



Clyde Thomas uses a skill saw to cut a piece of plywood down to size.

Chronicle Profile

Clyde Thomas Is Building A Future

Clyde Thomas majored in nursing at Winston-Salem State, but his patients now are bumpy driveways and houses in need of a facelift. Mr. Thomas has been in the contracting business since January.

Previously employed as a carpenter with the Experiment In Self-Reliance, Clyde Thomas was laid off in January and he decided to go into business for himself. ESR director Louise Wilson expresses high hopes for Thomas' future as a contractor.

He's a determined and capable man, she says, and he deserves to succeed. The ESR has been trying to help Thomas with sources of funds to help his business.

So far there haven't been any funds to help out, so Thomas has been going it alone. His office is his house, which should provide him with quite an answering service. The Thomases have eight children, ranging in age from 18 months to 10 years. It's a little too early to recruit future contractors from

the family, though, says Thomas: the oldest son is 11 and the young ladies aren't into carpentry.

Thomas' staff consists of ten men, four of whom were with him in ESR. When the government discontinued its Title 10 grant, putting them all out of work, he brought them into his business.

He learned contracting, he says, from experience. While he was in high school and college, he worked for contractors Frank Merrill & Sons, learning the business.

Thomas' business is still small, but by sub-contracting some of the work, they can handle just about anything. For example, paving driveways is one of his specialties, but he doesn't have a cement mixer. (Those trucks cost a fortune). So when he needs a load of cement for a job, he orders it and a truck from another firm.

Other jobs the company has tackled include

carpentry, painting, roofing, basements, paving driveways, and brick-cleaning. Brick-cleaning is done with a strong acid solution, but Thomas is calm about it. "We wear rubber gloves of course."

Is it easy to start a new business? No, says Thomas. It's hard work, and financially frightening. "I have ten men and I depend on the money we make on the contracting jobs. If we don't finish on time I'm in trouble." Banks are See Profile, Page 10

Mrs. Fries Talks About Aging

Mrs. Estelle Fries was scheduled as one of the speakers on the program of her club, The Martin Luther King Senior Citizens' Club, but there were several other speakers before her, and by the time her turn came around, she realized the others had said what she planned to say.

"I pushed my way through the crowd to outside where it was

raining," she recalls, "And one of my sons asked what I was doing, so I told him, and by that time another of my boys came. So we put our heads together and came up with the same subject but a different angle.

The message on growing old that she finally delivered went like this:

"They say I'm old, they say I'm gray, And all I can

do is get in the way. But they don't know how happy I am to be able to say: I still don't give a damn. I spent my youth learning the trade, and trying to learn some other aid. But now that I'm gray, They always tell me that I'm in the way; But searching for truth has made me strong. And that's what allowed me to keep moving on. They just don't know all the trouble I've faced, And that type of experience can't be replaced. I worked every day for 55 years. And what I have to show is not much, but I'm here. I learned long ago to never give in, But to face each day with a smile and a grin. Rearing my grandchildren has been a great joy, Teaching God's love to little girls and boys. They say I'm old, they say I'm gray, But I'm just old enough to show them the way!"

Lane Is Elected To Head Council

Thom H. Lane, The Northwestern Bank, Reynolda Manor, has been elected president of Reynolda Manor Business Council, Inc.

Other newly elected officers of the association of merchants of Reynolda Manor Shopping Center are James Gregory, Reynolda Cinema, vice president; Tim Bovender, Wilson-Pleasants, secretary; Gerard J. Weyer, Raycliff's Hallmark Cen-

ter, treasurer. Mrs. Jo Ann Brooks, Covington-Wilson, Inc. was appointed promotion director and executive secretary.

The associations board of directors in addition to the above officers consists of James G. Mackie, Anchor Col; Mrs. Naomi Cox, Davis; Greg Theiler, Baldwin's, Ltd.; Henry Rutherford, Camel City Laundry.

Mr. Lane is a native of Rutherfordton, North Carolina. He has been employed by the Northwestern Bank for 5 years, presently as branch officer of Reynolda Manor office, Winston-Salem, N.C. He graduated from Western Carolina University, B.S.B.A.

Lane is married to the former Susan Yelton of Rutherfordton, N.C.



Kay Holt
...Personal Officer



Robert Chiles
new Retail Banking Mgr.

Holt Replaces Chiles As Wachovia EEO Officer

Kay Holt has been named manager of the Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action section of Wachovia Bank and Trust Company's Personnel Administration Department.

She replaces Robert S. Chiles who was recently named retail banking manager of Wachovia's Durham office.

Mrs. Holt joined Wachovia in 1974 as a personnel trainee and became an EEO specialist in 1975. She was elected personnel officer that same year, and has been a manpower planning specialist since November 1976.

A native of Burlington, she is a graduate of North Carolina State University and holds a masters degree in business administration from the University of Maryland.

Chiles joined Wachovia's General Loan Administration Department in 1969 as manager of the Small Business/Minority Loan section. He was elected assistant vice president in 1970 and vice president in 1972. He has been EEO/AA manager since 1974.

A native of Charlotte, he graduated from North Carolina Central University and earned a masters degree in business administration from Wake Forest University.

BAL Sponsors Program

The Business Action League recently kicked off several campaigns in anticipation of the group moving into its new headquarters. The new office will be located on 14th Street.

Melvin L. Dubose, projects director, has announced that an agreement has been reached between the BAL and a locally owned grocery store chain to allow

discounts on food purchases by senior citizens. The 5% discount on grocery orders will be in effect on orders of \$10 or more. The program starts June 6.

The BAL also sponsored a fashion show last week at the YMCA. Rick Clark of Renae Fashions was co-ordinator and Rev. Rayford Thompson was guest speaker. Mrs. Williams made a cash donation to the BAL.

Swiss Cocoa Floats Make Great Sippin'!



Remember the good old days of penny candy, triple malteds and ice cream floats? The old-fashioned soda fountain has just about disappeared but you can still make wonderful ice cream floats at home—with a new twist.

A sippable summer drink that appeals to float lovers of all ages is an easy-to-make combination of Swiss Miss Hot Cocoa Mix, milk and your favorite flavor ice cream.

Here's a yummy recipe for everyone. Just add soda glasses, colorful straws and some sugar cookies.

SWISS COCOA ICE CREAM FLOAT
Combine 1 envelope or 4 heaping teaspoons Swiss Miss Hot Cocoa Mix, ½ cup milk and 1 scoop chocolate marshmallow ice cream in blender. Whirl for 30 seconds. Pour into soda glasses and top with a second scoop of ice cream. Makes 1 serving.

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An energy-saving tip from the Better Business Bureau: As the days get shorter, you need more artificial light. But you can save on electricity by keeping lighting levels as low as practicable. When your light switches need replacing, consider installing solid-state dimmer switches. They make it easier to lower lighting levels.

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