



Vernell Funderburk  
.....Bridal consultant

## Mrs. Funderburk Started Bridal Work

### Early In Life

Vernell Funderburk, co-owner of The Wedding Place, is an experienced bridal consultant. "I started at a bridal salon right out of college," she recalled, and worked there 12 years until the birth of her second son. After five years out, she went back to work for another bridal salon for a year or two before returning to the first. It was another six or seven years before she and her present partners decided to open their own business.

Funderburk is a graduate of Second Ward High School. She studied business administration for two years at Central Piedmont Community College and for two years at McCrory.

"Church is my main interest," said Funderburk, a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church. "I was born and raised there," she added. A first soprano in the choir ("I love to sing. I have sung all my life"), Funderburk is also second vice president of the missionary union and president of the missionary circles. She serves on other committees as well.

She loves music, especially spirituals and other religious music. "The busy woman sews and is 'a fairly good artist.' In addition, 'I love to play tennis when I can,' she stated.

Funderburk's family consists of her husband, Carson O., who works with Consolidated Trucking, and three sons, Kenny, 12, and Carson, 15, will be attending seventh and ninth grades at J.T. Williams in the fall. The eldest son, Ronald, is a supervisor for North American Van Lines. Ronald and his wife, Deborah, have two children.

## Alphas Return To Atlanta For National Convention

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. will convene its 79th Anniversary Convention August 8-15, at the Atlanta Hilton in Atlanta, Ga.

The meeting will be the first under the leadership of Alpha Fraternity (National) President Charles C. Teamer Sr., Vice President for Fiscal Affairs at Dillard University, New Orleans, La.

More than 5,000 members and guests are expected to attend the meeting which already holds the record for having the largest convention in Alpha history, set in 1977.

Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young; the city's former mayor, Maynard Jackson; Ernest N. Morial, Mayor of New Orleans and President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors; and Congressman William Gray III, Chairman of the House Budget Committee, are all scheduled to take part in the convention. All are members of Alpha Phi Alpha.

This convention will also feature the kick off of the Fraternity's drive to build a new multi-million dollar National Headquarters in Chicago, on the site of the group's present General Office at 4432 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

The Atlanta Alpha convention will be hosted by the Eta Lambda (Atlanta Alumni) Chapter. Mr. Robert L. Lewis, Housing Development Administrator for the City of Atlanta, will serve as the Convention Chairman and Dr. Larry Earvin, Chairman of the Department of Social Science at Clark College, is the chapter President. Other local host chapters include: Iota (Morris Brown College); Alpha Rho (Morehouse College); Alpha Phi (Clark College); Zeta Mu (Georgia State University); Mu Alpha (Emory University); Nu Mu (Georgia Institute of Technology); and Nu Mu Lambdas (Decatur, Alumni). Other convention officials include James B. Blanton III, of Chicago, Executive Secretary; and Kermit J. Hall, of Yeadon, Pa., Director of General Conventions.



Rev. Edward G. W. King, Vicar at St. Michael and All Angles Episcopal Church (c), welcomes the Right Reverend Frank Harris Vest Jr., Suffragan Bishop of North Carolina (l), while Connie Sessions, senior warden, looks on. The occasion was Rev. Frank Vest's first Pastoral visit to St. Michael and also celebrated, at this time, was the First Baptism, Confirmation and Reaffirmation of new members into the St. Michael family.

## At Gethsemane AME Zion Church Roman Gabriel To Highlight Rutledge Graduation Ceremonies

Roman Gabriel, former Los Angeles Rams' quarterback and NFL "Player of the Year," will be the 1985 Commencement speaker for Rutledge College of Charlotte. The College's annual Commencement exercise will be held on Saturday, June 15, 1985 at Gethsemane AME Zion Church, 531 Campus Street.

Approximately 140 Associate Degrees and Diplomas will be presented to graduates in accounting, data processing, management, word processing, secretarial science, and medical office administrative assistant programs.

A former star quarterback with the N.C. State Wolfpack who went on to NFL fame, Gabriel is now vice president of Charlotte Professional Sports, Inc., and is working with businessman George Shinn, Chairman of the Board of Rutledge Education System, to bring a professional sports team to Charlotte. Gabriel is also actively promoting the Rutledge College system and encouraging students to continue their education through appearances in high schools around the country.

Gabriel is regarded as one of the

greatest professional athletes ever to come out of North Carolina. The son of a Wilmington railroad cook, he was the Rams' number one draft pick in the 1962 draft, and the NFL's "Most Valuable Player" in 1971. He also had a brief career in Hollywood, appearing in the movie, "The Undeclared," with John Wayne. He did TV football commentary for CBS and regional radio broadcasts. Gabriel is currently delivering a sports commentary each morning on Charlotte radio station WEZC 104.

Rutledge College of Charlotte is part of the Rutledge Education System, founded by George Shinn. The college has an enrollment of 350 and is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of the Association of Independent Colleges and Schools, a national accrediting body. The Charlotte campus was recently designated as a candidate for Accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

At the Commencement ceremony, the college will recognize outstanding scholarship and leadership through presentation of special awards.

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### Tax Returns Should Be In The Mail Shortly

The majority of refund checks owed to North Carolina taxpayers as a result of processed 1984 state income tax returns should be in the mail by June 30, according to Secretary of Revenue Helen A. Power.

Although there were approximately 100,000 more returns warranting refunds in 1985 than in the previous year, the Revenue Department is also running ahead of schedule in processing returns on hand. The average refund check shows a slight increase over the previous year.

To date, about 1.7 million refund checks have been issued for an amount close to \$370 million, averaging about \$224 per check. The Department has received 1.9 million

returns that require refunds and 500,000 returns that are fully paid or nontaxable.

It is possible that some refund checks will be delayed beyond June 30 due to error in the return requiring the Department to have some correspondence with the taxpayer. When such a problem is resolved a refund check will be issued as soon as possible, but the exact date of a check mailing would be impossible to predict because circumstances differ in each case.

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