

Older People Are Protected Against Abuse, Neglect

By Ernest B. Messer
Special To The Post

Abuse, neglect, exploit — these are words that no one wants to use when talking about older adults. However, older adults — and disabled adults of all ages — have been abused, neglected and exploited. To help change these conditions there is a state law called the Protection of the Abused, Neglected, or Exploited Adult Act.

When first enacted in 1973, this law applied only to abused and neglected adults aged 65 and older. In 1975 it was expanded to include disabled adults of any age and to also deal with problems of exploitation. Mandatory reporting of abuses was added, and is now one of the law's main features.

The problem of abuse, neglect and exploitation is larger than anyone realizes and is difficult to pinpoint. Several years ago a subcommittee of the General Assembly attempted

to investigate abuse of older people. No older person would come forward to complain. There seemed to be several reasons for this: fear of reprisal, embarrassment that their own children would abuse them, fear that if they had to leave their children's residence, there may be no place for them to go.

Some older people are simply neglected, given less food or fewer clothes than they need, or left without the means to call for assist-

ance. This neglect can cause illness and in severe cases death.

Sadly, a bad relationship between a parent and child may emerge when the caretaker roles are reversed.

Financial exploitation usually involves a family member. Sometimes an older, feeble adult is pressured to

give up his estate. He is dependent and vulnerable and will usually do as the caretaker suggests.



Mrs. Lenwood E. Edwards
.....She was Miss Valeria Williamson

Miss Valeria Williamson

Weds Lenwood Edwards

Valeria Renae Williamson and Lenwood E. Edwards were recently united in marriage in an impressive twelve o'clock ceremony at Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church, Dr. Joseph Johnson heard the vows pledged by the couple.

The bride, who is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel T. Williamson of Charlotte, was given in marriage by her father. Mrs. Edwards wore a formal candlelight gown of satin and French imported re-embroidered Alencon, designed with a natural waist, bishop puffed sleeves and a mandarin neckline. The entire bodice and sleeves were overlaid with motifs from the Alencon lace. The sheer yoke of French marquise was outlined with the scalloped lace, as was the mandarin collar. Iridescent and seed pearls were lavishly used in the pattern work of the lace design. The very full bias cut skirt held an attached cathedral train, the entire hemline of which was bordered in wide scalloped lace. The motif of this lace was also used in the intricate pattern work on the front and back of the gown. The headpiece, a small Juliet cap of lace appliques and seed pearls, held a French imported sheer cathedral length illusion.

The groom is the son of Mrs. Minnie L. Edwards and the late Mr. Bennie P. Edwards, of Snow Hill, NC.

The bride's honor attendant was Ms. Lolita Watkins of Greensboro. Best man was Mr. Kenneth Froneberger of Gastonia. Other attendants at the ceremony were Mr. Fred Lewis of Detroit, Michigan; Mr. James Lewis, Mrs. Audred Shields, Ms. Joyce Melton, Dr. Marc Nesl, Mr. Donald Vines, Mr. Jacob Riley and Master George Durham Jr., of Greensboro; Mr. Leonard Phillips of Snow Hill; and Ms. Yvette Houey of Charlotte.

Hostesses were Karen Aycock, Nancy Johnson, Diane Thomas, Sharon Donnell, Gail Saunders, Alice Barbee, Marquita White and Sylvia Byrd of Greensboro; Edwina Evans of Fayetteville; and Ruth Walker of Shelby, NC.

Honorary hostesses were the Charlotte chapter of "Chums, Inc." Hosts included Frederick Shields III, William Finger, Paul Aycock, and David Green.

Directresses were Mrs. Pat Finger and Ms. Jackie Shaffner.

Mrs. Danetta Florence-Bristow, vocalist, sang "I Love Thee," "Ave Maria," and "The Lord's Prayer." Mrs. Annie Diggs was the organist.

A rehearsal party was held at the home of Justice and Mrs. Henry Frye in Greensboro. A dance reception with punch, champagne, and hors d'oeuvres, given by the bride's parents, was held at the Blandwood Carriage House, with music by the Jimmy Person Quartet.

The bride graduated with honors from Garinger High School. She graduated magna cum laude from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro, with a B.A. degree in speech pathology and audiology. She has a masters degree in speech pathology and is employed as a speech and language pathologist with the Greensboro City School System.

