

League Needs Applicants For Job Training Center

By Jalyne Strong
Post Staff Writer

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Urban League is now accepting applications for the second session of the Job Training Center with classes set to begin April 1, 1985. The Job Training Center provides free training in clerical word processing to Mecklenburg County residents who qualify.

Criteria for eligibility and qualification are as follows: Mecklenburg County residents must be at least 18 years of age, possessing a high school diploma or GED, who are unemployed or are in need of a better paying, more challenging occupation yet cannot afford to pay the fees of an instructional institution.

"It is a way of opening doors for many individuals," states Director of the Job Training Center, Donald Bowen. He explains that the purpose of the Center is to help unemployed or misplaced workers to make the transition into a modern, technological work environment. Graduates of the Center's program are equipped with highly marketable skills which they can use to successfully compete for increasingly available office automation jobs.

"The projected demand for experienced word-processors apparently exceeds the supply," says Bowen. This fact leads him to believe that potential graduates of the Job Training Center will have little problem securing employment with large companies.

The Job Training Center is located in the BB&T Center, 200 South Tryon. In a classroom setting,

courses in Math, English and typing are taught. An additional "Life Skills" course instructs students on resume writing, job interview techniques, time management and interpersonal communication. Finally, students receive hands-on training in clerical word processing. The entire training program lasts 14 weeks.

The Center also offers services in counseling, job development and placement. "The Center's staff takes a personal interest in the students' development," assures Bowen.

"IBM was the driving force behind the establishment of the Job

Training Center," he informs. In fact, the center is the result of a joint venture between IBM, the Urban League and other local companies. IBM is providing \$900,000 in equipment, service and salaries for the center's first three years of operation. An additional \$323,000 is donated in money and services by 27 area businesses. This all shows, suggests Bowen, that non-profit organizations, such as the Urban League, and profit sector businesses can work together to address the critical needs of the community.

"What we are doing is a constructive way of dealing with unemployment, underemployment and the

needs of businesses. The Job Training Program is a prototype of what is necessary. Hopefully, others will look at it and learn that additional, similar programs need to be developed," concludes Bowen.

The training program accommodates 16 students per session and Bowen says he expects to train 112 persons in seven sessions a year at the center. Applications for the second session beginning April 1, may be obtained from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Urban League Employment Department, 951 S. Independence Blvd., Suite 125. For more information call 376-9834 between 3:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays.



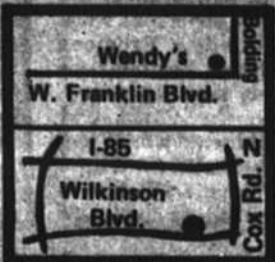
Donald Bowen



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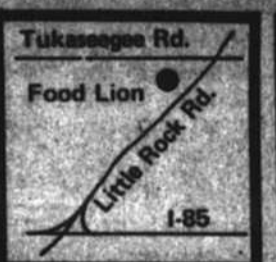
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NCNB To Initiate State's First Video Banking Service

NCNB National Bank will initiate this summer the first video banking service for the home in North Carolina. It will be available statewide through an information network accessible by nearly every type of personal computer.

"This new service will enable our customers to perform many of their banking activities conveniently at home," said Jimmy Froneberger, manager of delivery systems for NCNB. "They can inquire about their various account balances, transfer funds from one account to another, display their statements and pay monthly bills any time of day or night."

"In addition to services available initially, we envision continually adding functions, such as loan applications and reordering of checks," he said.

Froneberger said the new service - which could be used by individuals or small businesses - will not be a pilot test.

"The service we plan will be the first commercially available video banking service in North Carolina," he informed.

NCNB will offer its home banking service through the combined resources of CompuServe, a national information network with almost 1,000 services geared to home, school and small business uses, and VideoFinancial Services, a company created in 1983 to accelerate the availability of video banking.

CompuServe's video services include news, sports and weather, travel information, home shopping and financial information such as stock quotations.

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