

TOP OF THE
MORNING

We Meet Long Time Subscriber

We had the opportunity of meeting one of our long-time readers here a couple of weeks back.

We say "long-time" because we don't know whether or not he is the "oldest" Herald reader still perking along.

The reader is William P. (Mr. Bill) Saunders.

Mr. Bill is a former Kings Mountain now residing in Southern Pines. He is also a former N.C. Senator and was formerly head of the old N.C. Conservation and Development Department.

"I'm probably the longest running subscriber of The Herald you got," Mr. Bill announced, when he collared Darrell Austin, our general manager. "I've been taking The Herald continuously since 1923. I reckon that makes me some kind of record holder, don't it?"

As far as we are concerned, all of our readers are some kind of record holder, but we do not know if in fact Mr. Bill has been on the books continuously longer than anyone else. Perhaps after this column is read we will hear from someone else who has been taking the paper continuously longer than since 1923.

We took it for granted that Mr. Bill enjoyed The Herald, but Darrell hedged his bet by asking.

"Yes sir," Mr. Bill replied. "And I read every (expletive deleted) word of it, too."

Mr. Bill Saunders is the father of Robert (Dottie) Southwell and he was in Kings Mountain to attend the wedding of his granddaughter, Sandra Saunders Southwell to John Codrington Jr.

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Linda Bennett Burgess

KM's First Car Saleswoman

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff Writer

The possibility of a gas shortage and the expense of buying big, gas-guzzling autos are combining to bring unprecedented sales of smaller cars and those using diesel fuel to local dealerships.

This is the opinion of Kings Mountain's newest car dealer - and probably Kings Mountain's first woman car salesman - Linda Bennett Burgess, who has opened Linwood Car Sales on Linwood Road.

Although Mrs. Burgess feels there is an upsurge in sales of smaller cars, she also is pushing cars with reduced weight and size that get better gas mileage.

Auto-trading got into the Kings Mountain native's blood 12 years ago when she went to work for a Chrysler-Plymouth dealership office in Panama City, Fla. handling all the paperwork in the office for five

years before getting into wholesaling and subsequently into the retail end of the business for a Dodge dealership in Atlanta, Ga.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Bennett of Kings Mountain and mother of two daughters, Lisa Cline, age 18, and Lashelle Cline, 15, both of Atlanta, Linda Burgess will celebrate her first year in business here this summer, although she admits what started out to be "just a weekend job" ballooned into a full-time job involving both her parents and a staff including Leroy Wood, a mechanic and retired employe of Mecklenburg County School System, and John Sanders, retired grocer on whose lot the new 8x12 foot sales office and large car lot is located at the busy corner of Linwood Road and Cleveland Ave. Mr. Sanders operated Sanders Grocery on that site for many years. He opens up the sales office each morning for Mrs. Burgess and relieves her during the

noon hour.

"Selling used cars and trucks is a different business every day," laughs the attractive blonde who admits that more than one male customer at the lot has inquired, "where's the boss?" when she asked if she could assist them. The fact that she is a woman has not "hurt my sales," says Linda, who says the gentlemen car shoppers quickly recover from the shock. Many of them return with their spouses before making a selection, which is also common practice in the trade.

"Very rarely does a salesman sell a car the first time the customer looks around," said Linda, who affirms that a good car salesman must be patient and enjoy working long hours.

Mrs. Burgess asks her father's help in selecting "the right cars to try to sell" and calls on her mother

