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Participants in The Charlotte Post Churchwoman of the Year Contest from Concord include: (front row, l-r) Carol Tate, Betty Douglas and Shirley Harding. (Second row, l-r) Elmira Polk, Gloria Steton, James Douglas, Linda Jenkins, Concord Committee Chairperson, and Rev. Roseman, minister Beulah Baptist Church, Concord. Peeler Photo

Excitement In Post's Campaign Hits High Mark

IRA Will Not Magically Make You A Millionaire

By Mac Thrower
Post Staff Writer
First in a series

IRA...that acronym has acquired magical connotations in recent months as the mythical Ordinary American seeks a way out of his/her present inflation squeezed misery into a retirement future "paved with gold" or at least decorated with a million or so dollars.

An Individual Retirement Account (IRA), however, will not magically make you a millionaire; IRA's do represent, though, a way for the average working person to obtain a tax shelter similar to those available in the past only to the rich.

According to Investment Company Institution of Washington, D.C., the barrage of ads announcing the new \$2,000 IRA's has created some misconceptions. Some people, the Institute says, believe that they can't afford to invest in an IRA—due mainly to the mistaken idea that \$2,000 is the mandatory amount to be invested each year. In fact, \$2,000 is the maximum you can put into an IRA each year. This upper limit sometimes, unfortunately, scares people away who may need help the most during retirement years...the not-so-rich American.

All you need, the Institute advises, to take advantage of "one of the best tax shelters available"—is a paycheck, no matter how large or small. With that paycheck you can invest in an IRA which can provide you with both present tax relief and future retirement aid.

Of course, the Institute admits, it's a lot easier for someone to give you good advice about saving than it is for you, still shell-



MISS LALISA LEARY
...Sparkles with energy

LaLisa Leary Is Beauty Of Week

By Teresa Simmons
Post Managing Editor
From the tip of her head to the ground floor our beauty LaLisa Leary is filled with a radiance only befitting a princess.

Sparkling with energy Ms. Leary is involved in an array of activities. The variety in her life adds, of course, to the spice. It allows her to multiply her fun by means of meeting people.

"I enjoy going out with my friends, going out to parties and enjoying every day," our beauty maintained. If Ms. Leary had her choice she would like to live in the western part of the United States in one of the larger cities. "In a larger city I would get to meet

86 Churches Vying For

Top Prizes

By Loretta Manago
Post Staff Writer

As more and more churches express their interest in joining the second annual "Churchwoman of the Year" contest the excitement of the next pending weeks continues to surmount.

Emphasizing this feeling was the Charlotte Post editor Bill Johnson who commented, "This is going to be the greatest contest of its kind known to weekly newspapers."

To this date a total number of 86 churches are competitively figuring out their strategies in order that they can be the church who walks away with the winning prize.

Careful selection of churchwoman contestants has delayed many participating churches from naming their contestants.

The following churches have named their contestants: East Stonewall AME Zion Church—Lula Watson; University Park Baptist Church—Florence Gillis; Penecostal Temple—Cola Gilchrist; Shiloh Baptist Church (Concord)—Shirley Harding; Macedonia Baptist Church (Concord)—Gloria Steton; Beulah Baptist Church—Carol Tate; Bethesda AME Church (Concord)—Beatrice Roland; Greater Galilee—Bonita Peay; Greater Providence Baptist Church—Eleanor Miller; Gethsemane Baptist Church—Gail Miller; Huntersville Presbyterian—Sandra Potts; Memorial United Presbyterian Church—Annie Herron; Grier Heights Presbyterian Church—Leatha Short; Antioch Baptist Church—Lois Pendergrass; Metropolitan United Presbyterian Church—Anne Hill; Chappell Memorial Baptist Church—Hattie Harris; Wilson Heights—Omega Audrey; Pleasant Hill Baptist Church—Viola Byers; and Mt. Olive Christian Church—Priscilla Kiser.

Two additional churches in Concord have joined the Churchwoman campaign. They are: Chapel Hill Baptist Church—Rev. Charles Gray and First United Church of Christ—Rev. Clawson.

John Medlin Elected To

Three-Year Term

John G. Medlin Jr., chief executive officer of Wachovia Bank and Trust Company, has been elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of the International Monetary Conference (IMC). The election and installation of officers was held Thursday at the conclusion of the 1982 IMC meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia. The IMC, which was organized in 1954, provides a forum for discussion of significant international banking, economic, monetary and fiscal issues. It includes 54 major United States banks and 60 banks from 21 other nations.

Often Silenced Persons Who Dare To Convert System Meet Strong Opposition

By Loretta Manago
Post Staff Writer

America in her outer garb wears a shield of freedom, justice and equality, but underneath that shield lies a country that is rich in oppression and overflowing in racism.

Persons who have dared to actively convert the system into one that works for all and not just a select few have met strong unrelenting opposition and have often been silenced.

Eddie James Carthan, former mayor of Tchula, Mississippi, is one such person.

Active in politics for most of his life Carthan had served several years on the Holmes County Board of Education before deciding to run for mayor.

"I thought I could represent those who had come through slavery, knowing nothing about voting, about going to a motel, sitting in the front of the bus or eating in a restaurant."

