

THE RIGHT MAN

Church programs to put Ada Jenkins back in business

PAT BORDEN GUBBINS
Staff Writer

For the past several months, not much was going on at the old Ada Jenkins school in Davidson, except for the hot lunch program on weekdays.

New life is being pumped into the brick buildings west of the railroad tracks.

In its latest role, the school will become the Families and Career Development Center, operated by Davidson United Presbyterian Church.

On a recent Saturday, about 70 people showed up to clean up debris, scrape paint and trim shrubbery. They included Davidson College students and members of the community and local churches.

They planned to return to paint and prepare the buildings for reopening, possibly by mid-November.

Many program ideas will come from the community for the new center.

"I hope to organize a parenting council, a business development council, a senior citizens council," said the Rev. Robert Shirley, acting minister at Davidson United Presbyterian who is organizing the new program. "We hope these will be the umbrella organizations, out of which all others will originate."

He wants to start scout programs, teach kids to swim, offer health programs, job training, counseling and guidance for teens.

For now, the program is being launched with money from Shirley's church. Eventually, he hopes for donations from the Mecklenburg Presbytery and other sources.

Meanwhile, he is seeking free desks, tables and chairs to fill the classrooms. Last week, his hopes of getting 200 surplus desks from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools were dashed. "They were on auction, and someone from Florida bought them," he said. "But I understand; the schools need the money. I'll find them somewhere."



Leonard

Karen Leonard, the town's new parks and recreation director, is working with Shirley to find out what kind of programs area residents want.

One thing, she already knows, is to use the gym. "We will have it open two nights a week," she said.

Bertha Pharr, 88, lives across the street from the old school. "We need to save the school," she said. "It means a heap to us, because we



Pharr



L. Connor

have some place to go."

Different people have different ties to Ada Jenkins. Louis Connor, 66, recounts with pride his part in helping build the gymnasium. "It was about 1949," he said. "I helped haul the workers and helped with the brick."

Eva Connor, his 60-year-old sister, attended fifth through seventh grades at Ada Jenkins.



E. Connor

"This school meant a lot to us, then," she said.

Her first four years had been spent at the one-room Smithville School in Cornelius.

When it was closed, the students were assigned to Ada Jenkins.

"It was good to come up here," she said. "We didn't have a bus at first, and we had to walk about 3 miles at least for two or three years."

Some afternoons, they'd walk back to the school to attend music classes offered by a local minister.

Shirley's plans would no doubt please Ada Jenkins, a Davidson resident who raised money to start the school in 1925. She was the first principal and continued to teach there for many years.

"She was sharp," said Loretta Reid Little, who was salutatorian of her 1945 graduating class at Ada Jenkins School.

"She set our goals high. We had to work. She said, 'There's no such word as can't.' And I've learned since,

you can if you have to."

Want to help?

To donate money, furniture or other materials, call Karen Leonard at the Davidson Town Hall, 892-7592 weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thursday

June 11, 1992



ALLEN NORWOOD

Lighting a spark of self-esteem

Vince Huntley calls his brain-child C.L. Projects.

The C.L. stands for community leadership. Huntley wants to take young men from such tough urban settings as the Earle Village public housing complex to Davidson College — where he plans to run them through a grueling military-style obstacle course.

Huntley says that will light the spark of self-esteem and create pillars of the neighborhood. In other words, develop future community leaders.

"These guys are going to come back and go to school like they should," said Huntley, 27. "They're going to act like somebody."

Huntley grew up in Davidson. He hung around the campus as a youngster. He won a science award in junior high with the support of a Davidson professor. He sold programs at Davidson's home football games, and proudly wore hand-me-down equipment given to him by coaches.

"Sandy Carnegie, head of the Wildcat Boosters Club, gave me my first pair of football cleats," Huntley said.

Huntley played football for North Mecklenburg High School, where he graduated in 1981.

After school, outside the relatively sheltered environment of north Mecklenburg, Huntley succumbed to urban temptations. He landed in prison on charges of possession of stolen goods.

He had plenty of time to think. He thought about Davidson. Two months ago — from jail — he called Carnegie to lay out his idea for exposing others to the same influences he experienced while growing up.

Davidson College isn't sponsoring or endorsing C.L. Projects. There's no official connection. The school said he could use the ROTC obstacle course if he could provide such necessary things as liability insurance.



Huntley

Huntley is trying to turn his idea into reality by himself.

He has raised a few hundred dollars through donations and a fish supper. He got that insurance. He invited such people as Charlotte Police Chief Ronnie Stone and WSOC-TV Station Manager Jack Callaghan to speak to the dozen young people he plans to take to Davidson for a week in July.

"I go into grocery stores," Huntley said. "I go to the managers, tell them what I'm trying to do, and ask if they can help."

If hustle and persuasion will get the 13- to 17-year-olds to Davidson, Huntley might just pull it off.

"I don't know much about his plans," said Carnegie, who recently stepped down as head of the boosters club. "It's entirely his initiative. . . . I do know a little bit about him. He was one of the youngsters who used to sell programs, and he was a leader."

Geraldine Jones, president of the Earle Village Residents Association and a staunch believer in the kind of discipline Huntley promises, believes in him.

"I'm quite sure that he's going through with these plans," she said. "He had a fish fry and raised some money over here. He gave me a paper with names of people he's invited. I'm supposed to be up there. I don't think he would fool around with those people if he wasn't serious."

"A lot of people come in here. But he did it the right way. He got in touch with me, and got everybody involved."

Huntley declares he won't disappoint any of those who've been supportive, especially in Davidson — where coaches and professors once welcomed a neighborhood youngster into their special world.

"Those people," Huntley said, "will never, never be let down."

INSIDE

Judge selected is chosen to the end of the

LOOKING
things to live with

Bethel Church Road Area Residents Will Miss Sherrill

by Pat Johnson

The Lone Ranger of Bethel Church Road died January 23, 1985, without ever knowing how many lives he touched with his wave and spreading smile.

Neural Sherrill, age 66 at the time of his death, was a familiar sight to anyone traveling Bethel Church Road and that area of Highway 73 near Highway 21 and I-77.

Home was a rented, wood frame structure referred to by many as "the shanty". Located on Bethel Church Road, within a stone's throw of many houses valued over \$100,000, the little house and the man who lived there played a significant part in the daily lives of his neighbors.

His existence was a lesson in simplicity and, yes, poverty...but deprivation was questionable.

"He had something a lot of us don't have anymore - he was content and smiled when I frowned," said one Island Forest resident. "Many a time when I traveled to and from my overpriced waterfront home with its whirring heat pump and digital something-or-other in every room, I was worrying about getting one more something and he was sitting on his knob of grass

by the road without a care in the world."

Sherrill was born in Lincoln County near Triangle in 1918, the son of a farming couple. According to his sister, Ethel "Re" Patterson, the family moved from Lincoln County to Rowan County and then to Cornelius where they remained until the father, Winslow Sherrill died.

Neural Sherrill and his mother, Etta Sherrill, then spent several years living on Bethel Church Road farming cotton fields and corn fields of area farmers. After a move to Smithville, Sherrill worked for the Town of Cornelius until a knee injury, resulting from a fall on ice, made him unemployable.

Sherrill moved to the little wood house during the late 1960's, soon after the death of his mother.

"He was married once but she went to New York and he wouldn't follow - he just wouldn't leave our mother - he took such good care of her," recalled Mrs. Patterson.

The little wood house stands on property owned by Mrs. Grace McConnell, and Sherrill rented it for \$20.00 per month.

According to Mrs. McConnell and Mrs. Patterson, Sherrill couldn't have been happier. At one time, there was another structure on the same property which was, for a while, in better condition.

Sherrill could not be convinced to move into it and as that building deteriorated, it was torn down and buried.

"He just loved that little house - it had four rooms but he only used one, occasionally two," said Mrs. Patterson. "There was no plumbing - a well stopped working some time back and his good friend Curtis Beaty made sure he had water all the time. He heated with wood and kept it awful warm - we never worried about him getting cold even though you could see outdoors from inside through places in the wall. He could have had one of those new apartments in Davidson, or even someplace else ... but no ... he just wouldn't leave that little house."

"He said that he would stay in that house until he died ... and that's what he did. He died while sitting in a chair waiting for his sister to come," said Mrs. McConnell.



Neural Sherrill

When asked what is to become of the little house now, Mrs. McConnell said that it would be taken down.

While he lived, Neural Sherrill probably didn't realize that he was watched and worried over by many of his neighbors. He knew, of course, that Curtis Beaty came to check on him faithfully twice a day and others stopped in frequently.

There were the bags of clothes which appeared on his porch, boxes of cookies from children and cakes from friends. Canned goods and fruit were always appearing and when questioned by his sister, Sherrill would only reply that the gift came from someone who lives down by that water. He had many friends whose names he never found out.

Neural Sherrill will probably be remembered as the man who sat on a knob of grass beside the road day by day. Not too long ago a chair appeared at the spot where he always sat - a gift from that lady who lives down

by the water". On the back, someone had painted "The Lone Ranger".

People smiled and waved when they passed Sherrill, but even when he wasn't there, the sight of his empty chair prompted a smile.

Mrs. Patterson has the chair now and isn't really sure which lady "down by the water" gave it to her brother. She would simply like to say ... "Thank you".



Galatea • Little G



Staff Photo By DIEDRA LAIRD

Recruiting: (Clockwise from left) Ron Mitchell, Regina Gabriel, Dr. James Hendrix and Latta, Kevin Scott, David Ng, Coleman and Andre Tippens.

Davidson Targets Minority Enrollment

Continued From Page 1D

al arts colleges."

At Colgate University in Hamilton, N.Y., black enrollment is 6%. It's 4% at Duke in Durham; 1% at Bucknell in Lewisburg, Pa.; and 5.3% at Emory University in Atlanta, according to the Washington-based Chronicle of Higher Education.

"The fact we're maintaining and not dropping is really something," Mason said.

Nationwide, black enrollment at private colleges is about 4%. The Chronicle said. From 1980 to 1984, black enrollment nationwide dropped nearly 3%. Black enrollment at public colleges and universities is about 9.3%.

Davidson, following a pledge two years ago by President John Kuykendall, has tried to increase its black enrollment, said James Hendrix, dean of admissions.

This fall Davidson mailed information about the college to 5,000 black high school students across

the country. The college obtained students' names from the College Board and the American College Testing Service.

In addition, Hendrix said Davidson is trying to talk with black students during recruiting trips to high schools nationwide.

Davidson also is developing a program to encourage minority high school students to seek doctoral degrees. And recently the college received a \$30,000 grant to start a program that will attract minority students to science and math programs.

Students attending this week's recruitment program said they're flattered by the efforts of Davidson and other colleges. But they also said they're cautious.

"When someone is hounding you to go to their school, it makes you feel good," said Long, a junior. "But you don't want to be thought of as a token."

"I appreciate everybody's offers," said Tim Little, a North Mecklenburg senior. "But I have

to make the decision that's best for me."

Mason said Davidson and other private colleges are trying to increase black enrollment by encouraging students to start seriously thinking about college as early as their freshmen year of high school.

And, he said, high schools must better prepare students academically.

"Everybody can compete for this little pool of students, or we can create a larger pool," he said.

Bethel Church Road Residents Will Miss

by Pat Johnson

The Lone Ranger of Bethel Church Road died January 23, 1985, without ever knowing how many lives he touched with his wave and spreading smile.

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Church - Social Notes

by Marjean Torrence

Davidson Presbyterian

T.N.T. Teens will convene for its fourth weekend on December 19, 1986 at 7:30 p.m. We are looking forward to seeing you. The theme will be "Creativity."

The youth of the church have been working very hard on this year's Christmas program. They will share their talent with you on Sunday, December 21, 1986 at 6 p.m.

There will be a covered-dish dinner, sponsored by the Women of the Church following the morning worship service, December 21, 1986. Come enjoy food, fun, and fellowship with us.

The Evangelism committee is asking persons interested in working with the group to please contact Berthine Ross.

The Women of the Church will meet on Tuesday, December 16, 1986 at 7:00 p.m.

Raffles

On Sunday, December 21, the Christian Education committee will raffle off a Honey-Baked Ham immediately following the Christmas program at 6:00 p.m. Donations of \$1 are being asked.

The Stewardship Committee will sponsor a raffle on Wednesday, December 24, 1986 for a microwave oven for Christmas. The raffle will be in the Education Building at 6:30 p.m. Donations \$1.

Torrence-Lytle Social

On Sunday, December 21, 1986 at 6:00 p.m., the Torrence - Lytle High School Alumni Association will meet at the school. A social will be held immediately following the meeting. All former students of Torrence-Lytle are asked to attend.

Torrence Chapel

On Sunday, December 21, a Christmas program will be given at Torrence Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church at 5:00 p.m. Rehearsal for the program will be Monday through Friday at the church.



Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Stewart

Baker & Stewart Married at Davidson Presbyterian

by Marjean Torrence

Krissa Baker of Lincoln County and Gregory Stewart of Davidson were united in marriage Sunday, December 14, 1986 at the Davidson Presbyterian Church. Reverend Mark A. Lomax officiated at the 3 o'clock p.m. double-ring ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Baker of Lincoln County.

The groom is the son of Mr. William Anderson of Charlotte and Ms. Carolyn Stewart of Davidson.

The bride wore a semi-formal

off-white long dress with matching pearl earrings and necklace. She carried a bouquet made up of red roses, white button mums and fern that fell in a cascade.

Ms. Tina Moore was Maid of Honor. Mr. Darin Anderson served as his brother's Best Man.

Wedding music was provided by Mr. Paul Hicks who sang, "You're Everything To Me," "One In A Million," and "The Lord's Prayer."

A reception in the fellowship hall immediately followed the ceremony.

... beside the road day by day. Not too long ago a chair appeared at the spot where he always sat - a gift from that lady who lives down



GROUND BREAKING FOR GETHSEMANE—Pastor Clement Morris of Gethsemane Baptist Church watches from the podium as Rev. Tom Hayes of Torrence Chapel takes the second shovel of dirt in the ground breaking ceremony held Saturday. The new \$117,000 church will be located on Jetton Street in Davidson.

Davidson Elementary, with coaches Brenda and Hugh Barger, placed second. Enjoying their Carolina Cone reward are: (left to right) Gatewood Payne, Matt Gaffney, Letha Smith, Aleyna Edmunds, Brenda Barger, coach; Ken Couch, David Klein, Captain; Josh Gibson, Heather Honeycutt, Charles Raynal, and Mike Kessler, Captain. (Not pictured: Coaches Hugh Barger and Shirley Couch.)

The winning teams from Cornelius and Davidson will be competing against the winning Fire Bowl teams from Rowan County on Thursday, May 16 at 10:00 a.m. at Mt. Zion Church in Cornelius to determine the District Champions.

Sponsored by Charlotte/Mecklenburg Schools, the 4-H, and Independent Life Insurance Agents, student teams study for weeks, learning facts on how to prevent fire, what to do in case of fire, and how to promote fire safety.



Happy Birthday!

Birthday Girl

Porschea Alexis Smith will celebrate her first birthday on Thursday, April 16.

On Sunday, April 12 at 6 p.m., a small party was given for her at the Smith's home. Her beautiful cake was made of an Easter scene trimmed in white with a big yellow bunny rabbit, green trees made of coconut, a pathway in brown and doves playing in a pond.

Attending Porschea's party were Latoya Thompson, Anarah Graham, Shamecia Latta, Larry and Pamela Smith, Darrie and Coletha Smith, LaGale Moore, Keith Houston, Terry Little and Henry Withers.

Porschea is the daughter of Melinda Smith. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Smith of Davidson. Her great-grandparents are Mrs. Ernestine Alexander, Mr. Gus Black and Mr. Hubbard Smith.



Rev. C.L. Griffa with members of the families of the late Elmore and Beulah Stinson and Jennie H. Ross. (Photo by Marjean Torrance)

Families Present Church Steeple

Church Steeple Presented

On Sunday, April 12, 1987 at 4 p.m. the families of the late Elmore and Beulah Stinson and Jennie H. Ross presented a church steeple to Union Bethel AME Zion Church in memory of their parents.

The pastor, Rev. C.L. Griffa, delivered a very appropriate message.

A grand-daughter, Brenda Sullivan sang "This Little Light of Mine," which was a favorite of her grandfather.

John D. Stinson presented a plaque which read as follows: "In Memory of Elmore T. Stinson, Beulah C. Stinson, Cheeseman R. Stinson, Jennie H. Ross, James C.

Houston, and Sidney L. Houston—Given by their families—April 4, 1987."

Rev. Griffa then led the group in the Litany of Dedication. Elzie Ross Jr. introduced the guest and recognized the family members who shared in financing the project.



Mystery Photo

Last week's mystery photo was of a lady who was born in an adjacent county, but has lived in North Mecklenburg since the late thirties. Four people called and correctly identified our mystery photo as Emily Fincher Clanton. Our callers were Nell Hovis, Alda Workman, Geniva Bowen, and Lola Buchanan.

This week's mystery photo is a group photo of the Huntersville High - Torrence Lytle Alumni taken in 1954. The alumni each graduated in different years. Also there is a teacher and the principal of Torrence Lytle in the photo. If you recognize the people in the photo, or even just some of the people - give us a call at 892-8809.



Tom Johnson and Hubbard Smith enjoy a close game of checkers at the Hot Meal Program site.



Getting fired up to go to the circus, a group of North Meck children dressed the part last week. The Cornelius-Davidson Day Care Center held a parade in honor of the circus coming to town.

1982

(Photo by Arden Dowdy)





Children from Davidson - Cornelius Day Care march in the Town Day parade. (Photo by Gail Derwort)



One of the more irresistible scents wafting up through the noontime air on the Davidson Village Green Saturday was that of the fried chicken prepared by the ladies of the Pastor Aid Society. Here Mrs. Julia Torrence tests a drumstick sizzling in the deep fat fryer.

Forum



When Roosevelt Wilson retired, Toad Cathey told us, they had to hire three men to replace him. Both these irreplaceable gentlemen were on hand to witness the dedication of Lakeside Park.

New director has big plans for center

By JERI FISCHER
OF THE NEWS STAFF

Ask Dora Barringer about what the future holds for the Huntersville Community Center, and she'll find answers — ones that rouse her natural get-up-and-go.

As center director, Mrs. Barringer's answers aren't just crystal-ball guesses but concrete plans she wants to see carried out.

Ever since her May 6 installation, Mrs. Barringer said she's given time to planning for the future of the 6-year-old center, on Holbrooks Road in the Pottstown area just outside the Huntersville town limits.

"I'd like to create a total involvement of citizens within the Huntersville community, not just the (Pottstown) neighbors," she said.

"We want to reach out and provide for the majority's needs. This is our community, and we'll have to join hands in meeting these needs."

Mrs. Barringer, a 31-year-old Davidson resident and former Davidson Community Center recreation specialist, said she is sorry the center is currently attracting only Pottstown residents even

though all north Mecklenburg residents are invited to join in the activities.

The center, open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, is financed and is under the direction of the Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation Department. As a result, the center remains separate from the town of Huntersville and stays apart from the Town Council's jurisdiction.

Mrs. Barringer said nearly 60 people, from 6-year-olds to senior citizens, participate in the daily educational, recreational and social activities.

But that's not enough, she said. "We need a better communications system to reach the whole town," she said. "I want to create a friendly atmosphere so new participants will come again and become involved. We also want to provide a variety of opportunities so participants have a choice in their activities."

In addition, Mrs. Barringer said she wants to see the center "providing opportunities for all ages, both sexes, all levels of income and all levels of education."

For the director, these goals are



Dora Barringer at Huntersville Community Center. (News photo/Jeri Fischer)

part of a personal commitment.

"This job is a real achievement for me," she said. "I want to give it all I've got."

To help accomplish these goals, Mrs. Barringer said she does ev-

erything from secretarial to janitorial work.

"My list of duties is extensive," she said. "As director, I'm in charge of supervising, planning, implementing, organizing, assist-

ing in budget preparation." And the list goes on.

To help Mrs. Barringer and the programs work, one full-time and one part-time recreation specialist also work at the center.



TOM FRANKLIN/Staff

Committed to helping: Davidson commissioner Jane Houston, Parks and Recreation Director Karen Leonard and the Rev. Robert Shirley are part of the effort to turn the old Ada Jenkins School into a community center with programs for young and old in the area.

Ada Jenkins School Finally finds the right man

By **PAT BORDEN GUBBINS**
Staff Writer

The year was 1965. Desegregation loomed in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. In Davidson, the community was split over a proposal to move two classes of black second-graders from the crowded Ada Jenkins School to empty rooms at the nearby all-white Davidson School. Ada Jenkins had 376 students; Davidson had only 186. Need and common sense prevailed. That October, 64 Ada Jenkins students made the move, along with their teachers. About the same time, the Rev. Robert Shirley, 37, was winding up a job directing a community center in Port Chester, N.Y. He had a new assignment from the Catawba Synod of the United Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). In September, a month after children from Ada Jenkins entered Davidson School, Shirley returned to Charlotte, his hometown. His job: to help eight churches set up anti-poverty programs in their communities.

“We’ll be running the gamut from babyhood to seniorhood. I’ve written up about 28 programs we want to do.”

— **Robert Shirley**, minister

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INSIDE

Davidson library deal: College and town officials unveil a plan to lobby Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Library trustees to build a larger branch in Davidson./Page 6

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Andrea Stinson, pen in hand, autographs a moment after a special presentation of her No. 32 jersey. A first in North's history!



Andrea Stinson views her team jersey that will be placed in North's trophy case.

STINSON'S JERSEY NO. 32 - RETIRED!



Coach Leroy Holden and Andrea Stinson were moved to tears during last Thursday's basketball presentations. Stinson wept upon the receipt of posters from Coach Holden showing her unique athletic ability.

Davidson College Graduates 313 Happy Seniors

Davidson College President John Kuykendall bade farewell Sunday to the college's 313 graduating seniors, charging them to live up to their ideals of excellence and service and to cherish their ties with the college.

The ceremony, which took place on the college grounds under sunny, warm skies, was attended by several thousand friends, relatives and townspeople.

The two annual Algernon Sydney Sullivan awards were awarded during the ceremony by Dean of Students Will Terry. The community award went to Davidson resident Ruby Houston, director of the Mecklenburg County Head Start program. Houston has worked in the community in a variety of roles beginning in 1972 when she became a teacher's assistant at the Davidson Cornelius Day Care Center. She later served the center as a teacher and director and is currently a member of its board of directors. Houston worked at Central Piedmont Community College as an instructor in the Title XX Child Development Training Program. She has worked with the Gethsemane Tutoring Program in Davidson since its inception.



Ruby Houston of Davidson accepts the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award for community service from Davidson College Dean of Students Will Terry at Sunday's commencement at the college. (Photo by

Mystery Photo



Last week's mystery couple, Kay Beaver Auten and Jonnie Dale Beaver, were correctly identified by three readers. Congratulations to Oliver Bailey, Hamp Bailey, and Gus Penninger. Thanks for calling.

This week's mystery girl sat for this photo in the 1940's. She is a life long Davidsonian.



The Charlotte Observer
Saturday, June 6, 1987



ROBERT DUYOS/S.M.

Sharon Stinson (left) and Odessa Colson get ready for a big drop on the "Thunder Road" ride at Carowinds Friday night during Project Graduation. The two are graduates of North Mecklenburg High School.

Do what you are meant

Minister has ambitious plans for historic school

Davidson

Continued from page 1

Over the next 25 years, both the Ada Jenkins School and Robert Shirley continued to serve similar purposes. For example:

■ In December 1967, Shirley set up a job-training and motivation group at Plato Price School on Morris Field Drive in western Mecklenburg, one of seven black schools in the county closed by desegregation. He started it with no money. Working space and equipment were donated. The instructors — who included Hoyle Martin, then a teacher and now a member of the Charlotte City Council — were volunteers.

■ In February 1967, Ada Jenkins School became home to a federally financed kindergarten for 122 children whose families earned less than \$2,000 a year.

In retrospect, it seems fated that one day Shirley and the Ada Jenkins School would come together.

The Town of Davidson has agreed to lease space at the old school to Davidson United Presby-acting minister, for a Families and Career Development Center.

Shirley has embarked again on what he does best: pulling the community together for the common good and creating something out of nothing.

With the help of community and church volunteers, Davidson College students and the town, he plans to set up a comprehensive set of programs for all ages and needs.

Mayor Russell Knox admitted he needed some convincing before having town attorney Rick Kline draw up the lease agreement.

"One of my reservations was the fact that he preaches two Sundays a month at this church in Davidson, and he preaches two Sundays a month at one down in Morven," Knox said.

"I didn't see how he could do all that and take on a program like this. But apparently, he's a guy who is willing to work 24 hours a day. He's an interesting person, and I'm excited about what he's doing."

Council member Martin, who went on to direct Shirley's program at Plato Price, helped convince Knox and the other town officials. "I wrote them a two-page letter about our program," he said. "Bob Shirley is very effective. He's been involved in those kinds of programs as long as I've known him."

Shirley has plenty he wants to accomplish at Ada Jenkins. He has begun by enlisting the help and ideas of community residents.

"We'll be running the gamut from babyhood to seniorhood," he said. "I've written up about 28 programs we want to do. And I'm



Almost empty. This summer, all but the hot lunch program moved out of Ada Jenkins and into the new Town Hall. Since then, all but the cafeteria have stood empty. Lack of activity there spelled trouble; neighborhood residents feared drugs might move in.



"We need something to draw them (youngsters) to. They stay in the streets. It would further them in life if they had some sort of goal."

— Zannie Hooper, who went through sixth grade at Ada Jenkins

sure there are others that will come in."

Both town officials and residents of west Davidson have worried about the old school's fate.

Since 1973, it had been used as a community center, offering a wide range of programs, including arts,

crafts and recreation. Besides the hot lunch program in the cafeteria, the school also provided space for several other Department of Social Services programs.

When the town's \$1.7 million municipal building was completed this summer, all but the hot lunch program moved out of Ada Jenkins and into the new Town Hall.

Since then, all but the cafeteria have stood empty. Lack of activity there spelled trouble; neighborhood residents feared drugs might move in.

Town Hall sits only a few blocks from the historically black community, located on the hilly west side of the railroad tracks. But those residents say they aren't comfortable in that elegant setting.

Ada Jenkins represents their history. The community even tried to buy it from the school system in October 1973 for use as a church.

Their offer was rejected, but they continue to love the old school.

"It means a lot to me because it's been here ever since I moved here in 1947," said Mary Carr, 74, who worked in the school's cafeteria 12 years.

"We feel free coming here," she said, sitting on a bench outside the cafeteria. "When we're here, we feel like we're at home."

Going to Town Hall feels like visiting, she said. "When you go to someone else's house, you can't always do like you would at your home. You have to be careful with this; you have to be careful with that."

"Children can't go up there and



"We feel free coming here. When we're here, we feel like we're at home."

— Mary Carr, who worked in school's cafeteria 12 years

run. The building's so nice, they might run and scar up the floors. They can't be free like they can here."

Zannie Hooper, 79, went through the sixth grade at Ada Jenkins. She lives in Cornelius but is a regular at the hot lunch program for senior citizens held at her old school. She's among those who worry about west Davidson's young people. And she thinks Shirley's plan might make a difference.

"We need something to draw them to," she said. "They stay in the streets. It would further them in life if they had some sort of goal."

Mary Carr agreed. "We're hoping they'll have a program to

counsel our young people. A lot of times, they don't pay attention to their parents. They'll listen to other people before they'll listen to their parents.

"We used to have a scout program here, back when my son was a boy. But somehow, it got away from us."

Scout programs are high on Shirley's list. "I learned there is not a black Scout troop above I-85," he said.

"I'm particularly interested in the values that scouting teaches: trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. They need to be impressed on these kids, and it's not happening."

File

OCT. 13, 1991



POTTERY STUDENTS at Davidson Community Center under the instruction of John Christian are shown at the potters wheel demonstrating the craft. From left are: Carolyn Houston, Yasmin Clark, Barbra Clark, Sandra Reid, Cornell Hunsucker and Wilfred Gaston. (Gazette Photo)



A brilliant Spring day was the perfect occasion for the planting of the Sugar Maple tree won by the second and sixth grade students at Cornelius Elementary School for their Arbor Day project. The children dedicated the tree to the memory of Mrs.

Asilee Rawlings, long associated with beautification projects in Cornelius. Shown above are the second grade students and teachers, with Mayor Wes Rood and Sam Rawlings, who was present to accept the dedication for his wife.



Habitat Home to be Dedicated on Sunday

June 17, 1992

Members of the Sherrill family -- l-r Condric, CaTesse, Gwen and Cashika -- invite members of the community to join in the dedication of their Habitat for Humanity home on Potts Street on Sunday, June 21, at 5 p.m. The Rev. Robert Shirley will officiate at the brief service, and a pot luck supper will follow. Those planning to attend are asked to bring a dish of food to share, and chairs and card tables for supper. For more information, call Bil Giduz at 892-2244.



July 15, 1981



STEPHANIE MOORE of Davidson has participated in the 4-H gardening project and has planted seeds and with help from her family has raised squash, okra, lettuce, tomatoes, potatoes, and beans. She is a member of 4-H Explorer Club in Davidson.

County Park Program

Arden Barringer attempts a spike during a volleyball game at the Davidson Community Center. The July heat doesn't seem to bother the 108 youngsters who participate daily in the program offered by the County Park and Recreation Department.

(Photo by Arden Dowdy)





This old view of Davidson's Main Street, from a collection of Mary McConnell, was taken before the street was surfaced, in the early days of the Ford car. Except for the paving the view is not much different today. From Mrs. McConnell's collection also comes (below) this unusual view of Chambers Building on the Davidson Campus. We had seen other shots of "Old Chambers" after it was ravaged by fire but none, like this one, from the inside.



they



DICK VAN HALSEMA/Stal

Sharon Brandon: "It's like climbing a ladder. Sometimes it's hard to get to the

other rung. But you look up . . . where you want to be, and you keep going."

Sharon Brandon

Tell-It Communications, Charlotte

Most days 6 a.m. rolls around far too quickly for Sharon Brandon.

Bleary-eyed and tired after five hours' sleep, she crawls out of bed. She shuffles her 6-year-old son off to school, dashes through some housework and shows up at her telemarketing business, Tell-It Communications, at 9 a.m.

After a full day there, she goes to her night shift at AT&T, where she has been a long-distance telephone operator for 15 years.

"It's like climbing a ladder," said Brandon. "Sometimes it's hard to get to the other rung. But you look up to the top where you want to be, and you keep going."

Brandon opened Tell-It last November, but held onto her \$26,000-a-year job at AT&T.

She switched to the night shift, working 5-11 p.m. five days a week, including three weekends a month. During the days, she runs her company, which employs two full-time and two part-time workers.

Brandon says she does it for long-term security.

"There have been such a lot of changes with the phone company," she said. "There have been layoffs and cutbacks. You just never know."

Brandon said it was natural for her to pick a business related to phones. Research also told her that she would have scant competition in the Charlotte market.

For start-up capital, Brandon and her husband, Tyrone, an electrician at Duke Power's McGuire Nuclear Station, sold some stock. She found some "really cheap" space sharing an office with a small-business consultant. She installed three phone lines and spent the first month telemarketing for her own business.

Her first contract came from a New Jersey company wanting to sell its seamless gutters to Charlotte builders. It provided the list of names, and Brandon and her employees, one of them a nephew, were in business.

Sharon Brandon

Jobs: Telephone operator; owner, Tell-It Communications.

Age: 37.

Hometown: Jasper, Ala.

Education: Associate degree, Bauer Fashion College, Atlanta, 1973.

Family: Husband, Tyrone; son, Stefan.

Quote: "At first it was really hard. I was beginning to ask whether I had done the right thing. But I had spent money, and I needed to make it work."

Brandon moved into the West Charlotte Business Incubator a few months ago.

She said she is able to work and run a business because of her husband's support, a reliable baby-sitter and the flexibility of her AT&T job. "I can request early hours if I have to do something special. I can split my shift, working some hours early in the morning and some at night, and I can request a day off or trade days off with someone."

At times during the 10 months, Brandon has questioned her lifestyle. Tired eyes peered back at her from the mirror, and she couldn't find time to even do her nails.

"I was looking bad at first," she said, "but I think I have it under control now."

When clients are slow to pay her, her paycheck often fills the gap. When that isn't enough, her husband chips in with loans for the rent.

"I need money to fall back on," she said, explaining why she holds onto her job. "I have not taken out a loan. I need my salary. Some weeks I have to pay my workers out of my salary."

— Jennifer Ffrench Parker



Thursday, March 20, 1986—THE MECKLENBURG GAZETTE—3



Listening to tales of Sweden. Omar Dukes and Shamecia Latta listen to Davidson College exchange student, Johanna Beeraladson, recall a Swedish-children's song. (Photo by Pat Johnson)



Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Mayhew

Mayhews observe 50th anniversary at reception

Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Mayhew celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at a surprise reception given by their family Sunday, Nov. 6, at the Carolina Inn in Davidson. The couple renewed their vows in a ceremony with the Rev. L. A. Ellis officiating and prayer by the Rev. Will Terry, a close friend of the family.

Mrs. Mayhew wore an off-white floor length gown with gold accessories and a gold rose corsage. A gold rose boutonniere was presented to Mr. Mayhew.

Acting as maid of honor was the oldest daughter, Mrs. Annie Mildred Lowery, who carried the ring for the groom. The best man was Oscar Lee of St. Louis, oldest son, who carried the ring for the bride.

Acting as bridesmaids were daughters Mrs. Evelyn Carr, Mrs. Jessie Frontis, Mrs. Daisy Rae-ford, and Mrs. Mary Graham. Ushers were the sons, John Lee Mayhew and Floyd Mayhew. Standing in for the late James Edward Mayhew were his wife and children.

Pre-trimmed 27"

Thursday, September 3, 1981—THE MECLENBURG GAZETTE—17

Gethsemane Day is celebrated

by Jewel Donaldson

One day about three weeks ago some young ladies at Gethsemane Baptist Church thought of an idea on how the members could get together as a family. The young ladies discussed it with the church members and they loved the idea.

Saturday, August 29, 1981 was set aside as "Gethsemane Day" by the church members and surrounding area residents who helped them celebrate.

Members of the planning committee were Ms. Frances Alexander Chairman, Loria Houston, Lula B. Houston, Dora Barringer, Lola McCain, and Dorothy and Jimmy Kerns.

Some of the highlights of the day were a softball game, the old against the young; sock races; three-legged races; horseshow throw; volleyball; balloon tossing; and ballow showings.



Enjoying a snow cone are, (left to right, first row) Chantelle Carr, Tamika Phifer Kelsey McCain, (back row) Chelaris Carr, Kesha Donaldson and Michelle Donaldson.

The WBTV Fun Bus was there to take everyone for a ride to the Cowan's Ford Dam and around our community.

Hot fish in the black pot was like old times—everyone sitting around waiting on that hot fish. Some of the other goodies were hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, lemonade and snowballs.

Everything to eat and the ride on the WBTV Bus was free.

Gethsemane members have decided to have another Gethsemane Day next year because they feel that they accomplished the "church family" goal.

Rev. Clement J. Morris is the minister of the church located in Davidson.

Milton Howard appears to be like any other 14-year-old. He likes football and girls but not homework.

But Milton stands out from the crowd. He knows what he wants to be — a minister — and he plans to achieve his goal before his 18th birthday.

The Huntersville teen-ager has a mission in life. "It's pretty much the same as Martin Luther King's ... to help all the young people, to help the old people as well, to understand the Bible," said Milton.

He's been reading the holy book often since a Sunday in November when he, his mother and three of his seven sisters and brothers were sitting in Torrence Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church near Cornelius.

"I had a vision to be a preacher. From then on I guess it was my turn to speak out to the people," said Milton. His mother recalls that the youth rose from his seat and told the congregation they should be thankful for what they have.

Milton believes people ought to live by the Bible so they won't end up in hell. His first sermon — on Sunday, Jan. 4 — warned youth against the dangers of drugs.

"I said you can get high off of alcohol and dope, but if you get high off Jesus Christ you won't ever come down. I said I wasn't telling anyone what to do but giving them the best advice they could ever get from anyone," said Milton.

That Sunday afternoon about 70 teen-agers answered his call to accept Christ as their savior. The large number surprised the Alexander Junior High School eighth-grader "a little," he said.

The hourlong sermon, his first public speaking performance, "had some effect but not a



Rosalyn Gist
RELIGION WRITER

to satisfy me or God," said Milton.

The Rev. George Thompson, pastor of Torrence Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, was more impressed. "He did real well," said Thompson. "He was very at ease, very relaxed, very calm. He didn't have any notes. Not a one. ... He got up like somebody that had been doing it for years."

Milton said the 250 onlookers did not make him nervous. This Sunday, he said, may be different.

Milton, whose voice is just beginning to deepen, will preach a trial sermon at 3 p.m. Thompson and the Rev. F.M. Allen, presiding elder of the North Charlotte district of the A.M.E. Zion Church, will evaluate him.

"I might be a little (nervous). That's because the elder will be there ... He seems like a very strict person," said Milton.

He will be judged on his message, his character and his background, said Thompson. If all goes well, he can be recommended for

consideration by the denomination's quarterly conference, which screens prospective ministers.

The quarterly conference may ask that the district conference consider him for licensing as a local preacher or an exhorter. (An exhorter assists a pastor until he has learned church procedure.)

The district conference meets in June and it could take four years — including study at the A.M.E. Zion's Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury — before Milton becomes an ordained minister.

Yet "he's always known what he wanted," said his mother, Margie Howard. So Milton, of course, knows already where he wants his first church and why.

By age 17, he wants to be pastor of a church in Charlotte. "There's a lot of youth down there that need to be saved, that need to hear the word of God. They all (youth everywhere) need to be saved. As the song goes, 'I'll see you in the rapture.' I would like to see all my friends in the rapture rather than going to hell," said Milton.

Thompson thinks the teen-ager "is going to make an excellent minister." His youthfulness is an asset, said Thompson, who has been in the ministry for 25 years.

"There's a lot them (youth) I can't reach. I don't know what they're doing. He's out there with them. He plays with them. He's in school with them ... He knows

being minister at 18

all about their problems ... He's very effective with them because they respect him highly," said Thompson.

But Milton said his message Sunday will not be tailored for his peers. Using Psalms 111:6-9 as a basis, he'll discuss why everyone should have more faith in God than in his fellow man.

Clarence Howard, a trustee at Torrence Chapel, said his son was always a regular churchgoer and "a little bit more serious" than most people his age.

Milton enjoys teen-age pastimes such as dancing, listening to records and sports, but he approaches them from a different perspective. "I like to watch football, but when it comes between football and going to church, I let it go because God gave us football and he can take it away," said Milton.

He likes to dance but is trying to avoid it because he feels it's not a Christian thing to do. His musical tastes have also been altered by his religious awakening.

"He doesn't like wild stuff anymore," said Mrs. Howard. "The most (favorite) thing he does right now is get in there and play those spiritual records."

Milton says he would like to be a combination of gospel singer

James Cleveland and Martin Luther King Jr.

He would also like to be a wide receiver on the school football team next fall, despite his mom's complaints that the 5-foot-6, 128-pound youngster might get hurt. She approves, however, of his less violent activities.

He sings in church and school choirs, plays trombone in the Alexander Junior High marching band and on the school track team. He is also a member of Project Aries, a biracial Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system project started in 1972 to improve race relations between students.

"Blacks and whites should get together ... and think about this rather than trying to kill each other with sticks and stones, (than) have man wiped off the face of the earth for a little color," said Milton.

He said he's become more sympathetic and understanding toward all of his classmates since his decision to become a minister. "God has given me a clear mind to see different sides of the story," said Milton.

At school, some of the students call him Reverend Howard, some "try to have a little respect like they have for other ministers, some just say that I'm just putting



Milton Howard

on an act. It doesn't bother me. I just say, 'Someday, you'll see,' he said.

Milton, the son of a maintenance man and the youngest in a 10-member family, has been asked to deliver sermons at four other churches, including Gethsemane Baptist Church in Charlotte.

"He's just as confident as he can be," said his mother proudly.

"I really think he will stick to it," said his father.

