

# Retirement Tribute Calls Mrs. Mabe More Than A Boss

From *The Kernersville News*  
By Teri Capshaw

"She's supervisor, psychiatrist, doctor... a little of everything. A well-rounded person," said Jean Dillon.

"She's sympathetic too. If you've got a problem she'll cry with you... We make her sound like a saint," added Phyllis Church.

But to Mrs. Dillon and Mrs. Church and their fellow employees in the Pairing Department of Adams-Millis' Kernersville plant, their supervisor, Mrs. Dorothy Mabe, is more than just a boss. And what better time to pay tribute to Mrs. Mabe than upon her retirement on April 1, after almost 30 years.

"She's the first boss I ever had that you could call at home and she's more than glad to talk with you," said Mrs. Dillon who has worked with Mrs. Mabe for 15 years.

"You know to obey the rules, but you can always go up to her office to talk. Even though she's supervisor, she can be one of your best friends," said Regina Newman.

For Ms. Newman who has no family members living nearby, Mrs. Mabe has been especially important for the seven years she has known her at Adams-Millis.

"To me she's like a second mother. There's nothing I can't talk to her about. She's straight with me and I'm straight with her," she said.

"Some could say I have a temper, but she's taught me to look at things from both sides and to think before I speak. It seems like she has a special way with young people," she added.

"Her job doesn't stop here at the mill," said Mrs. Dillon who received a concerned call from Mrs. Mabe while in Florida several years ago with her husband on his deathbed.

"She called to say she was there if I needed her... that just makes you feel really good."

Mrs. Mabe joined Adams-Millis in September, 1955 as a spot inspector in the pairing room. And although she said she had never thought much about being a supervisor, she accepted the position in 1960 becoming the first woman supervisor in the Kernersville plant, she said. And she has held that position for almost 24 years.

"I've always liked it there and wanted to stay there. I didn't feel like I had any reason to go anywhere else. It just seems like I'm suited to it," she said.

And although she was inexperienced at being a supervisor, she has always tried to follow a fellow supervisor's advice.

"John Vanhoy, supervisor of the seaming dept., (now retired) advised me to go ahead and try the position. He said as long as I was honest and fair with people I wouldn't have any problems, and I've always remembered that," Mrs. Mabe said.

Mrs. Mabe also recognized that a good supervisor was one that could be a good listener and



Mrs. Dorothy Mabe Talks With Phyllis Church

counsel people on "whatever their needs are, for the good of the company and the person."

"You have to know what to talk about and what to keep confidential. You have to earn their trust," she said.

"I have learned a lot. I've just tried to be to the people in my department what I would want them to be to me," she said.

And she talks as highly of the employees in her department as they do of her.

"The job wouldn't be easy or enjoyable without a good group of employees. They are good friends and co-workers..."

And it will be her co-workers that she'll miss the most when she retires.

"I do have mixed feelings about leaving, but now that the

time is here I'm ready, but I know I'll miss everyone," she said. And she hopes, she added, that retirement will not mean an end to the many friendships she shares with her co-workers.

After almost 30 years with Adams-Millis, Mrs. Mabe, 62, said the most memorable event at the plant for her occurred on March 19, 1981 when two-thirds of the Ed Millis Plant on North Main Street was destroyed by fire.

"I was just so shocked... I couldn't do anything. At the time I thought it was the worst thing since World War II. It had the same effect on me, you just felt helpless," she said.

Mrs. Mabe never really thought about retiring, she said, until her husband's own retirement two years ago from Bob

Neill Pontiac in Winston-Salem.

"There's just so much we wanted to do that we haven't been able to with me working," she said.

And what she wants to do most, besides spending more time with her family, is travel.

"Next to Walkertown I'd rather be in Myrtle Beach," she said. And come this fall, that's where she'll be.

A resident of Walkertown since 1939, Mrs. Mabe is very interested in the community and is a strong supporter of its incorporation drive. Retirement will allow her to get involved in more activities, she said, and that could include Walkertown politics and possibly being a mayoral candidate, after incorporation.

## A-M Reaches 80th Year

Several significant anniversaries are being observed in North Carolina this year and Adams-Millis is among those celebrating as the company reaches its eightieth year of operation.

Some of the other anniversaries include the 400th Anniversary of the Birthplace of English America, which will celebrate North Carolina's 400 years of history, the 50th anniversary of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the 25th anniversary of the reopening of Tryon Palace in New Bern and the 25th anniversary of the Charlotte Motor Speedway.

More information on Adams-Millis' 80th Anniversary observance will be announced later.



## Plan Ahead To Make Vacation Safe

As you plan your vacation there are some things to keep in mind to assure that it will be a safe and pleasant one.

**Before You Go**  
Your car should be in safe operating condition

1. Have your brakes checked by a competent mechanic.
2. Be sure the mechanic removes the wheels and checks the brake lines and fittings.
3. Check your tires for tread depth. Smooth tires can result in a blowout at high speeds or loss of control of your car on wet pavement or in other high-risk situations.
4. Be sure your tires are adequately inflated. Tires low on air will have less grip on the road and can have excessive sidewall flexing that increases tire wear and possibly lead to a blowout.
5. Clean off all windows inside and out.
6. Be sure windshield wiper blades are in good condition and that you have plenty of windshield washer solution.
7. Don't block your vision with decals or stickers on the rear win-

dow, or items piled up on the rear window shelf or bags and boxes on the rear seat.

8. Have a mechanic check to see if there's excessive play in the steering wheel and make any adjustments necessary.
9. Check headlights, brake lights, taillights and directional signals.

**Planning eliminates trouble later...**

10. Know how to get where you're going.
11. Write or phone ahead and reserve a place to stay to avoid driving around after dark looking for accommodations.
12. Take along duplicate keys, your driver's license, vehicle registration, hospital insurance card, medical information card, auto insurance card, motor club card, names and addresses of next of kin.
13. Pick up a good map before you start. They aren't so easy to find when you're traveling these days.

**On The Road**

14. Don't try to drive too far too fast in any one day.

15. Be sure everybody has their safety belt fastened at all times, and that smaller children are protected by the proper child restraints.
16. Never mix drinking and driving.
17. Keep in mind that it's strictly a myth that black coffee has sobering-up powers. Ditto for cold showers or a few whiffs of fresh air. The only antidote for alcohol is time.
18. Reduce speed in rain or fog.
19. Remember that a little rain can cause a lot of trouble. It doesn't take much rain to mix with oil and grease residue and create a slippery film on the road.
20. Take a break when you get tired of driving.
21. Always expect the other driver to make a mistake.
22. Be quick to yield the right of way.
23. If you're pulling a trailer, make sure it's in good working condition.
24. Keep in mind that with the extra length and weight of the trailer you'll need extra time to

stop and you'll have less maneuverability.

25. Allow extra seconds—at least one extra second for each 10 feet you're pulling.

**When You Get There**  
Around water...

26. Acquire a suntan gradually.
27. Remember that water-reflected rays of the sun burn faster than direct rays.
28. Use a suntan or sunscreen lotion before venturing out in the sunlight.
29. If you're starting from scratch, increase your exposure to the sun a little each day.
30. Never swim alone unless there's a lifeguard on duty.
31. Use the buddy system—go swimming with a friend.
32. Know your swimming ability and stay within its limits by not swimming too far from shore.
33. If you have small children with you, keep checking on them frequently, whether they're on the beach or in the water.
34. Always wear a life preserver or personal floatation device when you're in a boat.