

Dorothy Person Retires From Library

Special To The Post

Dorothy Person, Head of Reference at the Main Library uptown, had 2.5 million questioned fields through her department when she retired July 31.

That figure surely qualifies her as an "answer lady extraordinaire." Since Person took over the department in 1973, her troop of detectives have ferreted out facts odd and mundane, from who are the Junior Woodchucks (the club that Donald Duck's nephews Huey, Dewey and Louie belong to) to who was the first American President to talk to someone on the moon (Richard Nixon to Neil Armstrong, July 1969).

Person has been a jack-of-all-trades during her tenure at the library, beginning as a book-mobile substitute in 1951. The book-mobile was staffed by two workers and a driver, and travelled to the county schools and the outlying areas. "At that time," said Person, "there were two school systems, and we'd go out into the county schools. Then the students would come in with their teachers and check out the books they wanted. And then we went to the really far-out places in the county-like Pineville." Person remembered with a giggle. "I learned a lot about the county in those days."

She was appointed to Head Librarian at North Branch when that opened in 1957. That was "an experience," according to Person. "It was the first library in that section, and the people were so excited about it. It was close to several schools, like West Charlotte and the Catholic schools, and they started coming there and we helped them quite often. It was tough getting the people to come in at first, though. We really had to go out and beat the bushes for patrons. But then they began to come in and I was there five years and was very happy with the neighborhood and the people, who became my friends. I still have lots of the friends I made in those days. That library had plenty of books, but when we really got patrons, we never seemed to have enough...but I don't really think you can ever have enough books."

Person further recalls: "We had to work at it awfully hard to get the patrons to come in at first. As I said, they hadn't had a library there before and we had to come up with some really creative things to get the people in, working up interesting programs to tell them what the library was all about."

During the time Person was at North Branch, desegregation was becoming a major issue in Charlotte. Prior to the beginnings of integration, blacks had not been allowed into the Main Library uptown; they had used the old branch on Brevard Street, called the B Street branch by the patrons. "When they first desegregated I would tell my patrons (at North) they would have to go over to Main for some things. I could have easily picked them up myself, or had the materials brought here from there, but I wouldn't do that. I wanted them to know they were welcome at the Main Library, that people in the county were trying to make us feel welcome. And they came to Main, and were made welcome," she remembers.

While integration was actively being pursued by the community, Person became the first black to work behind the desk at Main Library in 1963. "Mr. Galvin (Library Director Hoyt Galvin) offered me the job and gave me the whole weekend to think about it. I was going to be the first black in a position like that at Main, during the time of the sit-ins at Wookworth's and the boycott of Bell's down the street. It wasn't an easy time, but there were no real problems. Some patrons were surprised to see me sitting behind a desk," here Person opens her mouth in an expression of mock surprise; "but I was able to solve any problems on my own." She does tell one story of a lady who came in and expected her to go find the books she wanted; Person quite firmly repeated it was not her job to do that and finally the patron left in a huff. "That was what most of the difficulties were like...not really bad at all."

Person was named Head of Reference in 1973 and still serves in that capacity. She was made Acting Assistant Director of Main Library Services in 1983 and for several months did both jobs. During her tenure at the library, Person has seen some tremendous changes within the library system.

"I think the major changes in the system are how it's grown, physical-



Dorothy Person
... "Answer lady extraordinaire"

ly as well as the overall look and feel of the library. Like I said, when I first came here, everything—the schools, the library, the restaurants and churches—were segregated. And when I came in, blacks had to rely on the bookmobile if they didn't live near Brevard Street. That was something we didn't like, but we lived with it. Then, when segregation ended, the library seemed to move forward with the rest of the county organizations, and we never had any real problems here with that. The library has grown in its ideas, I think, along with its size. I don't think it can ever be big enough or offer too much, because it is such an encompassing source of information. I like the way the emphasis has shifted towards the "information" aspect of the library because we provide so many services other than books. We have the film and sound department, the different things the branches do on their own, and my own budget for Reference has tripled since 1975. Our staff and collection used to be so much smaller."

One of Person's legacies to the library is the Business Reference desk, created in 1974. "The business-oriented reference materials kept coming in, so we originally made a separate business section. Then the budget came through with the money, so we were able to provide more services, like the Dun and Bradstreet and Standard and Poor's listings, among others. So we sent out a publicity newsletter to let the businesses know we were here and what we had available, and it took off from there. Now we have people coming in to the Business Reference desk who are job hunting and want company information, the uptown businessmen come in at lunch and read the stock reports or do research, and new businesses in town rely on our information to give them a feel for the area."

I think one of the best things about the library," she continues, "is that it has grown to where it reaches everybody, and so many diverse people use it. For young black children, it helps to get across the idea that they can be anything they

want to be, they don't have to be maids or gardeners, unless that's what they want to be. They can come in and read about blacks who are lawyers and bankers and elected officials, and have a role model type to reinforce the message that they can do anything. The children are finding out about their chances through the library, and they're good chances."

"The services we offer now and the information we have are here to help everybody in the county, not just the blacks and not just the children, but everybody. The growth of the library, internally and physically, have made it a wonderful place to just learn more about life."

"You make a lot of friends when you work someplace this long, and you do see a lot of changes. I see one of the best continuing things about the library as being the overall reception to new ideas and cooperation we have among staff, county and patrons. Some of the people here have been here for years, and I have made a lot of friends. The regular patrons become your friends, even if you never know their names, and I've become familiar with a few of the street people who come in... I say hello and they say 'hello, library lady'. That's the kind of thing that I'm really going to miss when I leave."

