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# 13 Year Old Clarinetist Wins Trip

Bessie Barnett is 13 and attends Coan Middle School. Three years ago her mother, Mrs. Anna Earnett, saw that Bessie liked music and bought her a clarinet. On a maid's salary it was a big sacrifice to buy a 10-year-old a clarinet.

Mrs. Barnette paid a little each week out of her meager salary and now it's paid off. Bessie is one of six Economic Opportunity Atlanta music scholarship winners who left Atlanta by plane on Friday, June 20.

This summer the youngsters will be spending six weeks at

Guildford College near Greensboro, North Carolina, attending the Eastern Music Festival. Bessie and the other will have the benefit of the best



BESSIE BARNETT

professional instruction and the fun and company of other accomplished musicians. Miss Mary Francis Early,

who Bessie says is "a nice music teacher" started Bessie on the clarinet. This will be the instrument Bessie will play at the Festival.

Last month, Bessie was very excited about going to Mayor Ivan Allen's office to receive the scholarship. But she knew that it was more than just a fun-time for six weeks this summer.

"I can learn a lot more now," said Bessie. "This will help me a lot and I'll be able to improve. I'm really looking forwards to going there and working with the professionals."

Bessie wants to continue taking music through high school and college if she can. And her mother would like nothing more than that herself.

"My mother comes to every performance," said Bessie.

Thanks to EOA and a concerned, farsighted mother, Bessie will have a chance to develop a special talent. It just may be a turning point in her life.

(Bessie Lives at 49 Mayson Avenue, N. E.)

Written by volunteer, Ron Anderson

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