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Fabric

Pattern



Murray Graham of Davidson shows off the large-mouth bass, weighing over 7 lbs., he caught behind Lakeside Apartments. (Photo by Gail Derwort)

Church-Social Notes

by Marjean Torrence



We would like to share with you this photo of a Junior Choir taken in 1953. Pictured in the photo are Director - Lester Hunsucker, and choir members Joyce Johnson, Carolyn Mundy, Marjean Torrence, Barbara Springs, Helen Grier, Nannie Rey Houston, Virginia Houston,

Betty Knox, Gwenlyn Caldwell, Harold Houston, A.G. Houston, Gene Parson, Ferman Twitty, Robert Dubose, Calvin Houston, Joesphine Torrence, Verger Parson, and Willie Gene Torrence.



Oriana • Oriana Border

Oriana • Oriana Border





But family shop became his forum for 50 years

Davidson College.
 "I never thought I'd be a barber," said Norton on a recent afternoon.
 "My dad said he barbered for 57 years. I don't want to die on the



TOM FRANKLIN/Staff

of his original customers, and the same one with its barber College.

job. I hope I can make it to do something else."

So next year when Norton turns 65, he plans to put down his scissors and indulge in the dozen or so hobbies he loves.

These include crafts and painting, leading High Adventure trips as a Boy Scout leader, traveling and hybridizing irises at his home 20 miles away in Rowan County. "I have more hobbies than the normal person ought to have," he said.

On one wall of his shop are framed documents reflecting special moments in his life:

His certificate from Morgan Barber College (1943), his associate degree from Carver College (1951), a Silver Beaver Award for his work with the Boy Scouts (1978), the Martin Luther King

Please see Norton/page 6

REEVES TEMPLE AME ZION C





TOM FRANKLIN/Staff

"An amazing man": "My ambition was to teach," says Ken Norton, who has been a barber in Davidson for 50 years. "I thought I was a God-sent mathematician." Now he's trimming the

hair of sons and grandsons of some of his original customers, and he's still in his foster father's shop, the same one with its barber pole, directly across from Davidson College.

College town barber meant to be teacher

But family shop became his forum for 50 years

By **PAT BORDEN GUBBINS**
Staff Writer

At 14, Ken Norton of Davidson had no intention of becoming a barber.

True, he had already spent four or five years shining shoes in the barber shop on Main Street owned by his foster father, Hood Norton.

"My ambition was to teach," said Norton. "I thought I was a God-sent mathematician."

But here he is, 50 years later, trimming the hair of sons and grandsons of some of his original customers. He's still in his foster father's shop, the same one with its barber pole, directly across from Davidson College.

"I never thought I'd be a barber," said Norton on a recent afternoon.

"My dad said he barbered for 57 years. I don't want to die on the

job. I hope I can make it to do something else."

So next year when Norton turns 65, he plans to put down his scissors and indulge in the dozen or so hobbies he loves.

These include crafts and painting, leading High Adventure trips as a Boy Scout leader, traveling and hybridizing irises at his home 20 miles away in Rowan County. "I have more hobbies than the normal person ought to have," he said.

On one wall of his shop are framed documents reflecting special moments in his life:

His certificate from Morgan Barber College (1943), his associate degree from Carver College (1951), a Silver Beaver Award for his work with the Boy Scouts (1978), the Martin Luther King

Please see **Norton**/page 6

Death Notices

In Memory Of

REVEREND IMAGENIA JONES

Reverend Imagenia Jones, 83, died July 12, 1992, in Presbyterian Hospital. During her extended illness, she was a resident of White Oak Manor Nursing Home.



Reverend Jones' life of Christian service began with her husband, the late Reverend J. E. Jones, and continued throughout her own ministry.

She was one of the first ordained female ministers of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area.

Her longest pastoral appointments were Huntersville and Jonahville A.M.E. Zion Churches, both of Huntersville, North Carolina. Under her leadership, a new kitchen facility was added to Huntersville A.M.E. Zion Church, and a new sanctuary and annex were completed at Jonahville A.M.E. Zion Church. She retired from active pastoring after serving Jonahville A.M.E. Zion Church for 17 years.

Reverend Jones then returned to Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church, where she was a member. There, she became actively involved, serving as an Associate Pastor, teaching a Sunday School Class on Church Doctrine, conducting Wednesday prayer and Bible Study, and administering communion to the sick and shut-in of the congregation.

In loving appreciation for her devoted service, Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church designated Sunday, August 28, 1983, as the "Reverend Mrs. Imagenia Jones Day". In a later tribute, the Sunday School also honored her by renaming the class on Church Doctrine, the "Imagenia Jones Bible Class".

Reverend Jones served faithfully until her health failed. She will be remembered for her genuine Christian love and dedication to God, His Church, and the community.

Survivors are her daughter and son-in-law, Frances and Ernest McClain, Jr.; sister, Mrs. Carrie Watson of Evansville, IN; brothers, Reverend Joel Hewlett of Evansville, IN and James Hewlett of Indianapolis, IN.

Funeral service will be 1:00 P.M. Thursday, July 16, at Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church, 401 North McDowell Street, Charlotte. The body will lie in state Noon Thursday, at the church. Interment will be in York Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church, 401 North McDowell Street, Charlotte, NC 28202, or White Oak Manor, 4009 Craig Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28205.

The family will receive visitors Wednesday from 7:00 P.M. until 8:30 P.M. at Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church.

Arrangements by Grier Funeral Service.



The new principal and assistant principal at Davidson Elementary are Barbara Floyd, assistant principal, left, and Vicki Hamilton, right, principal.



Herman Burton knows how to grow a cabbage!

Davidson barber was certified at age 15

Norton

Continued from page 1

Humanitarian Award from Mount Zion Baptist Church in Salisbury (1985), a citation for his work as president of the Optimist Club of South Rowan in Landis (1986-87).

On the opposite wall are framed yellowed newspaper clippings, stories about him and his foster father written over the decades. Here and there are faded photographs of Yosemite National Park and the Grand Canyon.

The prospect of Norton's leaving stirs mixed feelings among lifelong customers like Sandy Carnegie, who grew up in Davidson and is now a town commissioner.

"Seriously, though — where do you go? Someone's cut your hair since you've had your hair cut, and suddenly, they're leaving," said Carnegie, 41.

"He is an amazing man. I love him to death, and I really hate to see him retire.

"He gave me my first haircut. He cut my daddy's hair when my daddy was a student at Davidson. He cuts my hair, and he cuts my 11-year-old son's hair."

Norton, a slender man of 6 foot 2, moved to his home near Landis in Rowan County 32 years ago. He commutes 20 miles each way. Several times, he rode a bike to work. "And I plan to walk it before I retire," he said. "But just one way."

His easy conversation, which customers love, suggests a keen intelligence.

When he was serving in the military police at Fort Bragg from 1953 to 1955, he tested well enough to qualify for officer candidate school.

"I didn't take it, because I didn't want to extend another year," he said. "Maybe I should have, but I was already married."

Norton wound up in Davidson by chance. He was 11 months old when his parents split up. His mother moved to Washington, leaving him in Davidson in the care of relatives.

His foster father believed in hard work. He paid little Ken for shining shoes after school and encouraged him to save his money.

"When I was 14 years old, he asked me how much money I had in the bank. I told him, and he said, 'You've got enough to go to barber school in Charlotte.'"

That summer, Norton began taking the bus to Charlotte to begin his training. In the afternoons when he got back, he worked in the barber shop until closing time. Because of his on-the-job experience, the usual 18-month apprenticeship was waived, and he became a registered barber at 15.

But he still yearned for more education. "I complained a lot," he said. "I really wanted to teach."

When he turned 21, his foster father gave him a car so he could



TOM FRANKLIN/Staff

Same place, new customers: Ken Norton is still in his foster father's shop, the same one with its barber pole, directly across from Davidson Col-

lege, but now he's trimming the hair of sons and grandsons of some of the customers he served when he started cutting hair 50 years ago.

attend evening classes at what was then Carver College in Charlotte. He got his two-year degree in liberal arts, but he'd taken enough extra courses to qualify as a mid-term junior.

He used his studies in business administration and accounting by doing the books for the shop at night, back in the days when it had five barbers. Another shop up the street employed seven.

"We had a lot of transit busi-

ness, when we were the main highway (N.C. 115, before U.S. 21 or I-77 were built)," Norton said. "We had people on their way from Pennsylvania to Florida. Even now, I wait on people from Statesville to Charlotte."

He remembers the wrenching days of integration, back in the 1960s. To accommodate both races, his foster father owned two shops. The one on Main Street was set aside for white customers.

Another, around the corner, served black customers.

"Black barbers all over the South cut white people's hair," Norton said. "That was the philosophy of the South."

Times have changed. One right after the other, in the space of about an hour, Norton cut the hair of three races: black, white and Asian. That was around 4 p.m. He'd been on his feet since 9 a.m., with no lunch break, because

"I couldn't operate with a telephone. If I had one in here, and it went off while I was working on someone's hair, I'd go halfway through the ceiling."

— Ken Norton

that's when people often pop in for a quick cut.

His business is all walk-in. Norton does business without a telephone, which sometimes confounds potential clients wanting an appointment.

But if they want to get Norton-ized, as folks in Davidson call it, they must go and wait their turn.

"I couldn't operate with a telephone," Norton said. "If I had one in here, and it went off while I was working on someone's hair, I'd go halfway through the ceiling."

True to good barber tradition, Norton weaves a fine tale. Carnegie, who a few weeks ago came away from Norton's chair with a shorter-than-usual cut, teases him about getting carried away while he's talking.

"You could sit and talk there forever, but you have to stop sometime, because you want to have some hair left," Carnegie said.

One person who sought Norton out, intrigued by reports of his story-telling, was poet Gary Gildner, former writer-in-residence at Davidson College.

"I was telling him about stories you told me," Harry Thomas, who teaches English at Davidson, informed Norton recently while getting a trim.

"He's apparently very particular about how he gets his hair cut. But he and his wife came in and waited a long time. He finally got his hair cut, and he waited for the stories to come, but you never said a word.

"As he was leaving, you walked in the door," Thomas said. "It was your assistant who cut his hair."

Besides teaching, Norton's other vocational yearning was to be an artist. "But I also wanted a family, and I was afraid my art efforts wouldn't support a family," he said.

So instead, he has cut hair for 50 years, while his wife, Bettye, taught elementary school in Rowan County. Together, they raised two children, Kenneth II and Bettye Karen, and now have six grandchildren.

If Ken Norton has any regrets, they are not apparent. "My whole life is a learning situation," he said. "I think this was my destiny, maybe."



Thomas

SGT. MILTON C. HUNTER

243-17-3407

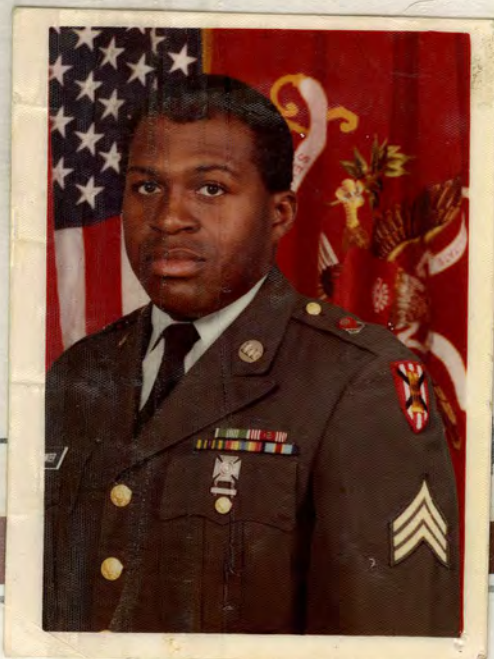
ACO. 299TH ENG.

BATTALION (C)

OPERATION

DESERT SHIELD

APO, NY 09315-0000





CPL. Robert L. Latta left on August 11, 1990, to go to Saudi Arabia. He is the son of Ms. Gussie Latta, of 910-H Lakeview Ave. Davidson, N.C. Please remember him in your daily meditations.

ROBERT L. LATTA
237-17-8070
AT-TON-CO
3RD TKBN 1ST PIT
TPO, SAN FRANCISCO,
CA. 96608-5525

Our Soldiers in the Gulf

Air Force Sgt. Kerns has been deployed to Saudi Arabia as of Jan. 11, 1991. Sgt. Kerns is a graduate of North Mecklenburg High School. He is the son of James and Gloria Kerns of Westside Terrace, Davidson, NC and the grandson of Mrs. Alice Reid, Greensboro, NC. He is married to Sgt. Sandra Kerns of Fort Worth, TX.

For those of you who would like to write to him his address:

Trenton D. Kerns 243-13-0299
Operations Desert Shield
4TFW/Deployed
(4EMS/AGE)
APO, N.Y. 09762



Sgt. Trenton D. Kerns

SGT. TRENTON D. KERNS

243-13-0299

OPERATION

DESERT SHIELD

4TFW/DEPLOYED

(EMS/AGE)

APO, NY 09762

4EMS



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Associated Press

PFC ALI D. DAVIS

244-45-9732

846-PH-PC OPERATION


DESERT STORM

548-CSB/171-CSG

FIRST-1-SG-COSCOM

APO, NY 09657





CPL JERRY SPRINGS
245-08-8386
HHT 1-7 CA-ICD
APO, NY 09306-0330

UNC's quarterback duel has Carr pumped

By **RON GREEN Jr.**
Raleigh Bureau

CHAPEL HILL — Ask North Carolina assistant football coach Gerald Carr, the overseer of the quarterback race between Mike Thomas and Jason Stanicek, which one will be under center when the Tar Heels open their season Sept. 5 at Wake Forest and this is what you get:



Carr

"We might keep everybody in suspense and let Wake Forest practice against both of them. (Gen. Norman) Schwarzkopf didn't let the Iraqis know when he was going to attack did he?"

Carr, a Charlotte native and former all-county quarterback at North Mecklenburg High, joined the Tar Heels in March and inherited the Thomas-Stanicek duel.

It has become a subject of much speculation, weighing the merits of Thomas and his near-legend status as a high schooler at Richmond County against Stanicek and his surprisingly effective performance in the latter part of last season.

For a football program in which quarterback play has ranged from fair to dismal in recent years, the prospect of having either Thomas or Stanicek or both in charge is almost intoxicating.

Carr, 33, doesn't foresee making the ultimate decision. He will offer his assessment, blend it with what offensive coordinator Darrell Moody and coach Mack Brown see, and then a decision will be made. Brown is likely to make the final call.

A former quarterback at Southern Illinois, Carr coached quarterbacks at Akron and Arizona before making the move back home when the North Carolina opportunity became available.

He went through the spring with the Tar Heels, getting a feel for the quarterbacks, the offense and what must be accomplished once the Tar Heels put on pads Aug. 18. Carr liked what he saw from Thomas and Stanicek in the spring when he developed a feel for each player's strengths.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

"I didn't come in with any preconceived ideas," Carr said. "I wanted to base my opinion on what they did on the field."

"If you go in looking for something bad, you'll find it. If you go in looking for something good, you'll find it. I tried to go in with an open mind."

There is a perception that Thomas, a 6-2, 221-pounder who received a medical redshirt after a thumb injury last fall, would give the Tar Heels more of an option game, while Stanicek would shade the offense toward a drop-back passing game. Carr doesn't agree.

"There are a lot of similarities between the two that people don't see," Carr said. "Because Mike is such a great athlete, they tend to forget about the athleticism of Jason. The way Jason goes into the pocket, they tend to forget that Mike is a great drop-back passer."

"We don't have to change our offensive structure regardless of which one is in the game."

In previous seasons, Brown said his team was limited offensively by the quarterback position. With Thomas or Stanicek, Brown believes North Carolina will be able to expand its offense. However, the two have a total of six games' experience between them.

"The improvement of both will come with age," Carr said. "They both have the mechanics it takes. They have the pocket presence, the leadership and the intelligence. They both really know the game. That's all you can ask."



NINETEEN YEARS BEHIND THE WHEEL AND 300,000 ACCIDENT-FREE MILES-- Cornelius resident Lynda Donaldson has served an entire generation of students safely to and from local pools for almost two decades. (Photo by Ed Decker)

Driver Donaldson Logs 300,000 Miles Accident-Free

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Longtime Bakker friend, PTL backer dies

'Uncle' Henry Harrison, 67, battled muscular dystrophy for more than 10 years

By **BLAIR SKINNER**
Staff Writer

FORT MILL, S.C. — "Uncle" Henry Harrison Jr., Jim Bakker's gregarious sidekick on the former "PTL Club" television show, died Sunday from complications of muscular dystrophy at Mercy Hospital South in Pineville.

Mr. Harrison, 67, staunchly defended Bakker as the ministry crumbled in the late 1980s. Bakker, who recently completed a prison sentence resulting from the PTL scandal, last saw Harrison Jan. 21 at a birthday party for his old friend.



Mr. Harrison

"My friendship with Uncle Henry goes back to the early days of television," Bakker said Sunday night in a statement released by his attorney, Jim Thoms. "He always had a hug and a cheerful word for everyone he met. Henry spent his life demonstrating the love of Christ. I will

miss him deeply."

Bakker was best man when Christian broadcaster Pat Robertson performed the marriage ceremony for Harrison and his wife, Susan, 24 years ago.

Harrison was mostly immobile after more than 10 years of battling the disease, although he could use his hands. Through the pain of his illness, Harrison retained his positive, cheerful nature and firm religious faith, said his daughter, Pam Green.

Just days ago, Harrison dreamed about running through heaven, Green said.

"He thought it was the Lord showing him what he would be doing in Heaven," Green said.

"His favorite saying was, he'd say, 'I know I'm sitting still on the outside, but I'm jumping around on the inside, praising the Lord,'" Green said.

Harrison, PTL's equivalent of Ed McMahon on the "Tonight Show," laughed, sang and prayed alongside Bakker as the show boomed through the 1970s and '80s.

Bakker's downfall began in March 1987, after he admitted paying former church secretary

Jessica Hahn \$265,000 not to speak about a sexual encounter in 1980.

PTL collapsed in 1989 with Bakker's conviction for cheating 116,000 fans out of \$158 million. After his friend went to prison, Harrison continued to live at the Heritage USA religious and entertainment park, now called the Radisson Grand Resort.

After Bakker's release in November, Harrison spoke publicly of his eagerness to see him and, in the past two months, traveled to Bakker's farm outside Hendersonville, Bakker's attorney, Thoms, said Sunday.

Bakker was in Fort Mill on Jan. 21, when friends threw Harrison a birthday party at the Shoney's restaurant on Carowinds Boulevard.

Thoms said Harrison always showed "... this tremendous cheerful spirit, with considerable physical infirmity. And yet his whole thrust was to cheer up other people. ... When he visited Jim up here in the mountains, he was so positive, so interested and looking forward to each day."

Recently, as Harrison's health

worsened, he stayed in bed most of the time.

Saturday afternoon, "he just woke up praising the Lord and talking about Jesus, and it wasn't much long afterward that he went to the Lord," Green said. "... He sat up and said, 'Praise the Lord' and 'Jesus is my rock.' That was the last two things he said to my mom. She knew that he'd either had a vision, or he was going to the Lord.

"... We're all just kind of hanging in there, and numb for now. It hasn't sunken in that he's not here with us. But we know he's in a much better place, and we'll soon be there."

Funeral arrangements for Harrison were incomplete. A memorial service is planned for Sunday afternoon on the grounds of the Radisson Grand Resort. The family will be at Harrison's home at 500 Heritage Blvd. on Friday and Saturday. Whitesell-Wolfe Funeral Home is in charge.

Harrison is survived by his wife, Susan; sons, Rymil Harrison, of Goldsboro, David Harrison of Charlotte; daughter, Mrs. Pam Green; two grandchildren.



Photos by TOM FRANKLIN/Staff

Best friend: Brian Cole, a Davidson College junior, helps Topaz White, 6, with her reading at

Davidson Elementary School. Cole is a 'Reading Buddy,' helping children at the school.

Olympus M

Davidson prof E.F. Patterson, foe of economic injustice, dies

By BRUCE HENDERSON
Staff Writer

A huge, framed portrait of Karl Marx dominated his cluttered office on the second floor of the Chambers Building. Dr. Ernest Finney Patterson — "Red Ernie" to affectionate Davidson College students — was no closet Marxist. Dr. Patterson liked to say that his mission was to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. He scored on both counts.

With his death Friday at age 78, he left behind respectful colleagues, his influence on thousands of students and a Southern liberal arts college that, through his presence, embodied academic freedom.

Students and colleagues remember Dr. Patterson's exhaustive reading, his challenging classes and his blunt assessments of capitalism's failings. They also recall his humanity — he aimed his attacks at institutions, not

people. "The man was simply fearless," said former student Maurice Ritchie, now associate dean of Duke University's divinity school. "He would really invite us to take seriously what the Soviets were saying about themselves, and at the same time encourage us to not necessarily believe everything we read about our own government."

"He really encouraged us to push back the curtain and look behind the

curtain." And he put his words about social and economic injustice into practice.

Dr. Patterson dived into the civil rights movement of the 1960s. In 1965, in opposition to the Vietnam War, he donned a black necktie clasped by a peace symbol. Both were still there, worn faithfully every day, when he



Mr. Patterson in 1975

Please see Teacher/page 5C

Teacher

Davidson Professor Ernest Patterson dies

Continued from page 1C

retired 14 years later.

Former Davidson student Joe Howell never took a course under Dr. Patterson. He was drawn to the teacher anyway, by his "spark and his optimism, his idealism and most of all his humor." Dr. Patterson was the only faculty member to take part in a Charlotte civil rights march Howell organized in 1964.

"We have assembled here," he told the students, "to let the Southern senators know that there are many in the South who accept the 20th Century and to invite them to join us in it." Students applauded lustily.

"He was a gadfly in the best sense, a visionary, in a sense way ahead of his time, but always with humor and sensitivity for others," said Howell, now a Washington, D.C., housing consultant.

In dozens of barbed letters to The Observer over the years, the self-described "knee-jerk letter writer" skewered defense spend-

ing, unregulated corporations and Reaganomics. A populist motto described him: "Minnows are saved; I'm after the whales."

"The real points at issue in the debate between socialism and capitalism are, therefore, not economics but culture; not the material standard of living, but the quality of life . . ." he once wrote in The Observer. "Culture has been corrupted and debased by capitalism, and the quality of life is rapidly deteriorating."

The FBI kept tabs on him, and angered Observer readers frequently suggested he go teach elsewhere.

But the bogeyman many imagined turned out to be, in person, a poetry-loving man of charm and grace who taught Sunday school at Davidson United Methodist Church.

"People would tell me, 'I read those letters and I really expected an ogre. But he is the gentlest and kindest person I every met.' That would disarm these people," said retired economics Professor Charles Ratliff, a friend and colleague for 35 years.

Ratliff was economics chairman when Davidson hired Dr. Patterson in 1957. Letters of protest soon poured in.

Ratliff saw it otherwise: "At Davidson we have a whole spec-

trum, from market economists to Marxists. The idea was to expose students to all ideas and let them decide what they believed. As far as I was concerned, it was a great advantage."

Former Davidson President Grier Martin also backed Dr. Patterson when influential college supporters protested his challenges of the free enterprise system.

"I think finally in his own mind (Martin) had to make a decision whether it was worth risking a very important support network for Davidson by sanctioning free expression by one of his faculty members," said D.G. Martin, the late president's son. "By my thinking, he made a very risky decision in favor of academic freedom."

Dr. Patterson was born in Rising Star, Tex., the son of a farmer. Forced by the Depression to leave college, he worked for a time in the oil fields of south Texas. The experience opened him to his populist and socialist beliefs.

Turned down as a conscientious objector, he served in Europe with the Army during World War II. He returned to get his doctorate in economics at the University of Texas at Austin. He came to Davidson after seven years at the University of Alabama.

During his years at Davidson, Dr. Patterson traveled to the Soviet

Dec 11, 1992
Union, Eastern Europe, India, Pakistan and the Far East, including China.

Dr. Patterson is survived by his wife, Anne; son, Ernest Patterson Jr. of Chapel Hill; three grandsons; one granddaughter.

A memorial service will be held at Davidson United Methodist Church on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Memorials can be made to the Davidson College library or to a charity of the donor's choice.

Civvaha



DIEDRA LAIRD/Staff

House destroyed: In the midst of a water shortage caused by a ruptured main, fire destroyed John Beatty's home in north Mecklenburg County. A hydrant near the couple's driveway

was dry, but firefighters had planned ahead and hauled in their own water in trucks. They say the shortage had no impact on their ability to fight the fire.

Day begins without water

Firms close, residents made showerless by waterline rupture

By LIZ CHANDLER
Staff Writer

A ruptured water main left thousands of residents in north Mecklenburg with little or no water early Wednesday, closing some businesses and sending cranky commuters to work without showers or coffee.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utility Department restored water to most areas by late Wednesday, but officials are asking customers to conserve water today so water towers can fill up.

Water pressure began dropping Tuesday evening in neighborhoods from Harris Boulevard north to the county line.

After an eight-hour search, utility workers discovered water bubbling from the ground in the Hyde Park neighborhood off Beatties

Ford Road. They repaired a break in a 6-inch waterline around 3 a.m. Wednesday, but the system took hours to recover because three water tanks were drained.

"We had no showers. You couldn't flush. We had to play pioneers: We melted ice cubes to wash our face and brush our teeth," said Nancy Wissinger, 43, of Cornelius. "My son had to go to work so he had to put a little powder on his smelly spots."

As many as 30,000 people may have been affected by the break.

For some, it was more than a minor inconvenience.

The Davidson Ice and Fuel company couldn't make ice. Cornelius dentist James Godley canceled appointments. And day care centers closed early — forcing mom or

dad to take time off from work.

"We turned the faucet on and we had nothing," said Kiddie Korner director Lea Honeycutt, as parents and grandparents streamed in to fetch children. "We couldn't flush commodes. We couldn't cook. We had to call 85 families to come get their kids. It inconvenienced everybody."

"It happens, but it is an inconvenience," said Richard Steinhoff, picking up daughter Rachel, 6, and son Phillip, 4 from the center on N.C. 73. "I'll take them back to work with me, but I've got clients I can't be with this afternoon."

In the midst of the shortage, a 7 a.m. fire

Please see **Rupture**/page 5C

Debate over Davidson's future focuses on growth

By PAT BORDEN GUBBINS
Staff Writer

Should Davidson grow or remain a quaint village centered around the college?

That familiar question threaded its way through discussion at Tuesday's first of two meetings to develop a general plan for the town.

A second forum was to follow Thursday night at the Ada Jenkins Center to encourage comments and ideas from members of the black community.

On Tuesday, Donald Howie, chairman of the Davidson General Plan Task Force, gently urged the 50 or so people in Town Hall to keep an open mind about future growth.

"I came here by accident in 1958," he said. "I'm glad the people who were here in 1957 didn't close the door. So let's us not close the door on people who might want to come here in the future. Let's not make Davidson so utopian we won't want to go to heaven."

Led by planning consultants Gary Stewart and David Rickard, residents talked about the future of Main Street, its relationship to Davidson College, transportation, park land, housing, planning and zoning issues and economic development.

Clearly, some in the room wanted Davidson to remain much as it is today.

When the shortage of available housing was mentioned, retired economics professor Louise Nelson called out, "Good!"

The lack of affordable housing in Davidson for first-time homebuyers aroused only mild concern.

But the question of providing more jobs locally — which would require more housing — touched off some lively comment.

"I see no reason why Davidson should be developing jobs and factories," said Jack Perry, director of the Dean Rusk Program in International Studies at Davidson College, after saying he would be expressing a minority view.

"Every factory added, every new housing development added, takes away from what Davidson is. I consider the development community the enemy... I am arguing against industrializing Davidson. I think it would destroy it."

"Are you ready for the college to pay taxes?" countered Phil Disher, a member of the general plan task force.

Howie said the town would benefit by having clean, light industry such as Ingersoll Rand to provide jobs in the area and add to the town's tax base. "If we expect Davidson to be all single-family

homes, we are missing something," he said.

Lou Glasgow, a force in historic preservation in Charlotte before retiring to Davidson, said the town needs to establish safeguards. "You have to set some limits on height, who the developer is, the type of industry," she said. "What we have is not obtrusive but industry has ruined Charlotte."

The town has never actively sought industry, said Mayor Russell Knox, in the audience. "But what industry has sought us out is good," he added.

Among the points most in the audience agreed on:

- Rural areas surrounding the community should be protected.

- The small-town character of the community should be preserved.

- The town needs to add and develop more parks and open space.

- Downtown should be the most vital part of the community.

- Efforts to improve downtown should be coordinated with the college.

- The college needs to pride more student housing.

- Access to public lake via Griffith Street needs to be improved.

- Development at Exit 177, the gateway to Davidson from the



File

Open space: The village green in Davidson helps provide some of the town's treasured open space and small-town atmosphere. The space will be preserved, even with the coming of the town's new library branch. The house in the background, owned by Davidson College along with the village green property, will be moved to make room for the library.

should be controlled.

- More sidewalks are needed.

- Planning efforts should consider all modes of transportation.

But the hopes of staying small have a down side. The future

probably won't include light rail to Charlotte, as one person in the audience had hoped.

"The light rail committee took us off the map because of the (limited) number of people here," said Knox.

Group's visions focus on here and now

By PAT BORDEN GUBBINS
Staff Writer

The consultants at last Thursday's meeting hoped for long-range ideas on how to improve the town of Davidson. But some of the 70 residents who attended had more immediate concerns about ways to improve their present-day lives.

Tuesday's session attracted 50 people to the elegant Davidson Town Hall with its soft lighting, upholstered chairs and excellent acoustics. But Thursday's meeting took place in the cavernous gym at the Ada Jenkins Center, equipped with hard plastic-seated chairs and acoustics better suited to an echo chamber.

The planning consultants, Gary Stewart and David Rickard, scheduled the meeting there to encourage more black residents to attend at least one of the sessions. Their comments will help form the Davidson General Plan.

"Tonight, we will look at where we've been, where we are and where we want to go," said Mayor Russell Knox. "I want us all to dream and to dream big. We won't worry tonight how we are going to pay for it. But we need to remember that all dreams can't come true and not be disappointed."



“ Tonight, we will look at where we've been, where we are and where we want to go. I want us all to dream and to dream big. We won't worry tonight how we are going to pay for it. But we need to remember that all dreams can't come true and not be disappointed.”

— Russell Knox, mayor

But many of the dreams may come true, Knox added. "This is the third or fourth plan we've had in the 16 years I've been on the board (of town commissioners). As part of the process this time around, we've gone back and read those reports, and in a lot of cases, we have either gotten there or we're on our way."

With that, the session began.

Voices bounced off the hardwood floor and concrete block walls, an effect that was doubled when the moderators split the crowd into two discussion groups. The reverberating noise made it hard to hear and even harder to concentrate.

Even so, the crowd of both black and white residents, some with babes in arms, paid close

attention and offered a welter of suggestions about ways the town could be improved.

Although the consultants urged the group to think in terms of five or 10 years, some residents from the black community had immediate problems they wanted solved.

They listed such needs as low-income, single-family housing; renovation of existing houses, and building of efficiency apartments for single adults.

"We can't get our neighborhood cleaned up," said Patsy Parson, who lives on Crane Street. "There are rats and trash. It's just a mess."

She said a large open area next to her house is used for illegal dumping. "I paid someone to clean it out myself."

Her other suggestions were more general. "A lot of people don't have transportation," Parson said. "We need a little park for children to play in."

James Kerns, who lives on Westside Terrace, echoed her comments about trash and talked about neighborhood drainage problems that encourage mosquitoes and rats.

A number of white residents added their concerns. Mary Jo Clark said the town needs playgrounds, sidewalks to connect

segments of the community and a reduced speed limit on Davidson-Concord Road. "Houses for sale on that street stay empty a long time, because people don't want to raise their children on such a busy street," she said.

Chris Sekerak of Cathey Street urged the town to acquire as much green space as possible, as soon as possible. "Through donations, easements and any means at your disposal," he said. He also recommended a recreational outlet for teenagers at night.

"We need a safe gathering place, maybe where they could play basketball," he said. "It would help reduce vandalism."

Ann Williams of Grey Road asked if the plan the town develops would withstand future pressure from developers.

"I fear that what happened at University Place (where the Charlotte City Council recently approved a fourth major shopping center despite a long-range plan that called for no more such centers) could happen here in Davidson," she said.

"Obviously, we are bound for development, but let's do it the right way."



TOM FRANKLIN/Staff

Antique: Alex Beam pauses in front of his 1924 Packard touring car, equipped with a golf club compartment and rumble seat. The car is one of about 150 he leases out for various uses, including TV commercials and movies shot around North Carolina.

He's wheeling and dealing

14 MECKLENBURG NEIGHBORS Wednesday, June 23, 1993 ★

Little Rock AME Zion hosts church conference

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is celebrating its centennial.

The celebration is part of a four-year plan that began in 1992 and will conclude in 1996. The denomination has planned a variety of activities to celebrate its history.

This year's theme is "The Power of a Caring Church."

As part of the celebration, Little Rock AME Zion Church at 401 N. Meyers St. last week hosted the First Episcopal District Church's 103rd Session of the Western Carolina Conference.

The conference was held June 14 through Sunday.

The purpose of the conference, in addition to celebrating the church's 100-year history, was to

give the churches within the district a sense of direction.

Some key issues discussed during the conference were:

- Strengthening personal relationships with God.
- Ways to empower black communities through knowledge.
- Understanding and appreciating black history.
- Making black citizens aware of their voting power in the fight against racism.

The AME Zion Church, which was founded in New York, was an outgrowth of the Methodist Episcopal Church. AME Zion organizers had accused the Methodist Episcopal Church of segregation, racism and denial of religious liberty.

Charlotte pastor is named a bishop of AME Zion Church

The Rev. George Battle, pastor of Greater Gethsemane AME Zion Church, was named a bishop of the 1.5 million-member African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Atlanta on Monday night.

Battle was declared a bishop on the third ballot at the denomination's quadrennial meeting. With 566 ballots reporting, he needed 377 votes and received 379.

He was the first of the 26 candidates to be declared a

bishop.

"God is a good God and somehow in spite of ourselves he blesses us," Battle said after his election.

"My promise is to work for this church without fear," he said. "All I am, all I hope to be, I owe to the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. I will work until the day is done."

Battle, 45, chairman of the school board, was a candidate for one of five vacant bishop posts.

If elected bishop, Battle planned to step down as pastor of Greater Gethsemane AME Zion, where he has served for 18 years. He has said he will not seek reelection to the school board next year, regardless of the outcome.



Battle



“ I don't make a whole lot of money to buy in Davidson, but I wanted to live near my work. Normally, I couldn't begin to buy a house here in Davidson. It will be nice to have a new house and live close by. I'll be within a mile of the college.”

— Kim Sanderson, Davidson employee



Their own home: Track and field coach Gary Andrew and his wife, Jean Braxton, are building this 2,100-square-foot home in the

McConnell neighborhood. "There was nothing new in Davidson in our price range," Andrew says.

TOM FRANKLIN/Staff



NORTON TO ADDRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY -- Davidson barber Ken Norton, who owns the town's oldest business in the same location under the same name, will speak to the Davidson Historical Society at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 29 at the Ada Jenkins Center. Norton's will speak on "Memories of Old Davidson." The public is invited.

Tribute To Rivens

The town of Davidson will probably best remember "Mack" Rivens as manager of the baseball team known as the "Jets." Mack organized the team in the early 1960's. He continued to manage the team until its demise in 1986.

The Jets playing field was located at the corner of Griffith and Watson Streets. The area is now known as Sadler's Square. The team played against teams from Cabarrus, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, and Mecklenburg Counties and occasionally traveled to South Carolina to compete.

The team provided the only black-oriented sports event in the community. Even though the team wasn't professional, the games were always exciting and well attended by both young and old. It gave blacks an outlet, a place the whole family could go and have a great time.

I was a regular at the games. I remember listening to some of the older men brag about how well they had played the game in their younger years. One person among the braggers was a man we called "Press" Sloan. Press loved the game of baseball and was a diehard Yankee fan. Mack recognized Press' love for the game and rewarded him a couple of times by letting him help officiate.

Some of the youngsters anxiously watched in great anticipation and hopes of joining the team when they became of age. The elementary age kids used to frolic and play with friends as they treated themselves to one of Tom Rivens' *good to the last drop* snow cones. By the way, grape was my favorite flavor.

The Jets were a good team and won almost all the time when they played at home. I still remember the strike outs with Boodie Brandon, Marcus Rivens Jr. and



MARCUS "MACK" NIVENS

cousin Steve Patterson doing the pitching, the double plays with thrown Prom, Wilson Stinson at shortstop to Aussie Rivens Jr. at second base to Richard Black at first base, and the home runs that brought the crowds to their feet. I remember people cheering and screaming to the top of their voices. Mrs. "Cille" (Lucille) Conner, the team's best cheerleader, would sing to the chant of, "Go, Da-vid-son! Oh Da-vid-son! Go Da-vid-son!" We're talking excitement at its best. And I, while choking down that grape snow-cone, got caught up in all the hoopla.

On Jan. 14, Mack Rivens expired at his home on Walter Henderson Road in Davidson. The black community will always remember and appreciate the fun and excitement brought to our town by one Marcus "Mack" Rivens Sr. and the Davidson Jets. Thank you "Mack" for all the fond memories.

-- Jackie Torrence



2 MECKLENBURG NEIGHBORS Wednesday, February 24, 1993 ★

Mascara • Sondrio

KITCHEN & BATH

Selections

Friends will celebrate achievements of minister Humphrey

By **KEN GARFIELD**
Staff Writer

Friends, family and admirers of the Rev. J.B. Humphrey will gather tonight to celebrate the achievements of a man whose extraordinary ministry is ending after 46 years.

Humphrey, who has announced his retirement from Charlotte's First Baptist Church-West, will be honored at a dinner at 7 p.m. today at McDonald's Cafeteria on Beaties Ford Road.

Humphrey, who has been seriously ill for quite some time, is not expected to attend tonight's event. But up to 300 will fill the restaurant's banquet hall to hear some of the state's most influential black leaders speak his praises.

"This is in appreciation of Dr. Humphrey, of his work, of what he has done for communities across the state," said Almetto Alexander, a First Baptist Church-West member who has helped organize the event.

Among those scheduled to speak tonight are Talbert Shaw, president of Shaw University in Raleigh; the Rev. Clifford Jones of Charlotte's Friendship Baptist Church; and Dr. W.B. Lewis, president of the N.C. General Baptist State Convention in Raleigh.

Son of an itinerant Baptist pastor, Humphrey took over First Baptist-West in 1947. Under his quiet style of leadership, the congregation eventually outgrew its home on South Church Street and moved into its present building on



The Rev. J.B. Humphrey

Oaklawn Avenue in 1977. The church has 700 members.

Beyond First Baptist-West, Humphrey was president of the 450,000-member N.C. General Baptist State Convention and co-chairman of the N.C. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission.

The Rev. Herman Thomas, associate pastor at First Baptist-West, will lead the congregation until Humphrey's successor is named.

Want to go?

Tickets at \$20 apiece are available for tonight's event. Call Almetto Alexander at (704) 392-6278.

Work Begins On New School

Ground was officially broken last Friday morning for the long anticipated, soon-to-be brand-spanking-new, Davidson Elementary School. To the accompaniment of the North Mecklenburg

High School marching band, the students of the old elementary school paraded down South Street to the new site across from McEver Field.

Led by Davidson Mayor Russel Knox, the children assembled at the partially graded site to bear witness to the ceremonies and share in the vision of the new school.

Concern about the school being located outside the town limits of Davidson were addressed when Mayor Knox said, "We are forever grateful to the school system and Dr. Wallace for selecting this site. It would not have been the same outside of Davidson."

Speakers invoked the image of a small-town school where children could be seen arriving and leaving the premises pushing their bicycles as they traveled in groups through quiet, neighborhood streets.

The new school is scheduled for completion in July and will be ready for the students in August, according to Dr. Calvin Wallace of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System.

As Principal Vicki Hamilton and others handled the actual groundbreaking chores, the student body of the elementary school filed past a wheel barrow into which they tossed brand-new pennies. The pennies, with all the accompanying good wishes, will be planted under a special tree during the upcoming dedication ceremonies.

