

Trade St. Opens To Traffic

By Art Blue Staff Writer

open to traffic.

began to decrease, forcing downtown in general." several to close their stores

5th streets is once again literally drove shoppers stated.

Stores in the area had ex- After workmen com- shoppers questioned experienced a growing decline pleted the renovation this pressed similar positive in business after the mall week and traffic once again comments, mostly concernwas built in 1970. Con- was able to utilize the street, ing the absence of the usual structed to enhance the merchants quickly noticed a winos and others. downtown area, the Trade positive development in the With the opening of the Street Mall soon became a area. "It's a little early to street, many of the now haven for drunks and get a true feeling of what empty shops and buildings derelicts and abandoned the change is going to do," are expected to be occupied buildings were considered said Fletcher Grubbs, in the near future. fire hazards. Shoppers com- manager of Stanley Shoes, David Ittermann, explained about being har- adding, "It looks good and ecutive director of the rassed by beggars and winos it looks bright. I think it Greater and business for merchants will benefit us and Association, said, "We feel

Albert

and move to other loca- manager of Gates Hat Shop was closed to build the Fund became a scholarship tions. What was built to be immediately noticed an in- mall. "I think the renova- fund, which the North something of beauty and to crease in walk-in business at tion will bring in more Carolina Extension Home-Work has been com- increase trade in the his store. "I see new faces business and merchants," makers Association, Inc., pleted and the former Trade downtown area became a already and the traffic in- he added. Street Mall between 4th and menacing eyesore and crease is tremendous," he There are 16 new on-street Lowe Scholarship Fund.

Downtown it is the best thing that's Doleman, happened since the street soon.

Other merchants and with one-hour free parking Mrs. Lowe was the reciparking spaces.

> world headquarters for the rural North Carolina. International Order of Odd Fellows will be located in its former building near the middle of the block. Renovation of the building is expected to commence

Lowe

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Mrs. Lowe in the public schools of Raleigh and selected her to become one of the first black agents emploed full-time, and placed her in Wake County. Several years later, she was selected to fill the first Home Demonstration District Supervisor's position. The next 25 years of service were spent working with home demonstration agents in 27 countries.

In 1935 Mrs. Lowe met with eight other agents and established, with Mrs. Lowe contributing the first \$5.00, "The Negro Home Demonstration Loan Fund for Girls." The first loan was granted in 1937. That fund in 1966 was changed to the Dazelle F. Lowe Loan Fund. In 1968 the Loan promotes the Dazelle F.

parking spaces in the block Among her many honors and a small parking lot next pient of many awards and to the Odd Fellow's Lodge certificates too numerous to building with 16 metered mention, including the Superior Service Award from the United States One expression of faith in Department of Agriculture the Trade Street's "face- in 1954 for outstanding lift" is the fact that the leadership to the people of

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way Shopping Center are all possible sites," according to Glover.

Nick Daves, president of the Metropolitan Board of the YMCA said that committe work is taking place now, and he and Glover agreed that to release any definate statements would be premature." Daves did say however, that several major decisions and clarification of the Patterson "Y" plans would be released Thursday afternoon during a board meeting.

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B&C Survey

ones don't. When times get hard, our dollars could make the difference just like our votes have made the difference in some elections. Some companies advertise and market their stuff as if there weren't any black consumers. What do they expect us to do. not notice?" said a black senior employee of a

federal agency. Of the 150 persons interviewed, 111 said most companies had changed for the better over 15 years ago (since 1965) but 61 said that most companies seem to be slipping back, going backwards since 1975, five years ago. "There is less evident sensitivity, less affirmative action, fewer overtures to blacks, less indication that companies are trying," said ablack real estate practioner.

Said a black attorney: "a big problem is that top white executives still don't know blacks on a one-to-one personal basis. It would pay dividends for white business people if they got their people and black community leaders together, just a talk, 'progress' and to develop ideas about what would take to make progress."

A black congressional assistant confided: "quite a few of these big companies lobby like hell against certain programs that blacks see as helping them. They never come around lobbying for substitute programs that are aimed at solving the big problems as perceived by blacks. It's as if they were saying, so what! That's why many blacks are saying, So what!

A black homemaker, formerly a community college instructor, criticized American corporations "who play footsie with South Africa." She said, "Here is agovernment that officially britalizes its country's black citizens and officially endores racial discrimination, and we've got companies that insult black Americans by dealing with that country. You know, Europe's not the only 'old country'; Africa is our (black people's) old country. Some of these companies just don't care for anything except dollars, even if some of the dollars end up in the fight against freedom and human rights."

Another black homemaker, who works as a "substitute teacher," said: "Some companies try their best to sell to black products, cosmetics, hair products, and the like unless, of course, 'they're manufactured by some of the Johnny-come-lately big white name band outfits."

A black airlines employee summarized: "Things are bad. They're not going to get better without business and industry doing its part. If things don't get better soon for blacks, it will affect business in a big way. This country can't afford widespread racial conflict at the same time everybody is suffering economically. They used to talk about long hot summers. We could very well be into a long hot decade."

A black agency executive said: "Business must move on its own initiative rather then being forced into it. It ought to stop its little piddling token activity and put out some real honest-to-goodness effort. It'll take some ingenuity. American business is capable of it...if it wants to ." Then, as if echoing the dire prediction of "a long hot decade," he added:"The crisis isn't going away. It isn't going to get better by itself. Time won't help. It'll probably have to get better by itself. Time won't help. It'll probably have to get horribly worse before something'll be done to make it significantly better.

In the long run, business will be the loser if it doesn't make some major moves."

A black construction laborer said it another way: "The guys on the block - most of them aren't working right now- they say things are rough and nobody cares. They're talking like there's going to be trouble. Ever hear about the fire next time? The next time's almost here. And if things don't get much better around here (on the job), I'll be out there with them."

A black department store clerk said that she recently heard her college student son say that "if it ever gets to be all-out war between the blacks and whites in South Africa, things will start warming up over here. I hope not. I've got some white friends. I know some white folks are trying." She paused and then continued:"A few of them are all right. Quite a few of them are racist as they ever were."

B & C also heard many examples of stalemated progress. Until last year, most middle class blacks would cite progress since the "old days" the need for patience and perseverance, and the belief that "it will take time" but "the time will come," admittedly a long time from comments seems to slipping back."

suggest that "the time (for complete intergration, total desegration) will never come" and "we're Subscription: \$9.60 per year payable in advance (N.C. sales tax included.) Commented a Human Relations Commission staff member, black: "Human relations is a bad word now. Somebody said last week that human relations **PUBLICATION USPS** NO. 067910 See Page 19 WAIR THUMPIN' 1340 IS GETTING BIGGER EVERY DAY! THANKS TO YOU



and High point.