



CENTENNIAL AUTOMOTIVE Remanufacturer, Inc. (CAR, Inc.) and UDI Community Corporation (UDI/CDC) begin joint automotive venture. Principals of CAR, Inc., and UDI/CDC finalize

closing on joint venture contract. Seated left to right: William P. Edwards, Chairman, UDI/CDC Board of Directors; Robert Bell, President, CAR, Inc.; Ms. Mary Frances Fox, Secretary, UDI/CDC

Board of Directors. Standing left to right: Willie Green, Treasurer, CAR, Inc.; Ben Ruffin, Deputy Director of UDI/CDC; and Charles Street, Vice President of CAR, Inc.

UDI/CDC Invests In Third Venture; Supermarkets Refuse To Locate In Black Community

UDI Community Development Corporation invested in its third operating venture when it recently purchased stock in Centennial Automotive Remanufacturer, Incorporated according to Ed Stewart, Executive Director of UDI Community Development Corporation. The auto repair operation, referred to as CAR, Inc., remanufactures auto alternators, starters and generators with a projected plan to include water pumps and distributors.

The current operation as explained by Ben Ruffin, Deputy Director at UDI Community Development Corporation, who coordinated the merger is located at 2418 Apex Highway. The venture which employs seven persons is managed by Robert Hall, an established auto mechanic with 15 years of experience. The Company is expected to increase its employment force to 20 persons over the next 12 months by implementing an aggressive marketing program. The marketing plan includes providing products and services to major auto centers and service stations.

As a result of UDI Community Development Corporation's investment, the reconstituted Board consists of Robert Bell, President; Charles Street, Vice President; Benjamin Ruffin, secretary, and Willie Green, Treasurer.

Stewart stated "this represents another effort by UDI Community Development Corporation to use available investment funds to promote the

growth and quality of minority firms in the Durham community in accordance to their potential. A major objective of UDI Community Development Corporation is to serve as a catalyst for local economic development activities by focusing on the mechanism for planting, stimulating, financing, and providing technical assistance in the operation of economic entities. This should promote employment, development of products and services leading to an improved life style for low-income people of our impact area."

"This is partly accomplished by providing a source of capital for re-investment in ventures which can add levels of skill to the existing economic base."

Another venture that UDI Community Development Corporation has taken a minority interest in is Harrison Construction and Realty Company (HC&RC) that employs approximately 50 persons on regular staff or through sub-contractors. HC&RC has been in the construction field five years specializing in single family development.

The third is Custom Molders, Incorporated (CMI),

located at 1731 Camden Ave. and manufacturers plastic parts. The major customer at the present time is R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. The marketing plan includes competing for contracts with the automotive industry and major plastic users. The plant currently employs nine persons under the management of Franklin R. Anderson. Projected employment is 40 persons over the next 18 months.

As a part of its overall economic strategy, UDI Community Development Corporation's major impact project involves the development of a 40 acre Industrial Park located on Fayetteville Road. The property is owned by UDI Community Development Corporation and a proposal including City and County support is currently under review by the Economic Administration (EDA) to provide funds to develop a sewer line to the site. Two manufacturers have already expressed an interest in locating in the park.

The most disappointing project has been the Triangle Village Shopping Center that was planned on Fayetteville Road which would provide

many necessary services for Southeast Durham residents. After five years of work with various consultants, it seems to be an established conclusion that the major chain markets are refusing to locate a supermarket in a predominantly black area. This reluctance exists beyond a economic soundness because confirmed feasibility reports indicate a weekly income of \$70,000-\$90,000 can be generated by a full service operation. Without the supermarket, the project which requires the financing of a \$1,800,000 project cannot be realized.

Although this project is a major need by the residents in the Southeastern section of Durham resulting in City wide

benefits, it is evident that the major decision makers can influence this development by locating a supermarket at the site are refusing to do so. They know that the people in that community must eat, have money to spend and will somehow get to the markets to satisfy their needs where ever the markets are located. So why bring the markets to them (the consumer), just to make it convenient.

Once more minorities are denied certain conveniences because they cannot generate enough influence where the major decisions are being made.