Person will be equally missed by her colleagues. Gladys Brower, who has worked with her in Reference for many years, says that "finding someone as levelheaded as Dot will be tough. She always kept her head when everybody else had lost theirs, and she was usually the one to come up with a solution." Brower also feels like the entire staff will miss her "expertise in working out a schedule, that's her real thing. But we'll miss her, period. I don't think I can recall her being out more than five or six days in 15 years. She's a superior supervisor, she knew her job well and had a steadfastness of commitment to it... she really set a great example for everyone and had a wonderful way with the employees. And Dot could definitely keep her head in a crisis."

Go Krogering for a

Grape Deal!



THOMPSON SWEET CALIFORNIA

Seedless Grapes

49¢
Lb.

PLUS COST CUTTER PRICES ON

Surf & Turf!

PREVIOUSLY FROZEN 50-70 CT. MEDIUM

Headless Shrimp

USDA CHOICE WHOLE (9-11 LB. AVG.)

Boneless Rib Eye

SLICED FREE



\$299
Lb. *Your Choice!*

CUT UP MIXED FRYER PARTS OR GRADE "A"

Holly Farms Whole Fryers

49¢
Lb. LIMIT 3 PKGS



REGULAR OR UNSCENTED (25' OFF LABEL) LAUNDRY

Tide Detergent

\$179
42 Oz Box



KROGER GRADE A

Large Eggs

LARGE BROWN EGGS... 67¢

57¢
Doz Ctn

GRANULATED

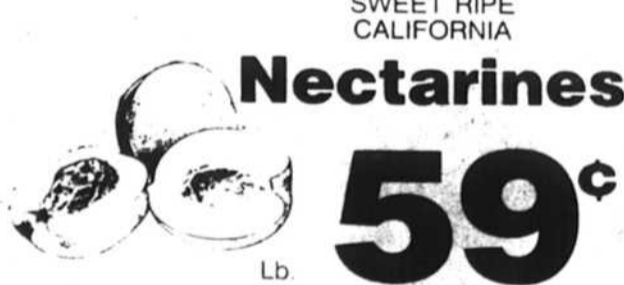
Kroger Sugar

599¢
5 Lb. Bag



DIET COKE, CAFFEINE-FREE COKE OR

Coca Cola
\$109
2 Ltr NRB



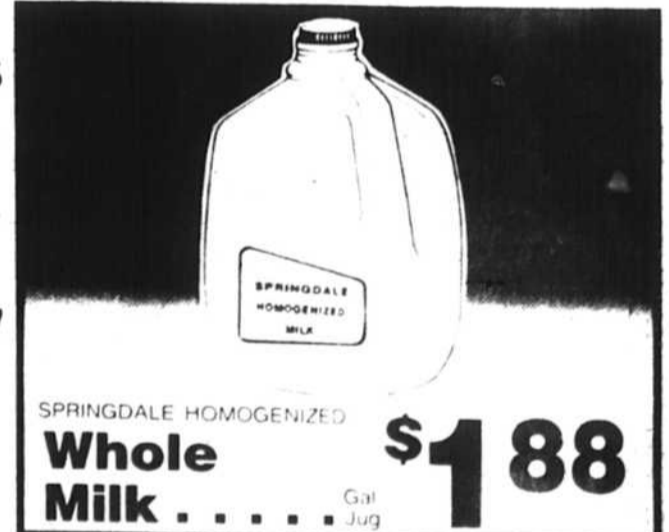
SWEET RIPE CALIFORNIA

Nectarines
59¢
Lb.

WISE REGULAR

Potato Chips

99¢
6.5 Oz. Bag



SPRINGDALE HOMOGENIZED

Whole Milk

\$188
Gal Jug



ASSORTED VARIETIES KROGER

Barbecue Sauce

79¢
18 Oz Jar



BUY ONE 14 OZ CONTAINER NACHO CHEESE SAUCE GET ONE 14 OZ CONTAINER

Mexican Salsa . . FREE!

PLUS **DOUBLE MANUFACTURERS COUPONS!**

see details in-store

Fresh Fish MARKET

SALMON Any Way SALMON
You Like It

Steaks! Smoked! Silver! King!

Large Shrimp Head ON

\$5.40 lb.

Fish Fry!

Sat. August 3, 9AM Until

To Benefit

Eugene "Genial Gene" Potts

"Order The Kind of Fish You Want"

In The Parking Lot of The Fresh Fish Market

1540 West Boulevard
We Carry All The Fixings
And Fresh Produce

Stop In Today

9AM-6:30 PM Tues-Sat Closed Sun & Mon

"If You Find Any Fish

Fresher Than Ours, It's Still In The Ocean"

The LORD is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?

For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me; He shall set me up upon a rock.

Psalms 27:1 & 3

Kroger Sav-on

Items and Prices effective thru Sat August 3, 1985

Copyright 1985 Kroger Sav-on Quantity Rights Reserved. None Sold To Dealers

ADVERTISED ITEM POLICY Each of these advertised items is required to be readily available for sale in each Kroger Sav-on, except as specifically noted in this ad. If we do run out of an item we will offer you your choice of a comparable item when available, reflecting the same savings or a raincheck which will entitle you to purchase the advertised item at the advertised price within 30 days. Only one vendor coupon will be accepted per item.

Open 8 AM to Midnight - Open Sunday 9 AM to 9 PM

6320 Albemarle Rd. 568-2725 500 Tyvola Rd. 527-5470 3301 Freedom Dr. 399-8321 101 Eastway Dr. 597-8995
Park Rd. at Ideal Way 576-0534 MATTHEWS 11446 East Independence Blvd. PINEVILLE Hwy. 51 1133 Wendover Rd. 565-1955