

Southern Memories . . .



Chattahoochee Promenade

*Ms. Wheelchair America, 1994
Columbus, Georgia
August 9 - 13, 1994*



Frank K. Martin, Mayor



Columbus Consolidated Government

Georgia's First Consolidated Government

FRANK K. MARTIN
Mayor

Post Office Box 1340
Columbus, Georgia 31902-1340

Telephone (706) 571-4712
FAX (706) 571-4970
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WELCOME TO COLUMBUS, GEORGIA!

It is my pleasure on behalf of the citizens and businesses in the Columbus area to extend to you a cordial welcome. The 1994 Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant is certain to be one of the premier events in Columbus this year, and the City of Columbus is delighted to host this most exciting and important civic event.

During your stay in Columbus, we feel confident that you will find our community stimulating, enjoyable, and rich with culture and heritage. We are proud of our area's outstanding educational system, excellent medical facilities, numerous recreational activities, fine shopping, and wide diversity of industries. Above all else, I know you will be impressed with the friendliness of our people, and the sense of community spirit and pride.

We look forward to sharing our hospitality with you. The 1994 Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant is an important event for this community, and it is my wish for all participants, members of their families, and friends in attendance, that this event be fondly remembered in the hearts and minds of those in attendance for many years to come.

With kindest regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Frank K. Martin
Mayor

"An Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Organization"



Zell Miller, Governor



STATE OF GEORGIA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ATLANTA 30334-0900

Zell Miller
GOVERNOR

GREETINGS:

It is a pleasure to welcome you to Georgia and the **1994 Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant**.

We are pleased that the city of Columbus has been selected to host the contestants from all over the United States who will be participating in this year's competition. I hope you will have the opportunity to enjoy some of the many attractions available to you in the Columbus area and experience the hospitality that is so much a part of everyday life here in the South.

I extend best wishes to the contestants in this year's pageant. You are to be commended on your talent and the exceptional personal qualities you demonstrate. It is my hope that this experience will be rewarding and fulfilling for each of you.

Let me also take this opportunity to express my gratitude to those individuals who have contributed their time and effort to ensure that the 1994 pageant is a success. I hope it will be the most successful ever.

With kindest regards, I remain

Sincerely,



Zell Miller

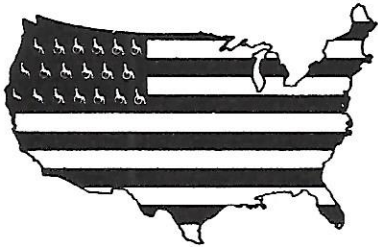
PURPOSE AND GOALS OF THE MS. WHEELCHAIR AMERICA PROGRAM

The Ms. Wheelchair America Program is in no way a beauty contest. It is, instead, a competition to select the most accomplished and articulate spokesperson for other persons with disabilities in the United States. The selected representative must be able to communicate both the needs and the accomplishments of her constituency to the general public, the business community and the lawmakers. She is charged with a continuing effort to educate the public regarding the dignity, productiveness and basic value of disabled people. She assumes the responsibility for the ongoing effort to eliminate the architectural and attitudinal barriers that prevent people with disabilities from assuming their rightful place in society.

As Ms. Wheelchair America, her duties are numerous. Each year she has the opportunity to travel, visiting advocacy groups, making public appearances and conducting television, radio and print interviews in the fulfillment of her major responsibilities. These include promoting awareness of the needs of disabled persons, creating an awareness for the need to eliminate architectural and attitudinal barriers, informing the able-bodied public of the achievements of physically disabled people across the nation.

We plan and conduct a four day event to select our new Ms. Wheelchair America. The Program is more than just the judging panel and one 'winner' is named. We schedule workshop sessions where we offer interesting topics of personal enhancement for the women, whether about grooming, communication and interpersonal skill development, networking with community programs and other educational topics. We offer 'free time' to allow for information exchanges between contestants to take place. Many new friendships are started from the Program, as the women validate the fact they are not the only one to use a wheelchair and experience some of the things they share with each other. The Program offers an opportunity to enjoy three days at a luxurious hotel setting here the contestants are really treated as 'special guests'. The Program is much more than just a healthy competition...it's an opportunity to see the potential within and to challenge personal growth.

The Planning Board for Ms. Wheelchair America is made up of volunteers from many different community organizations, businesses, private citizens, and previous title holders. There are few administrative costs to the Program. All expenses for hosting the Program, travel for Ms. Wheelchair America and expenses associated with the national Ms. Wheelchair America Program must be secured through various fund-raising efforts, donations, etc. We welcome your assistance.



Ms. Wheelchair America, Inc.

MS. WHEELCHAIR CREED

*As Ms. Wheelchair, I promise to do my utmost
to promote public awareness of the disabled . . .*

*And to give unstintingly of my time and effort
to this purpose. . .*

*To strive to achieve the best that is
within me. . .*

*To offer my hand in friendship to everyone
I meet . . .*

*To be cheerful, honest and loving. . .
To give hope to the less fortunate . . .
To set an example by my attitude . . .*

*And to do all of this with grace, warmth
and dignity.*

**Greetings from the Columbus, Georgia
Planning Committee of the
Ms. Wheelchair America Program**

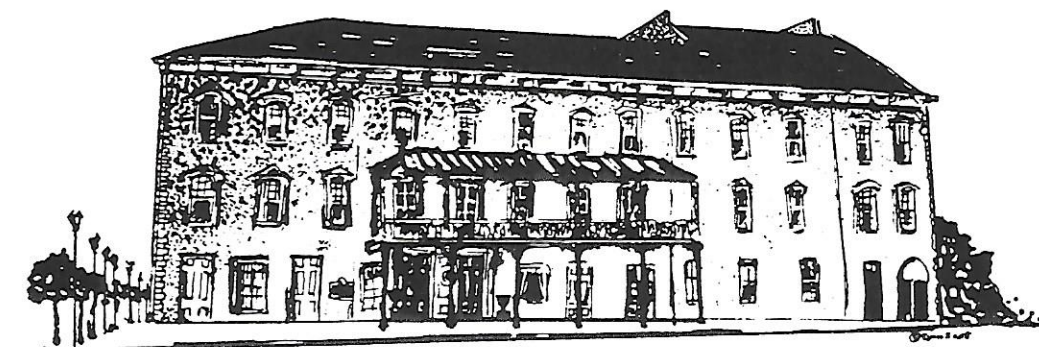
The Columbus Planning Committee extends a sincere welcome to everyone attending the 1994 Ms. Wheelchair America Program. We hope you enjoy your stay here in the great state of Georgia!

We are so grateful to our many sponsors and donors for making this event possible. Our success is possible because of their generosity, support, and commitment. A huge "thank you" to our Mayor, Frank K. Martin, Action Wheelchair Technology, Mooncraft, Magnolia Cafe, and so very many others, for their contributions in hosting this year's program and providing a wonderful setting for making beautiful "Southern Memories".

Gail McKoon & Margaret Kambitz, Co-coordinators

Martha Donaldson
Linda Jones
Randy Long
Joe Riddle

John Donaldson
Mike Owens
Greg Clark



Spring House

STATE COORDINATORS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Barbara Cramer, Executive Director
525 Meadowlark Drive
Lakewood, CO 80226
(303) 232-4065

ALABAMA

Tony Leamon
Adult Vocational Rehab Services
Post Office Box 4100
Opelika, Alabama 36803

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SOUTH CAROLINA

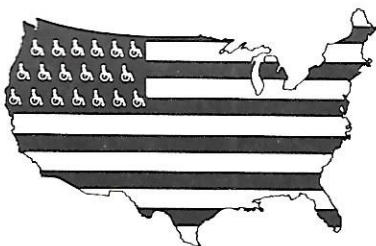
Kathy Adams
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TEXAS

Kristi Thomas
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Denton, Texas 76206
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UTAH

Sherry Repscher
1598 Rihards Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84115
(801) 538-4210 Work
(801) 484-5098 Home



Ms. Wheelchair America, Inc.

National Headquarters:

525 Meadowlark Drive ☐ Lakewood, Colorado 80226 ☐ (303) 232-4065

August 1, 1994

To: Contestants, Family Members, Friends, Sponsors,
and All of You Who Have Taken the Time to be
Involved with the Ms. Wheelchair America Program

From: Barbara Cramer, Executive Director

In 1972, an educational process was begun for an unaware and discriminating public...an organization was established that would highlight the fact that the only difference between a person utilizing a wheelchair for mobility and an able bodied person was the wheelchair! Dr. Philip K. Wood, a Columbus, Ohio psychiatrist, established the Ms. Wheelchair America Program as a forum for the promotion of the persons. Twenty two years later, we, on the MWA Board of Directors, are proud to welcome you to the 1994 Program, in Columbus, Georgia.

