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By appointment or walk-in**



HOURS

Weekdays 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

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CLOSED SUNDAYS

****** Special Discount for Senior Citizens ******

(Illinois Licensed Barber)



ELLIOTT'S

CATERING



"A race that is solely dependent upon another for its economic existence sooner or later dies."

Author Unknown

In Afrikan society, the Cowrie Shell was used as currency to purchase goods and services. It represents the sharing of Afrikan wealth.

Today, in the spirit of Ujamaa which means (Cooperative Economics) to build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses, and profit from them together, we attempt to promote giving back to our community.



**ARE YOU TRYING TO FIND THAT PERFECT GIFT?
LOOK NO FURTHER!
DO YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT THE**

AFRIKAN MARKET

Saturday, December 9, 1995 (Reading Day)

at the Wesley Foundation Great Hall

1203 West Green Street

(two buidings east of the Union)

12pm - 8pm

**Businesses from Champaign, Urbana, Chicago,
Danville, St. Louis, and other neighboring cities**

Food, Entertainment

(Omnimov, Protege, Freestyle Contest)

Raffles, Free Door Prizes, Photographer on site, and much more!

Interested in Freestyle contest contact Darius at 344-3428

sponsored by

African American Community Empowerment Program of AFSC

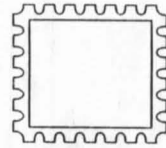
co-sponsored by SGA and Central Black Student Union



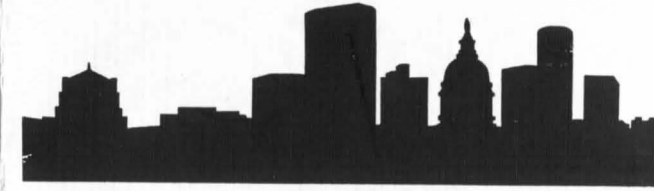
YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO ATTEND.



I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING
YOU THERE.



Distinctions Contemporary Fashions
56 Chester Street
Champaign, IL 61820



DISTINCTIONS CONTEMPORARY FASHIONS

**"ART & FASHION:
A CELEBRATION OF
MOTHERS"**

**URBANA CIVIC
CENTER
108 WATER STREET**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 23,
1995
7:00 P.M.**

DISTINCTIONS



Dear Valued Customer:

Spring is rapidly approaching, and we at **DISTINCTIONS** are excited to announce our spring fashion presentation. On Sunday, April 23, 1995 we will proudly present "Art & Fashion: a celebration of Mothers," and you are cordially invited to attend. Not only will we present, and have available for purchase, the latest fashions but we will also have an art display, and sale, for the most discerning consumers. Ticket are available five convenient locations in the Champaign area, so come out and experience a spring celebration, **DISTINCTIONS** style!

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:

Distinctions Contemporary Fashions
66 Chester Street

J.E. Dunn and Assoc. Art Gallery
Church Street Square

Shabazz Activewear
902 N. Fourth Street

Soulful Treasures
408 E. Tremont

Seaboat Restaurant
1114 N. Market

Tickets \$7.00 each, 2 for \$10.00

**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
WILL BE SERVED**

LIFESTYLES

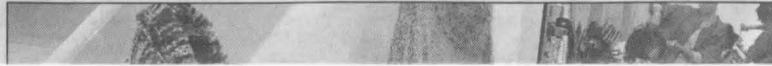
TO REACH US: lifestyles@suntimes.com



Owner Saundra Warren works on client Latonya Athalone at her salon. There's concern the film "Beauty Shop," opening today, will promote racial stereotypes. —KEITH HALE/SUN-TIMES PHOTOS

01

11



Shop talk

Black beauty salons serve up networking with girl talk

BY CHERYL V. JACKSON
Staff Reporter

For a business, things can get mighty personal at Saundra's Unisex Hair Salon, 1000 W. 103rd.

Owner Saundra Warren's financial adviser, who is working on a deal down the street, pops in the salon to greet her, kissing her on the cheek as a CeCe Winans song streams from the speaker. A stylist nearby bops to Tweet coming from her set of headphones.

A very pregnant Shenethe Parks, 31, comes in and is immediately grilled about her unborn baby's sex. There are groans when she says she still doesn't know. Parks takes it in stride. She's among friends.

For millions of black women in the United States, the beauty salon is a place of networking, camaraderie and support. Need a lawyer? A child care provider? A plumber? She might be sitting in the chair next to you, her head under a dryer and her eyes glued to the latest Essence or InStyle. Or, chances are the stylists can make referrals.

Yet there's concern over how

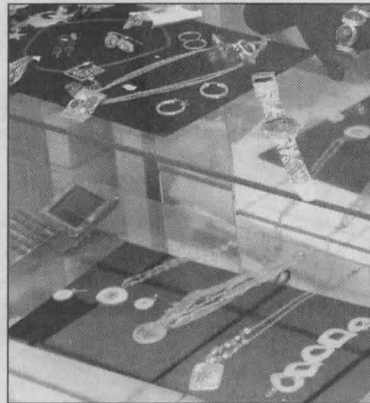
such salons will be depicted in the new "Barbershop" spinoff "Beauty Shop," which opens in theaters today. Some worry the film will reinforce unflattering stereotypes about food, body types and behaviors of black people in general, in addition to undercutting the professionalism at black shops.

"It does not exist," said Terri Winston of the beauty shop that is the focal point of the movie. Winston, publisher of SalonSense magazine, saw the flick at a screening in Atlanta last month.

"This movie doesn't depict [Chicago black-owned salons] Honey Child Salon [and Spa], AJE's, Van Cleef Hair Studio. You don't see those characters in [these] salons," Winston said. "We've worked hard to create an image of entrepreneurs as opposed to tradesmen. The majority of these men and women make more money than white collar workers."

For example, she said, in the Queen Latifah film, a woman visits with a canteen service offering fried chicken, greens and monkey bread with animal sound effects.

Sure, Alexander Martin drops



by Saundra's daily to sell cashews and pecans, and other vendors have offered salads and sandwiches to clients. But Warren doesn't allow eating in the styling area. It's about professionalism, she says.

Because many clients have standing appointments — black women visit salons 2.5 times each month, according to SalonSense — it's not uncommon for them to develop friendships with those with whom they frequently end up at the salon, says Desiree O'Kelley-Smith, owner of Desi's Full Service



Style is for sale in more ways than one at Saundra's, as these clothes and jewelry (left) show.

Salon at 2130 W. 95th.

"In a black salon, you're going to be here for a little while, so you try to go when your friends go."

Thursdays, for example, bring several clients into Desi's who crochet. They bring projects and exchange tips.

"On Friday, a group of professional women come in," O'Kelley-Smith said of the group that includes a psychiatrist, insurance broker and a cop. "They network and laugh and they don't have to be a doctor or an entrepreneur. They get to talk with each other and kinship with each other. They get to network in a way like we do in a kitchen."

Black households spent 12 percent more on average for personal care services than all households in 2003, said Ken Smikle, president of Target Market News, a Chicago-based

research and marketing news firm.

Black women typically visit a salon one to two times a month, said Lafayette Jones, president of Winston-Salem, N.C.-based Segmented Marketing Services. The higher the income, the more frequent the salon visits. The neighborhood salons are being squeezed by high-end salons and lower-priced chain salons that increasingly have stylists capable of working with the often kinky hair of blacks, Jones said.

But the neighborhood shops still enjoy the advantage of community, he said.

"They have shop talk," Jones said. "If you want to get the pulse of the black community, go into those institutions."

See BEAUTY, next page

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BEAUTY

Continued from preceding page

At Sandra's last Thursday, talk centered on what celebrity has gotten a face-lift. And who should have gotten the boot on TV's "America's Next Top Model." And the latest development in the Michael Jackson child molestation trial. What singer is performing where. Star Jones' new husband regularly makes his way into conversation.

The salons also serve as information centers, where one can pick up a flyer with details of the next fashion show or health fair. And markets, where clients can buy earrings or shawls or lip gloss.

"You tell your stylist everything about your personal life before you tell your mother or sister," Winston says. "Hair stylists are psychiatrists, attorneys, trendsetters. They are the foundation of your community."

And stylists look out for the clients, beyond just hair and nails. Stylists know "who's cheating on their spouses, who's getting a promotion," Winston says.



News-Gazette photo

Award winners pose at the Champaign Country Club. Attending the dinner Friday night were, from left, Ted and Rose Adkisson of TERO's Beauty &

Nail Salon, Robert Hambrick and Hazel Hambrick of Hambrick's Maintenance Service Co., and Andy Davis of Andy's Enterprise & Auto Beauty.

Awards honor black businesses

By CHRIS SCHULTZ
News-Gazette Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN — Four black-owned businesses received the first annual awards presented at a black-tie recognition dinner Friday.

About 250 people were at the Champaign County Country Club

Adkisson has a doctorate in education from the University of Illinois, and Ted Adkisson, a graduate of Eastern Illinois University, worked at the UI in personnel services for 30 years, retiring in 1993.

"We just want to give back to the community what we got

are college graduates, Hazel Hambrick said.

The company employs 40 and does janitorial and business maintenance service for banks, insurance companies, churches and schools in Champaign-Urbana and surrounding communities.

1996



News-Gazette photo

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1996

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About 250 people were at the Champaign County Country Club Friday evening for the dinner, sponsored by the National Council of African American Men, the Urban League of Champaign County and the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce.

TERO's Beauty & Nail Salon at 111 W. Church St., C, won the Madame C. J. Walker Award of Excellence. The award is named after the first woman millionaire, who was black.

Ted and Rose Adkisson, who own TERO's, are unlikely owners of a beauty salon. Rose Ad-

kisson has a doctorate in education from the University of Illinois, and Ted Adkisson, a graduate of Eastern Illinois University, worked at the UI in personnel services for 30 years, retiring in 1993.

"We just want to give back to the community what we got through the school (UI)," Rose Adkisson said. "That's what being in business offers you."

Receiving the Booker T. Washington Achievement Award was Hambrick's Maintenance Service Co. of Champaign.

Started in 1979, Robert and Hazel Hambrick said they started their business to ensure their five children could go to college.

"I knew I wanted my kids to go to college," Robert Hambrick said.

All five are now grown and all

are college graduates, Hazel Hambrick said.

The company employs 40 and does janitorial and business maintenance service for banks, insurance companies, churches and schools in Champaign-Urbana and surrounding communities.

Also recognized were the Rose & Taylor Barber and Style Shop, owned by Lum C. Rose and Joe Taylor, which received the Outstanding Community Service Award, and Andy's Enterprise & Auto Beauty, owned by Andy Davis, which received the Business of the Year Award.

Also announced was the creation of the Vernon L. Barkstall Scholarship Fund. The first \$500 was donated by Illinois Power Co., with a matching grant to come from the community.

1/17/95



Standing (left to right): Dorothy Vickers-Shelley, Thomas H. Brown
 Seated (left to right): David Thies, Evelyn Underwood, Lonnie Clark, Samuel F. Banks, Phyllis Clark

For the past five years, Busey Bank's Community Reinvestment Act Advisory Committee has worked to help more people in Champaign-Urbana qualify for home loans. These community leaders, including two Busey Board members, help the bank learn about community needs and develop loan programs with

**This
 committee
 works for
 you!**

flexible guidelines, low down payments and closing cost assistance.

