



**QUEEN THOMPSON BYRD**  
...Lady with the capital "L"

**After 32 Years**

**Queen Thompson Byrd Retires  
From Hidden Valley Elementary School**

Queen Thompson Byrd, having served 32 years in the elementary schools of North Carolina, retired from Hidden Valley Elementary School as a Chapter I Math and Reading teacher at the end of the 1985 school year.

The staff of Hidden Valley Elementary School held a luncheon in honor of Mrs. Byrd at the Fireside Inn Restaurant. The teachers and custodians of Hidden Valley wore faces of joy and sadness for the woman they have known and loved as a vivacious, energetic, and talented teacher.

Patricia Dowdy, the chairperson of the elegant affair, described Mrs. Byrd as "the lady with the capital 'L' who is a real leader, a Queen in all areas of life."

All her co-workers agreed that Mrs. Byrd is a professional and super teacher with a genuine concern for the welfare of her students and fellow workers. She exudes a bubbly personality and radiant smile that brings joy and happiness to all.

To many of her students, Mrs. Byrd is a super teacher. She's someone they can confide in, someone who can cheer them when they feel low, someone who makes learning a joy—a teacher they all love and respect.

In recognition of her positiveness, cleverness and ability to get the job done, Mrs. Byrd was voted, "Teacher of the Year 1984-85," by her co-workers.

Dr. R. B. Irons, principal of Hidden Valley School, stated in his tribute to Mrs. Byrd at a Chapter I PAC luncheon where she was honored in May, "Words cannot express what Mrs. Byrd has meant to the children and faculty of our Hidden Valley family. She is one of the warmest, most effective, and most loving teachers any of us has ever known. Chapter I has been honored by her service over the years since she entered the program after many years of distinguished classroom teaching. She

has had a special commitment to the Chapter I program over the years I have known her. I believe the special reputation and record that the Hidden Valley Chapter I program has enjoyed over the years is due in large part to her leadership. We are going to miss her keenly at Hidden Valley. Mrs. Byrd richly deserves the rewards of retirement, but she needs to know we will not be able to replace her."

Mrs. Kathleen Crosby, area superintendent of the Myers-Park-Harding Feeding Area, tearfully told Mrs. Byrd at the retirement luncheon that the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System will miss her not only as an outstanding teacher, but as a "special person."

As for Mrs. Byrd, she expressed,

"Teaching children has been a challenging and rewarding experience. It has been my joy. Now, I must move to other avenues. There is so much traveling I have yet to do, so many places I have yet to see—right here in my own country. I must get on with my life while I still feel young at heart and physically fit."

The fabulous retirement luncheon for Mrs. Byrd was attended by her family including her husband, Jonathan; her mother, Mrs. Loree Thompson; her sons, Jonathan Alton of Charlotte and Gregory of the U.S. Air Force; his wife, Grace, and son, Nicholas. Mrs. Byrd's brother, Barry Thompson, and his son, Barry H., from Decatur, Ga., were also in attendance.

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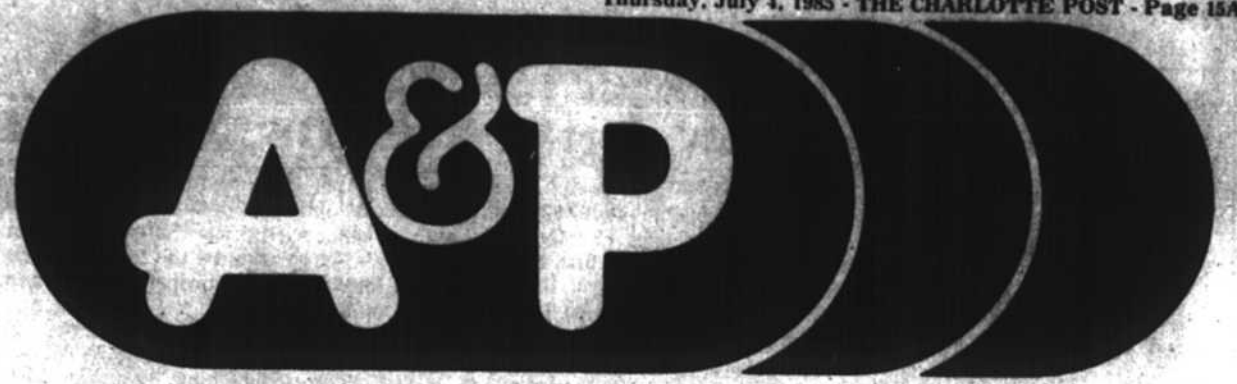
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