Over the past twenty two years, titleholders have been chosen from across the entire United States, with as many as 36 states being represented, and as few as 9. No matter the numbers, the MWA Board of Directors and the state coordinating the national event each year, have offered accomplished wheelchair women an incredible experience with life-long friendships, and unforgettable memories being made.

We are pleased to have all of you involved this year. We hope that you will not only enjoy each other's company, but learn more about the MWA program, and share your experiences with others. Only one will wear the crown, but all of you can share the excitement of working with the Board of Directors to see that all 50 states will send a representative in the near future.

The State Coordinator, Gail McKoon, and her staff have worked very hard to make sure that your stay in Columbus is an enjoyable, and an unforgettable one. Congratulations to all of you who are competing this week. We celebrate your accomplishments with you. Enjoy this experience as you have no other.

JUDGING CRITERIA

The Ms. Wheelchair America judging is based upon criteria established by the national committee of the Ms. Wheelchair America Program. The following excerpts were taken from official guidelines:

A. ACCOMPLISHMENTS 40%)

1. Personal achievements/accomplishments since onset of disability only in the following areas: *Academic *Vocational *Personal
2. Adjustment to disability.

B. COMMUNITY SKILLS (40%)

1. Ability to deal with media, peers, civic groups, etc.
2. Public Relations Skills.
3. Advocacy for persons with disabilities.
4. Self-confidence/motivation/initiative/creativity.

C. SELF-PERCEPTION/PROJECTION (20%)

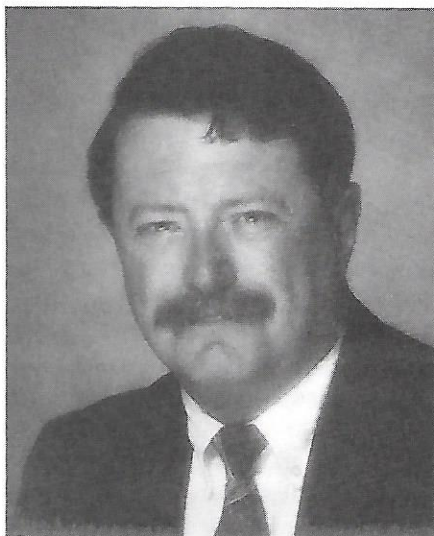
1. Poise, demeanor.
2. Appropriate attire, personal presentation.

*Ms. Wheelchair America is not a beauty contest and this category is not taken as a license to choose the most attractive entrant. Instead, the items in this category are simply to express a desire to have a pleasing appearance capable of obtaining favorable responses from any audience before which Ms. Wheelchair America would appear.

Ms. Congeniality is chosen by the contestants for this year's pageant for her friendly and cheerful personality and her helpfulness to them during the program weekend.



LET'S MEET OUR JUDGES



BARRY E. DAVIS, JR.
Columbus, Georgia
Judge Coordinator

Barry is the Chief of Parole Officers in the LaGrange Parole Office. He was raised in Huntsville, Alabama and later earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Auburn University.

He is married to Judy R. Davis and they have two children, Ashlee and Barry (Trey), 14 and 13. He has served on the Columbus Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities, the Board of Directors for the Senoia Athletic Association and remains active in other community activities.

Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant Judges



KATER W. CORNWELL
Charlotte, North Carolina
Judge

Mr. Cornwell is a native of Chester, South Carolina and transplanted to Charlotte, North Carolina for the past 25 years. He graduated from Finley High School and spent 6 years in the U.S. Marine Corp. He served one tour in Vietnam where he was wounded in combat. He later developed a virus which rendered him a paraplegic.

Kater received many military declarations which included: National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal W/1, Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, Good Conduct Medal (First AWD), Purple Heart Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Good Conduct Medal (Second AWD).

After serving in the Military, Kater attended Biscayne Southern College and Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, North Carolina where he majored in Business Management and Marketing. He has been employed

by Delta Airlines for 23 years, and also serves as Director of Advocacy Legislation, Southern PVA.

Kater is a recognized wheelchair athlete. He is a seven-time USA National Champion in weightlifting, seven-time National Wheelchair Gold Medal Winner, three-time World Champion. He represented the United States in 1992 Barcelona, Spain, Paralympic Games, and was the recipient of the prestigious Jefferson Award in 1985 for outstanding public service.

Kater Cornwell has been featured in magazines such as: *Muscle and Fitness*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Jet Magazines*, *UPS Big Idea*, *Paraplegia News*, *Sports & Spokes*, *Vanguard*, and others. He was also featured on CNN News, Headline News, ABC, TNT, TBS, and Kid's World.

Kater's motto is, "walk by faith, not by sight", and says that "you only fail when you fail to try".

Kater is married and the father of three sons.



PEGGY KIRKWOOD
Dallas, Texas
Judge

Peggy Kirkwood has been with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission since 1971. For the past 18 years, she has been a Federal Investigator in the Dallas District Office charged with the responsibility of investigating and enforcing Title VII of the Civil Rights Act and Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Equal Pay Act, and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act.

Peggy is the Federal Women's Program Manager with EEOC, working to enhance the employment and advancement of women through training, affirmative action, and upward mobility programs. She also works with the office EEO committee to enhance employment and promotional opportunities for women, minorities, and persons with disabilities. She is a member of the Dallas/Ft. Worth Federal Women's Program and Federally Employed

Women. Peggy volunteers with United Way and was a loaned executive to the Combined Federal Campaign.

In addition to her professional work, Peggy is involved in her community and serves on the local PTA. She is involved in her church and the Order of Eastern Stars. She was born in Kansas City, Kansas, is a graduate of East Anchorage High School in Alaska and has lived and traveled throughout Europe prior to making Dallas, Texas her home.

Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant Judges



JOHN T. "TOM" O'BRYANT
Stamford, Connecticut
Judge

Mr. O'Bryant is employed by the Champion International Corporation in Stamford Connecticut, where he serves as Vice President - Equal Opportunity Affairs and Work/Family Services. In this position, he is responsible for affirmative action and coordination of discrimination charges corporate-wide as well as the development, and coordination of work/family programs. He is also Director - Equal Opportunity Affairs and is responsible for all EEO matters within Champion International Corporation.

Tom attended Bellarmine College in Louisville, Kentucky, where he obtained a degree in Business Administration (Major in Personnel Administration). Afterwards he attended the University of Louisville for graduate courses in Business Administration. He also served in the United States Army Reserve from 1961-1970.

Tom has been affiliated with the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities in Washington, D.C., serving as Chairman of the Employee Committee for eight years, and on the Executive Committee for several years. He has held several positions on the Connecticut Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities in Hartford, and presently fills the position of Chairman on that Committee. Other past and present affiliations include: Georgia Governor's Council on Disabled in Atlanta, National Rehabilitation Association, Georgia Rehabilitation Association, Consortium on Placement, Business Information Processing Education for the Disabled. Tom served as judge in the 1985 Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant and served as judge/head judge in several Ms. Wheelchair Georgia Pageants between 1984 and 1988, and as head judge in the 1988 Ms. Wheelchair Maryland Pageant.

Tom currently resides in Trumbull, Connecticut.



MILDRED J. "COOKIE" WATTS
Columbus, Georgia
Judge

Mrs. Watts is currently employed at Fort Benning, Georgia, as a Supervisory Personnel Staffing Specialist where she supervises ten employees and is responsible for several special programs which include serving as the Fort Benning Individuals with Disabilities Program Manager.

Cookie received a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration from Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi, in 1972. While attending Jackson State, she was a member of the Zeta Phi Beta Society, Inc., Delta Mu Delta Honor Society, and received a full four year scholarship. She participated in the Thirteen College Curriculum Program, and was selected for Who's Who Among American College and Universities.

Cookie has attended numerous courses, seminars, and conferences including: Introduction to Civilian Personnel Management, Basic and Advanced Staffing, Position and Pay Management, Techniques of Advanced Management, Department of Defense for Stability of Civilian Employment, USCSC Regional Conference, Windmills Training, Personnel Management for Executives, etc.

Cookie is married to Willie Watts, Jr., and they have one son, Christopher Kelvin, and one daughter, Belinda Nicol. They reside in Columbus.

Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant Judges



JUDITH A. WINTERS
Augusta, Georgia
Judge

Judy was born in Huntington, W.Va. where she lived until she married and moved to Morgantown, W.Va. for her husband to finish his degree in Aero-Space Engineering. While at WVU their first son, Mark, was born.

