

Pete's Pickin's

BY W.A. "PETE" WILDER



Chuck Hunter made me feel badly about my surprise birthday affair when he informed me that he and his brother-in-law "Speedie" Guess were not contacted. When I explained that my daughters had made the secret arrangements, maybe that might have removed some of the "pain." Chuc, should know that our respect for the Hunters goes back to my grandmother and his. And I'm glad Speedie Guess was absent when Chuck talked with me.

After much "prayer and persuasion," Rev. Howard Todd came back to the Breakfast Club Tuesday morning. Or should I say "thanks" to his wife. He was scheduled to accompany Rev. Leatha Debnam to Charlotte last weekend. It seems that Jim Keck got his salutary breakfast recently but did not get the "fresh orange juice." "Po Al" Perry seems to have trouble making regular appearances at the Breakfast Club. I'm wondering if Al is "protecting his interest."

There is something nice about honesty. Dr. Charles Alston came in Tuesday morning and made a profound statement. Aaron W. Solomon was so sharp one day last week that he took the house down. Some fellows had something to say about it after he left. Deacon Willie Jones was "out of sight" Wednesday morning. What was his mission? He did not volunteer and I dare not ask him.

Two fellows leave by 6:30 a.m. They are protecting their interest with the State of North Carolina. Perry—the barber—calls it "work." As for me, they are looking after their retirement.

The barber, Perry, came to the club Thursday morning, ordered his snack and plunked it down where I usually sit. Al Perry noticed that he spilled some milk on the table. Al, in a reproaching tone, reminded him that if he had been milking a cow he would have been more careful. Whereupon, Perry, the barber, replied that he knew nothing of milking cows, they had Carnation and Pet milk when he came along. Perry the barber got the pennies for the morning. "Po Al" Perry had really stepped into that one. Hugh Anderson has a way of slipping in on Thursdays. I'm sure the gang joins me in wishing for Rev. A.J. Turner strength so that he can come back at least every Tuesday.

Joshua Massenberg, pianist de luxe, passed Monday night and was funeralized from Lea's Mortuary Friday, Feb. 7, at 1 p.m. "Mack" had a lovely touch, loved music to the end. Ms. Annie Belle Massenberg, his wife, and adopted son, Ben Massenberg, survive him.

The gang got together last Friday at K&S at 1 p.m. What was going on? Ms. Dolores McCoy, the housing expert with the Council on Aging of Wake County, was belatedly feted for her birthday. Among those present were Mesdames Cheryl Inniss, Pat Christmas, Vergie McNeil, Portia Lett, the honoree and "The Pen."

Riding on to the Breakfast Club one morning, I heard the "BP" ad from Williford's. Really, it was nice until I heard the name of Bennie Gill. Then I arrived at a new conclusion: Robert had some money to spend and somehow he thought he would include Bennie. What a "poor investment!" At the same time, I'm not arguing with success!

I heard that Martin Street Baptist Church plans to have a retirement banquet for Ms. Lucy Farrell. Ms. Farrell has spent many years of useful service to that church. Really, I think she has more years to her credit in that sphere than anybody in the Capital City, white or black.

Bro. Clegg came in Thursday morning. It was real nice to see him after untold absences.

Ms. Gloria Payne of the City of Raleigh's Human Resources Department was honored on her birthday by co-workers at a dinner party at Garner's Golden Corral. She received some real fancy gifts. The people to whom she entrusted her safety were so slow that I already had my lunch on my tray when they reached the Corral. I wondered where they had been for all of us came down on the same elevator. Then my deductive reasoning went to work and it finally told me that "They did not have the necessary funding and had to find it quickly."

Ms. Pauline Williams is back at home, 511 Montague Lane. Her many friends and neighbors welcome the news.

Ms. Lillie Mae Haywood Hodge passed recently and funeral services were held at St. Paul AME Church last Monday. Among the out-of-town relatives were Ms. Mary Louise Jennings and daughter of Ocala, Fla.; Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Haywood, Jr., New York, N.Y., and Col. Vernon Haywood, Tucson, Ariz. Other survivors are Ms. Charlotte Haywood Green, Wayman Hodge, son; and a niece (let me call it like I know her, for I don't know her married name), Ms. Gwendolyn Haywood. Really, I did not know that Vernon was blind until then. Coming out of the church, the boys called their names as they embraced him, letting him know that they still remember him at home. As for Vernon, he smiled. That was enough!

Zetas Celebration 72nd Yr. Of The Founders In City

Twenty-two undergraduate sorors from local colleges and universities met with Omicron Zeta Chapter, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., in a joint celebration of the 72nd anniversary of their Founders' Day. The event took place at Balentine's Cafeteria in Cameron Village at 11:15 a.m. Jan. 18.

