



JAMES "JIM" RICHARDSON

..Victory party shortlived

Despite Defeat

James Richardson Wins

By Terri Byrum
Special To The Post
Jim Richardson emerged as a political newcomer this year and ran for the State House of Representatives. For about 10 months Richardson and his crew of volunteers worked long hours campaigning. He faced tough opposition and as election day approached, everyone knew it would be a close race.

By 10 p.m. the votes were tabulated at Election Central (the Civic Center) and Jim Richardson was declared a winner in the race for State House, defeating incumbent Democrat Gus Economos.

"It was a jubilant occasion," says Richardson. "We got all our people together and had a victory party." All evening and the following day, the Richardson family called out of town relatives with the news and themselves received countless calls of congratulations. It seemed too good to be true.

And so it was. Late Wednesday afternoon, Richardson received a phone call from Phyllis Lynch, a member of the local Board of Elections. Mrs. Lynch told Richardson that there seemed to be some "irregularities" in the vote tabulations and she and Elections Supervisor Bill Culp asked to meet with Jim Richardson in his home to discuss the details.

Richardson knew then that his 18-hour victory celebration had come to a screeching halt. In discussion with Culp and Mrs. Lynch, he clearly saw where totals had been innocently misread and calculated.

Human error. Jim Richardson had not won after all and incumbent Gus Economos had taken the lead by a slim margin. And that was that. Economos was in, and Richardson was out.

After tasting the spoils of victory for a day, Richardson was now faced with the reality of the situation. The Elections Board had called a press conference for Thursday morning to announce the error and subsequent results, and Jim had the evening ahead of him to explain to his supporters.

Jim Richardson says he may not have won the House seat this year, but in **Blakeney's**

Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Ozie Blakeney and Lattie Mae White Blakeney celebrated 50 years of marital bliss recently at their home with family attending. They married November 6, 1932.

Blakeney, 71, and his wife, 69, have shared many blessings throughout the years including seven children: Eva L. Pittman, Henry L. Blakeney, Robert L. Blakeney, Evelyn Farmer and Yvonne Burley. The late Willie Lee Blakeney and the late Aretha Mae Blakeney.

The honored couple also has 11 grandchildren. Blakeney is a member of Little Rock AME Zion Church; Mrs. Blakeney is a member and sings on the Hymn Choir of Greater Mt. Sinai Baptist Church.

Support For Knox Takes On Statewide Proportions

What started out as a local expression of support for Eddie Knox has taken on statewide proportions. Busloads of supporters from around North Carolina are planning to attend a special "Holiday Party for Eddie and His Friends" at the Charlotte Civic Center December 4th.

The gala was planned by a number of community leaders as a way for Charlotteans to "show appreciation for the outstanding leadership Eddie Knox has given our city and to let him know we are backing him 100 percent for governor," said Bob Eller, a co-chairman of the party. "And perhaps we can raise some money for him, too."

The committee had planned for about 1,000 local friends of the mayor of Charlotte to attend the party which will usher in the holiday season. "But when word got out, people from all over the state wanted to come," said co-chairman Marc Silverman. "We have been having tremendous response. For example, we already know of two busloads of people coming from Caldwell County and another two buses coming from Stanly. There is a large contingent coming down from Raleigh. We are thrilled at this expression of support."

Knox, a Democrat now serving his second term as mayor, said, "It is wonderful to hear that people want to come here from out of town to encourage me to run for Governor." The



Eddie Knox

Plans gala party former state senator and former chairman of the state's Advisory Budget Commission has not formally announced his candidacy, but is seriously considering the race.

Funds generated by the \$50 per person holiday party will be used to help create awareness of Eddie Knox around the state. The overall party is sponsored by the "North Carolina Citizens Who Want Eddie Knox To Be Governor."

The festive event will include a buffet, music, dancing and the premiere of a new film about Eddie Knox.

Hartman Enlists

David Eugene Hartman, son of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Hartman of 1034 Nancy Drive recently enlisted in the Marine Corps.

Hartman enlisted in the Delay Entry Program for four years and has been guaranteed training in the Marine Corps Infantry Option Field. He will leave for Parris Island, S.C.

Program and decorating arrangements are being handled by Sandy Eagan who arranged the Mayor's Annual Charity Ball, and Nancy Mahaffey who coordinates the Heart Fund Ball.

Individuals who would like tickets for the Holiday Party for Eddie and His Friends should send \$50 for each ticket to: KNOX '84, 407 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28203, or call 704-333-3126.

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Reports Sales Increase

Winn-Dixie Stores, Inc. reported sales of \$518,188,000 during the four weeks ended October 20, compared with \$481,276,000 for the similar period last year, an increase of 7.7 percent.

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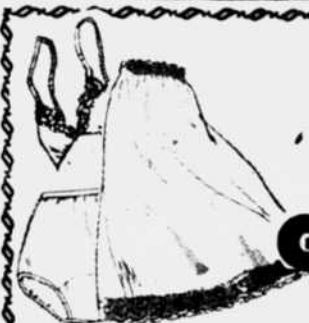
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