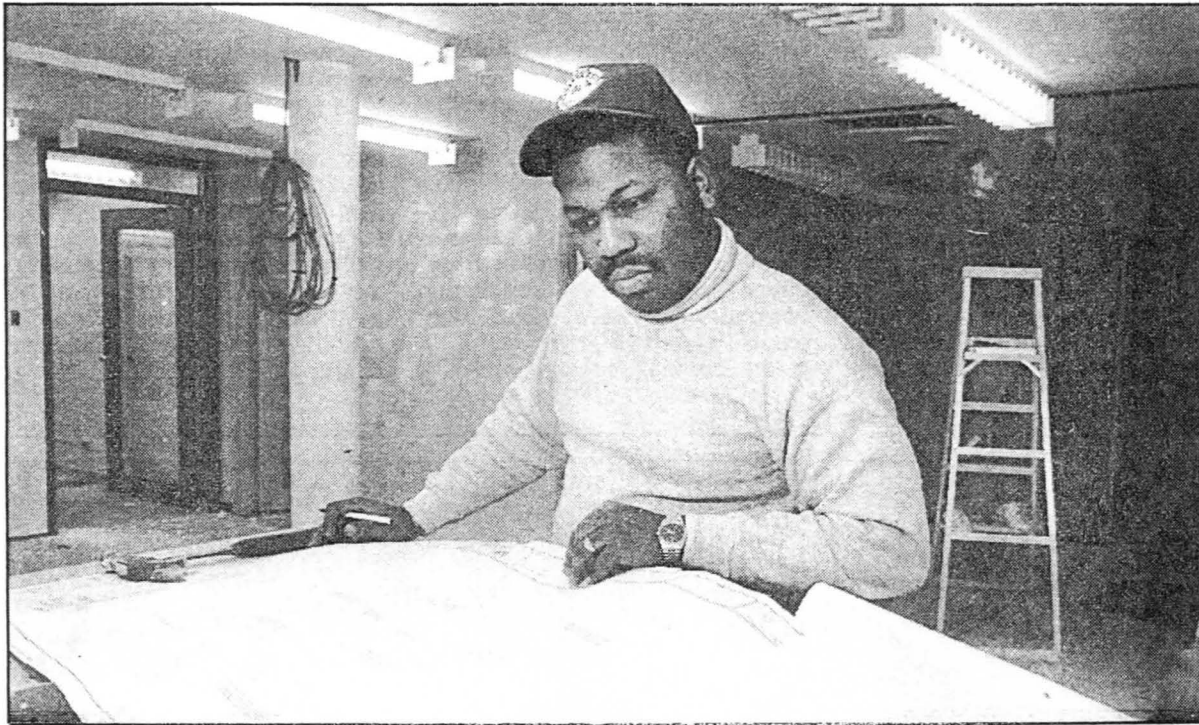
If you haven't taken advantage of the many buying options now available, you may be missing the opportunity to own a home. Call or visit Angela Love at Busey Bank Champaign, 384-3434, for more information.



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News-Gazette photo by John C. Dixon

Ronald Stith, owner of Bear's Construction in Bloomington, looks over blueprints of the renova-

tion project of the circulation area at the Champaign Public Library. He was on the site Monday.

Library remodeling to be done Feb. 2

By The News-Gazette

CHAMPAIGN — Patrons of the Champaign Public Library will not lose any services — except for the use of outdoor book drops — during a remodeling of the building's circulation area.

New outdoor book drops and a new circulation workroom and check-out area are expected to be completed by Feb. 2, according to Judy Blaford, special projects coordinator.

"We call the improvements 'one-stop circulation,'" Blaford said. "There will be full-service stations at each circulation station. You can check out materials, pay a fine or apply for a library card all at one station."

The \$50,000 project is being paid for out of the library's budget. Clark Dietz is the architectural firm, and Techline of Champaign and Timberline Custom Woodworking of Urbana are the companies doing

the work, she said.

The circulation area had not been changed since the library building at 505 S. Randolph opened in 1978. The front lobby changes made have been the addition of a vestibule to control temperature, a new security system and doors that are more handicapped-accessible.

Library hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and 2 to 6 p.m. Sundays.

1/24/93

Glover's
BARBER SHOP



Barber began career practicing on friends

By Darlene Napady
Of The Courier

Despite several attempts in the past few years, black-owned and-operated businesses remain few and far between in Champaign-Urbana.

But they were an even greater rarity in 1937 when Van Thompson opened his first Barber shop.

Although illness forced Thompson to end active participation in his shop about six years ago, two former associates have taken over, and Van's Barber Shop remains a fixture in the basement of 29 Main St.

Thompson, whose schooling ended with the eighth grade, received no formal training as a barber.

It started as a sideline while he was operating a cleaning business in the same building as a barber shop.

"I began by practicing on friends and neighbors and even took some customers on Sundays without the owner of the shop finding out," he recalled.

"Then one day they were very

busy and short of barbers. So I got behind a chair and stayed there from then on."

Although this was Thompson's first venture into barbering, his association with barber shops went back many years.

After moving to Champaign-Urbana from Troy, Tenn., at the age of 10, he had hung around a barber shop and earned extra money through odd jobs.

Offered baths, too

"This was before most homes had bathtubs of their own, so people would come to the barber shop to take a bath," he said.

"The bath would cost about 25 cents and I would get a nickel of this for cleaning out the tub."

Three years after opening his own shop, Thompson moved it to Main Street where it has remained since.

At that time the building was owned by Seely Johnston whose sports shop occupied the main floor.

Johnston, a member of the Champaign City Council, sold the building later and moved his business first to Green Street and then to its present location at Chester and Market streets.

But the two have remained close friends and Thompson cites a Christmas Day visit from Johnston as one of the high points of the day.

During his years as a barber, Thompson's other customers included such luminaries as David D. Henry, president of the University of Illinois, in whose home Thompson's second wife Evelyn had worked for many years before her death in 1968.

But regardless of status, anyone who walked into Thompson's barber shop got the same treatment.

No distinction

"Men from all classes received the same service because I believe a man is a man," Thompson says.

Many customers were farmers.

"We used to say that a haircut was worth about a bushel

of corn," he recalled.

That was when both cost about \$1.25. Thompson said he has lost track of haircut prices in recent years, but he feels the economic outlook for barbers remains bleak as long as men wear long hair.

Despite his arthritis, Thompson still gives hair cuts to a few old friends and other residents of Skelton Place, the Champaign County Housing Authority's project for the elderly.

Thompson was the first tenant to move into the 84-unit high-rise when it was completed in 1967. The activities in the building plus visits from children and grandchildren keep him occupied almost constantly.

His two sons, Merton (Skip), an Air Force sergeant with five children, and John, a furniture repairman at the University of Illinois, with three sons, both live in Champaign-Urbana.

A daughter, Julia Ann Zachery, makes her home in Rochester, Minn., where her husband Robert is a mechanical engineer for IBM.

The Zacherys and their three children returned for a visit over the Christmas holidays.

Thompson's professional offspring include Tommy Drish, who learned barbering in Thompson's shop then opened one of his own, finding time to remain active in a variety of community affairs, including the Champaign-Urbana Boys Club.

Harold Hartwood, Thompson's former partner, and William Giles, a former employe, have taken over Van's Barber Shop.



Van Thompson gives Charles Fromm a trim



VAN THOMPSON - VAN'S BARBERSHOP
(DOWNTOWN CHAMPAIGN)

■ Salon gets
new owner.
Brenda Vonner
is the new own-
er of The Up-
per Cut Salon,
Champaign.

She had been
associated with
Le Elegante Sa-
lon, Cham-
paign.

Vonner has
19 years of ex-
perience in the Champaign area.

1/29/95



VONNER

Tommy's Under New Management!

The brown-faded pictures, reminiscent of former University of Illinois athletes, no longer adorn the walls as they once did. Gone too is the familiar 1.50 shoe shine. The records that blast aloud from the juke-box are kept pretty much up-to-date now. As always, the barbers are courteous, the atmosphere is relaxed and the conversations never cease. Although the management has changed hands, there have been no drastic changes. Or as Lum Rose aptly put it, "Business goes on as usual." He and Joe Taylor are the new proprietors of the Rose & Taylor Barbershop, formerly known as "TOMMY'S BARBERSHOP." Tommy Drish, the original owner, who is now deceased, opened the four-chair shop (at its present location) in February 1960.

LUM ROSE, who has been at the shop since its original opening,

picked up his tools of the trade in Paducah, Kentucky. He worked as a civil service barber in Fort Knox and Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky. JOE TAYLOR "honed" his first razor at Moler's Barber College in Chicago. Joe stated that his first clients were the city's "wine-heads, who were refused service by some of the other barbers." Joe recalls, "Moler's had two separate colleges---one for whites and one for blacks." When asked why the need for two separate facilities, Joe replied, "It was 1963-- You tell me why!" SHELTON DUNCAN, the third man on the team is a veteran barber also. A fourth man is to be employed in the near future.

As the need grows for establishing and maintaining credible black businesses within our community---The ROSE & TAYLOR BARBERSHOP and others like it, are helping to fulfill that need.



Left to right Joe Taylor, Lum Rose and new barber Danny Simms pose behind customer Hakim Muhammad.

2/6/95



News-Gazette photos by Delfina Colby

Wrap artists

A headdress workshop exploring African cultures through crafts and art was held Sunday at the World Heritage Museum in Urbana. Above, Dawn Blackman of Motherland Art & Design displays a cloth depicting different symbols at the workshop. She said Africans often use their clothing and the cloth it is made from to communicate things about themselves non-verbally. At left, Janet Harper of Urbana wraps cloth around the head of Diana Johnson, education coordinator of the museum. At far left, Aurora Villacorta of Champaign adjusts her headdress, which Blackman wrapped for her.

New casket idea makes one feel at home

■ Coffin design aims to look like a house

By DEBRA PRESSEY
News-Gazette Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN — With its gleaming wood siding, multi-pane windows and gracious front entry, this may be the nicest home you'll ever have.

But don't expect much in the way of a view.

You'll be 6 feet under, with a floral wreath on your roof and a headstone marking your address.

Welcome to one of the newest offerings from the funeral industry, the "Burial Home" casket that looks — at least from the outside — just like a house.

It comes in both ranch and two-story models. Or, folks can have them made to look just like their dream homes.

You can see one for yourself



News-Gazette photo by John Dixon

Elder Robert Perry, left, an owner of Twin City Memorial Chapel, Champaign, and Fabian Warren, funeral director, display a 'Burial Home' casket. They were at the funeral home last week.

in Champaign.

Elder Robert Perry, one of the owners of Twin City Memorial Chapel, saw a Burial Home in a brochure in Chicago and was so captivated by the idea

he ordered one to display at his funeral home at 1203 N. Market St.

Fairly new in the business, Twin City is trying some creative approaches to shake the

pall off death, said Perry, who is also pastor at Grove Street Church of God in Christ.

Perry said he and funeral di-

See BURIAL HOME, A-14

Burial Home

Continued from A-1

rector Fabian Warren saw potential in the Burial Home casket to help comfort a grieving family that has, for example, lost a mother who was a homemaker, or a father who provided a home.

Then, there's the obvious parallel of death being a one-way ticket to an eternal home.

"It's an attempt to soften the blow of losing a loved one," Perry said.

The Burial Home was created by Verna Richardson, a former human resources consultant who lives in Madison, Wis.

Richardson said she once had a great fear of death and funerals, but then came up with an idea for a casket that would help make herself and others more comfortable with the idea.

"It came to me: Make it look like a house," she said. "It made sense because I'd always bought homes and remodeled them."

Richardson said her Burial Home also gives people a chance to be laid to rest in their dream home — just like one they lived in, or one they always wanted and couldn't have.

Two people have already requested a chance to design their own, and Richardson said she's happy to comply.

The model at Twin City Memorial Chapel is a simple ranch-style, but Richardson's company, Habco Inc., also has a two-story for larger people, and is working on more designs.

"We intend to come up with several choices, so people can pick out a house just like when they drive up a street," she said.

Why go to the trouble, when, after all, the occupant won't know the difference?

Like all funeral traditions, Richardson said it's more for the survivors. There are people out there just as terrified as she once was of the sight of a traditional casket.

"It's not necessarily for the

person who has died," she said. "It's for the person who has stayed behind."

Richardson just went to market with her first Burial Home this past December, and sales so far have been slow, she said.

She has only started displaying a handful of models at funeral homes in Chicago, St. Louis, Milwaukee and Champaign, but is seeking other innovative funeral homes willing to take a chance on something different.

The gamble has already paid off for Twin City Memorial Chapel. Perry said one female client already selected the Burial Home when she came in to prearrange her funeral. Others have shown interest, he said.

Incidentally, the Burial Home is much cheaper than most people's dream houses. Richardson said they sell for about \$4,000 to \$5,000.

That's about upper-mid-range for a casket, but Richardson said she'd like to see them made available for much less.

Keep this

Black-owned firms have rich history

■ Diversity marks today's black businesses in C-U

By ANTHONY KINNEY
News-Gazette Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN — Nathaniel Ali Shabazz doesn't suggest that his clothing store was born out of a pushcart.

