



LEM LONG, JR. INSTRUCTS WORKERS
...At construction site

Lem Long, Jr. Says Services Continue Renovation Not Hampering Long And Sons Operations

By Robert Lane Jr.
Post Staff Writer
Long and Son Mortuary Service of 2312 Beatties Ford Road is being renovated. Lem Long Jr., owner and funeral director, wants everyone to know that arrangements have been made through local churches to continue funeral services.

"We will have no problem whatsoever in arranging funeral services, he assured... First Baptist Church has agreed to work with us during the renovation period," said Long. Long decided to increase the size of the building because of a 55 percent increase in business. He said that things were getting a

little cramped and it was time to spread out some. It's going to take anywhere from two or maybe three months before the building is complete. According to Long: "Our building will be twice the size it is now. We have invested nearly \$200,000 to enlarge the chapel, display room, morgue and even to add three more offices, and two bedrooms."

HHS Secretary Schweiker Announces SSI Changes

Special To The Post
HHS Secretary Richard S. Schweiker last week reversed a Carter Administration decision and ordered his department to write new regulations so that aged, blind and disabled persons who purchase burial plots and burial contracts do not risk losing their Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.

state-run program for medical assistance to low-income persons which is funded in part by the federal government. Under 1972 law, SSI benefits can be provided only to persons with resources of \$1,500 or less (\$2,250 for couples). Certain specified necessities of living, like homes and clothing, are not counted when computing a person's "resources." But under the current SSI regulations, burial plots and contracts have been counted as "resources." This can cause a person's "resources" to exceed the limit, thus disqualifying the individual from SSI and in some instances, Medicaid assistance.

Long hasn't raised his prices in a full year and he admitted that he doesn't intend to raise prices due to the reconstruction of the building. "We will not raise prices because of renovation cost," he said. "We hope the 55 percent increase in business will pay for that." Most of all Long wants to convert the parlor into a home-like atmosphere and use the wake area as a separate facility. He also is adding a special waiting area that is separated from the main office. Long has also arranged to buy all new furniture and he's getting three new cars. With these added items along with the polished building area Long hopes to be able to better serve his clientele and to make the building itself more comfortable.

In addition to SSI, the changes Schweiker announced also will affect Medicaid beneficiaries in the 34 states where Medicaid coverage is automatically extended to SSI recipients. "We think it is unfair to penalize low-income elderly and disabled people who have provided for their own burial expenses, by making them give up their burial plots or contracts in order to remain eligible for SSI and Medicaid benefits," Schweiker said in announcing the change, which will replace regulations in effect since the beginning of the SSI program in 1974. Former HHS Secretary Patricia Roberts Harris, in June, 1980 rejected departmental recommendations to take the action Schweiker ordered this week.

SSI is an \$8.2 billion federal program providing cash assistance to nearly 3.7 million low-income elderly, blind or disabled persons. Medicaid is a

First United Women's Organization To Sponsor Black Female Church Forum

First United Presbyterian Church Women's Organization will sponsor the second annual Black Female Church Forum September 8-9 from 7-9 p.m. The purposes of this forum are: to involve church women of various denominations in timely information sharing and giving; to emphasize the need for continued spiritual and secular total involvement of black females; and to establish a greater religious support network among black females and their respective churches.



Thelma Council
...Health speaker



Kathleen Crosby
...Education speaker



Dr. Debra Scott
...Forum speaker

Panelist and topics for this forum include: "The Role of Church Women in the 80s," with Anna Hood and Rev. Jackie Alexander as speakers. Betty Eddleman will speak on the "Political Status of Black Women in the 80s," while Jean Webber will deliver the message on "The Analysis of the Economic Upward Mobility of Black Women."

Mearl Purvis will discuss the topic, "Communications" and Attorney Marnite Shuford Perry will speak on the "Legal Update for Black Women." Adelaide Hunt will speak on "Education-Black Women-Black Families" along with Kathleen Crosby, Dr. Shirley Anderson and Elizabeth Koontz. Thelma Council, Dr. Debra Scott and Mrs. Carole Ricks will speak on "Physical Health, Mental

Health and Relationships Among Black Women and Black Families." Culminating the two evening forums will be the observance of Women's Day at First United Presbyterian Church. This will be held Sunday, September 12. The speaker for the programs will be Elizabeth Koontz. Ms. Koontz is the former Assistant Superintendent in the North Carolina Department of Public Instruc-

tion. In January 1969 President Nixon appointed Ms. Koontz as Director of the U.S. Department of Labor Women's bureau. She was the first black director and subsequent Deputy Assistant Secretary for Labor Employment Standards. While in that capacity, she became the U.S. Delegate to the United Nation's Commission on the Status of Women, which was responsible for the resolution

on International Women's Year Observance in 1975. Ms. Koontz was educated in the public schools and received her B.A. degree in secondary school English, mathematics and elementary education from Livingstone College. She received her M.A. degree from Atlanta University, and did further graduate work at Columbia University, Indiana University and North Carolina College with emphasis on Special Education. Her participation in civic, religious and educational organizations has been long and rewarding, as it follows a family tradition of public service. She has traveled extensively around the world for personal tours, as well as in her capacities as a governmental and organizational representative. Ms. Koontz's humanitarian interest in people of all ages, races and socioeconomic conditions has been widely recognized by See FIRST UNITED Pg. 2

Construction Industry Reeling

The North Carolina construction industry continues to reel before the onslaught of the recession, according to figures recently released by N.C. Labor Commissioner John C. Brooks. However, despite continued decreases in overall new construction, the first glimmer of hope in months for recovery in the depressed industry appeared in the form of an increase in non-residential construction.

