



Carl Wiesener At Work . . .

Wiesener Always Wanted To Be A Pharmacist

By TODD GOSSETT
Staff Reporter

Kings Mountain pharmacist Carl Wiesener has never thought about being anything else. Wiesener, owner of Mountaineer Pharmacy, has worked in the industry for the past 42 years.

A native of Tennessee, Wiesener graduated from the University of Tennessee's Health Services Center in Memphis in 1942 with a degree in pharmacology.

He soon had to make a decision. The war was on, and he would soon be a member of the armed services. Military pharmacists in those days were enlisted men and didn't make that much money, Wiesener said. So he signed up for Naval Officer's School and spent the rest of the war as a spy boat captain in the North Atlantic and Pacific.

After the war, he went back to Tennessee and worked at a drug store for a couple of years before taking a job with the company that eventually brought him to Kings Mountain.

As a medical service representative for Abbott Laboratories, Wiesener was headquartered in Kings Mountain and traveled to 14 local counties in his job.

After 10 years with Abbott Laboratories, Wiesener became pharmacist for Eckerd Drugs in the Akers Center and later at Dixie Village, both in Gastonia. He stayed with Eckerd for 10 years, and then started working for a pharmacy in Shelby.

After a couple of years there, Wiesener decided to open up his own pharmacy. He chose Kings Mountain because the town had only two pharmacies at the time — Griffin Drugs and Kings Mountain Drugs he said.

In 1969, the Mountaineer Pharmacy opened its doors for the first time.

Wiesener grew up in a family of pharmacists, he said. Two uncles and two cousins were in the business before him. He worked at the family pharmacy when he was growing up and this helped influence his decision to become a pharmacist. "It's the only thing I've ever wanted to do."

Wiesener likes everything about being a pharmacist, he said, especially meeting people. "I really don't have any qualms about it. I like it all," he says. He also was never too concerned with making lots of money in the pharmacy business. "I never did get rich, but I never wanted to."

One change Wiesener said he's seen in the business since he began was that you don't extend credit today like you used to. "We were a lot more lenient on charging. It may have taken them a while, but they paid it. Today, if they don't have good credit references, you don't even talk to them," he said.

The Mountaineer Pharmacy generally has local customers, Wiesener said. His service area besides Kings Mountain includes Shelby, Grover, Cherryville, and Charlotte, he said.

His customers are "a long line of regulars. Others fill in as those pass on," he said.

Besides being a pharmacist, Wiesener has been involved in such organizations as the Masons, the Optimist Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion.

He doesn't have much time for such things now, he said. "I open at 9 a.m. and close 5 p.m. six days a week and I'm available 24 hours each day."

Wiesener really does like his business. He doesn't know when he'll retire. "I haven't thought about it yet. I'm 69, I guess I ought to be thinking about it," he says.

Crosby Completes Telephone Course

—Marine Lance Cpl. Charles P. Crosby, a resident of Route 1, Dallas, recently completed the Telephone Switchboard Repair Course.

During the 16.6-week course at the Marine Corps Communication-Electronic School, Twentynine Palms, Calif., Crosby received instruction on the mechanical and electrical theory of operation, testing, troubleshooting and repair of switchboard systems.

A 1985 graduate of North Gaston High School, he joined the Marine Corps Reserves in March 1987.

Kenny Ollemi In West Germany

—Army Spec. Kenny Ollemi, son of Doris E. Ollemi and grandson of Clara A. Williams of Rural Route 4, Kings Mountain, has arrived for duty in West Germany.

Ollemi is a finance specialist with the 106th Finance Service Unit.

He is a 1984 graduate of Kings Mountain Senior High School.



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