Friday, October 21, 1992



THE FIRST SHOVELFUL-- Vicki Hamilton, principal of Davidson Elementary School, breaks ground at the site of the new school. (Photo by Ed Decker)



HISTORIC STROLL DOWN SOUTH STREET-- Mayor Russell Knox leads Davidson Elementary students in a parade from the old school to the new site to observe groundbreaking ceremonies. (Photo by Ed Decker)



JENNIFER WHITMIRE, KEVIN REECE

Whitmire, Reece Set Wedding Date

Van and Kathy Whitmire of Apison, Tenn., announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Lynnette, to Kevin McKinley Reece of Davidson.

Whitmire is a 1991 graduate of Ooltewah High School near Chattanooga, Tenn. She attended Carson-Newman College in the spring of 1992, and is employed by the Chattanooga YMCA as a counselor to youth.

Reece, whose parents are Dairl

and Linda Reece of Granite Falls, N.C., is a 1988 graduate of South Caldwell High School. He holds a B.S. degree in Park and Recreation Management from Appalachian State University, where he earned the Outstanding Major Award in 1991. He is employed by the Town of Davidson Parks and Recreation Department as Recreation Leader.

The couple plans a Nov. 14 wedding at 1 p.m. at Apison Baptist Church in Apison, Tenn.



Rev. Mark Lomax preaches his last sermon as pastor of Davidson Presbyterian Church.

Lomax Leaves Davidson To Pastor Atlanta Church

by Marjean Torrence

On Sunday, December 31, 1989, Rev. Mark A. Lomax preached his last sermon as pastor of Davidson Presbyterian Church. He chose as his text and final words to the congregation Jude 1: 20-25. Rev. Lomax, always teaching, encouraged the congregation to build themselves up in faith; to pray in the spirit; to keep themselves in God's love; to be merciful to those who doubt; to snatch others from the fire and above all to remember that Jesus Christ is able to keep them from falling and to present them before God's glorious presence.

Rev. Lomax, originally from Akron, Ohio, has been pastor of Davidson Presbyterian Church since February 1986. During his tenure here, the church has grown both physically and spiritually. This can be attributed to Rev. Lomax's dynamic teaching ministry, his Christian zeal, his soulful preaching and charismatic person-

ality. Rev. Lomax successfully combined the Black Church tradition and Reformed theology in such a way that his congregation's awareness of "Who They Are" and "Whose They Are" was significantly enhanced.

Rev. Lomax did not limit his ministry and presence to his congregation, but made great strides in regards to moving the church beyond its physical boundaries. He was very active in community and civic affairs and strove to enable and empower his congregation to do likewise.

Unfortunately, a man of God with the talents and gifts of Rev. Lomax could not be contained in such a small rural church as Davidson Presbyterian. As of January 1, 1990, Rev. Lomax accepted a call to the larger Urban Church of Westhills Presbyterian in Atlanta, Georgia. He will be greatly missed by the congregation of Davidson Presbyterian Church and the community of Davidson.



NORTH MECKLENBURG SCRAPBOOK-- Lee Proctor proudly stands in front of his gas pumps during the late 1930's. Behind him is N.C. 115. Behind Proctor to the right stands the local drycleaners. The drycleaning service was owned by a former Cornelius mayor, G.E. Sweet. (Photo provided by Robert Cashion.) *The Mecklenburg Gazette* is looking for photos and remembrances of Cornelius, Davidson and Huntersville from 1972 or earlier. We would like to share your history with our readers. If you have any photos from 1972 or earlier that might help today's generation visualize the North Mecklenburg of days passed, please send them to *The Mecklenburg Gazette* at P.O. Box 549, Davidson, NC 28036.



JONATHAN TEDDER/Staff

Progressive Women's Club in Sunday's second David B. Waymer Complex in Huntersville. Four the event, sponsored by the Mecklenburg County ment.

Grid • Basic Stripe • Pot Border



JENNIFER WHITMIRE, KEVIN REECE

Whitmire, Reece Set Wedding

Van and Kathy Whitmire of Apison, Tenn., announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Lynnette, to Kevin McKinley Reece of Davidson.

Whitmire is a 1991 graduate of Ooltewah High School near Chattanooga, Tenn. She attended Carson-Newman College in the spring of 1992, and is employed by the Chattanooga YMCA as a counselor to youth. Reece, whose parents are Dairl

and Linda Reece, is a 1988 graduate of Caldwell High School, B.S. degree in Education. He is employed as a Recreation Manager at the Davidson Palachian Station. Major Award recipient of the 1988 National Park Service Award. The couple plans to be married at 1 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Apison.



Arlean Brandon's House in Davidson Was Hit by Three Trees During Hurricane Hugo's Rampage in the Area.

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NORTH MECK PONY ALL-STARS

Jerrami Gabriel, Kevin Hudson, Walt Lowery, Chris Mayhew, Mike Phelps, Melvin Robinson, Naquantis Smith, Jason Reading, Kewaun Houston, Shan Latta, Chris Daniels, Kris Morrow, Shane Smith, David Self, Ben Ray. Coaches are: Buck Carter, Steve Caulder, Harold Jolly, Bob Young.

Mrs. Marilyn Graham Torrence, 36, of 506 Old Statesville Rd., Huntersville, died Feb. 28, 1993, at Carolinas Medical Center. Funeral is 3 p.m. Thursday at Davidson United Presbyterian Church, where she was a member. Burial will be in Christian Aid Society Cemetery, Davidson. Visitation is 7 to 8



Mrs. Torrence

tonight at Beasley Funeral Home. Mrs. Torrence, an Iredell County native, had been a McDonald's cook for four years and had attended Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools.

Survivors are her husband, Douglas of Huntersville; daughter, Jessica Torrence of Huntersville; grandmother, Mrs. Bertha Graham of Davidson.

The body will lie in state at the church from 2 p.m. Thursday until the service. The family will be at Mrs. Mary Berry's home, 13313 Central Ave., Huntersville.



JONATHAN TEDDER/Staff

Helen Grimm sings with the Progressive Women's Club in Sunday's second Old Time Gospel Sing at the David B. Waymer Complex in Huntersville. Four gospel groups performed at the event, sponsored by the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department.

Pots • Country Grid • Basic Stripe • Pot Border



QUARTET HONORS NORTON — The Four Coursemen, Davidson's barbershop quartet, honored retiring barber Ken Norton with a song written by quartet member Dennis Appleyard at Town Day May 1. Pictured are (left to right) Homer Sutton, Appleyard, Norton, Bob Williams, and Dave Grant.

Pattern Repeat 18" (45.72 cm)



SNOW IN DAVIDSON IN MARCH -- A snowstorm blanketed Davidson last weekend, causing numerous cancellations in the athletic teams' schedules, both home and away. Mar. 12, 1993

JENNIFER WHITMIRE

Whitmire, Reece Set Wedding

Van and Kathy Whitmire of Apison, Tenn., announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Lynnette, to Kevin McKinley Reece of Davidson.

Whitmire is a 1991 graduate of Ooltewah High School near Chattanooga, Tenn. She attended Carson-Newman College in the spring of 1992, and is employed by the Chattanooga YMCA as a counselor to youth.

Reece, whose parents are Dairl

and Linda R. N.C., is a 1987 Caldwell High School graduate with a B.S. degree in Recreation Management from Appalachian State University where he earned a Major Award.

Major Award employed by the Parks and Recreation Department as Recreation Director. The couple planned to be married at 1 p.m. at the First Church in Apison.



In honor to the famous mouse's birthday, the three year old class from Davidson-Cornelius Day Care was invited to The Pines for a birthday lunch and party. Pictured here is Porschea Smith talking with (l-r) Christa Griffin, Mrs. Myrtle Barger, and Mary Kelton; back seats (l-r) Marie Long and Selma Warner.



Carnival Time

Approximately 300 children gathered on the village green in Davidson on Saturday, Oct. 14, for the annual Children's Schoolhouse Carnival. Right, Porschea Smith, 3, sits still for face painting by Dixie Hardin. Below, Tres Pethel, 3, takes his first pony ride. Below, Scott Hamrick, 7, concentrates on the project at hand.



The Children's Schoolhouse was founded in 1971 by a group of parents interested in playing an active role in their children's early education. It has grown to accommodate 34 children ages 2½-5 from around the north Mecklenburg area. Proceeds from the carnival will help the Children's Schoolhouse to continue to offer scholarships to children, purchase educational materials and remodel its playground in the aftermath of Hugo.



Joyful noise



JONATHAN TEDDER/Staff

Helen Grimm sings with the Progressive Women's Club in Sunday's second Old Time Gospel Sing at the David B. Waymer Complex in Huntersville. Four gospel groups performed at the event, sponsored by the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department.

Pots • Country Grid • Basic Stripe • Pot Border

Tupelo Honey • Country Grid • Pots • Basic Stripe • Pot Border

6—THE MECKLENBURG GAZETTE—Wednesday, March 24, 1993

Prison Camp, Development Association Among Many Involvements

Leader Hudson Named Volunteer Of Year

by Ed Decker

The North Mecklenburg area is blessed with having an army of people that volunteer their time and energy for causes that they believe in. Isabelle Hudson, a life-long resident of the Pottstown community in Huntersville, is an excellent example of an individual that keeps giving to her community. As a result of her involvement, Hudson has been named the *Volunteer of the Year* by the Community Resource Council at the Mecklenburg Correctional Center.

The Community Resource Council is a group of local individuals that help inmates at the correctional facility southwest of Huntersville. People from all walks of life are members of the council, but all share the common trait of volunteering their time and effort to try and help out those less fortunate than themselves.

To put a perspective on how deeply involved Hudson is in her community, you should know that she helped feed an entire generation of children in our local schools. She worked in the Food Services department of the Charlotte/Mecklenburg School System for thirty years. Twenty of those years were spent at Huntersville Elementary and ten more were

spent in the cafeteria kitchen of North Mecklenburg Senior High. Upon retirement, Hudson became involved with the



Isabelle Hudson

Huntersville Community Development Association. As a receptionist for the association, she was urged by her advisor, LaVera Wynn, to begin serving on the council at the prison on Mt. Holly-Huntersville Road.

For seven years, Hudson has spent practically every major holiday at the prison helping entertain the prisoners and serving them holiday meals.

"They are glad to see us... I put on a Santa Claus hat and go around and talk to all of them... They are all very nice," says Hudson.

Being a receptionist for a development association and a volunteer at a prison camp would keep your average retiree pretty busy. That is simply not the case with Hudson. Consider this: she is an active member of the Huntersville AME Zion Church, a member of the Homemakers Extension Club, a member of a senior citizens club called the Golden Peacemakers, helps with the hot meals program at the Torrence-Lytle Center and is a Notary Public as well!

One example of her concern for her community occurred when hurricane Hugo hit the area in 1989. There were a lot of people in her community without

electricity and food. Hudson took it upon herself to call the Red Cross. "They came out here and delivered enough food to last a week," says Hudson.

Isabelle Hudson has her finger on the pulse of her Pottstown community. "If somebody wants to know what's going on in Pottstown, they call me!" says Hudson. "About everything that goes on around here, I'm involved with (in) some kind of way. I don't know how I get in it, but I get in it."



CHANDA DU



LISA MASSEY/Staff

Graduation exercises

Class of 1994 graduates of Davidson College's Love of Learning program file into Love Auditorium Friday night. The monthlong resi-

dential program for African-American high-school students encourages academic development and focuses on staying in school.



CHANDA DuBOSE

...and move into its
Please see Church/page 4C

Choir
...band, James;
... Jr. of Stanley,
... of Concord, John
...nters, Mrs. Rose
...ersville, Mrs. Corrine
... Ms. Joyce Osborne;
...en Sturdivant of Winston-
...isters, Mrs. Cornelia Gate-
... of Monroe, Mrs. Eloise Mitchell
...nston-Salem; 24 grandchildren;
... great-grandchildren. The family
... will be at Corrine Alexander's home,
... 6101 Idlebrook Dr.

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From the early years: Lavinia Kell (not pictured) remembers her Pineville High School team's switch to short pants and jerseys in the 1930s. "There wasn't much sports for women except tennis and skating and swimming. Back then women took a backseat, more or less."



TOM FRANKLIN/Staff

Through the postwar slump: Mary Alyce Clemmons' era epitomized society's growing ambivalence toward women in sports.



On to the future: Kimberly Deans, 16, a Wando High forward, has learned to block shots and take her knocks in an increasingly physical game.

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CHANDA D

CONSEQUENCES OF GROWTH



T. ORTEGA GAINES/Staff

Full house: The Rev. James Howell and the burgeoning congregation Sunday at Davidson United Methodist Church.

Burgeoning congregation juggles conflicting needs

By **KEN GARFIELD**
Staff Writer

Adjacent bulletin boards in a hallway of Davidson United Methodist Church tell the story of a congregation whose heart goes out in two directions.

One is entitled "God at Work" and chronicles mission work flourishing in troubled areas of the world.

The other is entitled "Lift High the Cross" and chronicles the church's plan to build a new \$1.5 million sanctuary.

Taken together, they capture the challenge of worshipers posing the same question as are

"People see the need. . . . It's exciting — and scary."

— Fred Shackelford, church member.

dozens of other Carolinas congregations confronted by success — and architects' drawings for new buildings.

How do you do God's work around the world while spending time and money to take care of your own growing needs at home?

"There's no one here who says, 'The reason I came to church is to raise money to build a new sanctuary,'" Davidson United Methodist member Bill Parris said Sunday. "The whole congregation, we included, says, 'Golly, do we have to go through this agony to build a new building?'"

"We've used those words," added Parris. "It's a necessary evil."

Parris is co-chairman of the committee raising \$1.5 million for a 600-seat sanctuary, classrooms and offices. The church hopes to begin construction in the fall and move into its new building.

Please see **Church/page 4C**



CHANDA DuBOSE

... Hymn Choir
... husband, James;
... Jr. of Stanley,
... of Concord, John
... daughters, Mrs. Rose
... antersville, Mrs. Corrinne
... Ms. Joyce Osborne;
... Ben Sturdivant of Winston-
... sisters, Mrs. Cornelia Gate-
... of Monroe, Mrs. Eloise Mitchell
... Winston-Salem; 24 grandchildren;
... 15 great-grandchildren. The family
... will be at Corrinne Alexander's home,
... 6101 Idlebrook Dr.

SPORTS



North Meck Bronco All - Stars win their first game of the sectional, defeating Thomasville II, 12-1

North Meck Bronco All Stars Win First Game of Tourney

by Greg Knight

The North Mecklenburg All-Star Bronco team completely dominated Thomasville II in their first game of the sectional Bronco Tournament Monday night, July 16.

North Meck set the stage in the first inning by capitalizing on a series of base-on-balls, and by the end of the first, they led 5 to 0. In the top of the second, Kewan Houston knocked a two run in park homer to boost the score to 7-0.

Thomasville II All-Stars scored what was to be their only run in the bottom of the second.

During the next three innings, hits by Jerrami Gabriel, Jerri Grier, Kewan Houston, Mike Phelps and Nequantis Smith combined to wipe out Thomasville II and end the game

Body found outside motel stabbed

Police say they found a man dead outside a west Charlotte motel after a caller reported spotting someone trying to stuff a body into a car Thursday morning.

Officers found Mark David Duncan, 52, about 9 a.m., lying outside



Duncan

the Villager Lodge at 2403 Wilkinson Blvd. He had been stabbed. Investigators suspect he was killed inside the motel at least 12 hours before. They think someone dragged his body to a car, but gave up, and left him in the parking lot, said Charlotte-Mecklenburg police Sgt. Tom Athey.

Duncan lived at Woodruff Place in Charlotte. Police say he was last seen alive in the Wilkinson Boulevard area about 2 p.m. on Wednesday.

The suspect is described as a black man 20 to 25 years old. He was about 5 feet 6 tall, and weighed about 150 pounds. He was driving a white or off-white four-door Chevrolet that might have been a Chevette.

Anyone who might have seen Duncan should call Crime Stoppers at 334-1600 or the Felony Investigations Bureau at 336-2311.

— Mary Elizabeth DeAngelis

ESSEX[®]
WALLCOVERINGS

Page 53

6—THE MECKLENBURG

Prison

Look Out Jordan, Here Comes Smith!

by Greg Knight

Watch out for Huntersville's Nequantis Smith. The 12 year old athlete has shown some impressive abilities recently in national competition.

Smith, a member of the Charlotte Sonics A.A.U. basketball team, scored 51 points against the Atlanta Titans in the national A.A.U. championship tournament in Salt Lake City, Utah. Along with the impressive scoring came 21 rebounds from the power forward and sometimes center. Even more impressive is the fact the Nequantis has only played organized basketball for three years.

He started out playing with the Huntersville Recreation program. During that time Smith was scouted by A.A.U. coaches and was invited to play for the Sonics. This year he played for a local Boys Club as well as the Sonics. Nequantis credits Boys Club coach Kenny Perry and Sonics coach Chris Lambert with refining his talents.

Smith not only excels in basketball, but also in baseball. He will be playing in this week's Bronco Division Pony League All Star Tournament. He was a member of the Huntersville Bronco team.

Smith works seriously in academics as well as sports. He will be entering Alexander Junior High School this fall, and his test scores place him in the top 10 percent of his class.

Nequantis lives with his grandmother, Bessie Smith, and younger



Nequantis Smith shows promise as a rising basketball star.

sister, Toya Thompson. Both showed their support by accompanying him to Salt Lake City for the week.

Nequantis's winning smile, and

well-rounded athletic, academic and family life make this Huntersville young man someone for us to watch. You too, Michael Jordan.

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9 a.m., lying outside
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who might have seen
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ons Bureau at 336-2311.
Mary Elizabeth DeAngelis

panion, Ms. Bronza Wilcox.
Mrs. Mae Bell Osborne, 67, of
2052 Barringer Dr. died Nov. 17,
1994, at Carolinas Medical Center.
Funeral is 2 p.m.

Sunday at
Greater Galilee
Baptist Church.
Burial will be in
Beatties Ford
Memorial Gar-
dens. Visitation
is 1:30 to 2 p.m.
Sunday at the
church. Metrolina
Funeral Home is
in charge.



Mrs. Osborne
was a home-
maker and a member of Hymn Choir
No. 1.

Survivors are her husband, James;
sons, James Osborne Jr. of Stanley,
Edward Osborne of Concord, John
Osborne; daughters, Mrs. Rose
Moore of Huntersville, Mrs. Corrinne
Alexander, Ms. Joyce Osborne;
brother, Ben Sturdivant of Winston-
Salem; sisters, Mrs. Cornelia Gate-
wood of Monroe, Mrs. Eloise Mitchell
of Winston-Salem; 24 grandchildren;
15 great-grandchildren. The family
will be at Corrinne Alexander's home,
6101 Idlebrook Dr.

Textile town on edge as it faces the big divide

■ Union organizing at Fieldcrest Cannon once again sets friend against friend, worker against worker.

By JIM WRINN
Staff Writer

KANNAPOLIS — The last time the union tried to organize mill workers at Fieldcrest Cannon, Elloyd Deal was so outspoken he scared off one of his closest friends, a supervisor he'd known for 25 years.

It also cost Deal his job. "It's the kind of thing that puts people at each other's throats — every time," said Deal, who was fired the day of the last union election, Aug. 21, 1991. "You can count on it."

Mill workers Lori Rushmeyer and her cousin Sharon Sturgis just avoid the subject.

"We can talk about a lot of things," Rushmeyer said. "We can talk about our kids or just about anything else. But one thing we don't talk about it's unions. We just don't agree about that."

In the heart of the Carolinas textile mill country, few issues stir emotions, strain friendships or spark tensions like a union drive.

Now the Amalgamated Clothing and

Textile Workers Union is back, renewing a battle begun in the Great Depression to organize 6,500 employees at Fieldcrest Cannon's plants in Cabarrus and Rowan counties.

And it's got the town on edge. "We know it's going to be bitter," said pro-union activist Eric Strickland, an employee at Plant 6 in Concord for four years. "We're expecting it."

An election could come within two months. But already, people say there's increasing friction all over Kannapolis — a community literally created by textiles 106 years ago.

"I went to Towel City Junction for lunch the other day," said Richard Anderson, a Fieldcrest manager and Kannapolis City Council member. "Our CEO, Jim Fitzgibbons, was there, and I asked him how things were going, and he said, 'Tough right now.'"

Just up Main Street from Towel City Junction is Mills Florist, where owner Steve Morris worries about a new "air of uncertainty."

Please see Kannapolis/page 4A



GARY O'BRIEN/Staff

Mill worker Lori Rushmeyer avoids the subject of unions with some people, including her cousin Sharon Sturgis. "We can talk about our kids or just about anything else. . . . We just don't agree about that."

60 Sq. Ft. Per Double Roll



BOB LEVERONE/Staff

Richard Anderson, a Fieldcrest manager and Kannapolis City Council member, in front of Fieldcrest Cannon corporate offices.



Miller, Huntley at reception

New school in D

By NEIL MAR
Staff Writer

While students school Monday some students finding their c

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New year, new school for kids in Davidson

By NEIL MARA
Staff Writer

While students across the Carolinas headed back to school Monday to start the long winter semester, some students in Davidson faced an extra adjustment: finding their classroom.

"It's like a maze," said fifth-grader Andy Thewlis. "I had to ask two people the way to Mrs. Berry's class." A new \$4.7 million Davidson Elementary School building opened Monday down the street from the old school, causing an unusually hectic back-to-school day for the school's 500 students and parents. When Andy finally found his way to teacher Penny Berry's classroom in the fifth- and sixth-grade wing, he liked what he found.

"We were in a trailer, ugh," Andy said of the old building.

END OF AN ERA — This scene, of happy Davidson Elementary students leaving for Christmas break, was repeated for the last time Friday afternoon. When the children return it will be to the new building down the street. (Photo by Steve Eury)

Davidson School Ready For Move



December 22, 1997

Member N.C. Press Association

in testing, especially for high school students taking the new version of the SAT in March. "Probably the hottest thing coming is the new SAT," said Sue Henry, head of pupil assessment

gaining six years ago. So far, she's gotten some suggestions from one English class that held a brainstorming session and wrote down advice: "Be considerate and compassionate. Be

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James Raeiford recently opened his new shop of Barber Shop in Cornelius. (Photo by Steve Eury)

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RY O'BRIEN/Staff
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Davidson School

Textile town on edge as it faces the big divide

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An election could come within two months. But already, people say there's increasing friction all over Kannapolis — a community literally created by textiles 106 years ago.



• THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER Tuesday, January 4, 1994 3C



Photos by TOM FRANKLIN/Staff

New equipment: Debbie Smith talks with her kindergarten class about the playground equipment as the class takes a tour at Davidson Elementary. The building was originally scheduled to open last summer, but construction delays caused the mid-school-year switch.



BOB LEVERONE/Staff

Richard Anderson, a Fieldcrest manager and Kannapolis City Council member, in front of Fieldcrest Cannon corporate offices.

Page



Miller, Huntley at reception

New school in D

By NEIL MAR
Staff Writer

While students returned to school Monday, some students are finding their classrooms.

"It's like a miracle," said one student who had to ask two weeks ago.

A new \$4.7 million building opened Monday, causing a day for the school. Andy finally found a classroom in the building that he found.

"We were in a school, where we had to hold classes in cramped, no space around the building.

Classes resumed Monday with a new principal.

Garinger High School's principal over the holidays, the principal of the school.

Please see Fla

Elementary

Continued from

"Naturally many were upset because of the surprise," said Davidson Elementary's assistant principal. The school principal for the school year.

Coleman, a Garinger who took over as principal in April 1993 with improving conditions in northeast Charlotte. He couldn't be reached for comment.

Walker will talk today about the school and hopes her Garinger will help. "I've already been here for many years," said Walker. Garinger six years ago.

So far, she's gotten suggestions from one that held a brainstorming session and wrote down a moderate and con-

New year, new school for kids in Davidson

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"We were in a trailer, ugh," Andy said of the old school, where crowding forced fifth- and sixth-graders to hold class in mobile trailers. "It was dirty, cramped, no space. We used to have our books piled up around the room. This has space."

Classes resumed in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Monday with other changes as well.

Garinger High School students returned to find that their principal, Howard "Buddy" Coleman, had left over the holidays for a new job as deputy superintendent of the Randolph County Schools.

Please see **Elementary**/page 3C

Elementary

Continued from page 1C

"Naturally many of the students were upset because it came as a surprise," said Daisy Walker, an assistant principal who'll be acting principal for the remainder of the school year.

Coleman, a Greensboro native who took over as Garinger principal in April 1992, was credited with improving discipline at the northeast Charlotte high school. He couldn't be reached for comment.

Walker will talk with students today about the sudden change, and hopes her familiarity with Garinger will help students adjust. "I've already been here at school for many years and they knew me," said Walker, who came to Garinger six years ago.

So far, she's gotten some suggestions from one English class that held a brainstorming session and wrote down advice: "Be considerate and compassionate. Be



Lunch trade: Kindergartners Topaz White (left) and Haleigh Lipford check out the contents of Haleigh's lunch box.

strict but understanding. Don't rush. Pace yourself and trust yourself."

"It's some good advice," Walker said.

Changes are also ahead this year in testing, especially for high school students taking the new version of the SAT in March.

"Probably the hottest thing coming is the new SAT," said Sue Henry, head of pupil assessment

for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. "That's the one that allows them to use calculators for the first time and has some student-produced answers."

N.C. end-of-course tests also begin to change this year, Henry said. Some will include open-ended questions rather than just multiple choice. And the Algebra I test will also allow students to use calculators.

At Davidson Elementary Monday morning, the building was so new that workers were hosing mud off the sidewalks. The building was originally scheduled to open last summer, but construction delays caused the midyear switch.

Even so, there was barely enough time for some teachers to move from the old building before classes started.

"The biggest help to me was parents," said teacher Sarah Henry, who had help moving books, calendars and other kindergarten materials from the old building last week. "I had two whole families in here for two days. We even had a grandmother in here moving boxes. They were great!"

EVER Monday, November 22, 1993 13C

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'90 Volvo 740, PW, cass, black, all recs, Best offer, 332-3535	'93 850, 5sp., Tour pkg., leather, rear spoiler, 6k mi., 846-6436

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er James Raeford recently opened his new shop
' Barber Shop in Cornelius. (Photo by Steve E

ONE PRICE

Textile town OR

■ Union organizing at Fieldcrest Ca sets friend against friend, worker ag

By JIM WRINN

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Different faiths unite at festival, celebrate their common bond

By KEN GARFIELD
Staff Writer

People of four religious backgrounds, two races and one heart came together Sunday at Little Rock AME Zion Church in Charlotte.

It was the strength of that one united heart that prevailed at a Festival of Faith created to celebrate Christian brotherhood.

"Seems like everybody likes to go their separate ways," said Mary Frazier, among nearly 500 who attended the worship service put on by four faiths with Methodist roots. "We're trying to get together here, to be of one accord."

Sunday's second annual festival brought together blacks and whites from the African Methodist Episcopal Church, African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and the United Methodist Church.

"Seems like everybody likes to go their separate ways. We're trying to get together here, to be of one accord."

— Mary Frazier, among nearly 500 who attended Festival of Faith '93

But instead of dwelling on differences of race or religion, this beautiful Sunday afternoon before Thanksgiving was devoted to recognizing the common bond that ties one faith to another.

That bond, preached Bishop Ruben Speaks of the AME Zion Church, begins with building a better world in God's name.

"It's a signal of what needs to

Please see Faith/page 14C

14C THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER Monday, November 22, 1993

Festival celebrates Christian brotherhood

Faith

Continued from page 1C

happen not only in America but around the world," said Bishop Speaks, who disobeyed doctor's orders to stay home with the flu and instead preached for more than 30 minutes. "Religious organizations ought to get together and pool our resources and make our witness to Christ more effective."

There were differences to be found at the two-hour service, where some sat quietly when the Mount Zion United Methodist Church choir sang "Majesty and Glory of Your Name" while others shouted "Amen!" "Some say Holy Ghost, some say Holy Spirit," noted the Rev.

Henry Hall, an AME Zion official. "That's all right. We can do this together."

Sunday's service, then, was intended to make Methodists appreciate other ways to worship in a region that almost always keeps to its own kind on Sundays. And to realize that the ways we thought were different might not be so different after all.

"We're all brothers and sisters in Christ," said Bishop Bevel Jones of the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church.

"It's good to do this at Thanksgiving," said Mary Frazier, who attends Greenville Memorial AME Zion Church in Charlotte. "But not just at Thanksgiving. Every day, re- ally."



DIEDRA LAIRD/Staff

Worshippers celebrate harmony Sunday at the Festival of Faith '93 at Little Rock AME Zion Church in uptown Charlotte.

ESSEX
WALLCOVERINGS

Page 56

500

About 500 people gathered at Little Rock AME Zion Church in uptown Charlotte for the annual Festival of Faith '93. The service was held on Sunday, Nov. 21, and was sponsored by the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and the United Methodist Church. The service was held at the church's new \$10-million, 1,000-seat sanctuary, which was dedicated in 1991. The service was held at the church's new \$10-million, 1,000-seat sanctuary, which was dedicated in 1991. The service was held at the church's new \$10-million, 1,000-seat sanctuary, which was dedicated in 1991.

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DIEDRA LAIRD/Staff

(AME) Zion Church, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and the United Methodist Church.

Please see Faith/page 14C



BILL GIDUZ

500 accept invitation to town supper

About 500 people flocked to the Oct. 25 community supper in Davidson, held in the gym at the former Ada Jenkins School.

Townspersons, students from Davidson College, young, old, black and white gathered together about 6 p.m. They ate barbecued chicken, slaw, potato salad and pork and beans and visited with each other until after 9.

The annual event, free to everyone in town who wants to come, is co-sponsored by Davidson Together, a student organization from Davidson College, and the Davidson Parks and Recreation Department.

"It was quite an affair," said Town Administrator Leamon

Brice. "I just couldn't believe the number of people that were there. They waited in line out the door and down the street."

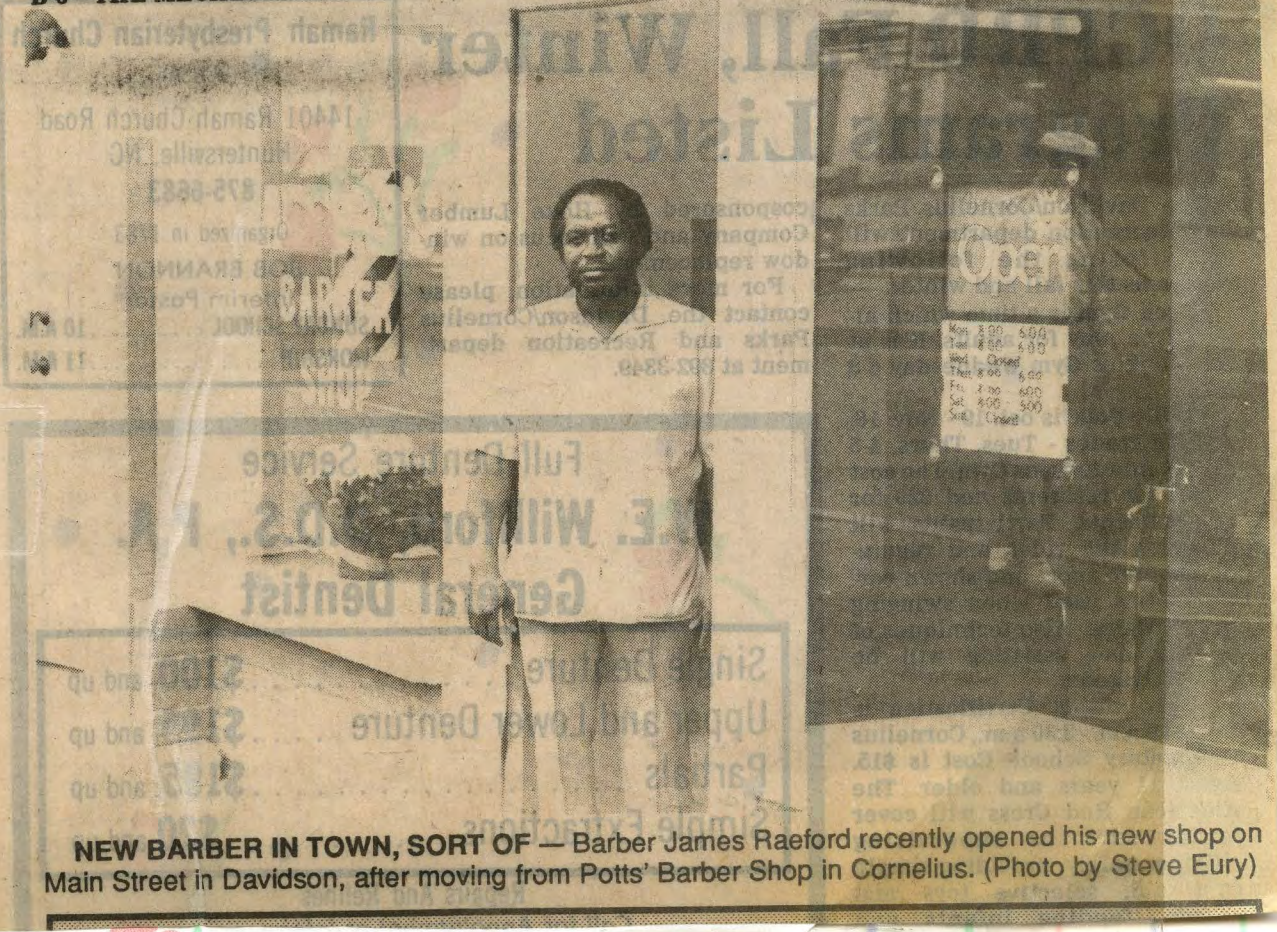
Ken Norton, who runs a barber shop on North Main Street, described the town of Davidson as it was years ago. He told about a time when Davidson had movie theaters, various other industries, an airfield and seven grocery stores that provided food service for the college and boarding

houses in the town.

Taylor Blackwell, who runs the Village Store, gave a short talk about the Davidson Historic Commission.

Entertainment included music by the men's choir from Davidson Presbyterian Church and a violin concert that was almost drowned out by the sounds of people visiting with each other and having a good time.

— Pat Borden Gubbins



NEW BARBER IN TOWN, SORT OF — Barber James Raeford recently opened his new shop on Main Street in Davidson, after moving from Potts' Barber Shop in Cornelius. (Photo by Steve Eury)

Davidson Native Carr A Winner With Heels

It's always great being able to write about success, accomplishments and winners. But, what makes it even more rewarding is when that someone is a native of your own community. However, I must admit this person is my brother; but, this will not overstate this person's success, accomplishments and the fact he is a winner.

Gerald Carr was born a citizen of Davidson, where he attended elementary school and area junior and senior high schools. Throughout his high school endeavors he participated and excelled in all sports, and high levels of education.

My mother and father must have known Gerald would get his reward somewhere centered around athletics. When he was a small child, not yet of school age, he would play whatever sport that was in season. He used a rolled-up pair of socks to shoot baskets, punt or pass and even hit home runs, it was never a dull moment at our home which reared nine children; because, the Super Bowl, the World Series and all playoff games were played in our small house on Griffith Street.

Obviously football and coaching was his dream. Presently he is enjoying great success in his major college coaching career, having started out here with the Wildcats. Other coaching positions include the University of Akron, Washington State and The University of Arizona.

Presently married with two beautiful daughters Gerald is the quarterback coach of the 1992 Peach Bowl champions, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This was his first year with the Tar Heels and the university's first bowl appearance since 1983.

Letters To The Editor

Having Gerald as a brother, I honestly feel he has never met a stranger. His personality as well as attitude has never been altered and this I'm more than 100 percent certain is his vehicle for enjoying success, accomplishments and just being a winner. Therefore, let's salute Gerald as he is a winner from the Davidson community.



The morning after... students clean up in front of Chambers.

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Hugo Huffed and Puffed, But We're Still Here!

Roll call came at 4:00 a.m. for most of us in Davidson on Friday, September 22. Sleep was elusive amidst howling winds, snapping limbs, rattling window-panes and groaning walls. A resounding crash outside sent me leaping from bed into a puddle of water on the floor. Hugo was obviously a storm of a different sort.



Porges

By 7:30 a.m. on that fateful day, the storm had quieted a bit. A battery-powered Walkman reported that power and phone service were days away. A small crowd had gathered in our house -- safety and reassurance does come in numbers. Looking at the

college, we saw four or five students stumbling through gusts of wind and rain to reach Chambers. One could easily imagine their thoughts: "Do they cancel classes at Davidson if there's no power? What about my chem test?! I studied all night!!" And "Wahoo! An extension on my philosophy paper!"

Rumor had it that Sam Maloney was making his way to class - Shoutin' Sam was not to be outdone by the weather! Eventually we determined that Davidson was closed for the day, so we retreated to the kitchen for bowls of Captain Crunch and tales of things that went bump in the night.

Cabin fever and a burning desire to see what Hugo had wrought struck about 10:00 a.m.; people crawled out in great numbers. A walk through Davidson caused eyes to widen and mouths to fall agape, and required a good bit of skill to avoid fallen trees and downed power lines. For the most part buildings and homes escaped damage; a number of cars were crushed by trees and utility poles. Pines and cedars littered the town and oaks were ripped from the ground, leaving craters deep enough to hide the average adult. The Village Green claimed one remaining tree. Chambers was highly visible from Main Street as trees on the front lawn appeared carelessly tossed about. The President's yard resembled a logger's camp as newly fallen trees crisscrossed the yard. A large oak fallen in front of the Alumni House held a stray bicycle high in its branches. Jackson Court lay bare without its numerous pines. The grounds crew later reported over 200 trees down; a number easy to believe as the buzz of chain saws filled the air for the next two weeks.

Ironically, the afternoon following the storm presented itself with blue skies and bright sunshine. Reports trickled in from Charlotte and Charleston; obviously what we had experienced was a mere wind storm compared to those left homeless in Charleston. Without electricity, Davidson was quickly absorbed by the black of the night, and stars boasted their brightness over our ragged, tired town.

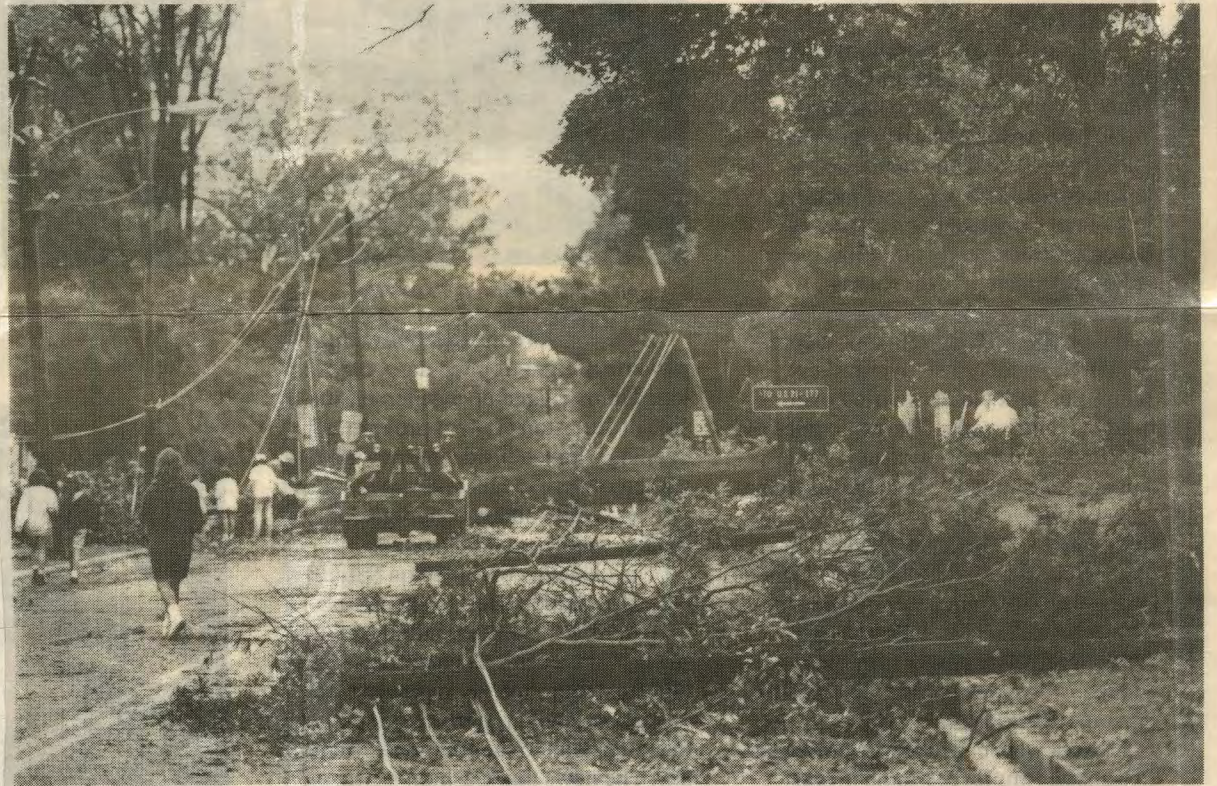
A month has passed since the storm. Bulldozers continue to entertain us as they shake the earth to remove the last of the fallen trees. They also remind us of that unnerving day which, in retrospect, was not all bad. Hugo brought down trees but reinforced the community that Davidson is. Students appeared in droves the morning of the hurricane to clean up campus. The Union staff provided entertainment and comfort to students through that first dark night.

