

Chronicle Profile

# Of the People, for the People

If we said that Willie Dawson reminded us of Lincoln, he'd probably kill us.

And now, having said it, we'll explain that the similarity goes beyond the fact that he is a tall, gaunt attorney-at-law.

"I don't consider myself middle-class," he declares.

Since he works for Legal Aid, where most of his clients are not middle-class either, he feels that his is a definite asset.

Many of his cases pit him against loan companies and landlords representing tenants fighting eviction or

trying to get repairs made or in a financial bind.

Perhaps the first underdog Willi Dawson fought for was himself.

A high school algebra teacher advised him to drop out of the college prep program, which annoyed

him so much that he was determined to continue and make a success of it. This was in Kinston, Dawson's hometown.

After high school, he went to the Newport News-dock Company planning to

pursue a career in engineering since math and science were his strong points.

As an alternative to the draft, he enlisted in the army and chose to be trained as a surveyor.

hoping to learn more about the construction business, but the army trained him to survey for gun locations and sent him to Germany for 3 years.

After his discharge, he continued his education at a law school and then transferred to UNC-Chapel Hill.

Dawson majored in socio-

logy, minored in psychology, and worked as a residential counselor for a halfway house in Durham. Then, he decided to go to law school.

"There were 750 students in law school," Dawson recalls. "Fifteen of them were black, and by the end of the first year five of them had either quit or flunked out."

He said one professor gave D's to black students as a matter of routine.

When Dawson complained about his grade, the professor suggested that he study with

the white students, "so that he could understand the material better."

Since he has been with Legal Aid for more than a year now, we asked him what change in law would most benefit poor people.

"Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code," he says promptly. This law deals with the repossession and sale of personal property. If a person defaults on his payments for an item he is purchasing and the item is repossessed, it is sold, but the person still has to pay the difference between what he owed and

what the item sold for. The problem is that in this state there are no laws regulating the sale for the protection of the debtor.

North Carolina sets no standards for the number of people to be present at the sale, the sum to be the minimum, or the right of the debtor to know who bought the item. Under those circumstances, the repossession could sell the item to his cousin for a dollar, and the debtor would still have almost the whole sum to repay. And in North Carolina such a transaction would be legal.



Willie Dawson



## Twins Skate For Birthday

Twins Charlita and Chareba Cardwell, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr., 2823 Greenway Avenue, celebrated their fifth birthdays with a skating party at Skate Haven on Sunday, September 17, 1978.

Classmates from the St. Leo Catholic School, guests from the Forsyth Montessori School and a host of friends skated at the arena, following the lead of their young guests of honor.

Music floated through the air as the skaters rounded the rink wearing party hats and blowing whistles.

When at last their spin-



ning wheels came to a halt, the party goers were seated at tables for the "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" salute. They were treated to orange cake cones and refreshments.

The beautifully decorated Baby Grand Piano cake had two miniature ballerinas seated on the piano stool, depicting Charlita and Chareba.

The twins were showered with a number of gifts.

Their grandmother Mrs. Fronia Greenwood and aunt Mrs. Margaret Christian were in attendance as well as several parents and adult friends.

## 45th Anniversary

Bishop and Mrs. Walter Jackson celebrated their 45th Anniversary Saturday at a reception at the Bethlehem Holiness Apostolic Church of God in Christ, where Bishop Jackson is the Pastor.

## Clantons Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Odell E. Clanton celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary Saturday September 30, 1978 at First Baptist Church, 7th and Highland Avenue, at 3 p.m. Approximately 300 people attended the gala affair. Hostesses for the affair were nieces, Ms. Sandra J. Miles of Winston-Salem and Mrs. Pauline A. Grier of Philadelphia, Pa.

Out of town guests were Mrs. R.C. Grier, Mr. and Mrs. George Grier of Belmont, N.C., Attorney Wilford C. Rice, Mrs. Leola Coleman, and Mr. Columbus Williams, Jr. of Detroit, Mich., Mrs. Esther M. Thornton, Dr. and Mrs. David Poindexter of Columbus, Ohio, Mrs. and Mrs. Felton Davis of Warrenton, N.C., Mr. Charles Irving, Raleigh, N.C., and Mr. Willie L. Grier, Phila., Pa.

Participants in the program were Rev. William S. Epps, Rev. David R. Hedgley, retired Colonel J.D. DeRamus, Mr. Charles Irving and solo by Mrs. Joann Munden.

## Covington From Page 8

H. B. Goodson, director of the State Board of Elections operations at the Children's Home, Inc., which actually makes the appointment.

He said the board's biggest controversy has been the chairman since 1977. To write-in candidacy of Carl Russell for mayor. "That's the only thing that has caused us much sweat." Otherwise, elections have been smooth sailing, he said. See Page 14



Staff photo by Bratcher

**BETTY GAY'S BIRTHDAY:** The staff of the Betty Gay Shop on Trade Street Mall gather around a birthday cake celebrating the store's birthday. Pictured (l to r) are Alberta Glymph, Betty Fenton, Debrah Tucker, and Theresa Miller.

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