

WINSTON-SALEM CHRONICLE

Vol. III, No. 40

Saturday June 4, 1977

Suite 603 Pepper Bldg.

Winston-Salem, N.C.

★ 20 Cents

Neither Would Perform Service

Blind Interracial Couple Sues Magistrates

by Sharon Bratcher
Staff Reporter

It must have seemed funny to Thomas Person and Carol Figueroa when the magistrates of Winston-Salem refused to marry them on the grounds that he is black and she is white.

Thomas and Carol are legally blind. But Magistrates J.C. Lewter and Harold Thomerson are not. And neither, apparently, is

justice, in Forsyth County.

A few weeks ago, when Thomas Person and Carol Figueroa applied for a marriage license, they were warned by a clerk that the two magistrates would not perform the ceremony, even though the couple had a legal license.

They consulted attorney Ervin Brown of the Legal Aid Society, who accompanied the couple to the Hall of Justice. Sure enough, the magistrates

refused to marry the couple, citing "deep, personal religious convictions" as their excuse.

Brown is still a bit stunned by the whole incident. "We thought that era was over," he says, referring to cases of outright discrimination. "Those cases are covered in law school, but students mostly regard them as oddities of legal history -- like the Salem witch trials."

Suddenly in 1977, Ervin Brown finds himself in an old-fashioned discrimination suit. Discrimination still exists, he points out, but these days it is masked under other excuses, which you have to tackle in a lawsuit. Nobody is being subtle about it in this case. The magistrates refuse to perform the marriage on the grounds of race, and what is he going to do about it?

See Couples, Page 2

Bill Would Prohibit

Postal Service Cutbacks

Washington -- Fifth District Rep. Steve Neal said recently the Postal Service proposal to do away with Saturday home mail delivery would be a serious policy mistake.

"What we need from the Postal Service is better service and more efficiency, not less service at a higher price," Neal said. "Therefore, I have co-sponsored legislation which would prohibit the Postal Service from making the cutback."

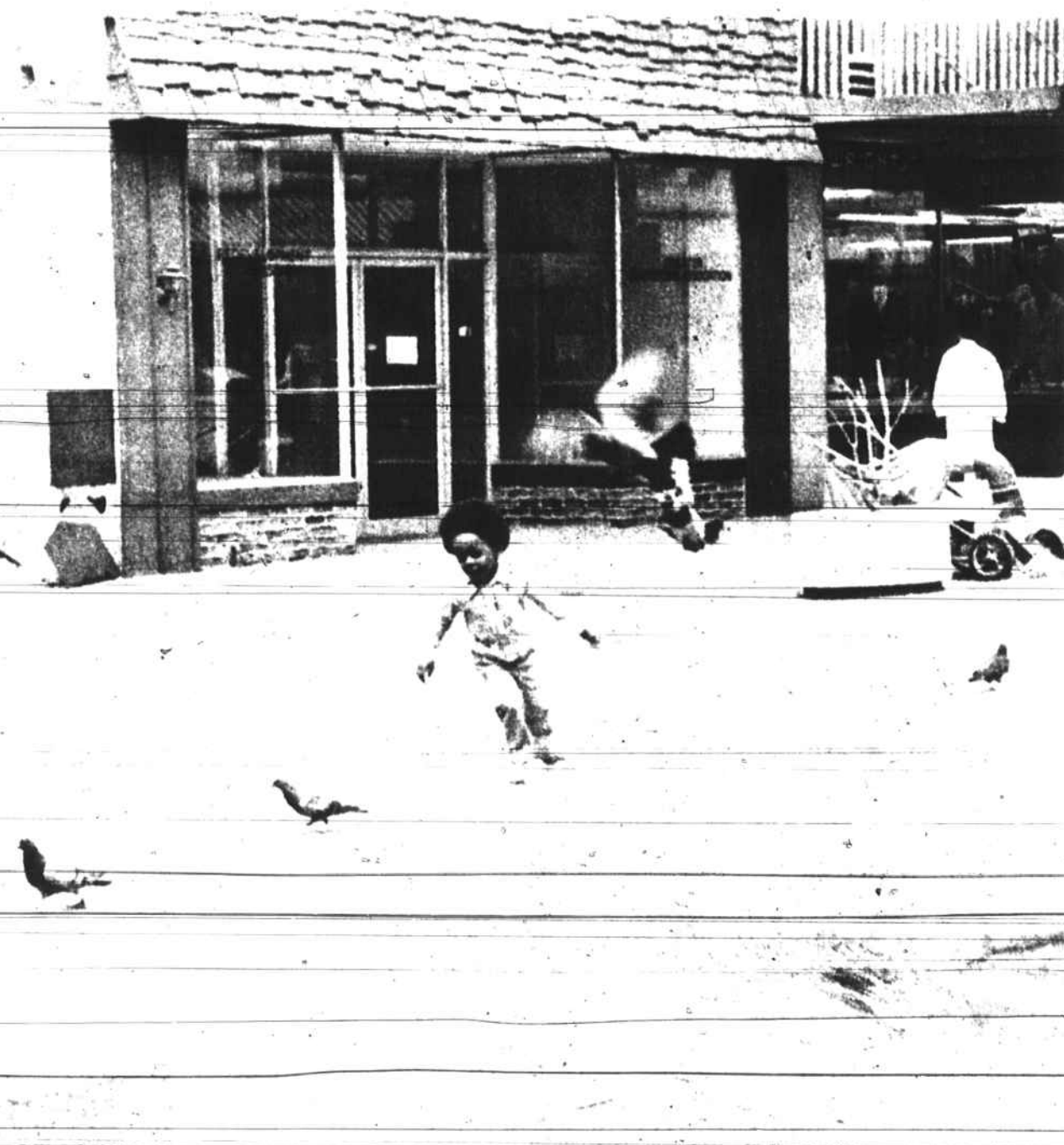
Actually, Neal said, the proposed reduction would save very little money, while placing a burden on millions of Americans who rely on Saturday mail delivery.

