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## Profiles of Kinston's Leading Business Men and Women

Finley Lee is a long way from his birthplace but he's been in North Carolina long enough to be called a Tar Heel even if he did arrive on the American Scene way down deep in the heart of Louisiana on March 19, 1919. The place was Sarento, some 20 miles from larger and better known Baton Rouge, the Pelican State Capital.

Lee is the chief keeper of the keys and the boss (when his wife's out) of the Kinston Plumbing and Heating Company at 309 North Independent Street. He is the son of W. A. and Mattie Hughes Lee, both native born and bred Louisianans, but by the time their son had reached the age of six they decided to "go north". All the way to North Carolina, where his father became the Chief Engineer of the Waccama Lumber Company at Bolton. There Finley grew up, finished high school in 1936 and departed for Elon College.

After two and a half years of college life and learning, Lee left the campus to begin earning his way through life. He took a clerical post with the A. Schottland & Co. Mills of Rocky Mount. For just over seven years he remained in that company's employ, winding up as mill superintendent of the plant which wore silk and rayon.

In 1945 Lee left the mill to go to work with Jack Sullivan, Inc., one of Rocky Mount's best and best known plumbing and heating contractors.

But before going off into the world of the plumber and steam fitter, and of course, "The Plumbers' Friend", Lee took time out to woo and win Pauline Turner, a native Rocky Mountian. They were married August 25, 1939.

With Kinston booming like no other boom town in Eastern Carolina with the possible exception of Jacksonville, Lee and his Rocky Mount employer decided to open a plumbing and heating business in Kinston.

In September of 1951 they opened their office and shop at 223 South Queen Street and remained there until late in 1952 when the shop moved to its present Independent Street location.

In the beginning the Kinston Plumbing and Heating Company was a corporation with the Rocky Mount firm owning part of the stock. But after the first year's operation it became a wholly Kinston owned proposition. In 1954 the corporation was liquidated and the business became a private concern without the ornamental and sometimes frustrating trappings that go with being a corporation.

The Lees have two daughters, 14-year old Linda and 10-year old Nancy.

Lee is not a professional joiner, confining his membership to just a pair of well known Kinston organizations. The First Baptist Church where he is a member of the Junior Board of Deacons and a teacher in the Junior Department Sunday School of that church.

Lee is also proud to be a Civilian and presently is serving that civic group as secretary-treasurer.

In addition to the regular and well known NAME BRANDS that go along with the plumbing and heating end of his business, Lee also is proud to boast of another NAME BRAND and not in the heating but in the COOLING BUSINESS, since he represents GENERAL ELECTRIC's justly famed line of commercial and industrial air-conditioning systems.

If you need heat, cold or water anywhere, any time call Lee. His phone number is 2348 and his address is 309 North Independent Street in Kinston.

**Jarman-Howard, Inc.**  
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