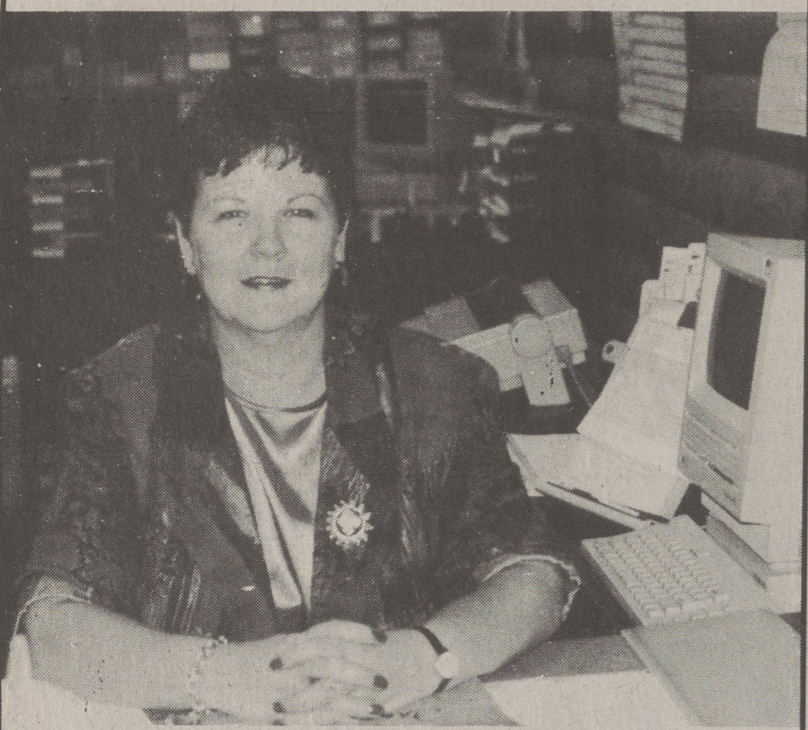


ASSOCIATE PROFILE



FRAN BLACK

Fran Black is a versatile employee at newspaper

Versatility is an asset in any office and Republic Newspapers' Fran Black has worked in several key positions over a period of years, most recently as bookkeeper.

Black's job is to bill out all advertising accounts for all five of the weekly newspapers owned by Republic, including the Kings Mountain Herald, Bessemer City Record, Cleveland Times, Banner News in Belmont and Cleveland Times in Shelby.

Several years ago when computers were added in most every department of the organization, the addition of computerized bookkeeping got bills to customers more quickly and saved time for other duties as well. Mrs. Black's voice is also the pleasant voice on the telephone that responds to customers requests for service.

Black's first job with The Herald was in the pasteup department/composing room in 1980.

She also served at one time as production manager, sold advertising for a time and went to school to learn how to set the ads on the big McIntosh computers in the production department.

Black left the Herald and went to work for Gardner-Webb University in the Public Relations Department for four years and returned to The Herald to work in the Production Department, later moving to the bookkeeping department.

Black's other work experience also included acting codes director at the City of Kings Mountain where she had worked for several years in the Codes Office, selling building and other permits, then as secretary to Water Supt. Walt Ollis at the Public Works Department.

She is also a licensed real estate salesman.

A native of Lincolnton, Frances graduated from West Lincoln High School. She married Jerry Black, meat manager at Roberts Super Market 15 years ago and together they have four grown children; Robert Chapman of Casar, Tracy Barrett of Lawndale, and Michael Black and Jamie Black, both of Kings Mountain, and six grandchildren.

"I guess I've worked from the front door to the back at The Herald," she said.

Frances says she loves the bookkeeping side of the newspaper.

Since her office is at the front of the log building, she greets customers who come to the Herald office to place want ads and birthday announcements and other news in the paper.

"I see many of the same people who came to City Hall to buy permits," she said.

Fran and Jerry's country home in Belwood is a family project. They built a cabin and then added on to fashion a beautiful vacation spot they use year-round. Evidence of Frances' hobby is everywhere. She makes crafts and has decorated both their country home and their residence on Monte Vista Drive with all the beautiful trimmings of Christmas which she started putting up on Thanksgiving Day.

About 40 family members will gather at the home of Fran's parents, Hazel and Beauford Houser in Lincoln County Christmas Eve, including her two sisters and three brothers and their families.

School children present program

After weeks of rehearsals, 100 children enrolled in the after-school program Kids Etc., Kids in Developmental Stages, Enriched Through Creativity, presented a Christmas gala recently which director Jane Copenhaver pronounced a huge success.

Copenhaver, drama teacher for the program, said the presentation was a Christmas gift to the parents from the children from West, East, North, Grover and Bethware Elementary Schools.

Patsy Walker directs Kids Inc. which has offices at West School and serves the Kings Mountain District Schools.

Christy Walker sang "I'll Be Home for Christmas" to open the program. Jacob Whitesides was narrator for "A Grand Christmas" which featured children from the various schools who portrayed toys, pets, people, Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus and Elves, and a Recorder Chorus which sang Christmas medleys. Sharonda Adams played clarinet solos and poems about the season were recited by Dontrae Withrow, David Gill, Tabitha Fite, Ashley Moore, Kristine Carrigan and Melissa Cook.

Bethware students were dressed up as the Christmas trees, Grover students as the Christmas bells, North students as the reindeer, East students as the angels and West students as the Drama club characters.