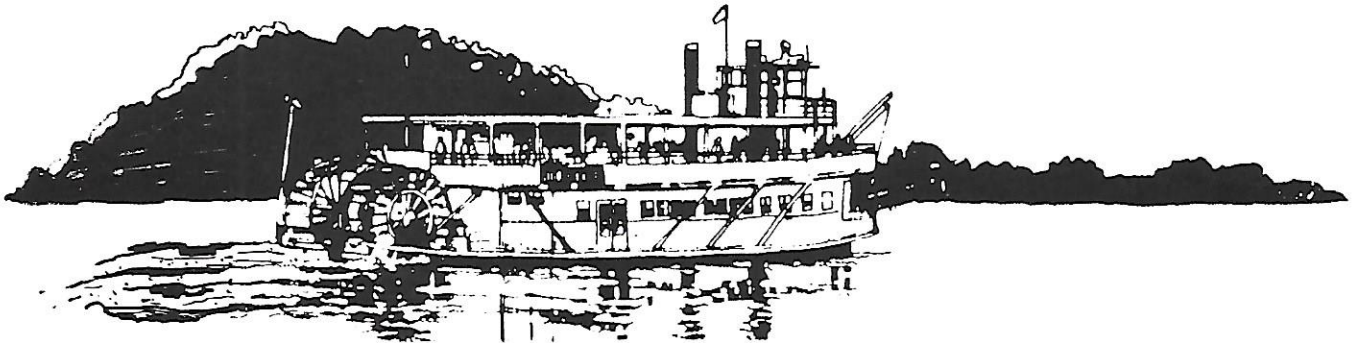
Then her family moved to Seattle, Washington for a six month employment period with the Boeing Company. After this they were off to Columbus, Georgia and Fort Benning for the United States Army. Judy's second son, David, was born at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Their time in the military was spent at Fort Benning, Fort Rucker, Alabama and finishing up at Fort Benning. Upon completion of Military Service, the Winters family moved back to Seattle for Mr. Winters to complete his contract with the Boeing Company.

When the contract with the Boeing Company was up, it was back to Georgia and the Lockheed Corporation. Judy, her husband, and two sons lived in Doraville for three years and one year at Fort Worth, Texas. Finally, Judy and her family settled in Bloomingdale, where her children finished high school and she attended Armstrong State College.

Judy now has two grandsons, Jared and Daniel. Both David and Mark are married and live in Savannah with their families.

While in college, Judy started L.I.F.E., Inc. (Living Independence for Everyone) and served as Executive Director for eight and a half years. During her time with the Corporation, stable funding was established, an apartment complex was built, and is filled to capacity, at a cost of 2 million dollars.

At the present time, Judy is Independent Living/Tools for Life Coordinator at Walton Rehabilitation Hospital in Augusta, Georgia. Walton's Independent Living Horizons program is developing 12 apartments and a group home with 20 more apartments bid on with HUD and a 12-18 residence being built with private funding.



MS. WHEELCHAIR AMERICA PROGRAM

Schedule of Events

August 9 thru 14, 1994

Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, August 7th thru 9th - Arrival Days

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 1994

Country Picnic Supper	8:00 - 11:00 PM	Holiday Inn-Airport Fountain/Carriage Room
Judges Orientation and Get Acquainted Dinner	7:00 - 10:00 PM	Red Lobster

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1994

Contestant Orientation	8:00 - 9:00 AM	Room TBA Kathy Adams Beverly Bulloch
Judges Meeting	8:00 - 9:00 AM	Parlor Room No. 126
Judges Sessions	9:15 - 11:45 PM	Parlor Room No. 126
Lunch	12:00 - 1:00 PM	Holiday Inn-Airport Buffet in Dining Room
Workshop: Personal Safety	1:30 - 2:30 PM	Room TBA Sam Prophet
Ms. Wheelchair America Board Meeting	2:00 - 4:00 PM	Room TBA
Judging Session	3:00 - 5:00 PM	Parlor Room No. 126
Escort Orientation	5:00 - 6:00 PM	Room TBA Leslie Taylor
Dinner at Country's Barbecue Mainstreet Village (Ladies, meet your Escorts!!)	7:00 - 9:00 PM	Buses will begin loading at 6:30
Buses loading at 9:15 for trip back to Holiday Inn-Airport.		
Home-made Ice Cream and Other Goodies	9:30 - 11:00 PM	Hospitality Room No. 330

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 1994

Judging Sessions	8:00 - 11:00 AM	Parlor Room No. 126
Workshop: "ADA & You"	11:15 - 1:00 PM	Parlor Room No. 126
Lunch Buffet	1:00 - 2:00 PM	Dining Room
M.W.A. Board Meeting	2:30 - 4:00 PM	Room TBA
Judging Sessions	2:30 - 4:30 PM	Parlor Room No. 126
Escorts Arrive	6:00 PM	
Banquet Judged Speaking Event (This is a semi-formal affair.)	7:00 PM	Main Dining Gallery Columbus Trade & Convention Center

(Buses start loading in front of HOLIDAY INN at 6:15 PM)

Return to Holiday Inn 10:30 PM

(Buses begin loading in front of Trade Center between 10:00 and 10:30 PM for return to Holiday Inn.)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 1994

- 9:00 AM Buses load for Brunch at the Riverwalk.
9:30 AM Brunch at Riverwalk on Chattahoochee River, by Magnolia Cafe.
11:30 AM Buses load for Outing to Buena Vista, Georgia.
"America's Front Porch."

SCHEDULE - BUENA VISTA, GEORGIA

- 12:30 PM Arrive in Buena Vista, Georgia
(Greetings & Gifts by Local Chamber of Commerce)
1:00 PM Visit Elvis Museum (on the Square)
2:30 PM Visit National Country Museum (on the Square)
3:30 PM Shopping (Complimentary T-Shirt, Coupons)
5:00 PM Live Acoustic Performance (Silver Moon)
6:00 PM Reception/Dinner (Front Porch Music Hall)
8:00 PM Chubby Checker Concert (Silver Moon)
10:30 - 11:00 PM Begin loading for trip back to Columbus

PLEASE NOTE: As we stated before, the weather in August is hot and humid; therefore, the Front Porch Music Hall will be open all afternoon in case you need a place to cool off and/or relax. Also, bring your "rain gear" just in case it rains.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 1994

- 9:00 - 10:00 AM Poolside, bring your companion! Exercise for the fun of it! - Jewette Wynne
10:00 - 12:00 Noon Judging Sessions, if needed.
1:00 - 4:00 PM Hair, Makeup, & Nails (In your rooms.)
3:30 PM Delegates and companions will be served sandwiches in their room,
from Part IV.)
4:15 PM Buses load in front of Holiday Inn-Airport for Trade Center.
(Delegates, Companions, Escorts and Judges only.)
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Practice with Escorts.
6:30 - 7:30 PM Photography Session.
8:00 PM Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant and Coronation Ceremonies.
10:00 - Midnight Coronation Celebration/Dance/Reception, Holiday Inn-Lounge.
(Buses load in front of Holiday Inn at 6:45 PM to transport **Staff and other Supporters** to the Trade Center.)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 1994

- 10:00 AM Queen's Breakfast. (Gifts for the title holder and Runners-Up will
be presented at this time in the Fountain/Carriage Rooms.)
12:00 Noon M.W.A. Board Meeting.
12:30 PM M.W.A. Board and NEW M.W.A. Meet.

Check out and transportation to the Airport on Sunday and Monday.

A friend of mine is fond of saying,
*"If you find a turtle sitting on a fence post,
you can be sure he had help getting up there"*.
Likewise, no one person could have put this year's
Ms. Wheelchair America Program together.

It is not possible to list the dozens of volunteers who gave time,
talents, and advice, but I would like to name a few who made
extraordinary contributions in these areas:

Martha Donaldson	Anne Lewis
Richard Duncan	Randy Long
Beverly Hellvig	Wayne Martin
Linda Jones	Mike Owens
John Donaldson	Joe Riddle

**Margaret Kambitz, Co-Coordinator
and the**

Ms. Wheelchair America Executive Board

Thank you all for your selfless devotion to this awesome task!

**Gail McKoon
Host State Co-Coordinator**

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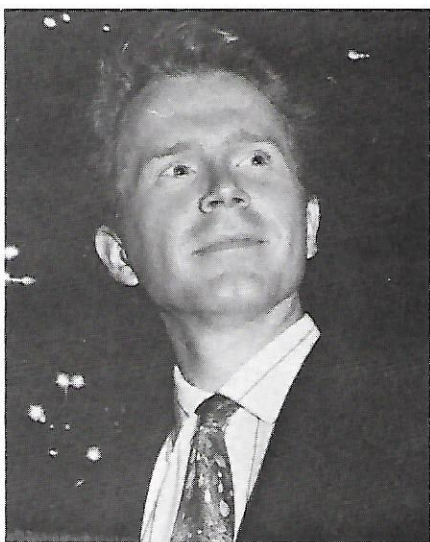
WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

"ADA and You"	Personal Safety
Linda L. Priest	Sam Prophet

**Exercise For The Fun Of It
Jewette Wynne**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**A very special thanks to Gail Simpson,
Secretary and friend to the
Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities
and to the
Ms. Wheelchair America Planning Committee**



JOHN ELLIOTT
Master of Ceremonies

John is currently the Weather Anchor and a Special Features Reporter for WRBL-TV3 in Columbus. He is very active in community relations, speaking to schools and civic organizations, and working with local charity functions.

