

Kings Mountain Herald

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KINGS MOUNTAIN, N.C.

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Spent 40 Years With First Union

Mrs. Phifer Retires



Photo by Gary Stewart

SHE'S RETIRED - Polly Phifer retired recently from her position as bookkeeper at First Union National Bank in Kings Mountain. She's pictured above reading a good book in the living room of her Shelby Road residence. Mrs. Phifer plans to travel, spend time with her family and grandchildren, and work around the house.

For almost 40 years, Pauline Ware "Polly" Phifer was as permanent a fixture at First Union National Bank as the vault.

But, Mrs. Phifer retired recently as bank bookkeeper and plans to spend the rest of her life traveling, spoiling her grandchildren, and doing things she always wanted to do around her Shelby Road home.

Mrs. Phifer joined the local bank April 15, 1942, when it was known as First National Bank and was located at the corner of Mountain Street and Battleground Avenue. It was a two-teller operation and bookkeeping was done daily on two machines.

She's seen the bank grow to 15 employees and all debits and credits are posted on computers in the modern, two-story structure a half-block north of the old bank building on Battleground Avenue.

The bank job was the only one Mrs. Phifer ever held. She joined the firm shortly after graduating from Mars Hill College and Evans College of Commerce.

"At that time, Frank R. Summers was president and B.S. Neill vice president," she recalled. "We had only two tellers. Miss Eva Plonk was head teller and the other teller was Carol Newby Finger. Miss Bonnie Summers helped in the teller line when needed and posted daily on the general ledger by hand. The late Helen Ramsey Blanton and I were the bookkeepers and our machines were just behind the tellers. We were all in one room."

At that time, the doors to the bank opened from the corner of the street. The floors were marble. Mrs. Phifer recalls one day when a customer came through the doors, tripped, hit the marble floor and slid all the way across the floor to the teller's window. "We got a big laugh out of it, but he didn't think it was so funny," she recalled.

Banking hours were 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., including Saturdays.

As the bank business grew, the building was renovated in 1945 and 1950. Mrs. Fred Wright Jr. was added as a third teller.

Bill Jonas joined the bank in 1952 as a loan officer, and Mrs. Phifer worked as a note teller.

The bank continued to grow and on March 8, 1960, the directors of First National and First Union National Bank of North Carolina approved plans for a merger. The merger was completed in June of 1960 and the bank became First Union National Bank of North Carolina.

A year later, R.S. Lennon, a member of First National of Kings Mountain since 1954, succeeded the late Mr. Neill as chief executive officer. In 1966, Lennon was transferred to the Charlotte office and Elmore Alexander joined the bank in July of 1965 as city executive.

The present bank building opened on January 17, 1967, and in April of 1967 L.E. "Josh" Hinnant took over as KM city executive. He is still head of the branch, which is one of over 200 First Union branches in North Carolina.

"I've seen a lot of employees come and go," Mrs. Phifer recalled. "There have never been two days alike and that's what makes

banking an exciting job. I've seen a lot of sad things, but more funnier things. I enjoyed working with all the employees and April, 1942 to December, 1982 have been happy years. I shall never forget First National and First Union for being so kind to me."

Through the years, Mrs. Phifer worked as a teller, note teller, vault custodian, bookkeeper, customer services and account services.

"Since retiring, I'm enjoying being with my family and grandchildren," she said. She is taking a course in china painting at Cleveland Tech and is creating china dolls for her grandchildren. She plans to take a quilting course in the fall in Gastonia.

Mrs. Phifer and her husband, Menzell, a partner in Phifer Hardware, have three children, Paulette (Mrs. Eugene S. Kaylor), Jean (Mrs. Barry W. Bumgardner), and Don, who is married to the former Janice Bolin. The Phifers have five

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Photo by Gary Stewart

PUBLISH BOOK - Members of the Kings Mountain Energy Commission recently published a 48-page booklet to help citizens conserve energy. Looking over the material

are, seated left to right, William Hager, Burriss Ramey, John Henry Moss and Ernest Rome. Standing, left to right, Jim Dickey and Don Adams.

Energy Book Available

The city's Energy Commission has published a 48-page booklet to help citizens in conserving energy and saving energy dollars.

The 22-member committee, chaired by Councilman Jim Dickey, has been busy for over two months compiling information and organizing into sub-committees which will put the program into action.

Kings Mountain is one of several cities participating in the program originated by the office of the North Carolina Alternative Energy Corporation.

The city is in the process of auditing all of its facilities, street lights, ballfields, and vehicles to determine the amount of energy used, and the costs. Dickey and

Mayor John Moss, ex-officio member of the committee, said they hope to see the city cut at least 20 percent of its energy over the next year.

Moss said everything in the city that uses energy is metered, except street lights. He is in the process of making a map of street lights and will project the energy use of lights by using manufacturer's specifications.

After the audit is completed, "then we'll begin to develop ways of conserving," Moss said. "If we can get the individual citizen to be as concerned as we are, we're going to have a savings as a result of awareness and management."

The city's energy booklet contains savings tips in such areas as

insulation, winterization around doors and windows, use of fireplaces and fireplace inserts, solar energy, how to buy and care for appliances such as water heaters, refrigerators, stoves, dishwashers, freezers, washers and dryers, microwaves, and others.

