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MS. CONNIE DAVIS
...Responsible working woman

Attractive Connie Davis

Is Our Beauty This Week

By Jeri Harvey
Post Staff Writer
Don't be fooled by this picture of The Post Beauty of the Week, Connie Davis. If you think she's just another frivolous, pretty face you're all wrong.

only concerned about her own future and that of her children, she is also aware of problems other women in her situation face and is actively seeking to do something about some of these problems.

women prepare themselves to be independent if they find themselves forced to make it alone," she said. "You'd be surprised at how many women there are who don't know anything about budgeting or signing installment contracts or balancing a checkbook. Some of them don't even know how to write a check".

"A couple of my friends and I are trying to put together an organization that will help

Connie, who is a senior teller at First Union Bank on North Tryon feels every woman should know how to do as much for herself as possible. "Girls usually grow up planning to get married and live happily ever after, but it doesn't always work out that way", she pointed out. "Circumstances often leave a woman to fend for herself and unless we're equipped in this highly sophisticated society we live in, it can be tough."

Connie hopes that the new organization, when complete, will include members with personal insights and skills to help other women, through training and support groups. A 1969 graduate of Olympic High, Connie has been with First Union for 2 1/2 years and says she plan to stay there and learn all she can and build a future for herself and her children, Mandrey, age 3, and Malleka, 6.

Most of her free time is spent with the children and she says they are the most important thing in her life. Whenever possible she plays tennis or bowls but enjoys reading and listening to black modern jazz, too. The family attends Moore's Sanctuary AME Zion Church on Morris Field Road. Rev. J. M. McCall is the pastor.

Especially In The North

School Desegregation

Is Still Just A Dream?

Special To The Post
Events of recent months have served to focus attention on racial separatism. It is a highly significant factor in the continuing emergence of social ills which are weakening the moral and economic strength of our democratic society. And nowhere is separatism more readily apparent than in Eastern and Midwestern cities and their school systems. Shortly after the 1954 Supreme Court decision in Brown vs. Topeka, Kansas Board of Education, this newspaper ventured an opinion that school desegregation -- as face rather than fancy -- would occur in Southern states well before it materialized up North.

ing a mockery out of what for more than twenty frustrating years has been a legal mandate for a greater measure of "racial balance" in schools. Today, except in the South and those spots across the country where blacks are heavily outnumbered, school desegregation remains far more a dream than reality. And most notable of those exceptions is Little Rock, Arkansas, where it all began in a discouraging manner early one mid-September morning in 1957.

Standing in the school house door, Arkansas' race-baiting Governor Orval Faubus already had tried and failed to thwart plans for compliance with court-ordered desegregation, thus setting the stage for a less theatrical but more threatening public reaction. That response came in the form of a massive show of defiance just a few days later on September 23.

Long before bells rang at Central High, more than a thousand irate whites gathered to hurl insulting obscenities and threats at unknown and as yet unseen, but no less unwanted newcomers called "niggers." While awaiting the main event, the snarling mob vented its fury on newsmen, kicking and beating a black photographer to the ground. During that commotion, nine black students -- neatly dressed for the pioneering occasion -- were hastily ushered into the building. Their arrival signalled a mass exodus of white youngsters who stalked out echoing the fury of their protesting elders.

What followed was reviewed in a recent edition of the Christian Science Monitor: "The next day, under orders from President Eisenhower, 300 paratroopers from the elite 101st Airborne Division stood guard at the school. Armed with combat bayonets, they enabled the "Little Rock Nine" to enter safely for the first time." That was two decades ago.



Do not expect that EVERYONE WILL THINK YOU ARE PERFECT: Be SATISFIED if you are ABLE TO FOOL ONE OR TWO PEOPLE.

Shortage Unlikely

Local Coal Stockpile To Last "At Least" 60 Days

"Justice For McCombs Day" Set

The Support Committee for the Legal Defense of John E. McCombs has set aside Sunday, December 11, as "Justice for John E. McCombs Day" and as a part of that observance there will be a Songfest at Friendship Baptist Church. The program, which will be at 4 p.m., will feature choirs from Mount Carmel, Antioch, University Park and Friendship Baptist Churches, as well as John Morrow and the Kirkpatrick Brothers. Mrs. Jessie McCombs will also render several solos.