On Sunday, DCPC held a community cookout and townspeople of all denominations shared pounds of burgers and chicken from their quickly defrosting freezers. We all offered what we could, whether it was a hot shower, a warm meal, a strong back or a soothing conversation.

Yes, Davidson endured and endures. And even we're still here.



The morning after... around the campus well.



The morning after... on Main Street near Griffith Street.

...assistant director of alumni

New Beauty Supply Shop Is Dream Come True

Opening your own business fulfills a dream for many people—many times the final action of putting that plan into actual existence arrives after years of talking and thinking.

For Davidson residents Gloria and James Kerns, the J&G Beauty Supply Shoppe, located at 106 S. Main Street, Davidson, is just that: an answer to a dream and a hope for the future for their grandchildren.

"I can honestly say what we have here was like a vision. My husband had a dream and would you believe just a few weeks later I had the very same dream! And now here we are," laughed Gloria on a recent morning from behind a counter filled with earrings and many beauty items.

"We always talked about having a business of our own, but we thought it would be something associated with food because of my husband's love of cooking."

The Kerns opened their new beauty supply shop in September and are excited about where it may take them. They hope someday to be a part of a business where there



PHOTO/PAT JOHNSON

is actual hair care going on within their business location. However, now they are excited with all of the

supplies and items they can offer the residents and shoppers of the Davidson community.

"I was always fascinated with hair...and things that make people look good," said Gloria.

Shoppers have choice of a wide variety of sprays, shampoos, permas, conditioners, nails and polishes, skin care products, curling irons, hair dryers and jewelry. Gloria will be increasing the inventory of earrings during the next several weeks.

In the near future Gloria hopes to have hair stylists at her shop giving demonstrations on various techniques.

She sees hair shows and even fashion shows in the future of J&G Beauty Supply but right now, she and James, who drives a truck for Reeves, are busy seeing that the business is a success.

"I would like to see this become something I can hand down to my grandchildren, something so they don't have to struggle," said Gloria.

J&G Beauty Supply is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 9 am to 5:30 pm; Wednesday 10 am to 2 pm; and Friday 9 am to 7 pm.

—Pat Johnson

★ MECKLENBURG NEIGHBORS Wednesday, June 26, 1991

Davidson church helps children to get ahead

By BRIAN STEINER
Neighbors Correspondent

Davidson United Presbyterian Church is spending the summer at school — and all involved love it. For the first time, the church in the north Mecklenburg town is



Shirley



Beale

sponsoring a summer enrichment program for 53 children of all ages who need extra help.

The Rev. Robert Shirley, retired call minister at the church, and Frances Beale, a retired school teacher, came

up with the idea for the project. Students who need the attention spend summer weekdays working on speaking skills, mathematics, English and social studies.

"The children want to learn. They are sincere and motivated," Shirley said. "Because of this, the volunteers and teachers are also motivated. It's fun."

The tutors include certified teachers and junior high, high school and college students.

Ultimately, Shirley and Beale hope, it will motivate the volunteer students to become teachers.

The students, most of whom come from low-income backgrounds, learn through a variety of devices in the hopes of getting them excited about learning, program organizers said. Tutors use puzzles and games to entice them into math, while computers donated from the school system help further.

"This program blooms creativity in the students," says Beale. "Anytime I see brightness in (the students') eyes, I know we're surviving."

Though it receives no funding from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system, the program operates through generous donations from local companies and citizens around Davidson, such as the late Dolly Tate, whose recent donation helped start the program.

With the donations they get, the



TOM FRANKLIN/Staff

Helping out: Volunteer Margaret Byers helps Davidson United Presbyterian's summer enrichment program is helping 53 children.

volunteers are able to work miracles. Three field trips are scheduled, one to visit an author in Rock Hill. Recently, a company donated pizzas to the volunteers and students.

And when a thunderstorm knocked out power to a freezer that stored frozen treats, ruining them, Shirley said, parents brought in peanuts and crackers so the

students could be treated for their hard work.

It just goes to show you, says Shirley, that "old folks can work with young people and even learn from them."

Though many of the students are gifted, Shirley says that many will not be able to afford to go to college or vocational school. Because of this, he is trying to

establish a scholarship program for the students.

Want to help?

Send donations to:
Davidson United
Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 535
Depot Street
Davidson, N.C. 28036.

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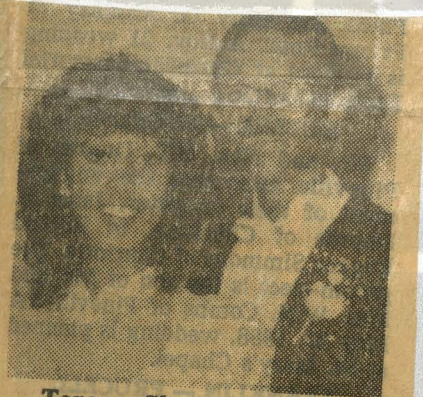
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Teresa, Sheldon Shipman

Shipman — McNair

Teresa Lynn McNair and the Rev. Sheldon Rene Shipman were married Aug. 22 at Third Presbyterian Church. The Rev. James H. Logan officiated, assisted by the Rev. William M. White.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T.Y. McNair of Remington Street. She is a graduate of West Charlotte High School and East Carolina University, where she earned a bachelor of science degree in special education. She is now in a graduate program at UNC-Charlotte and is an exceptional children's teacher at Berryhill Elementary School.

The groom is the son of Dr. and Mrs. F. George Shipman of Durham. He is a graduate of Salisbury High School and UNC-Charlotte, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree in political science and religious studies. He received a masters of divinity degree from Hood Theological Seminary. He is an account executive for Sears Business Systems Centers and is pastor of Clement Memorial AME Zion Church.

Towns seek new chief of parks

By PAT, October 13, 1993
Staff Writer

Last Friday marked Karen Leonard's last official day as director of the Davidson/Cornelius Parks and Recreation Department.



Leonard

Leonard, whose family moved back to Salisbury in early summer, said she was tired of the long commute and wanted to spend more time with her family.

Kevin Reece, Leonard's assistant, is serving as acting director.

"We're grateful to Karen for bringing our park and recreation department to the caliber we used to enjoy and actually surpassing what we had before," said Davidson Town Administrator Leamon Brice.

"My biggest concern is that we continue to fulfill our obligations to Cornelius and get things back on track as fast as we can. There's no way either community can have the quality program singly as they can have together. That was probably Karen's biggest accomplishment."

Leonard will continue to



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Wednesday, January 4, 1995 — THE MECKLENBURG GAZETTE — B-9



Christmas the African way

Dressed in African garb, Kevin Williamson (left) and Jishaun Gaston share information about Kwanzaa. Davidson Elementary's kindergartners through third grade students celebrated holidays around the world with Sue Helms of the International House. The children learned about Kwanzaa, Germany, the Chinese new year, Hanukkah, the Netherlands, Sweden and Mexico.

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P.O. Box 549 Davidson, NC 28036

Wednesday, September 23, 1987 3D

narrowed the field to 10 so far. He expects the Davidson Board of Commissioners to make the final decision by the end of October.

New Beauty Supply Shop Is Dream Come True

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PHOTO/PAT JOHNSON

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—Pat Johnson

Davidson church helps children to get ahead

★ MECKLENBURG NEIGHBORS Wednesday, June 26, 1991

★ MECKLENBURG NEIGHBORS Thursday, November 25, 1993 9M

Happy homeowner

Edna Patterson and her son, Larry, stand in front of their newly completed house on Potts Street in Davidson. With them is Patterson's niece, Chantrice Huntley. The house, built and financed by Ingersoll-Rand employees through Davidson Habitat for Humanity, was dedicated Friday. The Rev. Clement Morris Sr. presided at the 5:30 p.m. ceremony, which was followed by refreshments and a tour of the new house. Patterson, who grew up in Davidson, works for AMEX Packaging in Mooresville. Her son, Larry, is a fourth-grade student at Davidson Elementary.



Davidson Habitat for Humanity

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Matron of honor was the bride's cousin, Wanda Deanes of Vellejo, Calif. Bridesmaids were Karla McCree of Clarkton; Tonia Darby of Smyrna, Ga.; and Latrelle McAllister; Deborah Howie, Cheryl Turner and Erin Williams of Charlotte.

Best man was the groom's father. Groomsmen were Victor Gatliff of Durham; Darryl Shipman of Goldsboro; Donald Pearce of Jonesboro, Ga.; the bride's brother, Reginald McNair, and Gregory Reid and John Turner, all of Charlotte. Junior groomsmen was the bride's cousin, DuWuan McGill of Charlotte.

Ushers were the groom's cousin, Mario Brown of Durham, and Bernard Reeves and Derhyl Pruitt of Charlotte.

Junior bridesmaid was the bride's cousin, Jurea Hoyle. Flower girls were the bride's cousin, Janet Hoyle, and Jaime Logan of Charlotte.

Bible bearer was the bride's godson, LeDuan Pratt of Charlotte. Ring bearer was the bride's godson, Anthony Pratt of Charlotte.

A reception was held at the church.

After a trip to Ochos Rios, Jamaica, the couple will live in Charlotte.

Wednesday, September 23, 1987 3D

Towns seek new chief of parks

By PAT, October 13, 1993 Staff Writer

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Leonard

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"My biggest concern is that we continue to fulfill our obligations to Cornelius and get things back on track as fast as we can. There's no way either community can have the quality program singly as they can have together. That was probably Karen's biggest accomplishment."

Leonard will continue helping Reece with park and recreation advisory board meetings until her replacement is found. Brice said Nov. 12 is the application deadline. He hopes to have a replacement hired by January.

Cornelius Town Manager Bob Race noted that Leonard is responsible for winning the town a \$7,000 grant to develop a master plan for developing parks and recreation in Cornelius.

"Karen was a tremendous asset," Race said. "In the few short months the departments were together, we had tremendous success with our summer program."

"In fact, Cornelius was just notified two weeks ago that we got a grant of \$7,000 for a master plan that Karen applied for."

Among other things, the plan will identify potential park land and the means of obtaining it, within the Cornelius sphere of influence. "So as development occurs, land can be acquired and set aside for park use," said Race.

"It's too bad she will not be there to walk us through the master planning process. But when the new director arrives, hopefully that person will have as much insight as Karen did when she completed the Davidson plan two years ago."

Davidson is also in the process of hiring a full-time town planner. Brice has received 65 applications for the new position and has narrowed the field to 10 so far. He expects the Davidson Board of Commissioners to make the final decision by the end of October.



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MRS. WILSON ... Susan Donaldson

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ANOTHER DISAPPOINTMENT

The building was expected to go down at this point. (At least the sidewalk supervisors said it would.) But for a building which has stood for nearly a century and survived a great fire, that was expecting too much.



THE FINISHING TOUCH

A heavy cable which was wrapped around the front of the building and pulled from behind by a bulldozer finally proved to be too much for the old building, which was little more than a facade by now. That white-haired gentleman in the dark shirt is Mayor Sadler of Davidson.

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The Ending Of A 'Town Landmark'

By KARL HILL

When the building pictured at right was built 97 years ago, the town of Davidson did not exist. That is to say, the town was not incorporated until six years later, in 1879, under the name of Davidson College. So, needless to say, the old place has seen its share of history.

It is said that the building was once the marketplace for North Mecklenburg, with folks coming from as far as across the Catawba River (that was a real trip in those days) in their horse-drawn wagons to buy, sell, and trade such goods as were available then.

One could get overly sentimental pondering generations, wars, and the Depression which came and went during the building's life, but no such talk was heard last Wednesday when the old place was pulled down. Conversations generally ran from how to get the job done to "Where are all those pigeons going to live now?"

Mrs. Louise Sloan, owner of the property, was the on-the-spot historian. When not busy corralling the none-too-cautious young spectators, she pointed out how the upper front windows had turned purple with age (a reaction of the chemicals once used in window glass), and how wooden pegs, rather than nails, were used in part of the framework. She also remembered that there was a great fire in 1901 which began in the livery stable, destroyed all of downtown Davidson except that one building—it had a new tin roof, whereas the shingles on the other buildings acted as kindling for the fire. Mrs. Sloan pointed out also that the building to the right of the old site was built from the charred brick of the destroyed buildings.

Now that the show is over and the site is cleared, most folks agree that the looks of downtown Davidson have been improved. But there is one question which comes to mind: Where are all those pigeons going to live, anyway?



LITTLE BY LITTLE

Mrs. Louise Sloan (foreground), owner of the building, watches on as the back side of the building is pulled away piece by piece. Naturally, she felt mixed emotions at seeing her building defiled, but she showed more concern for onlookers she considered to be straying "too close for comfort."

point. (At But for a nd surviv-

the front of dozer fin- ing, which white-haired Davidson.



TEARING UP THE TRACK — A well known Cornelius traffic nuisance was remedied last week when the railroad decided to remove the unused track that crosses Hwy. 115 to the abandoned Reeves plant. (Photo by Steve Eury)



MRS. WILSON
... Susen Donaldson

New Old Barber Makes His Move

By Sam Knowlton

As Ken Norton closes his barber shop on Main Street in Davidson, another barber shop is opening a hundred or so yards south.

James Raeford, who has been cutting hair at Potts' Barber Shop in Cornelius for the past 20 years, plans to open a new shop in the Main Street location immediately to the north of the Flower Cart.

Norton, who has been semi-retired for some time and moved out of his shop on Tuesday, will cut hair at Raeford's new shop while it is getting off the ground.

Joe McClain, Norton's partner since around 1972, will also cut hair on Fridays and Saturdays at Raeford's shop.

The shop is scheduled to open in the first week in October and will be open every day of the week except Sundays and Wed-

nesdays. Haircuts will cost around \$6, Raeford said, and will be slightly more for a flat top or crew cut.

Raeford and McClain have worked together before, at Ralph Johnson's old shop, north of Norton's in the present United Carolina Bank building.

When Johnson closed his shop in the early 1970s, McClain went to work with Norton. Around the same time Raeford left Johnson's for what turned out to be a six-and-a-half year stint in the car business in Charlotte.

When Raeford returned to barbering, he came to Cornelius to work at Potts' Barber Shop, and has been there ever since.

Raeford said that Norton's closing, the vacancy on Main Street, and the chance to carry on the tradition of Main Street barbers in Davidson prompted him to make the move. Another factor in his decision was his son Ron's plans to go to barber school.

"I've enjoyed it here (at Potts)," said Raeford, 58, "but I thought it was time to make a change. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"After us old barbers, if kids don't come to be trained under us, we're the last of the barbers. The kids coming out now are all into styling. The way you learn to barber is really in a barber shop. School can teach you the basics, but if you don't practice under a barber, you don't really learn to cut."

Norton, 65, announced last year his plans to close his shop. His father, Hood Norton, with Hood's

September 15, 1993



FEELING BLUE — Demario McClain sulks in one of childhood's most dreaded places, the barber's booster chair. He was not upset because his grandfather's workplace, Norton's, is closing soon, but because Granddaddy Joe (background) wouldn't give him \$10.00 for "a book about balloons." (Photo by Steve Eury)



JAMES RAEFORD

(See Norton, Page 9)

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Charlotte Observer
Friday, January 19, 1991

Living

Spend A Day Of War In A Place Where Life Begins

Her uniform is a creamy cotton blanket. Her helmet, a pink and white tasseled cap.

She is Sarah Nicole Hopper, so new, so fresh, she hasn't yet been bathed or weighed.

She is snuggled against her mother, Karen Hopper of Matthews, who is sitting up in bed in the labor room at Presbyterian Hospital.

Maybe you wonder why, on Jan. 16, a day we stand at the brink of war, I am wandering the labor and delivery floor at Presbyterian Hospital.

This is a day I need to remember there are places in this world where all eyes, all technology, all hearts are focused on ushering life *into* the world.

Especially this day, when we are about to usher so many of our young men and women *out* — into combat.

My own baby, my younger son, will be 23 years old on Tuesday.

His birth day is as clear in my mind

as yesterday. A high blue sky like this one. Rex Hospital. Raleigh. Cold. America at war.

I remember wrapping him snug in his blanket, snug in my arms, snug in my heart.

Here, on this floor at Presbyterian Hospital, I feel around me what I felt then — open-armed joy and dedication to life.

You see that dedication in the nurses. And in the three TV monitors that track fetal heart beats and labor contractions.

On one monitor, the contrac-

tions begin to sizzle.

"I'm going to get me a baby," says a nurse, checking the monitor, then heading toward the labor room.

In less than an hour, she's back, exhilarated.

"I got my baby!" she crows.

Sarah Nicole Hopper is born at 5:21 p.m. When I see her, she is 45 minutes old. Her father, Dale Hopper, lifts her pink tasseled cap to show me a ring of dark hair against her pink face.

Her mother smiles down at her, slides her index finger into the tiny mouth, presses against her upper gum. Sarah Nicole begins to suck, lively as a lamb.

I watch her tiny lavender fingers play hide 'n' seek. There they are, against her mother's larger fingers, sizing her up. Now back inside the blanket. Out again. Seeking warmth.

By the time I leave the hospital, we're at war.

It's dark outside on Hawthorne

Lane. As soon as I get in the car, I know I'll turn on the news.

Before I do, I look back up to the sixth floor where, on this bleak Jan. 16, life is being so joyfully ushered in.

Good night, Trevor Sinclair Nunn, Isaac Alexander Irvin, Daniel James Forman.

Good night, Melissa Catherine Fricks, Benjamin Arthur Wood and Beverley Elizabeth Wood.

Good night, Caroline Ashley Rorie, Jessica Ann Cook and Michael Christopher de la Vega.

Good night, Kristopher Earl Furr, Sarah Beth Vaughn and Madeline Marie Garney.

Good night, Brandon Virgil Socia, Ashley Lauren Kirby, Christine Laura Hillman.

Good night, Lindsey Blair Critcher. And good night, Sarah Nicole Hopper of the pink-tasseled helmet.

I wish each of you soft blankets, strong burps and a peaceful world.



Dannye Romine

...speed the recovery. Visitors to campus three months hence will see...

New Oil Makes

By Sam Knowlton

As Ken Norton closes his barber shop on Main Street in Davidson, another barber shop is opening a hundred or so yards south. James Raeford, who has been cutting hair at Potts' Barber Shop in Cornelius for the past 20 years, plans to open a new shop in the Main Street location immediately to the north of the Flower Cart Norton, who has been seen retired for some time and moving out of his shop on Tuesday, will cut hair at Raeford's new shop while it is getting off the ground. Joe McClain, Norton's partner since around 1972, will also cut hair on Fridays and Saturdays at Raeford's shop.

The shop is scheduled to open in the first week in October and will be open every day of the week except Sundays and Wednesdays.

JAMES RAEFORD



Courtesy of Presbyterian Hospital
Sarah Nicole Hopper was born Jan. 16 at Presbyterian Hospital.

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VER Friday, June 24, 1988



MICHELLE AGINS/Staff

The children are Ebony Black, 7 (front), and (from left) Ranard Henderson, 6, Jermaine Henderson, 11, Shareka Patterson, 4, and La-Terry Henderson, 9. In the middle row (left to right) are Rosetta Henderson, Wilhelmena

McClinton and Sharconia Henderson, 13. In the back row are (left to right) John Henderson, Marion Henderson, Taneka Henderson, 12, James Houston, Sandra Henderson and William Henderson.

Problems With Mega-Vacation Leave This Family Undaunted

By **TEX O'NEILL**

Staff Writer

Some folks take vacations to get away from it all. John and Rosetta Henderson take much of it with them.

When they travel, 45 or 50 relatives go, too. The Hendersons, married 48 years, had 12 children, 10 of whom are still living. Last week, the senior Hendersons and 45 kin, including nine of their children, piled into a chartered bus, a Jeep and four cars for a long weekend at Virginia Beach, Va.

Everything was planned, from the 6 a.m. Friday start to the 11 a.m. return Tuesday. Everything, that is, except the accident.

Tuesday afternoon, the bus was part of a four-vehicle pileup near Emporia, Va. The bus driver, Moses Hamilton of Pageland, S.C., was in serious condition at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital Thursday.

Twenty-two relatives were on the bus. None were seriously injured. Rosetta Henderson, 68, was taken to the hospital with minor injuries.

Thursday, she, her husband and family members talked about the mega-vacations as she recuperated in her home in the Long Creek area. Her right leg, stiffened from a stroke in 1962, was still swollen from the accident.

The vacations are a reward. In the years following their marriage in 1940, the couple struggled under the demands of a large family.

"It was rough at times," John Henderson says,

"but it smoothed out."

Daughter Wilhelmena McClinton explains: "They didn't get to go anywhere when they were younger."

Four years ago, the family decided they should honor the senior Hendersons by taking them on yearly vacations with the whole family.

Trips are taken near Father's Day to coax John Henderson, 73, along. The patriarch, who is retired from a manufacturer's shipping department, acknowledges he is a notorious homebody who can be found most anytime in his garden.

"We tell him it's his Father's Day present every year," says McClinton. "If he doesn't go, he doesn't get it."

Three years ago, 48 family members went to New York. Two years ago, 52 went to Orlando. Last year, 46 went to Virginia Beach. "Basically, we get along real good," McClinton said.

Rosetta Henderson's favorite spot so far has been Virginia Beach.

Because the stroke has limited her mobility, she enjoys sitting by a motel window, watching some of her 40 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren play in the ocean. Her husband likes to be lifeguard for them at the motel pool.

Despite the accident, the family is already contemplating next year's trip, but the destination hasn't been chosen.

"I'll take us 12 months to decide," says John Henderson.

Davidson-Cornelius Daycare Celebrates 20 Years Of Service

The two, three and four year olds had an exciting morning—all those strange grown ups coming to their class!

The occasion was the 20th anniversary of the North Mecklenburg Child Development Association (NMCDA), the organization that founded the Davidson-Cornelius Daycare Center. The NMCDA is a group made up of community volunteers concerned about child care.

To celebrate the occasion a reception was held at the center, located at the corner of Jetton Street and Gamble Street, Tuesday, Octo-

ber 27. Pat Sailstad, a founder of the NMCDA, welcomed the group, and John Kuykendall, president of Davidson College, led the group in a litany of dedication and celebration.

The highlight, however, was the children. The youngsters sang a special song for Dottie Martin, the wife of NC Governor Jim Martin and previous member of the daycare's board of directors.

Due to inclement weather, the scheduled tree planting ceremony was canceled. Instead, the children presented one of the class's favorite books to the first lady of North

Carolina.

Following the reception, a luncheon was held at Vail Commons. Speakers included Dr. Gail Gibson, president of the NMCDA; Dr. Charles Raynal, minister at Davidson College Presbyterian Church; Dottie Martin; and William Bondurant, Executive Director of the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation.

Wallace Kuralt, retired from the Department of Social Services, was present. Kuralt, a key figure 20 years ago in the development of the center, was concerned about the cycle of poverty and believed quality day-

care was one of the ways to break that cycle.

The NMCDA board of directors, made up of community volunteers, oversees the center. Mary Fox is the administrative director of the center.

The daycare center has always been a project of caring in the community. Earlier this month representatives of the Cornelius-Lake Norman Lions Club and the Davidson Lions Club worked on planting and landscaping the grounds. Recently volunteers built a new playground.

So that's why all those strange grown ups were here!

—Emily Partin



Shamecia Latta, 4, presents a book to Dottie Martin, wife of NC Governor Jim Martin, as Pat Sailstad, one of the founders of the NMCDA, looks on.



Esther Johnson, life member of the NMCDA, and Linda Cannon, member of the Board of Directors, celebrate the organization's 20th anniversary.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1991

Woods creep



Cecelia, Jean keep alive... The wonderful aroma of freshly- baked bread

by Pat Johnson

You walk down a street and are magnetized by a tantalizing aroma. You look for the source and fine to your delight a small shop chock full of freshly baked breads and cakes. These, as the reader will recognize, are memories of a bakery.

North Mecklenburg has yet to attract such a shop. What we do have, however, are several people who are talented enough to bake extremely well and ambitious enough to bake in quantities adequate to share with others.

If you have visited the North Mecklenburg Farmer's Market early enough in the day, you have met and possibly tasted the wares of Jean Dutterer and Cecilia Conner. Both have tables filled with delicious baked goods.

It's fun to watch all those folks who thought they came only to buy a bunch of low calorie carrots go back to their cars carrying cheese rings, cakes and cookies.

On a recent Saturday I found Jean and her son, David, at the market with only three cheese rings and a package or two of cinnamon buns. It was 10:15 a.m., and she was almost sold out.

Cecilia is a Davidson native who has baked for her family and local people all of her life. She remembers as a child always playing house and trying to cook, using leaves or anything she could find.

She has had two years of college, majoring in home economics, and feels that this just increased her love of cooking. When not cooking she does find time to embroider, crochet, and quilt. She tries to do as much of her work as possible and donates much to her church bazaar as well as bringing it to craft shows.

Gardening is another hobby. This year she had a very successful garden including growing all of her own plants. She bought an organic gardening book which she followed step by step and was very pleased with the result, both productively and economically. She loves flowers and loves to have them all around her house.

From September through the end of school, the Davidson College students of ETC House are lucky to have Cecilia for one of their full-time cooks. She and one other person cook for 72 students—2 full



Cecilia Conner is shown above, busy with baking for the Farmer's Market in Cornelius



Jean Dutterer and son, David, set up display of baked goods at a recent Farmer's Market

... is the best.

I think spring!!!

I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses....

@@@@@@

(^)(^)(^)(^)(^)

Spring is just around the corner---Here are some ideas for your garden:

FOR THE GARDEN OF YOUR DAILY LIVING

PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS:

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

NO GARDEN WITHOUT TURNIPS:

1. Turnip for worship
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

TO CONCLUDE OUR GARDEN WE MUST HAVE THYME:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

WATER FREELY WITH PATIENCE & CULTIVATE WITH LOVE.
THERE IS MUCH FRUIT IN YOUR GARDEN BECAUSE YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.



Shamecia Latta, 4, presents a book to Dottie Martin, wife of NC Governor Jim Martin, as Pat Sallstad, one of the founders of the NMCDA, looks on.

Esther Johnson, life member of the NMCDA, and Linda Cannon, member of the Board of Directors, celebrate the organization's 20th anniversary.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1991

Woods creep over slave graveyard

By DIANNE WHITACRE
Staff Writer

It takes a sharp eye to see the abandoned graveyard for slaves in the woods of north Mecklenburg's isolated Meck Neck neighborhood.

A few hundred feet from the shores of Lake Norman, low spots mark the places where pine coffins rotted away one and two centuries ago.

“Slavery was an important part of Mecklenburg history. It was a powerful institution, with many slaves.”

— Dan Morrill, professor at UNC Charlotte

Only a few graves have tombstones — all of them rough fieldstones that have been partially sunk into the forest floor. The names of the men, women and children buried here are not recorded. Some of the stones are no bigger than a man's shoe, and none have markings.

“They probably never did,” said Ken Brotherton of Davidson, who has begun a campaign to preserve what he thinks may be the largest slave cemetery in Mecklenburg County, dating back to the late 1700s.

As many as 300 graves may be in the woods, said Brotherton, who says he has found 15 to 20 rows of graves. But it's been more than 100 years since the cemetery was last used, and even Brotherton has a hard time finding traces of the graves.

Periwinkle grows among the graves. “It was tradition to plant periwinkle on cemeteries. It's an evergreen signifying eternal life,” said Dan Morrill, history professor at UNC Charlotte.

Please see **Slave**/page 6



TOM FRANKLIN/Staff

Learning some history: Ken Brotherton, who has begun a campaign to preserve an abandoned slave cemetery, talks with Hazelee Houston Graham, who has many relatives buried in the cemetery.

They took a seat against racism

■ 35 years ago today, JCSU student persuaded others to sit down at segregated lunch counters.

By ANGELA WRIGHT
Staff Writer

Charles Jones believed his grandmother when she told him he was one of God's children and as good as anybody else.

That's why it bothered him that he couldn't eat at dime store lunch counters like the white people did.

Thirty-five years ago today, he led the Charlotte movement that changed that.

As a politically active college student enamored of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and intently aware of Rosa Parks and the 1955 Montgomery, Ala., bus boycotts, Jones longed to contribute to the national battle against Jim Crow laws and customs that segregated blacks and whites.

"I knew my grandma wasn't wrong," says the 57-year-old Charlotte lawyer, "so I began looking for a handle."

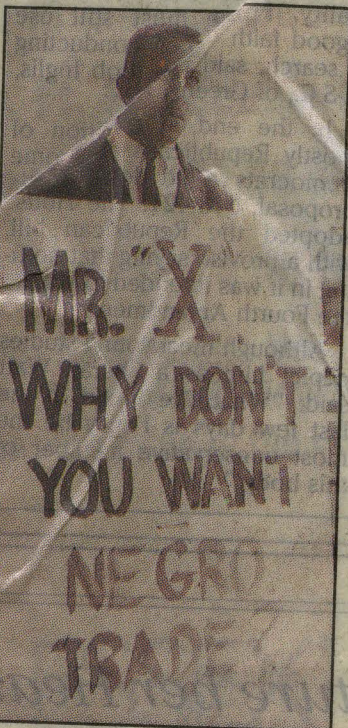
He found it on a cold, dark February morning while driving home to Charlotte from Washington. It was about 3:30 a.m. Feb. 8, 1960, when he heard a newscast about "colored" students sitting down at a segregated lunch counter in Greensboro, demanding service and refusing to leave.

"I said, 'Yes, that's the handle,' and it became clear," says Jones, a 22-year-old theology graduate student at Johnson C. Smith University.

The next night, during a JCSU student council meeting of about eight students, he announced his plans to go to Charlotte's Woolworth and demand service at the lunch counter.

"I thought maybe three or four of them would show up," says Jones. "That next morning, about 350 students were waiting outside the administration building, ready to get it on."

Jones found himself leading the Charlotte version of a movement that was sweeping the South and shaking the very foundation of the American business community. He cautioned the excited students to be silent, nonviolent and sit quiet.



Leading the way: "I think Charlotte wanted to do the right thing," says Charles Jones, leader of the lunch counter protests. "I'm real proud of Charlotte." Above, Jones protests in 1960.



We shall not be moved: College students demanding service at the Woolworth lunch counter (above), listen as protest leader, Charles Jones (right), cautions them to remain calm and peaceful.

Partners in protest: The Rev. Sidney Freeman (left) and Charles Jones, seated in front of Biddle Hall on the JCSU campus, share memories of the 1960 lunch counter protests.

MARK B. SLUDER/Staff

Please see **Protest**/page 9A

Davidson whi



DIEDRA LAI

Ritual: Dr. Jack Hamilton (left), senior pastor of Grace Covenant Foursquare Church, blesses the Spry family before they meet that father David (right) can attend Life Bible College East.

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...BOB LEVERONE/SIBT

Meckler Bible quiz

The Hometown Newspaper of Cornelius, N.C.

© 1993

A Park Newspaper



LEAVES OFFICE — Former Cornelius Mayor Harold Little leaves Town Hall. (Photo by Steve Eury)

22-Year Career Comes To Close

Matthew Spry of Davidson the National Junior

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Zebedee), John, Philip, (eus), Thaddeus, Simon

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s 5-year-old Meredith who her brother in that teddy- ple quiz.

it's their parents who are the family to Christians-

a., to attend Life Bible East, a Foursquare Gospel on. David Spry, 36, quit his thing electronics to pursue

the call to ministry he's felt for 20 years.

"If I didn't have God's word to live by and go by, my life would be a mass of confusion," said David Spry, whose family was anointed with oil as a send-off blessing Sunday by the Rev. Jack Hamilton.

As it is now, Matthew figures his life is pretty neat, even if his youth soccer team, the Cheetahs, "stunk" this past season.

He was an A student at Mooresville's Brawley Middle School. He gets to play Nintendo by himself, Monopoly with his dad and Trivial Pursuit with his mom. Relatives gave him \$80 and a surprise party for winning the Bible quiz title. His folks gave him a trophy with a cross.

Beyond the gifts, acclaim and Bible minutiae, Matthew's triumph left him with something else that might outlast it all — the feeling he'll always be a winner.

"Kids thought I wasn't smart or anything," he said. "After being No. 1 in the nation, I knew they were wrong. Actually it's not the best thing that's happened in my life. I received salvation when I was 5."

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They took a seat against racism

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By ANGELA WRIGHT
Staff Writer

Charles Jones believed his grandmother when she told him he was one of God's children and as good as anybody else. That's why it bothered him that he couldn't eat at dime store lunch counters like the white people did.



KITCHEN

Seal

Fabric Backed Vinyl Wallco
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WALCOVE

POT BORDER



Rev. Robert L. Shirley, was born in Charlotte, NC on September 9, 1928, and ended his life's mission on August 31, 2002.

"Bob" graduated from West Charlotte High School. In 1950, he received a Divinity Degree from Lincoln University, his Master's of Divinity in 1953 and his Doctorate of Divinity in 1979. He was the pastor of several churches in North Carolina, New Jersey and Virginia. As "Mission Developer" for the Catawba Inter Presbytery, he was instrumental in developing socio-economic programs for 113 church assisting minority businesses, youth, low income families and senior citizens.

He is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Laura; his children, Saundra S. Thomas (Hendri) and Robert, Jr.; his grandson, Fela Reynolds; his sister, May McDaniel; niece, Sharon McDaniel; cousins Eula and Shirley Watkins; and many friends.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, September 7, 2002 at Memorial Presbyterian Church, 2600 Beatties Ford Road. Visitation begins at 10:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, please send a donation to Hospice at Charlotte, 1420 East 7th Street, Charlotte, NC 28204.

Family Mortuary is serving Rev. Shirley's family with integrity.

the administration building, ready to get it on."

Jones found himself leading the Charlotte version of a movement that was sweeping the South and American business community. He cautioned the excited students to be silent, nonviolent and sit quiet.

Please see **Protest**/page 9A

Leading the way: "I think Charlotte wanted to do the right thing," says Charles Jones, leader of the lunch counter protests. "I'm real proud of Charlotte." Above, Jones protests in 1960.



MARK B. SLUDER/Staff

Rev. Sidney Freeman (left) and Charles Jones, seated in front of Bldg. Hall on the JCSU campus, share memories of the 1960 lunch counter protests.

copy of the speed the recovery. Visitors to campus three months hence will see

Davidson whiz kid aces national Bible quiz



DIEDRA LAIRD/Staff

Ritual: Dr. Jack Hamilton (left), senior pastor of Grace Covenant Foursquare Church, blesses the Spry family before they move so that father David (right) can attend Life Bible College East.

Questions

Continued from page 1A

front," said his mother, Debbie Spry, 35. "I'm amazed really at his ability to remember stuff. We don't believe in a Bible laying on a table collecting dust."

His blond cowlick having stayed down for charismatic worship at 700-member Grace Covenant Church in Cornelius, Matthew put a younger spin on his gift.

"Oh yeah, it's cool being No. 1 in the nation," said Matthew. "It's like fun. It's fun talking about all the books. None of 'em were stumpers this year."

A rising sixth-grader whose family soon faces its own spiritual test, Matthew defeated nearly 200 other fundamentalist Christian grade-schoolers from across the nation last month to win the National Junior Bible Quiz Invitational in Naperville, Ill.

Matthew correctly answered some 100 questions — reciting quotations, quoting commandments and putting to the test everything he memorized over an

hour a day, six days a week for several months.

"He was able to memorize quickly and understand what he's memorizing," said the Rev. Brian King, Grace Covenant's children's minister and N.C. Bible quiz coordinator. "It puts it in their heart."

God's word has never been far from the heart of the Sprys. Matthew started listing books of the Bible when he was

Test your Bible knowledge

These were five of the 30-point toughies Matthew Spry of Davidson correctly answered on the way to winning the National Junior Bible Quiz Invitational in Naperville, Ill.

Answers

1. Simeon, Zebulon, Naphtali, Levi, Joseph, Gad, Judah, Benjamin, Asher, Issachar, Dan and Reuben.

2. Simon Peter, Andrew, James (son of Zebedee), John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, James (son of Alphaeus), Thaddeus, Simon the Canaanite, Judas Iscariot, Matthew.

3. Proud look, lying tongue, hands which shed blood, heart filled with wicked thoughts, feet that run to mischief, false witness, one who causes trouble among friends. (Five of the seven must be given for a correct answer.)

4. "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." (New International Version, Revelation 3:20).

5. Yes, Christians will be judged by Christ to determine who deserves rewards while those who refused Christ as savior will be judged unworthy of eternal life.

"Backward," he said.

"In order," added his father, David Spry.

It was 5-year-old Meredith who took on her brother in that teddy-bear Bible quiz.

And it's their parents who are moving the family to Christiansburg, Va., to attend Life Bible College East, a Foursquare Gospel institution. David Spry, 36, quit his job teaching electronics to pursue

the call to ministry he's felt for 20 years.

"If I didn't have God's word to live by and go by, my life would be a mass of confusion," said David Spry, whose family was anointed with oil as a send-off blessing Sunday by the Rev. Jack Hamilton.

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He was an A student at Mooresville's Brawley Middle School. He gets to play Nintendo by himself, Monopoly with his dad and Trivial Pursuit with his mom. Relatives gave him \$80 and a surprise party for winning the Bible quiz title. His folks gave him a trophy with a cross.

Beyond the gifts, acclaim and Bible minutiae, Matthew's triumph left him with something else that might outlast it all — the feeling he'll always be a winner.

"Kids thought I wasn't smart or anything," he said. "After being No. 1 in the nation, I knew they were wrong. Actually it's not the best thing that's happened in my life. I received salvation when I was 5."

BOB LEVERONE/Staff
College on Tuesday to



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■ 35 years ago JCSU students persuaded old lunch counter

By ANGELA WRIGHT
Staff Writer

Charles Jones grandmother when she was one of God's good as anybody else. That's why it both he couldn't eat at din counter like the wh Thirty-five years

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Rev. Robert E. Shirley, was born in Charlotte, NC on September 9, 1928, and ended his life's mission on August 31, 2002. 'Bob' gradu-

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Jones found himself lea Charlotte version of a m that was sweeping the So shaking the very foundatio American business commu cautioned the excited stude be silent, nonviolent and

Please see **Protest**/page 9

Kwanzaa: In celebration of African heritage

By TONY MORRIS
Special Correspondent

They gathered at Central Piedmont Community College on Tuesday to reflect on the hope and unity that come for millions of African-Americans during the post-Christmas observance of Kwanzaa.

"Everybody here has a purpose and a talent given to them by their creator," said the Rev. Sheldon Shipman of Charlotte, Tuesday's speaker at the school's student life center. The event was sponsored by the Black Student Organization.

"It is the concept of Kwanzaa to celebrate these talents and to remember those who came before us and contributed to our knowledge of ourselves," he said.

Kwanzaa, Swahili for "first fruits," was founded in California in 1966 as a cultural observance for African-Americans.

It is part of the Kwaida Theory, a concept introduced by Dr. Maulana Karenga, that laid the foundation of the Black Value System. That system says black people have the capacity to define, defend and develop their own interests.

It is an American holiday that focuses on African culture. It is a time that many black people use to reflect on their African heritage.

The celebration is highlighted by seven principles, one observed each day during the

"It is the concept of Kwanzaa to celebrate these talents and to remember those who came before us and contributed to our knowledge of ourselves."

The Rev. Sheldon Shipman of Charlotte

week between Christmas and New Year's Day. Shipman spent the morning talking about each principle: Umoja, or unity; Kujichagulia, self-determination; Ujima, collective work and responsibility; Ujamaa, cooperative economics; Nia, purpose; Kuumba, creativity; and Imani, faith.

