



PHOTO BY LIB STEWART

RETIRING-Veteran Cornwell Drug Company salesman Humes Houston is retiring after a long career but plans to devote more time to his family and politics. He will seek a third term on the city board of commissioners this Fall.

Humes Houston Retires

BY ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff Writer

Samuel Humes Houston, 62, completed his last day of work Friday as a salesman at Cornwell Drug Company and now after 34 years of following a regular work schedule is ready to devote fulltime duty to his family, politics and retirement.

"And it's going to be wonderful," said Houston as he relaxed this week with his wife, Dot, at their home on S. Deal Street.

The personable, two-term city commissioner from District Two and retired Major in the North Carolina National Guard is definitely running for a third term on the city board of commissioners this Fall. Commissioner Houston's military background in management, supply and personnel procedures and his long affiliation with the public has made him a valuable member of the Moss Administration team for nearly six years. As Planning and Training Officer for the 105th Engineer Battalion, NCNG, he led 1,700 men, and when he came on the city board six years ago he put some of that leadership expertise to work by chairing and helping develop what is now the city's first personnel policy and supply-purchase order system, some of which he had seen work effectively for the 105th Engineer Battalion.

Houston, who served with General of the Army George Patton's Third Battalion in the 94th Infantry Division in Europe, retired in 1968 after serving as a commissioned officer for 28 years. He organized the Kings Mountain National Guard Unit as the 3rd Battalion, 120th Infantry, back in the early 40's with a handful of men, led a fund-raising effort to build what is now one of the nicest headquarters buildings in the state, and saw the Guard grow by leaps and bounds.

Recalling his long fight to see a National Guard Armory built in Kings Mountain, Humes recalled that two dozen men helped dig the foundation and landscaping and that Congressmen Basil Whitener and Congressman Charles R. Jonas were ringleaders in the city's effort to obtain some federal monies to help construct the Armory some 20-plus years ago. "We really started talking about an Armory during the Tom Fulton administration but it got off the ground during the Glee Bridges administration. We almost worried these congressmen to death about an Armory for Kings Mountain but soon it became a reality. The Guard used the garage in back of the facility and built a block building for training sessions and drills," he added.

Born in Mecklenburg County, Humes moved to Kings Moun-

tain at age five with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hopkins Houston and the elder Houston became secretary-treasurer of the old Phenix Mill. Humes graduated in 1936 from Central High School, and his uncle, a retired Colonel, persuaded him to enter West Point Preparatory School at Fort McPheerson, Ga. Humes said he had few math courses at Central School, when was then an 11-grade school, and failed the math course which was a requirement for entering the Academy.

Humes was one of the first Kings Mountain boys to volunteer for Uncle Sam's Army after the draft was declared. His family wanted him to follow in the footsteps of his ancestors and join in the Marines. Humes recalled that the hit song during that period was 'Be Home In A Year Little Darling', which was a drawing card for the Army, he said. "I believed all those other guys and thought I'd get one year duty as opposed to three years with the Marines," he laughed. Little did the young man know that it would be five years before he would be home to stay, and with a bronze star medal with first oak leaf cluster for valor.

First Lt. Houston, a member of the Anti-Tank Company of the 302nd Infantry Regiment, was honored for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy in Germany on Feb. 19, 1945. On one occasion, Humes directed his men to withdraw and cover him while he alone deactivated the mine field. Humes is modest about those experiences but his medals attest to the fact that he was trained extensively in that area and many of the mines were deactivated at night. The 32 men in Houston's outfit were all specialists and Patton's Third Army moved fast. Houston had no time to report to a first aid station and came home with frozen feet and memories that he could write a book about. He has a favorite charcoal drawing of General Patton which he plans to hang in a trophy room when he completes renovation of his house. "That's one of the things my wife and I plan to do during our retirement," he laughed.

The Houston family was service-oriented family. Houston's grandfather, Major George Porter Houston, commanded the Marines at Panama in 1925 and was a close friend of John Philip Sousa. Humes and his four brothers all served during World War II, Humes in the Infantry, Hoggy in the Artillery, Johnny in the USAF, Porter in the Infantry and Eddie in the Counter Intelligence Corps. Their father had been accepted at Annapolis but was unable to take the appointment because of a health problem.