But motivating him was the memory of peddlers, who hawked their wares from portable stands near his grandmother's home in Jackson, Miss.

"That's always been in the back of my mind," said Shabazz, who opened Shabazz Active Wear at 902 N. Fourth St., C, last year.

Shabazz sold T-shirts, hats and artwork from his truck, a street corner and a vacant lot before being invited to rent space at the building. The building owner, Champaign City Council member J.W. Pirtle, is working to create a minimall there.

Before the move, Shabazz was set up at the northwest corner of Market Street and Bradley Avenue. It was a small enterprise compared with the department stores farther north on Market.

"Market Place in the 'hood," he called it.

Like Shabazz Active Wear, several black-owned businesses trace their roots from modest beginnings:

— Albert Shelton built up the now-defunct Shelton Laundry from his mother's backyard operation into the state's largest commercial laundry outside of Chicago, according to the Illinois Small Business Association. The association elected him Person of the Year in 1981.

— Skip Thompson's Rentals and Refrigerator Repairs, 1108 N. Cunningham Ave., U, began with Thompson contracting out repairs in the 1970s until he got the training to do them himself.

Beauty & Nail Salon, Hambrick's Maintenance Service Co., Rose & Taylor Barber and Style Shop, and Andy's Enterprise & Auto Beauty — were honored for their accomplishments Friday at the Champaign Country Club. The ceremony was sponsored in part by the Urban League of Champaign County.

Blacks are entering businesses more varied than ever.

"I never dreamed of owning a radio station," said Pirtle, part-owner of radio station WBCP with Lonnie Clark. "We got the support we needed from a local bank and the rest of the community."

Leroy Kendricks, an engineer who is president of Integrated Controls and Computer Systems in Savoy, said special programs in the 1970s allowed him to go to the University of Illinois.

"They gave me the opportunity to be all I could be and, as it ended up . . . the owner of a high-tech company," he said.

ICCS is in the business of engineering and implementing control and information systems for the food industry and water and wastewater treatment plants.

Kendricks wonders whether the opportunities that were open to him will be available to future generations of young blacks.

"Today when you've got a lot of people in office clamoring to take away some of those advantages, I'm not sure if we are not heading backwards," he said.

Tracy Parsons, executive director of the Urban League, said black-owned businesses are touching only a small amount of "what we are involved in."

"I'd say we still have a long way to go," Parsons said.

Longtime community resident George Pope agreed, saying, "It has not come to a point where I feel appreciative enough to say we have made great strides."

Pioneering businesses

Among the early black-owned

Diversity makes today's black businesses in C-U

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— Arnie Yarber built Po Boy's Bar-B-Que restaurant at 58 E. Columbia Ave., C, on the site where his grandmother sold barbecue from a truck bed in the 1930s.

Today there are about 75 black-owned businesses in Champaign-Urbana, according to the 1994 edition of Everybody's Business, a classified directory put together by the Champaign Public Library, the Urban League of Champaign County and several units at the University of Illinois.

Four of those firms — TERO's

Maintenance Service Co., Rose & Taylor Barber and Style Shop, and Andy's Enterprise & Auto Beauty — were honored for their accomplishments Friday at the Champaign Country Club. The ceremony was sponsored in part by the Urban League of Champaign County.

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"I'd say we still have a long way to go," Parsons said.

Longtime community resident George Pope agreed, saying, "It has not come to a point where I feel appreciative enough to say we have made great strides."

Pioneering businesses

Among the early black-owned businesses in Champaign-Urbana was the Royal Cleaners and Laundry. Homer Chavis opened the cleaners on East Green Street in 1920 — 30 years before blacks could routinely rent an apartment on the UI campus.

Joshua Parker Sr. established a funeral home at 704 N. Fourth St., C, in 1936. And the Blue Island Tavern, which opened around 1945, was one of the institutions of the Oak and Ash streets neighborhood, where many blacks lived.

"Northeast Champaign and

NEWS / EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS



Nathaniel Ali Shabazz stands inside his store, Shabazz Active Wear, at 902 N. Fourth St., C. Shabazz sold T-shirts, hats and artwork from his truck, a street corner and a vacant lot before being invited to rent

space at the building. His is one of about 75 black-owned businesses in Champaign-Urbana, according to the 1994 edition of Everybody's Business

News-Gazette photo by Robin Scholz



News-Gazette photo by Robert K. O'Daniel

Leroy Kendricks, an engineer and the president of Integrated Controls and Computer Systems, sits in his office in Savoy. He was at work last week.

northwest Urbana was where all the black people were," Pope said. "If you were going to open a business, you opened it in that area."

Lucy Gray, owner of Gray's Antiques and Collectibles, at 723 S. Neil St., C, said she remembers a black doctor tending patients when she arrived here from Paris in 1934.

But the barbershops, cleaners and restaurants were more common, she said.

"There weren't very many — that was during the Depression era," said Gray, who opened her shop in 1982.

One of the most remarkable chapters in the history of black business in Champaign-Urbana began when a penniless Waddell Jackson came to Champaign from Memphis, Tenn., in 1934.

He came back from the Army in 1945 with between \$50,000 and \$85,000, according to reports of his testimony before a U.S. District Court judge in 1960.

The money — won, Jackson said, by gambling Army paychecks — was used to buy and improve property in Champaign east of the Illinois Central Railroad tracks.

The Harlem DeLuxe Tavern, Beasley's Grill, Tinsley's Cleaners and the Social Club were among the businesses concentrated in Jackson's property on Champaign's Main Street, east of the railroad tracks, in the 1950s.

Champaign Mayor Dannel McCollum, a local historian, said the property opened up to blacks as a result of white business owners moving out.

The exodus began after the Champaign train station was built west of the tracks in 1924, he said. "East of the tracks became increasingly marginal," McCollum said.

"At one time there was not a single black business on First Street," said longtime community resident George Pope. "As the white business owners pulled out, the blacks pulled in."

After the judge found Jackson guilty of tax evasion, his attorneys sold the East Main Street property. It's now the Cham-



JACKSON

paign Police Department parking lot.

Of the early businesses mentioned, only the funeral home, now known as Bluitt-Parker, remains.

Chavis' business closed after 64 years upon his death in 1984.

The Blue Island Tavern was razed in 1985. It was the last building from the 30-acre Oak-Ash neighborhood, which was cleared to make way for the Martin Luther King subdivision.

The business itself folded a short time after owners James and Alfonzo Baker moved the tavern to Chester Street.

The next generation

Now a new generation of black business people are getting their feet wet.

Qaiyim Abdullah and Khair Ali realized their 2 1/2-year-old dream of opening a restaurant when they opened the Seaboat, at 1114 N. Market St., C, last August.

It was the Koranic verse, "After difficulty comes ease," that kept the dream alive, Abdullah said.

"That's what motivated us," he

said.

To open the Seaboat, Abdullah worked at the Urbana & Champaign Sanitary District and cut grass on the side. Ali drove a cab. Both pinched pennies until they could open the restaurant.

"I think the city misses him," Pirtle said of Jackson, who died in 1987. "He was sort of a shining light in north Champaign."

There were a lot of obstacles, but I'd rather put emphasis on the people who were willing to lend a helping hand," Abdullah said. "There were a lot of them."

While black-owned businesses can be found all over Champaign-Urbana, North First Street in Champaign — where East Main once intersected — remains a principal location.

Buddie's Bar, Banks Barber Shop, the First Street Pool Hall, Hambrick's Maintenance Service, Locks Of Glory, Rose and Taylor Barber Shop, and Tweet's Fashion and Style Shop are all in the first three blocks of North First Street.

But vacant lots and buildings spot the area. The average building there needs \$30,000 in structural, mechanical and aesthetic improvements, according to a North First Street Redevelopment Strategies report from the city planning department.

The city council has agreed to use some combination of city funds to redevelop the area.

"Background and benefits in early life make a difference on how well you do," McCollum said. "By and large, minorities haven't had equal access to these things."

"I suspect that will slowly change over time."

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C-U-N9 01/22/82

Business owner to give his views in D.C. meeting

■ Danville man to be at session on minorities

By ERNST LAMOTHE JR.
News-Gazette Staff Writer

DANVILLE — Curley Lee has several ideas about how to improve the minority business scene in Vermilion County, and he soon will share those thoughts with President Bush.

Lee, president and CEO of Courtesy Ford-Lincoln-Mercury in Danville, was one of 12 minority business owners invited to the White House for a Feb. 6 discussion and brainstorming session on the future of creating minority businesses nationwide. Although minorities constitute about 25.2 percent of the U.S. population, they own only 11.6 percent of all businesses and earn 6.2 percent of all receipts, according to the

Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

"There are many minorities who have the expertise but not the capital," Lee said. "I would like to see what we can do to encourage minority business in the area."

The Joint Center, which sponsors the roundtable session, defines minority firms as those owned by African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, Pacific Islanders, American Indians and Alaska Natives. Lee will meet with Bush, Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans, Secretary of the Treasury Paul O'Neil and Lawrence Lindley, assistant to the president for economic policy.

In addition to simply talking about the problem, Lee said, he plans to use his life story as an example of how immediate success can be elusive without financial programs.

As a car enthusiast since his



News-Gazette photo by Rick Danzi

Curley Lee, president and CEO of Courtesy Ford-Lincoln-Mercury in Danville, has been invited to a Feb. 6 discussion at the White House on the future of creating minority businesses.

teen years, Lee, 44, wanted that passion to drive his career. Using education as the fuel, he sharpened his skills at the National Auto Dealers Association in McLean, Va. The association offers car dealership

Please see LEE, B-2

Lee

Continued from B-1

management certification through classroom courses ranging from financial issues to parts and service.

Lee said his dream of owning a business could have stalled due to lack of funding. But through the organization's 10-year loan program, which Lee paid off in four years, money was not an obstacle.

The last decade has been a steady climb up the professional ladder for Lee. He was an interim operator in charge of righting and running troubled stores either until they closed or new ownership arrived. Four years ago, he became president of Courtesy, 231 W. Main St., after the owner died.

His vision of merging education and capital might not be a groundbreaking idea, he said, but he plans address it when he travels to the nation's capital in early February. Lee said the invitation from the Minority Business Roundtable was "accepted immediately."

After hearing the news, Lee spent the next few minutes on his cellphone persuading his wife, Lori, that the trip was real.

"Curley likes to joke around a lot, so I thought he was kidding,"

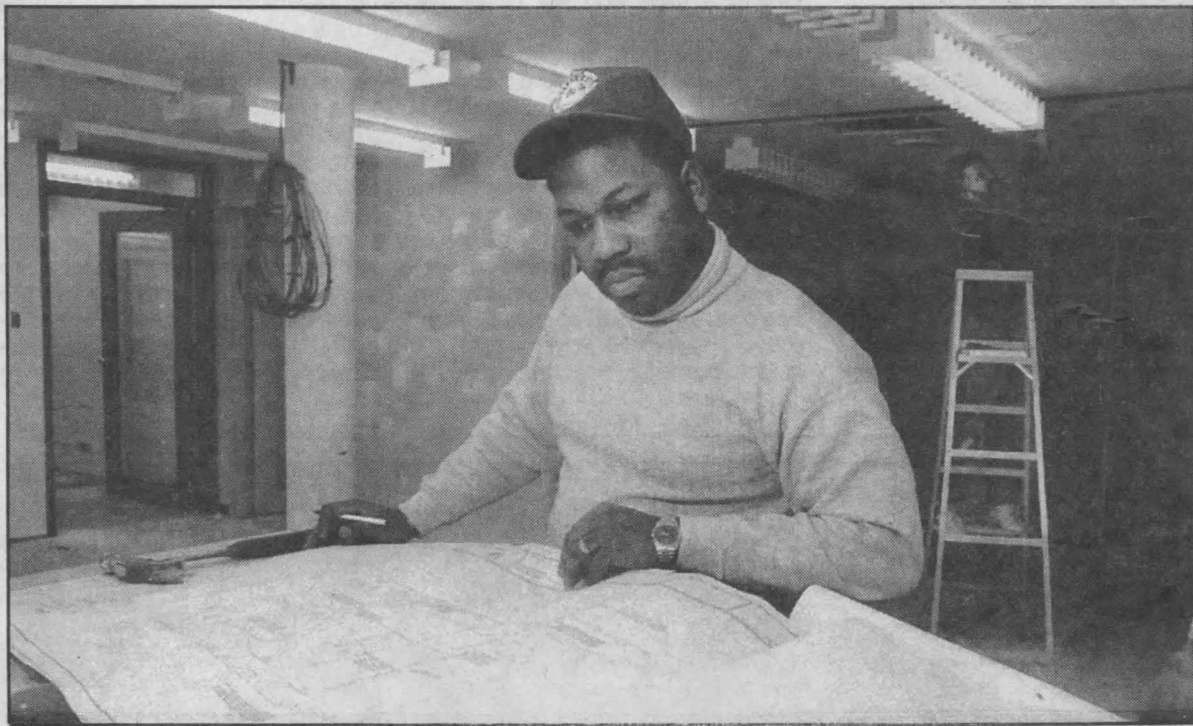
she said. "But then I knew he wouldn't joke about something this big."