To say the job Carthan had before him was tremendous was a gross understatement. "Tchula, like many Southern towns, is divided down the middle by railroad tracks that separate the manicured lawns and colonial style homes of the white majority from the roach-and-rat infested dwellings of the blacks. Ruled for over a century by white planters and their political lackeys, Tchula's population—70 percent black—suffers an "official" unemployment rate of 30 percent. Two-thirds of the population is on welfare, 81 percent of the housing units are classified as "deteriorating" and 47 percent of all family dwelling lack some or all plumbing facilities." In 1977 Tchula was a town with no public recreational facilities, one tractor, an old fire engine and an inoperable squad car.

Carthan had plans for Tchula. "Under his administration, over \$3 million in federal and private monies were channeled into Tchula in an attempt to create a modern infrastructure that

would allow the town to enter the 20th century."

Plans were drawn (many were instituted) for a modern water system, a bus system, rehabilitation and weatherization of homes, a day care center, a medical-dental clinic, a library, a functional fire department and cars for the police department.

With the institution of his plans, Carthan was literally taking the town of Tchula by storm. In doing so Carthan was disturbing the long-existing power structure of the white minority.

This power structure and Carthan's independence collided shortly after Carthan had been elected to office and was confronted with a \$10,000 bribe "if the mayor would do things the way they have always been done." Of course Carthan refused. His refusal was the first signal of the trouble that would proceed to plague Carthan.

Realizing that Carthan could not be bought off with money, his opponents began to annihilate his political base, the Tchula Board of Aldermen. Consisting of four blacks and one white, Carthan usually held the majority. That was soon to change. When one black resigned due to pressure from the white power structure and was

replaced by a hand-picked black, Carthan lost that majority that he needed to implement and execute his program fully.

As a result of this political tactic an anti-Carthan administration was formed. It was this legislation's goal to limit the mayor's authority over fiscal and personal matters. City employees' checks were stopped for two months; City Hall was locked for eight weeks, the mayor's travel expenses were left unpaid; Carthan's salary was soon reduced from \$600 to \$60 a month; supporters of Carthan saw an increase in their property taxes and forced resignations by blacks come by the dozens.

With such obstacles before him Carthan continued to reshape his administration. His unrelenting attitude led to the resignation of several police officers and the chief of police. But Carthan continued forward. In April, 1980 Carthan appointed Johnny Dale, a black, police chief and restored the police department.

The anti-Carthan bloc was sorely displeased with Carthan's action. Acting on their own authority they appointed their own police chief Jim Andrews, a white. See PERSONS on Page 13

Voting Rights Pilgrims Say: Quality Of Commitment More Important Than Quantity Of Marchers

by Mac Thrower
Post Staff Writer

Last week in Washington, North Carolina's two senators, Jesse Helms and John East, began preparing to filibuster against the bill that would extend the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which has been called "the single most important piece of civil rights legislation passed in this century."

Some thought this a disturbing echo of segregationist opposition to crucial civil rights legislation in the 1960's.

In Charlotte, the SCLC Voting Rights Pilgrimage arrived on May 21 to march and publicly rally in support of the principles of "social, economic, and political justice that the SCLC pilgrims feel are being threatened in America once again. The march was an echo, too, of the 60's civil rights movement that profoundly altered the structure of American society.



Ron Leeper
...Very disappointed



Dr. Mildred B. Davis
...Not disappointed

But, apparently, it was a faint echo.

Billed as "The Largest March in Charlotte History," the event drew a light turnout of mostly political and professional people, many of whom had participated in demonstrations that helped open the door of success to them 20 years ago. Some of these men and women said, when contacted by The Post, that they joined the SCLC march because they were

concerned that same door might be closed again—this time to their children.

Several expressed disappointment in the size of the turnout for the march and rally; all of them, however, affirmed that the "quality" of the commitment of those involved was ultimately more important than the "quantity" of marchers.

Ms. Phyllis Lynch, Chairwoman of the Mecklenburg County Elections

Board and a key participant in the local SCLC activities, voiced no disappointment in the public response to the SCLC call to "unite to preserve our freedom." "This is an era in which the people have not been awakened," she explained. "We are doing the Paul Revere bit...I wouldn't have been disappointed if only 20 people turned out."

Ms. Lynch called the activities "a building process" that will eventually create success.

City Councilman Ron Leeper, who spoke at the Voting Rights Rally at Park Center, was, unlike Ms. Lynch, "very disappointed" in the number of people who participated in the march and Park Center Rally. Describing the public reaction to the march from the Johnson C. Smith campus to Park Center, Leeper commented, "a large number of people could not seem to relate to what we were

doing." He pointedly observed that many ministers and elected officials were involved in the march, but that "people directly affected by Reagan's (budget) ax falling didn't participate."

Leeper was particularly disappointed in what he felt was the poor response from young blacks. "The young people don't seem to relate to civil rights struggles. They don't know the struggles aren't over."

This summer, Leeper predicted, "the reality of the economic crunch" will hit many youths, producing, he implied, a possibly violent reaction.

Warren Arthur, of the Charlotte Voting Rights Conference, which sponsored the SCLC Charlotte march, was also critical of the lack of youth participation. "In this era of integration, young blacks find it difficult—because of their relationships with individual whites—to see



The trouble with some roads is that they don't curve when some motorists do!