Activities started with a buffet luncheon and greetings from Soror Mary Clarke, basileus of Omicron Zeta Chapter. At the beginning of the program, Felicia Gore, a soror from the undergraduate chapter of St. Augustine's College, read the poem "Pearls" to commemorate the five sorors, known as "pearls," who founded the sorority. During the ceremony, soror Wanda Poole, Founders' Day chairperson, and other committee members rendered selected readings, reviewed the history of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and led the entire group of sorors in a catechism of historical facts about the sorority and the local chapter.

Since its inception on Jan. 16, 1920 on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C., as the sister organization of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Zetas have been actively involved in community service. Omicron Zeta Chapter was chartered on Aug. 15, 1935. Mikasa crystal picture frames were presented to sorors Evelyn Bennett Pope and Ann Simpson Hawkins in recognition of their distinguished status of charter members. Soror Bernestine Sanders received the award for Soror Hawkins.

Zetas were especially proud to introduce the undergraduate sorors from St. Augustine's College and

Shaw and N.C. State universities, as well as sorors Katie B. Harris, Doris B. Johnson, Monica Keele Jones, Tonay Johnson and Overa M. Reid, representing two reclaimants, one transfer and two visiting sorors, respectively. Other Founders' Day committee members are sorors Almeda Glascoe, Margaret Capehart, Irene Miller and Debra Sanford.

Dr. K. A. Boham To Literacy & Basic Skills Body

Dr. Kenneth A. Boham of Raleigh, vice president for continuing education at Wake Technical Community College, has been appointed to the North Carolina Committee on Literacy and Basic Skills.

Gov. James G. Martin appointed Dr. Boham to the committee, which consists of 13 representatives from education, job training, human resources, public assistance, libraries and economic development.

The committee will advise the governor, the State Board of Community Colleges and other public policy and educational leaders on issues and needs in basic skills education for adults. Another goal is to foster cooperation between the public and private sectors in meeting the critical need for higher basic skills in the workplace and to expand public awareness of the need for a literate citizenry.

Dr. Boham will serve on the committee through December.

Survey Of Youngster Find Poor Children More Likely Overweight

Poor children are nearly three times as likely to be overweight as children of middle-class and affluent families, according to an analysis of a nationally representative sample of 6,700 youngsters aged 5 to

17. Black children, the research also finds, are more than three times as likely as white children to be overweight, which is defined as 30 per-

cent or more above the normal ratio of weight to height for a given age. According to the new study, 14.4 percent of poor children are overweight, compared to 5.2 percent of children from families with incomes at least twice the poverty level, a group that includes about 60 percent of American children. About 17.3 percent of black youngsters are overweight compared to 5.3 percent of whites.

health care use and expenditures. Prepared by Dr. Llewellyn J. Cornelius, of the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the paper in the *Meharry Journal* represents the first publication of the survey's results relating to the health habits of children.

The results are in distinct contrast to those of an earlier federal survey, the Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, conducted between 1976 and 1980. An analysis of that survey by a group from Harvard University found obesity to be considerably more prevalent among white children than among black children. While that analysis employed a different method of measuring obesity than the new research does, Dr. Cornelius is doubtful that this could account for the wide variance between the two surveys. The measures, he points out, have been shown to be highly correlated.

L.A. Police Chife Gates Says He Opposes Reforms & Won't Step Down

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (AP)—Chief Daryl F. Gates stated Friday that he'll campaign against recommended police department reforms he believes are unwarranted and repeated he won't step down in April as previously promised.

The chief said in early January he wants to stay on the job past April to streamline his department's command structure and preside over the new community-based policing program suggested by the Christopher Commission.

The commission was an independent panel appointed by Mayor Tom Bradley that reviewed the department after the March 3, 1991 Rodney King beating.

Some of the panel's recommendations include limiting the police chief's term to 10 years. Gates has been chief nearly 14 years and has been with the LAPD since 1949.

The term limit issue will go before voters in a June municipal election.

Gates said he will campaign against the term limit and reforms that would give control of LAPD to the Police Commission, City Council and Mayor.

"I will use every ounce of energy I have to defeat that," he said. "I think that will be the end of good policing in the city of Los Angeles."

"I will [retire] sometime before July 1, at least that's my position right now," Gates said in a KNBC-TV interview.

"I am not going to go until after the election in June. Absolutely will not. And I wish Christopher and the rest of them would stop bugging me about it." Gates was referring to Warren Christopher, who headed the Christopher Commission.

Gates previously said he would retire in April. That announcement followed months of speculation as city officials and some activists blamed Gates for the betting of the black motorist and urged his resignation.

However, Gates said Friday that pressure from commission members and Bradley for his forced retirement make him more determined to remain chief.

"I'm hopeful that all those loud-mouths out there will shut up so that this resistive thing within me doesn't say, 'Hey, I'm going to stay in just to drive them crazy,'" Gates said.

"For Christopher and some of these people that sit-up in their beautiful paneled offices to continually talk about these fine police officers in the way they do, that makes me resistive; that makes me want to stay here," Gates said.

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