"Of course, cutting out one day of mail delivery would reduce expenses. But using that logic, it would make sense to stop all mail deliveries. The point is that the Postal Service is just that -- a

service -- and curtailing operations is not the proper way to deal with postal deficits," Neal said.

The House Post Office and Civil Service Committee estimates the elimination of Saturday mail delivery would save less than one cent on the cost of first class stamp, and that saving would not materialize for about two years. Recognizing that, Postmaster General Benjamin Bailar has announced that he also will ask for a three-cent raise in first class postage.

Neal said elimination of Saturday home mail delivery would be especially hard on small businesses and rural people. Also, it would overburden carriers with three days of mail on Mondays and probably cause a one-day delay in the first-of-the-week deliveries.



...Chasing Pigeons...

This little tot found some fun on the downtown mall recently as he tried desperately to catch some of his feathered playmates. Several concerts have been scheduled for the mall to stimulate interest.

36 Cyclists Killed In '76



Warning to motorists: The summer brings more cyclist to the streets and 36 were killed in 1976.

Bicycle Program Hopes to Curb Accidents

Raleigh -- North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) figures show that the State's record for bicycle accidents and deaths is a reason for concern, according to Curtis Yates, Bicycle Coordinator.

Last year, there were over 1,000 bicycle/automobile accidents. As a result, 36 cyclists were killed.

Twelve of the bike deaths involved adults. In many of these cases cyclists were riding as a

means of transportation rather than just for pleasure.

In an effort to make bicycling safer as well as more enjoyable, NCDOT's Bicycle Program now has available to the public a

series of pamphlets containing detailed maps and narratives describing recommended bike routes from Murphy to Manteo.

Yates commented that, "Although no roadway where motor vehicles and

bicycles mix will ever be totally safe, there are many existing roads of the extensive primary and secondary highway system in the State unknown to the majority of North Carolinians. The routes are relatively safe for bicycling due to their low traffic volumes and good roadway conditions."

The "Mountains to Sea" pamphlets are available by contacting Curtis Yates, Bicycle Coordinator, Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 25201, Raleigh, North Carolina 27611.

Shelter Badly Needed For Battered Women

by Sharyn Bratcher
Staff Reporter

Gail Beerman's eyes flash as she recalls asking a doctor at Baptist Hospital for help in a program for battered women, only to have him laugh and say: "That's how I keep my wife in line." It isn't a joke to Mrs. Beerman, co-ordinator of the Council on the Status of Women, and it isn't funny to the approximately 30 women a month who are beaten by their husbands or boyfriends.

