdy; a group of singers including Betsy Wells, David Hart, Steve Wells, Dean Westmoreland and Gary Byers; Paul Fulton; Juanita Goforth; Vivian Duncan, accompanidd by Ellen McCurdy; a skit with Willie Marable and Sarah Adams; Shelley Dixon; Doris Wallace; a monologue by Sheila Greene; Martha Stone; a group featuring Cliff Whitfield, Bill Hager and John Pettus; and Willing, featuring Gene Alexander, Sherrill Toney and Ronnie Whisnant.

Judges for tonight's show are Gene White, executive director of Kings Mountain Redevelopment Commission; District Four Commissioner Norman King; Mrs. T. C. Wellman, a retired teacher who was a pioneer in the local Head Start program; Rev. M. L.



Early light bulbs did not last as long as modern ones because they contained a vacuum. Now they are filled with an inert gas.

Campbell; and Tom McIntyre of The Mirror-Herald. Jonas Bridges of WKMT will serve as master of ceremonies.

Tickets for the show will be on sale at Barnes Auditorium tonight.

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