

Laurinburg Lady Cab Driver Attracts Attention

The wife of a Laurelcrest employee is Laurinburg's first female taxi driver. She is Pearlie Mae Densmore, whose husband, Richard Densmore, is a mechanic at the Laurelcrest Yarn Mill.

Mrs. Densmore said she was not trying to cut in on the man's world by becoming a lady cab driver. "It's no act of woman's liberation. I just needed a job to help out with finances at home," remarked the young mother of four.

Mrs. Densmore has been on the job at Hub's Taxi Service since Thursday, July 15, and so far she has only good things to say about the experience.

With a tilt of her taxi cap and a flip of her long dark hair she talks about her search for employment after lay-off from a local plant. "After trying for some time to get a job at restaurants and other textile plants, Herbert Hardee asked me if I had ever thought about driving a cab. I suggested that 'Hub', who is a long-time friend of the family, talk with my husband and if he agreed I would try it. So here I am.

"He thinks it's just great," she said of her husband, adding that it does not interfere with her domestic duties, although she works eight hours a day, seven days a week.

Pearlie Mae, as she is called by the men drivers on the Main Street lot, has turned out to be an improvement for the business, commented Lee Wilkes who has served as a Laurinburg taxi driver for the past 35 years.

"Most of the fellows think the lady driver is working out nicely. Some have voiced concern for her personal safety; other than that, we like the idea."

The public has responded agreeably for the most part, according to Mrs. Densmore. "There have been only a few remarks from the street. Like a few minutes ago, up on the corner a young man yelled out 'You fool' but I just laugh it off.

"I like people and especially meeting new friends. The work is great for that sort of thing," she commented, adding that she had yet to notice any raised eyebrows from her patrons.

Her fellow workers continue to show her lady-like respect,



Pearlie Mae Densmore prepares to enter her cab.

observes the blue-eyed cabby. "One said it was about time we had a lady driver and they all seem to think I have as much right here as a man."

Mrs. Densmore, daughter of Mrs. Lizzie Waite of Laurinburg, attended local schools. Following marriage the couple lived in California until last April when they returned to Laurinburg to make their home. She and Richard Densmore are parents of four children ages 3, 9, 13 and 14.

"Their favorite game is 'Taxi, please,'" laughed their mother.

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What Am I?

I am more powerful than the combined armies of the world.
 I have destroyed more men than all the guns.
 I steal in the United States alone over \$500,000,000 each year.
 I spare no one, and I find my victims among the rich and poor alike, the young and the old, the strong and the weak.
 I am more deadly than bullets, and I have wrecked more homes than the mightiest and orphans know me.
 I loom up to such proportions that I cast my shadow over every field of labor, from the turning of every grindstone to the moving of every railroad train.
 I massacre thousands upon thousands of wage earners in a year.
 I lurk in unseen places, and do most of my work silently. You are warned against me, but you heed not.
 I am relentless.
 I am everywhere — in the home, on the streets and highways, in the factory, at railroad crossings, and on the sea.
 I bring sickness, degradation and death, and yet few seek to avoid me.
 I destroy, crush and maim; I give nothing but take all.
 I am your worst enemy.
 I AM CARELESSNESS — AND I AM THE MAIN SOURCE OF ACCIDENTS.