

Charlotte Post Churchworker Contest

Clinton Chapel Working Hard To Overtake Top Spot

Large Church Contestants Gain Bulk Of Prizes

Mayfield Memorial Comes Close To Capturing Lead

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THE CHARLOTTE POST

The Voice Of The Black Community

YOUR BEST ADVERTISING MEDIA IN THE LUCRATIVE BLACK MARKET CALL 376-0496

Volume 12, Number 3

THE CHARLOTTE POST - Thursday, June 19, 1986

Price: 40 Cents



Peggy Johnson Store manager

Johnson Turns Inexperience Into Outstanding Career

By Jalyne Strong Post Staff Writer

From an inexperienced beginning this week's beauty, Peggy Johnson, has accomplished an outstanding career in sales.

A native of Chester, S.C., Peggy arrived in Charlotte about 17 months ago looking for work.

Peggy started her career as a salesperson at the Radio Shack in the Radisson Mall and, after that, at the store at Park Road Shopping Center.

Describing herself as a "self-made person," this week's beauty says she became a "hot" salesperson in essence because, as she explains, "I've always had a lot of self confidence."

"You have to be very aggressive," Peggy explains about her job. "But that's part of my personality. I'm not afraid of people. I have, what the



Life is not a having and a getting, but a being and a becoming.

French call, 'savoir faire.'"

And it has paid off for this young lady who has achieved not only monetary gain but has, additionally, won a trip to the Bahamas for having more sales than any other Radio Shack employee in the region for a two-month period.

Heaping success upon success in her career, this 30-year-old young woman feels that now, "There's nothing I can't do. It takes a lot of stamina to be in this type of business. You have to be able to bounce back and not take things personally."

Indicative of the stamina necessary in Peggy's line of work is the 50- to 60-hour work week she puts in, with only Sundays off. But Peggy says she never liked routine anyway. And she especially enjoys "writing my own ticket."

Recommending this type of work to "aggressive black women and men who want to get ahead," Peggy allows, "You have to be willing to put in a lot of hours and a lot of hard work. Yet I believe a lot of good comes out of a lot of hard work."

She has hardly a minute to spare but when she does unwind, Peggy says she's a "private" type of person who prefers to spend time with her brother and his family, who live in Charlotte. She says he and his wife and children have been very supportive of her career.

A creative person, Peggy also relaxes by painting floral designs in water color and she expresses her sensitive, romantic side through writing poetry. One of her originals, titled "Inkwell" is as follows: "My heart became an inkwell; But he had no words for me; Quiet passion stains a virgin sheet; unaltered, one's never meant to be; My mind is pure paradise—the distance I prefer. A consolation is Perfection; To love me not bears the sweetest sacrifice."

Peggy is undoubtedly a multi-faceted individual on the move. And for those of you interested in getting the most out of life, she advises, "Don't be afraid to try new things. Have a lot of confidence because the next person is no better than you. Always take the opportunity when it arises."

From "Peace Officers" To Police Officers

Charlotte's Black Patrolmen Are Finally Making Progress

By Jalyne Strong Post Staff Writer

A white man under the influence of alcohol staggers down a downtown Charlotte sidewalk and comes upon the only black policeman walking the downtown beat.

This same black policeman when apprehending a young black man for the first time in a black community is jeered at by the youth. "You can't arrest whites. Why are you arresting me when you can't arrest whites?"

"I caught a lot of flak from whites, blacks and my white co-workers," admits Officer Tracey "T.C." Barrett recalling these separate job-related incidents from his past. "I just took it as part of the job. I knew I had a task to perform to the best of my ability."

For Barrett and all the black men who became police officers in Charlotte during the early 1960s, frustrating occurrences such as told by Barrett were par for the course.

These were the conditions when Barrett joined the Charlotte Police Department. He was one of the only 15 black police officers on the Charlotte law enforcement team at that time.

The first black officer accepted in the Charlotte Police Department was Armistead "Bud" Houston. He was hired in 1941. "At that time black officers were called 'Peace Officers.' They could only work in certain areas of Charlotte and they weren't under Civil Service rules and regulations," explains Barrett. "They were hired on a yearly basis and received very little training."

First in series

By the time Barrett joined the police force in 1965 not much had changed. "Black police had been changed to regular officers in 1946, yet they were still restricted," he cites. "The only two areas black officers could work in Charlotte were the black areas: Brooklyn-First Ward and the Beatties Ford-Oaklawn area."