All donations will be used to secure a new trial for McCombs, who is serving a 60 year sentence for allegedly murdering a Durham policeman during a drug raid. The defense claims McCombs did not know the victim was a law officer due to his mode of dress and the circumstances surrounding the raid. Young McCombs was a college student at the time of the incident.

Mrs. Jessie McCombs, mother of the convicted man, said that public awareness of her son's plight has been heightened by the speaking appearance of his lawyer, C.C. Malone, in Charlotte at a public meeting recently. She also said her son is adjusting well to life in Central Prison in Raleigh. She added that he reads extensively and has begun writing a book. Ultimately, she says, he would like to work with disadvantaged youth as he feels there are not enough concerned adults trying to help the young people of the world.

Learning, Support Session Set For Charlotte 3

In order to increase the public's awareness of the situation of the Charlotte 3, a Learning and Support Session will be held at the Downtown Public Library Sunday, December 11.

A slide show will be presented and a speaker will be on hand to answer questions. The program is sponsored by the North Carolina Political Prisoners' Committee.

Richard E. Maxwell Sr. Completes Term On Board Of Band Directors

By Dianne Simpson
Post Staff Writer
Richard E. Maxwell Sr., past director of bands of West Charlotte High and Northwest Junior High Schools and the present director of Albemarle Road and Hawthorne Junior High School bands, has completed his term on the Board of Band Directors. His succession was noted at the North Carolina Music Education Association (NCMEA) Band Section board of directors sponsored at the Benton Convention Center recently held at the Hyatt House in Winston-Salem. During his term on Board of Directors for the Band Section Maxwell was the first and only black member of an eight-member board to be elected

since the merger of the two music associations in 1970. This bright minded, job accomplishing individual was directly responsible for bringing in black judges (the first time ever) to judge the State Contest of the State Festival High School Band Competition which first originated in 1973. He is the only black band director, up to this point, whose three musical selections which he presented at the New Music Clinic at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro, were selected and placed in the North Carolina Contest List Booklet for 1978. These selections were Tallis-Kinyon's "Choral and Cannon," Correlli-Suchoff "Dance Suite for Band" and Havdn-Plato "Three Diverti-



LINCOLN-MERCURY DEALER SAM JOHNSON
...Definitely ready for business

First Black-Owned New Car Dealership Opens Here

By Jeri Harvey
Post Staff Writer

The paint is barely dry and there are still some last minute touches to be added to the building housing the new Lincoln-Mercury dealership on Pineville Road, but shiny new cars fill the showroom and owner-operator, Sam Johnson, is definitely ready for business.

The first black owner of a new car dealership in Charlotte, Johnson has already demonstrated his ability to succeed in the highly competitive car sales market by taking a failing agency in St. Louis in 1973 and turning it into a profitable enterprise. This year that agency ranked 40th among the top 100 black owned businesses in the nation, according to Black Enterprise Magazine.

Seated behind the desk in his neat, simply furnished office, Johnson displayed some of the charm and self-confidence that helps make him a "super salesman," by his own description.

"My first job was sweeping up around a used car lot," he said, "and when the guy who owned the lot became a Buick

dealer he took me with him and later gave me a chance to sell cars."

It didn't take long for Johnson to establish himself as one of the top Buick salesmen in the country, earning over \$40,000 a year. In 1973 he approached General Motors about managing a dealership but was turned down and went to the people at Lincoln-Mercury.

"Somehow I was able to convince them to give me a chance though it was unheard of to hire a man as manager with no management experience. Anyway, in August I was selling cars and in September I was managing an agency." Then with obvious pride he said, "They said it couldn't be done but I turned that business around and paid out (bought the agency) in 2 1/2 years, the shortest time a Lincoln-Mercury dealership has ever paid out."

