

THE BETTER WE KNOW US ...

GREENSBORO-In many situations, careers are planned, implemented and maintained. Others become realities through accidents. With Mr. Tyrone M. Johnson, Branch Manager of Northwestern Bank, Greensboro, the application of both are appropriate.

Mr. Johnson planned at an early age to become a banker, yet it was by accident that he became associated with his present employer, Northwestern Bank.

A graduate of North Carolina Central University, Tyrone was recruited while a student in college. He applied for the bank's management program in 1972, was accepted and a career was then begun.

There had been other offers from

other banks in North Carolina as well as other states. However, Tyrone's desire was to remain in North Carolina, providing a growth potential was apparent. By this Tyrone means that he did not wish to become just another computer number in a large institution with no real identification of contribution. He wanted to be a part of innovative growth while he himself made a visible contribution to both the bank and customers.

His total concept then, as is today, was to increase minority accounts, both personal and business. Additionally, Johnson wanted to become that personal tool of which customers would feel comfortable while making applications for loans and other banking needs.

He sees the need to give clear

explanations to all customers pro or con as it relates to information on banking needs. Also he invites requests either verbal or written, on banking information.

Johnson explains that being in the banking industry has given him a better understanding of the interacting of people. He has nine people under his supervision and he encourages the interaction both ways... employee and supervision and/or employee to customers. "This way," he says, "one receives a total picture from customers and the bank through an open line of communication."

When asked about his feelings of moving for advancement, Johnson said, "Northwestern Bank's programs are growing and that he would like to remain with his present employer

rather than relocate with a larger bank and only become just another face in the crowd."

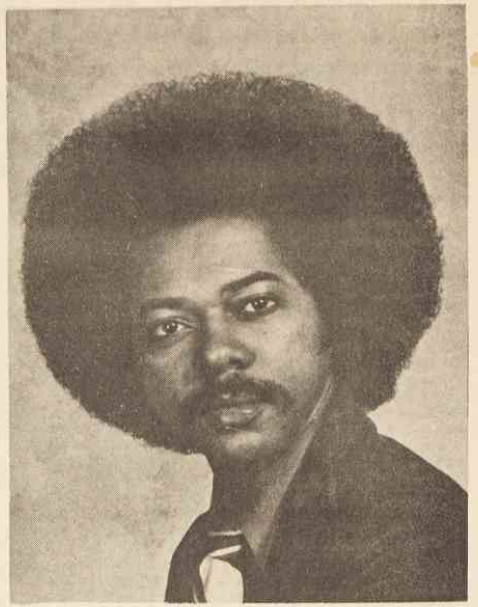
He quickly points out that improvements can be seen and opportunities are more numerous than in the past.

He recommends that Blacks apply to the training program which are recruiting on many Black campuses throughout the state.

In answering the question concerning advancements, he stressed, aggressiveness, "Accept the challenge and carry out your duties." He said, "One must develop skills and abilities, and with some luck, the doors will open."

He accepted the challenge and now he carries the responsibilities.

When we learn to know the Tyrone M. Johnson, **THE BETTER WE KNOW US.**



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The 1976 Editions of THE TRIBUNAL AID will be dedicated to America's bicentennial Celebration, with emphasis on contributions our Race has made in the making of America, from birth to the present.

In 1976 there should not be a need to lift these contributions from isolated sources. Our past

should be interwoven into the fabric of our civilization, because we are, except for the Indian, America's oldest ethnic minority.

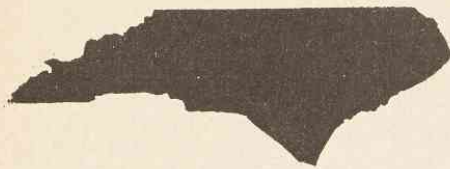
We have helped make America what it was, and what it is, since the founding of Virginia. We have been a factor in many major issues in our history. There have been many misdeeds

against us, yet we have been able to live through them and fight back. This is living proof of our history.

Our role in the making of America is neither well known or correctly known. Many positive contributions have escaped historians and have not found their way into the pages of many history books.

We will strive to give readers, Black and white, many little-known facts about our past and it is hoped that a proper perspective of our history will be of value to persons who may believe that as Black people we have an unworthy past; and hence, no strong claims to all rights of other Americans.

Faye Ashe, Black History Editor



A VIABLE, VALID REQUIREMENT
RESPONDING TO
BLACK NORTH CAROLINA

FLORENCE SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

PART TWO

"What is now the Florence Primary School has gone through many changes since its beginning as an all Black School in the Florence Community. Mrs. Joanne Delaune, School Historian was unable to establish the exact date of the first school. She has through her research been able to compile the history of the Florence School and its community. Mrs. Delaune spent many hours going through school records, books and interviews with local citizens. On May 20th her research ended with the presentation of the book to the P.T.A. which is now in the school library. All facts cannot be presented here, but you are invited to visit the Library and read the History of the Florence School and community."

Continued From Last Week

In 1912, Leon Harris and members of the community remodeled this building at this time an adult education program was initiated.

In 1914, the Florence Rosenwald School was built along side the Florence Methodist Church. Three rooms, frame building, slate blackboards, double seats of varied size were an innovation. These seats had iron legs which were screwed into the floor to make them stationary. In this school there were two teachers usually a man and his wife. Grades 1 thru 6 were taught.

Teachers included: Clara Belle Mock, Avery Robinson, Beulah Plummer, Miss Willie Holt, Miss Lillian Harbison, Rev. Compton, Viola Boone and Florence Chipman Lucus.

