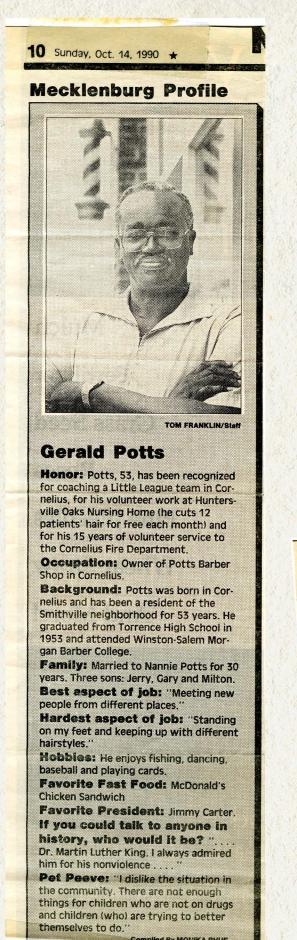
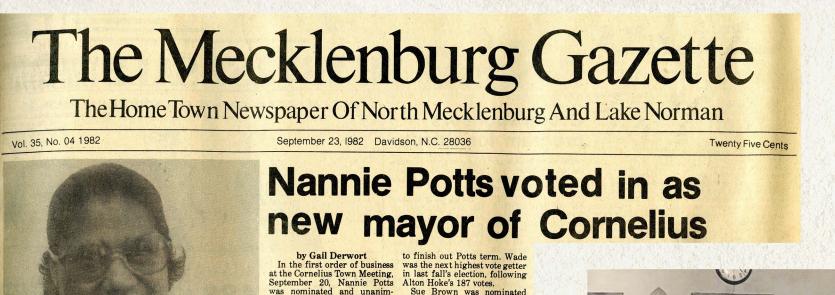
## Shared Stories: Service

African Americans in North Mecklenburg



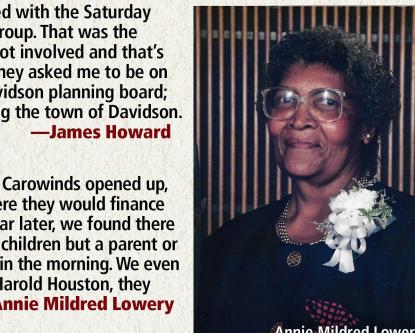


Nannie Potts Chosen To Succeed Cornelius Mayor Who Resigned

We had an education building [at Davidson Presbyterian Church] and the town decided to give us the money to open it up as the Teen Canteen. Friday night was for children 9–12 years old and Saturday night was for 12 years old through high school. That was the form of recreation...

I worked with the Saturday night group. That was the way I got involved and that's when they asked me to be on the Davidson planning board; planning the town of Davidson. —James Howard

become a volunteer fireman.





who worked in the school's cafete-

said, sitting on a bench outside the

cafeteria. "When we're here, we

Going to Town Hall feels like

isiting, 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

eel like we're at home.

'We feel free coming here," she

They went to Tracy, Cherokee, The Wizard of Oz, and Timberland. When Carowinds opened up, these children were able to go the first year. There was a program where they would finance these trips. You just had to sign up and they would provide buses. A year later, we found there was a program in Charlotte where they would provide lunches for the children but a parent or somebody would have to go and pick them up at about 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning. We even had volunteers to do that; Evelyn Carr, Phoebe Houston, her husband Harold Houston, they would go to Charlotte. That age group helped a lot with our trips. —Annie Mildred Lowery

Operations Desert Shield

## Pillar of Davidson community turns 83

On Tuesday, July 4, Mrs. Susie Lowery celebrated her 83rd birth-While talking with her on Tuesday evening in her home on Griffith Street, she said how proud and thankful she is to have reached the age of 83. I asked her to tell me a little something about herself. She began talking so fast, I could hardly keep up.

Ms. Susie was born in
Huntersville in 1912. When she was 14 years old, she and her family moved to Davidson. Her education began at Huntersville Elementary and the Joe Reid schools. Later she was married to the late Rufus Lowery. They had one child, James William Lowery, now of Columbus, S. C. Aunt Susie (as she is so affectionately called by everyone in this area), has always shown sympathy and love for the distress or suffer ing of others. After the death of her niece, who had eight children, all very young, Aunt Susie took the children, ranging from ages 17 months to 15 years old, into their home and she says, by the help of God, friends and neighbors, she and her husband were able to love and care for all of them. She will tell you, with a big smile on her "God spared me to see all of my children finish high school and three through college. My son, Oscar, was the first black student to attend Davidson College."

is a companion and friend to all. Aunt Susie has been a very active member of Gethsemane Baptist Church. Presently, she serves as a member of the Davidson Progressive Women Club and is a participant in the Hot Meal Program. Aunt Susie says, I have 10 children, nine grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren and I don't regret a minute of bringing them up and watching them become responsible adults.

She enjoyed working at Davidson College, especially in one of the Boarding Houses. Her favorite pastimes are cooking, working in her garden and doing different crafts. When I asked her how times had changed since her childhood, she immediately answered: "Back in my childhood, children obeyed their parents and other adults. If we would do something bad at someone's home, we got a spanking there and when we got home, most likely we would get another spanking." She said that back then children were not sent to church they were taken to church, and knew how to behave when they got into the church. Most of our toys were handmade. For instance, we would make Tom Walkers out of tin cans, made our own wagons, swings were made out of old car Out of their 52 years of marriage, she and Mr. Rufus took in a tubes. We had lots of fun but we ties and pocketbooks out of inner number of children, loving and caron the farm a man could do: cut Chamala Minnel

her energy comes from. Frankly es, milked cows, and pulled and speaking, I think she just loves tied fodder. We would sometimes loing things for other people. She stay in the fields from sunup to ized as soft spoken, yet an ambitious, hard working individual in her church and community. I enjoyed talking with her because she was very informative and delightful to talk with . . . She could get very serious, then have Aunt Susie is one of our senior citizens who has been and always will be a pillar in the community

> And so, from there, we got into the housing situation. That's where the Piedmont **Development Association** got in and organized the club, the Piedmont Association, and people who were getting houses would attend and people who weren't getting houses would attend. Davidson won several prizes.

