

# Johnny Brown Ends Long Career

By Jeri Harvey  
POST Staff Writer

The TV set in the small, comfortably furnished living room was tuned to a Braves-Reds baseball game while Johnny Brown relaxed in an easy chair and watched the action on the screen with obvious enjoyment. He wasn't all happy when this reporter walked in and interrupted his peaceful afternoon and protested mightily when Mrs. Brown insisted on turning the set off because, as he said, "I don't want to see the game, and I don't want to be in the paper no more."



JOHNNY BROWN PLAYING CHECKERS  
...With friend Rico Wilson

As far as Mr. Brown was concerned, there was nothing newsworthy about his retirement from the Weyerhaeuser Company after 26 years. It took about 15 minutes of gentle persuasion to convince him that our readers would like to hear about him because he's such a good example of the many hard-working, honest black men who go about their daily lives un-noticed. Unfortunately, the ordinary citizen receives little recognition unless he does something extraordinary—either bad or good.

Brown's long career with Weyerhaeuser began after he was laid off from a job at Duke Power in 1952. The company was then called Old Dominion Paper Company, which later merged with Weyerhaeuser. The company manufactures paper board products and Brown worked on the same corrugating machine the whole time he was there.

"I knew everything about that machine," he said proudly. "None of those young fellows that came to work there could beat me doing my job right up until I retired. Sometimes they teased me and asked me why I didn't go home and let a young man have my job, but I didn't pay them any mind. My boss didn't want me to quit when I did, but the policy of the company is that you have to retire at 65. So I had to go."

Cochran, has worked with Brown for the past 21 years and describes him as, "So good, I don't even know how to tell you. I've worked with him since I was 17 years old, and he is just one fine fellow. He's dedicated, unselfish and a dependable, hard worker. For about the past 18 years Johnny depended on other people for transportation to work, but he was always here and on time. He didn't complain and gripe about things, but did his job and minded his own affairs. There's no way we can replace Johnny."

Cochran, who was made plant foreman in 1966, said he asked Brown if it were possible for him to stay on a few more years, would he want to do it, and Brown said, "No."

He told us the same thing, adding that he'd worked a long time and now he was ready to "do nothing". To Brown, "doing nothing" means playing checkers "every day", watching baseball on TV and sat. Griffith

Stadium, maybe babysitting a little with his two grandchildren, Nina, 8, and Lawrence, 6, and spending time "with the boys" talking over old times.

Mrs. Brown, the former, Hattie Gabriel, has a few plans for doing nothing—like painting a little and doing some other things around the house. Right now she's enjoying watching him enjoy his freedom from the time clock.

Brown said he can't get used to sleeping late and is up every morning to have breakfast with his wife before she goes to work. "Getting up early is a hard habit to break after working so long," he said.

A native of Lancaster County, Brown said he spent his early childhood working on his father's farm. He left home

on Christmas Day in 1929 and came to Charlotte, and he's been here ever since. "Many is the time I wished I had stayed with my dad," he said, "but I thought I was grown and I wanted to be my own boss so I toughed it out."

He has two daughters, Ruth of Lancaster County and Barbara Jean of Newark, N. J. There's also one son, Lawrence, here in Charlotte. Brown is a member of Mount Carmel Baptist Church.

Mr. Brown's early reluctance to talk to us had given way to a warm, friendly manner by the time we took leave at the end of a thoroughly enjoyable visit. As we left, he "rared back" in his easy chair and prepared to enjoy the end of the baseball game.

We wish him a long and happy career "doing nothing".

# Family Housing Services To Sponsor

## Benefit Concert

There will be a benefit concert for Family Housing Services, Inc. (FHS) at Myers Park Baptist Church on Monday, April 17, at 8:15 p.m.

Choral groups from Johnson C. Smith University, Davidson College, Queens College and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte will perform and all proceeds will go to The FHS. The college choirs are donating their time and talents and Myers Park Baptist Church is donating the building. Tickets are \$2.50 for adults, \$1.50 for students.

Family Housing Services, Inc. was established in 1972 as a private non-profit agency to assist disadvantaged persons in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area in improving and advancing their general welfare in relation to housing problems, foreclosure, eviction, housing acquisition, rental procedur-

es, and the raising of housing standards for the target group through one-to-one counseling, consumer education, minor home repairs, and a winterization program.