Before coming to Columbus, John was an Audio and Video instructor at Mott Community College, Flint, Michigan and Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg, Missouri.

He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan in Radio, TV and Film; a Masters of Art in Communications from Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg, Missouri and is working on a degree in Broadcast Meteorology from Mississippi State University. John served as Master of Ceremonies in the 1994 Ms. Wheelchair Georgia Pageant.



SUZANNE HUDSON
Mistress of Ceremonies

Suzanne is currently a news anchor and reporter for WLOS-TV in Asheville, North Carolina. She graduated Summa cum laude from DePaul University in Chicago in June of 1987, with a B.A. Degree in Communications. Since that time, she has had extensive experience working with the news media.

Suzanne was a National Collegiate Communications Arts Award winner in 1991, and was also named "Outstanding Young Woman of America."

She has volunteered with the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the Cystic Fibrosis Association, Special Olympics, and Easter Seals of Columbus. This was her third year as Mistress of Ceremonies for the Ms. Wheelchair Georgia Pageant.



ESCORTS

Infantry Officer Basic Course of
2nd Battalion, 11th Infantry Regiment,
Fort Benning, Georgia
Cpt. Scott J. Byrnes, Escort Coordinator



COLOR GUARD



SFC Curry
SFC Botta
SFC Blalock
SFC Runkle



The Ms. Wheelchair America Executive Board

Kathy Adams, President

Gloria Hamlin, Vice President

Sherry Repscher, Secretary

Gail McKoon, Treasurer

Barbara Cramer, Executive Director

wishes each delegate the best of luck!

You truly are all winners!

MS. WHEELCHAIR AMERICA 1994

Pageant Program

August 13, 1994, 8:00 P.M.

“SOUTHERN MEMORIES”

Producer - Mike Owens

Presentation of Honor Guard

“The Star Spangled Banner”Karen Faircloth

Master of Ceremonies

John Elliott

Mistress of Ceremonies

Suzanne Hudson

Opening and Welcome

Honorable Frank K. Martin, Mayor, City of Columbus, Georgia

Recognition of Special Guests

Entertainment byJewette Wynne

Parade of Contestants

Introduction of reigning Ms. Wheelchair America, Dawn Blodgett

Introduction of Judges and Explanation of Judging Criteria

Introduction of Contestants and Escorts

(Each Contestant Asked Question From Judges)

Entertainment byDenny Gentry

(Tribute to all Contestants)

Judges Deliberating

Entertainment byMolly Rumph, Jewette Wynne,

Dr. Thomas Wentland and

Miss Presidential Pathways 1994

Announcement of Five Finalists

(Each Finalist Asked Question From Judges)

Entertainment byMiss Presidential Pathways 1994

Farewell Appearance and Remarks - Reigning Ms. Wheelchair America

Entertainment byJewette Wynne

(Tribute to Ms. Wheelchair America 1993)

Announcement of Special Awards

Announcement of Congeniality and Achievement Awards

Second Runner Up - First Runner Up

Ms. Wheelchair America 1994

Tribute Sung to WinnerDenny Gentry

Signing by Pam Ballard

A Fond Farewell From Dawn Shannon Blodgett 1993 Ms. Wheelchair America



Good Evening, my name is Dawn Shannon Blodgett, and I am from Costa Mesa, California. My dream to become Ms. Wheelchair America came true August 7, 1993. Since that time doors have been opening for me, giving me the opportunity to promote awareness of the capabilities of persons with disabilities. My goal is to help people see that our wheelchairs make us able, NOT disabled. To accomplish this goal, I have spoken at numerous schools and service clubs. I have also had the opportunity to appear on local television news shows, as well as appearing in newspapers and magazines around the United States. I feel by sharing my personal story, it helps to dispell the myths and fears associated with our chairs.

I wish to thank my mother, Estetta Blodgett, for her love and support. Without her ALL my dreams would be just that, dreams. To all the delegates in this evening's program, I wish you all the best. I am very proud of all of you. Please remember that even though there is only one title holder, you are all winners. I believe our Dreams are only as far out of our reach as we make them. Believe in yourself and reach for the stars. Anything is possible.

God Bless . . . and enjoy your evening.

Dawn Shannon Blodgett
Ms. Wheelchair America 1993-1994

1994 Ms. Wheelchair America Contestants

KATHERINE SMITH, Alabama

Katherine lives with her husband, Kevin in Roanoke, Alabama. She is a T-9/10 Paraplegia due to a gunshot wound in 1980.

She is currently Administrative Assistant for Athletic Department and is Coordinator of Student Center. Prior to this she was a Retail Store Manager for 12 years.

Katherine graduated from Southern Union State Community College in 1976 and Auburn University with a BS in Fashion Merchandising in 1979. After winning a scholarship, she has returned to Auburn University graduate school studying counseling and rehabilitation. She would like to design and implement a program to assist able-bodied and disabled students with career choices and job placement.

Katherine is a member of Pilot Club, Community Club, Randolph County Learning Center and worked with Randolph County ADA coordinator accessing county facilities for accessibility. She has traveled several thousand miles already this year speaking to churches, civic organizations, schools and government entities.

Katherine has won numerous business awards and has been recognized by the government and media for contribution to city and community and on disability issues.

Katherine has always been a very independent person both before and after her accident. She describes herself as participative, creative, goal directed, community-minded, and caring.

TONYA COTTON, Alaska

Tonya lives in Anchorage, Alaska, with her mother who has had numerous strokes. She has cerebral palsy with spastic quadraplegia since birth.

After graduating from high school in 1988 she attended the University of Alaska for two years and hopes to eventually complete her studies and receive a degree in Psychology so that she can help others deal with their disabilities.

Tonya is not presently employed but has worked in the Social Security Office as a data entry clerk for two years.

She is an active volunteer for United Way, Hope Cottages, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Access Alaska and MS Society. She was also an Easter Seals poster child and a March of Dimes poster child.

Tonya was instrumental in getting a grocery store chain to add handicapped parking and install wider checkstands so that handicapped people could shop for themselves.

She was the first handicapped child to be mainstreamed and graduate on time. She was an honor student and received the Presidential Award for Achievement. She learned to walk at 18 so she could walk to receive her diploma.

Her parents adopted her knowing her disabilities but they believed that everyone was created equal and fought for equality for the disabled. They instilled that belief in her. She describes herself as energetic, personable, active, courageous and persistent.

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BERNADETTE MADONIA, California



Bernadette lives in Bridgeville, California with her husband of fourteen years and her ten year old daughter. She also has two grown children not living at home. She is paraplegic from a car accident in April 1971.

She works for the USDA Forest Service, Mad River Ranger District as the Purchasing Agent. She also works in several other areas including Emergency Command Center Dispatcher, Internal Consultant, Facilitator, Level II Law Enforcement Officer, and the Regional Civil Rights Commission. She says one of her greatest achievements was becoming a licensed Ordained Minister.

Her volunteer activities include 911 Emergency Dispatcher, visiting and reading to shut-ins, peer counseling for spinal cord injury patients and she visits in a nursing home in Eureka which is a two hour drive from her home.

Bernadette has extensive speaking experience through her job, her ministries and volunteer activities. She says, "I speak openly and strongly about removing architectural and attitudinal

barriers that prevent people with disabilities from assuming their rightful place in society."

Besides her busy work schedule, she is a very active person. She has her own garden, cans own vegies, church activities, karate classes, raises own beef, housework, shops, cooks, skis, snorkels, deer hunts, white water rafts, fishes, camps, rides horses and just finished her first and last quilt.

She describes herself as enthusiastic, confident, loving, decisive and inspiring.

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JENNIFER FORREST, Colorado

Jennifer lives independently in Aurora, Colorado but does have a roommate that she shares a house with. She is an incomplete paraplegic due to a drunk driving accident in November 1989.

She has attended Mesa State College and Metro State College pursuing a degree in Physical Education with an Athletic Trainers minor. She has worked at both schools as a student athletic trainer. She plans to return to school as soon as possible to finish her degree and hopes to teach at the high school level.

Jennifer has had extensive speaking experience on such topics as: Effect of Drunk Driving, Adaptive Physical Education, Head and Spinal Cord Injury Awareness and Safety and Wheelchair Awareness.

She works with the Think First Chapter in Grand Junction and was chosen by the Southeast Colorado Track and Field Special Olympics to start the games and present awards.

Jennifer considers herself an advocate at all times through education and awareness. When people are more aware they will help make this world an equal place for all. The key is sharing knowledge.

She enjoys riding horses on her parents' horse and sheep ranch and describes herself as an educator who is unique, outgoing, determined and curious.



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MARCIE DAVIS, Florida

Marcie lives in Tallahassee, Florida with her husband, Franz Freibert. She has had spinal myelitis since 1972.

