

Customer Is Always Right

Bridges' Policy Keeps Him In Business

The customer is always right. That's the policy Bobby C. Bridges made 30 years ago and he credits that policy with the success of his business, City Auto & Truck Parts.

Another reason for the successful business he operates on York Road is that he has made the business a favorite spot for customers who come by to chat with friends, whether or not they plan to make a purchase.

"Folks like Charlie Cash and Ervin Conner, both now retired, are just some of the people who come by. Before Charlie got sick we could set our clocks by him," said Bridges.

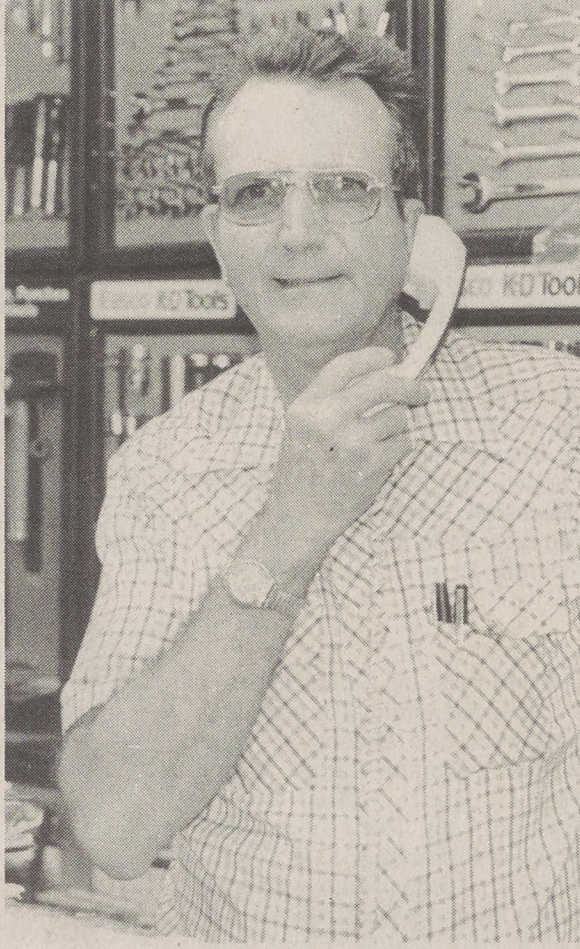
Bridges' policy of putting the customer first was his father's trademark also. The late Ed Bridges used to tell Bob, age 16 at the time, that "you can't win an argument with a customer. If you do, you'll lose your business."

Bob Bridges never forgot those words and when he opened City Auto & Truck Parts 30 years ago with four stockholders and three employees, including himself, it became his trademark. The original stockholders were Jim Kerns, Clyde Kerns, Tom Propst, and Bridges. Propst and Bud Beattie also worked with the firm for a number of years. Bridges and Nancy Kerns of Salisbury are the two remaining stockholders and the firm has expanded with additional employees. John Mitchell has been with City Auto for 25 years, Retha Blackwell has been with the firm 14 years, and Bridges' son, Kevin Bridges, has been with the firm all his life. Ronnie Carroll is now a full time employee and Sharon Voshart joined the firm five months ago.

A native of Cleveland County, Bob Bridges got in the parts business with his father at Bridges Auto Parts on March 26, 1946. Bridges, who was a partner in the firm, died in an automobile crash May 31, 1949. Before opening his own auto parts store, the younger Bridges worked for several years as Jobber Service Department Manager of Joint & Clutch Service of Charlotte and commuted to his home in Kings Mountain.

In March 1969 he and his wife, the former Barbara Allen, took on a major renovation project when they purchased the Ed Stewart home in the Dixon community. It took about two years to complete the renovation and the family moved into the beautiful country home during Easter weekend 1971. Now, the family has taken on another project-growing Christmas trees and Bridges and Kevin have planted 5,000 white pine trees across in recent weeks they have been assisting Eddie Bridges with clearing off land for his new home nearby. Both sons will soon own homes in the Dixon Community. Daughter and son-in-law, Diane and Dan Thomas, also own a lot nearby. It was during one of the family building projects that Bob broke his arm. In addition to celebrating his 30th anniversary Thursday, Bridges celebrated having the cast removed from his left arm.