Humes started to work at the age of 12 as a paper boy for the Charlotte Observer and then worked during the summer months at Margrace Mill and J.E. Herndon Company. In the early years of growing up in Kings Mountain, he recalls sodajerkering at the drugstore with Robert Wright, Jim Anthony, Martin Harmon, and Earl McGill, among others.

He considered himself somewhat like a fixture at the drugstore and at his retirement was Merchandising Manager. The staff of Cornwell Drug Company surprised him with a reception at Depot Center last Sunday which was attended by some 300 friends and former 'buddies' in the National Guard. The company presented him with a gold watch. Humes Houston's early years at Kings Mountain Drug Company in downtown Kings Mountain was a real training experience for him and he worked under the leadership of C. D. Blanton and John L. McGill, filling prescriptions, serving customers and working behind the soda fountain. The Rexall store had a three member staff when Humes came home from the Army in 1947. In later years Charles Blanton, Jr. succeeded his father, sold the family partnership to Howard Lutz who sold the firm several years ago to Cornwell Drug Company and the name of the store was changed.

Mrs. Houston is the former Dot Hart of Paris, Tennessee and the family includes a son, Sammy, who is employed by the Davidson County School System in Thomasville, two stepdaughters, Laurean Sellers and Brenda Stroupe, both of Cherryville, and six grandchildren. The family is active in First Presbyterian Church and Humes is a Mason and a member of American Legion Post 155.

Named after his uncle, who died in service with the Marines in World War I, Humes said that he was 'kinda always expected to carry on the Marine tradition' but went with the Infantry instead. "I guess I've always been gunho about the military. I just like it."

Commissioner Houston is also proud of what Kings Mountain has accomplished over the years and sees himself as a 'people person commissioner.' He likes to talk with people and has met thousands of people during his career at the drugstore and in the service. "We have some of the best people in the world in Kings Mountain and when I decided to announce for city commissioner I made a pledge to serve all the people to the best of my ability. The personnel policy is something I think is needed and is working in our city government. I vote my convictions. That's just the way I am."

McGinnis, Cornwell Break-Ins Reported

Thieves hit two downtown business firms during the past four days.

Kings Mountain Police Department is continuing its investigation of the Wednesday night break-in at Cornwell Drug Company and the Sunday night break-in of McGinnis Furniture Company on S Battleground Avenue.

Jim McGinnis, an officer of McGinnis Furniture Company, said that approximately \$3,000 worth of goods and cash were stolen by a thief or thieves who entered the building through the skylight on the roof. Contents of the building were damaged approximately \$3,000, said McGinnis. He said drawers were ransacked and small items that were apparently carried out by hand were among the goods missing. McGinnis said he discovered the theft when he came to the store Monday morning. McGinnis speculated that the thieves were "selective" and were looking for cash and specific items. He said several watches were taken and a flashlight was removed from a drawer, among the small items taken in the break-in.

Alan Propst, an officer of Cornwell Drug Company, also described thieves as "selective" in the Wednesday night break-in that netted thieves a large amount of drugs. Mr. Propst said that the vandals were looking for drugs and left their tools

behind. He said that doors were broken but said that inventory has not been completed on the

amount of drugs taken or the amount of damage to the building.

Employee Is Suspended After Writing Letter

A city employee who publicly criticized the Mayor and Board of Commissioners for firing Recreation Department Supervisor Mike Nappi in an open meeting has been suspended for one week.

Tinky Scarborough, a secretary and administrative assistant in the Office of Community Development, was suspended by Community Development Coordinator Gene White for "violation of the personnel policy."

After the commissioners fired Nappi on a 4-2 vote during the April 27 board meeting, Mrs. Scarborough wrote a letter criticizing the open firing to the Mayor, commissioners and the Kings Mountain Herald.

In the letter, she said Nappi's work was "carefully thought out" and was "very professional" and she criticized the board for not giving Nappi a chance to defend himself in executive session.

Nappi came under fire from an employee of the recreation department and members of the Church Softball League.

White said Mrs. Scarborough, whose suspension runs from

May 7 through May 15, did not use the proper procedure in airing her grievances.