Johnson attributes most of his success to hard work and his ability to get along well with people. He learned about hard work early, chopping and picking cotton on a farm in West Memphis, Arkansas. His parents were sharecroppers with 11 children and every-

body did their share. After graduation from high school he left for St. Louis and the rest is history.

His decision to come to Charlotte stemmed from a natural desire to expand and since he was looking for a place in the south or southwest, when he heard the new dealership here was available he came to look the city over.

"I liked what I saw," he remembered. "Charlotte is a nice size city and it has tremendous growth potential. Since making the move I've continued to be impressed by what's happening here. I've had a lot of encouragement from local business leaders and the other car dealers have been just great. I think I've made a good move and I'm extremely optimistic about my future in Charlotte."

Though he will maintain the agency in St. Louis, Johnson has moved his wife and four sons here. The oldest son attends Barber-Scotia College in Concord.

Commuting between the two cities leaves little time for relaxation but when he can, he says he watches "a lot of football." His claim that he "can get along with the devil" was put to a severe test when this reporter naively asked if St. Louis has a football team. "Have we got a football team?" he fairly shouted, but quickly regained his composure to patiently quote statistics about his beloved Cardinals.

According to James A. Wiesner, sales manager of Lincoln-Mercury's Atlanta district, Charlotte's new passenger car sales are expected to total about 30,000 units this year, a 14 percent increase over 1976. This is in contrast to an 8 percent increase for all new car sales in the Atlanta district and an increase of only 3 percent nationally.

Borough Lincoln-Mercury, the only other Lincoln-Mercury dealer in Charlotte, is run by Randy Borough who Wiesner said has "done a tremendous job in Charlotte since 1965."

"We have been seeking additional representation in this burgeoning Charlotte metropolitan area," Wiesner added.

Rising Prices, Hoarding Predicted

By Jeri Harvey
Post Staff Writer

Local coal retailers say they have enough coal stockpiled to last at least 60 days if the strike by 180,000 union coal miners should continue that long. Some also reported a sudden surge in sales the day after the strike announcement and predicted hoarding and rising prices.

One dealer, who declined to have his name used, said most of his coal is sold by the ton and sales had been "brisk" the first day of the strike. He predicted there would be "some hoarding" and when asked if he would consider imposing any sort of rationing to insure the fair distribution of the fuel he said, "I can't take it upon myself to decide how much coal a person should buy. I have a product to sell and I'll sell it to whoever has the price."

He said he has few customers who buy by the bag as his firm was not in "that kind of neighborhood."

Marshall Herrin, of Herrin Brothers Coal and Ice, said he has "ample" supplies for about 60 days and said there is a possibility of price increases if the strike should go on for a while.

"We've already absorbed several increases and further ones will probably have to be passed on to the customers," he said. Lower Coal Company owner Bill Wilder said he attributed the increase in sales to "a lot of cold wind" that was blowing the day after the strike was announced. He joined Herrin in agreeing that there is a possibility of some rise in the cost of coal. Wilder saw hoarding as a remote possibility and said he expected to have enough for anyone who needs it.

Wholesalers who supply fuel to utilities and other big coal users, say their clients have supplies on hand to last from 60 to 90 days and added that should the strike continue longer than that they (the dealers) will resort to buying non-union coal to fill orders.

In the mean time, these companies are busy making plans for the future and conducting "business as usual." There are reports, too, that the mine operators themselves were prepared for the strike and may even have welcomed it as a means of depleting industry reserves and thus forcing a boost in the price of coal.

The miners had expected to be laid off anyway due to the massive amounts of coal already out of the ground. Added to that is the approaching winter weather which makes drying to and from work over treacherous mountain roads hazardous and freezing temperatures which affect the operation of mine equipment. All in all the strike couldn't have come at a more fortuitous time for the workers; aside from whatever benefits emerge from a settlement.

A union spokesman pointed out that "strikes are cheaper than lay-offs since strikers don't receive unemployment benefits while they are out."

At least on the surface, it appears that everyone will See COAL On Page 5



Richard E. Maxwell Sr.
...Only black member
N.C. Music Education Assoc.,
and recently a member of the
National Band Assoc.
Maxwell loves working with
See MAXWELL On Page 2B