Early Principals were: Mr. Frank Lash, Gladys McCullum, Miss Fannie McCullum and assistant. The last principal at this Florence School was Mr. Ben Chavis. Early chior director Florence Rosenwald was fortunate to have a pioneer in the field of music. This man is referred to as the founder of the Florence Methodist Church Chior. Mr. Reeder was this man, he was the father of Mrs. Edward Lindsay. Some of his early chior members were Mr. Henry Jeffers, tenor; lead singer, Fannie Palmer, Lucille Raper.

P.T.A. Charter Although there are nor permanent record in State P.T.A. Office, it is believed that the first Florence P.T.A.

Charter was achieved at this school. Lizzie Fuller, Leiser Cole severed among the first P.T.A. Presidents.

1919 - The black students from Jamestown and Sapptown were consolidated into this Florence school.

1924 - It is believed that Guilford County bus service began in this area. In a flat top Model T. Ford, Lloyd Lomax was that bus driver, later Blanche Jeffers drove a model T. Blanche Jeffers was one of Miss Fannie McCullen's students at the time.

1927 - The Guilford County Board of Education saw the need for a new and larger school. Ernest J. White, a member of the Deep River Friends Meeting and a life lone resident of Florence-Deep River Community was hired in 1928 to supervise construction. Using carpenters, electricians and masons from the area, construction of a brick-veneered building was finished in 1929. This building consisted of four large classrooms, an auditorium, two small rooms and a long hall extending the length of the building, and served both elementary and high school children.

Mr. Walter McNair was principal and his teachers included Miss Georgeanna Frazier, Mrs. Monte Raiford, Mrs. Helen Boykins. Later in 1930, black children from Colfax and Popular communities were bused to Florence to add further consolidation. The new school's chior are vivid memories of Nannie Sue Price, lead solo who acquired a scholarship at Palmer Memorial Insitute in Sedelia, North Carolina. Harold Joyner, James Bush, Deborah Fuller, Alfred Bush will also remember the early years of Florence's chior. Alfred Bush is now a professional performer living in New York. The Florence chior went on to broadcast over station WBIG, with the above mentioned and also Manetta Lomax, Annie Fuller, William Sapp, Rev. William Fuller, Thelma Sapp, Dianne Hairston. They also gave concerts at The Carolina Theater, A&T College - receiving many awards of Superior in District Competition.

School Committee Carl Charles, Roy Cole, Wil Fuller.

1935 - Mr. J. Earl Whitley became principal and under his capable

supervision, Florence school prospered. The P.T.A. became a valuable part in the school's activities as Mrs. Lesier R. Cole became President of this body and served in this capacity for 20 years. She was the daughter of Pressley and Mary Giles Raper and followed her father's footsteps as a community leader

1940 - Basketball team under Mr. Whitley was considered tops! Sports became an intergral part of their program. This team won championship under the direction of Vigril Stroud.

Melba Whitley, wife of principal J.E. Whitley came to Florence as a teacher and choir leader. Mrs. Helen Gannorway (Cole) was one of the teachers who also directed the chior for younger children. By this time the teaching staff had increased to six.

1945 - Some of these early students who were lucky to be seen in the May 1945 Florence School newspaper (Torch) are listed on Honor Roll.

1947 - Realizing a need for lunches for the school children, the community with the guidance of Mr. Whitley went to work to build a cafeteria. Vegetables were canned and sold to aid the building fund which the community started. Additional cinder blocks were bought by each family of Florence. They collected scrap iron to sell to aid this building fund. After funds were acquired, Mr. Whitley demonstrated mortar mixing and a block building was erected. Mrs. Annice Smith managed this cafeteria from 1948 to 1951. Additional funds were needed for the operation. So additional funds were raised.

One of these funds raising ideas was a baby contest. Entering their "pride and joy" the parents raised money in behalf of their child. The winners of this contest were: 1st prize - Annie Louise Dick 2nd prize - Darrel Taylor 3rd prize - Dwight Sapp 4th prize - Lucille Raleigh's grandchild.

1948 - Money was applied for continuing the cafeteria through the Guilford County School Board. At this time, Federal Funding was established with certain restrictions, for a large pantry to be built. Once again, community volunteers took on this task. Lee and David Cole were just a few of the many carpenters.

Because of the long distances involved in getting to and from school many black children were discouraged and dropped out of school.

1950 - During the late '50's, the principal serving Florence school was G. D. Tillman and Victor Blackburn. We have been unable to obtain information for this period.

1955 - Mrs. Ruth Plummer, Graduate of A & T University, Elementary Education, minor Music - came to Florence. She continued the music program in the school and was very instrumental in founding the Florence school band. Mrs. Hannor was choir director.

1957 - Marie Fuller Clauson started driving the school bus for Florence. Also, with the transportation department at this time was Mr. E. R. Michaux.

1958 - A 1941 graduate of Florence returns, Thelma Sapp Bridges. She taught here from 1958 to 1966.

Mr. S. R. McLendon, principal of Florence Primary School since September 1964, has seen many changes. When Mr. McLendon became principal in 1964, Florence School had grades 1-9 with an all Black staff and

student body. Two years later, grades 7, 8 and 9 dropped, and the school became an Elementary School.

In 1968, Florence School became the first school with public kindergarten, and in 1969 the kindergarten was funded by ESEA Title I, a federal program.

In 1965, Florence Elementary School became Florence Primary School, with grades K-2. This year the third grade has been added, the staff consist of fourteen teachers, a reading teacher and librarian. The students will benefit from the services of a music teacher, learning disabilities teacher and a speech therapist, and four aides. Mr. McLendon refers to his staff as the Florence Family.

Continued Next Week



1930 CLASS



1940 CLASS

1776 Honoring America's Bicentennial 1976