

Robert Dedmond Has Retired?

On Wednesday, March 19, Robert Dedmond of Tryon celebrated a birthday which was supposed to mark his retirement from a life of work. True, he is retiring from his fourteen years employment as Shipping Supervisor of the Southern Mercerizing Company, and even enjoyed a party given for him which featured a cake topped by a figure in a hammock, but we will leave it to the readers of the Bulletin to decide if Robert Dedmond will every truly "retire" to that hammock. Certainly, he has led a life indicating interests and abilities which would lead one to think otherwise.

As a boy, Mr. Dedmond attended what was then the Stearns High School in Columbus, graduating in 1930. Because times were hard then, he spent two years in the CCC and later attended the John C. Campbell Folk School, where he learned several crafts, including the fine art of woodcarving. As he likes to recall, a "crooked-neck" goose he had carved stood for many years on the Oval Office desk of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Mr. Dedmond is remembered by older Tryon residents as a young and helpful milkman and, also, for some twenty-five years as the "storekeeper" at Missildine's Pharmacy. He was Chief of the Tryon Volunteer Firemen for several years, is an Elder of

the Tryon Presbyterian Church, and for eight years has been the local cooperative observer for the Weather Department. He has actively assisted the coach of the Tryon Football team by photographing games for later replay.

One of the most interesting of Robert Dedmond's jobs, and one involving the volunteer efforts of his wife, Iris, and his sister, Max, has been his part-time employment for the past seven years as

Unit Director of the Polk County Unit of the American Cancer Society. In return for a salary which barely compensates his expenses, Mr. Dedmond answers to the Executive Vice-President in Raleigh, assists the members of the county board of directors in their tasks, and thus provides a permanent and knowledgeable link between the county unit and the district and state organization. — Reporter

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