She holds a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Library Science degrees from University of Southern Mississippi. She is currently Bureau Chief, Advocacy and Grants Management for the State of Florida's Attorney General.

Marcie volunteers with the HIV/AIDS Hotline, Counselor and On-Call Supervisor for telephone Counseling and Referral Service, Florida Network of Victim Witness Service and is an advocate for Canine Companions for Independence.

A good part of her business and leisure days are spent traveling and speaking to everyone from legislators, school and church groups, and advocacy groups.

Marcie has been given the Florida Victory Award presented by the Governor. She has also been presented with keys to cities or proclamation from numerous cities for her activities in creating awareness for persons with disabilities.

Marcie's future goals are to acquire a law degree and to campaign for and win election to a public office. She describes herself as optimistic, persistent, innovative, compassionate and intuitive.

Sponsors: Florida law firms through the Attorney General of Florida, Healthsouth, Purina.

BETTY L. PAYNE, Georgia

Betty lives in Calhoun, Georgia with her cat and traveling companion, "Bud". She had polio as a small child and grew up on a farm having her share of chores. Her family includes her daughter, Stephanie, her mother, two brothers, three sisters and several nieces and nephews. She is very active in her church, teaches First and Second Grade Sunday School.

Betty graduated from Coosa Valley Vocational School in 1972. She received her certification as a paralegal from Floyd College in 1993 and will graduate in the spring of 1995 with an Associate of Science in Human Services Degree/Correctional Officer. She would like to work with troubled children and teens.

Betty has extensive speaking experience throughout the state, speaking at banquets, schools, churches, support groups, and TV shows.

She promoted her advocacy by speaking to local and state government officials for more handicapped parking, more enforcement of the laws regarding disabled persons, and to encourage more inclusion of citizens with disabilities in the decision making process of government. She also works to encourage publicity of events specifically involving persons with disabilities.

She describes herself as adventurous, enthusiastic, innovative, sensitive and fun-loving.

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CHRISTINA TRIMWELL, Indiana

Christina lives in Beech Grove, Indiana with her husband of two years, Darrell. She has Werdnig-Hoffman disease, a form of Muscular Dystrophy.

She worked as a clerk typist for the project development staff for the city of Indianapolis. She is now a Senior Secretary for the Risk Manager of the City.

She is a board member for the Mayor's Advisory Council for Disabilities and on the Recreation Sub-committee. She volunteers during the Muscular Dystrophy Telethon and also does political volunteer work.

Christina says advocacy is a constant endeavor. She was instrumental in the development of the ADA for Indianapolis. She guided the Indianapolis Zoo, Hoosier Dome, Market Square Arena, Indy Parks, Indianapolis International Airport and the Department of Transportation in the formation of their plans to meet ADA guidelines.

She has traveled with a group of people speaking in schools and organized recreational events to display such events as

wheelchair basketball, blind softball, and quadriplegic soccer.

Christina enjoys camping and describes herself as adventurous, optimistic, determined, independent and soft spoken.

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PEGGY LAUGHLIN, North Carolina

Peggy resides in Asheboro, North Carolina with her husband of 43 years, David. She has four children and seven grandchildren. She has Rheumatoid Arthritis, cardiovascular disease and Raynaud's Degenerative Spine Disease, and deterioration of the spine.

She received her Licensed Practical Nursing degree from Randolph Community College in 1967.

Peggy is a volunteer with Jim's Kids (an organization for severely disabled children) and for the United Way.

After 12 years, Peggy gave up her disability benefits and returned to work as Program Director - Shelter Manager with Family Crisis Center (Battered Women).

She spends a good deal of time speaking for United Way, on behalf of Jim's Kids, and for Family Crisis Center.

Having lost a daughter to domestic violence, she works to educate the public on issues of domestic violence and continues to be an advocate for the disabled.

Peggy organized and chaired her local Mayor's Committee and was honored by The Pilot Club for her work with the disabled. She was named Outstanding Volunteer of the Year 1993 by The United Way.

She says she is an absolute Christmas freak, a good cook and an avid reader and describes herself as compassionate, ambitious, competitive, generous and efficient.





SUSAN BAUMAN, Ohio

Susan lives with her two dogs, her Mother and Step-Father and their dog, in Mayfield Village, Ohio. She was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1988.

She will graduate in June 1995 from Cleveland State University with a Major in Social Work. She has already been accepted into a Master's Program at Case Western Reserve University. Prior to being a full-time student she was Administrative Assistant to the Senior Vice President of Corporate Development at Mt. Sinai Hospital.

Susan does volunteer work at Meridia Hillcrest Hospital, MS Society and particularly enjoys talking to high school students. She is also on the Committee for Persons with Disabilities at the college, that has been responsible for parking lot re-liniment, monies being earmarked for automatic door openers and a commitment for all restrooms to be 100% accessible.

Susan was the recipient of 1994 National Multiple Sclerosis Society Achievement Award, and The Ohio House of Representative Special Recognition Award to name just a few. She is a

member of Cleveland Wheelchair Tennis Foundation, Advocate of Animal Protection League and a guest columnist for the school paper.

She hopes to one day open a private practice in counseling. She describes herself as charismatic, perceptive, motivator, resourceful and compassionate.

Sponsors: Meridia Hillcrest Hospital (Employee Fund), D&S Custom Van & Auto Body, M.C. Mobility Systems, Inc., Cleveland Wheelchair Tennis Foundation, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter.

BUFFY SPICER, Pennsylvania

Buffy lives independently in a housing development designed for the disabled in Russell, Pennsylvania. She has Spina Bifida.

She graduated from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania in May 1994 with a Bachelor's Degree in Speech Communication. She is presently completing an internship and working part-time for an agency in public relations/program assistant.

Buffy works with the Farrah Grotto Organization, Youngsville Senior Center, Wilson Middle School, Special Education Class, The Rotary, The Kiwanis, and also worked with a story-telling group, "Off the Page" in college.

Buffy would like to do public speaking on a national/international level, closing social gaps, spreading education and awareness. She would also like to see one of her screenplays brought to the feature film screen and acting herself.

Buffy was named 1988 Warren County Dairy Princess Alternate, 1990 Warren County Fair Queen Runner-Up, Intramural Female Benchpress Champ in 1992, Light Weight Female Regional/National Record Holder for NWAA Benchpress, Edinboro University Rolling Scots Female Athlete of the Year in 1992.

Buffy says she comes from a very down to earth family and describes herself as adventurous, humorous, serious, philosophical and spirited.





CAROLINE LEWIS, South Carolina

Caroline lives in her own home in Columbia, South Carolina with her 20 year old daughter. She had polio at age 12.

She received a diploma in Office Automation from Mansfield Business College in 1992 and a diploma in Commercial Art from Art Instruction School MI in 1968. She has also attended classes at Midland Technical School and the University of South Carolina. She works part-time as an office assistant for South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, Quality-Assurance Department.

Caroline spends a lot of time doing volunteer work for VA Hospitals, local hospitals, MS Society, Rehabilitation Centers and Girls Club. She works with numerous local and state groups with concerns for everything from disability issues to drunk driving. She is President and founder of South Carolina Disabled Womens Coalition. She has even done workshops for the Vocational Rehabilitation Independent Living Program.

She has held many offices and received numerous awards including Outstanding Service Award in 1993 from South

Carolina Protection and Advocacy CAP Committee.

Caroline is writing a book and hopes to have a magazine for disabled women in the bookstores by January 1995. She describes herself as outgoing, self-motivated, unselfish, original and a people person.

Sponsors: Employees of South Carolina Disabilities and Special Needs, Co-workers in the Quality Assurance Division, Dr. Henry Marshall, special family and friends and Quick Photo.

RACHEL VANDERSLICE, Utah

Rachel and her husband reside in Toquerville, Utah, and have just finished building a house and are just moving in. She is a paraplegic due to an automobile accident in June 1989.

She received an Associate of Science degree in 1992 from Dixie College and is currently a senior at Southern Utah University working on a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with minor in Reading and Child Development. She hopes to continue her education to achieve a Master Degree in Rehab Counseling.

She is currently employed as a receptionist.

Rachel is a member of the Board of Director at Opportunities for Independent Living Center and on Dixie College's Wheelchair Basketball committee. She has spoken to groups and schools throughout southern Utah on self-esteem, challenges, seatbelts and ADA Laws.

Rachel received "Achievement of the Year" Award at Dixie College in 1992; First Place in Kanab 10K Marathon in 1992. Held a Fund raiser for an elevator in a building at Dixie College to make it accessible for everyone. Designed her own accessible home and is building a support group for persons who are physically challenged.

She describes herself as stubborn, determined, a fighter, outgoing and compassionate.

Sponsors: Ms. Wheelchair, Utah.





WENDY PETZOLD, Wisconsin

Wendy lives with her husband, Andrew, a cat, and a doberman pup in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She is a paraplegic as a result of an auto accident in March 1989.