Each day during the week of Kwanzaa, participants greet each other with "Habari gani?" ("What news?") The response is the principle of the day.

A large feast, called the karamu, is held the

last day, Jan. 1.

Shipman also explained Kwanzaa's symbols, including: the mkeka, a straw mat on which all other items are placed; and the kinara, a seven-armed candleholder. And there's the mshumaa, or seven candles representing the seven principles. The candles are black for the people, red for the blood shed and green for the bountiful motherland.

"Christmas has become too commercial," said Carmen Johnson, a CPCC freshman. "The seven principles are very positive aspects of the human being; they give the young something to live by."

Said sophomore David Singletery: "The presentation gave me a more thorough idea of what Kwanzaa was all about. Now I can go home and explain it to my family and try to celebrate it this year."

Nurturing Kwanzaa's principles, Shipman said, helps correct the problems affecting society. "If you are a parent you need to pass these values on and nurture dreams for yourself and your family," he said.

The Afro-American Cultural Center annually observes Kwanzaa at the center, 401 N. Myers St. For information call (704) 374-1565.

■ More about the celebration of Kwanzaa in Friday's Living section

Page 67

spend the recovery. Visitors to campus three months hence will see

The F seven

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THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Wednesday, December 22, 1993

CULTURAL HARVEST



The Rev. Sheldon Shipman lights a candle on a kinara — a seven-armed candleholder — used during Kwanzaa. Shipman was at Central Piedmont Community College on Tuesday to explain Kwanzaa to students.

BOB LEVERONE/Staff

more about the celebration of Kwanzaa
in Friday's Living section

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Rural residents say they have no voice

By GAIL SMITH
Staff Writer

Eloise Ray sat in her living room, where she could see everything and everybody coming down Rich Hatchet Road.

This time of day, there isn't much activity, just Ray waving her flyswatter to ward off mosquitoes.

The flyswatter is going double time because she's upset about what the Town of Huntersville wants to do to this half-mile stretch of road just west of the GreenFarm subdivision off Sam Furr Road.

This is the less publicized part of the north Mecklenburg town's proposed annexation, a compact, black community of less than 20 homes on Rich Hatchet Road.

"What good would this annexation do for us?" Ray asked. "We have our own water, we have pump wells, we have our own lights."

"We have our own septic tanks. All these years, the city hasn't thought about us. What would the city do for us?"

This area runs along U.S. 21 but is still so rural in character that residents call Huntersville a city instead of a town.

“What good would this annexation do for us? We have our own water, we have pump wells, we have our own lights. . . . All these years, the city hasn't thought about us.”

— Eloise Ray

"We've never asked for services because we've always been in the country," she said.

But that may not last for long since a \$250 million Crosland-Erwin development — NorthCross — is planned for the intersection of Sam Furr and I-77, with additional development at the U.S. 21/Sam Furr intersection.

The Rich Hatchet Road community actually includes more homes along U.S. 21 south of Sam Furr Road, but the annexation would not take all of those homes. Ray wonders why, and she and other neighborhood residents asked at a recent public hearing on the annexation why the town waited

until now to move the town limits in that direction.

"I always thought they were prejudiced toward this area here," said Ray, a past president of the Rich Hatchet Community Organization.

The town limits now stop just east of Rich Hatchet Road but do include nearly all of GreenFarm. The new two-story brick homes of GreenFarm are directly across Rich Hatchet Road from Ray's house, a modest one-story frame farm house.

Huntersville Mayor Sarah McAulay said the town did have a reason to skip the Rich Hatchet Road community, and the reason was GreenFarm.

The third phase of GreenFarm was not subdivided at the time of the town's last annexation, and state annexation rules prohibit towns from involuntarily annexing more than 5 acres that are not subdivided, McAulay said.

"That blocked us from going over to Rich Hatchet Road," she said. "Now that (GreenFarm) is subdivided, we can go over there."

And McAulay said although she realizes annexation means higher



MARK B. SLUDER/Staff

Contemplating annexation Katie Graham sits on her porch on Rich Hatchet Road. Huntersville's proposed annexation includes the half-mile stretch of her road.

taxes, there are benefits to residents besides town services such as police protection. The town could help residents if they want to rehabilitate their homes, she said.

But Ray, who lives on land that was her daddy's farm, said resi-

dents are doing just fine — without annexation by Huntersville.

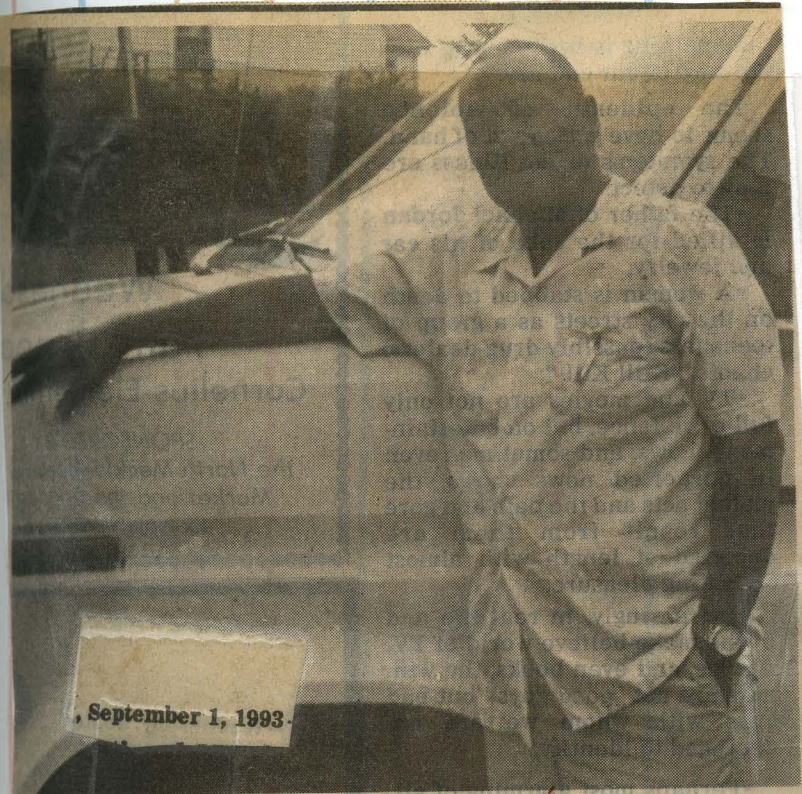
"We're not very strong," Ray said. "We're poor people . . . and when you're poor you don't have much of a voice. But we are against it."

... Saturday, Highs near 60
... 65 to 70 Saturday, Lows near

Wrightsville
Beach

H: 6:47 a.m., 7:04 p.m.
L: 12:27 a.m., 12:43 p.m.

59/41 .32 54/35 7/38 ody
Brownsville 75/46 ody
b rn



September 1, 1993

JACK JOHNSON

No Appointment Needed

There's a long history of Jack Johnson's haircutting, his good advice and a sympathetic ear to anyone that needs someone to unload their sad or happy news on. Just drop by his barber shop in Denver, N. C., no appointment necessary. He's never too busy to give a haircut or advice.

For 42 years, Jack has been in the haircutting business. He became interested in barbering when he was just a young man just out of the service and he has never strayed from his trade.

His first jobs were in Davidson on Main Street working under Mr. Rutledge and Mr. Hood Norton after which he set up shop himself, first in a room at a Denver service station, then in a brick building where he remains.

The 67-year-old barber opened his own shop in April of 1951. He says, "Many changes have taken place since '51, but I don't think my shop has many. Customers come in without appointments to chat, joke and bring gifts of everything from deer meat to tomatoes. You name it, they bring it, or they bring it and you name it."

If you were to ask Jack how much a haircut cost back in '51, he would tell you, "I charged 60 cents, now it's \$7 for a regular clip, and that's about half the price other barbers charge."

Jack, skilled in the expression of humor, can tell you some of the most amusing stories and jokes you'll ever hear. For instance, a sign on the wall of his shop reads, "a flat top hair cut will cost a little more than the regular price." You ask him, "How much more?" He says, "Well; it depends on how much money they got."

He can keep you spellbound with his knowledge of the town's history (Davidson). He has that magic touch that will capture anyone's attention when he begins to hold a conversation. He is a great source of information about the past and present. Jack will give you a personalized account of his growing up in Davidson. While listening to him talk, his old memories will trigger your own. He can hold his own in a wide range of different subjects, whether it's politics, sports, current events, or religion.

When talking about growing up, Jack will tell you, "We didn't need to go out of town to have fun. As a young boy, all you needed was some old tires, marbles, make your own kite, friends, a baseball and bat. We provided our own amusement most of the time. He says faith in God, hard work, small treasured pleasures, love and support of family and friends, have kept him going. The realization of his childhood, the place he spent it, forever will be a precious, priceless part of who he is.

His faith hasn't wavered over the years; he takes it with him everywhere, in his community, workplace, and the golf course, which is one of his favorite sports. He has participated in many golf tournaments in and out of North Carolina.

Jack says, "I've seen Christianity practiced more on the golf course than I have in many of the churches I've visited. People come out of church complaining the music was too loud, the preacher preached too long, etc. On the golf course, people are always telling you, 'Nice shot, way to go.'" He shot in the 70s a few years ago and still shoots in the 80s despite having to walk with a cane in the past few months.

Jack has little time to rest and sometimes even little time to eat. He does not like to turn anyone away. Customers get an intensive interview while they're in the chair, as he asks about families, jobs and schoolwork. Jack says, "I'm proud of the work I do. I don't need a sign. I don't need any advertising. My haircuts take care of that."

If a customer goes to the shop and Jack is closing for the day, he will just open it up again and cut the customer's hair. That's Jack.

Jack is a lifelong, faithful mem-

THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Wednesday, March 2, 1994

New drug may slow disease

Medicine helps Lou Gehrig victims

By DANIEL G. HANEY
Associated Press

BOSTON — An experimental new drug appears to be the first to slow the fatal progression of Lou Gehrig's disease, the illness that until now has defied all attempts at treatment.

The medicine, called riluzole, is not a cure. But a study financed by the maker of riluzole found it seemed to delay crippling symptoms and death.

"Survival almost doubled in some patients. That's just unheard of," commented Dr. Jeffrey Rothstein of Johns Hopkins University, who is co-directing another larger study of the treatment.

A drug that has any effect would be noteworthy. At present, there is no treatment for the illness, formally known as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS. The victim's life expectancy has changed little since the disease killed Gehrig, the Yankees' first baseman, in 1941.

The disease is rare, but has had prominent victims, including U.S. Sen. Jacob Javits, actor David Niven and singer Dennis Day.

ALS is a nerve disease that robs people of muscle control, resulting in weakness and wasting. Eventually, victims lose all control of their muscles, including breathing and swallowing. Survival averages three or four years, although some victims live with the disease for decades. One or two cases are diagnosed for every 100,000 Americans annually.

The latest study was financed by the French pharmaceutical firm Rhone-Poulenc Rorer, which developed riluzole (pronounced RILL-you-zoll). It was conducted by Dr. Gilbert Bensimon and others from Hopital de la Pitie-Salpetriere in Paris and was being published in Thursday's issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

In the French study, which involved 155 patients, doctors found the treatment reduced deaths by 39% after one year and 20% after almost two years, when the study ended.

Survival was 73% after one year for those with brain stem form of the disease, compared with 35% in a comparison group getting dummy medicine. However, in people with the spinal form of the disease, the medicine appeared to do little good.

Merry Christmas!

Ronnie & Debbie & Renee Pugh

Terry & Pam Smith

McFarland and Newsham

Bob & Fern

Ralph and my Buren

Gene & Claire Smith

Mark & Doreen

Keith & Dorothy Van Der Linden
Kevin Whitworth

Lillian Taylor

Bill & Marcia Rosenberg

Carl and Adele Newell

Dorothy Beam

Kelen Harvard

Irene Forbes

Daniel

Glenn & Joyce Ritz

Alan & Anna Gay Newell
Philip & Holly

Pablo y Salvia Correa

John & Sue Cranmer

Paul & James

Sarah & Cristina

Grace

Helen Vaughn

Dave and Lula Keener

Marven & Betty Ingalshe
Isabelle Jones

Ruthie Burr

Newman, Sandi, Andrew & Holly Batts

Angie Davis

Phil & Fran Buseritz
Ray & Peggy Walker

Dick & Olene Wilson

Mary Louise Rhodes

Josephine Carolyn & Elisabeth Hammer

Sam & Grace Bunt

Anna

The Rustines

Mel & Alia Murawski

From your missionaries
at the
International Headquarters
of
Source of Light Ministries International, Inc.



The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me; Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; Thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

IN MEMORY

Adam Christopher Putnam
 Born: November 21, 1983
 Died: December 13, 1986
 Service: 2:00 P.M.
 Monday, December 15, 1986
 Huntersville Methodist Church
 Officiating:
 Dr. Louis Woodard
 Dr. Anne Walker
 Interment:
 Mt. Zion Community Cemetery

Beale, 64, was born and raised in Davidson. In fact, she worked as a secretary at Ada Jenkins when it was a public school. She went on to teach in Atlanta - biology and chemistry.

School volunteer

Mecklenburg Neighbors will recognize each week volunteers who do outstanding work in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. School officials will choose volunteers to be featured.

Willie Chancellor

Hometown: Charlotte.
Occupation: Business analyst, Duke Power Co.

Honored for: Volunteer work at Villa Heights Academic Center, where he is in his second year as a mentor and tutor. He is also a special buddy to a second-grade student.

Family: His wife is Wanda Madison Chan-



cellor. He is the father of Wesley, a third-grader; and Warren, a kindergartner. Both sons go to Villa Heights.

Why I volunteer: "I have a firm belief in giving back to this community, and kids are our precious resource."

Rewards: "The reward of doing something worthwhile, a good feeling."

From the principal: Chancellor "has helped us in more ways than anyone can ever imagine possible for one individual touching children's lives at Villa Heights. He is indeed a guardian angel, caring, sharing, organizing and making incredible contributions in a quiet, determined way." — Mary Ann Hubbard.

— Compiled by Nancy Brachey



... Saturday. Highs near 60
 ... 65 to 70 Saturday. Lows near
 Wrightsville Beach H: 6:47 a.m., 7:04 p.m.
 Brownsville 59/41 32 54/35
 ... 75/46

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall
 not want. He maketh me to lie
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 me beside the still waters. He
 restoreth my soul; He leadeth me
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 His name's sake.
 Yea, though I walk through the
 valley of the shadow of death, I will
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 Thou anointest my head with oil,
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IN MEMORY

Adam Christopher Putnam

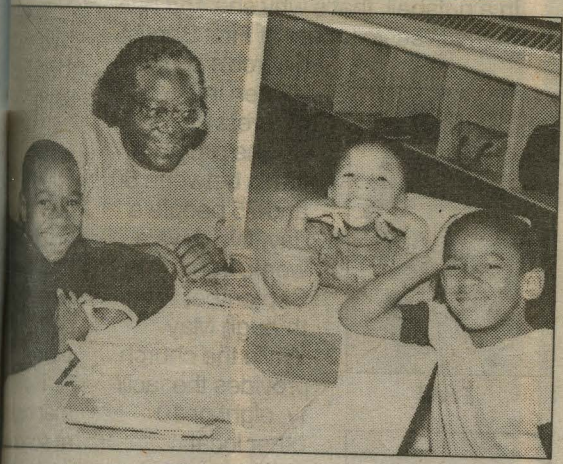
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 Dr. Anne Walker

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 Mt. Zion Community Cemetery



Frances Beale and 6-year-olds William Purson (from left), Cedric Forney and Cercobe Stewart have discovered that learning is fun. PHOTOS/EMILY PARTIN

Beale, 64, was born and raised in Davidson. In fact, she worked as a secretary at Ada Jenkins when it was a public school. She went on to teach in Atlanta - biology and chemistry at the middle, junior and high school level - before coming back to this area for family reasons.

Beale also serves on the Davidson Habitat for Humanity executive board and heads up the family support committee. She became interested in the tutoring program back in 1985 because she "saw a need for so many things with the smaller children.

"I'm not trying to take the parents' place," she stressed. What she is doing is reinforcing in these youngsters that learning can be fun.

When the kids come in after school, they have about 10 minutes "to go a little bit crazy," she said. Then it's time for reading and homework. Marjean Torrance works with the kindergartners. Each day several Davidson College students help out as tutors. Beale stresses penmanship and vocabulary, too, as well as good behavior. Field trips to plays and other cultural activities are a special treat.

They learn a lot from Beale, who is herself very open and outgoing and forthright. She wants them to believe in themselves. "Everything we do is to build self-esteem," she said. "Once they get it, you can't take it away from them.

"These kids are bright. They're very inquisitive. I've seen a lot of improvement in their desire to learn. Anything that's in a book, if the author put it there, we can learn it."

Beale said she likes to work with the older students best. But you can tell the youngsters hold a special place in her heart.

"First-graders!" she said. "They step on your toes, they sneeze in your face, they are so excited about being able to read!"

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Former Cornelius mayor Wes Rood dies at age 81

By OLIVIA FORTSON
Staff Writer

Those who knew Wes Rood will always think of him when they see the many flowers and trees in

improving the sewers, sidewalks and roads of the town. He was also instrumental in getting the Davidson-Cornelius YMCA and satellite

Ralph and Mary Smith
Paul & Fern Burren
Michael & Betty Edinger
Timmy and Nancy Blackmore
Ronnie & Debbie
Patricia
Stella
John
John
ME



DIEDRA LAIRD/Staff

Singing praise: From left, Pauline Covington, Shirley Friday and Johnnie Covington deliver a gospel music message at Tucker's Grove Camp Meeting.

At Tucker's Grove, 'hallelujahs' still ring

Camp meeting keeps alive powerful past

By JOHN VAUGHAN
Staff Writer

Every evening for the past week a rural intersection in Lincoln County has been turning boisterous in the twilight with the sound of singing, laughter and sweaty-handkerchief preaching.

What's happening out there on N.C. 73 at Beth Haven Church Road is an authentic piece of Southern black culture — so authentic that if the ghosts of 19th-century farmers walked this way and heard this din, they'd feel right at home.

The event is the 118th Tucker's Grove Camp Meeting — a 10-day festival of song, worship and socializing held annually north of Lowesville. Insiders say it's one of

the state's oldest, largest surviving black camp meetings.

White camp meetings are fairly plentiful in North Carolina.

Among blacks, such meetings have been held for generations. But they've declined in recent years, supplanted by black family reunions, says the Rev. Herman Thomas, associate professor of religious studies at UNC Charlotte. The reunions, he says, "have become a way of continuing the old camp meetings."

Tucker's Grove, founded in 1874, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and holds a special place among Carolinas camp meetings.

Every year in August, scores of

Please see **Arbors**/page 10A

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Wrightsville Beach H: 6:47 a.m., 7:04 p.m. L: 12:27 a.m., 12:43 p.m. Custom 59/41 32 54/35 57/38 cdy Brownsville 75/48 90/10 cdy



A Church where THE SON shines in

Reeve's Temple A.M.E. Zion Church

213 Watson Street • P. O. Box 701 • Davidson, North Carolina 28036
(704) 892-4539

Reverend Claire Hurst, Pastor

December, 1993

To my Reeves Temple family:

Thank you for a blessed year in the Lord! You have been a shining light over the past months and I am so very grateful for the spirit in which you have labored and for the love you have shared with each other and with me. God has truly blessed us this year and my prayer is that He will continue to shower His love and grace upon us during the coming year.

This is my prayer for Reeves:

Bless us, Lord, this Christmas
With quietness of mind,
Teach us to be patient
And always to be kind;
Give us reassurance
When everything goes wrong
So our faith remains unfaltering
Our hope and courage strong.
And show us that in quietness
We can feel your presence near
Filling us with joy and peace
All seasons of the year.

As we wind up another year of joyful service to a great God, let us look forward to the New Year and the opportunity to build up the Kingdom and spread the word of God's love, for we are the means through which others will know Him.

God bless you!

Sincerely,

Claire Hurst

Your Pastor
Claire Hurst



Wise men still seek Him.



A celebration of life

For African-Americans, Kwanzaa is a time of unity, reflection and hope

By ERIC V. COPAGE

It was never a holiday kind of guy. Perhaps it was because while I was growing up, my family observed few holiday rituals. Although we put up a Christmas tree every year, there was no ceremony to it — no drinking of eggnog or listening to carols while hanging the ornaments.

Over the past few years, however, the holiday season has taken on a new meaning during the week following Christmas, when my family sits at the dinner table celebrating Kwanzaa.

Kwanzaa, created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana (Ron) Karenga, the chairman of black studies at California State University in Long Beach, is a cultural observance for black Americans and others of African descent.

The name means "first fruits of the harvest" in Kiswahili.

There is no festival of that name in any African society. To emphasize that black Americans come from many parts of Africa, Karenga integrated elements from various African harvest festivals and created a unique, American celebration.

Kwanzaa, which runs from Dec. 26 to New Year's Day, does not replace Christmas. Nor is it a religious holiday. It is a time to focus on Africa and African-inspired culture.

I first heard about Kwanzaa years ago. But the holiday didn't make much of an impression on me until the birth of my son, Evan, six years ago.

I wanted him to have a joyous sense of his black heritage, to have an African-American holiday that would fill him with fond memories he could savor as an adult.

When my family lights the black, red and green candles of Kwanzaa this year, we will do so with millions of black Americans around the nation who also cele-

Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa was started in 1966 as a way of reminding African-Americans of their African heritage. It is observed from Dec. 26 through Jan. 1.

How Kwanzaa is observed
Each day of Kwanzaa, African-Americans reflect on different principals that African-Americans should live by. Although tradition varies, most families gather to light the candles on the Kinara and reinforce the principal of that day.

Day 2	Day 4	Day 6	Day 1	Day 7	Day 5	Day 3
Dec. 27 Kujichagulia (Self-determination)	Dec. 29 Ujamaa (Cooperative economics)	Dec. 31 Kuumba (Creativity)	Dec. 26 Umoja (Unity)	Jan. 1 Imani (Faith)	Dec. 30 Nia (Purpose)	Dec. 28 Ujima (Collective work and responsibility)

Red candles on the left symbolize struggle

Black candle in the middle symbolizes black people

Green candles on the right symbolize future

Kinara: A seven-branched candleholder that symbolizes the continent and peoples of Africa

Vibunzi: An ear of corn for each child in the family

Mazao: Fruits and vegetables that stand for the product of unified effort

Kikombe cha umoja: A communal cup for the libation

Kwanzaa feast
The next to the last day of Kwanzaa is a huge feast (Karamu) at which whole communities gather.

Elements of the Karamu:

- Elder symbolically pours water on ground while making libation statement.
- After a call to unity (Harambee), the unity cup is passed.
- Lighting of the seven candles.
- Presentation of educational and cultural gifts (Zwadi).
- Feasting and cultural expression (dancing, drumming and poetry reading).

SOURCE: "The African American Holiday of Kwanzaa" by Maulana Karenga; research by E.F. CAMPBELL

Knight-Ridder Tribune

brate Kwanzaa. Some adhere strictly to the holiday program as Karenga conceived it. Their observances incorporate seven Kwanzaa symbols.

Fruits and vegetables, for instance, stand for the product of unified effort, a straw place mat is for reverence of tradition and an ear of corn symbolizes each child in the family.

The other four symbols are a communal cup for libation, simple gifts, a seven-branched candleholder and seven candles.

Each candle symbolizes one of the seven principles by which black Americans should endeavor to live. A family member lights a candle on each day of Kwanzaa, then discusses the principle of that day.

The seven principles are Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity) and Imani (faith).

Please see Heritage/next page

■ Afro-American Cultural Center will hold a week of lectures, entertainment for Kwanzaa/next page



BOB LEVERONE/Staff

Leroy Henderson slowly pulls out an old air conditioner from a room window at Tim and Leigh Jordan's Charlotte home. Henderson was hired by Wilton Connor Packaging Inc. to handle chores at employees' homes, including fixing leaky faucets, weatherproofing and other small projects.

Home tasks part of benefits package

■ Employees can get professional help with projects at home while they're at work.

By TAWN NHAN
Staff Writer

Wilton Connor Packaging Inc. in Charlotte has often used innovative strategies to make its \$7-an-hour jobs more attractive.

The company's work force, which includes many immigrants, can attend free English language classes on company time.

They also can take free shuttle rides to work. Employees carry their laundry to work, where it's washed, dried and folded for free.

The latest company benefit is a new

401(k) retirement plan. Wilton Connor is matching dollar-for-dollar employee contributions.

And that's not all.

Wilton Connor has taken another measure, unusual for even big, progressive companies. It has hired a full-time maintenance worker to do odd jobs at employees' homes. Leroy Henderson's duties include fixing leaky faucets, weatherproofing homes for winter, replacing broken door-knobs and doing other small projects that fellow employees don't have time, money or expertise to do themselves.

The company expects the service will improve the quality of life for employees, boost worker morale and loyalty.

"The benefit certainly has a cost, but we think of it as an investment," said

Wilton Connor, general manager and co-owner of the product packaging company.

"If one of our workers has a leaky faucet, she may worry about it at work or have to miss a day of work to wait on a service man or pay extra to have him come in the evening," Connor said. "It makes business sense for that lady not to miss work. When we offer the service, her dollars go farther and she's not worried about it at work."

Employee Gina Lundy says it's the best employee benefit the company offers.

Without the service, "we would have just put the problems off," said Lundy, who had her faucets fixed and walls painted by Henderson. "With

Please see **Benefits**/next page



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A Holiday To Remember

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January 5, 1994
es by Marjean Torrence

each other and reminisced about old times and the present.

Just before leaving we gathered very closely around our classmate. As we stood together hand-in-hand, I led the group in a prayer that appropriately ended with the entire group repeating in unison the Lord's Prayer. It was a very good feeling. We all left feeling good about what we had done and hoped that our visit had been as significant for our classmate and her family. My classmate and I have agreed that this will be an ongoing visit as long as the family permits it.

On the 21st of December, I received a phone call informing me that Mrs. Bobbie Lee Potts of Cornelius had passed. A month earlier I had written to her son, Ronald (another classmate) who lives in Florida, to tell him about our plans to visit the classmate in Huntersville. As a matter of fact, I had to call Ronald's mother in order to get his address to write to him. When I called, I asked her if she remembered who I was and she replied, "You know I remember you Jackie."

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Mrs. Potts was funeralized on Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, at Tor-

rence Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in Cornelius. Various classmates attended the funeral. Orlando Carr Jr. and I sat together at the funeral. Ronald, Orlando, and I were good friends during our school years.

Ronald's oldest brother James, now a doctor in Syracuse, N. Y., stood bravely before the crowd of people in the church and spoke about his mother. He thanked people for their kindness, their acts of sympathy, and for coming out to be with their family during the eulogizing of their mother. During his speech, he recited the poem entitled, "Crossing the Bar." He ended his speech by saying, "Mother we love you and we're going to miss you but God loves you more." By now the crowd had become very still and very quiet like the night before Christmas.

Ronald, Orlando and I got together after the funeral and reflected on some of the things his mother believed in. One of the things she strongly believed in was cleanliness, especially when it came to underwear. Ronald said no matter what he used to get for Christmas he knew that those Fruits of the Loom would be included. Once before going to see a date, Orlando recalled stopping by Ron's house. Mrs. Potts asked if he had on clean underwear. If not, he could wear some of Ron's. Now that really cracked us up. But it was good to laugh after watching so many cry.

On the 25th of December, Christmas day, I received another call informing me that Nathaniel Kernes, a relative, and Virginia Mayhew, who was married to a relative of mine, had passed.

I attended the wake of Mrs. Mayhew on Dec. 28 also at Torrence Chapel. Her husband the late John "Ham" Mayhew preceded her in death by only a few years. While at the wake, I saw none other than the Potts family there consoling the Mayhew family just as others had done for them only four days ago. And I thought to myself, this is what Christmas is really all about. It's about people caring, sharing, and giving of themselves rather than all the materialistic things that are now associated with Christmas.

Remember the baby in the horse's stall?

On Dec. 29 I found myself at Gethsemane Baptist Church in Davidson for the funeral of



MAYHEW



KERNES



POTTS

Nathaniel Kernes, my first cousin. His mother and my mother are sisters. We lived next door to each other for a long period of time in my younger days.

Over the years I've watched my Aunt Van. (Nathaniel's mother) funeralize two sons, a husband, and now Nathaniel, a third son. As I watched the family march out of the sanctuary with background music playing lowly, I could feel the hurt and pain that had to be bottled up in my Aunt's fragile little body and I let it show. Through it all she maintained her composure and proceeded to the family car.

As I looked around the body of

people in attendance, I saw familiar faces. It seemed we had followed each other from funeral to wake to funeral. The gift of caring, sharing, and giving of oneself had been truly exercised. Please don't misunderstand me. I do enjoy giving and receiving gifts as Christmas. But every once in a while we all need a reality check to remind us what Christmas and life is really all about.

This year's Christmas was different for me but brought about a shrewd awakening that has inspired me to share my thoughts with you on a Holiday To Remember.

Happy New Year,
 Jackie Torrence



Little Joanie • Joan's Stencil • Joan's Stencil Stripe • Joan's Stencil Border



Pictured at their 25th Anniversary Celebration in July 1975: Seated (left to right) - Annie Hughey, Levera Wynn, Anna Barringer, Edna Douglas, Bessie Dye, Louise Stowe. First row standing (left to right) Flossie Hicks, Jennie Ross, Emma Sloan, Cora Fletcher, Mary Sherrill. Second row standing (left to right) - Alberta Harris, Ola Ross, Alberta Davis, Earlene Black and Lena Berry.

Huntersville Bible Club to hold reunion

The Huntersville Community Bible Club, an organization of dedicated, altruistic, interdenominational women, chartered 45 years in the vicinity of Torrence-Lytle High School, has an illustrious history of service to the community encompassing the small neighborhoods of Whispering Pines, New Haven Park, Gibson Park and Pottstown.

Former Scouts, 4-Hers, Busy Bees, Young Boys, Sunshine Banders and Little Sisters will reunite July 1-2, to be honored by the organization which helped nurture their dreams, talents and aspirations.

The two-day celebration will acknowledge area clergy and laity who have provided services and support for special programs and projects, former students who provided musical services, as well as existing members and their families.

The David B. Waymer Complex will be the site of Saturday's events from 5-8 p.m. A Worship and Honors program will be held at St. Phillip Baptist Church on Sunday at 4 p.m.

For more information call Anna Barringer, Program Committee Chair at 875-6529.

Native son ready to forge into leadership battle

By JACKIE HERSHKOWITZ
Special to the Observer

CHAPEL HILL — It all began in his fifth-grade class at Newell Elementary School.

That's where Charlotte native George Battle III was elected class president and began his career as a student leader.

Now a junior political science major at UNC-Chapel Hill, Battle, 21, will soon take office as student body president at the 23,000-member campus.

Like his father George Jr., a longtime member of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school board who until recently was chairperson, the younger Battle sees politics as a way to make a difference.

"Seeing my father on the school board all those years had a very big impact on me," said the 1991

On Campus UNC-Chapel Hill

graduate of West Charlotte High School. "It impressed upon me how important it is to be active in the community."

His father, an AME Zion bishop, is confident his son has what it takes to be an effective leader.

"I tried to instill in him over the years that hard work pays off," said the elder Battle. "I think he really has a knack for working hard and accomplishing what he sets out to do."

Battle doesn't take office as student body president until April, but he's already begun making waves in Chapel Hill. Last week, he

had a news conference to protest the board of trustees' decision to include only one student on the 22-member committee that will select a new chancellor.

He says he's not out to antagonize the administration, only to make sure students are heard.

"The administration inherently has the best interests of students at heart, but sometimes they're a bit out of touch," he said. "I'll do whatever it takes for student issues to be acknowledged and acted on."

Battle no doubt will have his hands full next year. His priorities include improving campus security, fighting for better benefits for graduate students and lending his support to the construction of a freestanding black cultural center.

Slayton Evans, a chemistry pro-

fessor who has known Battle for three years, is confident he will leave his mark on the university.

"I think George is going to do exceptionally well," Evans said. "He's very well-focused and understands what the critical issues are. He focuses on the substantial issues, not the trivial."

Phillip Charles-Pierre, Battle's chief of staff, hopes the new student body president will encourage more minorities and women to take leadership roles.

Student government traditionally has been run by white males.

After college, Battle wants to bring home his experience. "After law school, I'd like to go back to Charlotte," he said. "I'm not sure whether I'll run for office, but I'll definitely be active in the community."



JUSTIN WILLIAMS

George Battle III



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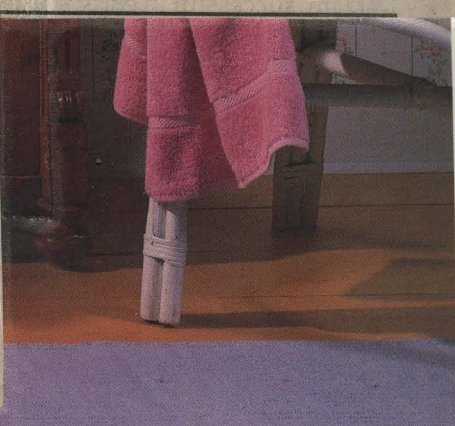
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10—THE MECKLENBURG GAZETTE—Wednesday, December 22, 1993



Beautiful furniture and a comfortable bed make sleeping over in the inn enjoyable.

Davidson Village Inn Hosts First Guests Over Weekend

By Dianne Hill

After a two-month delay, the Davidson Village Inn had its first guest this past weekend. The Depot Street inn serves continental breakfast from 7 to 9:30 a.m. and afternoon tea from 3 to 5 p.m. Guests will enjoy the "personalized service" that the innkeepers, Rebecca and Gordon Clark, try to establish. "We want it to be a special place for people to come," Gordon said. "We want you to be comfortable here." Room rates range in price from \$75 to \$94 per night for two people. The price includes the breakfast and afternoon tea. Each additional person is \$10 extra. The holiday rates are between \$50 and \$60. A two-night minimum stay is required on certain special weekends. The inn is three floors with an elevator and exterior and interior stairs access. It has 18 rooms, including two

handicapped ones. The rooms are one of three types. There are 12 standard rooms with a queen size bed and desk. The four queen suites have a sitting area, kitchenette with a microwave, sofa bed, and a queen size bed. The two twin standards are similar to the queen standards, but with twin beds. Besides tan and teal painted rooms, the inn has a lobby where guests can enjoy tea or breakfast. A conference room, photocopying, stenography, typing, message delivery, and fax machine are available for business persons who stay overnight. A private library is also available for those who enjoy reading. The inn is non-smoking except in designated smoking areas. The Clarks moved to Beaty Street from California. They have a 14-month old son. Rebecca, who is originally from Elizabethtown, graduated from Davidson College. She sold real estate and is involved with hotel

management. Gordon is from northern Virginia. They wanted to come back to the east coast. Rebecca said that the inn was booked for the NCAA Soccer Championship games on Dec. 4 and 5, but other arrangements had to be made since the inn wasn't ready. "We've had to turn people away, because we're not ready," she said. Reservations can be made a year in advance, but no earlier. Rebecca said that they have had calls about reservations for Davidson College's 1997 commencement exercises.



CHRISTOPHER A. RECORD/Staff
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JUSTIN WILLIAMS

e Battle III



Native son re...

By JACKIE HERSHKOWITZ
Special to the Observer

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Like his father George Jr., a longtime member of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school board who until recently was chairperson, the younger Battle sees politics as a way to make a difference.

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A benefit for Anthony (left) and Tina Potts is scheduled for Feb. 19 at Davidson's Ada Jenkins Center.

Benefit for Potts set

Members of Torrence Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church will sponsor a benefit for Tina and Anthony Potts on Saturday, Feb. 19, at the Ada Jenkins Center in Davidson. The benefit activities will start at 11 a.m. There will be chicken sandwiches, hot dogs, cold drinks, and coffee for sale. A bake sale will be a part of the day's activities.

A Gospel Sing will start at 3 p.m. and run to 6 p.m. and then other groups will sing from 7 p.m. until. Featured in the program will be: The Mighty Pilgrimages; Morning Start of Derita; Bells of Joy of Kannapolis; Soul Seekers and The Revelations of Cleveland, N.C.; Mr. Vernon Choir of Barber; Eternity of Statesville; The Anointed Ones and Steve Wilson and The Love Center Choir of Troutman; Scott Gordon Gospel Chpoir of South Carolina; South Tryon Gospel Choir of Charlotte; The Gethsemane Baptist Church Choir of Davidson; and The Strollers and The Spiritulaires of Torrence Chapel Church. Rev. Sonny Turner of Charlotte and Ms. Carolyn Blanton of East Spencer will emcee the programs.

Tina and Anthony were in a wreck on Nov. 22, 1992, as they were on their way to church.

As a result of the wreck Anthony had two cracked vertebrae, both lungs collapsed, nerves and

muscles under the right arm were injured and his windpipe was crushed. Anthony was operated on to replace the windpipe. The windpipe he has now was made from cartilage taken from his ribs. He is still receiving treatment for the windpipe and is taking therapy to restore the use of his right arm.

Tina suffered a crushed ankle that required an operation to put a pin and a plate in. The pin has been removed and the plate has moved in the ankle. Tina is now waiting for a date for a second operation to remove the plate and fuse the ankle.

Tina, her husband, Jerry Potts along with Anthony and another son Marconi live on New Born Drive in Huntersville. Anthony's maternal grandparents are Hazeline and Andrew Robinson of Huntersville, and his paternal grandparents are Nannie and Gerald Potts of Cornelius. Great grandparents are Hester and Ben Gabriel and Wilson Potts and the late Bobbie Potts, all of Cornelius.

Donations for this "Act of Kindness Benefit" may be made to Torrence Chapel Church, P. O. Box 460, Cornelius, N. C. 28031. For more information you may call Lacy Gaston at 892-1259 or Georgia Black at 892-3783.



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Little Joanie • Joan's Stencil





CHRISTOPHER A. RECORD/Staff

The Rev. Grant Harrison and wife JoAnne Harrison read the award won by their daughter Teresa (right) Sunday in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Reflections Awards.

Students give world gift of imagination

By JERI FISCHER-KRENTZ
Staff Writer

Ten-year-old Teresa Harrison was in her bedroom when the tune came to her.

"I ran to our dining room where we have a big piano and went from there," she remembers. "I compose music a lot."

Her song about helping people took first place in the fourth- to sixth-grade music category in this year's PTA Reflections Contest. A fifth-grader at Irwin Avenue Open Elementary School, Teresa will go with 29 other winners from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools to compete in a state contest March 15 in Raleigh.

On Sunday afternoon, hundreds of parents and children — so many, in fact, that organizers had to scramble to find extra chairs and programs — watched the local awards ceremony at the First Union Atrium uptown. More than 1,800 students had entered the contest; categories included music, literature, visual arts and photography.

This year's theme was "If I could give the world a gift. . . ."

Students in the lower grades tended to submit work that addressed world healing, said Robby Culbreath, a judge in the visual arts category.

But high school students turned inward. "They expressed a search for inner peace, expressions of negative feelings," Culbreath said.

Judges looked for originality and creativity. For Teresa, who sang about feeding the hungry and clothing the poor, seven years of voice and piano lessons paid off.

Thirteen-year-old Katie Lowther, a seventh-grader at Northwest Open Visual and Performing Arts Middle School, also won a first place in the music category for a song she composed as an extra project for school.

"No more crime. No more deaths. Please stop," the song began. "Free us from this life we're living."

Kevin Januszewski, a 14-year-old ninth-grader at Albemarle Road Middle School, won first place in the seventh- to ninth-grade visual arts category for his pencil sketch of lions and lion cubs.

"It represents family," he explained. Children needed only imagination and gumption to participate, said Linda Hinton Butler, president of the PTA/PTSA Council.

"What I really like about this contest is that it isn't something for just the straight-A student," she said. "This is for every child."

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ENTREPRENEUR

■ She didn't exactly wow the loan officer, so Mary Battle decided to learn more.

By GIGI GUYTON
Staff Writer

If you are looking for a loan for your business, Dalebrook Beauty Center owner Mary Battle says you'd better have a plan.

Battle says when business owners ask for loans, they need to give the lender a business plan and a reason they need the money.

"You have to have all of your financial statements in order," Battle said. "The bank will need to know how many people you're going to serve and how many other businesses are in that area."