According to White, the city's personnel policy states that the following procedures are to be used when an employee or group needs to resolve a work-related problem:

- 1) It is to be discussed with the immediate supervisor;
- 2) It is to be appealed to the department head;
- 3) It is to be appealed to the Mayor and Personnel Committee.

White said he will discuss the matter further with Mrs. Scarborough after her suspension time is up.

"This is the normal procedure for violation of the personnel policy," White said. "It's no big deal really."

Nappi, who held the Recreation Supervisor's post for two years, moved last Friday to Birmingham, Ala., to spend some time with his family before returning to a home he owns in Ocala, Fla. He worked in recreation programs in Ocala before moving here.

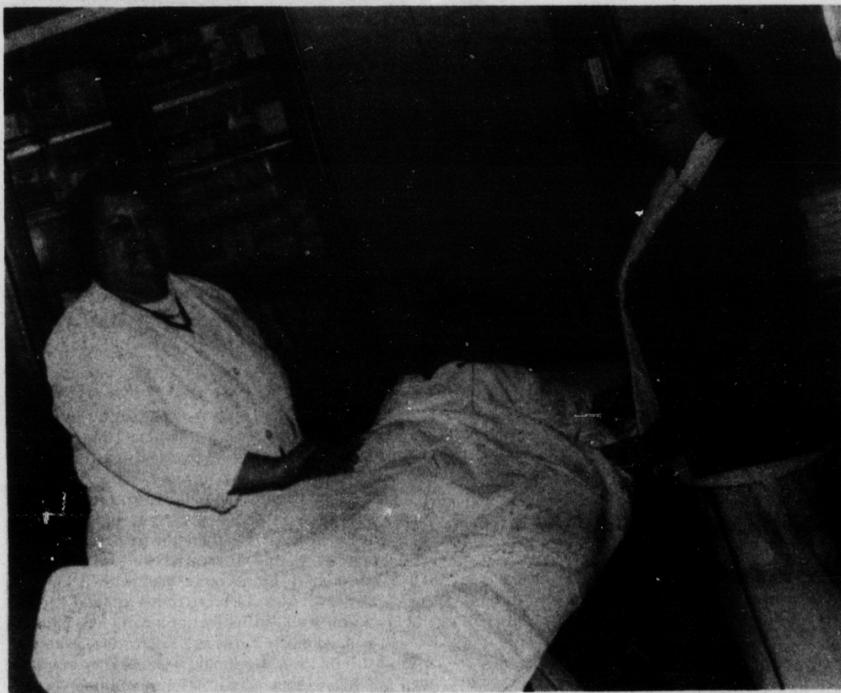


Photo by Lib Stewart

EMERGENCY SERVICES-During National Hospital week this week Dr. M. T. Keene, Chief of Department of Emergency Medicine at Kings Mountain Hospital, simulates a scene in the emergency room. Mrs. Margaret Patterson, at right, is the nursing assistant, and Mrs. Patricia Hoyle, also a nurse, is the patient.

Enjoys Emergency Role

Dr. M. T. Keene is Chief of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Kings Mountain Hospital. She enjoys her role and points out that emergency services are provided at Kings Mountain Hospital 24 hours per day.

Dr. Keene, a woman physician, commented on the services on the occasion of National Hospital Week.

Emergency service is provided by then rotation among members of the regular staff during the hours of 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the service provided during the hours of 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. and all day and night Saturday and Sunday by contact with an Emergency Physician specialist.

Also during these hours special diagnostic support is provided by the Laboratory and Radiology with in-hospital staffing until 11 p.m. and with provision for these services to be recalled in the event of emergency, said Dr. Keene.

"Emergency services are intended for those conditions which are of an emergency, serious or life-threatening nature and which would be detrimental to a patient's health if treatment was delayed," said Dr. Keene, and not intended to supplant usual and customary treatment at the regular Physician's office during their regularly scheduled office hours.

Conditions such as heart at-

tack, stroke, poisoning, convulsions, burns, kidney stones, loss of consciousness, breathing difficulties, diabetic coma, and insulin shock are examples of conditions which require immediate treatment, and incidentally, are some of the conditions which insurance companies will reimburse patients for Emergency Room care.

Non-emergency conditions such as cold, sore throat, nausea, and conditions of several hours or days duration are not considered emergencies and most insurance companies will not reimburse the patient for these expenses, Dr. Keene pointed out.