

## KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR

## Norma Smith--dedicated to sacred classics



Norma Smith

by Charlot Denmon  
"The Word and Music" is a musical-evangelistic team—a trio which seeks to combine the "best in gospel music" with Bible preaching.

Dan Williams, a retired ordained minister and his wife, Jeanne, present music with a message in tenor and soprano solos and duets in a blending of the beautiful sacred classics and the gospel music of the great evangelistic era.

Norma W. Smith of Dallas is the pianist for "The Word and Music."

After serving in the pastorate for 25 years, Williams organized "The Word and Music" in 1976 and asked Norma to accompany them.

The former Norma Whitesell, daughter of the late evangelist-pastor, Rev. Frank Whitesell, began taking piano lessons when only seven years of age. At eight she became a long-time student of Arthur Edward Johnstone, well-known composer and teacher.

Her father had a regular radio program and Norma used to play for him on the program. She also played in church work since a child. Norma was concert pianist for the Orpheus Choral Society for seven

years. She worked with William Acornley, director of Orpheus, and also with Eugene Kelleher for about a year.

While with Orpheus Norma accompanied for many well-known guest soloists such as Dominick Cossa, Richard Frederick and Joy Davidson.

For two years she served as president of the Mozart Club and still plays at their regular programs. It was in the Mozart Club that Norma and Jeanne became friends which resulted in Williams asking Norma to be their accompanist.

Norma's husband, Ira, had died just a short while before so Norma decided to join the trio and has enjoyed the work immensely since that time.

In October of this year, the three will have been together for two years. They have recorded 48 numbers, 24 of them last year at Bob Jones University, the Williams alma mater; and 24 this year at the same university.

Norma said that the university has an excellent studio and set up for the recording of their music.

"The Word and Music" just returned home from a week of services in Victoria, British Columbia. They presented a sacred concert of classical and

the best in Gospel music and a 20 minute sermon by the Rev. Williams.

They also have been heard in concert throughout the Eastern United States--South Carolina, Atlanta, Ga., Long Island, N.Y., New Jersey, many times in the Harrisburg area and in many of the local fundamental churches.

This week the trio will attend the Pine Valley Bible Conference near Pittsburgh for a week of services where they will present music each night Monday through Friday.

Norma also teaches piano as well as her full-time work as pianist for "The Word and Music". She also spends many hours practicing each week.

The former Norma Whitesell of Kingston, she moved to Luzerne with her parents where she graduated from Luzerne High School. She then went to Wyoming Seminary and later married her late husband, Ira B. Smith, whom she met in high school where he was in the class ahead of her.

For a while they lived in Forty Fort where their son Brent was born. When he was in seventh grade, they moved to the Back Mountain to the home where

Norma still resides. It is part of the original property owned by Norma's great grandfather, the late John Spencer.

Norma's son Brent is married to the former Karen Vaughn of Mehoopany. Brent and Karen reside in Mehoopany with their only son. Karen is also a talented musician and plays both the flute and the piano. Brent, who is a process engineer with Procter and Gamble, recently built a circular home for himself and family.

Norma is a member of the Beaumont Gosepel Church where she is pianist. She also teaches Sunday School and the Good News Club. Every Sunday night, she plays at the Noxen Independent Bible Church. The Rev. Jerry Tallent is pastor of both churches.

She also does a lot of Christian counseling,

having been raised with the Bible. Her father was an excellent Bible teacher and taught Norma everything he knew or understood about it.

The Bible and her gospel work take up most of her time. She used to do a lot of swimming and horseback riding but no longer finds the time. "I find my work has been my salvation since Ira died," said Norma.

She also said that when traveling they have met many really wonderful people and had some interesting experiences.

She related one story about a Nigerian woman the trio met at Kennedy Airport who was very upset because she could not find her son who was supposed to meet her at the airport.

Norma and the Williams asked her if she would like to join them in prayer. The woman became interested in them and inquired about their ministry. She was so

intrigued that she took their names and addresses so she could send for a number of their records to take back to Nigeria for her people to hear.

Their second album that they recorded this year is Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs."

Thoroughly dedicated to gospel work, Norma spends a few days each week as secretary to the director of Child Evangelism Fellowship in Tunkhannock and she plans to continue in her ministry in the future.

### W. Wyoming church holds prayer service

The public is invited to attend this Sunday the regular worship services of the American Presbyterian Church that are being held at the Shoemaker Chapel, West Eighth Street, West Wyoming.

Rev. R.F. Dymond, Pastor, has announced that the subject for the morning worship service at 11:15 a.m. will be "How may we glorify God?" The subject for the evening worship service at 7 p.m. will be "The Eternity of God." The 17th Chapter of John is being studied at the prayer service that is held each Wednesday at 7 p.m.

### Rummage sale

The First Presbyterian Church Guild will hold its Rummage in the Church School Room, side entrance of the Presbyterian Church on Spring, Walnut and Main, Nanticoke, Aug.

16 to 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Aug. 15 is receiving day from donating members. Friday, Aug. 18, will be one dollar bag day.

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"The Churchmen and Teresa" of Harrisonburg, Va., will be presenting a gospel concert at Nativity Parish Hall, Tunkhannock, Thursday, Aug. 24, at 7:30 p.m.

Teresa Grim is known for her ability to captivate an audience not only with her high singing, but with her testimony as well. Mike Shifflett who sings the lead and emcees each appearance is joined by his twin brother Mark Shifflett who sings the baritone.

Teresa, Mike and Mark sing and proclaim the good news in a sincere manner

as their voices blend with a mixture of down home, country flavor in the old convention style. Teresa's father, Bud Grim, who is the founder of the group is still traveling and is now celebrating his 19th year in spreading God's word in song.

Their program is versatile from the light-hearted song entitled "Good Morning Neighbor" which is an accurate account of each members upbringing that inspires rounds of laughter from the audience to the touching "Don't Weep for Me" written by Mark

Shifflett.

Other members of the group include Kevin Minnick on the bass guitar joined by the country keyboard artistry of Steve Snodgrass.

The Churchmen and Teresa travel in the specially designed Greyhound bus as they tour an approximate 75,000 miles a year.

### Lehman Charge churches to conduct meetings

Lehman, Idetown and Jackson United Methodist Churches of the Lehman Charge will conduct meetings following services in each church, Sunday, Aug. 26. Purpose of the individual meetings is to vote on a new heating system for the parsonage.

Members of the administrative board and any other church members should plan to attend.

Guest speaker at Jackson and Idetown will be George Haines, lay leader of Maple Grove United Methodist Church. Harriet Santos will be at Lehman.

### Baptist Church observes World Hunger Day

The Dallas Baptist church observed a "World Hunger Day" Wednesday evening, Aug. 2, with a meal followed by a program.

The theme of the program was "Weighted in the Balance". It stressed

the urgent need of starving people even for as much food as we discard in our garbage cans. A special report on hunger conditions in America was also given.

### North Lake Assoc. plans flea

The North Lake Association is planning a Flea Market and Bake Sale on Friday and Saturday,

Aug. 18 and 19 from 12 to 7 p.m. at the North Lake Pavillion in Sweet Valley.

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