



CHINESE AND JAPANESE HOLLY provide the background for a border of pink and white petunias at the Pondella Drive home of Mr. and Mrs. Morris Cooper. Mrs. Howard Pettice, left, Mr. Cooper, center, and Mr. Gus Blackmon discuss the results of the beautification project. Photo by Peeler

More Blacks Should Enter Landscaping

By JAMES PEELER
POST STAFF WRITER
Veteran landscape gardener

Gus R. Blackmon says he'd like to encourage more young black men to enter his chosen profession.

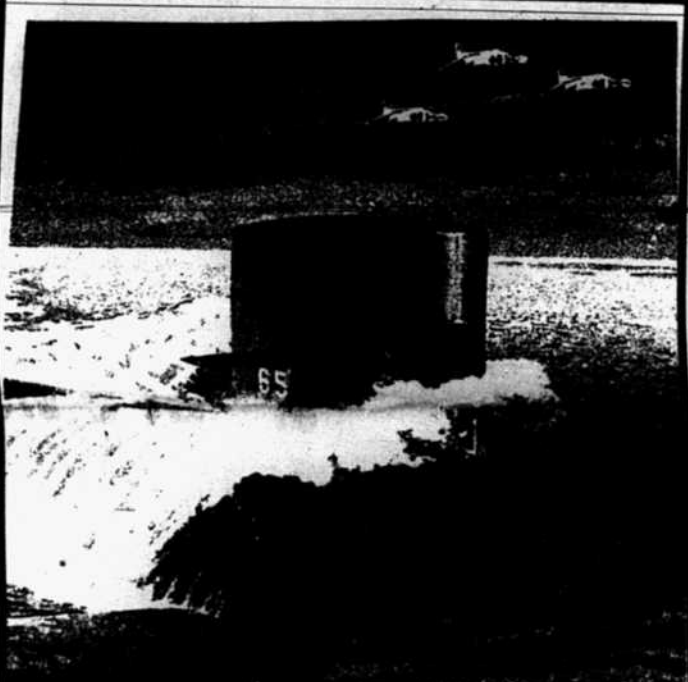
After working for Mecklenburg Nursery for 23 years Mr. Blackmon decided to go in business for himself and he says "business has exceeded my expectations."

During the five years he has been in business he has amassed a long and impressive list of clients; partly because of his good work, partly because of he says, "black people are taking more pride in their homes," and because there has "always been a demand for these services among whites."

"There is a high demand for this type of knowledge, skill and ability," continued Mr. Blackmon as he cited the need for more young blacks to enter the field. "A good landscaping job could run in cost anywhere from \$350.00 to \$1,500.00 depending on number of plants and size of lot," added Gus, who says the cost of an average job runs around \$500.00.

Mr. Blackmon is proud of his work and when asked to name some of the homes he has landscaped he quickly named some practically every residential section in Charlotte. Among those names were: Mr. and Mrs. Charles McClure and Attorney and Mrs. Calvin Brown in Northwood Estates; Dr. C.W. Williams in Hyde Park; Mr. Morris Cooper and Dr. Raleigh Bynum in Hidden Valley. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Booton, Mrs. Gladys Moreland, and Jack Motley in McCrory Heights; Dr. Gordon Wilkins, Dr. Eugene Alexander, Elder and Mrs.

Asbury, Mr. John McDonald; Hoskins Road; and Mr. Erwin and Mr. and Mrs. Hughes of Reid of Shannon Park.



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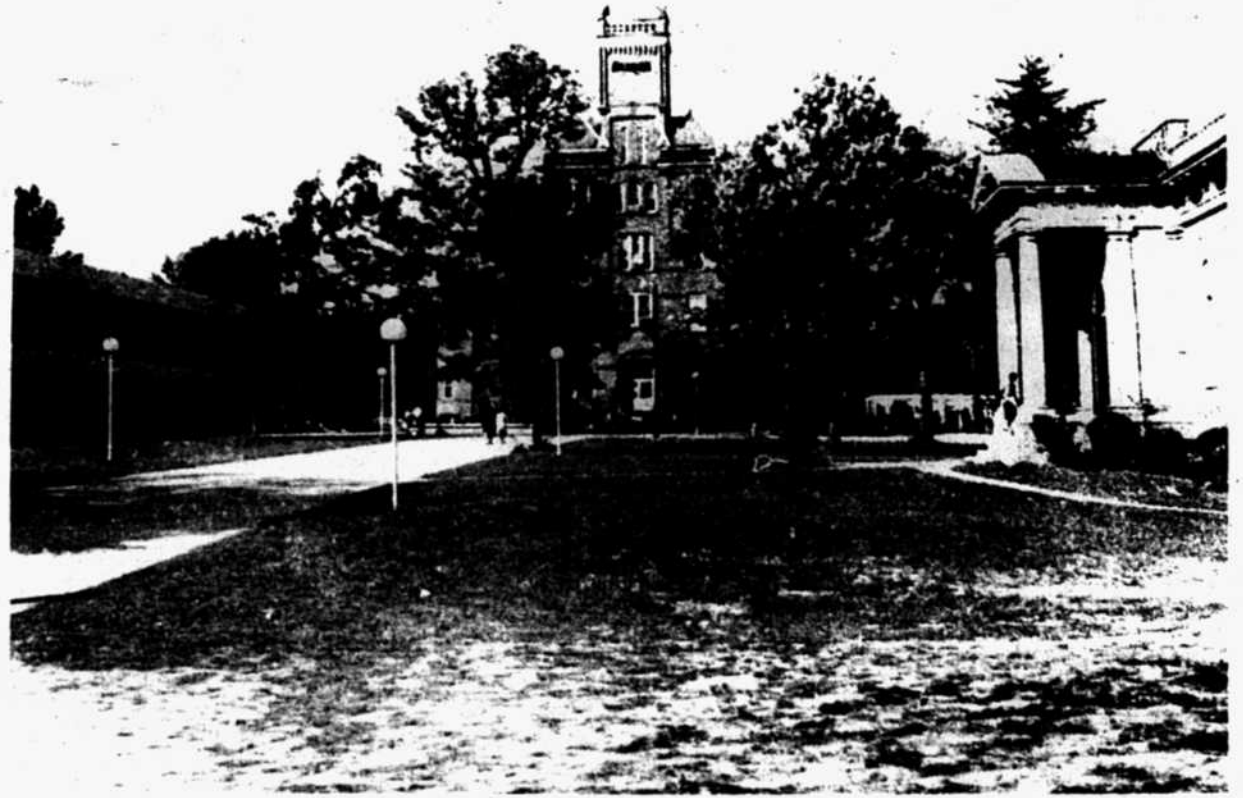
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