



THE FOURTH IS FIRST - Shann Antonio Wells if the fourth child of Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Lee Wells, but he is also the New Year baby born at Duplin General Hospital in Kenansville. The Wells reside in Teachey, where Jimmy Wells is employed with Swift. Mrs. Wells gave birth to their fourth child after 4 a.m. New Year's Day. Dr. Stephen Griffith of Duplin Medical Association delivered the eight pound and six ounce Wells boy.

Worsley Invests In People

By Debbie Norton
Wilmington Star News

Cecil Worsley Jr., belying the Scotchman stereotype of frugality, this season threw a Christmas party for his employees — all 900 of them. It was a country/western fete, complete with music, cloggers, food and transportation. Since Worsley Companies extends into five Southeastern states, the company president provided charter buses to bring employees from the western parts of the Carolinas to the Myrtle Beach Convention Center and flew in some from Florida.

"You know what it cost?" Worsley said, smiling and forming a circle with his thumb and forefinger. "Zero. It was a good investment. I wanted the people — the clerks behind the counter — to feel a part of this. 'You know, they're already talking about next year, and I don't know how we can top it.' Worsley, 58, has made a

habit of topping himself. A native of Wallace, he joined his father's small gasoline distributorship in the 1940s and since has built a corporation that does about \$150 million a year in sales and has an annual payroll of more than \$7 million.

Worsley Companies, now headquartered in a new building on Eastwood Road in Wilmington, includes 21 distributorships, 117 Scotchman Stores and Gas World stations, a petroleum transportation line and real estate holdings that include Rockfish Plaza in Wallace. It also distributes petroleum products to 150 dealers.

The company has operations in North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Tennessee, where it recently bought 11 service stations in Chattanooga in a \$2 million expansion. Worsley said he plans to build another 25 Scotchman stores during 1984.

"I've always been a buyer, not a seller," Worsley said. Worsley began buying in

earnest in the mid-1960s, branching out from his limited Duplin County distribution area to open operations in Burgaw and Elizabethtown.

"I was asking myself, 'What is my future in Wallace?' " Worsley said. "I was locked into a 20-mile geographical area. To grow, I had to go outside this area."

In 1968, Worsley made one of his largest business moves and bought into the Conway, S.C., district, which includes the lucrative Myrtle Beach market.

But the true growth period began in the post-Arab oil embargo years of a decade ago, Worsley said. They were the final years for many of his competitors.

As other distributors failed, Worsley bought them up and transformed empty service stations into convenience stores and self-serve facilities.

Worsley said he is convinced the expansion from strictly wholesale to the retail gasoline and convenience

store business saved his company while all those about him were losing theirs. "If I hadn't, I would have been a lot like the oil companies I bought out. I would have gone by the wayside," Worsley said.

Other companies "were not willing to make the effort or put the money into it. We put new life into their businesses and put money into the retail end."

The continued profitability of Worsley Companies, though, lies in another factor. "The key to success — and this is important — is that I have good people around me," Worsley said. "I'm not just a figurehead, though. I'm in there rubbing elbows every day."

In fact, Worsley estimates he spends about four days a week "in the air" traveling to his various locations and working with managers on an individual basis.

"One-on-one," Worsley said. "You get the best results that way."

Classes offered at Chinquapin Adult Education Center include Adult Basic Education & High School Completion and Upholstery Class. Adult Basic Education & High School Completion is offered in Faison and Greeneville. Classes offered at Wallace include Adult Basic Education and High School Completion, Cake Decorating and Floral Design. Adult Basic Education and High School Completion is available at Warsaw. For more information on these classes or any other classes of interest, contact the continuing education department at JSTC at 296-1341.

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—Woodrow Wilson

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Beulaville News

Dockie Sandlin and daughter made a business trip to Clinton Friday.

Vallie Oxley made a business trip to Clinton Thursday.

Randy Sandlin returned to Greensboro after spending the holidays with his parents, Mrs. and Mrs. L.J. Sandlin Sr.

J.D. Cottle visited Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Turner Saturday. Ellis returned home from Lenoir Memorial Hospital Wednesday.

Michael Bratcher and a friend of Columbia, S.C. visited Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Bratcher and Mrs. Ransom Mercer during the weekend.

Mack Raynor and his wife, Carolyn, were honored with a reception Jan. 16 in the

recreation hall of the Beulaville Baptist Church.

Laynette Måready of Campbell College was home with her parents for the weekend. Darlene Hunter, also of Campbell, spent the weekend with Mrs. Sidney Hunter, her grandmother.

Owen Kennedy is a patient in Lenoir Memorial Hospital. Randall Sumner is also in Lenoir Memorial.