His day will begin in the morning with an introduction from Joint Center President Eddie Williams, followed by a luncheon where Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle will be the keynote speaker. Then the group will attend a White House briefing before beginning their roundtable discussion. Lee isn't likely to be awestruck over meeting Washington notables, as he already has spent some time with Secretary of State Colin Powell and his wife, Alma, along with meeting former first lady Barbara Bush.

Beyond helping federal officials clear a path for greater diversity in business, Lee said, he hopes the path will lead the younger generations of Vermilion County into establishing businesses close to home.

"A lot of people who want to start a business get their education in Danville and feel that they need to leave after seeing other industries leaving," Lee said. "They need to change their mindset."

"In order to do that, we must develop a plan to attract young people and keep their expertise in our area."



News-Gazette photo by John C. Dixon

Ronald Stith, owner of Bear's Construction in Bloomington, looks over blueprints of the renovation project of the circulation area at the Champaign Public Library. He was on the site Monday.

Library remodeling to be done Feb. 2

By The News-Gazette

CHAMPAIGN — Patrons of the Champaign Public Library will not lose any services — except for the use of outdoor book drops — during a remodeling of the building's circulation area.

New outdoor book drops and a new circulation workroom and check-out area are expected to be completed by Feb. 2, according to Judy Blaford, special projects coordinator.

"We call the improvements 'one-stop circulation,'" Blaford said. "There will be full-service stations at each circulation station. You can check out materials, pay a fine or apply for a library card all at one station."

The \$50,000 project is being paid for out of the library's budget. Clark Dietz is the architectural firm, and Techline of Champaign and Timberline Custom Woodworking of Urbana are the companies doing

the work, she said.

The circulation area had not been changed since the library building at 505 S. Randolph opened in 1978. The front lobby changes made have been the addition of a vestibule to control temperature, a new security system and doors that are more handicapped-accessible.

Library hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and 2 to 6 p.m. Sundays.

1/24/95

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& Collectables



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BUSINESS & A

His creat

By ANNE COOK
News-Gazette Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN — Goldman Burnes has the answer to most culinary conundrums.

Whatever the dish, just pour on his sauce, an all-purpose concoction Burnes tinkered with for four years before he identified the right recipe and started to sell it commercially two years ago.

It has taken off like a rocket, said Burnes, a Springfield native who's demonstrating the sauce, Goldman's Gourmet, and handing out samples and recipes this weekend at the County Market on Glenn Park Drive.

"It's all things to all people," said Burnes, who was a supervisor of military prisoners when he started making the sauce.

"People call me with suggestions," he said. "One person put it on eggs. You can put it on tossed salad. It has a Russian-French dressing taste. It's healthy for diabetics because



News-Gazette photo by Robert K. O'Daniell

Sauce creator Goldman Burnes hands out a sample to Nina Lafy of Monticello. He was at County Market on Glenn Park Drive in Champaign Thursday. 'It's all things to all people,' he says.

AGRICULTURE

tion a sauce for all seasons

it's low in fat and sugar."

It tastes like a blend of tomato, steak, barbecue and spaghetti sauces, Burnes said.

"I wanted something unique that changes the flavor of food without picking up a lot of sauce taste," he said. "It's very mild so you tasted the meat through the sauce."

When he was working for the military, Burnes worked in the kitchen from 12 to 4 a.m. almost every night to perfect his sauce. He spent his spare time doing marketing research.

Burnes first started selling the sauce in two Springfield area stores two years ago. Today, the sauce is on sale in stores in three states. Niemann Foods, owner of the County Market chain, is one distributor, and he's now negotiating with the Sam's chain.

A Springfield manufacturer now produces the sauce.

The project also led Burnes and his wife, Delores, in another

direction. About four years ago, they got a start in the catering business preparing a party for hometown athlete Kevin Gamble, a Boston Celtics player.

Burnes said the response was so positive the couple kept the business going. Grilled turkey and pastas are specialties. His wife now fixes food regularly for MacDuffers Sports Bar & Grill.

Burnes travels a lot to pro-

mote the sauce. He plans to introduce a new one, Goldman's Gourmet Brats, next year. Goldman's Gourmet Chili is in the works, and both the brats and the chili contain the sauce.

During store visits, he likes to talk to shoppers about what he's trying to accomplish and ask for ideas.

"I've been up and down with it," Burnes said. "Now I think we have a good product. But it came from hard work."



Associated Press

ale

er of the United States, signs a at the Federal Reserve Bank in rdsday to promote sales of uncut e to the public.

s found in Georgia

an accused of attempting to sell the peanuts in violation of an agreement restricting their sale because of high arsenic levels.

The state Agriculture Department alleges the farmers accidentally contaminated their fields while attempting to control beggar weeds.

to market Roundup Ready corn for the 1998 growing season.

This week, it received the go-ahead from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to do so.

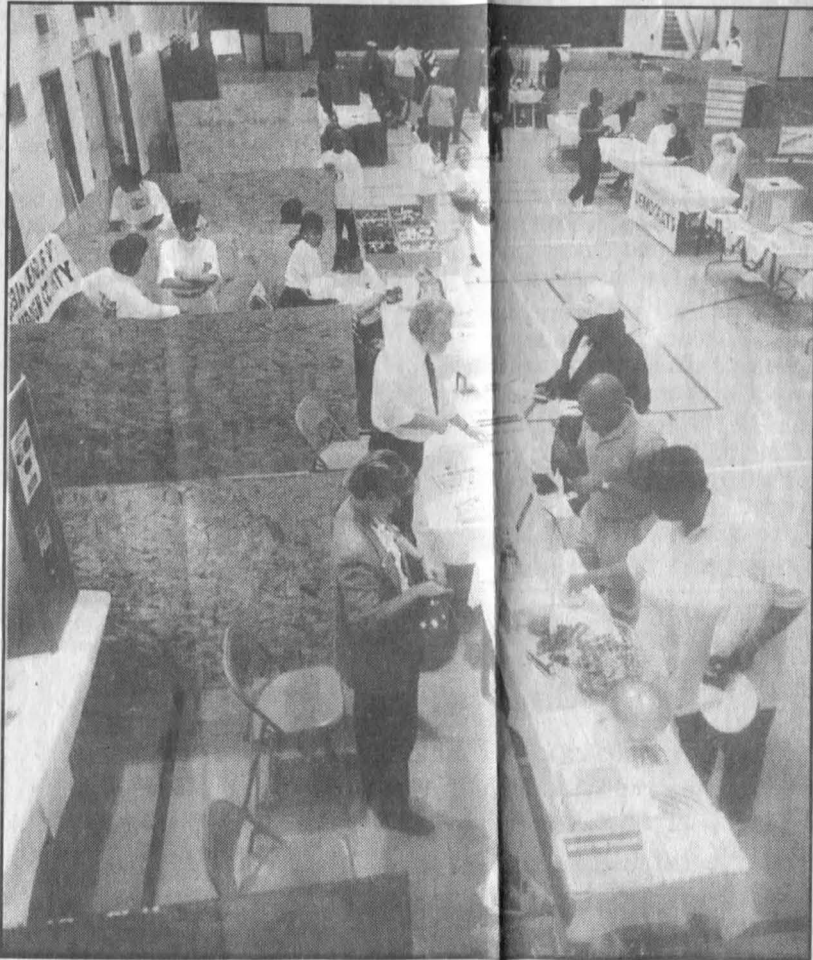
The Environmental Protection Agency already has approved the use of Roundup Ultra herbicide on the new corn line.

That means the only federal hurdle the company has left is assurance from the Food and Drug Administration that there are no food safety issues it needs to look into.

DeKalb said its introductory offer next spring will be enough to plant an estimated 500,000 to 1 million acres. U.S. farmers planted about 80 million acres of corn this year.

The engineered seed is not affected by Roundup, or glyphosate, one of the most widely used weedkillers developed by Monsanto Co. of St. Louis.

NEWS / EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS



News-Gazette photo by Robin Scholz

More than 20 booths at the sixth annual Black Expo attract participants' interest. The event took place this weekend at the Douglass Center in Champaign.

Expo notes black businesses, also seeks new ones

By GREG KLINE
News-Gazette Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN — When WBCP radio started sponsoring its annual Black Expo six years ago, the idea was to make black businesses more visible in the community.

The event still has that purpose in mind, according to Lonnie Clark, one of the founders of black-oriented WBCP and a former Urbana alderman.

But the Black Expo, modeled after a similar national event held annually in Indianapolis, has taken on new roles, some of which its organizers hope create new businesses to participate next year.

"It's grown every year," said Clark during the exposition, which was held at the Douglass Center over the weekend. "The financial part of it is really big now."

The more than 20 booths put up by businesses and other organizations reflected that.

Black-owned businesses, such as WBCP and Shabazz Active Wear, were there.

But so were local banks and the state's University of Illinois-affiliated Small Business Development Center.

Busey Bank officials were ready to talk to people about everything from business, home and car loans to checking accounts, said David Gillon, a mortgage loan officer.

Gillon said some of the bank's home loan programs drew particular interest from the people visiting Busey's booth in the Douglass Center gym.

Meanwhile, the Small Business Development Center, which opened in February at 111 W. Main St., U, set up a booth to help promote minority-owned businesses as well as itself, said Lillian Sharpley, a consultant at the center.

"Basically what we do is help new and existing businesses with their business plans," Sharpley said.

Among other things, she said, the center can assist business owners with research on regional markets for products, marketing plans and getting a loan to open or expand.

The expo also

National Council honors



News-Gazette photo by Francis Gardier

Nathaniel Shabazz, owner of Shabazz's Active Wear, poses in his store at 902 N. Fourth St., C.

He was there last week. Shabazz was among several minority business people honored Saturday.

ENTRAL ILLINOIS

minority businesses

By ANTHONY KINNEY
News-Gazette Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN — Joe Page has wondered privately whether people notice how committed his auto dealership is to serving the community and customers.

Page, owner of Illini Lincoln-Mercury Sales in Champaign, was openly congratulated for his service Saturday.

The National Council of African-American Men honored Page's business and three others at the second annual Evening of Celebration and Recognition.

"Sometimes, when we try our best to provide service in the right way, and try to do the right things, you wonder if you're successful in doing that," Page said. "I think this is recognition of a job well-done."

Illini Lincoln-Mercury received the Business of the Year Award.

The Outstanding Community Service Award went to Lonnie Clark and J.W. Pirtle, owners of WBCP-AM radio station in Champaign.

The Madame C.J. Walker Award of Excellence went to Dawn Blackman, owner of Motherland Art and Design, at Church Street Square, 206 N.

Randolph St., C.

The Booker T. Washington Achievement Award went to Nathaniel Shabazz, owner of Shabazz's Active Wear, at 902 N. Fourth St., C.

The businesses were honored for a combination of their rapport with, impact on and contribution to the community, said National Council member Robert Walker Sr. They represent the best of the best in Champaign-Urbana, he said.

"I'm pleased to be in a position to recognize these individuals and their minority businesses," he said. "We don't do it enough."

Blackman, whose business sells cultural clothing replications and contemporary clothing in ethnic fabrics, said the honor was a surprise.

Her business is only three years old, so Blackman credited her visibility in the community as the reason for the honor.

"I was really pleased about that particular award," she said. "My mother was a graduate of Madame C. Jane Walker School (Chicago). She taught me a lot about (Walker), so that really made this award special."

