

Chronicle Profile

Foxworth: Happy with life and job

BY AUDREY WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

It's not that he's pessimistic, but John Foxworth had every reason to worry about his future after being laid off from two very promising jobs.

Now a night collections manager for Wachovia Services in the downtown Phillips Building, the 33-year-old Charlotte native says he can now feel a better sense of security.

Before being hired by Wachovia in October, Foxworth, who says he finds amusement in dropping his surname, was employed at American Minorities Inc., a computer tab card manufacturer in High Point, until the company suffered financial losses and he was laid off. His reason for coming to Winston-Salem in 1978 was, in his words, "to take up an offer I couldn't refuse."

He worked his way up from auditor to general ledger manager at Leggs Inc., where he stayed for four years until he was laid off.

"I was worried," says Foxworth. "But I wasn't even going to apply here until someone from my church suggested that I apply and I did, and wham, I got the job."

Foxworth isn't questioning motives or fate. Rather, he says he prefers to think about happiness and providing the blanket of security for his wife, Diane, a computer operator at R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., and their 9-month-old son, Ashley.

Upon first glance or impression, Foxworth's salt-and-pepper gray makes him one step shy of distinguished, but the boyish grin gives him away as

being a joker. The oldest of his parents' six children, the Johnson C. Smith graduate gained his sense of independence at an early age.

"I had my first job in the sixth grade shagging balls at this golf course," says Foxworth. "And I worked in the community grocery store from the sixth to the ninth grade."

Foxworth says he continued to shag balls throughout high school until he went to college and discovered disco. But it was the Air Force, he says, that helped him mature and realize the importance of an education.

"I was a disc jockey for three and a half years," he says, "and I worked part time for NCNB, but spinning records on the weekends was what got me through college."

"The service was what made me even more independent," says Foxworth. "Through all that, two jobs and going to school, I graduated *cum laude*. I'm very proud of that."

He admits that being a disc jockey in the state's largest city had its advantages in terms of dating, but that part of his past isn't one he likes to reflect on, particularly now, since he says he's "very happily married."

Being a family man also goes hand in hand with Foxworth's church work and neighborhood commitment. At the Carver Road Church of Christ he serves as director of the Youth Department and teaches a Bible class. Foxworth also serves on the Stonewall Community Association board of directors.

"I'm very church-oriented and being a member



Laugh if you want, but working weekends as a night club disc jockey helped John Foxworth earn his college degree -- with honors (photo by James Parker).

has helped me a lot tremendously," he says. "I didn't even like Winston-Salem until I got married and I became a lot more settled. Before, I traveled a lot."

"We're very proud of our neighborhood association," says Foxworth. "We inform the neighbors about what's going on and it's helped me become a

concerned community worker."

Foxworth is also a compromiser. His wife is a native of Winston-Salem.

"Winston-Salem is where I'll be," he says. "It's where my wife's family is from. She's an only child. Me, I'm the oldest. It's easier for me, so I'll just stay here."

Omegas close out year with a splash

The Psi Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. closed out its fiscal year with a splash Saturday, June 16, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Simpson. Over 60 of the fraternity's members and guests enjoyed swimming in the Simpson's pool, eating and playing games.

Earlier in the week, the chapter met at the Masonic Lodge on 14th St. The following were installed as officers for the 1984-85 year: basileus, James A. Rousseau; vice basileus, James A. Franklin; keeper of records and seal, Calvin A. Smart; assistant keeper of records, Charles Hairston; keeper of finance, Willie G. Richardson; assistant keeper of finance, Alvin Atkinson, and public relations, Howard L. Shaw.

Appointed positions were keeper of peace, Donald Scales; chaplain, Edwin L. Patterson, who installed the new officers, and paliamentarian, Roland Hayes.

Isaiah Tidwell, outgoing basileus, was presented a plaque for leadership during the past two years. James P. Keen, chairman of the honors and memorials committee, made the presentation. Tidwell in the keeper of finance for the sixth district, which includes both North and South Carolina. Howard Shaw



James A. Franklin, right, accepts a \$1,000 scholarship check from Joseph O. Lowery, chairman of the Scholarship Committee of the Psi Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Franklin will be attending the University of Notre Dame.

was also commended for representing the chapter at the recent district meeting in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Virgil Simpson is the area's district representative. William Hoffer Jr. is chairman of the fund-raising committee for the district.

At its spring formal dance, the chapter also presented a \$1000 scholarship to James A. Franklin Jr. He will attend the University of Notre Dame

in the fall and a \$1000 check was presented to the Winston-Salem State University Foundation to be used for scholarships, once the chapter has contributed a total of \$25,000.

Joseph Lowery is chairman of the scholarship committee. Wendell Brown served as chairman of the spring dance committee. Charles W. Gadson served as chairman of the nominating committee.

Douglas Cochrane receives promotion

Douglas B. Cochrane has been elected mortgage officer at Wachovia Bank and Trust, John J. Hohn has been elected trust officer, Annette R. McKain banking officer and Al L. Wall general services officer.

Cochrane joined the bank in 1982 and serves in the general loan administration area of the Commercial Mortgage Group. A native of Chicago, he is a graduate of the College of William and Mary.

Hohn joined Wachovia last year in his current posi-

tion as senior training specialists in Trust Operations. He is a native of Yankton, S.D., and a graduate of St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn.

McKain has been with the bank since 1982 and serves as deposit products manager in the marketing section of Retail Banking Administration. She is a native of Clarksburg, W.Va., and has a bachelor's degree from Wheeling College and a master's in business ad-

ministration from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

Wall joined Wachovia in 1969 and is supervisor of the mailroom. He is a native of Siloam.

George Karpathakis has been elected operations officer.

Karpathakis has been with Wachovia since 1982 and serves as manager of student loan origination. A native of Martin's Ferry, Ohio, he is a graduate of Ohio State University.

Thompson honored

From Page A6

Earlyne Martin, Miss Sandra Hines and Miss Freida Thompson. Grandchildren attending were Michael and Shawn Kelly, Lucretia and Reginald Carter, Derrick Williams, Dale Martin Jr., Carletta and Nikkie Hines.

Guests attending were the Rev. and Evangelist Ervin Hines, Mr. Clyde Hines, Mrs. Senora Monroe, Ms. Nena Blanton, Mr. Othella Hines, Mr. Ernest Williams, Mr. and Mrs.

John Lindsay, Mr. and Mrs. Roland Wright, Mr. and Mrs. James Mock and Son, Mr. Edward Kelly, Ms. Harriett Foy, Mrs. Nellie Manselle and Ms. Shirley Peoples.

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