

affectionately known as Aunt Charlye. Born in 1926 to Charlie and Nellie Porter, parents committed to Christian education, enrolled their only daughter in Atlanta Berean elementary school, where she attended through the eighth grade. Too young to leave home, she attended Spelman Laboratory High, and Booker T. Washington High where she graduated with honors. From there to the halls of Oakwood College, God blessed her academically, and planted the seed for a lifetime of Christian service. She began her ministry in the South Atlantic Conference, after a brief struggle with the temptation to earn wealth in the corporate world, and an invitation to serve in the cause of God. With encouragement from her beloved mother, Charlye chose the better part and has given more than 45 precious years to this conference. Married to the late Albert Bliss, Jr., who was killed in an automobile accident, Charlye was left a young widow to raise their only son Albert, III. Trusting in God, her faith was strengthened as she learned to depend more and more on Him. More than a secretary, an accountant or assistant treasurer, Aunt Charlye is an icon of true loveliness, professionalism, Christian elegance and gracefulness.

## SOUTH CENTRAL

**Herman Robert Murphy**, first president of the South Central Conference, died in Bronx, N. Y., August 26, 1993. Born in Wilmington, N.C., March 26, 1912, he joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church under the ministry of John S. Green. After graduating from Oakwood College, Murphy and his wife Louise (Crichlow) began their ministry in Paducah, Ky., then were transferred to the Richmond/Stanton and Danville, Va., district where he quickly distinguished himself as a successful evangelist and pastor. The Alabama-Mississippi Conference was impressed with his ability to win souls and called him to be a conference evangelist in the Birmingham,



## Never on the Sabbath

Watching the strapping young **Todd brothers** grow was like watching my neighbors plant little pine seedlings 10 years ago—from what looked like small slim little switches that are easily bent, to strong majestic 30 foot tall pine trees, carrying the swift winds and violent storms of a hot summer day.

The sons of Alex and Carolyn Todd of Burgaw, N.C., are an extraordinary trio of young men who love the game of basketball.

What makes them so different goes far beyond the court. It's their Seventh-day Adventist beliefs rooted in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Basketball is very important to them; they love the game, and are very good players. However, their personal conviction on Sabbath-keeping and their efforts to be faithful to God in every aspect of their lives, has put them in the spotlight of their community.

To participate in high school basketball, all players must be ready and available to play on Friday nights. Not so with 6'5" Reggie, 6'7" Corey, and Scott, the reliable 6'2" point guard, who refuse to let the game they love interfere with their convictions. The Todd brothers, who refuse to play on the Sabbath, are responsible for more than 60 percent of the team's total points, and have scored as many as 77 points in one game.

The pressure to play is forever with them; however, God has blessed their decision not to participate and is certainly honoring their choice. Very few Sabbath-keeping basketball players have made it in college. The scouts are looking and the pressure is on.

At a time when it is difficult to find young people committed to any cause; when the world sees them as unstable and lacking the wisdom to make right choices; when most are concerned only with being accepted by others, and pleasing their peers; we rejoice and applaud the Todd brothers for their stand. Who said we don't have strong role models today?

V. J. Mendinghall

Ala., area where he raised up several churches and served as secretary for the colored work. When Regional conferences were organized in 1944 and 1945, as an alternative to the African-American membership's request for integration, Herman Murphy was selected to serve as the first president of the South Central Conference. Under his administration (1946-1954) the conference acquired its first conference office on Charlotte Avenue, built several churches, and witnessed significant gains in the membership and tithe. Some of the pastors he hired were Edgar Mimms, Lee Paschal, Charles Graham, and Charles Dudley. In 1954 he accepted a call to be the president of the Southwest Region Conference where the Lord blessed his labors. Two years later, Harold Singleton called him to the Northeastern Conference where he established the Bronx church and pastored the City Tabernacle church. He was then elected to serve as the director for the Sabbath school and religious liberty departments. The Atlantic Union called him to hold the same positions in the Union which he did until his retirement in 1980. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Louise (Crichlow) Murphy, one daughter, Sylvia Bryan, and two grandsons.

## OAKWOOD COLLEGE



Paul J. Albano, commander of the Alabama Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, recently proclaimed **James Melancon** "Senior Member of the Year." This is the highest honor attainable in the

Wing as a chaplain. Melancon was also promoted to Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel. There are 29 chaplains in the Alabama Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. **D. C. Keith, Sr.**, one of the 29, was also named "Chaplain of the Year."

**Sylvia Barns, Ph.D.**, professor of English, visited Bradford College in Bradford, Mass., recently. She lectured in a number of classes and met with the humanities faculty to assist in its endeavor to incorporate African-American literature in the curriculum.