All the Christmas decorations for the production were made by the students and the poems were chosen and some of them written by the students.

Characters in the play were Ashley Bradley, Tyler Maxey, Kathlene Miller, Alex Bennett, Nicole Toney, Matthew Cooley, Rebekah Miller, Laura Berry, Jessica Black, Heather Black, Rickey Himpraphanh, Chad Baity, Mandy Rhyne, Brooke Cantor, D. J. Perry, Keith Laurich, Wilder Clark, Samuel Shipp, Michael Bell, Kelli Bolt, Brooke Baity, Katie Whitesides, Stephen Bolt, Trey Burwell, Tiffany Whitesides, Vanessa Sidavong, Tyler Jones and Blake Cantor.

The Chorus was composed of Keith Laurich, Ashley Moore, Greg Putnam, Cody Putnam, Landon Hulsey, D. J. Perry, Heather Black, Alex Bennett, Mandy Rhyne, Mary Grace Keller, David Gill, Melissa Cook, Rickey Himpraphanh, Nicole Toney, Tyler Maxey, Rebekah Miller and Steven Canipe.

The Bethware Trees were Gia Suber, Kristen Proctor, Angela Wall, David Adams Jr., Tavarus Ross, David Clark Jr., Chelsey Rucker, Cody Blevins, Kristie Carrigan, Caitlin Facemeyer, Brandy Adams, Ethan Jenkins, Jennifer Griffin, William Ford, Christy Whetstone, Stacy Crawford, Caleb Brogden, Katelyn Lathen and Matthew Ledbetter.

Grover Christmas Bells were Sarah Page, Chelsey Lowman, Brittany Beard, Tabitha Fite, Matt Richardson, Josh Richardson, Jordan Roberts, Josh Hann, Jonathan Bodgas, Amber LeGette, Alexis Hutch, Danielle Weathers, Chris Boyd, Trey Allen, Chris Weathers and Christopher Fite.

East Christmas Angels were Brittany Sanders, Matthew Byrd, Anthony Nations, Greg Putnam, Kristen Spanial, Dani Champion, Ashley Moore, Joel Jones, Ashley Moore, Trista Spanial, Kyle Richards, Cody Putnam, Katie Swofford, Daniel Asgari and Brittany Jones.

North Christmas reindeers were Rainey Belt, Tyler Bumgardner, Courtneigh Bumgardner, Brandon Deese, Joyce Gill, Landon Hulsey, Mary Grace Keller, Brittany Odems, Amber Shedd, Ruby Whitson, Sherika Withrow, Larry Benton, Amber Collins, Melissa Cook, David Gill, Kimberly Guin, Matthew Hulsey, Michelle Lackey, Asher McClerary, Whitney Odems, Steven Welsh, Dontrae Withrow and Christopher Wright.

Beta Sigma Phi holds meeting

Xi Epsilon Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi in Gastonia met recently at the home of Susan Jackson. A Christmas program was presented by Peggy Pearson.

Angelia Murrow and Jennifer Pryor received their Affirmation Ritual which is given at the completion of one year of service.

Debbie Beeker and the Service Committee purchased Christmas gifts for two needy families and the chapter also planned Christmas dinner for both families.

The annual Christmas party was held at Riverwood Clubhouse with members enjoying the entertainment of the "Powar and Greede" mystery.

West Christmas players were Samuel Shipp, Matt Cooley, Larry Berry, Nicole Toney, Keith Laurich, Kenny Childers, Brooke Baity, Rebekah Miller, Michael Bell, Caleb Bowen, Jessica Black, Nathan Bradley, Vanessa Sidavong, Alex Childers, Chad Baity,

Kathlene Miller, Blake Canter, Kelli Bolt, Heather Black, Ashley Bradley, D. J. Perry, Rickey Himpraphanh, Jacob Whitesides, Tiffany Whitesides, Brooke Canter, Stephen Bolt, Tyler Jones, Wilder Clark, Mandy Rhyne, Trey Burwell and Katie Whiteside.



HOLIDAY PROGRAM - More than 100 students in Kids Etc. presented a Christmas gala December 19 at Barnes Auditorium. The program was a Christmas gift to the parents from the children.

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<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">1996 CHEVY LUMINA</p>  <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">\$298 Per Mo. \$15,988</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">•V6 Power •Stereo Cassette •Dual Air Bags •Auto Trans •Power Locks •Fabric Protector •Air Condition •Pass Key •Sport Mirror \$1,600 Cash or Trade 8.9% at 60 Mos. OAC Plus Tax & Tag</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">1996 BLAZER 4X4</p>  <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">\$22,988 Limited Time Offer! \$1,800 Discounted Over</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">•Vortec 4300 V6 •Elec. Transfer Case •LS Trim •Pwr. Wind & Lks. •Stereo Cass. •Tilt & Cruise</p>

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Shelby Women's Clinic is proud to announce the addition of a nurse midwife to the staff. Kelly E. Grant brings the services of a certified nurse midwife to the practice. As a midwife, Grant is certified and trained in caring for expectant mothers throughout pregnancy and delivery. Grant will also provide health care for well women gynecological exams.

Grant holds a B.S. degree in nursing from UNC-Charlotte and is a graduate of the Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing in Hyden, Kentucky. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in nursing. For the past six years she has been a staff nurse in labor and delivery at Cleveland Memorial Hospital and serves as a part-time clinical instructor at Gardner-Webb University. She is a member of the American College of Nurse Midwives.



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