Battle recalls one time when she approached a loan officer about making a loan for improvements to her salon. The loan officer asked her how business was going. She replied, "Oh, it's OK." Battle believes that her mediocre response was one reason she didn't get the loan.

"I found out that from the time you walk in the door, that's when



T. ORTEGA GAINES/Staff

Mary Battle styles a customer's hair in her salon.

your application begins," Battle said.

When Battle was asked to join the West Charlotte Business Incubator's loan committee, she jumped at the opportunity. She said she wanted to learn more about the loan process.

The incubator houses and provides services for fledgling businesses.

Battle says First Union trained the loan officers for the incubator and explained what to look for in a loan applicant.

"I found out that a lot of times we're (women and African-Americans) not familiar or don't know how to present loan packages, or how to go in and just really ask for a loan and have everything in order," she said.

Mary Battle

Company name: Dalebrook Beauty Center.

Address: 2500 Beatties Ford Rd., Charlotte.

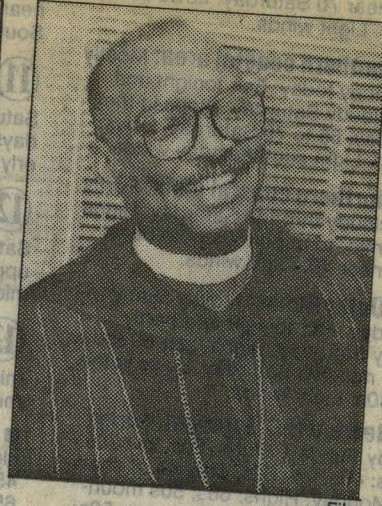
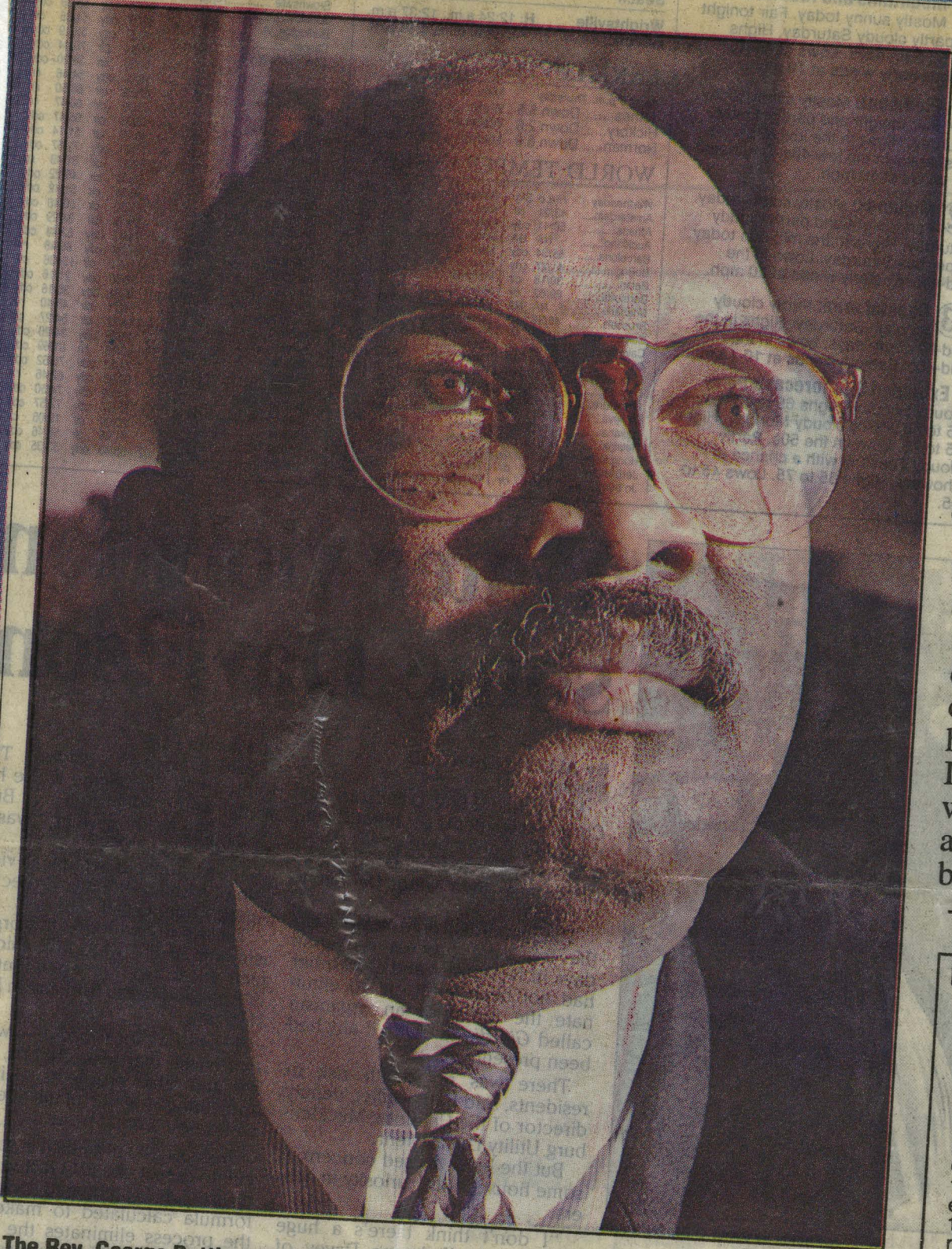
Resume: Battle has owned her own business for 27 years. Dalebrook Beauty Center, her fourth beauty salon, was established in 1975.

Size of company: Battle says she has 500 customers. "New York to Greenville, S.C." Her husband, Doug, and son, Wayne, are stylists. Her "best girlfriend," Sudie Davis is a manicurist and a teacher at Albemarle Road Elementary School.

How she got into the business: Battle says she always knew what she wanted to do. In 1959, she went to La-Roberts Beauty College in New York. Battle bought her first beauty salon in 1966 in New York for \$250. In Charlotte, she started with about \$2,000. She says she spent the money on decorating, equipment and advertising.

Obstacle: "When I owned my own beauty salon in 1966, it wasn't popular for a female to own her business. I was supposed to get a real job, but I knew I was making money, and I wanted to be my own boss." Battle says being a female business owner still doesn't seem popular. "If my son is in the shop, if someone comes in, they recognize him before me. . . . If my husband is in there, they recognize him before me. Sometimes I get so angry."

Advice: Keep good records, start small and use your instincts. "Take all the information you have and make it your own and what you want to do, not what Michael Jordan wants to do."



The Rev. George Battle serves as an AME Zion Church bishop.

"Anyone who can come from the tobacco fields of one of the poorest areas of the state, and to have come as far as I've come and work with so many people as I have, it's a humbling experience."

- The Rev. George Battle

George Battle

Position: School board chairman since 1990, board member since 1978.

Age: 46

Occupation: He was pastor of Greater Gethsemane AME Zion Church in Charlotte from 1974 until 1992, when he was elected a bishop for the 1.5 million-member denomination supervising South Carolina and Georgia.

Family: Wife, Iris, an administrator for the school system; son, George and daughter, LaChandra.

Background: A native of Edgecombe County, he grew up on a tobacco farm as one of eight children.

Education: Bachelor's degree from Livingstone College, master's from Hood Theological Seminary, doctor of ministry from Howard University.

Civic work: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Hospital Authority, First Union National Bank, N.C. Community College Board, University of North Carolina Board of Visitors.

The Rev. George Battle: "He has truly been a peacemaker and consensus-builder," school board member Arthur Griffin said. "That's been very good for the board."

Era of a peacemaker ends

■ "He led without losing concern for the children."

By NEIL MARA
Staff Writer

He steps down as Charlotte-Mecklenburg school board chairperson amid political bickering, but educators and colleagues view George Battle as a mediator.

They describe a leader more like a pastor, reminding them of their obligation to all children when conflicts flare among strong-willed board members.

"What George contributed was more than anything else a tone of caring for the people in the school system, more than for the system itself or the numbers or the process," said Joe Martin, a NationsBank senior vice president who served

on the school board with Battle in the late 1980s.

"He's led without losing concern for the children of this school system, and without concern for the color of their skin, the wealth of their parents or their street address," said board member John Lassiter.

The image of peacemaker fits

Please see **Battle**/page 4C

Louis Lowery, grandchildren

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-THE MECKLENBURG GAZETTE - Wednesday, February 23, 1994



Louis Lowery, who served in the European Theater for over a year, is shown here with four of his 17 grandchildren.

Black soldier recalls year in Europe

By Steve Eury
Although the majority of them served in non-combatant roles, the contributions of black servicemen in World War II have long been underappreciated. African-Americans served with distinction in all branches of the service, which at that time was still segregated.
One local man, Louis Lowery of Davidson, is a good example of the way many blacks spent their war years.
Lowery grew up in Huntersville, but in the early 1940s he had gone to the eastern part of the state to take a job as a bellhop in the Prince Charles Hotel in Fayetteville.
He was drafted in 1942 and, after training at Fort Bragg, was assigned to the artillery.
But he soon found himself in a chemical warfare unit, the 1317 Engineer Battalion, training with some of warfare's deadliest weapons.
"We trained with persistent gas, non-persistent gas, phosgene, mustard," he said.
Luckily, Lowery and his comrades were never required to use their gas-warfare training.
"But we carried it all the time in case they decided to use it," he said.
Lowery shipped out for Europe in May 1944 aboard the luxury liner Queen Mary, which had been converted to a troop ship for the duration of the war.
The 1317 Battalion arrived off the coast of France within just a few weeks of the Normandy invasion, and Lowery and his mates quickly found out that "non-combatant" was just a phrase.
They were assigned to build bridges across the many canals and rivers in northern France to aid the advance of the Allied

troops.
Things were moving so fast, Lowery said, that he and his unit were often very close to the front lines.
"We were pretty close to the front trying to get the heavy mechanized equipment through," he said. "They had to keep the trucks moving all the time. We couldn't even think about rest."
The engineers often took casualties from enemy artillery and snipers, but had to keep working.
"Shrapnel got a lot of the boys," Lowery said. "We lost some good men. That shrapnel could tear you up."
After over six months Lowery and his unit entered German territory for the first time, at the city of Aachen near the German border with Luxembourg.
Lowery entered soon after the city had been captured.
"There had been a nasty battle there," Lowery said. "They tore that city all to pieces. It smelled terrible, all the bodies up under the rubble."
Not long after he had entered Germany in April 1945, Lowery heard that President Franklin Roosevelt had died.
He said he and the other black troops took the news very hard.
"It made us feel pretty bad, we thought we had lost everything. He tried to take care (of blacks) you know," he said.
Lowery was stationed in Germany for several months after the war ended, serving in a variety of capacities, from guarding supply depots to escorting prisoners.
He has vivid memories of some of the victims of Nazi forced labor and concentration camps, including one for Russian women.
"They were rough. I remember

one night they got out. They were going house to house beating up Germans, it took a long time to get them all back," he said.
Despite that, Lowery has good memories of most of the Germans he came into contact with, many of whom were starving.
"We slipped them food, (especially) kids," Lowery said. "If the officers catch you you'd get 60 days hard labor and forfeit your pay. We'd give them chocolate for the babies, coffee for mama, cigarettes for papa. Stuff to keep them happy."
For awhile he was assigned to supervise work details of German prisoners of war, building roads.
"A lot of them were bad, but a lot of them didn't even know what they were fighting for," Lowery said. "But the SS troops, you couldn't put them with the other soldiers. They were too mean, they'd kill their own mother for Hitler."
In the summer of 1945 Lowery and the others received some bad news: they were going to be sent by boat to the Pacific to prepare for the impending invasion of Japan.
"They pulled us out of Germany back into France," Lowery said. "We were pretty mad about that (going to the Pacific). It was a long trip and we were tired."
"We were about a day and a night from Panama. And a false report came that Japan had surrendered, but we just kept going," Lowery said. "But the next time it was actually true."
"The (ship) hospital was full of guys that had busted their heads. (When the news came) they'd jump up and their feet would slip out from under them and they'd hit the deck."
After the war Lowery settled back in North Mecklenburg, and worked for Reeves Brothers for

Davidson seniors



was torn down, because he wanted to be a museum.
In his talk, Norton mentioned numerous boarding houses, such as the Copeland and Sloan boarding houses, where the students lived while attending school.
"That's the thing about older citizens - we talk about houses because we knew the people that lived in them," he said with a smile on his face.
Norton also mentioned that he studied violin at Davidson College almost 55 years ago.
He said that many of the black people worked at the college in the late 1940s and early 1950s as janitors.
Until 1879, the town's name was Davidson College, he said.
Personal Background
Norton talked about when his home burned in 1932. He grew up at the intersection of Lorimer Road and Thompson Street.
"My dad kicked the window out and had me in his arms," he said.
The family watched their house burn. They stayed with a white family across the street that night.
Norton said that the Depot was a happening place, especially for students who rode the train to Charlotte. Southern railroad also went north as far as Barber's Junction, he said.
"Everyone hung around the train station to see who was coming into town," he said.

vary Baptist Church in Charlotte where Patricia was speaking. Her subject was Dedication and Leadership. They were so excited and pleased with her speech, they invited her to share it during their program.
Patricia began her speech by sharing with the group a verse from Ecclesiastes 2:26, which reads "For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight, wisdom and joy."
She compared Biblical times with the present, how black leaders had made great contributions to the world. She said "From the earliest time, God meant us to be forerunners and leaders. We as young blacks should strive to do our best today, learn about our history."
Throughout her speech, she encouraged her young audience to strive to be successful leaders. She also reminded them to remember their roots, history, and the forbears' shoulders on which they stand.
Patricia is involved in many clubs and other activities at North Mecklenburg. She is not only the president of the student body, but has captured many honors and awards: Who's Who Among American Universities and Colleges, outstanding leadership awards for Minority Achievement and FHA

which he wouldn't specify

Sandra Black Crawford



The Rev. George Battle: "He led without losing concern for the children."

Era of a

■ "He led without losing concern for the children."

By NEIL MARA
Staff Writer

He steps down as Charlotte-Mecklenburg school board chairperson amid political bickering, but educators and colleagues view George Battle as a mediator.



GARY O'BRIEN/Staff

Norgiea Carrothers, 16, juggles a paint tray and newspapers as 101-year-old Annie Caldwell watches the half dozen youths painting her Charlotte home.

WORKING out PREJUDICE

Teens of varied races, religions join together to destroy barriers

By KEN GARFIELD
Staff Writer

Forty Mecklenburg teenagers discovered this week the best way to stamp out hatred — put charity in your heart and a paintbrush in your hand.

Actually it was a roller in the hands of 17-year-old Courtney McMullen, who spent the best part of a beautiful Thursday brightening the home of 101-year-old Annie Caldwell.

"We've got all different races and religions and cultures blending together, trying to accomplish one goal," said Courtney. "I want to be like Annie when I get that age."

The South Mecklenburg High School senior was part of a first-year program designed to foster unity. Mecklenburg Ministries took 40 teenagers from 21 schools and 19 congregations, gave them charitable jobs during the day and had them talk about prejudice over two nights at the Jewish Community Center.

Please see **Barriers**/page 3C

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Barber shares memories with Davidson seniors

By Dianne Hill

Retired barber Ken Norton shared his plethora of memories about growing up and living in Davidson to the Davidson Senior Club on Jan. 12.

"It's been a rewarding experience to grow up in a town with businesses, a school of learning, and people from all walks of life," he said.

Norton, who was born during the Depression, came to Davidson at an early age.

The first type of business he mentioned was two movie theaters. The first one was where the current Gulf station is on Main Street.

The second one was across the street from the Depot where a cafe and barber shop was for black people.

His father ran the barber shop near the Depot for 57 years before moving to the old barber shop location on Main Street where Norton worked for 51 years.

"My father cut hair on Friday, got sick on Saturday, rested on Sunday, and died on Monday," he said.

Norton decided not to work as long as his father did, so he can enjoy life a little more.

Other businesses he mentioned that were here in the early 1930s was a department store where Main Street Books is now and a Ford Dealership where Ben & Jerry's and City Cotton are now.

He said that Southern Cotton Seed Oil Company was located



Norton chats with a Senior Club member after his talk. (Photo by Dianne Hill)

where the Davidson Clinic is now. A Western Union office was where Village Travel is now and Hughes Johnson Grocery was where newspaper office is now.

Norton even mentioned a bowling alley located where the First Union Bank is now. He also said that Davidson had two furniture

stores in the 1940s.

Davidson College Norton said that Davidson College had nine or 10 buildings when he was a child. One of the buildings was Carolina Medical College that was on the current Davidson Village Green.

He was disappointed when it was torn down, because he wanted to be a museum.

In his talk, Norton mentioned numerous boarding houses, such as the Copeland and Sloan boarding houses, where the students lived while attending school.

"That's the thing about older citizens - we talk about houses because we knew the people that lived in them," he said with a smile on his face.

Norton also mentioned that he studied violin at Davidson College almost 55 years ago.

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Personal Background Norton talked about when his home burned in 1932. He grew up at the intersection of Lorimer Road and Thompson Street.

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"Everyone hung around the train station to see who was coming into town," he said.

Church & Social Notes

By Marjean Torrence

Miller, Huntley Wed

Robbie Chantelle Miller and Christopher Dale Huntley were married May 21 at Davidson Presbyterian Church.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller Sr. of Columbia, S. C. She is a graduate of Hanau American High School, Germany. She is employed at Eckerd Drugs in Cornelius.

The groom is the son of Harry Huntley, Sr. of Statesville. He is a graduate of North Mecklenburg High School and is employed with Concrete Forming in Mooresville.

The bride was given in marriage by her father. Officiating minister was the Rev. Larry Daniels.

Wedding musician and soloist was Jay Bates.

The bride wore a long gown of white bridal satin that featured a V-low cut neckline, basque waist and candy-box bows on the back of her gown, with long, tapered sleeves. The full-skirt also featured pearls, sequins and lace ending in a cathedral length train. Her headpiece was a floral wreath with pearl trimmed leaves, pearl sprays and roll-edge veil. The bridesmaids wore royal blue satin dresses.

Patricia plans to attend Kings College in Charlotte in the fall, where she will proceed to earn a degree in paralegal.

NRPC Youth Gathering

Matron of honor was Louise Miller, sister-in-law of the bride. Bridal attendants were Sheena Alexander, Brenda Alexander, Donna McDaniels, Ellen Heavner, Annette Huntley and Evon Archie.

Best man was Harry Huntley, Sr.; Groomsmen were Grey Huntley, Bobbie Archie, Teddy Donaldson, Rodney Jordon, and Robert Miller Jr.

A reception was held immediately following the ceremony in the gym at the Ada Jenkins Community Center in Davidson.

Buds of Promise Program

On May 8 the Buds of Promise along with the Sunday School Department at Reeves Temple A.M.E. Zion Church held a Mother's Day program immediately following the morning worship service.

The speaker for this special event was Patricia Johnson, the daughter of Julia Johnson of Davidson and a senior at North Mecklenburg High School.



JOHNSON

Patricia's mother, along with her aunt, Hattie Johnson, attended a program at Second Cal-

vary Baptist Church in Charlotte where Patricia was speaking. Her subject was Dedication and Leadership. They were so excited and pleased with her speech, they invited her to share it during their program.

Patricia began her speech by sharing with the group a verse from Ecclesiastes 2:26, which reads "For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight, wisdom and joy."

She compared Biblical times with the present, how black leaders had made great contributions to the world. She said "From the earliest time, God meant us to be forerunners and leaders. We as young blacks should strive to do our best today, learn about our history."

Throughout her speech, she encouraged her young audience to strive to be successful leaders. She also reminded them to remember their roots, history, and the forbears' shoulders on which they stand.

Patricia is involved in many clubs and other activities at North Mecklenburg. She is not only the president of the student body, but has captured many honors and awards: Who's Who Among American Universities and Colleges, outstanding leadership awards for Minority Achievement and FHA



Sharing: Chris Springs, 9, leans on his lunch buddy Pat Millen as the two share a laugh at Davidson Elementary School. One of Chris' classmates looks on.

TOM FRANKLIN/Staff

Kids, adults do lunch in school buddy program

By PAT BORDEN GUBBINS
Staff Writer

With students back in school, the "lunch buddy" program is up and running in north Mecklenburg. And it's hard to say who enjoys it more — the kids or the adults.

Pat Millen works out of his home in Davidson as a sports marketing consultant. Once a week, he goes to Davidson Elementary School to have lunch with a youngster named Chris. This fall, he begins his fourth year as 9-year-old Chris' lunch buddy.

"It does him a lot of good, and it's good for me, too," said Millen, 30. "It brings back all kinds of memories, being in the lunch room and seeing all the boys trying to impress the girls, and all the girls trying to ignore the boys."

The program is sponsored by the education committee of the North Mecklenburg Chamber of Commerce, which is recruiting volunteers to work in the five elementary schools in the north end of the county — Davidson, Cornelius, Huntersville, Long Creek and Hornets Nest.

Many of the current volunteers are veterans.

Willie Jones, human resource manager at Ace Hardware in Huntersville, is starting his third year as a lunch buddy at Huntersville Elementary School.

Jones, 49, commutes to his job from Rock Hill. He took on the volunteer job of lunch buddy for several reasons.

"I feel by doing it, I really help the kids out and help myself understand some of the things the kids are facing these days," he said.

"And it gives me an opportunity to donate something to the com-

"I feel by doing it, I really help the kids out and help myself understand some of the things the kids are facing these days. . . . I learned that even the slightest bit of interest you show toward a kid, it makes an impact — especially if it's something positive."

— Willie Jones, lunch buddy

munity in which I work."

The first two years, he met with the same student, seeing him through the fifth and sixth grades. This year, he'll get a new student.

"The young man I was working with was very shy," Jones said. "He never did open up with me. But on the days I may have been late, the teacher said, 'I'm glad you're here. He was really looking for you.'"

"I learned that even the slightest bit of interest you show toward a kid, it makes an impact — especially if it's something positive."

Jones found himself becoming a lunch buddy to more than the child he was assigned to meet.

"When I sat down at the table with him, I was really sitting down with four or five other kids. It's like I adopted a group of little lunch buddies, and all of them will be looking for you."

At Cornelius Elementary, Margo Fesperman finds herself combin-

ing the practical with the educational when she meets with her lunch buddy.

She usually arrives 10 or 15 minutes before his lunch time to listen to him read. This year, they may concentrate on math, which he enjoys.

"It's not really tutoring," she said. "It's more of a time for him to show off, to demonstrate how well he reads."

At the end of the year, she took him and two friends to get pizza, as a special treat, Fesperman said. In August, she sends him a card on his birthday as a way of keeping in touch.

"This is my third year with the same little boy," said Fesperman, who has just completed a degree in library science at UNC-Greensboro.

"We started (when he was) in kindergarten. He's now in the second grade. I make it a point to go every week. If something serious comes up, I put a call into the school. One time when I didn't, the next week he very pointedly asked, 'Why didn't you come last week?'"

Fesperman said she considers the program one of the best projects the schools and North Mecklenburg Chamber have done. "It is such a tiny commitment on our part to do so much for someone else," she said.

Want to help?

If you'd like to become a lunch-buddy volunteer at one of the five schools in the north part of the county, call the North Mecklenburg Chamber of Commerce at 892-1922 weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

three months hence will

COMMUNITY CENTERS

Churches go beyond religion

Friendship Missionary Baptist's expansion of ministry is part of trend

BY KEN GARFIELD
AND PETER ST. ONGE
Staff Writers

No longer content to erect sanctuaries and fellowship halls, some Charlotte-area congregations are buying and developing property to include homes, parks

and businesses, all in the name of serving people beyond the church.

A dramatic illustration came Monday when a west Charlotte mega-church shared its vision of "Friendship Village" - a mix of ministry and a \$100 million development plan that reflects a new kind of building boom in the faith community. Friendship Missionary Baptist

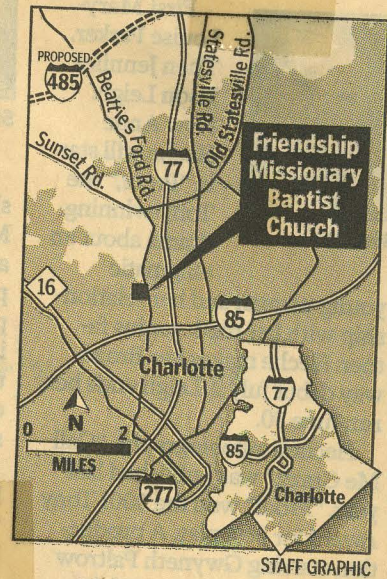


Jones

Church intends to transform 107 acres across from the church on Beatties Ford Road into a complex that includes housing for people with HIV/AIDS. The development also would include homes, stores and offices.

"The community consists of more than just a church," said the Rev. Clifford Jones Sr., pastor of the largely black congregation of 4,300. "A beloved community is more than a place where you worship."

In the Carolinas, Friendship
SEE MINISTRY | 9A



STAFF GRAPHIC

Churches go beyond religion

Ministry from LA

Missionary Baptist isn't the only congregation branching out:

- In Cabarrus County, First Assembly of Concord bought the Village shopping center outside downtown and turned part of it into worship space. The rest is used for ministry, including a crisis pregnancy center, and retail.
- Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church on Charlotte's West Sugar Creek Road near Interstate 85 is looking into opening medical facilities and senior day care to serve the community. Since 1984, the church has operated a 60-unit federally subsidized housing complex.
- Charlotte's A.M.E. Zion Church operates a 26,000-square-foot retreat and meeting complex near Sugar Creek and Nevin roads in the Derita neighborhood. Zion's Renaissance, which opened in 1998, is available for meetings, and the property includes a lake stocked with fish for area seniors who want to cast a line.

"A lot of times, people think churches are fairly selfish with their ministries, in the sense that they don't do things in the broader community," said David Miller, A.M.E. Zion's secretary treasurer and the force behind the Zion's Renaissance project. "That's what we want to do with this facility."

Nationally, the trend is taking shape as well.

In Houston, more than 40 churches have started nonprofit community development corporations. In northeast Houston, for example, churches and community groups bought a closed-down Kmart and converted it into a supermarket.

Friendship sets the pace

In Charlotte, few churches are as aggressive as Friendship.

Jones announced one of the first phases of Friendship Village on Monday to more than 100 church and civic leaders - 18 housing units for people with HIV/AIDS, to open by 2005 and include Hospice care.

In outlining the HIV/AIDS project, Jones said the church wants to be part of the solution, "not just part of the crowd that cries condemnation." But the \$3 million project - with money to come from church members, grants and donations from businesses and charities - is only part of the picture.

By 2015, said Jones, Friendship hopes to have developed lots for 55 middle-income homes, office and retail space, a day-care center, a park and athletic fields, housing for the elderly and accommodations for Alzheimer's patients. Church administrator Ed Holland said Friendship would consider partnering with a developer on the residential and

retail parts of the project. "If we did make money," he said, "we'd plow it into ministry."

Also planned: a 3,000-seat sanctuary to replace the existing sanctuary, which would be used by a private Christian school the church hopes to start.

Jones has a pet project: an ice cream parlor where neighbors could gather in the evening for sundaes and fellowship.

No objections heard so far

Jones and Holland said they have heard no objections to the HIV/AIDS project or larger development from church members or nearby residents.

Friendship plans to hold at least two public meetings in June to share details with neighbors. Holland said the congregation has already approved \$1.4 million to build the first roads into the property, now a large, grassy field near Interstate 85.

A former banker, Holland spent part of the morning putting dollar signs to Jones' lofty visions. Though the vision is years from reality, the prospect alone is enough to make Holland see beyond the bottom line.

"We really do see a community," he said. "A community of support."

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Vol. 133, No. 141

'How Can I Find God?' Ask Rev. Jones

Charlotte minister responds in book

By **TIM FUNK**
Staff Writer

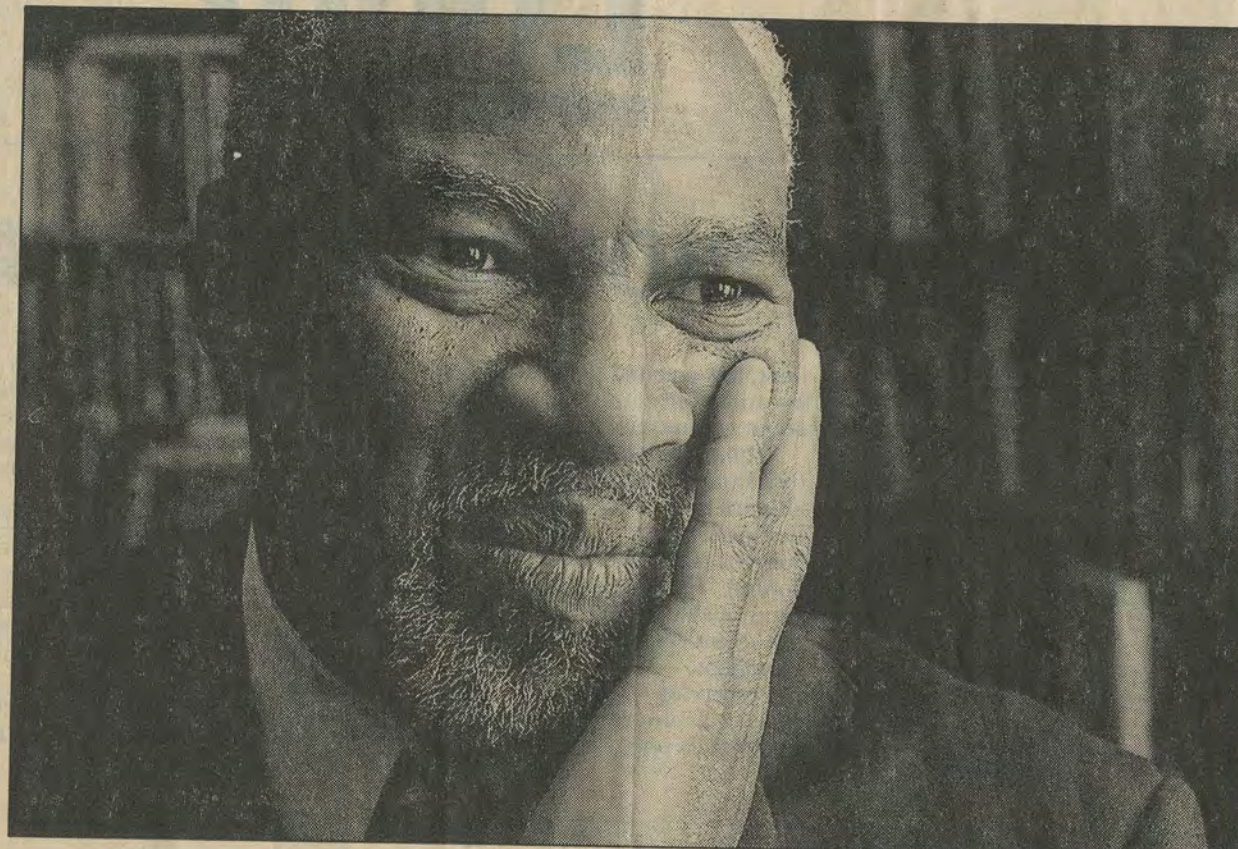
The Rev. Clifford Jones Sr. can be found in distinguished company these days. The senior minister at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church is featured in a new book along with Nobel Prize winner Elie Wiesel, the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin and best-selling suspense novelist Mary Higgins Clark.

The title of the book — and the question posed to Jones and the others — is "How Can I Find God?"

More people are looking for an answer to that quintessential question in bookstores, where spirituality is a hot topic. Three of the top 10 nonfiction books on The New York Times' best-seller list center on God ("Conversations with God: Book 1 and Book 2" by Neale Donald Walsch) or on his messengers ("Just As I Am" by Billy Graham).

"People have an honest desire for a closer personal relationship with a divine being," says Jones, 53, who has pastored his church for 15 years. "They want to see the reality of God in their daily pilgrimage. They want to know how to find him in the mundane as well as in the traumatic."

For "How Can I Find God?" (Triumph Books, \$13), editor James Martin — a Catholic jour-



The Rev. Clifford Jones Sr. of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church is featured in a new book, "How Can I Find God?"

JEFF SINER/Staff

nalist now studying for the priesthood — collected answers from more than 65 famous and not-so-famous people.

Among the famous: writers Frederick Buechner ("Now and

Then"), Ron Hansen ("Mariette in Ecstasy"), Kathleen Norris ("Cloister Walk") and Andre Dubus ("Dancing After Dark"); child psychiatrist Robert Coles; religion scholars Martin Marty and Huston

Smith; and Sister Helen Prejean, an anti-death penalty activist who was portrayed by actress Susan Sarandon in the Oscar-winning movie "Dead Man Walking."

Jones, who's president of the

"People have an honest desire for a closer personal relationship with a divine being."

THE REV. CLIFFORD JONES SR.
FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, says he was asked to submit a short essay for the book after he spoke about global consumerism at a March 1996 conference in Chicago. A Jesuit priest attending the meeting recommended him to the publishers.

"It was a real challenge to write within the space parameters they gave me," Jones jokes. "Being a preacher, I need a lot more space."

So, how can I find God?

■ **Jones:** "It is through our hollowness that we have the capacity to be filled (by God). The hollowness and filling is not a one-time experience, but a lifelong journey, along which will come opportunities for our experiencing something special, if only for a moment. . . . Open yourself continually and experience sweet fragrance, tenderness in touch, refreshment in humid fields of despair, a cool breeze on a hill."

A sample of the responses collected for 'How Can I Find God?'

Here is how some others addressed the title question in the book "How Can I Find God?" which included an essay from the Rev. Clifford Jones Sr. of Charlotte's Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.

■ **Holocaust survivor and writer Elie Wiesel:** "How do I find God? I ask. I do not know how, but I know where — in my fellow

■ **Sister Helen Prejean:** "I don't

think it's cleanliness anymore that's next to godliness. I think it's wholeness! To have a well-rounded life. To have a good intellectual life, where you're reading and thinking and discussing. To have a strong emotional life where you can give and receive intimacy with people. To develop friendships like a garden."

■ **Cardinal Joseph Bernardin:** "My quest takes me into the deepest recesses of my heart, where I have

learned to be still and listen to the Lord speaking to me in the events and people around me."

■ **Rabbi Michael Lerner,** editor of Tikkun magazine: "Find God by becoming a partner with God in healing, repairing and transforming the world. Don't look for God, but become Her ally and She will find you."

■ **Novelist Mary Higgins Clark:** "Let's peek into a crib where a

newborn infant is sleeping, exhausted from its journey of nine months. Pick up the baby. Feel its breath on your neck. Yearn over its helplessness and realize that with the swiftly passing years it may well become the staff of the parents who are nurturing it now. I think that you can find God in the miracle of the cycle of life."

■ **The Rev. Theodore Hesburgh,** former president of the University of Notre Dame: "It seems so sim-

ple. The world is full of people who are hungry and thirsty, sick and homeless, as well as naked in so many ways. They all need help, and in helping them, we are not only finding God but serving him as well."

■ **Writer Kathleen Norris:** "First of all, relax and be assured that God is also seeking you."

Tim Funk



L. MUELLER - STAFF PHOTO

Decades since he took her eighth-grade class at J.M. Alexander Junior High, Allan White greets the teacher who had a profound influence on his life, Gladys Abernathy. "She made history come alive," White says. "She made me want to be aware of what was going on around me."

READERS SHARE STORIES OF TEACHERS WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

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NORMAN NG - STAFF PHOTO

Bonnie Brown has spent five years with the Ada Jenkins Center and was chiefly responsible for getting it off the ground. "I'm going to miss a lot. We have a good team of people, and it's going to be hard to leave," she said.

Ada Jenkins director leaving

COVER STORY, PAGE 2M In the past five years, Bonnie Brown has dedicated herself to making the Ada Jenkins Center in Davidson a place where people can get help. Those who live in northern Mecklenburg and southern Iredell know she's done the job. Now she's headed to Washington, D.C.

Davidsonian making mark as coach at UNC

By Jim Brown

"When we get the football back, somebody in this group has got to make a play."

Wide receivers Marcus Wall and Octavus Barnes, along with quarterback Jason Stanicek, listened intently as Davidson native and quarterback coach Gerald Carr exhorted them towards the next fourth quarter drive that would put them ahead to stay before a UNC homecoming crowd at Kenan Stadium.

Carr, a 1977 North Mecklenburg graduate, has coached on the college level for the past 11 years, with stops at Davidson College, Akron, Washington State, and Arizona, before making his way back to his home state and the UNC campus in 1992.

Were each one of these moves merely steps along a successful coaching career or was he singing "in my mind I'm goin' to Carolina?"

"I always had a feeling," Gerald reflected after the homecoming struggle with Georgia Tech. "When I went to Arizona, (Coach) Dick Tomey asked me how I felt about being in Arizona. I told him that only two things would cause me to leave: a phone call from the NFL or the University of North Carolina."

Carr and his wife Vanessa (also a North Mecklenburg graduate) have two daughters, Ashonti (4) and Miteya (2). "While we were out west I lost my father and grandfather," Carr said. "This is a chance for them to get back with their grandparents."

But what has it been that has carried Gerald Carr from Pop Warner football to Kenan Stadium?

Carr was a student of the game, even in those early beginnings, playing quarterback for the North Mecklenburg Pop Warner team. "You've heard about that book, 'All I Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten?'" Carr asked. "Well, all I needed to learn, I learned in Pop Warner football!"

Ronnie Hager of Cornelius was young Carr's Pop Warner coach. "There were three things that set him apart. First, he had God-given physical talents. Second, he was very intelligent, a good student. He could see the overall scheme of the game, which was very unusual for a young man of 12 years. And third, his attitude. Gerald was a positive type of guy. It was a credit to his father and mother."

According to James Raeford, "He was an energetic person who worked hard, a brilliant kid from day one. And he always had the backing of his family."

"Energetic" would be an understatement as far as sister Elizabeth is concerned. "I never will forget: Gerald would always be the first one up on Saturday

morning, at 6:30. He would make two peanut butter sandwiches, sit down and eat them while watching the news, jump up and take a shower, then grab his football and throw it to himself out in the yard all day!"

Dave Fagg said recently, "Gerald is real special to me, like family." From Little League days to football camps down to the present, Fagg and Carr have stayed in touch. "I've tried to encourage him and be a mentor. Obviously, he has had a dream. God has blessed him with an ability to communicate with people."

Orlandus and Evelyn Carr raised nine children, Gerald being number seven. "He just likes people," Mrs. Carr said. Recently Gerald was home for "Town Day" and told his mom he was going to take her shopping. "We never did go shopping," Mrs. Carr says, laughing. "He talked to so many people!"

While a student in junior and senior high, Gerald served on many student councils. One of those with whom he served was Pam (Robbins) Feezor. "When I

think of Gerald Carr, I think of his smile," Mrs. Feezor said. "He was always so easy going. He just took things in stride and never got upset."

During the week before the Georgia Tech games, the Gazette had the opportunity to speak with head coach Mack Brown about Carr's talents. "Gerald brings great energy and a lot of class to our football program. He is intelligent and a role model as a person. He is an outstanding teacher of basic skills and has a vast knowledge of offense. I might also add that he is one of the young men among us destined to be a head coach in the future."

And how does Gerald feel about the prospect of heading up his own program?

"I have aspirations in that area. But I won't do it just to say I'm a head coach. I would be selective. It would have to be a successful situation."

Success is ground on which Gerald Carr has walked for a long time. It hasn't come easy. But, in the words of Dave Fagg, "Here is a young man that never said 'can't'."



Gerald and Vanessa Carr with daughters Ashonti and Miteya.

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Local poet called to publish work

By Robert Ramsay

Maggie F. Thrasher was making up her bed when God called her to write a book.

So, she did. Published recently by Vantage Press of New York, "Poems and Inspirational Writings" marks Thrasher's literary debut. It is a collection of poems and brief prose pieces that are "god-inspired," she says. "I never thought nothing about being a writer or a poet. God wrote it on my heart."

Thrasher has lived in Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties all her life, and continues to work for a living. As a child, she attended the Ada Jenkins School, "back when lunches were still twenty cents." In fifth grade, she met her future husband, a seventh grader at the time. They married when she was 18.

After gaining admission to the ninth grade, Thrasher quit school. However, in 1993 she received her GED after a semester at East Coast Bible College in Charlotte, where she continues to work to obtain an associates degree in



MAGGIE THRASHER

Bible studies. She says that God told her it was time to finish her education while she was, once again, making her bed. "There's something about making up my bed," she exclaims.