Pirtle said the Community Service Award was fitting for

WBCP. The radio station is the mouthpiece for a sector of the community that would otherwise go unheard, he said.

"We're not doing enough, but we're doing as much as we possibly can," he said. "We're proud to be able to serve the community."

Pirtle said it was a special treat to receive the award from the National Council.

"They do a great job in this community," he said.

The event was also sponsored by the Urban League of Champaign County and the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce.

netic field.

NASA officials refused to speculate on what might have gone wrong but promised to find out. All data was ordered impounded. The shuttle is due to return March 7.

"Everything is a suspect at this point," said lead flight director Chuck Shaw.

It was the second voyage of the \$443 million U.S.-Italian experiment. Both ended with trouble. In 1992, the tether jammed when the satellite was only 840 feet out.

North First Street redevelopment slow

10/6/97

■ City encourages business owners to submit plans

By ALDEN LOURY
News-Gazette Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN — If enthusiasm were bricks, then the hoopla surrounding the passage of a North First Street redevelopment plan last spring would have built the Taj Mahal along that corridor, which has remained underdeveloped for years.

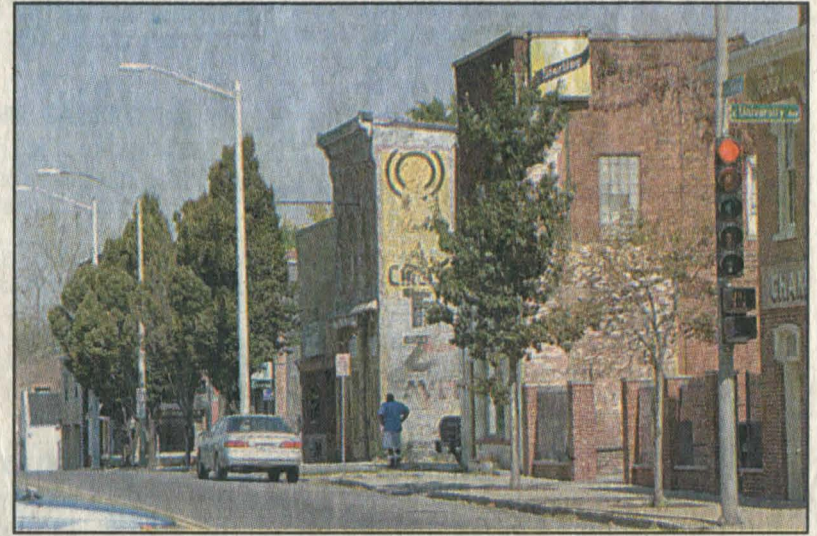
While many say there is still

strong interest to revive the city's traditionally black business district, no physical changes have been made to the somewhat dilapidated frontage along the 100 and 200 blocks of North First Street since the Champaign City Council passed the plan last April.

"Well, it's disappointing purely in standpoint of the time," said John Severns, a local architect who has helped with plans for proposed development along North First Street.

"I think the important thing is

See **FIRST STREET, A-8**



News-Gazette photo by Darrell Hoemann

Redevelopment plans have progressed slowly for businesses on North First Street in Champaign. The first block of businesses is shown in this photo taken last week.

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UI law g making

First Street

Continued from A-1

to get enough people on board and pulling in the right direction, and that's really not an easy (thing) to do. So it takes a lot of patience," he said.

Severns said progress has been slowed some by city staff changes, assisting property owners with business plans and financing for a financially feasible project and getting those property owners to believe in the city's commitment to redevelop the area.

"When you're dealing with a group that has not been invited into the public process, they're a little apprehensive," he said.

Although they expected to be farther along at this point, officials say the first significant development is on the horizon. And soon thereafter, they believe, the changes so eagerly awaited for the area will start to become a reality.

"A lot of it is predicated on the commitment of at least one business," said Paul Adams with the city's Neighborhood Services Department. "Once you see that level of activity, then I think you encourage other businesses to come forward."

"I think all of this is going to happen, and we should begin to see work along the North First Street area maybe early next year," said John Lee Johnson with the Illinois Center for Citizen Involvement.

Officials believe the spark that could ignite new construction along North First Street will come next month when city officials present a proposal from Lone Star Lodge 18 to expand its facility at 208 N. First St.

Severns said the plan would be to raze the existing two-story building and replace it with a 6,000- to 7,000-square-foot one-story building designed to add a second floor in the future.

The building would include a bar, offices and a showroom which would also serve as the lodge meeting hall, Severns said.

The new building would provide double the space and would be large enough to host weddings, anniversaries and live entertainment, Johnson said.

"They started with a project that was roughly twice that size," Severns said. "It was scaled back to make it economically feasible. We went through three generations of plan development to get to where we're at

Urban League move still unresolved

CHAMPAIGN — Properties along North First Street represent "a prime opportunity for business development in the African-American community," according to Tracy Parsons, president of the Urban League of Champaign County.

"That's vital to the strengthening of the African-American community," said Parsons, adding his agency remains interested in being part of that development.

Parsons said the Urban League still has interest in relocating its downtown offices at 17 Taylor St., C. to the 300 block of North First Street. Some believe the Urban League's relocation is vital to North First Street redevelopment efforts.

"We still have an interest in it," Parsons said. "We've moved a little slower than we probably would've liked."

"We have our building designed," he added. "Really, we're just trying to finalize the last bits of our financial situation."

Parsons said the Urban League still must decide how to raise the \$150,000 to \$200,000 needed to build a new building at the vacant corner of First and Church streets.

Parsons said the Urban League has some of the money needed and could borrow more but incentives like those included in the North First Street redevelopment plan would also be necessary.

The redevelopment plan, however, covers just the 100 and 200 blocks of North First Street.

"The 300 block would have to be added to the 100 and 200 block plan for this deal to work for us," Parsons said.

— ALDEN LOURY

now."

Banks Barber Shop, 210 N. First St., C, has expressed interest in relocating to a new building in the 100 block of North First Street.

And Severns said Clarence Davidson, owner of Buddies bar at 120 N. First St., is trying to organize a group of potential business owners to develop a mini-plaza of shops in the 100 block of North First Street.

Before it can consider any proposal, Adams said, the city council first has to discuss exactly how to implement the redevelopment plan, what new construction should look like along North First Street and how the city will pay for its share of the work.

Adams said the council will meet on those issues Nov. 4.

Under the redevelopment plan, the city will offer grants up to \$150,000 to North First Street property owners interested in redeveloping their land.

Interested businesses must first, however, develop a business plan and gain financing through a consortium of banks called the Community Development Corporation.

The area's redevelopment could also include "streetscape" work similar to that occurring in the downtown area.

Beautification work could also extend down Park Street from First to Second streets, Severns said. There the city could also alter parking, he said.

Severns said construction could be tailored to help preserve some of the district's historical flavor.

Adams said the city has committed to working first with existing property owners. However, once an implementation plan, design criteria and budget are in place, city officials will begin working with those interested in starting or relocating businesses to North First Street.

"You need to come forward if you're serious about doing a project," Adams said of existing North First Street property owners. "The city will continue to implement that plan if we don't have businesses there that want to redevelop."

"Then (the city will) go to businesses that want to relocate there," he added.

He said the city would attempt to acquire vacant land and property from current occupants who are not interested in redevelopment. The property would then be made available to those who want to move into the area, Adams added.

Even if existing property owners do not revive Jackson's Restaurant, the North First Street Pool Hall and others, Johnson said the strip must remain the heart of the black business district as it has been for decades.

"This project will have no value if the area is not retained, owned and managed by the people of that neighborhood," Johnson said.

JOB C E N T E R

FOCUS ON CAREERS AS AN **Electrician**

By The News-Gazette and Knight Ridder Newspapers



First Call Electric, LLC
352-0859

Look around you. In an increasingly technological society, the need for electricians is everywhere.

Electricians are skilled workers who are able to install and maintain the wiring necessary for our power-driven world to function. Many work in the construction industry, wiring new homes and buildings. Others work in the residential arena, doing relatively simple repairs.

Electricians work with blueprints when they install electrical systems in factories, buildings, homes, and other structures. In factories and offices, they first place pipe or tubing known as conduit inside designated walls or other concealed areas. They also install the small boxes that will house electrical switches and outlets.

In homes, conduit is generally not necessary, so plastic-covered wire is used instead.

Electricians also may install coaxial or fiber optic cable for telecommunications equipment, such as computers. Some may install wiring for phones.

Much of an electrician's time is spent inspecting wiring and locating and correcting potential problems before a breakdown occurs. Sometimes an electrician's work is done under grueling or uncomfortable conditions. Much of it is done outside in the elements. It may also require working in tight spaces, such as between walls.

Electrical work can also be dangerous, so electricians must know about safety procedures.

Left, Daryl Ray, president of First Call Electric, sits in his office, which he shares with his wife, Theola Ray, rear, who serves as CEO of the Champaign busi-

Name: Daryl Ray
Title: President
Employer: First Call Electric,
LC

What led you to choose a career as an electrician?

I had a background for a number of years in electronics. I worked at American Howell Sign Co., and got some electrical experience. I decided I wanted to go deeper than what the sign company could provide for me. I wanted to be a real electrician. I contacted the local electricians union. My wife wanted me to start my own business for a long time but I wasn't really listening to her. But in '95 the Lord told me to go into business for myself.



RAY

What do you find most enjoyable about your job?

The most enjoyable part is working to solve problems and helping people out of situations and electrical problems. I like the daily interactions with people.

What do you find most difficult about your job?

Sometimes the most difficult part is collecting money, getting paid. Certain people, not everyone, but sometimes you have certain people who don't want to pay.

What do you think is the most important quality to have for someone considering a career as an electrician?

Good math skills including trigonometry, good mechanical aptitude and an ability to work with people and interact with them. You do have to relate to people. If they have any problems you have to be open to them. And people are a very important part of our business because we are a service business. Our best advertiser is the satisfied customer.

What advice would be helpful for someone going into a career as an electrician?

There are electrician courses available at Parkland and other community colleges. I recommend trying to apply for apprenticeships. Sometimes it is not very easy to get one. It is good to take the courses and get some work as a residential wireman trainee. I went into the commercial inside-wire business, which is a five-year training program, and that teaches you everything.

STILL

When the country
my recruiters are p

Minn. — you know living in the forces? That like an ill-estion, with slavia. Who litary when

rding to the Kimberlee rest in the ts when mili-

Battalion U.S. Army Minneapolis, sponsible for or the Army She and her gler-Doiron, of educators g me, at Fort my's largest ed snugly to umbia, Fort ome to more ts a year. mpressions litary:

ographics. gets young r of women gning up. ruits is 35, is 21-35. I

—High standards. Today's all-volunteer force is more closely screened than in the past, and recruits are rejected or forced to delay entry for even minor infractions of the law. A new ethics program reinforces ethical standards and decision-making throughout basic training.

—Nearly inclusive. People from nearly every ethnic and religious group are present in the armed services, and efforts have even been made to accommodate immigrants and non-English speakers. I met a man from Venezuela who completed his citizenship process and attended four months of English training as part of the Army recruitment process.

Not surprisingly, none of the recruiters mentioned the appallingly ineffec-

Although some electricians do still gain their skills exclusively through on-the-job training, the best way to acquire those skills is through a four- or five-year apprenticeship program. These programs combine classroom instruction with supervised on-the-job training to give trainees a thorough knowledge of all aspects of the job.

Apprenticeship programs usually require an applicant to be at least 17 years old and have a high school diploma. Some also require that the applicant have completed at least one year of high school algebra (or a higher math course) with at least a "C" grade.

A physical exam and a drug screen may also be required for entry into an apprenticeship program.

The programs generally accept applicants year-round. Once the apprenticeship program has been completed, the trainee becomes a journeyman wireman.

Although it is not required, continued education is highly recommended to keep electricians informed on technological developments and to keep their skills as up-to-date and marketable as possible.

Financial Aid

Grants, scholarships, loans, and work/study programs are available for college and private school students. For most of this aid, high school seniors must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid, which is available from high school guidance offices and higher education financial aid offices.

The Job Training Partnership Act is a federal program that will pay for training programs for people with low incomes as well as for dislocated workers. Contact the nearest office of the Department for Employment Services.