Woodworking is another project of Bob Bridges which has been a hobby for many years and which he enjoys for relaxation. "Daddy can make anything he sees and don't ever bet he can't or you will lose," said



BOBBY C. BRIDGES

Kevin, recalling that Bridges carved a backgammon set after seeing a miniature during a vacation trip. When Barbara sees something she likes all she needs to go is give her husband a picture. Recently, a big project he completed was carving 90 spindles for a stairway. Another favorite item was a tiny rolltop desk he carved for his wife.

Bridges also enjoys participation with the Piedmont Pistons Go-cart team and helped organize the group 10 years ago. The Piedmont Pistons have been featured in numerous parades in the area. Bridges is a Past Master of Fairview Lodge AF&AM, a member of White Plains Shrine Club and active in First Baptist Church.

Kevin Bridges' mother-in-law, Margaret Childers, baked an anniversary cake for Bridges Thursday and the City Auto & Truck staff shared the cake with customers throughout the day.

The Bridges family includes three children, John Edgar Bridges of Charlotte, Diane Thomas of Cherryville and Kevin Bridges of Kings Mountain. There are twin granddaughters, Melody and Melissa Bridges, and a grandson, Andrew Thomas.

Bridges says he enjoys living in the Dixon Community near Kings Mountain. He ranks his neighbors tops along with his customers.

Students Receive Degrees From UNC-CH

Three Kings Mountain area students received degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in recent commencement exercises.

Lynn Anne Lavender, Route 1 Grover, received her B. S. in Criminal Justice and Psychology.

Lisa Dawn Edwards, 1005 Brookwood Road, received her B. A. in Speech.

Eric Bradley Jones, 312 Scotland Drive, received his B. S. in Business Administration.

Other Cleveland County graduates were Tony Calvin Parker of Lawndale; Rachel Gold Lattimore of Polkville; and Crystal Lynn Bell, Amanda Orchard Blanton, Margaret Elizabeth Bumgardner, Melanie Lynn Clements, Cynthia Lambert Eades, Gregory Loyd Heaton, Gregory Dent Henshaw, Pamela Gwen Humphries, Elizabeth Anne Jones, Charles Gordon Lampley IV, Rachel Elizabeth Mauney, Elias Venning McMurray, Jeffrey David Miller,

Lisa Nelle Skipper, Catherine Hunt Smith, James Bradley Stamey, Franklin Royster Wilkins, Bonnie Elizabeth Wilkison, James Spering Wilson, Susan Fiona Yates and Patricia Maria Murphy, all of Shelby. Lampley received his Doctor of Medicine, Eades received her Master's in Public Administration, and Lattimore received her B. A. in English with Distinction. Wilkison received her Juris Doctor, Wilson received his Doctor in Dental Surgery

Two On Wake Dean's List

Two Wake Forest University seniors from the Kings Mountain area-Robin Lee Warlick of 405 Downing Street and Geisla Nicole Martin, of Route 1 Grover, were among nine students from Cleveland County on the Dean's list for the spring semester. Warlick and Martin are seniors.

To be listed on the Dean's list, students must maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or more.

Other Cleveland County stu-

dents honored were Susan Ball Barry, Emily Hunter Blake, Carolyn Holden Buse, Leigh Ellen Flowers, Anne Neal Hamrick, Daniel Murray Minus, and Mary Margaret Wray, all of Shelby.

University hosted the first presidential debate in 1988. U. S. News & World Report has ranked it the nation's top comprehensive university while the Wall Street Journal named it one of the country's top college bargains of 1987.

Student Program Planned

A summer program for students grades 2-5 will be in session July 24-28 at Cleveland County Historical Museum. Three classes will rotate from 8:30 to 11:30.

The topics to be covered are: Art, Minerals, Trees and Plants, Pioneer Skills and Crafts and possibly Archaeology. The classes will be held in the Museum and include field trips to local areas within walking distance of the Museum.