Davis Miller Kennedy and Avis Miller Rhodes were both admitted to Duplin General Hospital Thursday due to a car accident at the stoplight in Beulaville.

Stella Evans spent New Year's with M/Sgt and Mrs. Jimmy Evans and family in Fayetteville.



Mr. and Mrs. William H. Kennon

Chimes To Be Dedicated

New Christian Chapel Church will dedicate the chimes in the church in memory of Deacon and Ms. William H. Kenion on Sunday, Jan. 22 at 3 p.m.

The chimes were given in their honor by their granddaughter, Sarah E. Graham, and her husband, Donald Graham. The church is located on Hwy. #11, Rose Hill. The public is invited.

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

May I take this opportunity to wish each of you a Happy New Year and at the same time thank you for the many thoughtful things you do for me. Your visits, cards, flowers, fruits, good wishes and prayers have meant so much to me. So to the churches, circles, clubs, former students, friends and relatives, again THANK YOU so much.

Elizabeth H. Ferrell

Johnson To Speak At Annual Dinner

Rev. Dr. Joy J. Johnson will be the featured speaker at the first annual dinner program of the Duplin County Progressive Leadership Organization on Saturday, Jan. 14 at 5 p.m. at the Kenansville Eastern Training Center adjacent to the First Baptist Church on Church Street in Kenansville.

returning to Roberson County each weekend. His church has also included a term as president of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., which has more than 1,700 churches.

DUCOLO is a political action committee registered with the State Board of Elections to foster minorities in their endeavors to participate more fully in a participatory democracy.

Tickets can be purchased from Robert Smith (285-5503), L.J. Sutton (289-2594) George Farris Jr. (296-0282), Mrs. Willie C. Jones (285-3815) and others. The dinner program is on the eve of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday in part as a commemoration to him.



REV. JOHNSON

Rev. Johnson was the second black elected to the General Assembly since Reconstruction in 1970 as a representative for Roberson County. Later he became the first black person in the state legislature to head a committee, the Committee on Human Resources.

Rev. Johnson has continued to pastor the First Baptist Church in Fairmont.

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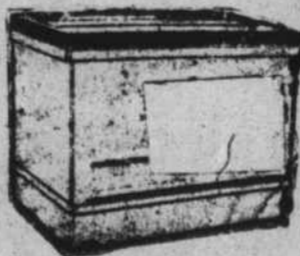
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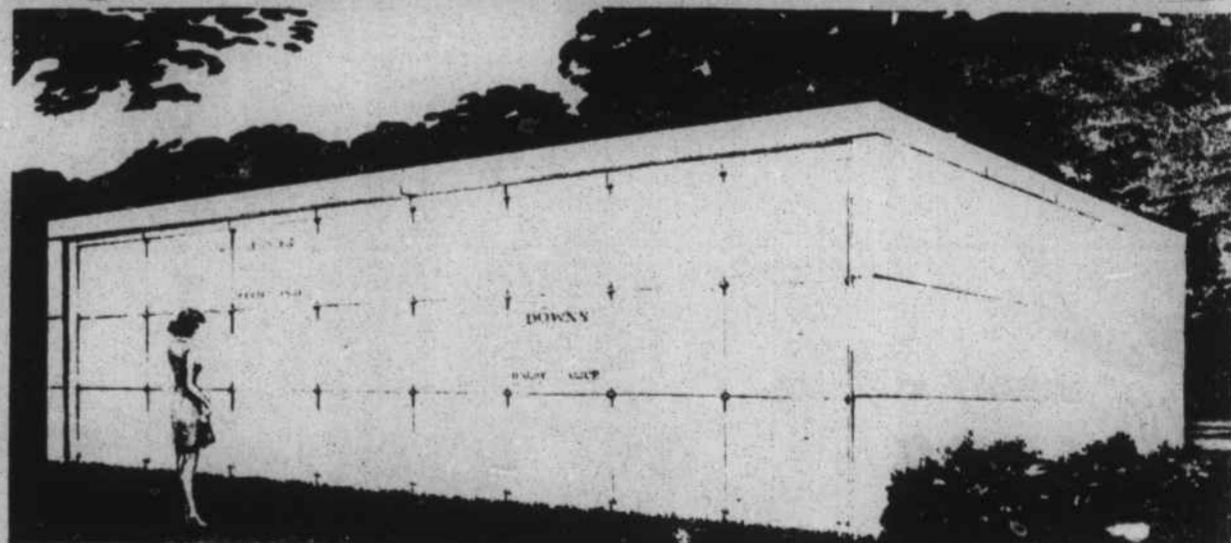
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