She is currently a full-time senior at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, majoring in Secondary Math Education. She has been inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha Senior Honor Society and is very active in their fund raising and volunteer work.

Wendy is a member of the ADA Task Force at UWM and the snow removal committee working to make the campus completely accessible and making changes to come into compliance with ADA laws.

Besides school, Wendy likes to play tennis and swim, water-ski, snowmobile and is a certified scuba diver. She does modeling and helped make a fitness video emphasizing the need to exercise even in a wheelchair.

Wendy has done volunteer work for the National Spinal Cord Injuries Association, Greater Milwaukee Area, peer counseling, helped with Wheels 'n Heels run/walk benefit and taught Vaca-

tion Bible School for two years to pre-schoolers.

Wendy says she has always tried to have a positive attitude about life and describes herself as religious, loving, determined, personable and intelligent.

Sponsors: National Spinal Cord Injury Association - Greater Milwaukee Area Chapter; Kohler Company; Harley Davidson; Headley; Mr. & Mrs. Harry Russell; Husband, Andrew, and many loving family member and friends.

ANGIE HENDRIX, Wyoming

Angie lives with her husband, two dogs and five cats in Riverton, Wyoming. She sustained a spinal cord injury in May 1987 when she was hit by a pickup truck.

She is attending Central Wyoming College and works with her husband in their sporting goods store. She has also worked as a desk attendant for Holiday Inn, a retail salesperson in a clothing store, and a library aid.

Angie is an Ex-Officio member of Wyoming State Trails Advisory Council and works with the Wyoming Independent Living Program. She is Vice President of Dare to Care Animal League where she hopes to help her county build/create a no-kill animal shelter.

Angie enjoys speaking to school groups, reading, and gardening and spending time in the mountains. She snow skis, and would love to learn to water ski. She has raced wheelchairs competitively for six and half years. She says she loves to travel and that her latest adventure took her to Jamaica.

Angie describes herself as non-judgemental, independent, determined, adventurous and strong.

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ENTERTAINMENT



JEWETTE WYNNE

Jewette is a native of Columbus, Georgia and will be a Junior at The Medical College of Georgia in the fall majoring in Occupational Therapy. She is a former Miss Presidential Pathways 1994 and Miss Mercer University 1992. Both are preliminaries to Miss Georgia and Miss America. She has entertained across the state as a "Miss Georgia Superstar". Jewette recently had a lead in the Springer Theatre production of "Ain't Misbehavin'". She was a preliminary night talent winner and a finalist in the Miss Georgia Pageant held in Columbus this past June.

Jewette is a member of the Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities in Columbus and performed at this year's Ms. Wheelchair Georgia Pageant.



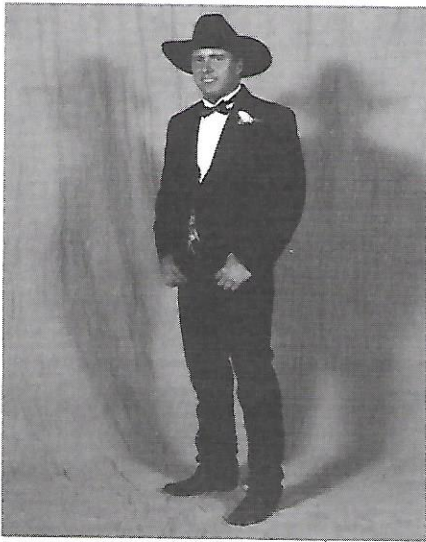
DR. THOMAS J. WENTLAND

Dr. Wentland, more commonly known as "Tom," is a professor at Columbus College. He chairs the Department of Developmental Studies. Before coming to Columbus in 1979, he held professorships at the University of Mississippi and the University of Wisconsin.

Tom first played President Roosevelt in the Springer Theatre's production of *Annie* and continued as FDR as a "living history" program for school children. He has become a regular performer at the Little White House historic site and was the keynote speaker at the 49th Commemorative Program on April 12, 1994.

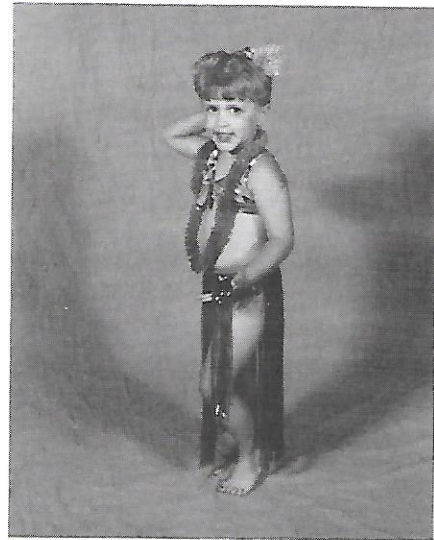
He is the author of a two-act, one-man (and one dog, Fala) show entitled, *The Squire of Warm Springs*, which premiered at the Roosevelt National Theatre at Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation in April, 1993. Since that time, he has been on a regional tour performing one- and two-act versions of the play. To date, Wentland has appeared as FDR nearly 200 times.

ENTERTAINMENT



DENNY GENTRY

Denny is a local country and western entertainer. He resides in Phenix City, Alabama, and works for Gentry Printing Company. Denny has won recognition for vocal style in numerous local talent competitions. He is back by popular demand having performed in the last two Ms. Wheelchair Georgia Pageant.



MOLLY FRANCES RUMPH

Molly is the four year old daughter of Howard and Gwen Rumph of Montezuma, Georgia. She will be attending Four Year Kindergarten at Southland Academy in Montezuma this fall. Molly is the reigning Pine Princess of Macon County and is a dance student of Carol Eason of Columbus.

She recently performed at the Ms. Wheelchair Georgia Pageant in May. Her hobbies are swimming with the Americus Blue Tide Swim Team, talking on the phone, and taunting her ten year old brother.