The fee for the week-long program is \$25. Reservations can be made until June 15, and fees should be paid to the Museum office by July 5. There is a limited space in each class.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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Bulletin Board

THURSDAY:
12:00-Kings Mountain Rotary Club at the Country Club

2:00-Senior Aquatics at KM Natatorium (50-minute swimming class each Thursday and Tuesday for senior citizens)

7:00-Kings Mountain Kiwanis Club at the Country Club

FRIDAY:
6:00-8 a.m.-Lap swim at KM Indoor Pool, \$1 per swimmer.

SATURDAY:
1:00-5 p.m.-Lap swim at KM Indoor Pool, open swim.

SUNDAY:
1:00-2 p.m.-Lap swim at KM Indoor Pool. \$1. Open swim from 2 until 5 p.m.

MONDAY:
9:30-11:30-Coupon club meets at Depot Center with Margaret Walker. (This group of senior citizens meets each Monday)

TUESDAY:
6:30-Sign language class at Bethlehem Baptist Church.
7:00-Cancer Support Group at First Presbyterian Church Scout Hut.
7:30-City Council at City Hall.

WEDNESDAY:
9:00-Drama workshop at Kings Mountain Community Center for youth in grades 6-9. Registration \$12. First session ends July 26. Classes are from 9 to 10:15 a.m. and 10:30 to 11:45 excluding July 5. Call 734-0449.
9:30-noon-Ceramics class at Depot Center for senior citizens. (This group meets each We

11:00-Swimming lessons at Deal Street Pool for youth from 11 to 11:50 a.m. and from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Youth lessons are open to children in Kindergarten through 9th grades and Teen-Adult lessons open to grades 10-adult. Fees for lessons are \$8 per session. Call 734-0449.

PLANNING AHEAD
JUNE

American Cancer Society Championship Golf Tournament, Men's Division, Riverbend Golf Club, June 21.

Piedmont Lost Chords-American Cancer Society sponsored laryngectomy club, June 21.

June 19-30 and July 10-31-Summer Enrichment classes at Bethware School for K-6 students. Register early by calling 739-2296. The cost is \$35 for one class; \$60 for two.

June 20-Budget meeting of Kings Mountain City Council at City Hall.

June 27-City Council at City Hall. Public hearing on 1989-90 city budget.

Cancer Support Group meets first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7 p.m. in Recreation Building of First Presbyterian Church.

JULY 7-Noon-Filing opens for the October city municipal election with City Elections Board Chairman Becky Cook. Filing period closes Aug. 4 at noon.

JULY 11-12: 8:30-2:30 p.m.-Summer Bus Classes for Principals and Assistants in charge of school

buses at Malcolm Brown Auditorium at Shelby High School.

Answering service for Alcoholics Anonymous: 865-1561, 24-hour help line. List of AA meetings in area.

Rape Crisis or Sexual Assault Crisis Counseling: 867-4357 or 735-4357, 24-hour, 7 days a week.

If you wish to announce a meeting or event in the Bulletin Board, please mail or telephone the information to Kings Mountain Herald, PO Box 769, Kings Mountain, N. C., 739-7496, by Friday of each week. Please include the date, time, and place of meeting and phone number to contact for further information.

Five Students On Chapel Hill Dean's List

Five Kings Mountain area students are listed on the 1989 spring semester Dean's List at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

To make the Dean's List, a student must earn a 3.2 grade average on the 4.0 scale while taking 15 or more better grade hours of credit, or a 3.5 average while taking at

least 12 or better grade hours with no grade below C.

Students earning honors were Mary Elizabeth Blanton, Route 6; Lynn Anne Lavender, Route 1 Grover; David Steven Plonk, 702 Crescent Circle; Billy Ray Wease Jr., Route 6; and Norma Elizabeth Webster, Route 5.

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HEALTH VIEWS

RAGAN HARPER

Running in vain?

Strenuous exercise can lower blood pressure and improve cardiovascular fitness. But recent research indicates that the medication *propranolol*, though it lowers blood pressure, may also block the additional benefits of regular work-outs.

Scientists are suggesting that, if you're taking blood pressure medication but want the natural benefits of exercise for your heart, you should check with your doctor to see if you might achieve better results from *metoprolol* or some other drug.

Then, through exercise, you may eventually be able to taper off or discontinue your drug therapy.

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