

Business Briefs

Time Warner Cable prosecutes thieves

Over the last several weeks, Time Warner Cable successfully prosecuted cable thieves living in the Charlotte area, following through on a promise made to its paying customers during the summer amnesty campaign. The fines ranged from \$600 to \$1200 for each case.

"We're releasing this information because it's important for our customers to know that we mean business when it comes to seeking legal remedies for cable theft," reports Sue Breckenridge, vice president for Public Affairs for Time Warner Cable's Charlotte Division. "Our loyal customers are sharing the expense of maintaining and repairing a cable system that is jeopardized by individuals and businesses who believe they aren't hurting anyone when they steal cable service."

Theft of service is defined as the illegal interception of cable programming service without the express authorization of, or payment to, a cable television system. Cable theft occurs when someone knowingly and willingly makes an illegal physical connection to the cable system or attaches or tampers with equipment to allow receipt of unauthorized services. Methods of theft include pole tampering, converter box tampering, use of a black box (illegal converter box), moving into a residence that is already connected to cable and not paying for it, or paying for an illegal connection to be made to a home or business.

Time Warner Cable owns and manages the world's most advanced, best-clustered cable television operations, with 80 percent of its 12.3 million customers in systems of 100,000 subscribers or more. It is a division of Time Warner entertainment. The Charlotte Division serves over 350,000 customers in eight systems between Shelby and Rockingham.

Post Office accepts credit, debit cards

The Kings Mountain Post Office is among 32,000 postal locations nationwide accepting retail payments by credit card and debit (ATM) card. The Postal Service is the largest retailer to accept such forms of payment.

"Although we have been offering credit card payment for some time, many of our customers are still not aware of this service," said Postmaster Bob Howard. "Those who use the service tell us that they appreciate the convenience of not having to carry cash with them. For accounting purposes, credit card payment also provides customers an accurate record of purchases and payment verification is fast."

Credit cards are accepted for all retail window transactions except money orders, collect on delivery (c.o.d.), meter settings, bulk mail payments and passport applications. Debit and most ATM cards can be used for all purchases except passport applications.

The seven million customers

visiting post offices nationwide daily spend an average of \$55 in debit purchases and \$42 in credit purchases using Visa, American Express, MasterCard, Discover/Novus and a wide variety of debit cards. For fiscal year 1997, the Postal Service accepted 27.2 million credit card transactions totaling \$1.1 billion and 2.6 million debit card transactions totaling more than \$143 million.

CCB announces share purchase authorization

CCB Financial Corporation announced today that its Board of Directors authorized the purchase of up to 500,000 of its shares, plus additional purchases needed to retire any shares issued for the exercise of options, Dividend Reinvestment Plan, or other corporate purposes.

Purchases can begin immediately and will be made through open market or privately negotiated transactions, subject to market conditions and trading restrictions. The authorization will expire in October.

BB&T to acquire Maryland Federal

BB&T Corporation announced today it will acquire Maryland Federal Bancorp, Inc. of Hyattsville, Md., in a \$265.3 million stock transaction based on BB&T's closing price of \$62 on Tuesday, Feb. 24.

The acquisition will more than double BB&T's presence in metropolitan Washington, DC. The transaction is valued at \$37.05 per share of Maryland Federal common stock. It will be accounted for as a purchase.

Based on BB&T's closing price Tuesday, the exchange ratio will be .5975 shares of BB&T common stock for each share of Maryland Federal common stock.

BB&T sets share buy back program

BB&T Corporation has announced a new plan to repurchase up to five million shares of its common stock. It is anticipated that share repurchases will be made periodically as needed for issuance in specific business combinations to be accounted for as purchases.

BB&T intends to repurchase up to approximately 4.3 million shares for reissue in connection with the proposed acquisition of Maryland Federal Bancorp, Inc. of Hyattsville, Md., which will be accounted for as a purchase.