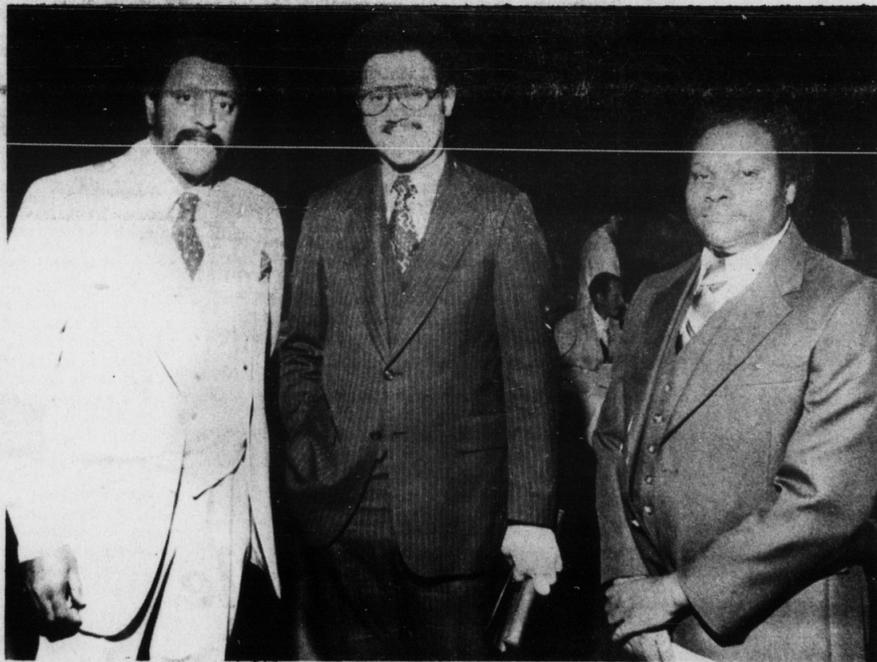
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SALESMAN, ER...PERSON—Linda Bennett Burgess, KM's newest used car sales operator, has actually been in the transportation sales business for 12 years. The fact she is a woman hasn't hurt business, she says.

Weldon Rougeau Tells Group

Race, Sex Discrimination Still Problem



...CONDUCT MEETING—Bill Hager, vice chairman of the Cleveland County Voters Registration Association board, and Elwood M. Roberts, chairman of the Equal Opportunity Day Dinner, flank guest of honor Weldon J. Rougeau, director of Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, U.S. Labor Department. The program was held at the Kings Mountain Community Center last Thursday.

A crowd of more than 400 people attended Thursday night's first annual Equal Opportunity Day dinner co-sponsored by the Cleveland County Voters Registration Association and City of Kings Mountain.

The dinner meeting was held at the KM Community Center and featured an address by Weldon J. Rougeau, director of Federal Contract Compliance Programs of the U.S. Department of Labor.

According to Rougeau, the fact that more women and minorities are competing for jobs and people are retiring later have led to reverse institutionalized discrimination. "The more jobs, the less complaints," he added.

"Employment discrimination still exists," he told the large number of industry representatives on hand, "Southerners know what the problems are because of the problems they have faced in earlier

times and need to work together to ratify the problems."

"We are still vexed with problems because many people in this country still believe racial and sex discrimination and equal employment opportunity is no longer a problem", continued Rougeau.

He pointed out that the average earnings of black families is still 60 percent less than white families as it was about 20 years ago.

Other problems such as illiteracy, hunger, disease, infant mortality and poverty are still rampant in this country, said Rougeau, who challenged the group that "Economic equality is the key to attainment to achieving all rights and overcoming all problems." He added that the country has a long way to go but reminded that "those who do business with the federal government will not discriminate."

Dr. Joseph Roberts, president of the association, presided.

Woman Clubbers Win 18 Ribbons

Kings Mountain Woman's Clubbers copped 18 ribbons, including 10 first place awards and a state

winner, in the recent District Four Arts Festival.

Mrs. Hugh Smith of Kings Mountain was the top winner, receiving three first place awards in the crafts division, a second place award for a quilted pillow, and two second place awards in state competition during the weekend for her cloth flowers and combination needlework which had won first prizes in the district contests. All entries of first place winners were submitted in state competition.

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West Talent Show Thursday

Twelve groups of students will perform in the annual West School Talent Show Thursday, April 5, at 7 p.m. in B.N. Barnes Auditorium.

Admission is one dollar for adults and 50 cents for students and the public is invited to attend. Winners in the competition advance in the city-wide Kiwanis Schools Talent Show to be held this spring.

The Talent Show is sponsored by West School Parent-Teacher Association.

Chamber Open House Planned On Wednesday

Chamber of Commerce members and the community are invited to attend open house Wednesday (tomorrow) in the new offices of the C of C in the Kings Mountain Community Center.

The newly-furnished quarters are located in the new addition to the Center across from the KM Development offices on Cleveland Avenue.

Hours of the open house are from 2 until 5 p.m.

Bass-2 Tourney April 14

Calling all bass fishermen! The second annual Bass Fishing Tournament on Moss Lake is scheduled for Sat., April 14 from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Again sponsored by the Kings Mountain Fire Department Toys For Tots project, "Bass-2" is open to team fishermen only.