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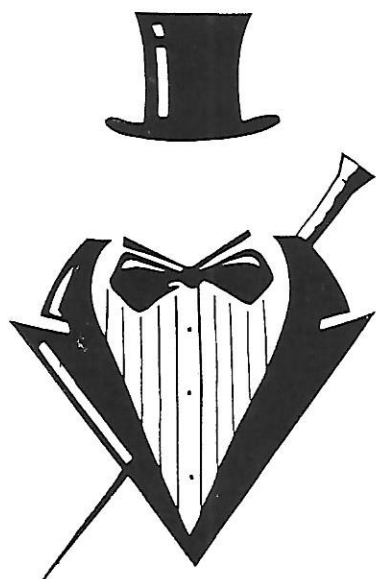
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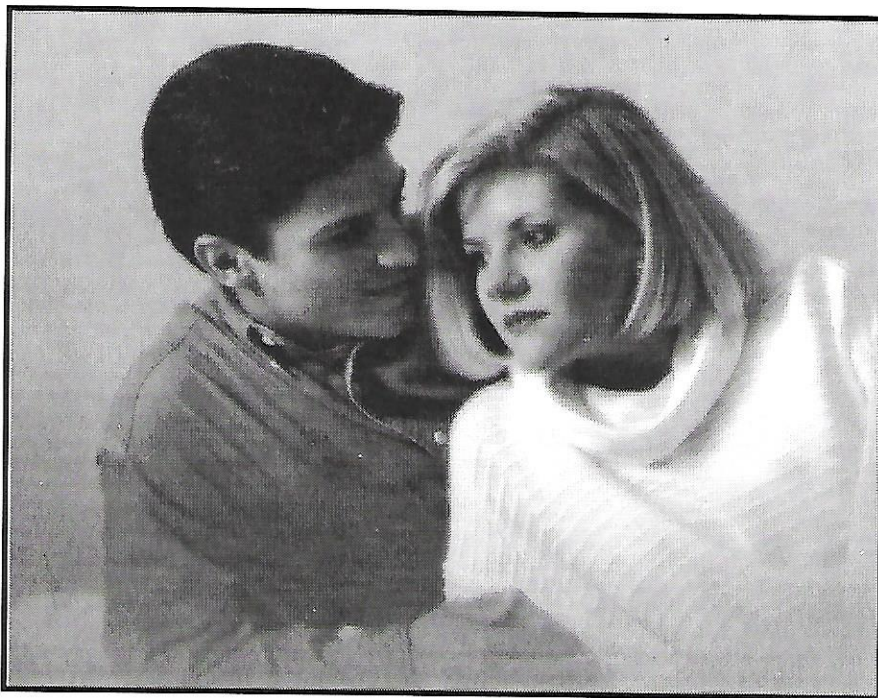
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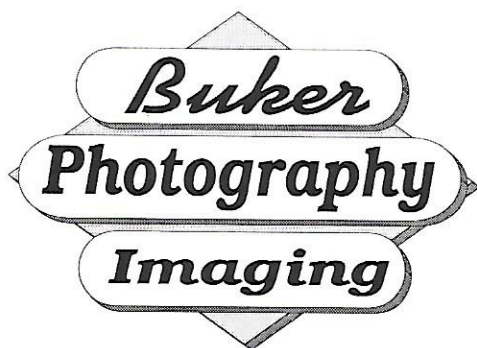
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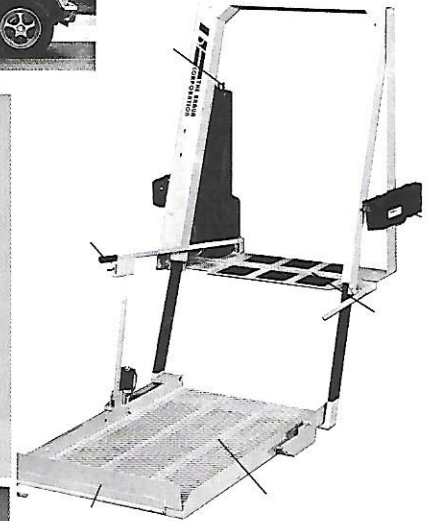
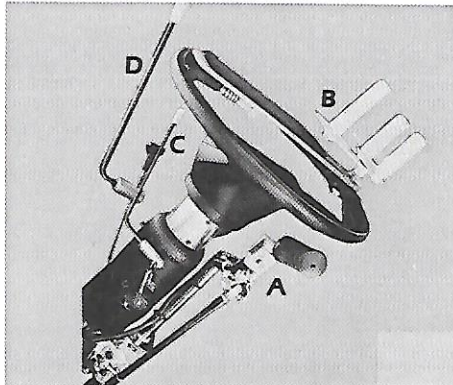
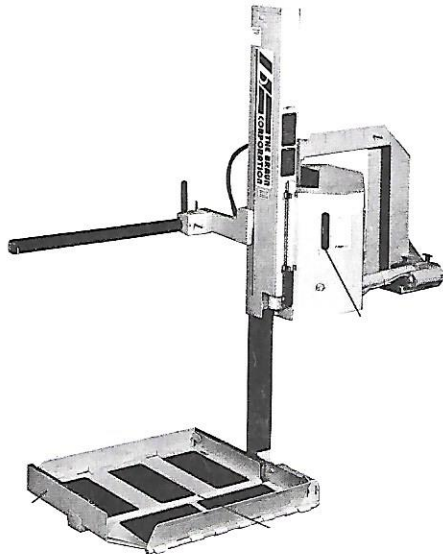
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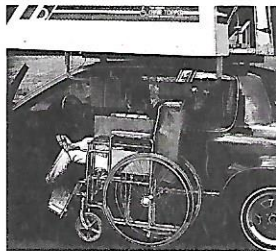
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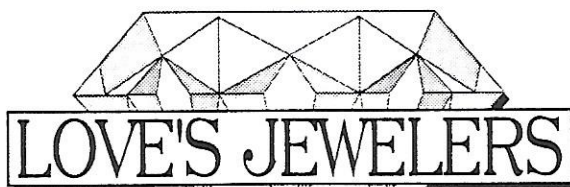
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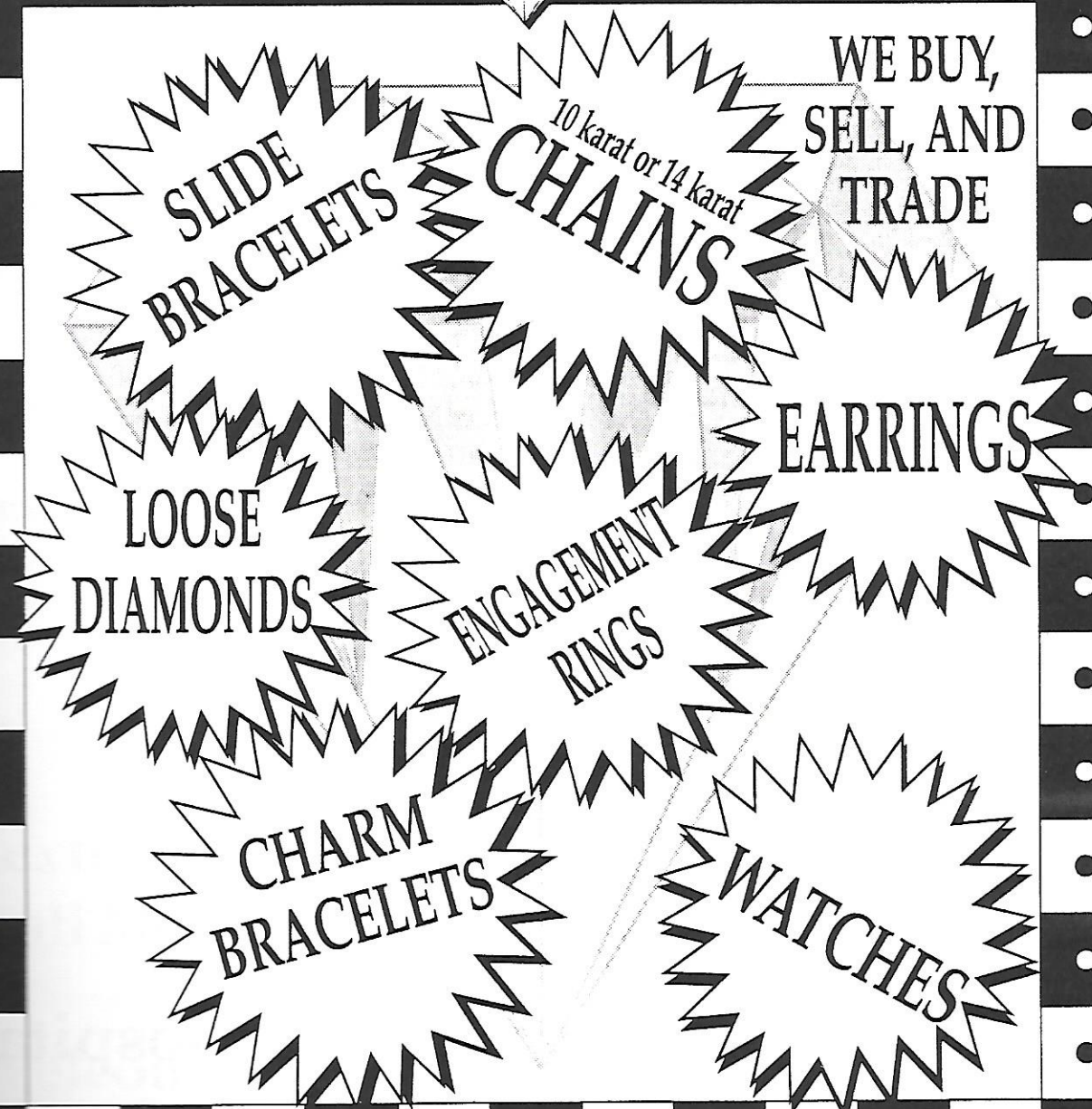
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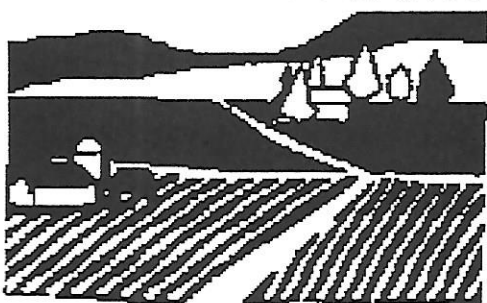
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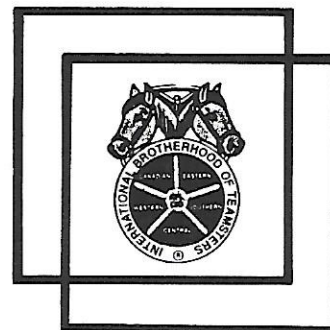
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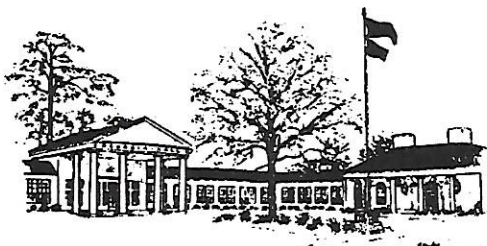
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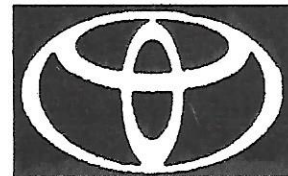
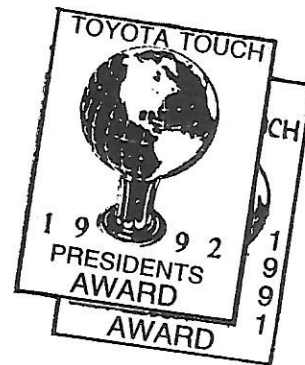
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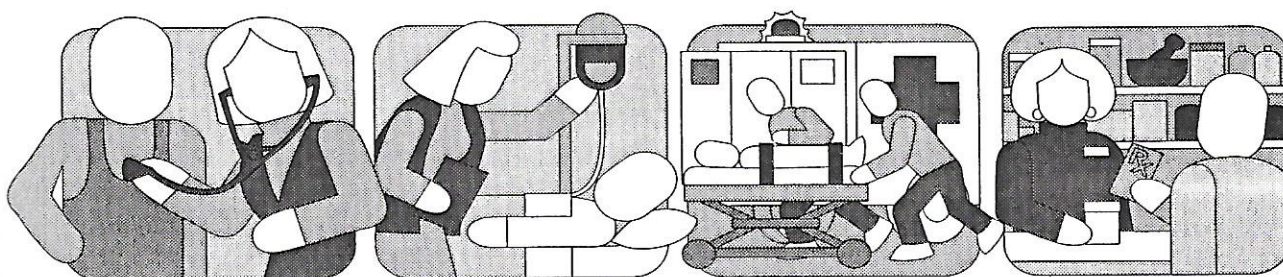
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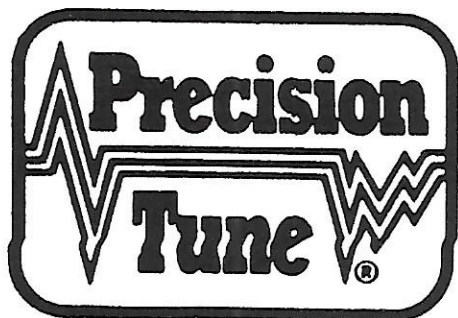
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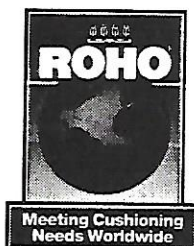
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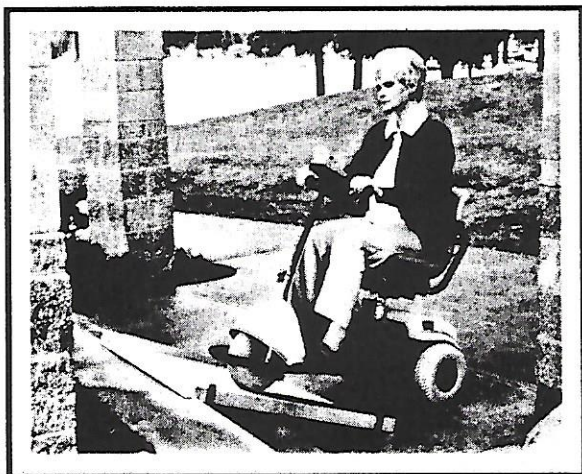
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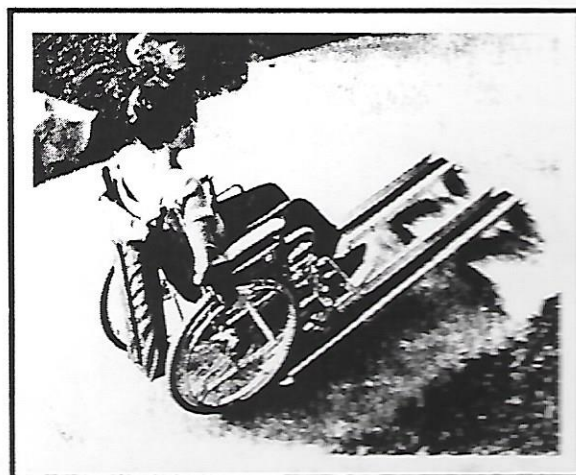
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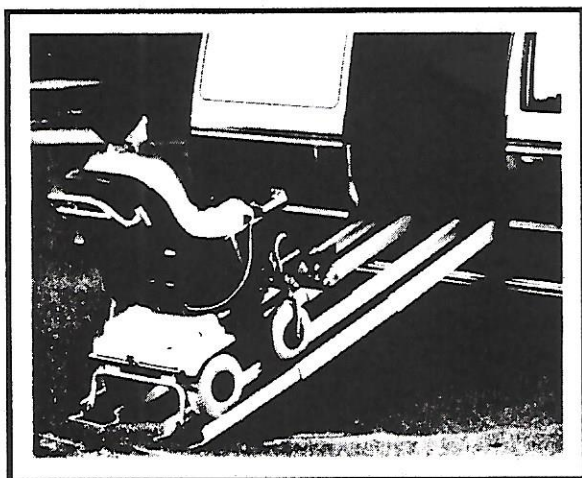
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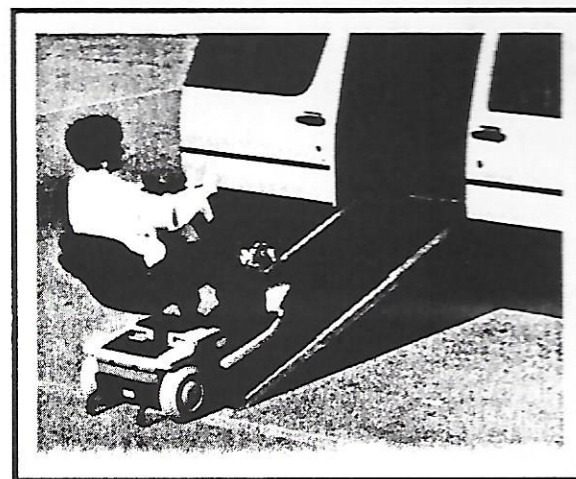