BB&T currently has a plan to repurchase up to five million shares of its common stock for issuance in specific business combinations to be accounted for as purchases. At year-end 1997, approximately 3.4 million shares had been repurchased pursuant to the plan. The 1.6 million shares remaining under the plan combined with the five million newly authorized shares provide BB&T with the potential of repurchasing up to approximately 6.6 million shares for issuance in

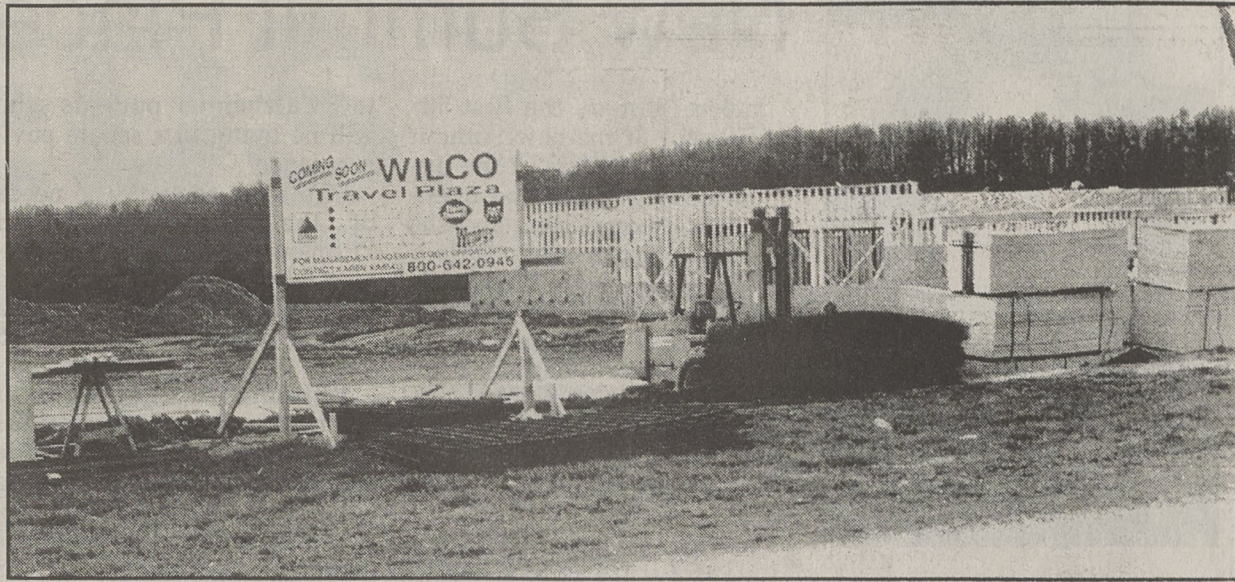
specific business combinations to be accounted for as purchases.

On December 31, 1997, BB&T had consolidated assets of \$29.2 billion. Through its subsidiaries in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia, BB&T operates 506 banking offices.

