

According To Consensus

# Presbyterian Hospital Is Going To Miss Mr. Williams

Charlie Williams, the Presbyterian Hospital cook with the wide, toothful grin and the 10-foot chef's hat, retired January 11 after 37 years of service.

And Dietary Director Niladine Galarde knows it will be difficult to replace a man who is as big as his chef's hat.

"There is no way I can ever really replace him. He is totally dependable and cooperative, and he has set an excellent example for other employees by doing his best every day," Mrs. Galarde says. "In fact, former graduates of the School of Nursing look to him for help in preparing their annual alumni dinner. He always produces a quality product," she continued.

During his 37 years at Presbyterian, Mr. Williams has produced all types of quality products from broiled fish to fried okra, but when he first came to work at Presbyterian, he only needed to know how to do one thing, make salads.

"I started working in 1946, and my job was to make salads. After six months, the cook left, and I was asked if I wanted to be a cook. I said yes," says Mr. Williams, who has never worked anywhere other than Presbyterian.

Besides his duties in dietary, Mr. Williams has



**CHARLIE WILLIAMS**

—Celebrated cook

seen other things change.

"Thirty-seven years ago, on a Sunday, I came to Charlotte from the country. I started to work on Monday. I didn't fill out an application. I just called and asked for a job. Besides that, there weren't any time clocks," he informed.

Mr. Williams, though, will be the first to admit that he does not really need clocks, especially alarm clocks.

"Up until 10 years ago, I had to work split shifts. We had to work from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3-6 p.m. It's amazing to think that all these years I've gotten up with no alarm clock. I just wake up and look at the clock and see that it's time to get up," Mr. Williams says, adding, "You know, I've never been late to work, and I've never stayed out or called in sick. I've missed some days because I was sick, but I've always gone to work, and then they'd put me in the hospital or send me home. I

stayed at home after that only if they told me to," he says.

Since 1973, Mr. Williams has worked from 3 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., but the early morning hours do not bother him. The fried okra and the fried shrimp do, though.

"The hardest part of my job is when we have fried shrimp and fried okra on the same day," he stated. "The shrimp are the little popcorn shrimp, and they're hard to bread. Then I have to bread the okra. I put them in different deep fryers, and I have to watch them carefully at the same time so they won't burn. Thank goodness I don't have to do that anymore." Mr. Williams may not

miss the fried okra and the fried shrimp, but his attitude will miss his job.

"My job's just beautiful. I just love it," said Mrs. Galarde. "I'd come back to work if she needed help, but only on weekends." "I've worked for 37 years, but I have weekends off. I'm a Sunday School teacher, and for 18 years, I was the choir director. I had to give it up, so now I'm just an associate director," says Mr. Williams. A member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, "I've also got a wife, Louella, five children and 13 grandchildren. I need time to get all that together," he concluded.

Members of the Presbyterian staff all got together to honor Mr. Williams. The retirement party lasted from 2:30 p.m. and even Mr. Williams' pastor came.

"They all came to honor a man whose shoes and chef's hat would be hard to fill.

## Research Award

The Commerce Department's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) announced a \$25,000 research award to North Carolina Central University in Durham, N.C.

The university will use the funds for a one-year study of formation, growth and failure rates of minority-owned businesses. It also will examine how minority-owned firms can increase their contributions to the nation's economy.

MBDA Acting Director Thomas J. Bell said, "Minority-owned firms are among the most underutilized and underrepresented resources in the country. Every effort must be made to analyze these companies to better determine their needs in the marketplace."

"The award is part of the Reagan Administration's effort to help strengthen the nation's historically black colleges and universities," Bell said.

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## Women in Communications

A new scholarship for Mecklenburg County high school seniors who plan to pursue a career in communications is being offered by the Charlotte Professional Chapter of Women in Communications, Inc.

Any Mecklenburg senior who will attend college in the fall to prepare for a career in communications is eligible to apply for the \$200 scholarship. The communications field includes journalism, publishing, broadcasting, advertising and public relations.

The scholarship will recognize achievement in communications activities and academic studies and will be awarded in May at

the annual Women in Communications Matrix meeting.

Applications can be obtained from local guidance counselors in public and private high schools in Mecklenburg. A self-addressed, stamped envelope may also be sent to Women in Communications Scholarship Committee, 1223 Dilworth Rd. East, Charlotte, N.C. 28203. All applications must be returned by March 1.

Keep your out-of-town friends interested in what's happening in Charlotte by sending them a copy of The Charlotte Post each week. The cost is only \$12.00 per year.

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