The groom graduated with honors from Greene County High School in Snow Hill and from Johnson C. Smith University with a B.S. in health and physical education and a minor in biological science. He received masters degrees from Springfield College in Boston, Massachusetts, and from A&T State University, Greensboro. Mr. Edwards is employed as an elementary school principal in the

Greensboro City School System. After a wedding trip to St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, the couple will make their home in Greensboro.

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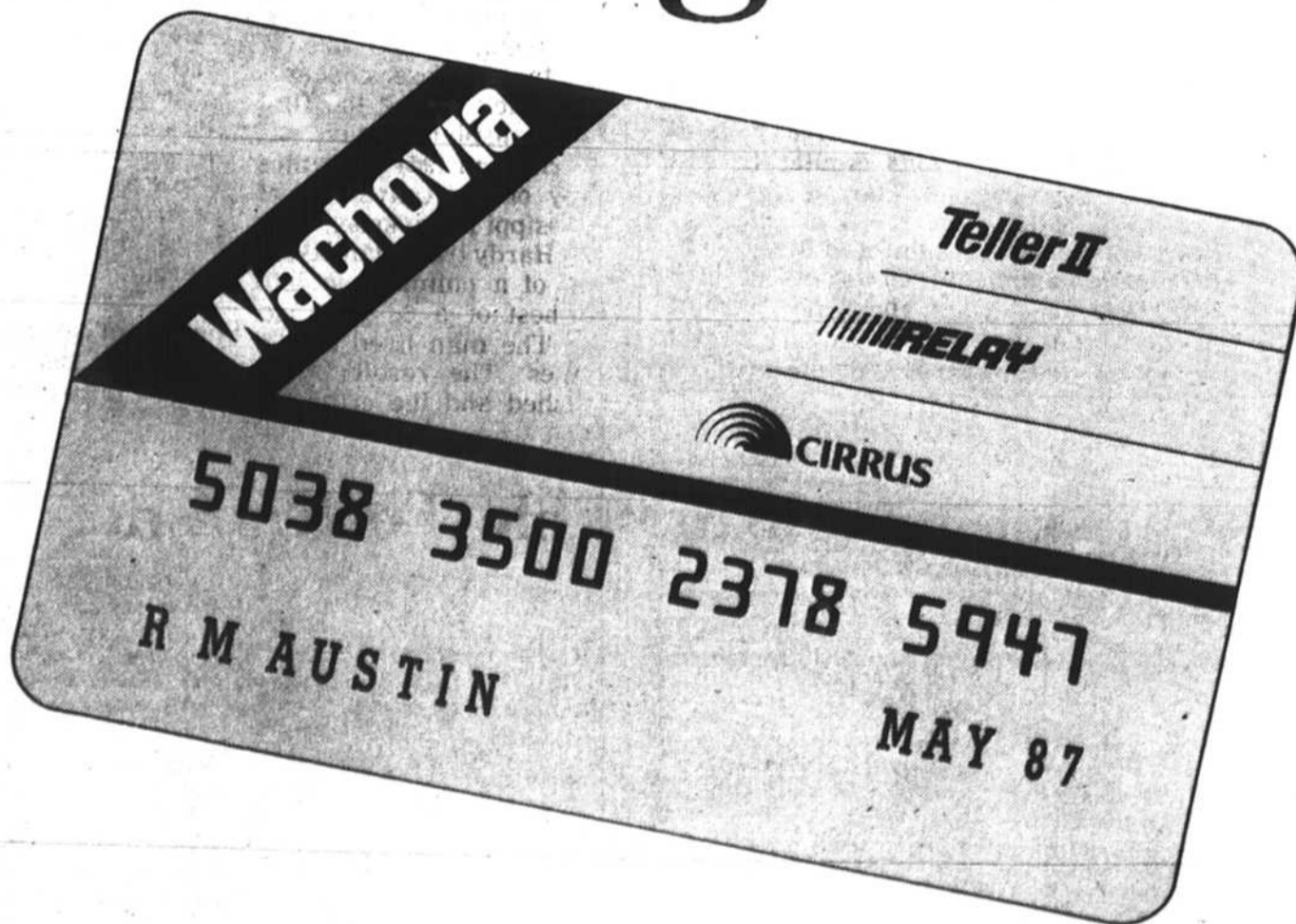
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