FHS is certified by the Department of Housing and Urban Development as a Comprehensive Housing Counseling Agency. It has established a cooperative referral relationship with the other helping agencies in the area including: Crisis Assistance Ministry, Consumer Credit Counseling, Department of Social Services, Legal Aid, and many others.

The agency counsels and assists any family requesting service who is having a housing problem. During 1977, FHS worked with 1180 families. Approximately 540 of these families were facing foreclosure on their homes or eviction from their apartments. Arou-

nd 70 percent of these families were able to current their mortgages or rental payments. Less than 5 percent lost their homes through foreclosure or eviction. The remaining 25 percent are continuing in payment plans or have been assisted in relocating to more affordable housing.

Some 200 families were helped with obtaining adequate housing, provision of minor home repairs and consumer education. 440 families were provided with emergency heat and winterization in the nine Community Development Target Areas.

FHS does not distribute any funds to any clients; it counsels the family and mediates with the Landlord, mortgage company or credit company to set up an individual program to meet the family need. In addition to the one-to-one counseling, the Consumer Housing Education Program, min-

or home repairs program, and the winterization program, FHS is presently training unemployed youth in housing rehabilitation and related job skills.

The agency depends primarily on governmental funding and is regularly staffed with 20 professionals in the housing field.

Tickets to the concert are available through the agency offices located at 403 North Tryon Street, Suite 500, and the following area banks:

NCNB-Main Office, One NCNB Plaza; Beatties Ford, 2449 Beatties Ford Road, Eastland Mall 5555 Central Avenue.

First Union Main Office, Jefferson First Union Plaza, Southpark, 5401 Morrison Boulevard; Cotswold, Cotswold Shopping Center.

Mechanics and Farmers - Main Office, 101 Beatties Ford Road.

## Library Booked Solid Once Again?

The Public Library's basements are booked solid once again. And that adds up to book bargains and another spring book sale.

The garage doors will open at 9 a. m., Saturday, April 22 at the Main Library uptown. New books will be put out up to 4 p.m. closing time.

Included among the 8,000 plus volumes to be put on sale are some 3,000 paperbacks, a number of children's books, and copies of Antiques magazine (25c) and back issues of National Geographic (5c).

For those who want to remember Watergate, there's John Dean's BLIND AMBITION and Woodward and Bernstein's FINAL DAYS. Best sellers include TRINITY, DOLORES, 1876, OUR DOCUMENT, AGENT IN PLACE, and TOUCH NOT THE CAT.

Sale coordinator, Susan Crocker, says the selection is even better than usual. "You can shop our sale and impress everyone on the beach this summer by reading the hard-back copies," she suggests.

Area residents have traditionally used the book sales to

decorate their shelves, stock up vacation homes, and look for unusual books as well as add to their personal collections. The library has used the \$13,393 to buy needed materials and clear off needed shelf space.

**Dr. Pankey**  
To Address  
Local Physicians

Dr. George A. Pankey of the renowned Ochsner Clinic in New Orleans will address local physicians April 14 at the weekly Medical Staff Conference at Mercy Hospital. A specialist in internal medicine and infectious diseases, Dr. Pankey will discuss how various diseases appear as skin rashes or other visible disorders.

All interested physicians are invited to the program which begins at 12 noon in the Auditorium of Mercy Hospital.

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## Information On '77 Tax Return

Greesboro - The cost of living continues to rise, and if you make less than \$8,000 earned income, remember the "Earned income credit" the Internal Revenue Service may have for you if you file a 1977 Federal tax return.

Even if you had no tax withheld from you paychecks last year the credit may be available to you. It's actually easy to qualify - you must have maintained a household in the U.S. for all of 1977 for you and your child must have under 19 or one who is a full-time student, made under \$8,000 and file a tax return. The credit is 10 percent of the first \$4,000 of earned income (wages, salaries, tips and self-employment income). The maximum credit of \$400 must be reduced by 10 percent of the amount that exceeds \$4,000 and is eliminated when your income reaches \$8,000.

And remember, receiving the credit will not reduce your benefits under other assistance programs financed by Federal funds, such as Aid to Families with Dependent Children.

To claim the credit you may file either the 1040 long form or 1040A short form.

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