

COMMUNITY FORUM

FAMILY OF THE WEEK

Johnie And Mozell Williams Enter The Golden Years Of Their Marriage



Portlanders will be happy to know that the Black family is alive and pursuing longevity here in the City of Roses. Mozell and Johnie Williams demonstrated that contention quite adequately last Sunday at the Bethel A.M.E. Church when the Rev. Milton Green tied the knot together for the second time in half a century. She is the fourth sister to have celebrated such an event. Not too many people from the larger community can boast such a feat. About 300 of their relatives and friends joined with them to witness the occasion.

Best friend of the family for 45 years, Mrs. Martha Jordan recalled a delightful personal history of the family. She described how the Williams's first met and then romanced prior to their wedding 50 years ago. She also confessed to the fact that later when both of their children grew up she was unsuccessful in matchmaking her son with the daughter of the Williams's.

A most touching moment followed when daughter, Nathalee Williams Evans, paid a most touching tribute to her parents. She said, "We chose you as our parents and we are delighted that we had the good sense to do so." She then paused a moment and Ed Mitchel sang "One In A Million You." In an alliterative description of the years with the family, Mrs. Evans went on to describe how both of her parents had always worked in the best interest of all the children.

Three grand-children then mounted the podium and each read parts of a poem which declared their love for their grandparents.

Congratulations came in from all over the United States, including from The President, the governor, senator, congressman, county and city officials.

Relatives also converged on this very happy occasion from all over the United States. The military members of the family were also in evidence, including an army major, a navy commander, an air force captain and several marine noncommissioned officers.

Following the re-dedication of their vows, the entire party retired to the social rooms of the church where a three-foot tiered wedding cake greeted the guests along with hors d'oeuvres, punch and entertainment.

The reception line included notables from all over the state. One can't help but conclude that the next 50 years will be just as delightful and productive for the Williams as were the first 50.

Community Teen Back From 17,000 Mile Summer Vacation

by Bill Scheider

By the time 17-year-old Tasha Williams sauntered into her twelfth-grade classroom at Reynolds High School in Troutdale last week, she had amassed enough material to turn her ritualistic September English composition into "How I Spent My Summer Vacation: The Novel."

While most teens on summer vacation dashed off on day trips with friends or family, the daughter of Northeast Portland residents Jim and Edythe Williams flew 8500 miles (that's one way, folks) to bundle up for the Brazilian winter in Sao Paulo.

Tasha was in Brazil for two months as an exchange student, a participant in the American Field Services Summer Exchange Program. She was hosted by Joan and Aparcida Jurca and their 13-year-old daughter, Viviane. Four hours a day were spent studying photography and drafting at Colegio Brasilia. That left plenty of time for hanging out with Viviane and her friends and touring the city.

Tasha would like to travel to Melbourne next summer and, upon her return, begin Stanford University in the fall. She'll major in International Business because, "I'd like to go into business, and working internationally would allow me to travel a lot."

When Tasha deplaned United Airlines flight 141 at PDX last month, she was greeted by her parents, an armful of balloons and their gift of a silver 280ZX. Her next stop? DMV for a driver's license, of course.

 It keeps more than memories alive.

This space provided as a public service.

"Typical Little Girl Collects Dolls And Trophies

by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

Twirling, spinning, sparkling and fun all help to describe an activity that Khaleelah has become very successful in.

Khaleelah is one of three children born to Halim and Fran Rahsaan. She is an eleven year old beauty who loves reading, spelling, social studies and math (sometimes). She is an above average student, and, she will be entering the 6th grade at Fernwood School this year.

Khaleelah is a dancer with Portland's Metro Dance Studio, but she has two favorites in her life. They are her dolls and the Kelly Baton Kadets.

Khaleelah has been with the Kelly Kadets, located here in Portland, since 1985. Sharon Bush is the director and Shanon Barker is the trainer and choreographer. There are 35 members, their ages ranging from 4 to 14 years of age.

Competitions are held each year from January to July. There are state, regional and national contests.

State competition was held at the Willamette University in Salem, Oregon on May 14. During this competition, Khaleelah placed first in the pairs segment. Her partner was Marissa Akins of Salem.

Khaleelah and Marissa met at baton camp in 1986, at state competitions and later went to baton camp. They decided to become baton partners. This year, they won first place in state. Last year, they placed second in state.

During the regional competitions, they placed second at Fort Vancouver, Washington and, last year in Reno, Nevada, they placed sixth out of 12 entries. This year, in national competition, they placed second out of 15 pairs entered and last year, when the competition was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, they placed eighth out of 14 pairs entered.

Checking the statistics, they have improved in each entry by 95%.

Khaleelah also competes in solo performances. Her solo events include dance, twirl and two-baton. She also competes with the team and the Corps. There are 30 girls in the Corps. The teams consist of individuals from the Corps. Eleven girls made up the team that Khaleelah was on.

Khaleelah has many, many trophies to show as a result of her successful competitiveness.

"I like it," says Khaleelah, "because you learn a lot of things, and it keeps you busy. You learn new tricks."

We practice a lot on our team and individual events because our

Khaleelah's older sister, Tonja Elizabeth, 15, and her brother, Abdul Karim, 9, accompany her on occasion. "Dad comes to the state and regional competitions, mostly," Khaleelah said.

"Khaleelah is a typical little girl," said her mother. She has hobbies and the biggest of them all is her doll collection. And she does "collect" them.

Khaleelah's thoughts about returning to school: "School is fun, but I don't like a lot of homework. I'm kinda excited and kinda sad. I have to leave my other school and my friends, but I am looking forward to seeing my new school."



Khaleelah Rahsaan and her doll collection. (Photo by Bill Scheider)

coach wants to get first place. We perform before judges and we want to look good."

She went on to say, "Mommy tells me what I am doing wrong and what I need to work on. She comes to just about all of my practices."

Fran accompanies her daughter on all her competitions.

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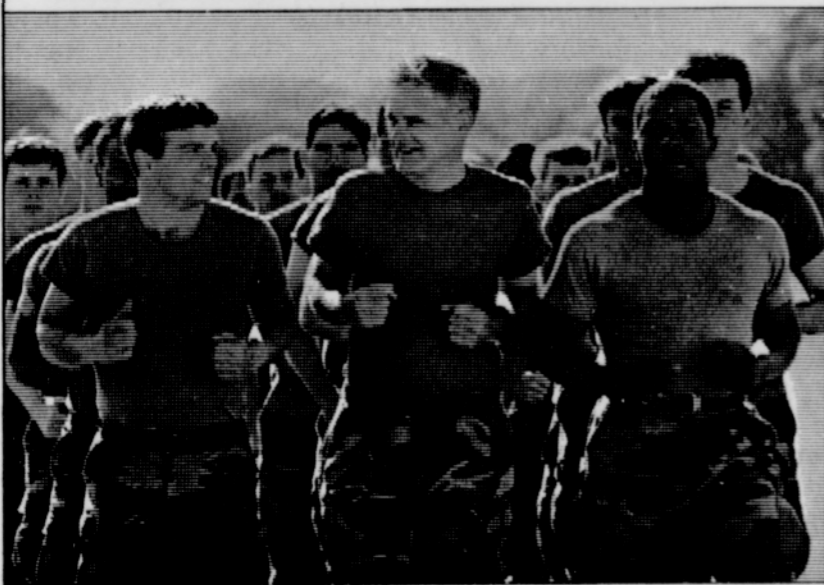
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