Commissioner Dickey said many energy dollars can be saved simply by caulking, keeping coils and filters clean, and following other simple tips.

"The booklet is designed as a year-round help," Dickey said. "Heating and air-conditioning consume about 70 percent of a household's energy. Any small thing that can be done to cut-back can result in a savings. For instance, cutting the thermostat one degree can save four percent."

Dickey said "volunteerism", whether on the part of an individual or members of his committee, will be the key as to whether or not an energy savings results in Kings Mountain.

The winterization sub-committee, chaired by Scott Neisler, plans to target so many homes in Kings Mountain to be winterized. The committee will assist needy families in securing plastic, caulking, etc., and in some cases will assist in doing the job.

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Free BP Screening Offered By Hospital

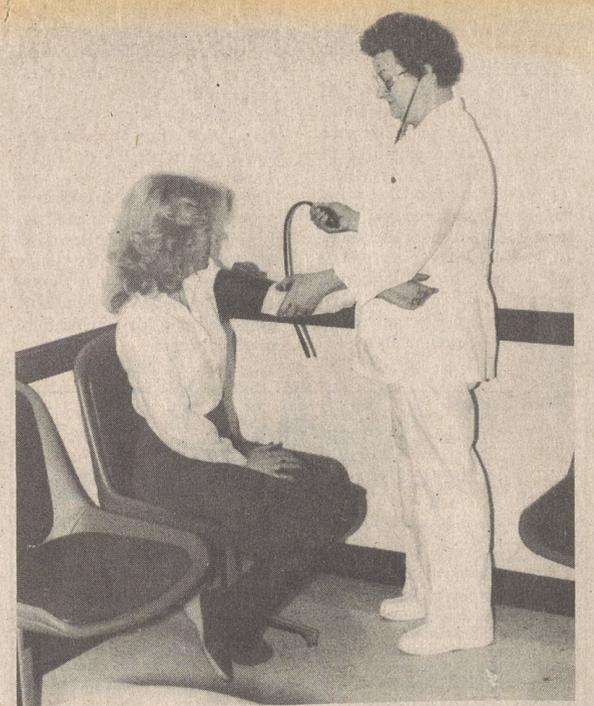
Kings Mountain Hospital will begin offering free blood pressure screening in the hospital emergency room on March 14. Screening will be offered seven days a week from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

A card will be issued to each individual which gives his name, results of the blood pressure screening, and the date of screening. If an individual's blood pressure is above normal, it will be suggested that he see his family physician for a follow-up.

"Everyone has blood pressure. It is the push of your blood on the walls of your blood vessels as your heart pumps blood to all parts of your body. When your blood pressure goes up and stays there, it is very dangerous for your health," said Hospital Administrator Grady Howard.

This year alone, high blood pressure will help kill about 250,000 Americans and cripple thousands more. It often leads to stroke, heart attack and kidney failure. One out of every six adults has high blood pressure. Children can also have it. Half the people who have high blood pressure don't know it, because often there are no symptoms. That is why blood pressure is often called the "silent killer."

"Keep yourself and your family safe from the dangers of high blood pressure. Let us check your blood pressure on a regular



BP CHECK - Mildred Dixon, right, nurse at Kings Mountain Hospital, checks a blood pressure in the hospital emergency room. The hospital is offering free blood pressure checks seven days a week.

basis," Howard said.

Howard said in cases of emergencies, persons wishing to

have their blood pressures checked may have to wait for a few minutes.

For Five Year Olds School Screening Set

If your child will be five years old on or before October 15, 1983 he/she will be eligible to enter kindergarten. Those who will be six years old on or before October 15, 1983 will be eligible for kindergarten or first grade.

Screening sessions will be held at the five Kings Mountain elementary schools on an appointment basis. Before May 1, parents will need to contact the office of the school his child will attend. If the parent is not sure which school his child will attend, he may call the Central Office (739-4589) and get the information. School offices are open weekdays 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Schools' telephone numbers are:

Bethware 739-6453; East 739-4426; Grover 937-7671; North 739-2346; West 739-5276.

Parents are expected to attend the pre-school screening with their child in order to participate in the orientation and a private parent/social worker conference.

In addition to the completed registration form, parents need to bring a copy of the child's legal birth certificate (NOT the hospital record), her/his "shot" record, and a copy of the physical examination by the family doctor or the Health Department.

Lenten Service Wednesday

A mid-day Lenten service will be held Wednesday from 12:05 until 1 p.m. in the sanctuary of Central United Methodist Church.

The worship leader will be the Rev. Eric Faust of First Presbyterian Church. The

message will be given by the Rev. William Tyson of Boyce Memorial A.R.P. Church.

A light lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. A minimum one dollar donation per person is asked for lunch.

Positive Action League To Meet With Privette

The Kings Mountain Positive Action League will hold a special awareness meeting Friday at 10 a.m. at Temple Baptist Church, 612 North Cansler Street in Kings Mountain.

Rev. Coy Privette, executive director of the Christian Action League in North Carolina, will be the guest speaker. He will be instructing those attending on the best possible ways to involve

community action to defeat the proposed referendum which seeks to establish the sale of beer and wine and the establishment of an A.B.C. store in Kings Mountain.

"Every concerned citizen is invited to attend," said the Rev. Kenneth Looney, publicity chairman for the Kings Mountain Positive Action League.