

# Keeping People Happy Is Something Barr Does Well

Around 8:45 a.m. each morning, you can quite often catch John Barr, maintenance supervisor, sitting behind the reception desk with a big smile on his face—welcoming each employee into the office as he wakes up The Charlotte Post headquarters for another day of operation.

"That's important to the company," says Barr, who arrives early morning to thoroughly clean and prepare the building before its offices open.

"I'm among friends that I enjoy," he adds, "and I have to have the building right and convenient so that people will want to come in."

"The most important part about this job is to keep a person happy."

And, according to his co-workers and friends at the newspaper, keeping people happy is something Barr does quite well. At any time he can be found assisting in almost any department, or



**John Barr**  
...Maintenance supervisor performing maintenance repairs on a staff member's car, or just uplifting someone's spirit with a wise, tall tale.

One recent morning Barr was overheard joking about having "raised" The Charlotte Post's publisher and editor, Bill Johnson. And while Johnson smiled at the quip, he did credit

Barr with fostering the structural growth of the newspaper's facility since joining the staff at its new location two years ago.

"He has amazing talent and does a lot of things well," says Johnson, who

calls Barr "a dear and loyal friend."

"He has been an instrumental force in changes in The Charlotte Post's structure," adds Johnson, pointing to partitioned offices built by Barr. "There is

very little he can't do.

"Just present him with a blueprint," says Johnson, "and he can take one look at it and do it."

Married to Mary Barr for 39 years, 65-year-old Barr says he still enjoys work-

ing and has no time for retirement.

"Work is made for a person," declares Barr. "A

short life for a man is when he quits working.

## Home Improvement Loans Available

A limited number of home improvement loans at below-market interest, nine percent, are now available in older Charlotte neighborhoods for qualified moderate-income homeowners. The Home Improvement Loan Program (HILP) is operated by the City Community Development Department, in cooperation with the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency and the Southeastern Savings & Loan Company.

To qualify, homes must be in specified areas, primarily in the central core, northern and western

areas and a few sections in south Charlotte. Homeowners must meet income guidelines. For example, annual income for a family of two to four persons may not exceed \$32,000. The income limit is necessary to conserve limited loan funds for families who may not be able to afford conventional interest rates for home improvement loans.

Loan amounts range from \$5,000 to \$15,000. Funds may be used for improvements such as roof and foundation repairs, electrical and plumbing improvements, energy

saving improvements, repairs to meet housing code standards and structural additions and alterations to alleviate overcrowding.

Interested homeowners should contact the City Community Development Department at

336-2016 which will make referrals to the lender, Southeastern Savings & Loan Company.

In 1984 HILP received one of 10 national awards for excellence for outstanding public-private partnerships from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

## Helton Honored By Defense Mapping Agency

Washington, D.C.

Audwin A. Helton, son of Marvin A. and Mary Louise Helton of Charlotte, has been presented the Outstanding Personnel of the Year Award by Rear Admiral E. A. Wilkinson Jr., director of the Defense Mapping Agency. The ceremony took place at Bolling Air Force Base Officers Club. Mr. Helton, a cartographer at the DMA Hydrographic-Topographic Center's Louisville Ky.,


Office, was cited for the "consistently outstanding manner in which he compiled a number of complex map sheets of various scales." His excellent judgment and thorough knowledge of cartographic principles and specifications were employed in performing phase checks and assurance audits on these projects. He is an active member of the American Society of Cartographers in Louisville and currently serves as treasurer.

DMA provides mapping, charting and geodesy support to all elements of the Department of Defense, including sophisticated guidance data for most modern weapons systems such as Pershing II and cruise missiles. Its 9,000 military and civilian personnel serve in some 50 nations around the world.




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