

**Chronicle Profile**

# Unregistered voters beware; She'll get you

By AUDREY L. WILLIAMS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

If you happen to be waiting at the bus stop on Fourth and Liberty streets and a little lady grabs you by the arm, asks if you're registered to vote and your answer is "No," be forewarned that you're going with her -- whether you like it or not.

Grace Knox is the lady who believes that right, not privilege, entitles everyone to a vote in local, statewide and national elections.

"I go up to that bus line," she says, "and I say 'Hello how are you? I'm Grace Knox. Are you registered to vote?' And if they say 'No,' I'll say 'Come on with me, honey, and get yourself registered. You're too pretty or handsome not to be.'"

And the Jesse Jackson Campaign headquarters on Fourth Street is her destination.

Every since the Voting Rights Act was passed, Knox has not only been a registered voter but an active in politics. Her political work began in 1952 when she went to work for Emerson Radio Co. in East Orange, N.J.

"I got my first education in politics when I joined the union," says Knox. "You learn a whole lot more from people than you do from books. One man can write a book and that's just his opinion."

For 28 years, as a resident of East Orange, Knox worked actively there in politics and was

recognized in 1969 as Woman of the Year. Her picture, she boasts, hung in the Bamberger Department Store gallery.

From 1968-1975, she served on the county committee under the city's Board of Chosen Freeholders (similar to city council or Board of Aldermen).

Because of Knox's concern for the city's youth, over 50 neighborhood block associations were organized through her guidance. She also held the office of vice-president of the Democratic Association, was a member the

*"I'm interested in politics and I don't listen to that ol' mess about your vote doesn't count. Mine does."*

-- Grace Knox

Model Cities Election Board and was a health aide for the Urban Rodent and Insect Control Project Committee of Essex County, N.J.

"I'm interested in politics," says Knox, "and I don't listen to that ol' mess about your vote doesn't count. Mine does."

Knox won't reveal her age and when asked how old she is, she says, "That's none of your business and those that know me know that (her age). Those that don't, too bad."

Born in Mecklenburg County and reared by an aunt outside of the Charlotte city limits, Knox decided to move to the state's largest city

when she became an adult.

"For a country girl like me, Charlotte was too big and too fast," she says.

She later moved to Winston-Salem because it was smaller and she had a few friends here, she says. After 14 years of living in Winston, Knox joined the bandwagon with other Southern blacks and headed north for a piece of the American pie.

"When all those good government jobs came through," she says, "I went to New Jersey because black people were given better opportunities there."

"But you know," Knox says, "East Orange used to be almost as bad for blacks as it was here in Winston-Salem."

To help alleviate some of the problems blacks faced in East Orange, Knox says she worked diligently in the mid-1950s to unseat a Republican mayor who had served there for 41 years. She later worked to elect William S. Hart, East Orange's first black mayor.

Letters addressed to Grace Knox from congressmen, state legislators and residents thanking her for her community involvement aren't hard to find among letters she has kept over the years. She says she prefers to show people what she has done rather than tell about her involvements.

In 1976, Knox moved back Winston-Salem.

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An education by a labor union helped Grace Knox become the political activist she is today (photo by James Parker).

## Calendar From Page A6

•The Executive Board of the Winston-Salem Branch NAACP will meet at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church at 795 Northwest Crawford Place at 4 p.m. Each member is urged to please be present and on time. Following the executive session, there will be a general public meeting.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 17

•There will be a Senior Citizens Extravaganza at the Agricultural Extension Office at 1450 Fairchild Drive beginning at 10 a.m. There will be panel discussions on social security, Medicare, Medicaid, housing alternatives, food and nutrition. For more information call the Extension Office at 767-8213.

•The Forsyth County Public Library at 660 W. Fifth St. will sponsor Pre-school Storytime at 11:30 a.m. in the storyroom for 3- to 5-year-olds. Today's story is "Me and My Friends." For more information call 727-2214.

### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

•All previous students, friends, teachers, matrons, etc. of Memorial Industrial School are asked to please contact the following persons before April 15: Betty Grace Dillard at 969-6077 or Verdell Hayes at 767-2526.

•The Young Adult Missionary Department of Emmanuel Baptist Church will sponsor a trip to Williamsburg Pottery in Light Foot, Va., April 28. The bus will leave at 6 a.m. and return late the same night. The fare is \$26. For more information about the trip, contact the church at 788-7023 and leave your name and number.

•Ardmore Transportation Ministry needs volunteers to help transport the elderly and handicapped who live in the Ardmore area. For more information, call 722-5686.

•The Health Department is looking for people to conduct interviews during the month of April. Interviews will evaluate hours and policy. Interested volunteers should contact Gene Sloan at 727-8172 or the VAC at 723-7474.

•The Forsyth County Literacy Association needs volunteers to teach reading. All necessary training will be provided. For more information contact Ann Gehlen at 727-2680.

•The Voluntary Action Center has the following volunteer opportunities available:

-- The Voluntary Action Center is looking for volunteers to join its "Volunteer Power" secretarial pool. Volunteers will help fill temporary assignments in non-profit organizations throughout the year. Anyone interested may call Marcia Barker at 724-7474.

-- Crisis Control needs volunteers to work as clothes closet workers helping organize, arrange and distribute donated clothing. Interested persons may contact Mike Bradshaw at 722-0425.

-- Anyone interested in leading an older men's discussion group may contact Susan Parks at 724-7598.

-- The Nature Science Center is in need of volunteers to help with education, museum tours, the museum shop and the reception area. Contact Mebane Hamm at 767-6730.

-- The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation needs someone to do light typing eight weeks for about eight hours each week. Call Susan Parks at 724-7598.



Mrs. Suzanne Anderson, above, a member of Experiment in Self-Reliance Inc.'s Adult Basic Education class, participates in a group discussion of current events. Instructor Garland Brice teaches a lively group of senior citizens (photo by James Parker).

## Miss Vestal is crowned

On Saturday, March 24, Catherine Marie Vestal was crowned the 1984 Little Miss Winston-Salem.

The pageant was sponsored by the Winston-Salem Jayettes and proceeds from the pageant will benefit Amos Cottage and Rainbow House.

Vestal, 6, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Vestal of Walnut Cove and is a student at Latham Elementary School.

First runner-up was Allison Whitney Perkins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Perkins of Winston-Salem.

April Dawn Holcomb, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Holcomb of Yadkinville, was second runner-up.

Third place went to Kristen Faye Childress, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lance Childress of Winston-Salem, and the fourth-place winner was Kristina Carlisle Blazer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Blazer of Winston-Salem.

## Military

From Page A6

ing his enlistment and he also studied the personal and professional standards traditionally exhibited by Marines.

Navy Airman Odell R. Tillery, son of Odell Tillery of 5687 Bullrun Road and Elizabeth G. Jones, both of Winston-Salem, has reported for duty aboard aircraft carrier USS Nimitz, homeported in Norfolk, Va.

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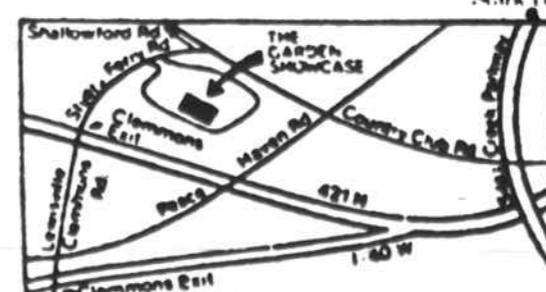
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