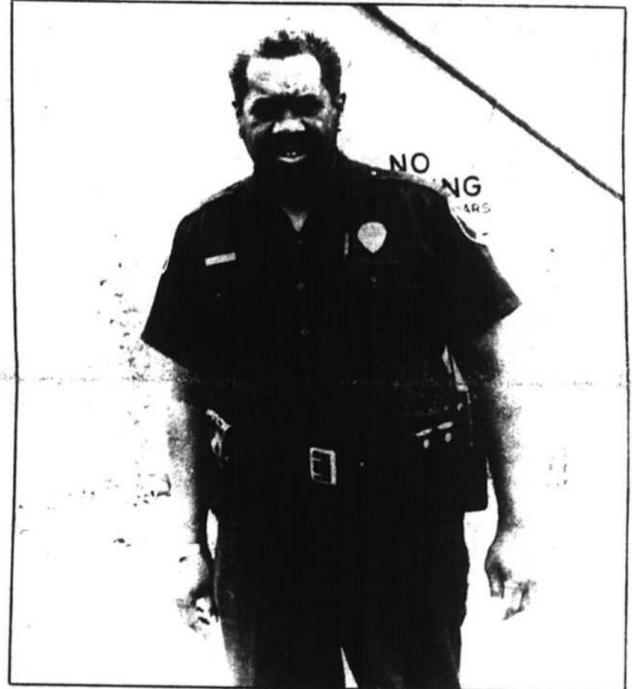
It was also rumored at this time, says Barrett, that black officers could not arrest whites violating the law. Black officers, indeed, would not have much opportunity to arrest whites since they solely worked black areas. However, the idea to keep hands off was still implied to Barrett, himself. He remembers, "One of my lieutenants did not say I could not arrest whites. Though he did say to me, before doing such, 'use horsensense.' Which meant be careful, take a second thought."

As time went by Barrett became a "first black" on the Charlotte police force. He was the first black to integrate the downtown walking beat in 1965. Then in 1969 he was the first black to integrate patrol cars.

Nonetheless, the Charlotte Police Department did not boldly thrust a black face among its more visible law enforcement officers. In fact, when Barrett was walking the downtown beat he was relegated to the midnight shift. And his partner in the "integrated" patrol car was an Indian "going for white," Barrett claims. Plus they were assigned to patrol the Oaklawn area first. "To see how we were going to be accepted," Barrett maintains.

Gradually black police were placed in patrols around the city, so that by the early 1970s the different police areas were almost fully integrated. Yet things were still not all well for the black Charlotte policemen.

"In the 1940s there was one black police sergeant, named T.G. Nash. He at first could only supervise Negro officers. Eventually, he wore a uniform, got paid, but had no



Officer Tracey "T.C." Barrett Integrated downtown beat

authority at all," states Barrett. After Nash retired in 1967, there were no blacks in supervisory positions.

It was due to this circumstance that the North State Law Enforcement Officer's Association filed a class action suit against the City of Charlotte Police Department for discrimination of hiring, promotions and other working conditions of black officers. There were 21 black police officers on the force at this time. They were all patrol officers--no detectives and no supervisors.

The North State Law Enforcement Officer's Association (NSLEOA) was first organized in 1952 in Durham, N.C. It was first called the Negro North State and its purpose was to unite black officers

in N.C. Additionally, blacks were barred from white officer associations at that time.

In 1971, North State filed the first class action suit against the City of Charlotte Police Department. It wasn't until 1974, that the City accepted an out of court agreement. Relates Barretts, "It was agreed that the department would find at least six qualified blacks and promote them to the rank of sergeant in seven days. Also, it would begin hiring blacks on a 50-50 scale with whites for one year and after that blacks at 60 percent and whites at 40 percent until the department was 20 percent black, based on the ratio of the black population of the city then"

See BLACK POLICEMAN Page 13A

National Teachers Exam

Why Are Black Teachers Failing?

By Audrey C. Lodato Post Staff Writer

Educators are still theorizing why more than 90 percent of the 321 blacks who took the National Teachers Examination (NTE) in North Carolina last October failed the test. This is in striking contrast to the less than 10 percent failure rate for whites.

What's going on here? One possibility offered by a Charlotte-Mecklenburg principal and echoed by someone who took and failed—the test four years ago is that some schools specifically teach what they know will be on the test.

William Blakeney, principal at Coulwood Middle School, commented, "Different schools' curriculum are geared to the test, while others' are not. If all had access to the same type of information, there would be no problem."

Blakeney further suggested that some black colleges and universities might not "know the right people" to advise them with regard to focusing their curriculum on areas the NTE will cover.

When Blakeney took the exam in 1948, in South Carolina, it was a new



William Blakeney Coulwood principal

test, and everyone he knew passed it. If there was any difference in scores between blacks and whites, it was not publicized, he said. One difference he noted in the test as it was administered at that time was that, instead of just "pass" or "fail," the exam allowed for two



Sherrill Coutourier Teacher of the Year

levels of certificates, with the higher "A" certificate commanding a higher salary. Anyone who made a "B" could take the test again to try for an "A."

A young non-public school teacher, who requested to remain anonymous, took the test twice and

failed both times. She expressed the opinion that "white schools are taught the test." She attended Fayetteville State, with a major in early childhood.

There was a lot on the exam, which she took four years ago, that she hadn't seen before, she recalled, adding "It's something you can't study for. Some people are a whiz at tests, but I'm not."

She said that the test covered two major areas, basic coursework like math and English, "similar to the SAT, but harder"; and the area of the student's major.

She said she did better in the second part, which measured her professional knowledge.

She added that some people she has spoken with feel the test is biased because some of the material was not being taught in black schools before integration.

"They're losing a lot of good teachers who can't pass the test," she remarked.

This year's Charlotte-Mecklenburg "Teacher of the Year" for the East-West area, Sherrill Coutourier, took the test back in 1971. See BLACK TEACHERS Page 14A