The entry fee is \$50 per boat and registration will be cutoff after the first 30 teams and boats are signed up. Registration fees are in advance and entry forms are available Wednesday through Sunday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the lake office.

Anglers will go after black and large mouth bass only from their boats and official weigh-in time is 4 p.m. One pound per minute will be deducted from the total catch up to 4:05 p.m. Any teams checking in after 4:05 will be disqualified.

A total of 60 percent of the purse will be awarded in prizes (first through 10th place) and a special prize of one percent of the purse goes for the largest black or large mouth bass caught during "Bass-2." All prizes will be awarded winners following the final team weigh-in.

Deadline for entering the tourney is 5 p.m., Fri., April 13.

Proceeds above the purse prizes go into the fire department's annual toys for tots program for Christmas 1979. Last year the first tourney raised over \$300 for the project.

'Spring' Events Underway

"Spring in Shelby" Saturday is a Potpourri, beginning with an art display on the Courtsquare at 9:30 a.m. with varied entertainment throughout the day and culminating with an 8 p.m. program at Malcolm Brown Auditorium featuring drama, music and dance presentations.

Local students from Kings Mountain Senior High will enter art in the show which will feature Primary (K-3); Elementary, 4-6; Junior High; Senior High; College; Adult, two and three dimensional art; poetry; photography; ceramics and needlework.

Student art should be submitted on Thursday from 3:30 until 5 p.m. at the loading dock of Cleveland Tech Annex (the old postoffice next to Central Methodist Church on Washington St. in Shelby). All other art should be submitted on Thursday evening from 6 until 9 p.m. and on Friday evening from 6 until 9 p.m., according to Mrs. Michael Goforth, publicity chairman.

In event of rain, the art show will be held in the Tech Annex and the entertainment will be moved to the Courtroom of the Cleveland County Historical Museum.

Included in the entertainment events will be an Architectural Treasure Hunt, a slide show in the Museum, and numerous performances including: 10 a.m., Ponderosa Square Dance Group; 10:30 a.m.-Shelby Schools Orchestra; 11 a.m.-Greater Shelby Community Theatre; 11:30, Montage by a Contemporary Music Group; 12 noon-Meet the People gathering with opportunity for citizens to talk with local government representatives on the Courtsquare; 1 p.m., Frances Welch School of Dance; 1:30 p.m.-Crest High School Drama Group; 2 p.m.-Cloggers; 2:30 p.m.-Puppet Show; 3 p.m.-Senior Citizens Kitchen Band.

The art show and entertainment will continue until 4 p.m. "Evening of Spring in Shelby"

opening at 8 p.m. in Brown Auditorium at Shelby High School will feature "Shelby Potpourri" including Richard Dedmon and Ginny Holderness in a song-dance routine from Cole Porter's "You're the Top"; Aleeta Walker in "The Audition"; from Neil Simon's "The Good Doctor"; The Gospel Train, a Shelby High group Herb Gale and Jim Huff (The Anchorman) harmonizing on a medley of tunes; Shelby Senior Citizens Kitchen Band; Francis Welch and Robin Franklin in a disco number; a poetry recitation by Mary Holland; Herb Gale, Ginny Holderness and Dottie Dickson in "Too Late for Happiness"; "City Lights" from THE ACT-tap dance number featuring Robin Franklin, Mae Beth Boggs, Libby Reynolds, Michael Prazniak, Melanie Shaffer, Kirby Phifer, Laura Williams and Lisa Skinner; Franklin Shell in "Disco"; a scene from "The Prisoner of Second Avenue" by Upper

Cleveland County Community Theatre; and scenes by the Greater Shelby Community Theater featuring a special song and dance number, "Shelby Potpourri", by Dottie Dickson and Stan Hardin, master of ceremonies, and featuring dances by Frances Welch, June Peacock, Bobbie Beam, Dottie McIntyre, Patty Queen, Janet Berry, Mary Jo Bracken and Kathy Holbrook.

Judges for the art show will include Boyce Kendrick, of the faculty of Central Piedmont Community College; Carol Parker, of the faculty of Western Piedmont Community College; Jean Kohl, owner of "Land of the Sky Ceramics" in Asheville; Jean Morgan, on the English faculty of UNC-Charlotte; and Dennis Nodine, graduate of NC State who has photographed for ABC Sports, New York Times, and works for John Russell Photography in High Point.

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