Her poetry is inspired in a similar way. During the composition of "Voices or Sounds in the Night," Thrasher says she literally saw

angels in the air. The song which became her poem "Peace" was playing relentlessly in her head, she recalls.

When these periods of inspiration hit, she either begins to write or speak into a recorder. Sometimes, she is overcome by energy and emotion. "I live by myself, so I can cry or holler or jump up and down, and I do sometimes."

She has used her poetry to minister in a number of ways. A classmate of hers who was struggling with her experiences in Desert Storm was "uplifted" after Thrasher read "The Valley of Despair" to her. And a friend asked if she could print "Encouragement" in her mother's obituary.

The most striking aspect of Thrasher's poetry, though, is her enthusiasm. As she reads her own handiwork, her eyes glaze over as if she is discovering something for the first time. The excitement she feels in being able to speak to others about her faith seems to leap off the page like sparks of religious

intensity.

"God is so mighty, nothing can compare to Him, and that's awesome," she says. "He loves me and chose me to do this work."

Now a widow, Thrasher is one of 10 children, the mother of six, and grandmother of four. The influence that her family has had on her is obvious in her poetry. She has included letters that her children have written her over the years among her own poems. She says that she put the letters from her daughters in the book in order to show that a mother and daughter can have a good relationship. "When a family relationship is torn up, everything is torn up," she adds.

In the future, Thrasher hopes to produce a children's book made up of stories based on memories of her family. She is also working on an autobiography and a collection of secular poetry. But she accepts none of the credit for herself. "I know it's by God's grace I am who I am and have what I have," she says.

6—THE MECKLENBURG GAZETTE—Wednesday, October 19, 1994



Carr gives fourth-quarter instructions to quarterbacks Mike Thomas and Stanicek.

The Rev. Dr. Max B. McIlwain, 67, of 2005 St. Luke St. died Jan. 21, 1989, at Mercy Hospital.



Mr. McIlwain

Funeral is 2 p.m. Tuesday at Mount Olive Baptist Church, Huntersville. Burial will be in Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens. Visitation is 7 to 8 p.m. Monday at the church. Long and Son Funeral Home is

in charge.

Mr. McIlwain, a native of Lancaster County, S.C., was pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church for 29 years. He was involved with the Mount Peace Association where he served as president of the Mount Peace Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Congress from 1981 to 1985. He attended the Teamer School of Religion and was a Johnson C. Smith University graduate.

Survivors are his wife, Lucille; son, Joseph McIlwain; daughters, Mrs. Joan Standifer, Mrs. Pearl Curton-Borders; brothers, Robert Allen of Raleigh, Clyburn McIlwain of Grier, S.C., Roosevelt McIlwain, Cornell McIlwain; sisters, Mrs. Mamie Seegars of Washington, Ms. Lillie Mae Dixon; stepsisters, Mrs. Lula Mae Foster, Ms. Maybelle McIlwain; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

The body will lie in state at the church Tuesday, noon until the service.



ODK representative Phoebe Dean (left) presents Lowery an honorary staff membership.

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Four O'Clock • Four O'Clock Border

[1900s]

There was no newborn nursery during this era. Instead, to "give their babies a good start" mothers usually waited two years before bringing them to church.



Robert Grier made what was initially an anonymous donation of \$50,000 to establish and

launching outpost congregational schools. Based on their previous endeavors such as this, First Church answered the call: South Union was erected a little less than three years after it

CAMP GRIER

The number of young people at church-sponsored activities after the war, and by 1910 the Presbytery could no longer find property suitable for youth centers. When Dr. McIntosh near Old Fort called "Lake R market. His pastor, Rev. Turner doctor's widow had no use for property. Turner also knew that Grier was looking for a suitable honor his father, the late Robert Grier, longtime minister of Concord Church. Turner worked quietly to meet the needs and people together for a favorable outcome for all.

Lake profiles

Newspaper delivery financed greater goal

Bolton Bangs believes in excellence

By Trevor Burton
Photo by Richard Rudisill

Sometimes a service runs so smoothly, you don't even know it's there. It's part of your life, but you're only aware of it if something goes awry. Like breathing, for example. Or like having your morning newspaper delivered by Bolton Bangs.

Bangs, who lives in Huntersville, has delivered the Charlotte Observer to subscribers along the

Brawley School Road peninsula in Mooresville for the past nine years. He recently decided to give up his daily 1 a.m. shift. As he put it, "I'm 81 1/2. It's time."

For Bangs, delivery was more than just tossing newspapers onto driveways. He applied professionalism, pride and expertise that he had honed during his career as a project manager in the energy industry.

His delivery goal was simple: Keep every one of his 350 customers completely satisfied. Gathering snippets of information over the years, he knew which of his custom-

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Charles Doniel Melody Natalie
Cairnan Emma 1993



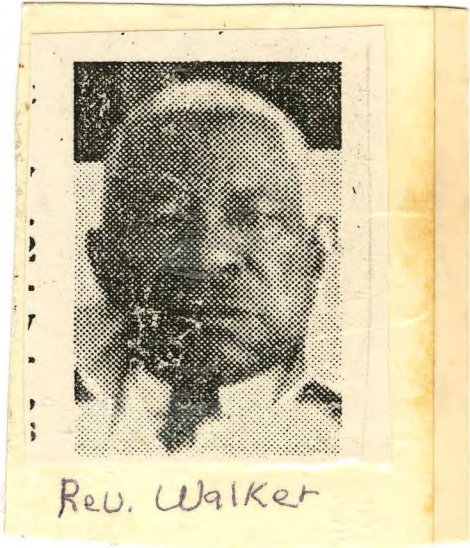
Jake Sam Emma



Natalie Alee Holly Emma
1994











Mrs. Zettie Potts

Potts Family Reunion held May 22nd

by Tony Howard
 On Sunday, May 22, the Potts Family held their annual family reunion at Huntersville United Presbyterian, of which Dr. A. R. Hendrick is pastor.

The event, which began promptly at 3:30 p.m., opened with a fellowship service in the church sanctuary. Mrs. Geneva Harvell presided throughout the program. After a series of songs by various members of the family, gifts and awards were presented.

Eddie Grey, Jr. and Latarsha Patterson were named the youngest family members while Rev. E. E. Little was honored for being the oldest living member.

Mrs. Zettie Potts, 81, of Huntersville was given a beautiful gold-plated cup for being the only mother of a five-generation fam-

ily. Remarks by visiting guests, Rev. G. Sidney Waddell, Rev. and Mrs. C. L. Griffa, and Mrs. Issac B. Thompson concluded the service. The family then gathered for a feast of homemade goodies and tasty dishes.

The history of the Potts Family reveals that there are over 300 people in the family at large and this reunion is held each year to bring together these members.

Mrs. Carrie Howard and Ms. Sandra Potts were chairpersons of the committee which organized the reunion.

Committee members included Clyde Potts, Margaret Jetton, Lillian Berry, Sadie Pryor, Clarence Potts, Rostna Works, Geneva Harvell, Vertia Bost, and Barbara Johnson.

Hazeline Potts and Cora Potts also assisted.



Hugo Visits

A large purple and teal hornet was observed buzzing around north Mecklenburg day care and after school facilities last Thursday March 15. Hugo, the official mascot of the Charlotte Hornets' NBA basketball team, made scheduled visits to the Davidson-Cornelius Day Care Center and the Lake Norman YMCA.

The friendly Hugo hugged the little ones at the day care and signed the backs of their shirts. Then, he flew over to the YMCA to dance a few numbers with the older children.

As is his reputation, Hugo was friendly and vivacious but didn't speak a word. (Photos by Gail Derwort)



Shown at the Gethsemane all-day picnic are Willie Brandon, Carlee Carr, Evelrine Brandon, Mrs. Mary Carr, Mrs. Catherine Smith, John Brandon, Thelma Carr, Aline Brandon, Barbara Mitchell, Candyce Kerns, Dorothy Kerns, Lola Mae McCain, Gussie Latta, Charlene Huntley, Wyatt Rivens, Earhell Latta, and sitting down is Mrs. Rosie Potts.

Organized in Metric Double Rolls



North Mecklenburg's Home Missionaries (above) held a picnic on Sunday at Lake Norman's Ramsey Creek Park for the elderly in this area. Organized in 1981, the Home Missionaries grew out of the housing program sponsored by the Agricultural Extension

Service. They are a service organization, designed for "Helping People to Help Themselves." Look for our story about some of their projects and individuals participating in the program next week. (Photo by Frances Hampton)





Jewel May 1995
trail sermon

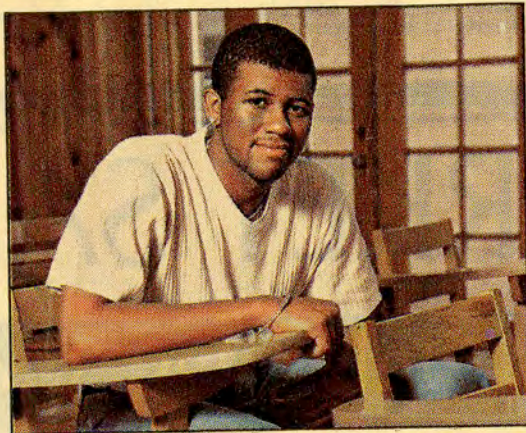


Dora 1995 May 9
tail sermon

BUCKING 'THE ALMIGHTY DOLLAR'

More college grads seeking deeper roles

K.J. Rivens, a student at Pfeiffer University, upon graduation will serve 2 years teaching underprivileged and disabled children in Texas, as part of the Teach For America program.



BRIAN GOMSAK - SPECIAL TO THE OBSERVER

*As job market tightens,
service takes precedence*

BY DIANE SUCHETKA
Staff Writer

K.J. Rivens will walk across the stage at Pfeiffer University one week from today wearing his cap and gown and a smile that goes all the way to his soul.

It's not the freedom from stress he's grateful for. He'll have plenty where he's going.

And it's not the money he'll make. It won't be much.

What makes Rivens smile is this: He's going off to follow his heart.

He and thousands of college graduates across the country will head to impoverished communities this year to work with schoolchildren in a program called Teach For America.

"It's about what makes you happy," says Rivens, a 21-year-old music major from Davidson. "It's about what you can do for oth-

SEE JOBS | 8A

Black History Month

Players for the 1965 Torrence-Lytle High School basketball team in Huntersville posed for this yearbook shot. The school was named after Frank Lytle, a prominent African American.

15N | Black History Month events



COURTESY OF TORRENCE-LYTTLE HIGH SCHOOL

Gaston Hopes to Raise Funds for D.C. Trip

by Kerry Carden

Stacy Gaston, a Davidson resident and North Mecklenburg High School senior, will be traveling to Washington, D.C. for the National Young Leaders Conference Graduate Program.

That is, if she can raise \$565, the cost of the trip, by June 3.

Ms. Gaston, the 18-year-old daughter of Willie and Lacy Gaston, was chosen by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council to attend the July 26-31 program. The council, a non-profit, non-political group made up of over 256 members of the U.S. Senate and

House of Representatives, nominates students nationwide as Congressional Scholars after collecting academic information and conducting pre-college classroom surveys.

During the trip students will attend seminars on U.S. foreign policy, the judicial system and the legislative process. They also will visit foreign embassies and historic sites in the nation's capital.

Ms. Gaston, who was surprised to find she was being considered for the program, is looking forward to the experience. Though she plans to enter the U.S. Air Force and

major in psychology at an undetermined college. The journey to Washington, D.C. just might pique her interest in politics.

"It (the experience) might make me decide to represent North Carolina, if I like the way they do things," she said.

Currently Ms. Gaston is an honorary member of the student council.

Her parents will pay for her airline ticket. Ms. Gaston has reached about half her goal, thanks to a tea held by her mother and Cornelius Commissioner Nannie Potts. Other donations are coming from Knox Realty in Davidson and Torrence Chapel AME Zion Church.

If you would like to help call Mrs. Gaston at 892-1259.

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Changed college says warm goodbye



DAVID T. FOSTER III - STAFF PHOTO

Lula Bell Houston (facing) gets a hug from Laura Jackson during her retirement party in front of the Davidson College laundry facility Thursday afternoon. Houston is retiring after working 56 years in the Davidson College laundry.

BY STAFF WRITER PETER ST. ONGE

DAVIDSON — Lula Bell Houston was 25 when she took a job running bedsheets under a flatiron at the Davidson College laundry. The job paid \$12 a week — a tolerable wage in 1948 for a black woman in the South.

Houston's husband had left her with two young children the year before, so just as her mother had, she became her family's provider, up before dawn to make the kids' breakfast, then drive to work and clean the linens and clothes of other people's children.

She is 80 years old now, and she has decided finally to retire next month from the same brick building near the heart of campus. And so on Thursday, her co-workers and her family and more than 100 others gathered outside to celebrate not only the hard work of a sweet woman, but the progress that comes with the passage of time.

Miss Houston, as the students call her, was dressed up fine for the occasion in a green

Our Lives

LULA BELL
HOUSTON

ABOUT THE STORY |

Davidson College threw a party Thursday for Lula Bell Houston, who has watched her world change in her 56 years at the school's laundry facility.

Vastly changed Davidson salutes a retiring worker

Laundry from 1A

floral pantsuit. Otherwise, it was a day like most any, with Houston rising at 4:15 a.m. to get to work by 6:30, just as she has for 56 years.

Back then, she brought her two children with her, and they played amid the washers and dryers with her co-workers' children, blacks and whites, their parents too busy or too alike to worry themselves with race. But Houston knew she was a black woman doing the laundry of elite white college boys, and she was not indifferent to the world around her.

She took note when Davidson College integrated in the 1960s - first with Africans, who were seen by trustees as more palatable, and then with American-born blacks. "I was proud to see them," Houston said, and even now she remembers one of the first, Calvin Murphy, who she thought was a smart young man, one that belonged. Murphy is now an attorney in Charlotte.

Davidson admitted women the next decade, and near that time, Houston's daughter, Peggy, became one of the first blacks to work at Davidson's Piedmont Bank. Houston stayed at the comfort of the laundry, more a witness to change than a participant. She remarried and raised two more children. It would take her 50 years, she says, to earn the same in an hour as she did in a week in 1948.

In the late 1970s, however, she was promoted to the check-in desk, where she greeted students, took their dirty clothes and sorted them. "Used to be no black person worked that job," she said. "I was the first."

There, with a soft smile and a reservoir of care, she became a part of the weave that can make a school home. Students stopped by, without laundry, just to say hello. One young man from Nicaragua wrote her after he graduated to say her warmth had helped him through a lonely time.

"I try to be nice to everybody," Houston explained, simply. "If they don't treat me nice, that's OK. I'll still treat them nice."

Said her boss, Aaron Jackson: "She's the only one here who actually gets hugs."

So it was Thursday as Houston walked out of the laundry building to applause, then worked the tables for laughter and embraces.

She spotted a box of tissues and took several handfuls, just in case. She squealed when she saw Joey Harris, president of the class of 2002, who drove down from Washington, D.C.

Houston remembered another student, a young woman several years ago who told her that the laundry should be named after her. Unlikely, Houston thought then, for a black woman. But on this day, such notions seemed finally irrelevant.

She sat as Jackson welcomed the crowd, then walked slowly to the microphone at the behest of

college President Bobby Vagt. The two held hands.

"We all know," Vagt said, "that there is not a single thing we can do or say that will say to you how much we feel."

Then he tried, anyway, motioning Jackson to take the cover off a new sign in front of the building.

"The Lula Bell Houston Laundry," it said. The crowd gasped and applauded. Lula Bell Houston put her hand to her mouth, a tissue to her eyes. "I love you all," she said, and they loved her back, just a good woman, fully appreciated.



Davidson College Laundry manager Aaron Jackson (left), and co-workers Ruth Barnette (second left) and Carol Belk (right) lead Lula Bell Houston (center) closer to the college's farewell su

DAVID T. FOSTER

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L. MUELLER/Staff

Teacher Terry Little, shown here helping 2-year-old Greyson Hitchner tie his shoe, earned a perfect score for the way she relates to children, but Davidson-Cornelius Day Care still fell short of its goal in the new star licensing.

Making sense of the stars

Parents as well as day-cares need to know what new ratings mean

By ANN DOSS HELMS
Staff Writer

Parents checking out Davidson-Cornelius Day Care fall into two groups, the director says.

Some call to ask about the center's star license. When they hear it doesn't have five stars, that's the end of the conversation.

Others visit, talk to staff and don't ask about the stars, says director Mary Fox.

Neither group has it quite right, according to child-care experts.

Parents who think the one- to five-star licenses tell them all they need to know are expecting too much of the new system. Those who ignore the ratings are missing information that could guide wise choices.

North Carolina is engaged in an ambitious quest to turn a gut-wrenching guess - *Are these the right people to care for my child?* - into a science. The reams of pa-

perwork that result, defining everything from adequate hand washing to dress-up clothes, can be mind-boggling.

But the new system puts valuable information into the hands of families who make the effort to understand it, experts say.

State files, which are open to the public, have long provided details about centers' problems. Now they also include reports about how centers excel and where they have room to improve.

Ideally, experts say, directors would review licensing reports with prospective families. What Fox has to say about her center's experience provides a look at what families can learn - and at the new system's strengths and flaws.

Please see STARS / page 2E

LOOK FOR DAY-CARE PROBLEMS

The Observer's annual list of area day cares that have been disciplined by the state will run Wednesday in Mecklenburg Neighbors, the Union Observer, Iredell and Catawba Valley Neighbors and the Gaston section, and Thursday in Cabarrus Neighbors.

The full list for all N.C. counties is available online today at www.charlotte.com/1127daycarelist.htm.

Day-care ratings tell part of story

STARS from 1E

Middle-class backlash?

In its 32 years, Davidson-Cornelius Day Care has kept up with an ever-changing stream of day care regulations.

Fox, who has headed the non-profit center for 16 years, agreed with critics who said the old "A" and "AA" licenses did little to help parents understand quality. She liked the idea of recognizing centers that go beyond the state's minimum requirements.

This summer, she applied for a four-star license. The way Fox sees it, five-star child care is like a five-star hotel - nice, but out of most people's price range. The college-educated staff and small classes required for the top rating cost more than most parents can pay, she says.

Officials at Charlotte's Child Care Resources agree. Centers with upper-income clientele can charge higher rates. Those that serve the poor get higher state subsidies for higher star ratings, and may also get grants and donations to help disadvantaged kids.

Those in the middle must do the best they can with limited resources. The result, says Child Care Resources President Janet Singerman, may be "middle-class backlash" - resentment if middle-income families find four- and five-star centers out of their reach.

Easy points, harder hurdles

To earn four stars, Davidson-Cornelius had to earn at least 11 out of 15 points, with five points available in each of three categories: compliance, staff education and program quality.

The compliance category brings the easiest five points. Officials tally everything from sanitation inspections to first-aid training to violations of child-care rules during the past three years. An 80 percent compliance record brings five points; more than nine out of 10 centers that have applied so far meet that standard.

The bottom line for parents: If a center has fewer than five points in the compliance category, ask why. A record under 80 percent may signal serious or ongoing problems.

That wasn't an issue at Davidson-Cornelius, which tallied a near-spotless 99 percent.

Staff education was a different matter. Fox thought the center could earn three points. But Fox earned some college credits more than 10 years ago, which meant they didn't count.

That dropped the score to two points - a rating she thinks undervalues the decades of experience she and her staff bring. Four of eight staffers have worked at Da-



Inspectors time how long children wash their hands as part of the new evaluations done for star licenses; officials say many centers come up short. Nachela Knox and Nicholas Calabria scrub up before lunch at Davidson-Cornelius Day Care.

L. MUELLER/Staff

vidson-Cornelius more than 15 years. All have the required child-care credentials, but some say they'll quit before they'll go back to college, Fox says.

Long-time caregivers are caught in a transition, experts say. Until recently, willing hands and a warm heart were seen as more important than college classes. As studies have linked quality care to formal education, regulators have demanded more training. The star system requires staff to have additional college credits, beyond what the law requires, to earn top points.

In a booming economy, many caregivers can find better-paying jobs that don't require as much education. That worries directors and child-care experts, who say it's bad for children when the people who care for them keep changing. "We're doing children an injustice when we cause them to lose teachers," Fox says.

Under the microscope

June 13 was a tense day at Davidson-Cornelius. That's when evaluator Carise Karshner came to check out the program.

To earn three points or more in program quality, centers must sign up for an "environmental rating." Evaluators come armed with a 59-page rating guide, prepared to render judgment on 43 measures of quality, from books to discipline to toileting.

Under the old system, licensing inspections were done by state consultants, who talk with staff and suggest improvements. Those consultants continue to visit centers, but the assessors who do the environmental ratings use a different approach. They watch quietly, making notes and assigning ratings from one (inadequate) to seven (excellent). Then they leave, forbidden to talk to staff about how the center stacked up.

The center's size determines how many classrooms are visited.

Davidson-Cornelius has only three classes, so Karshner asked Fox to write three numbers on pieces of paper and pick one at random. She drew the 2-year-old class, where the lead teacher had just returned from five weeks' medical leave the day before.

Karshner spent four hours watching the class, then left.

When her report came back three weeks later, the center's average rating was 4.39, just shy of the 4.5 score needed to earn four points and a four-star license. Like 59 percent of centers that have earned more than one star, Davidson-Cornelius ended up with three.

The first page listed 14 categories in which Davidson-Cornelius was rated good to excellent, including a perfect score in staff-child interactions, which experts say is one key measure of good care. A seven-point rating meant Karshner had seen the teachers showing the children warmth, respect and sympathy, and the teachers seemed to enjoy being with the children.

The pages that followed listed ratings of average or below, with a description of why. Some were areas of genuine concern, Fox says, though she attributes the problems to readjustment after the teacher's absence. The teachers got low ratings for failing to remove gloves after diaper changes and letting children's runny noses go unwiped, which could spread germs. They were marked down in discipline and supervision because a 2-year-old spent too much time in a time-out chair.

But other comments struck Fox as nitpicking. The classroom door was 3 inches too narrow for a wheelchair, but no children use wheelchairs. Hot dogs and brownies weren't counted toward well-balanced meals, even though they're approved by the USDA school food program (the state has since agreed to allow them).

Perhaps most frustrating, the center was rated average instead of good in seven categories, from dramatic play to art to books, because Karshner calculated that children only had access to those areas for three hours and 15 minutes a day, instead of the four hours required for a better score. Most of those areas are available more than four hours, but the wording of the weekly schedule led Karshner to underestimate the time, Fox says.

The center can reapply for a higher rating, but it must pay for another assessment. Fox hasn't decided when or if she'll do that.

"The process has been complicated at best, and at times hair-pulling," she says.

Parents should also visit

So what's a parent to make of such a complex system?

Use it as a starting point, experts say. Who wouldn't want to know what a trained observer saw while spending time at the center? But be aware that evaluators capture a snapshot of one day's care, and a lot can change in the three years between license renewals.

Use reports and records to guide you in what to look for, but don't let them substitute for visiting and talking with staff.

Don't overreact to seeing criticisms on the rating-scale report. Even Bank of America Child Care Center, which earned five stars with a perfect 15-point total, got more than 10 pages of write-ups on items that had room for improvement (the center is large enough that the assessor visited five classes).

Use your brain, but listen to your heart as well.

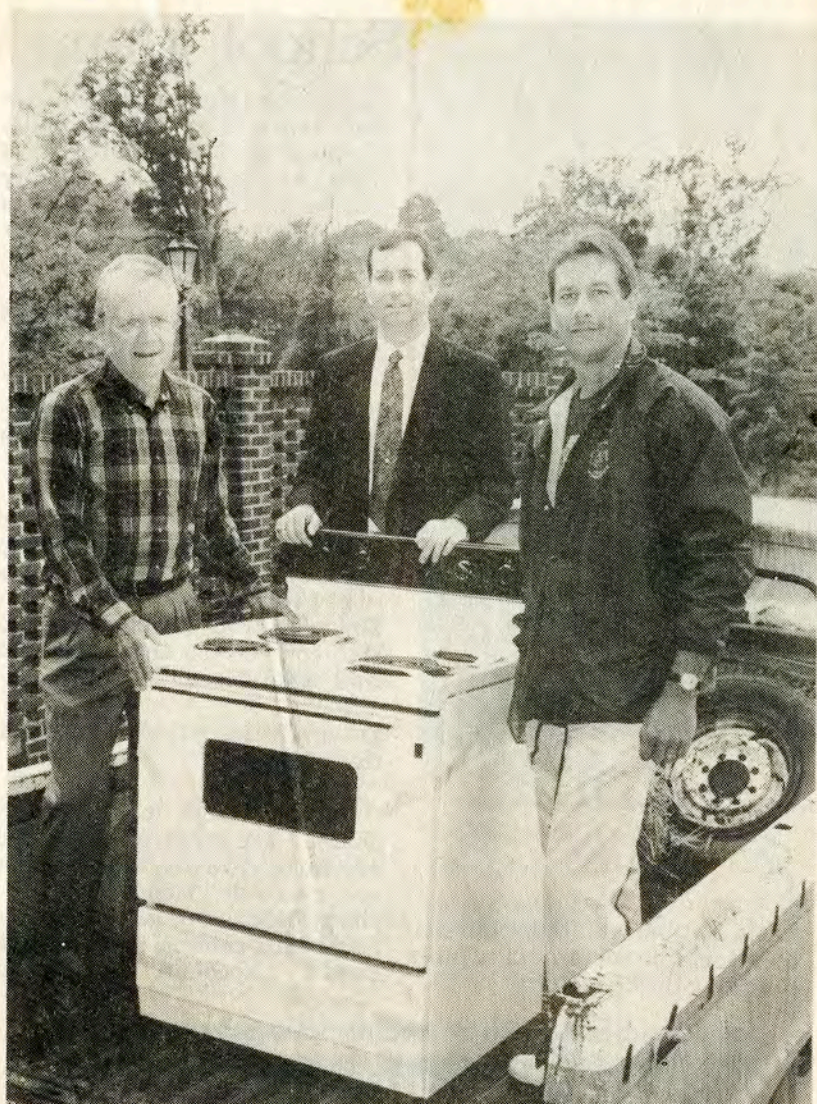
"I don't discount gut feelings," says Anna Carter, the N.C. Division of Child Development official who reviews all the licensing reports. "I know they've worked for me."



Welcome Home!

Residents of the Health Care Center at The Pines welcomed home Mark Latta who has returned from Saudi Arabia. Mark is the son of Mrs. Gussie Latta, an employee of the Pines.

The residents sent Mark a package containing many food items during his stay in the Middle East and have anxiously awaited his return. He was honored with a large cake decorated with yellow ribbons and yellow roses. The Health Care Dining Room was decorated with yellow balloons and American Flags.



Duke Power Donates Stove for Davidson Habitat Home

Duke Power Company's Davidson office donated a new stove last week to help furnish Habitat for Humanity's fifth home on Potts Street. Shown loading it into a truck for the short ride between the Duke Power headquarters and the Habitat site are (l-r) Ed White, Habitat board member; J. Early McClary, Duke Power branch manager; and Jeff

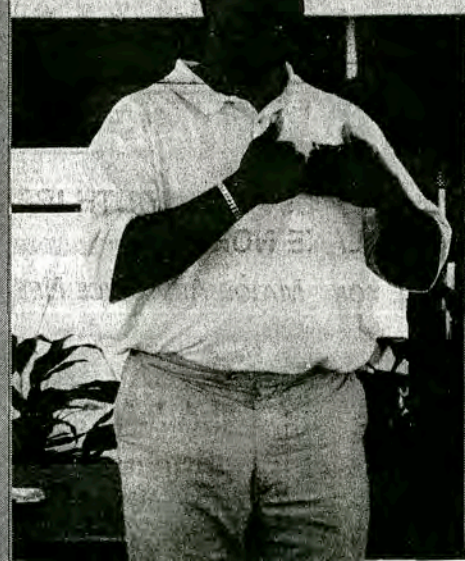
two children should be occupying this week. With that project all but finished, Habitat began last week digging foundations for another new home next to the O'Brien home.

Habitat reminds interested people of its Town Day Walk, which begins on Saturday, May 4, at 9 a.m. on the Village Green.



Spreading the Word

**BETHESDA
A.M.E. Zion Church
"Crusade '98"**



Salvation and tightening bonds with God were unmistakable points during the week-long "Crusade '98" presented by Bethesda ZME Zion Church on Shearers Road near Davidson.

Led by the Rev. Anthony Cannon (above and left) of Bethesda, the sessions drew hundreds to a sprawling white tent in a clearing on Highway 101 Street. The revival featured television sitcom actor-turned-evangelist Demond Wilson, a friend of Cannon.



Two stalwarts to be honored

*Davidson will salute
Houston and Mayhew
at Wednesday ceremony*

BY BERNIE PETIT

bpetit@charlotteobserver.com

To survive as a community, Davidson Mayor Randall Kincaid believes a town should have something that brings residents together to celebrate.

Davidson now has that, thanks to the new G. Jackson Burney Community Service Award. Residents, town officials and others will meet on the steps of town hall Wednesday morning to celebrate the life of Jack Burney, who died last year, and the lives of award-winners Bernice Houston and William Mayhew.

Houston was born in Cornelius and grew up in Davidson during the segregation era.

She attended the Davidson Negro School (now the Ada Jenkins Center), has served on numerous town boards, serves on the Ada Jenkins board and is active in Davidson Presbyterian Church.

Houston said she was sur-



Houston



Mayhew

prised by the honor and that she doesn't volunteer for the recognition.

"I enjoy doing, and I enjoy helping," Houston said. "I love my church, and I enjoy being a part of the community."

Mayhew moved to Davidson 79 years ago and has served as the town's postmaster and was a Town Board member. He also raised money for Davidson youth baseball and was partly responsible for the two baseball fields built on South Street across from Davidson Elementary.

Mayhew said contributing to the town is a civic responsibility.

"What are you going to do, just move into a place, sit back and say the town owes me all these benefits?" Mayhew said. "You have to pay your dues if you're going to live somewhere."

Burney, the man the award was named in honor of, started

Want to Go?

Bernice Houston and William Mayhew will receive Davidson's first-ever G. Jackson Burney Community Service Award at 9 a.m.

Wednesday on the steps of town hall, 216 S. Main St.

The recipients have chosen the Lions Club and Davidson Presbyterian Church to receive monetary contributions on their behalf. A light breakfast will be served after the presentation, and the event is free. Details: Contact Charlotte Redmond at (704) 892-7591.

the town newsletter and chaired the town's planning board in the 1990s.

"I had thought for a long time that we needed to have an award named after a Davidson resident that recognized his or her major contributions," Kincaid said. "When (Burney) died, I felt we had the right person and so did everybody else ... He was a great servant to this town."



Esther Mae Stinson Johnson

Mrs. Johnson, 95, of Huntersville, departed this life on November 12, 2005 at Britthaven of Charlotte. Mrs. Johnson was born on May 23, 1910 in Mecklenburg County, NC to the late Elmore and Beulah Mae Connor Stinson.

Mrs. Johnson was a retired school teacher and librarian. She taught for 29 years at Huntersville High School, known as Torrence-Lytle High School, in Huntersville, NC. Later, she became the school librarian at Huntersville Elementary School. In 1970 she was selected to spend three weeks in French West Africa with the United Presbyterian Church U.S.A., the purpose was to provide an opportunity for teachers and educators to share ideas regarding basic goals of education. In 1986 she received the WBTV Jefferson Award for Community and Racial Relations.

She was married to the late Walter Johnson for sixty-five years.

She was a member of Davidson Presbyterian Church, USA. where she served as an Elder, Chairperson of the Presbyterian Church Women Organization, Sunday School Teacher, and Chairman of the Finance Committee and Presbytery Commissioner.

Mrs. Johnson is survived by one sister, Mrs. Sylvia S. Tucker of the home; three brothers, Mr. James S. Stinson of Huntersville, NC and Mr. William H. Stinson and Hazel L. Stinson, both of Flint, MI.

Services for Mrs. Johnson will be held on Saturday, November 19, 2005 at 2:00 PM at Davidson Presbyterian Church, USA in Davidson, NC, with Rev. Darrell Van Pelt, pastor, officiating. Family visitation will be held on Friday, November 18, 2005 from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM at Torrence Chapel AME Zion Church. Rev. S. Franklin Russell, pastor. The family will receive friends on Saturday thirty minutes prior to the funeral hour. Body will lie in state one hour. Burial will be in Christian Aid Society Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please make your contribution to Torrence-Lytle Alumni, 2041 B Ave., Charlotte, NC 28216; to Davidson-Cornelius Day Care Center, PO Box 848, Davidson, NC 28036; or to Davidson Presbyterian Church, USA, PO Box 535, Davidson, NC 28036.

Bryant Lytle Young Funeral Home-Mooresville serving the Stinson-Johnson family. ☞



A historic photo (above) shows the arbor built in 1941 filled with pews. The congregation would like to use it for gatherings again.



Coming full circle

Cornelius church looks back, looks forward

By Carol-Faye Ashcraft
Photos by Richard Rudisill

As it approaches its 135th anniversary this year, Torrence Chapel AME Zion Church in Cornelius is going back to embrace its roots, even as it moves forward to accommodate its growing membership.

The church was formed sometime before 1869. The first meeting place was a brush arbor in an area across what is now Torrence Chapel Road from where today's building sits. The current pastor, the Rev. S. Franklin Russell II, says the original shelter probably would have been built using pine or cedar for the side poles and brush or straw on the roof. The floor would have been grass or straw.



Brush arbors were common for fledgling black churches in the South. "Slaves were not allowed to have worship services," Russell says. When they finally could have services, they couldn't have buildings, he says, so they built what they could, including brush arbors.

The original arbor was built in what was then a small black community. In 1869, the church moved into a frame structure where the current sanctuary now stands. The land was given to the church by white friends, the Glaspies. A few years later, owners of the land on which the brush arbor sat told trustees the arbor would have to be moved. (That land now holds a neighborhood.) The new arbor, a permanent open-air pavilion, was built on the church grounds in 1941. Old photos show it with wooden pews. A historic cemetery bearing familiar area names, such as Torrence, Cornelius, Burton and Knox, separates the sanctuary and the arbor.

For years, church members and friends gathered on the first Sunday in August to begin a week of camp meetings at the new arbor. It was a time of fellowship and worship long into the night. Vertie Torrence of Cornelius, a church trustee and class leader, says she can remember attending camp meetings as a child and young person. "We just always looked forward to it," she says. She and other young people would get together in the afternoon in the years around 1950 and walk the mile or so to the church. "It was a good outing," she says.

The arbor also was used for reunions and Easter sunrise services.

Outdoor fellowship

Now church trustees want to restore the arbor to use as a place

for fellowship, including cookouts and reunions. "We do a great deal of cooking and eating," Russell says with a chuckle.

He adds that many of the members, who come primarily from Cornelius, Davidson, Mooresville and Charlotte, are related either directly or through marriage. "Our church is very blessed," he says. "There must be 12 or 15 or more family reunions that take place within our church" each year.

The arbor, with its wooden posts, permanent roof and concrete floor, could be an ideal spot for such get-togethers. "It's a nice-looking area. It's been kept up well," he says. He says the plan isn't firm yet on what will be included as the arbor is refurbished. There probably will be seating, and perhaps a barbecue pit. It is doubtful the shelter will be used for camp meetings again, he says. He hopes the arbor work can be done this year.

Growing needs

To meet the week-to-week needs of the church, leaders are considering building a new sanctuary and fellowship hall. The congregation already has grown from 440 members to some 475 since Russell took over the church about a year and a half ago, despite the deaths of some 20 members. Russell says the congregation is dynamic, with more than 60 children and a good number of



The Rev. S. Franklin Russell II

teenagers and adults, so it's future looks sound. And he is seeking ways for the African-American church to reach more people in the community, including white and Hispanic residents. "I'm trying my best to get our church to be more conducive for people of all races to come in," he says.

The current sanctuary, which is in a building constructed in 1931, could be used during upcoming construction and possibly as classroom space later. Russell says the fellowship hall would be what he calls a gymnasium and could be used as a gymnasium and an audi-

torium not only for the church but for the community as well.

Groundbreaking could be two years away and completion as much as five years away, he says. But the first goal is raising money from members and possibly through corporate sponsorships and other donations. That, too, is a return to some of the church's history with construction on donated land.

But whatever the cost and the calendar, the congregation wants to build something that will "be pleasing to the neighborhood and be pleasing to the Lord," Russell says. LN



Torrence Chapel sees a bright future because of the large number of children who attend.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Perspective

Black Heritage

OF THE CAROLINAS

Whether free or slave, African Americans left their mark across the Carolinas. They built churches, businesses, schools, homes, hospitals, roads and communities. They cultivated rice, captained boats, patented inventions, governed, doctored and fought in wars. They painted pictures, wove baskets, sewed quilts, manufactured furniture and stoneware, made music and movies, wrote books and more. Some monuments to their lives fell to time, urban renewal and growth, but others chronicle the rich legacy upon which we build today. This list is only a small number of the historic places, monuments and museums open to the public.

1

CHARLES MANUEL GRACE

Charles Manuel Grace, born in the Cape Verde Islands, came to the United States in 1903 and settled in Massachusetts, where he built the first United House of Prayer for All People in 1919. In the early 1920s, Grace moved to Charlotte and opened a church in 1925 on McDowell Street. He became famous for staging huge revivals, faith healings and mass baptisms. Word of his charismatic ministry grew and his followers fondly called him Sweet Daddy Grace. Grace moved his headquarters to Washington, D.C., but returned to Charlotte each September. Parades celebrating his visit were well known for their pageantry. He died in 1960. The original church was torn down in 1970. The site is now part of Marshall Park. The area is now home to a number of United House of Prayer for All People churches.

Charlotte

2 JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY: Founded in 1867 for black students, the school was established on land donated by Col. W.R. Myers. Philanthropist Mary Biddle donated a large amount of money and the school was named Biddle Memorial Institute. The name changed to Johnson C. Smith on March 1, 1923, in tribute to benefactor Jane Berry Smith's late husband. The school moved to Beatties Ford Road in the early 1870s. Original buildings include Biddle Hall (1884), which is on the National Register of Historic Places; Carter Hall (1895); and Carnegie Library (1912). 100 Beatties Ford Road; (704) 378-1000.

3 MECKLENBURG INVESTMENT COMPANY BUILDING: This three-story building, completed in 1922, was Charlotte's first office structure built by and for black professionals. The first floor held businesses, offices were on the second floor, and a large lodge hall occupied the third. The building became the focal point of Brooklyn's black community and is one of the few remnants of the old neighborhood. 233 S. Brevard St.

4 MURALS BY AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTISTS: Three public-art murals by renowned N.C. artists James Biggers, Juan Logan and T.J. Reddy can be viewed inside the Charlotte Convention center at the Second Street entrance. 501 S. College St.

5 AFRO-AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER: Located in the historic AME Zion Church, the center is home to a permanent collection that consists of over 200 works of art from renowned artists such as Elizabeth Catlett, Romare Bearden, John Biggers and others; Regional and local exhibits rotate quarterly. Established in 1974, the center moved to its current site in 1986. On its grounds are two restored "shotgun" houses that date back to the 1890s. 401 N. Myers St.; (704) 374-1565; www.aacc-charlotte.org.

6 GRACE AME ZION CHURCH: This red-brick building was constructed in 1902 by noted black architect and mason W.W. Smith. It is one of Charlotte's oldest black churches and the only religious building that survives in the area once known as Brooklyn. 219 S. Brevard St.

7 W.T. ALEXANDER SLAVE CEMETERY: The largest known surviving slave cemetery in Mecklenburg County was part of the Alexander Plantation. It contains more than 70 graves. It is in a gated apartment community and is not easily accessible. In the cemetery is an inscribed tombstone, which reads: "Our Father & Mother. Soloman Alexander. Died May 18, 1864. Aged 64 Years. Violet Alexander. Died Aug. 10, 1888. Aged 83 Years." Off Mallard Creek Church Road, west of U.S. 29.