CAR, Inc. will be on WTVD-TV's 'Reel Perspective', Sunday, April 10 at 12:30 p.m.

Ruffin Appointed-Going To The People For Priorities

RALEIGH - Ben Ruffin, newly appointed Director of the N. C. Human Relations Commissions, said that he will determine the agency's priorities by "going across the state and into the bushes to see what the people want."

Ruffin presently is Director of United Durham Incorporated which has begun several efforts of economic self-help for blacks in the Durham area. In the 1960's he was an activist in the city for social reform. Ruffin is a graduate of Hillside High School and North Carolina Central University.

Commenting on his priorities, Ruffin said that he is going to "get out and carry the Human Relations Commission (HRC) to the people and find out what people would like to do. Then see if we can't go about doing that."

The agency has been severely criticized by the state's black community for several years as a "do-nothing" organization

and an "informant" for the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI).

Exactly when Ruffin will begin his job is not certain; it seems that was one of the particulars overlooked by the Governor, when the appointment was made. Ruffin expects to be on the job within the next 30 days.

Ruffin's appointment followed extensive political fighting among the state's top black leadership over the coveted post. An unprecedented panel of five bureaucrats including Natural and Economic Secretary Howard Lee, Assistant to Governor Hunt for Minority Affairs Dr. John Larkins, State Personnel Director Harold Webb, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Administration Jane Patterson, and Secretary of the Department of Administration Joseph Grimsley was assembled to work on the appointment. The other serious contender for the

position in addition to Ruffin was Henry McKoy, an employee of the Greensboro Human Relations Commission.

Ruffin's plan to seek input from North Carolinians into developing HRC's goals is unprecedented in this state, for a bureaucrat. Most have well-defined programs and priorities before taking office.

Governor James Hunt does have plans for the HRC if he has not changed his mind since campaigning for office. Then, he promised that the HRC would be used to end discrimination against minorities. Hunt then said he favored giving the HRC enforcement power, not only in settling claims of discrimination against state government but also against private industry.

A legislative proposal has been readied by Guilford Senator Katy Sebo and Durham Representative H. M. Michaux to allow the HRC power to investigate, conciliate and make orders for settlement of com-

plaints of discrimination in employment, on the basis of race, sex, age and religion.

A similar bill was defeated last year as opponents of the bill - mostly large manufacturers - pressured many of the legislation's supporters to back off, saying that the bill would change the state's right-to-work laws. That misconception prevailed and the bill was defeated.

The agency's reputation has Cont. on pg. 14

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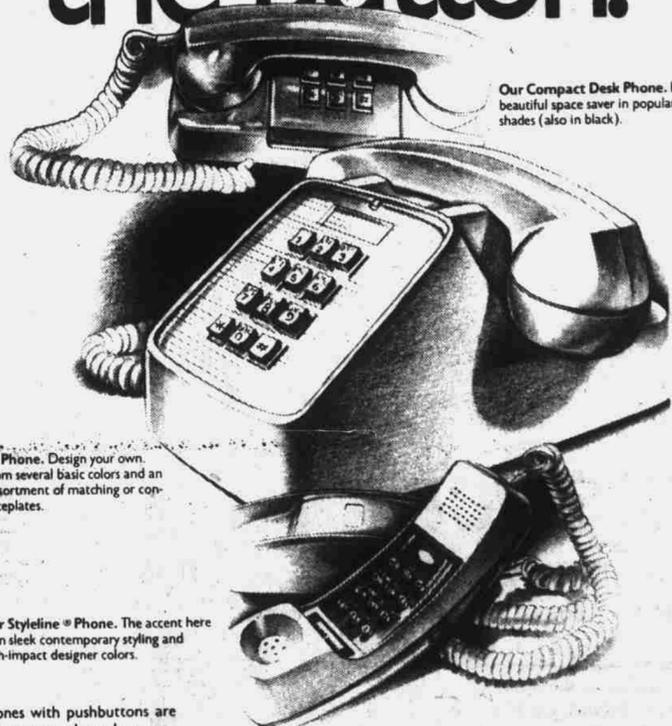
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