

Ruth Slom

in chapter m
Hands that
Rock the Cradle

mom
since Ruth is



PRAIRIE PLACE APOTHECARY

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the Cradle
this is
a gentle - good
mom - daughter
clayton

Ruth Brooks TRAYNHAM

"Professional Mother" Story

*Put in
Hand that for*

Ruth Brooks Traynhorn Gorn in Person Co N.C. was a granddaughter of Tobe and Elizabeth Harris, ~~enslaved as children in Halifax Co., Va. and Pierson Co., N. C.~~ By inheritance and acquisition from her mother, Carrie Jane Harris Brooks, Ruth had a big heart. Over a period of years in the Hillsborough area, she ~~was~~ acquired the name "Professional Mother." With the consent of a tolerant husband, Richard, she reared 84 dependent children for the local social agencies along with five of her very own. Childrearing covered the quarter of a century between 1950 and 1975. She became a living legend for the loving care she gave to black, motherless children, ages 1 to 16 years. Some were under the care of "Honey", as they called her, for a few months to several years. The remarkable accomplishment is that her foster children were reared along with five natural offspring -- three girls and two boys -- who completed high school and continued college level training for successful occupations and rearing families of their own. Ruth told a feature news writer from a local daily that the key to abundant family life is love. She was quoted as saying, "I had my hands full, my arms full, and my heart full, and I loved every one of 'em."

Honey was an excellent seamstress, took in sewing and drove the Cedar Grove school bus in the Hillsborough, N.C., countryside during her spare time for 18 years. Her day extended from 5:30 AM

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to the PM TB news hour. After that, she relaxed by writing poetry, watering her flowers, and planning the next day's priorities. Around about 1 to 1:30 AM, she would say her prayers and go to bed.

All of Ruth's activities supplemented the income of her husband Richard, a country school teacher and first assistant to his of a wife. The teamwork of Ruth Brooks and Richard made possible a beautiful white home with many rooms added from year to year good architectural taste.

Incidentally, Ruth was an attractive woman of fair complexion, easy on the eyes of both men and women. She was soft spoken most of the time, with a smiling, sometimes witty, unobstrusive personality who always seemed to be making haste slowly.

Next to the attractive cedar grove public school

The Ruth and Dick episode is an illustrative look at black family chain formed by the Berry-Harris Jonlon-Srumwright clam with its roots stretching across southeastern Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina.

Mikki was a child of a broken home. She came to Ruth at age 10 just after discharge from the hospital. Her shortness of breath was improved. Her swollen legs were reduced after a few ~~xx~~ weeks, but her weight and height were that of a 7 year old. Ruth set out to do the miracle the doctor coubted could be achieved. Ruth told Mikki that she would have a new mother for awhile, who would nurse her to good health.

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in four years . The doctors felt she must now have engaged open heart surgery. Honey ~~enjoyed~~ all of her brood in a prayer watch for two weeks and believed that Mikki's successful artificial heart valve implant was God's answer to their prayers.

Honey received a letter every week for a long time reporting her progress.

mentally alert, and ambitious to succeed in life for herself and her

dear Honey, still mothering unfortunate kids down in North Carolina. Mikki wrote, "I finally had a good waitress' job in a fine restaurant and the tips are good. I work days and I have registered for college subjects at night. Please pray for me that my health will hold up."

Eventually Mikki worked her way through college and a degree in social work. She married and became pregnant. At this point, there was great on the part of everyone concerned: Mikki, her husband, her doctors and, most of all, her Mother Ruth. It was arranged for Mother Ruth to be present in New York for the delivery. With good prenatal care for nine months and skillful doctors at Presbyterian Hospital and, of course, Mother Ruth's private to handle delivery of a 7 lb boy was uneventful. As this story is written, Nikki is a supervising social worker in New York City and a mother rearing her son, Anthony Jr., just like Honey, the best mother anybody every had.