Other cemeteries:

8 McCoy Slave Cemetery, off McCoy Road, east of Beatties Ford Road.

9 Neely Slave Cemetery, on South Ridge Drive in the South Point Business Park.

10 GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL: One of the first black hospitals in the country, it was built in 1888 with money raised by St. Peter's Episcopal Church. It operated until 1961, when it became the Charlotte Community Hospital. In 1990, the building was torn down to make room for Ericsson Stadium. The hospital's chapel was repaired and installed as part of the exhibit titled "Cotton Fields to Skyscrapers: Charlotte and the Carolina Piedmont in the New South" at the Levine Museum of the New South. 200 E. Seventh St.; (704) 333-1887; www.museumofthenewsouth.org.

11 SECOND WARD HIGH SCHOOL: The first Charlotte high school for blacks opened in 1923 on Alexander Street. Early graduates received diplomas embossed with "Charlotte's Colored High School." Before the school was built, blacks had to move to other cities to get a high school diploma or attend special classes at Biddle Memorial Institute, now Johnson C. Smith. The

school was closed in 1969 and torn down when the neighborhood was leveled by urban renewal. But alumni

established the Second Ward High School National Alumni Foundation, Inc. with a permanent home and museum

that houses a collection of artifacts from Second Ward. 1905 Beatties Ford Road; (704) 398-8333.

Charlotte and Mecklenburg County



This postcard rendering shows the Good Samaritan Hospital, which was torn down in 1990 to make room for Ericsson Stadium, now Bank of America Stadium. The restored chapel is on display at the Levine Museum of the New South.

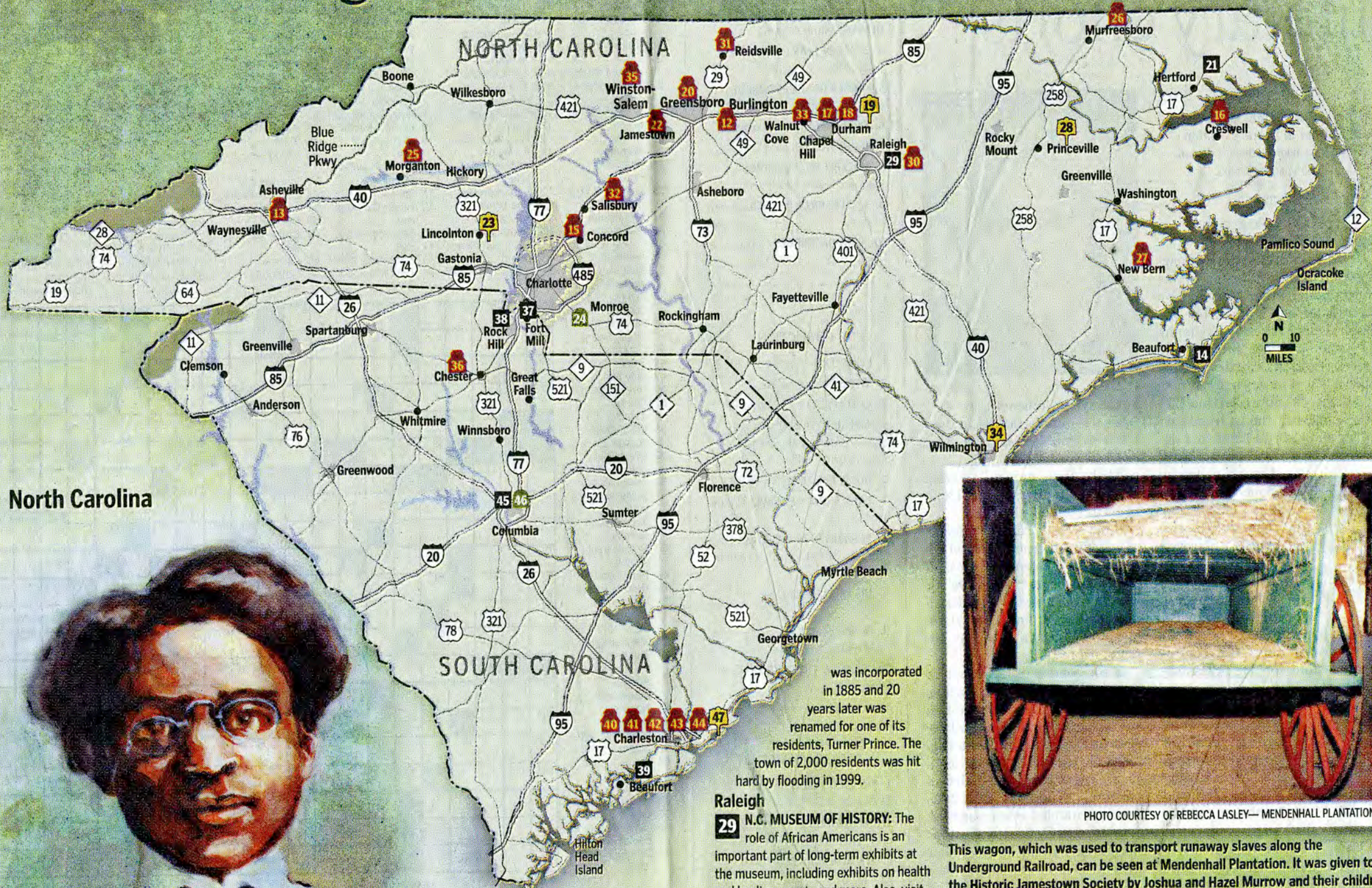


POSTCARD COURTESY OF ROBINSON-SPANGLER CAROLINA ROOM — PUBLIC LIBRARY OF CHARLOTTE AND MECKLENBURG COUNTY

CHARLOTTE.COM
"Our Living History" slide show: Relive the history of the area through our reader's lives and their photos.

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MAQUIRE

Black Heritage of the Carolinas



North Carolina



12 CHARLOTTE HAWKINS BROWN (1883-1961)

Born in Henderson, the Northern-educated granddaughter of former slaves established the Alice Freeman Palmer Memorial Institute in Sedalia in 1902. Under her 50-year presidency, the Institute became one of the leading black preparatory schools in the state, sending more than 90 percent of its 1,000 graduates to college. The school closed in 1971, but today offers exhibits, presentations and tours. 6136 Burlington Road; (336) 449-4836; www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/hs/chb/chb.htm.

accused of kidnapping a white couple; charges were eventually dropped. He spent time in China, North Vietnam and Cuba, where he broadcast "Radio Free Dixie" shows. He returned to the United States in 1969 and died in 1971. The family gravestone inscription reads "International Freedom Fighters". Adams and Wiatt Streets, off U.S. 74 and Stafford Street.

29 N.C. MUSEUM OF HISTORY: The role of African Americans is an important part of long-term exhibits at the museum, including exhibits on health and healing, sports and more. Also, visit the African American reading room, with books and other works for all ages about N.C.'s black communities. 5 E. Edenton St.; (919) 807-7900; <http://ncmuseumofhistory.org>.
30 SHAW UNIVERSITY: The oldest historically black college in the South was founded in 1865 by Henry Martin Tupper as the Raleigh Institute. The name changed in 1870 to honor

was incorporated in 1885 and 20 years later was renamed for one of its residents, Turner Prince. The town of 2,000 residents was hit hard by flooding in 1999.



PHOTO COURTESY OF REBECCA LASLEY— MENDENHALL PLANTATION

This wagon, which was used to transport runaway slaves along the Underground Railroad, can be seen at Mendenhall Plantation. It was given to the Historic Jamestown Society by Joshua and Hazel Murrow and their children.

Walnut Cove
33 WALNUT COVE: The five-room school building was constructed in 1921 with help from the Rosenwald Fund, which helped build nearly 5,000 schools in the South between 1918 and 1930. Fewer than 40 of N.C.'s 813 such structures remain. Walnut Cove closed in January 1952. In 1999, the building

counter and, when arrested, refused to pay \$100 fines for trespassing, choosing 30 days on a county chain gang. This was the beginning of a "Jail, No Bail" tactic used in civil rights protests throughout the South. Vacant; 135 E. Main St.
Beaufort
39 ROBERT SMALLS MEMORIAL: Brought to Charleston in 1851 by

Older folks make elections work

Long before dawn this morning, more than 2,100 Mecklenburg poll workers will arrive at polling places across the county.

When you vote today, notice how many of these people are older Americans. Most Mecklenburg poll workers are retirement age or older, and they work year after year, Board of Elections Director Michael Dickerson says. That's true nationally, too. The average age for poll workers is 72. We couldn't do democracy without them.

Take Eudean Knox. Chief judge for Precinct 202 in Cornelius, she's been a poll worker for 38 years, since Lyndon Johnson was president. Before retiring, she'd take a vacation day from work so she could be free the first Tuesday each November.

After all these years, Knox's Election Day routine is pretty set. She arrives at Cornelius Town Hall about 5:45 a.m. She and other workers, including several women in their 70s and one in her 80s, turn on the voting machines. They take their oaths, swearing to administer their duties without fear or favor. Then they each vote on a different machine, to make sure they all work properly.

Doors open at 6:30 a.m. On

AS WE AGE

Pam
Kelley



presidential election years, Knox always finds a line of voters waiting. Her main job is troubleshooting, helping people, for instance, when they believe they're registered but aren't listed on the voter rolls.

Polls close at 7:30 p.m. If everything goes smoothly, Knox gets home about 8:30 or 9 p.m.

Fellowship and food too

Mecklenburg poll workers earn between \$90 and \$175, not a lot for a 15- or 16-hour day. But Knox isn't complaining. She loves the fellowship of the day, loves seeing voters year after year, watching as they get married and have kids, then watching their kids vote.

Once, a voter brought the poll workers gifts of crocheted turkeys. There's another guy who hands out fresh tomatoes during primary elections.

Earlier this year, the chairman of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, created by Con-

gress in 2002 to help federal elections run smoothly, fretted about a growing shortage of poll workers. I'm thinking the commission could enlist Knox to attract new recruits. By the time she finished telling me about the food she and her colleagues bring to sustain them, (ham biscuits, casseroles and potato salad, deviled eggs, chocolate pound cake and a crunchy salad made by poll worker Vertie Torrence that Knox describes as one of the best she's ever put in her mouth) I was ready to sign up.

But it's more than the food that drives poll workers. It's the realization that they're vital to making our system work. Knox says she likes solving people's voting problems, making sure their vote counts. "We want everybody's vote to count," she says.

She has also noticed that in all her 38 years, her precinct has never been marred by any argument or disruption. Maybe we all behave better

Eudean Knox, chief judge for Cornelius' Precinct 202, has been a Mecklenburg poll worker for 38 years.

when we're voting.

Knox plans to keep working elections as long as she can. She's missed only one, because she had to have surgery to repair two aneurysms.

If you vote in Knox's precinct, wish her a quick happy birthday. She's 68 today, but doesn't plan to celebrate. "I'll be too busy," she says.

Pam Kelley: (704) 358-5271;
pkelley@charlotteobserver.com.

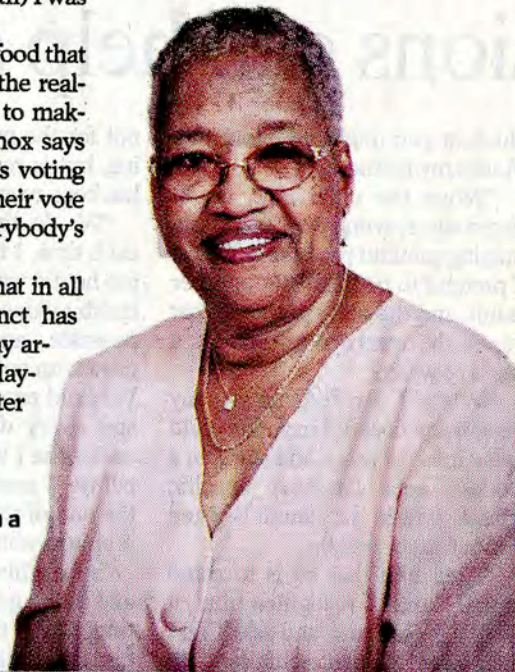


PHOTO COURTESY OF EUDEAN KNOX

OUR LIVES

Each week in 2004 we told you the stories of ordinary people at extraordinary moments in their lives. Today, we visit a few of them again to see how their life journeys are going.

BY PETER ST. ONGE
Staff Writer

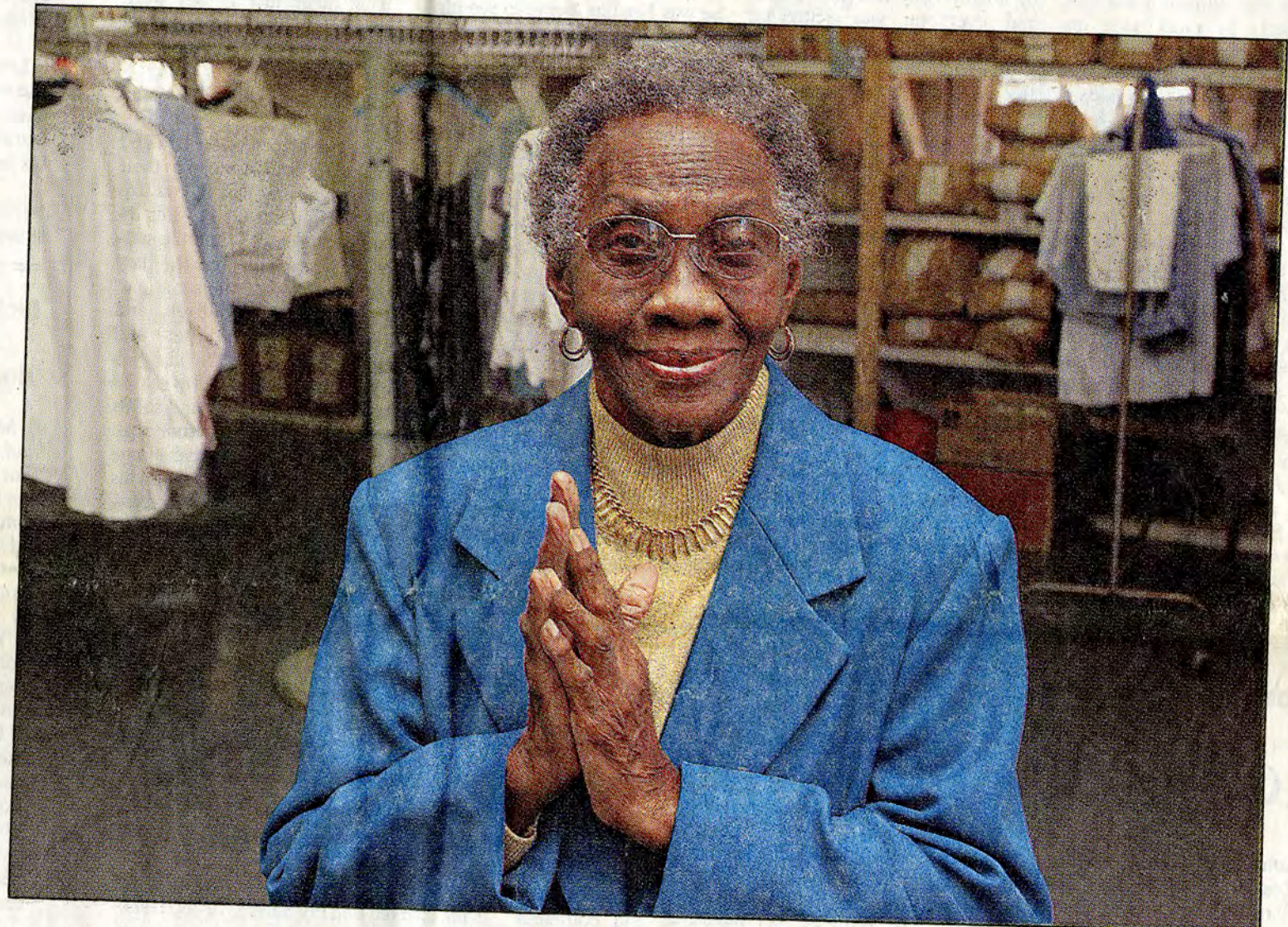
Earlier this month, at Gethsemane Baptist Church in Davidson, Pastor Ernest Jeffries led Bible study with about 50 members of his congregation. He talked about Lula Bell Houston.

Miss Houston, as everyone called her, worked full-time at the Davidson College laundry for 56 years until she retired in April. She was a black woman cleaning the clothes and pressing the sheets of elite white college students.

She took note when the college integrated in the 1960s, and in the 1970s, she was the first black to be promoted to the laundry's check-in desk, where she greeted students with a warm smile and kind words. By the time she retired, she was known across campus, enough so that one young woman told her the laundry should be named after her. "I don't know about that," she said.

In April, at her retirement ceremony, the school put a sign in front of that building. "Lula Bell Houston Laundry," it said.

We told you about Houston then as part of a weekly Observer feature with a simple premise - find stories about the moments people experience, both ordinary and extraordinary, as we arc through everyday life. Our stories. Our lives.



SEE MOMENTS | 10E

A LIFE REWARDED | Lula Bell Houston worked full-time for 56 years at the Davidson College laundry, which was renamed for her in April.

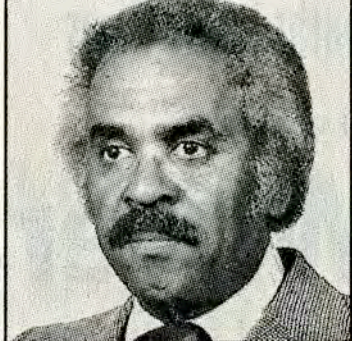
GAYLE SHOMER - STAFF PHOTO



NANCY VENDLEY - SPECIAL TO THE OBSERVER

The day care ... that cares

For 36 years, the Davidson-Cornelius Day Care Center has been here for the children. "They're wonderful. They know you by name. They tell you what's going on. They still ask about my 14-year old," states an enthusiastic Davidson-Cornelius Day Care Center graduate and current center parent. Led by director Mary Fox, this group of dedicated employees averages 13 years at this school. Located in Davidson on Gamble Street next to the Ada Jenkins soccer field, the center was created to provide working parents and their children the highest-quality day care, regardless of a family's ability to pay.




George Hampton Sealey, Jr.

Mr. Sealey, of Davidson, NC, died December 23, 2004. George was born October 14, 1922 son of the late George H. and Eliza Ann Sealey of New York City and husband of the late Pauline Weldon Sealey. He is survived by four children, Sharon Victoria Pugh of Kansas City MO, Sharman Thornton Hunter of West Hartford, CT, Steven Robert Sealey of Santa Ana CA, and Sloane Weldon Sealey of Las Vegas, NV; and nine grandchildren.

George began his career in the military during World War II, then as a teacher with the New York Public School System and moved to a Vice Principal position before joining the Peace Corp in 1963 where he was stationed in Nigeria. He then signed on with the State Department and he and Pauline spent many years in Nigeria and Liberia West Africa in the U.S. foreign service. He ultimately retired from the State Dept as a Protocol Officer in Washington, DC. He had been an active member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity serving as President of the Montgomery County Chapter and in 1984 was the catalyst for convening Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity brothers Al Bailey, Oscar Little and Eddie Madison to propose building a national memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr which was approved by the United States Congress. He also served as President of the NAACP in Montgomery County, MD.

Memorial services will be conducted 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 30, 2004 in the Chapel of Raymer Funeral Home. The family will receive friends following the service.

Funeral services will be conducted on January 11, 2004 at Tokoma Park Baptist Church in Washington, DC with graveside services following at 1:00 p.m. at Arlington National Cemetery.

Arrangements by Raymer Funeral Home, Huntersville, NC. 

*Davidson Christian Aid Society
Of
Davidson, NC*

Old Time Camp Meeting

*Roosevelt Wilson Park
Griffin Street
Davidson, NC*

Sunday, September 11, 2005

1:00p.m. - 7:00p.m.

Program

Master of Ceremony Mr. Jackie Torrence

The Opening Song
The Prayer
The Welcome / Introductions
The Occasion
The History of the Christian Aid Society
The Memorial Tribute
The Presentations

The Closing Prayer

Blessed Assurance
Mrs. Bernice Houston
Mr. Vonnie Wylie
Ms. Ruby Houston
Mr. James Howard
Rev. Darrell Van Pelt
Mrs. Irving McClain
Mr. David Beatty
Rev. Darrell Van Pelt

*Please join us for food, fun and fellowship!!!!
Special thanks to all for sharing your time and treasures with us today!*



Mecklenburg Neighbors



L. MUELLER/Staff

Dale and Mary Pryor and their daughter, Angel, have moved into a recently renovated house in Davidson, thanks to the Davidson Housing Coalition.

IT'S AFFORDABLE, AND IT'S THEIRS

Davidson Housing Coalition helps low- to moderate-income folks become homeowners **2M**



PHOTOS BY GAYLE SHOMER - gshomer@charlotteobserver.com

The owners of the Smithville Community Center in Cornelius are trying to get the building designated as a historic landmark. The school is among a few remaining Rosenwald schools used by African American students from the 1920s to 1940s.

SAVING SCHOOL, SAVING MEMORIES

Rosenwald *from IN*

Historic designation would mean that the building, now used as a community and events center on South Hill Street, could not be destroyed unless the owner received approval from the commission.

"It played a vital role in bringing families together," Howard said, "and it's a symbol of unity in the community."

A school for black children

Built in 1922, the one-story schoolhouse was known as the Smithville Rosenwald School.

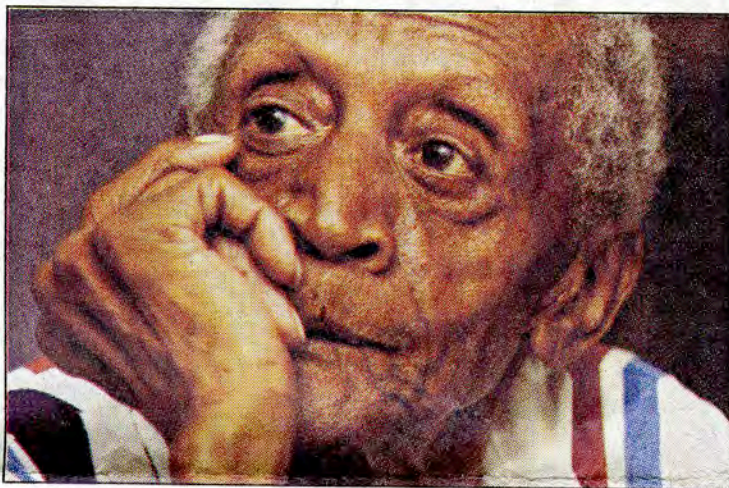
It was one of 5,350 schoolhouses built in 15 Southern states as part of the Rosenwald School Program.

Former slave Booker T. Washington and philanthropist Julius Rosenwald led the effort to provide high-quality schools for poor black youths, said Becky Partin of the Cornelius Planning Department, who conducted research for the application.

The three-room schoolhouse cost \$4,000 to build, Partin said. Funding came from the Rosenwald Fund and from African American and white residents, she said.

"It was important for all of us to go to school, and some of us went to college," said Leonard Nelson, 80, of Smithville.

Nelson, who attended the school from 1933 to 1941 and later



Leonard Nelson, 80, attended Smithville Rosenwald School from 1933 to 1941. "It was important for all of us to go to school, and some of us went to college," he says.

became a custodian at Davidson College, said his teachers taught him how to count his weekly earnings as a grocery deliverer and cotton picker to make sure he received the correct pay.

The school offered seasonal split sessions so children could help their families during planting and harvest times, Partin said.

It was closed in the 1940s after the county school board consolidated area schools. Students moved into a larger school in Davidson, Partin said.

In 1954, five former students bought the schoolhouse to use for the Better Community Club. Former students and parents in the Smithville community formed the club to provide ser-

vices to residents, Howard said.

The building was used as a community center for dances, fundraisers and family reunions. It also had a barbershop, restaurant, mobile library, science lab and vaccination clinics.

"They had a barbershop uptown (Cornelius), but it was for the white people to go, and we couldn't go there," said Clarence "William" Howard, 74, who owned the building in the late 1980s. In 1999 he sold it to his son Milton Howard and daughter Karen Medley. "This is where they had to come for entertainment."

Over the years, Milton Howard said, the building played an important role in providing African American residents a place

to hang out and socialize.

"It was located exclusively within the black community," he said. "It was a place that they could call their own."

Traces of the past

Traces of the center's past remain - the original hardwood floors, two brick chimneys and markings from a potbelly stove that was used to heat the building.

A green tin roof and beige vinyl siding help protect the original structure.

A historic designation would ensure that the building would be preserved and maintained, Archer said. The owners would get a 50 percent reduction in their property taxes on that building.

If the building receives approval, it would be the town's third historic landmark.

Competition from new facilities that offer rental space for meetings, parties and wedding receptions have made it difficult for Milton Howard and his sister Karen Medley to keep the center open.

Milton Howard said they want a nonprofit to take over the building and use it for community-based children's activities.

"I think it's important to keep this place," said Nelson. "There are so many reasons. There are so many memories in this building."



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Our Towns

CORNELIUS

He's gone from attending camps to running them

John Anderson runs the summer program for town of Cornelius

John Anderson has lived in Cornelius so long that he remembers going to summer recreation camps behind Cornelius Elementary School. "The kids played games and got the equipment out of an old white building that sat where the parking lot is now. I don't think camp even cost anything," he said.

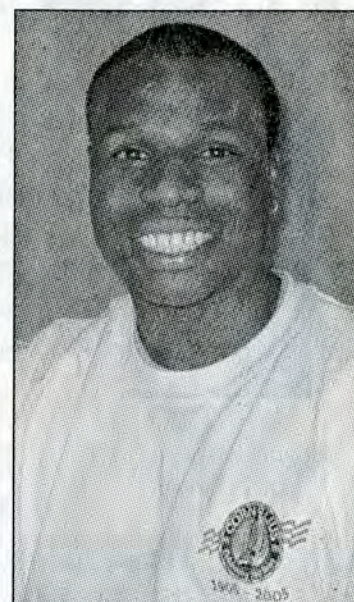


Lisa Daidone

Now, the little boy who once participated in summer camps is the recreation program coordinator for the Parks & Recreation Department for the town of Cornelius and is in charge of summer camp. John has worked in this position full-time for two years. Before that, he worked part-time, "mostly setting up," John said. "Now I'm directly involved in the planning."

John is a graduate of Pfeiffer College, where he majored in human resources.

"I originally thought I'd be a teacher, but things happen," he explained. "The best part of my job now is meeting different kinds of people: young, old, dif-



LISA DAIDONE -
ldaidone@charlotteobserver.com

John Anderson, a kid who went to summer camp in Cornelius, now runs all these camps.

ferent races, from different places. But I do have crazy hours now."

In the little free time John has, he works out, plays basketball and walks Carmine, his dog. John explained, "She's a Husky mix and has one blue eye and one brown eye. People stop and ask me about her and some are scared because of her blue eye."

At work, the project John is most proud of is the weeklong arts and drama recreation camp held back in June.

"The Children's Arts Project

got a grant through an ASC North Town Initiative from the Arts & Science Council. This camp gave children from areas like Smithville an opportunity to do something they might not get the chance to do. It was really giving back to the community."

Camp lasted all day, and in the morning the children did art, such as making masks and drawing perspectives. Then they ate lunch and played games. In the afternoons, Marshon West taught drama techniques such as pantomime and projecting your voice.

"She really did a great job of teaching children to open up," John added, "And the kids enjoyed coming back each day."

This summer, John spends a good deal of his time checking on the summer sports and recreation camps.

"I check to make sure it's going well, but once the program is developed, it almost runs itself," he said. John pointed out that the staff running the day-to-day operations of the camp is excellent. Many are Cornelius Elementary and Davidson Elementary teachers and many come back year after year.

The next big project for John is the Nation Night Out sponsored by the Cornelius Parks & Recreation Department and the Cornelius Police Department and hosted by the Olde Mill Village Community. This night promotes safety and fun through po-

lice and community partnership and also makes neighbors aware of anticrime programs. This event will be 7-9 p.m. Aug. 2 in the Olde Mill Village Community at 19315 Meridan St., Cornelius. There will be music and food, and the event is free. To show your support of this event, turn on your porch light that night.

For more information on these or any of the happenings in Cornelius, go to www.corneliuspr.org or call 704-896-2460.

Fishing for women

On July 27-29, the 2006 Women's Bassmaster Tournament will launch from Blythe Landing. This is a first for the women's sport of bass fishing and will be the third part of a five-part tournament series. In years past, the men's division of the Bassmaster Tour has been held at Lake Norman, but this is a first for the ladies.

Female pro anglers and female amateur anglers will be paired up. The expectation is for more than 100 boats to participate and weigh-ins will be at Blythe Landing at 2 p.m. Only the top anglers will compete on July 29. This final weigh-in will be at 3:30 p.m. at the Cricket Arena in Charlotte.

Fishermen, beware. These ladies can fish.

Lisa Daidone lives in Cornelius. Have an item for her? Write:
ldaidone@charlotteobserver.com

The Beauty of The Pond

I think that Mr. Roosevelt Wilson should have the proud honor of getting the pond named after him.

Mr. Wilson was like a father to almost everyone in this town. Outside of his 2 daughters and 1 son he took his nephew James Wilson into his home when his mother died. Mr. Wilson taught James laboring skills and landscaping. He loved James like he was his own son.

Besides taking people into his home Mr. Wilson did a lot of things in our community and in our town. This friendly, bright, neat and active man loved working outdoors. After serving in the military, working at Burlington Mills and 19 years of working on the rail road, he "retired" and started to work on gardens and planting flowers. Mr. Wilson worked in Davidson and his hometown Cornelius. He would pull his tractor and his lawn mower in a wagon hooked to the back of his pickup truck everywhere he went to do a careful job. He was always on the go.

He had a beautiful flower and garden bed at the Senior Nutrition Program in Davidson. He planted colorful and wild flowers in the flower bed. The garden bed had tomatoes, pepper, carrots and many more other kinds of food He would go around picking up pieces of paper or cans that were laying on the ground near the pond. He did everything he could to keep the pond and the ground around the town nice and clean. The grass around the pond was green and nicely cut and because of what he did it attracted many people to it.

Not only did he work in the town and kept the grounds nice he spent some spare time working in his own front and backyard. He had a beautiful scenery

surrounding his home. Christmas and Spring were his favorite 2 seasons of the year because he could plant the most beautiful flowers there were. He also kept Potts Street where he lived neatly cut and cleaned all the time. If Mr. Wilson were here today he would still be beautifying the grounds around the pond. This is why the pond should be named Wilson Pond.

Winner of Contest Aug. 16, 1998



Photo by Renee Cagle / LNT

Davidson's Porschea Smith was the winner of an essay contest which has given a new name to Davidson's renovated pond and park. Smith wrote suggesting the park by named for the late Roosevelt Wilson.

Davidson pond and park will remember Roosevelt Wilson

By RENE CAGLE
LAKE NORMAN TIMES

Porschea Smith of Lakeside Avenue in Davidson has won the African-American Coalition essay contest to name the park around Davidson Pond. The pond has recently been renovated by the town.

Porschea, 12, is in the seventh grade at Davidson IB Middle School and says her grandmother, Maggie Smith, suggested she write about Roosevelt Wilson. The essay contest rules stated that participants interviewed townspeople about four men and write why they should have their name on the park.

Wilson was known around town for planting flowers and trees and beautifying the town. Porschea said she interviewed her grandmother and used an article written about Wilson before he died.

"I was excited," said Porschea when she found she had won. "I

one.

Born in Davidson, Porschea is the daughter of Melinda Smith and attends Union Bethel AME Zion Church.

Porschea said she likes to write stories, paint, play soccer and shop. And she has big plans for her future.

"I'd like to be a criminal or child psychologist," said Porschea. "If I don't do that, I'd like to be a corporate lawyer."

Nancy Fairley, a member of the coalition, said while the number of essays received was low the organization hopes to sponsor a contest every year. She said this time it will be done during the school year, which may stimulate more response from the young people of Davidson. The essays received were read and selected by members of the advisory board for Davidson Parks and Recreation.

Looking Back

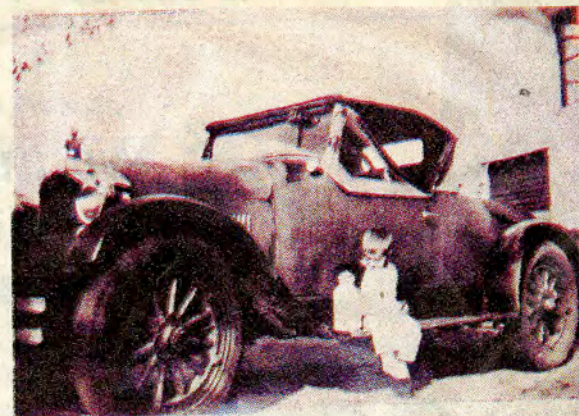
Cornelius Celebrates 100 Years of History



Above are Cornelius' namesake J.B. Cornelius and his wife, Ann Eliza (date unknown).



I.A. Withers, one of Smithville's leaders in the early 1900s, poses with his family.



This photo at right is unidentified.



This is the Cornelius Train Depot around 1915.



Above, is a photo of the Stough-Cornelius Store.



This photo is unidentified.



Above is a New Method Laundry Truck in the early 1900s.



These are members of the Better Community Club, founded in 1964 by trustees Wilson Potts, E. Harwell, Ozon Brice, Mack Brice & James Caldwell.



This is a photo of the Cornelius Town Hall and Library from around 1934.



Above, Cornelius' first gas-powered firetruck is surrounded by the volunteer firefighters in the 1950s.

For information about the Cornelius Celebration, call 704-892-6031 ext. 166 or log onto www.Cornelius100.com



This photo of the Little Hardware Store was taken around 1905



Above is another view of the Cornelius Train Depot, date unknown.



This is an aerial view of the mill that used to occupy the space that is now Town Hall and Food Lion.

low-income seniors who don't qualify for Medicaid, the cards are free. Those seniors must pay a 5 percent or 10 percent co-payment per drug, but they get a total of \$1,200 in credit - \$600 for 2004 and \$600 for 2005.

Because of that credit, low-income seniors with no prescription coverage are expected to reap the biggest benefits from the new discount cards. Individuals making up to \$12,569 or couples making up to \$16,862 a year may qualify.

But some seniors are bewildered by the choices. Medicare approved 39 private companies, including pharmaceutical companies, insurance firms and health management organizations, to offer a total of 73 cards. In North Carolina, seniors pick from 40 cards. In South Carolina, there are 41. Medicare officials say they're offering such a large number of cards to give consumers choices.

Seniors must decide which cards are accepted by the pharmacy they want to use. Then they must compare those cards to see which pharmacies offer the lowest prices on the drugs they take.

Card companies are permitted to change prices and the drugs they discount weekly. But when seniors choose a card, they can't get another until 2005. So seniors who are prescribed a new drug not covered by their card may have to pay full price unless they can find a discount through another program.

In some cases, a discount pharmacy or online source can offer lower prices than those available with drug-card discounts, consumer advocates say.

Dr. James Tart, 79, a retired Charlotte doctor, examined his card options, found them difficult to understand and decided not to bother. "I buy my drugs through Canada, so I wouldn't save any money," he said.

Maggie and Herbert Smith of Davidson qualify for the new program's annual \$600 credit for low-income seniors. Even though they get most drugs free from MedAssist, a nonprofit Mecklenburg County program, they'd hoped the discount card would help pay for a drug MedAssist can't supply that costs at least \$300 a month. Herbert



DAVID T. FOSTER III - STAFF PHOTO

Maggie and Herbert Smith of Davidson qualify for Medicare's new drug discount program and its annual \$600 credit for low-income seniors. But a pain drug that Herbert Smith needs isn't covered under any of the available discount cards.

Smith, 74, takes it to ease the pain of bone cancer.

But the drug, a controlled substance, isn't covered by any cards. "I don't think this is going to do us any good," said Maggie Smith, 67.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg's Shamrock Senior Center serves many seniors from China, Latin America, Vietnam and Russia. Director Myra Haynes says some would qualify for the low-income credit, but she believes they'll need one-on-one help to get through the application process. "Can I understand the whole process myself? No, I cannot," she said.

Some senior advocates also worry that low-income seniors who get free drugs from pharmaceutical patient assistance programs could become ineligible for the free drugs if they sign up for a discount card.

MedAssist sent a letter to its 1,200 low-income clients discouraging them from signing up for the cards. "We are told by the pharmaceutical companies that it may endanger (low-income se-

niors') ability to get free drugs," MedAssist Director Susan Basini said.

But Dr. Mark McClellan, head of the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services, said this week that won't happen. He's encouraging low-income seniors to sign up soon so they can get the full \$600 credit for 2004.

The discount cards are an interim measure until 2006, the start of a permanent Medicare drug benefit, a broader program that will include annual premiums and deductibles. Critics of the temporary program have complained that the government could streamline it and get better discounts by negotiating with pharmaceutical companies and choosing the one offering the best drug price.

But discount card supporters favor a free-market approach, saying competition between dozens of companies sponsoring the cards will drive costs down. McClellan says that's already hap-

pening. After the first week of enrollment, some companies dropped some prices, he said.

Consumer advocates are encouraging seniors to use their Medicare prescription discount cards in conjunction with other discount cards, such as the N.C. Senior Care card or the TogetherRX card, which is offered free by a coalition of drug companies to seniors who meet income criteria.

Consumers can pick the card that gives them the best price, depending on what they're buying. "For some folks, and we hope a lot of them, it's a good option," said Michael Keough, project director of Senior Care, North Carolina's low-income prescription assistance program.

To help seniors with their decision, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has mailed information to Medicare recipients. It also offers a number, (800) 633-4227 toll-free and a Web site, www.medicare.gov,

To Learn More

- www.medicare.gov or (800) 633-4227
- www.medicarerights.org
- www.familiesusa.org
- North Carolina's Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) has trained volunteers in every N.C. county who can answer questions. Call (800) 443-9354 to ask a question or find the coordinator in your county.

that compares card prices.

Anne Verville, 69, of Charlotte doesn't have Internet access, but she tried to call 10 times last week and was put on hold each time. "I couldn't get through to find out anything about it. And in the letter that they sent, it was very confusing," she said.

This week, Medicare is adding 400 consumer service representatives in an effort to reduce hold time, McClellan said.

In North Carolina, seniors can also turn to the SHIIP program, which offers a toll-free information number. N.C. seniors can also make an appointment to meet with a SHIIP volunteer in their county. (South Carolina officials are directing seniors to call Medicare or visit its Web site.)

Senior advocates also are encouraging seniors to talk with their pharmacists to find the best card for their needs. Some pharmacists, however, may not be ready to offer counsel. Lori Ulrich, a pharmacist with Charlotte's Nalle Pharmacy, says she hasn't had time to sift through all the information she has received.

Some pharmacists have been preparing to field questions, "but because of the busyness of pharmacy operations, this may be something some pharmacies have a hard time adjusting to," said Fred Eckel, executive director of the N.C. Association of Pharmacists

Pam Kelley: (704) 358-5271, pkelley@charlotteobserver.com.
Mike Stobbe: (704) 358-5165, mstobbe@charlotteobserver.com.

agreed Wednesday to accelerate spending on disabled children but refused to lock in specific increases.

Senators hashed over competing plans to fulfill the promise that Congress made almost three decades ago: the federal government's commitment to cover 40 percent of the cost of educating children with special needs.

The matter is significant because states and school districts must pay for whatever expenses the Congress does not. That can amount to billions of dollars that local communities say they need for teachers, training, supplies and construction.

Spending is the major sticking point in the Senate's renewal of the Individual with Disabilities Education Act, the 1975 law guaranteeing equal education to children with disabilities. As many as 6.7 million students are in special education.

Senators of both parties agree on the underlying bill, which aims to improve identification of and intervention for those with disabilities, to simplify paperwork for teachers, to reduce lawsuits by parents and to give schools more flexibility over money.

The Senate likely will pass the bill today, aides said.

Congress spends \$10.1 billion on special education, or 18.6 percent of the cost - less than half the amount originally promised.

Sens. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, and Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., proposed mandatory spending increases so the federal total would reach the 40 percent figure within six years.

"We have never lived up to that pledge. In fact, we're not even halfway there," Harkin said. "This is really about the credibility of the United States Congress."

Locking in money each year is the only way to keep the promise, Harkin said.

Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., said mandatory spending is bad policy because it boosts the deficit and doesn't allow Congress to set priorities. It would lead to offsetting cuts in education spending, he said, making increases "illusory."

Federal spending on special education increased from \$2.3 billion to \$10.1 billion since 1996, a pattern the Senate has every intention of continuing, Gregg said.