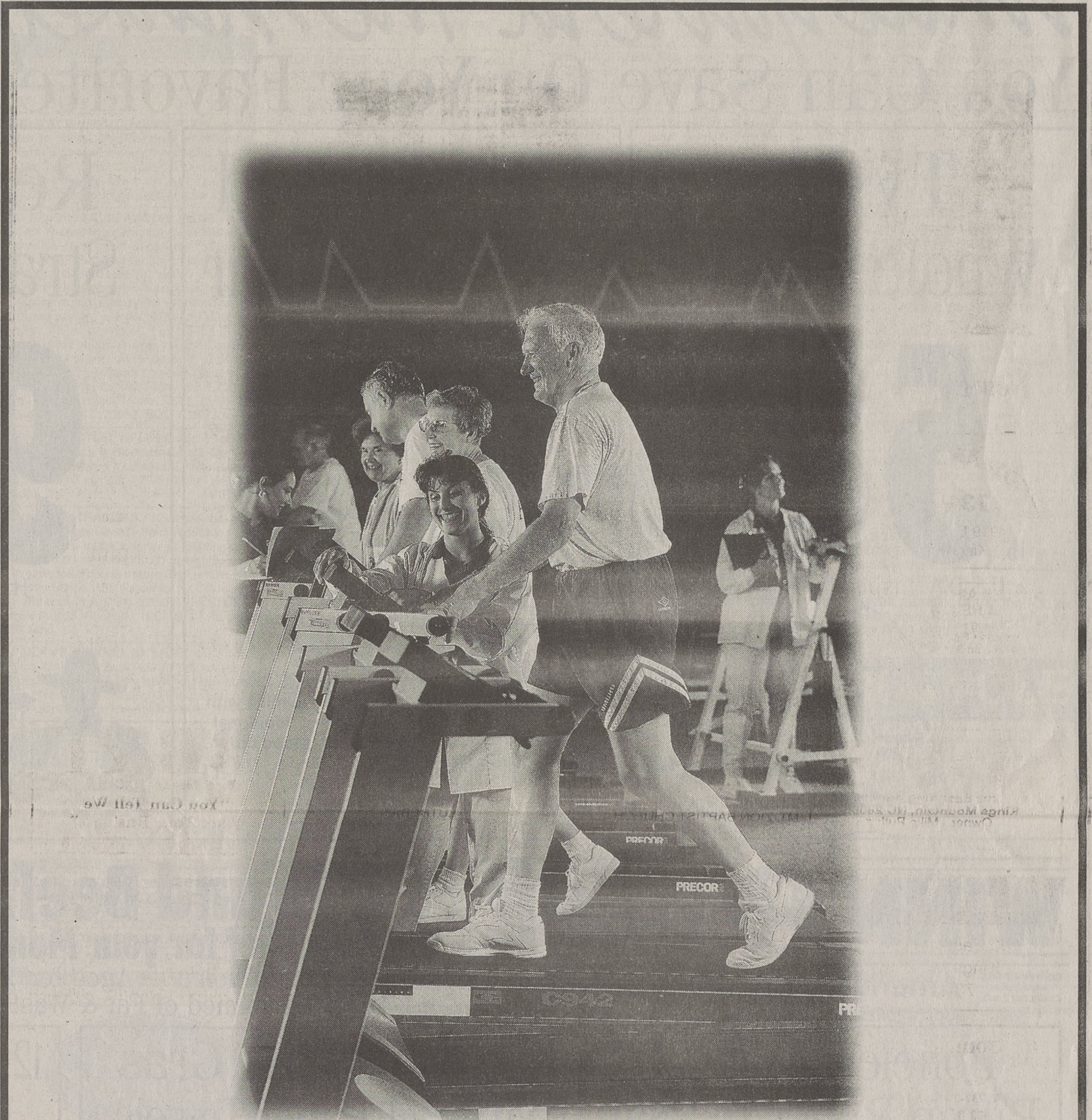
BB&T Corporation declares dividend

The Board of Directors of BB&T Corporation declared a second quarter dividend of 31 cents per share. The dividend will be paid May 1 to shareholders of record on April 17.

The dividend represents a 14.8% increase over the 27 cents paid in the second quarter of 1997.



NEW TRAVEL PLAZA GOING UP - Construction is underway in Grover for Wilco Travel Plaza which is going up on Highway 29 just across from Fast Fare in South Carolina. Grover town officials said the plaza is expected to contain a Wendy's and also a Dairy Queen in addition to a truck stop. "We're looking forward to seeing it completed," said Town Clerk Barbara Barrett.



IT'S CALLED THE CARDIAC REHAB CENTER. BUT WE LIKE TO THINK OF IT AS CLUB MED.

Because cardiac patients need medical care long after they leave the hospital, Gaston Memorial created the Cardiac

Rehab Center. It's a separate facility with a comprehensive program focusing on improving the quality of life for all

heart patients. Our goal is to offer them a level of personal supervision that can't be found anywhere else in the area.

And with a staff of over twenty physicians, nurses and an exercise physiologist, we're able to do just that. But the

Cardiac Rehab Center also has a lot to do with it. Because it's equipped with educational facilities where seminars on

stress management and reducing cardiac risk factors are held. In addition, there are areas for testing a patient's progress

as well as an 8,000 square foot, state-of-the-art exercise center complete with computerized cardiac telemetry

treadmills, rowing machines and stairsteppers. Of course, this may not sound like fun to everybody, but for many

cardiac patients it's the life.



Subscribe to the Kings Mountain Herald

Get a Peachy Deal at Peachtree Ford-Mercury



714 Chesnee Hwy., Gaffney, SC

Best Selection of Program Cars in Upstate South Carolina

Job = Car

See Tim Sawyer

or call **1-800-871-3374**

If you don't you'll pay too much.

Ext 92 of I-85, Gaffney, SC