Future job opportunities

Employment of electricians is supposed to grow at a rate slower than the average in the next 10 years, but because of a shortage of young, skilled workers, opportunities in this field will be widely available.

Skills required



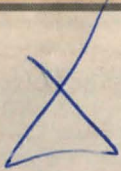
For information on federal student aid, call: (800) 4FEAID.



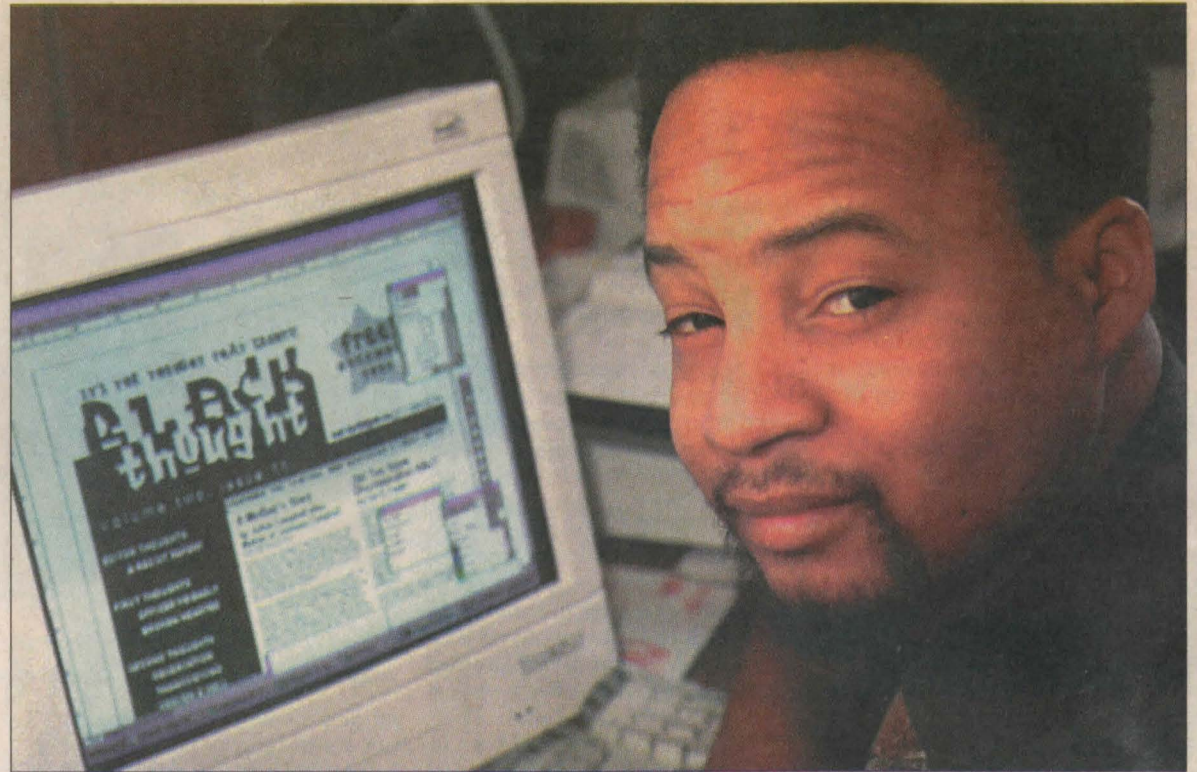
News-Gazette photo by Robert K. O'Daniel

Button-making business

Members of the MALE (Molding Adolescent Leaders through Education) and SISTERS (Support and Incentive Sisterhood to Encourage Rising Stars) teen groups, sponsored by Planned Parenthood, have undertaken a button-making business. From left, front row, are Keenna Ryder, Taiwana Lee, Shawanda Dean and Tyson Jackson. From left, back row, are Judy Davis, Lonnie Clark and Charles Wilson. Davis and Wilson are coordinators of the programs. Clark's group, the D.U.C. Hookers Golf Club, recently donated money to the programs.



Local entrepreneurs find starting business just the beginning



News-Gazette photo by John Dixon

Jamal Maatuka at his computer, making up the next edition of Black Thought, a local publication focusing on issues affecting black communities in central Illinois.

By ALDEN LOURY
NEWS-GAZETTE STAFF WRITER

CHAMPAIGN — Black Thought started simply as an idea, a way to seize an opportunity, but it has become Jamal Maatuka's way of life.

Maatuka created Black Thought, a monthly opinion newspaper focusing on issues

seemed a big risk. But Maatuka didn't see it that way.

"There was never any risk in

my eyes," he said.

But some entrepreneurs face occasions when plans fail and

money gets thin.

Sherri Stevens had no way of knowing that her pregnancy and

a sick child would keep her away from her Caring For Kids



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Good News for State of Illinois Employees!

affecting the black communities of Champaign-Urbana, Danville and Decatur, almost two years ago.

Maatuka was working in advertising for a black-owned Champaign radio station at the time and spoke with several businesses that were looking for a print medium specifically targeted for the station's black audience.

But after telling those folks over and over that there was none, Maatuka came up with the idea for Black Thought.

"There was nobody doing it. So we decided to do it," he said.

Like most entrepreneurs, Maatuka believed starting his own business was a no-brainer after recognizing an opportunity, making some thoughtful plans, gathering enough money to get started and developing the will to keep going, no matter what.

With help from his wife Shayla, friend John Jennings and others, Maatuka produced a few hundred copies of the newspaper's first issue.

They sold enough advertising to produce a second issue, and soon the paper was doing well enough that Maatuka was able to quit his radio advertising job to write and publish Black Thought full time.

He now produces 10,000 copies each month.

For someone with no experience in either writing or publishing, giving up the security of a full-time job might have

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Starting up

From Page T-12

day-care operation for almost a year and a half. Stevens opened the school in 1993, but had to close last year.

"You can't run a small business and not be there, but I didn't have a choice. I had a sick baby," said Stevens. "When I finally came back to work . . . I was so far in debt, there was no turning back. I closed down the school."

But Stevens didn't give up easily. During that time she was away, Stevens doubled her staff and kept the school open.

"If there's extra money at the end of the month, then that's mine. If there's not, then I don't get a check," Stevens said. "The last year and a half, I didn't take anything. In fact, I put money into the school while I was away."

Caring For Kids is gone, but Stevens' will to run a day care is still there. She has reopened the school with a new name and a new approach.

"It's something I felt a calling for. I really wanted to be with children," said Stevens, who quit her job with a California-based alarm company in 1992 to work in child care for one-third the pay.

"You have to be prepared for a roller-coaster ride. You're either high, or you're low," said Dave Ahmari, who along with Quesnell Hartmann, founded EpiWorks.

The firm makes semiconductors used in wireless and fiber-optic communication systems like cell phones, the World Wide Web and satellites. The two University of Illinois engineering grads bypassed almost certain employment with established

'If there's extra money at the end of the month, then that's mine. If there's not, then I don't get a check. The last year and a half, I didn't take anything. In fact, I put money into the school while I was away.'

— Sherri Stevens, owner of Caring For Kids day care

electronics firms on the West Coast to start their own firm locally.

For months, EpiWorks has been looking for an investor willing to spend the millions it would take to develop a high-level manufacturing operation in the Midwest.

Hartmann said they had hoped to seal a deal by now, but being in business for yourself also means being patient.

"You have to really believe in what you're doing," he said.

While many would like their businesses to take off quickly, some entrepreneurs note that even corporate giants had to start small.

"There's always room for the small guy," said Maatuka. □



News-Gazette photo by Robert K. O'Daniel

Sauce creator Goldman Burnes hands out a sample to Nina Lafy of Monticello. He was at County Market on Glenn Park Drive in Champaign Thursday. 'It's all things to all people,' he says.

His creation a sauce for all seasons

By ANNE COOK
News-Gazette Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN — Goldman Burnes has the answer to most culinary conundrums.

Whatever the dish, just pour on his sauce, an all-purpose concoction Burnes tinkered with for four years before he identified the right recipe and started to sell it commercially two years ago.

It has taken off like a rocket, said Burnes, a Springfield native who's demonstrating the sauce, Goldman's Gourmet, and handing out samples and recipes this weekend at the County Market on Glenn Park Drive.

"It's all things to all people," said Burnes, who was a supervisor of military prisoners when he started making the sauce.

"People call me with suggestions," he said. "One person put it on eggs. You can put it on tossed salad. It has a Russian-French dressing taste. It's healthy for diabetics because

it's low in fat and sugar."

It tastes like a blend of tomato, steak, barbecue and spaghetti sauces, Burnes said.

"I wanted something unique that changes the flavor of food without picking up a lot of sauce taste," he said. "It's very mild so you tasted the meat through the sauce."

When he was working for the military, Burnes worked in the kitchen from 12 to 4 a.m. almost every night to perfect his sauce. He spent his spare time doing marketing research.

Burnes first started selling the sauce in two Springfield area stores two years ago. Today, the sauce is on sale in stores in three states. Niemann Foods, owner of the County Market chain, is one distributor, and he's now negotiating with the Sam's chain.

A Springfield manufacturer now produces the sauce.

The project also led Burnes and his wife, Delores, in another

direction. About four years ago, they got a start in the catering business preparing a party for hometown athlete Kevin Gamble, a Boston Celtics player.

Burnes said the response was so positive the couple kept the business going. Grilled turkey and pastas are specialties. His wife now fixes food regularly for MacDuff's Sports Bar & Grill.

Burnes travels a lot to pro-

duce the sauce. He plans to produce a new one, Goldman's Gourmet Chili, next year. He'll be at the works, and both the chili and the sauce contain

During store visits, he talks to shoppers about the product and tries to accomplish ideas.

"I've been up and down with it," Burnes said. "Now we have a good product that came from hard work."

Mr., Mrs. H. Chavis Employ Colored, White



Mr. and Mrs. Homer Chavis, above, owners and operators of the Royal Cleaners at 508 East Green Street, are proving to America and the World that white and colored employees can live and work together. These employers employ some thirty odd workers, white and Negro and they, perhaps, turn out as much work as any business of its kind in the twin cities. Of course there is a lot in

knowing how to do such, and they seem to have learned the art. Other cleaning and pressing establishments recently have hired Negro workers, here in Danville and elsewhere and from what we can learn they are producing. The Chavis' own their own plant and business and they do a thriving business which is a distinct credit to the community and especially to the business world.



Twin City Cosmetologist held a successful benefit for the Champaign County O.I.C. The cosmetologist sponsored a "Sepia Fashion Fair" presented by the "Hamilton Vogue-Esquire Models" of Chicago. Nettie Scott a member of the cosmetologist group poses with models Felicia Quamina, Wanzo Wallace, Sandra Westbrooks and Odessa Hudson another member of the cosmetologist group.



Van Thompson gives Charles Fromm a trim

Barber began career practicing on friends

By Darlene Napady
Of The Courier

Despite several attempts in the past few years, black-owned and-operated businesses remain few and far between in Champaign-Urbana.

But they were an even greater rarity in 1937 when Van Thompson opened his first Barber shop.

Although illness forced Thompson to end active participation in his shop about six years ago, two former associates have taken over, and Van's Barber Shop remains a fixture in the basement of 29 Main St.

Thompson, whose schooling ended with the eighth grade, received no formal training as a barber.

It started as a sideline while he was operating a cleaning business in the same building as a barber shop.

"I began by practicing on friends and neighbors and even took some customers on Sundays without the owner of the shop finding out," he recalled.

"Then one day they were very

busy and short of barbers. So I got behind a chair and stayed there from then on."

Although this was Thompson's first venture into barbering, his association with barber shops went back many years.

After moving to Champaign-Urbana from Troy, Tenn., at the age of 10, he had hung around a barber shop and earned extra money through odd jobs.

Offered baths, too

"This was before most homes had bathtubs of their own, so people would come to the barber shop to take a bath," he said.

"The bath would cost about 25 cents and I would get a nickel of this for cleaning out the tub."

Three years after opening his own shop, Thompson moved it to Main Street where it has remained since.

At that time the building was owned by Seely Johnston whose sports shop occupied the main floor.

Johnston, a member of the Champaign City Council, sold the building later and moved his business first to Green Street and then to its present location at Chester and Market streets.

