

"Bus Driver Of The Month" Honor Thrills Mary Kersey "Beyond Words"

By Loretta Manage
Post Managing Editor

Being named "Bus Driver of the Month" might seem like small potatoes to some people, but not Mary Kersey. It was a recent honor she received that simply thrilled her beyond words. As a matter of fact, being a bus driver is one of the most exciting things Mrs. Kersey feels that she does.

In spite of the fact that Mrs. Kersey has only been driving the school bus for two years, it has been a long time dream of hers. "I've been wanting to drive a school bus for the past 17 years, ever since the day I put my oldest son on the bus, his first day of school."

Mrs. Kersey explained that each year she consulted her husband about being a bus driver. "All he would say was that it was a lot of responsibility. Then, finally, he told me 'Why don't you go ahead, because you're not going to be satisfied unless you do.'"

Those were just the words Mrs. Kersey had been waiting to hear. Ever since she was hired by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System, Mrs. Kersey has been laboring from love. Speaking of the children who ride her bus, Mrs. Kersey gleefully stated, "I love every one of the kids on my bus and with every child I'm concerned. I try to talk to them about any problems they may have."

Mostly what concerns Mrs. Kersey about the children who ride her bus is that they arrive back and forth from school safely. "I'm always watching to see if cars stop

Democrats

Create Five \$1,000

Scholarships

Washington, D.C. - Democratic National Chairman Paul G. Kirk Jr. announced recently the creation of five \$1,000 National Democratic Party Martin Luther King Jr. College Scholarships, to be awarded each year on the civil rights leaders' birthday anniversaries.

"The Democratic Party will help young people live Dr. King's dream," Kirk said. "We think these scholarships will be a fitting tribute to a man whose life made a better future possible for so many young Americans."

"On the occasion of the first federal holiday honoring Dr. King, it is important that the Democratic Party commemorate the life of one of the most important figures in our history with deeds as well as words."

"Every life we touch with a helping hand furthers the unfinished work of Martin Luther King, who inspired Americans of all races to pursue the goals of justice, equality and opportunity."

Kirk said he will appoint a committee to create a competition for and to administer the new King scholarships. The first five college scholarships will be awarded on Dr. King's birthday anniversary in 1987.

Kirk also announced that Democratic National Committee officers participated in activities surrounding the first federal holiday honoring Dr. King.

Kirk and Party Treasurer Sharon Pratt Dixon attended a ceremony on January 16 which included the unveiling of a bust of Dr. King in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda.

Vice Chairman Roland Burris and C. Delores Tucker, who chairs the caucus of black DNC members, also attended activities in Atlanta.

Ms. Tucker is a board member of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Change and founder and president of the Philadelphia Martin Luther King Association, the only such organization commissioned by Coretta Scott King. Ms. Tucker spoke at the 18th Annual ecumenical service at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta on January 20.

CMS Board Meeting

The school board will hold its next meeting at Thomasboro Elementary School instead of the Education Center. The meeting will be held Tuesday, January 23, at 5 p.m.

The meeting is the first of three during 1986 that will be held at a school. The board is moving some meetings into schools at the suggestion of member Arthur Griffin Jr. Thomasboro is located at 538 Bradford Drive.

On Tuesday, February 11, the board will hold a public hearing on proposed changes in the pupil assignment plan. That meeting will be held at 5 p.m. in the board room at the Education Center and will be televised on WTVI.

Nature Film

The Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation Department will sponsor a nature film at McDowell Park, located on Highway 49 South, Sunday, January 28, at 3 p.m.

The free viewing of the film is for children and their families. While at the park, be sure to enjoy the hiking trails, fishing pier, the Nature Center and shoreline.

For more details about the film or the park in general, call Gail Kerr at 888-1436 or Lynn Saul at 336-5854.



Mary Kersey prepares to leave her job at Plaza Road Elementary School to pick up anxious youngsters at Winthrop Park and Merry Oaks Elementary Schools and then safely transport them home. (Photo by Bernard Reeves)

before I let any of the kids off the bus. Getting them home okay, at the end of a school day is my major concern."

Every day as a bus driver Mrs. Kersey looks forward to seeing "smiling faces." "That's what makes my job worthwhile. I feel good when I talk to them or if I'm able to help them tie their shoes."

Commenting that she doesn't experience any serious discipline

problems while transporting her students to and fro, Mrs. Kersey freely revealed her secret. "I don't yell or scream at them, I talk to them the way I would talk to my own children. And if I find them arguing I always tell them that they're to act like sisters and brothers on the bus."

The mother of three, David, Tracey and Lee, the grandmother of one, Adam, and the wife of Lee

Grant Kersey to whom she has been married 26 years, Mrs. Kersey received \$100 for being honored "Bus Driver of the Month."

While she admits she has had no accidents, she attributes much of

the credit to having a good supervisor. "Leon Mitchell is my supervisor and I just feel that having a good supervisor makes you want to do the best you can."

When Mrs. Kersey is not assuming

her duties as a bus driver she is working in the cafeteria at Plaza Road Elementary School. Mrs. Kersey works with the assurance and the knowledge that "my job is important."

Donoghue Establishes Affirmative Action Policy

Charlotte - Bishop John F. Donoghue announced the establishment of an affirmative action policy for the Catholic Diocese of Charlotte.

Bishop Donoghue will formally sign the policy statement Saturday, January 25, at the first diocesan celebration of the Martin Luther King Jr. national holiday at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Charlotte. A specific program to implement the policy is scheduled to be operational by June 30.

The bishop told a news conference that the policy will cover all diocesan organizations except those, such as hospitals and universities, which are covered by federal Executive Order 11246 which governs government contractors. Those institutions will develop their own affirmative action programs under the terms of the Executive Order.

Bishop Donoghue assigned primary responsibility for implementing and managing the affirmative action program to the Chancery Office headed by Father Joseph A.

Kerin, chancellor of the diocese. He will be assisted by a 23-member Affirmative Action Advisory Council appointed by the bishop.

The affirmative action policy covers not only all aspects of employment and participation in voluntary organizations, but also all construction activities, purchases, contracts, banking, use of lending institutions and other economic activities.

The policy forbids any discrimination on grounds of race, color, religion (except where religion is a bona fide occupational qualification), sex, national origin, age, handicap, or veteran's status.

Bishop Donoghue directed the

copies of the policy statement be posted conspicuously by each organization, office, parish, and school within the diocese and that it be included in all contracts and subcontracts, including collective bargaining agreements. It also is to be read at all Masses at least once annually, preferably around the time of the King holiday.

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