In April, Brooks said, North Carolina's largest cities authorized a total of 2,926 new construction units, down 24.1 percent from 3,857 in April 1981, and a 12.8 percent decrease from March's 3,355.

Estimated value of the building dropped 19.9 percent from the April 1981 total. Double-digit declines were still evident in new construction of single-family homes (-25.3 percent) and multi-family units (-17.7 percent).

For the first time this year, though, one of the four categories of building activity reported by the state labor department showed a gain over 1981 figures: non-residential construction increased 9.3 percent from April 1981. A total of 377 permits were issued for non-residential construction projects in N.C. cities of over 10,000 population during the month of April.

Charlotte, which has so far escaped most of the damage of the current recession, registered a comparatively healthy figure of \$12,398,245 in value in new construction for April. Mecklenburg County reported issuing 216 new permits for single-family units in April; 87 permits were issued for non-residential dwellings.

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IRMA ARNETTA LORICK
...Communication's major

This Week's Beauty

Irma Lorick Has Taken Firm Position Towards Advancing

By Teresa Simmons
Post Managing Editor
Being one to think ahead Irma Arnetta Lorick has taken a strict position towards advancing, learning and achieving. Instead of worrying about what could have been our beauty concentrates on what can be.

"I'm an aggressive person. And since I like tax work I'd like to continue my education and become a professional tax practitioner in accounting," she stated.

Presently Ms. Lorick is a secretary and the bookkeeper for Andrew Gray's Accounting Service-Waldon Business Consultants and the Tricia Painters and Company. She recently became a Notary

Public. She has attended Johnson C. Smith University (1976-79) where she majored in communication and speech. A graduate of Lumberton Senior High School, Ms. Lorick is a native of Lumberton where she grew up with five brothers and one sister.

"It was all right growing up in a big family. We would always say grace at dinner time and we always stuck by one another," she reminisced.

"My father, Paul Lorick Sr., is my favorite person," she continued. "He raised seven children and worked all his life and all of us have attended college. He saved enough money for all seven

of his children to go to college."

"I also admire my mother, Rev. Evalena C. Lorick. She is a licensed minister and president of the Minister's Alliance Association of Robeson County."

Looking on the positive side of many issues Ms. Lorick feels that she is surviving the economy's predicament rather bravely. "I really can't tell that I am living in a recession since I've been on my own. For one thing I live within my budget."

"I can't really say that I am hurt by Reaganomics because money has to be spent anyway. But I know that there are those going through some troubled times right now," she commented.

"If I could I would replace our present president with someone who would help everyone-not just the rich, but the poor also," she concluded.

Leaving the more serious side of our Aries beauty we find that she enjoys the tunes of the Commodores' soul and religious melodies and Stevie Wonder's realistic and meaningful lyrics.

Backgammon, collecting stamps and playing tennis are other favorite pastimes of Ms. Lorick. She also enjoys attending church where Rev. Owens is pastor.

Ms. Lorick is an industrious young lady who received two scholarships to college: one from the Matron Guild Social Club and one from the Les Femmes D' Action Social Club.

Her industrious nature continues to push her forward in life's zone of accomplishments and completed feats. It is not everyday one sees a lady with such courage and zeal...but for our beauty, Irma Lorick, these characteristics come naturally.

SEE FOOTBALL SPECIAL INSIDE

State Has Broken Faith With Teachers

RALEIGH - The president of the 41,000 member North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) Wednesday vowed to take the battle over hospital-medical insurance back to the General Assembly after a state board voted to cut insurance benefits for teachers and state employees.

Loretta M. Martin, NCAE president, said that the state "has broken faith with teachers and state employees and is subjecting them to yet another economic disaster, all in the name of fiscal responsibility."

She said the latest cut, which will increase the deductible teachers must pay by \$50 and increase their co-insurance liability by up to \$400, "adds insult to injury for teachers and state employees who got no salary increase this year and were even deprived of the salary increments they had already earned."

Martin charged that the leadership of the General Assembly "knew full well it was not appropriating enough money to fully fund the hospital-medical insurance program and knew that the State Budget Office would later have to reduce benefits."

She said the leadership either knew the fact or simply did "a sloppy job of checking with their consultants."

She said NCAE has been told that the consultants in fact did warn Assembly leaders of the full cost of the medical insurance program.

"We intend to take the problem back to the General Assembly which created it," she said, adding that NCAE "will put medical insurance commitments right up there at the top of the list of promises it will seek from candidates for the General Assembly this November."

She said she can't imagine the state NCAE nor any NCAE local endorsing a politician who refuses to commit himself or herself to vote for adequate funding of the medical program.

"The question the State of North Carolina must ask itself is how long it can keep forcing its teachers and other employees to subsidize the work they do," Martin said. She added that she has never seen teachers any more angry over a single action than they are over the reduction in the health benefits.

"This action literally takes money out of the pocket of every teacher in the state who uses the medical policy, and they fully understand the gravity of the situation," Martin said.

Law Program
DURHAM - The Evening Law School Program at the North Carolina Central University School of Law is the only evening law program offered in the state of North Carolina. The program is separately accredited by the American Bar Association.