But the two have remained close friends and Thompson cites a Christmas Day visit from Johnston as one of the high points of the day.

During his years as a barber, Thompson's other customers included such luminaries as David D. Henry, president of the University of Illinois, in whose home Thompson's second wife Evelyn had worked for many years before her death in 1968.

But regardless of status, anyone who walked into Thompson's barber shop got the same treatment.

No distinction

"Men from all classes received the same service because I believe a man is a man," Thompson says.

Many customers were farmers.

"We used to say that a haircut was worth about a bushel

of corn," he recalled.

That was when both cost about \$1.25. Thompson said he has lost track of haircut prices in recent years, but he feels the economic outlook for barbers remains bleak as long as men wear long hair.

Despite his arthritis, Thompson still gives hair cuts to a few old friends and other residents of Skelton Place, the Champaign County Housing Authority's project for the elderly.

Thompson was the first tenant to move into the 84-unit high-rise when it was completed in 1957. The activities in the building plus visits from children and grandchildren keep him occupied almost constantly.

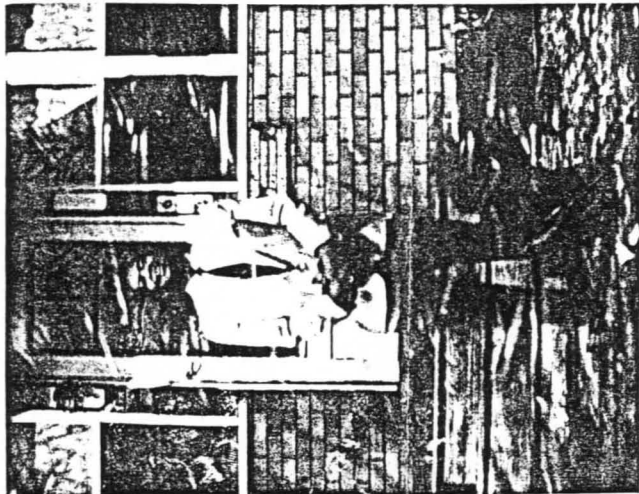
His two sons, Merton (Skip), an Air Force sergeant with five children, and John, a furniture repairman at the University of Illinois, with three sons, both live in Champaign-Urbana.

A daughter, Julia Ann Zachery, makes her home in Rochester, Minn., where her husband Robert is a mechanical engineer for IBM.

The Zacherys and their three children returned for a visit over the Christmas holidays.

Thompson's professional offspring include Tommy Drisk, who learned barbering in Thompson's shop then opened one of his own, finding time to remain active in a variety of community affairs, including the Champaign-Urbana Boys Club.

Harold Hartwood, Thompson's former partner, and William Giles, a former employe, have taken over Van's Barber Shop.

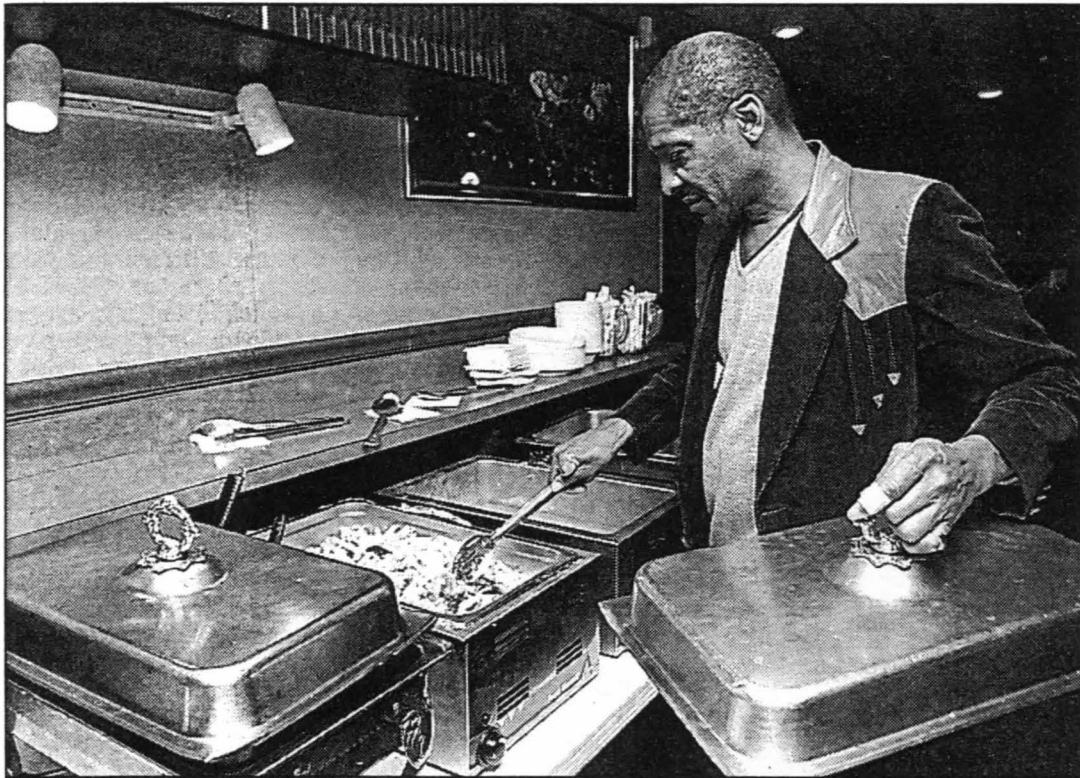


VAN Thompson - VAN's Barbershop

Businesses

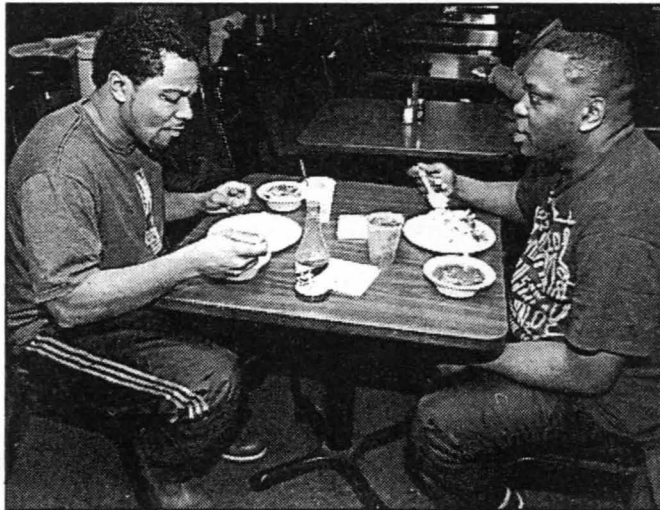
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Welcoming '03

Ike Mapson, top, checks on the food for the Malibu Bay Lounge's 12th annual Feed the Homeless & Hungry event on New Year's Day. At near right, David Rodriguez eats dinner with Wayne Jackson at the club in north Urbana. The free event is open to the hungry, the homeless or anyone associated with an organization involved in those causes. Lincoln Castle Restaurant, the Olive Garden and Enzo's Pizza were sponsors of this year's dinner, and transportation was provided by Corky's Cab.



News-Gazette photos by Holly Hart

NY

12/30/02

WORKPLACE

Lewis takes leadership role.
William Lewis of Champaign has been named assistant state conservationist for Area 5 of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Illinois.



LEWIS

Area 5 includes Champaign, Vermilion, DeWitt, Piatt, Douglas, Edgar, Coles and Moultrie counties, as well as 15 other counties in eastern Illinois.

Lewis, who has been with the service for 31 years, most recently was acting assistant state conservationist for programs. He and some of the Area 5 team will operate from the service's state office in Champaign.

The service recently reorganized its structure, moving from four field operation districts to five areas.

Champaign backs seeking proposals for N. First Street

By DEANA POOLE 01/15/01
News-Gazette Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN — Lawrence Jackson has tried for the past three years to redevelop his family's restaurant on North First Street.

Despite incentives of up to \$150,000 from the city, the Champaign County Community Development Corp. thought the loan would be too much debt for Jackson and his brother to take on. So the building at 116 N. First St. has remained vacant and undeveloped.

"We are saddened it has come to this," Jackson told Champaign City Council members Tuesday. "We hoped to be farther along ... We haven't even started yet."

Jackson and other North First Street property owners and members of the North First Street Business Association urged the council to take a different approach to redeveloping the commercial area.

The council showed initial support for doing just that.

In a straw poll, the council supported 8-0 allowing staff to put out a request for proposals for the repair or reconstruction of undeveloped property in the 100 and 200 blocks of North First Street.

"We're at the point we can't go any farther," community activist John Lee Johnson told the council.

Johnson explained the frus-

trations he and the owners have had trying to develop approvable loan agreements and to push redevelopment of the three-block area.

North First Street has been considered a priority by the city since 1996, and the city has been attacking it one project at a time. The approach has become time-consuming and costly.

Currently, the city offers up to \$150,000 to help cover costs of demolition, repair and redevelopment in the area.

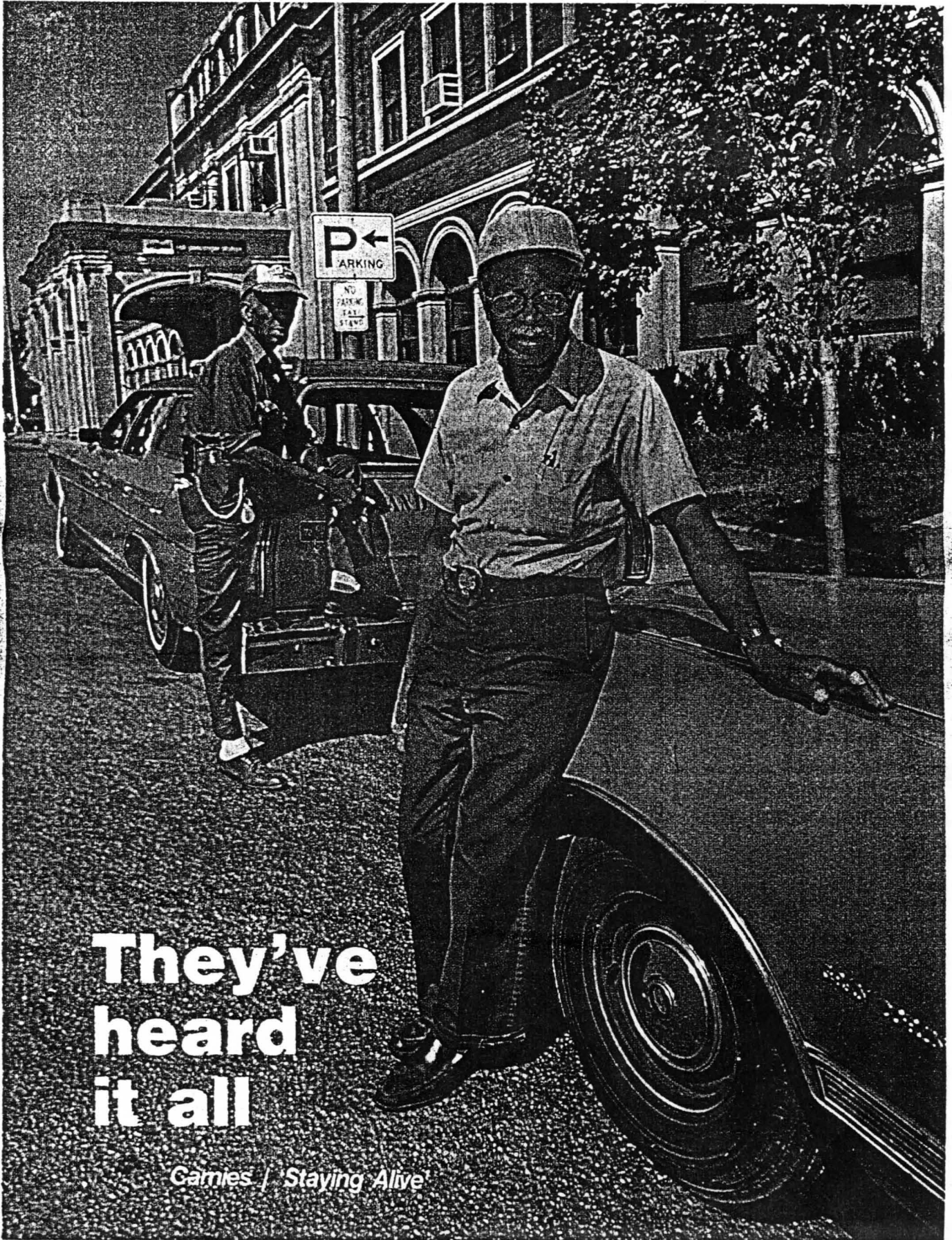
Senior planner Karen Stonehouse said it hasn't been enough to motivate developers to help build up the area.