"Wife-battering" is a serious problem. It's the second highest unreported crime, and it happens three times as often as rape.

Why isn't it reported? "Women don't take their husbands to court because they are terrified," says Mrs. Beerman. They have good reason to be. The law, says Mrs. Beerman, is not very helpful. If a woman charges her husband with battery, he will be charged, jailed, and out on bail within a few hours. After which he will probably go home and beat her even more violently for having him arrested.

The only way to break the fear cycle is to offer women a chance to get away from the wife-beater, so they can report him without endangering themselves or their children. At the present time, there is no place to go, but the task force of Women in Crisis, started by the Council on the Status of Women, is working on it.

Peggy Matthews, Chairperson of the task force, wants to establish a shelter for battered women, a place where women can get away from immediate danger, and also receive legal assistance, counseling, and financial aid, until she can

decide what to do. "This is NOT just a low-income problem," Mrs. Beerman points out. More wife-battering cases are reported among lower income families, but that is because higher income women are very concerned with status, public opinion, and loss of support. "After all," says Mrs. Beerman, "If the husband goes to jail or loses business because of the scandal, the wife and children will also suffer economically." It's a complex problem; there aren't any easy answers, but there is more at stake than just money.

"Where there is a battered wife there are also battered children," she warns. The safety of

the children may depend upon the wife's decision to seek outside help.

What kind of man beats women? According to psychologists who have studied wife-battering cases, the man has low self-esteem, and a feeling of powerlessness. He tries to boost his ego by beating his wife, because he feels the world is beating him. Often things are not going well at work for the wife-beater. Other factors in the case are sometimes alcoholism or a history of abuse in the man's own childhood.

It seems to be a cycle. A battered child grows up to beat his own wife and children. Somebody, somewhere, has to break

See Shelter, Page 2



Mrs. Ella B. Tillman and Mrs. Geraldine Smith.

Dinner Held As Two Retire From Glenn

A retirement dinner was held on Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Glenn Jr. High School Cafeteria, honoring Mrs. Ella Belle Tillman and Geraldine R. Smith. These ladies will end their many years of teaching on June 15, 1977.

Mrs. Tillman has given forty years of her life to the teaching profession. She is the wife of Dr. Talmadge C. Tillman, Sr., who is a retired principal also.

Mrs. Smith has completed 35 years of educating the children of North Carolina. She is the wife of Hugh N. Smith, Sr. Some of the guest speakers were: Rev. John

D. Peterson, pastor of Grace United Presbyterian Church. Jay Wise, Principal of Wiley Laboratory School, C.J. Washington, Principal of Kernersville Jr. High School, Irma Gadson, supervisor in Secondary Education for Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, Dell Johnson, Teacher at Glenn Jr. High School, Dr. Kenneth R. Williams, former President of Winston-Salem State University, and Denise Hartsfield, graduate student at A&T State University.

Entertainment was provided by the Faculty. Mr. Robert Bost, Principal of Glenn Jr. High School acted as Master of the dinner. See Dinner, Page 2

Credit Cards: An American Dilemma

In this country today, some 370 million credit card accounts are in use. That figure includes credit cards issued by retail stores, banks, oil companies and finally, those cards used for travel and entertainment purposes.

The Better Business Bureau advises that the wise use of credit cards can enable consumers to enjoy the use of a product while earning the money to pay for it. However, credit always costs mo-

ney; you pay more for something if you buy it on time, rather than pay cash for it. The consumer must decide if it is worth it to delay the payment.

Common Sense Credit Tips

Before you decide to buy anything on time using your credit card, consider the following questions:

*Can you make the payments out of your regular income?

*Have you any credit or

cash reserve to cover an unexpected illness, accident or loss of job?

*Are you willing to give up part of your regular income, for a number of months, for the sake of the credit purchase?

*How far is your credit already extended? Some credit experts say that for most people, no more than 15% of your income -- after taxes and excluding mortgage payments -- should be tied up in time payments.

Fair Credit Billing Act

It used to be that a customer who preferred to pay cash rather than use a credit card was at an undue disadvantage. The merchants who honored "third-party" credit cards (bank or travel cards, for example) paid the credit card firms a certain percentage of the sale each time a customer used his card. The additional credit costs were taken into account when the

See Credit, Page 2



These little cards are a tremendous aid when used properly but a real headache when used excessively.