—Annie Mildred Lowery

They used to have what was called the Teen Canteen and they had one that used to be there where the Carolina Inn is, they had it only for the white kids. And I questioned the mayor of the town, why Black kids couldn't go. And they said, "No, no. no. They can't do that.' And that was before Martin Luther King. I said, "What about another place, then?" And he said they didn't have the money. So I drafted a letter to President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, and you know, I never believed he would

answer. He answered the letter. —James Howard



—James Howard After that, the next year, we had Town Day again, up there. After having the second year and coming up on the third year, we asked if we could have Town Day on the green and we had a committee and they gave us permission. You might not have thought about that—it wasn't the town green then but that place was full of trees and you had to walk with your shoulders hunched. The first year we moved there, we had games and everything. Jim Martin was the governor and it was my idea to invite him. And they said, "Ms. Mildred, he isn't going to come." And I said, "I asked him so he better come!" I wrote him a letter and he never answered whether he would [come] or not. But the day we had Town Day, about 12:30 everyone was saying, "Ms. Mildred, he isn't going to come." But I knew in my heart he would come and we looked out at about 1:00 and there was his black shiny car with the American flag on it. He brought some of his staff and he walked around and talked to people. And he had prepared us a flag; it is at the community center. And that's how we

them in life if they had

through sixth grade at Ada

- Zannie Hooper, who went

Both town officials and resi-

dents of west Davidson have wor-

Since 1973, it had been used as a

community center, offering a wide

some sort of goal."

lenty he wants to sure there are others that will

vince Knox and the other town

officials. "I wrote them a two-page etter about our program," he said.

grams as long as I've known

Back in 1952, I even tried to get on the volunteer fire department. I went to the Mayor again about that.

year, and they don't want Blacks at that dinner." And I said, "Well, I don't need the dinner." Well, some of

That was before I was at the college. And they asked, "Why did I want to come on?" And I said I want to give

my service to the community, like everyone else. And their answer was, "Well, we have these dinners once a

the people said they wouldn't come to the meetings if I were there. So, therefore they wouldn't allow me to



steering committee has been munities" of the town, the bodies, local, county and state. named in Davidson to head up a "white", the "black" and the citizens' drive to organize into a "college" and work toward the complete program for Davidson common goal of community

This was the result of a town Abbott then opened the meeting of all citizens called meeting for ideas from the floor 5. Support and help find sour-Monday night and held at the as to areas in which a com- ces of financing for town bet-Davidson Elementary school munity betterment association and attended by some 150 might serve toward building a The purpose of the meeting as outlined by its convener Dr. Anthony Abbott, chairman of the and education between the town's Community Relations segments of the community.

that concern towns and town Areas pointed out included: 1. Improved communications Committee, was to form an 2. Improved communications organization of all citizens that and education between the com-

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 differ-

"We need something to draw

them to," she said. "They stay in

the streets. It would further them in

Mary Carr agreed. "We're hop-

life if they had some sort of goal."

gram here, back when my son was

a boy. But somehow, it got away

Shirley's list, "I learned there is no

a black Scout troop above I-85,'

the values that scouting teaches

'trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedi-

ent, cheerful, thrifty brave, clean and reverent.' They need to be

The discussion of the ways the community betterment association might function continued for about an hour. The group decided to incorporate on a non-profit basis and the following were named to the steering committee to get newly proposed organization underway: Lawrence Kimbrough Mildred Lowery, Frank Wilkinson, James Kerns, Ernest Stinson, Erving McClain, Phillip Hazel, Sue Ann Thompson, Dee Dee Bevan, Virginia Puckett, Ruby Houston and Woody Con-

6. Lobby locally, at county

level and elsewhere for matters

March 15, dislocating his elbow. member of Gethsemane Baptist Church in Davidson, celebrated

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



Cornelius music man to speak at Davidson

Cornelius resident Ted Holland will bring a lifetime of work in the music business to his upcoming Davidson College multimedia show on "Rhythm and Blues Culture: 1940-1960." The free public presentation begins at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 21, in the College Union 900 Room. Holland is the author of two books on music, "The B Western Encyclopedia," written in 1989, and the recently-released "This Day in African- American Music." Holland was born in Pinehurst, N. C., and attended Johnson C. Smith University. While in college he worked as manager and booker of The Mystics Revue, a 14-piece aggregation that served as a backup band for such rhythm and blues artists as Mary Wells, Laura Lee and the Drifters. He served in the Army in Germany from 1969 to 1971 as an emergency room surgical technician, and worked as a DJ during his spare time. In 1973 he and another technician founded Koncert Medical Services, a firm providing treatment facilities for large-scale rock concerts. Among relations firm called Home Boy the artists they worked with were Ted Nugent, The Charlie Daniels Band, The Allman Brothers, The Rolling Stones and Jethro Tull. Holland also wrote and College Union at 892-2140.



published his own music, and ormed unknown country rock roups such as Oil Can Harry and the Dipsticks and Chicken George and the Egg Suckin' Dogs. He has

man and owns his own public For more information on his appearance at Davidson, call the