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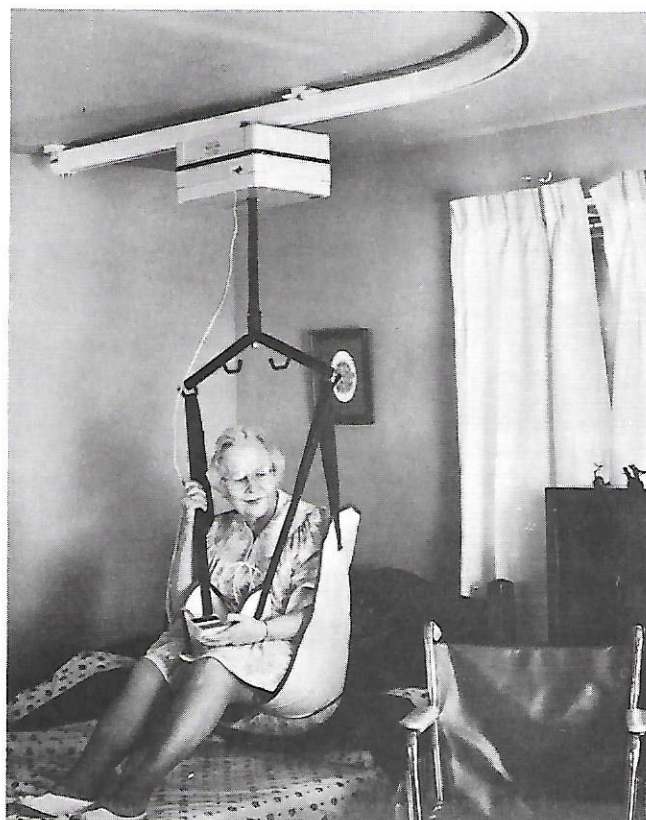
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*You have been a great leader and we truly
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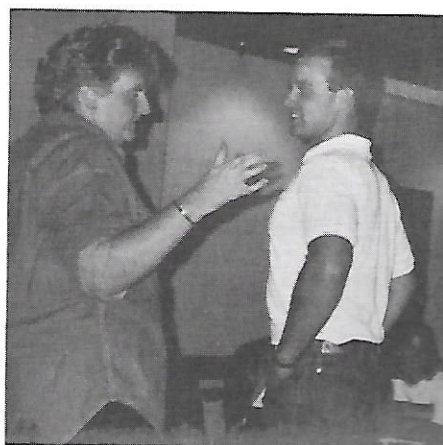
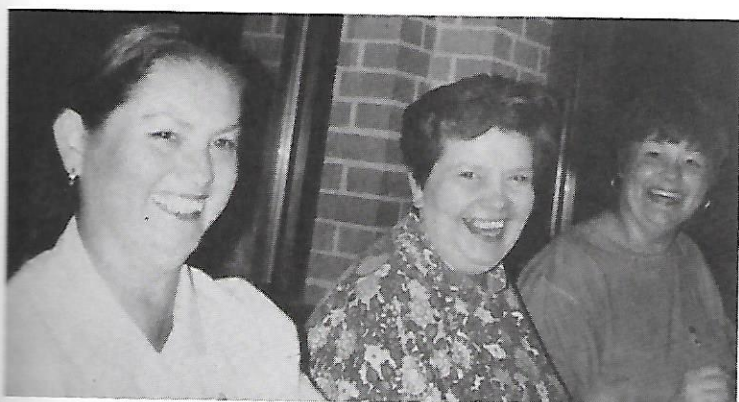
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