The city hopes to have successful minority-owned businesses and possibly develop two-story buildings similar to downtown — the ground-level for a business and the second-story for residential use.

But first city staff must know just what types of incentives developers want. The request for proposals will be sent out in February, and responses would be due in March. A developer would then be selected and an agreement negotiated.

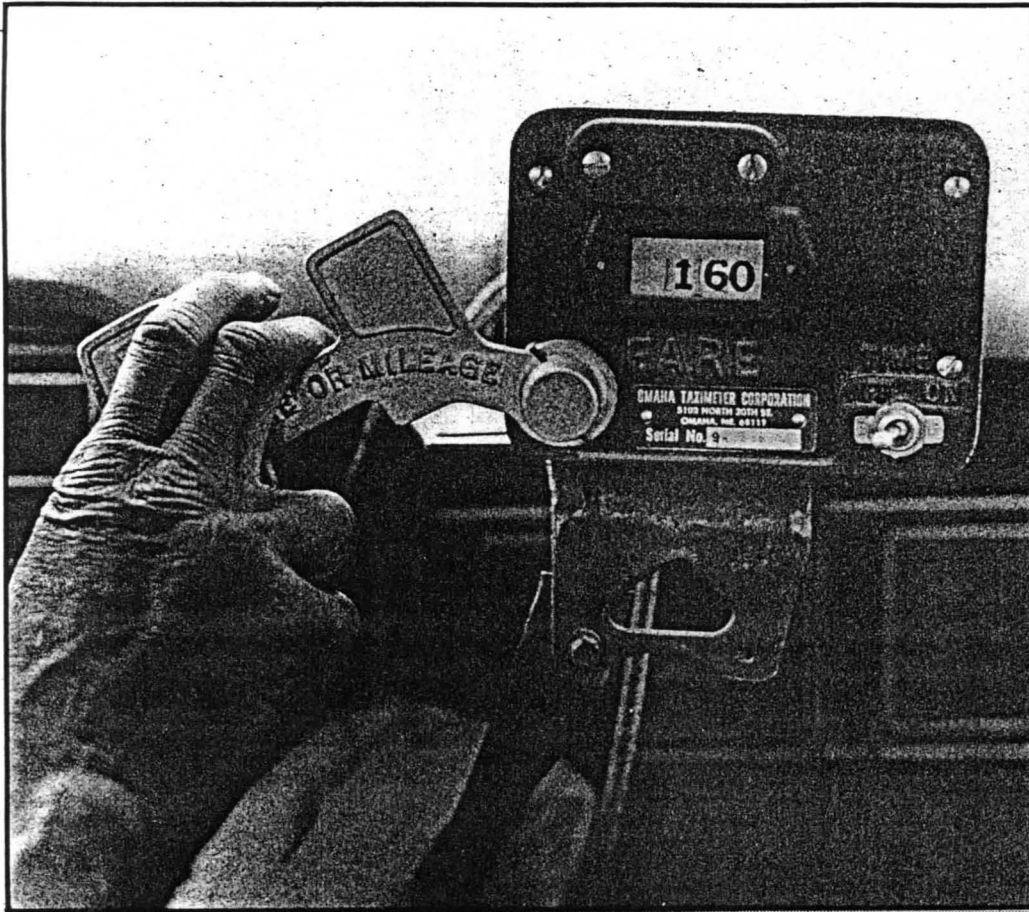
The city hopes to put undeveloped properties into the hands of a developer to repair or rebuild. Eventually business owners would be able to buy the properties from the developer on a lease-for-purchase basis.

01/10/01

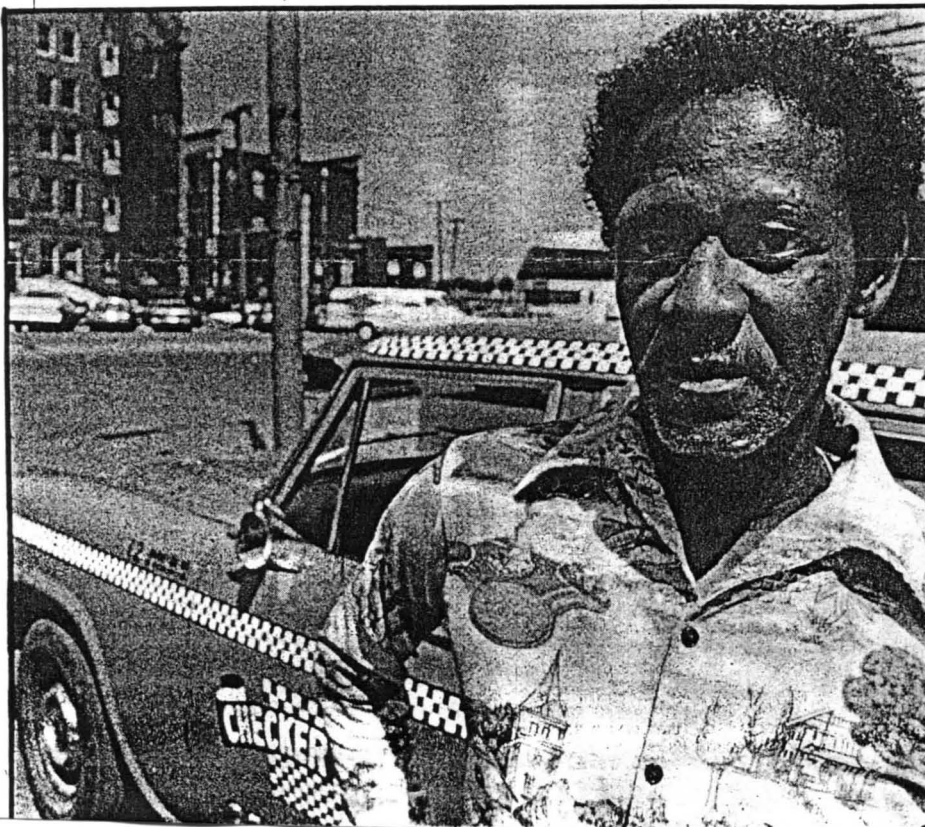


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Carnes / 'Staying Alive'

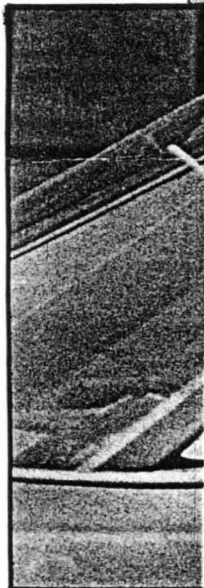


During a good day, usually in the winter when snowstorms send pedestrians out hailing cabs, a cabbie can take in \$200.



A lot of a cab driver's time is spent waiting for appointments or hanging around the train station, bus depot or airport hoping somebody will need a ride.

Floyd Brown, caught early in the week, said business was a little slow, but then it usually is on Mondays and Tuesdays. Brown drives a Checker cab.



Story by Jill Block
 Photos by Brian K. Johnson

Cabbies, lend us your ears

Cabbies, unlike bartenders and hairdressers, are confidants on wheels.

Local taxicab drivers say the tales of human drama and the profound nuggets of wisdom imparted by strangers from the back seats of cabs might make suitable script material for daytime soap operas.

"Some people get in and just enjoy the ride," said cab driver Roger Simson. "But some talk, and I wish they'd just sit back and enjoy the ride."

Simson, owner of the two-cab Silver Bird Taxi Co. since 1980, has heard it all from total strangers who feel free to unload personal problems during pickup and delivery.

"Oh, I've heard about divorces and kids running off and ... They just start talking, so I listen to 'em and just agree with 'em. Once in awhile they'll ask a question about me and my life, and I'll give as much information as I can without saying too much."

Paul Canady, who's been driving for United Cab Co. for just over six months, said sometimes the talkers won't stop even after the taxicab has.

"You get drunks in here and they tell you everything you don't want to hear. They'll even sit and talk to you after you get 'em where they're going.

"I got a guy home once and I'll bet he sat in here and talked to me for a half an hour." Canady said he just sat and listened with the meter running.

WILKIN FREEMAN, owner of U and I Cab Service and driver for a dozen years, said cab drivers don't necessarily make great counselors, but just happen to be available to listen at opportune times.

"It doesn't happen too often. Just like anything, if you catch them at that moment they're going to want to talk and let out their problems."

At other times, passengers get caught up in backseat conversation with each other.

"You've got to have patience," Canady said.

But the one thing that Roosevelt Jones, driver for U and I Cab Service, likes best about his job is conversation from friendly passengers.

"Oh Lord, you get bored sometimes," Jones said.

A lot of a cab driver's time is spent waiting for appointments or hanging around the train station, bus depot or airport hoping somebody will need a ride.

As a result, cab drivers feel a camaraderie and get to know each other to pass the empty time as friends, not rivals. "It's the companies that are competing. It's not the drivers," Canady said.

BUT THAT'S NOT to say that life in the people transportation business is uneventful.

(Please turn to page 10)

'Oh Lord, you get bored sometimes.'



Chester Young passes the time while waiting for customers at the Amtrak station. Young, a 17-year veteran hack, works for U and I Cab Service.

Cabbies

get envied for having my own business."

CONNIVING PASSENGERS who manage to get away without paying up hurt the driver's as well as the cab company's income.

SIMSON WORKS from 8 a.m. to noon and 3 p.m. to midnight at least six days a week. Many of his customers are regular fares, but he also makes himself available at the train station, bus depot and airport during arrival times to pick up extra passengers.

Jones said he occasionally gets customers who find creative ways to escape payment. "They run out on you. They tell you they're going to run inside and get the money, and then they never show up again.

During a good day, usually in the winter when snowstorms send pedestrians out hailing cabs, Simson said he takes in \$200.

"I never worry about it," Jones said. "I figure they just got themselves a free ride."

"When the weather's too nice, people walk," he complained. "When it's raining or cold, that's my kind of weather because cabs make more money. I love cold, wet, windy weather," he said with a laugh.

One of Paul Canady's fares avoided the charge by pulling a sneak exit at a busy intersection.

Jones and Canady both said their companies pay drivers a percentage of the day's collection. Canady gets half the fares, minus taxes and half the gasoline expense. He said some cab companies put their drivers on a salary.

"I picked up a guy once and when I stopped at a yellow light, he gets out and walks off without saying a word. I just sat in the car and waited for the light to turn green," Canady said.

The largest fare Canady ever collected was \$75 from a passenger who had missed his train to Gilman.

But even with unscrupulous passengers and a 12-hour shift six days a week, Canady likes his job.

"It's hard to give advice about this job to people who haven't tried it. You either like it or you won't. I like the freedom. You don't have a supervisor with you all the time," he said.

(Continued from Page 9)

and they're in labor, that's when I really move across town," he said. "There was no way I was gonna let that woman have a baby in my cab. I didn't give her time. I might've ended up being a midwife. That would've been the next step."

"I once got a call to take a lady to the hospital," Simson said. "She damn near had a baby right there in my cab, but I made it to the hospital in time."

Jones had a similar experience.

"When they're expecting

In 1981, while driving for Yellow Cab Co., Simson answered a call to pick up a couple of men and a woman. One of the men wore silver pants and a yellow shirt and the other was dressed in an unusual black and white outfit, Simson said.

The group asked to be transported to a nearby town, and only later Simson found out his cargo had been the drummer and synthesizer for the famous rock group "Yes" that had appeared in Champaign.

Simson is philosophical about his lot as a "hack." "I think a lot of people kind of look down on cab drivers. I used to consider it that way too, but after being laid off from the railroad for awhile, I kind of

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News-Gazette Photo By Brian K. Johnson

For the second time in a year, Champaign grocer Eugene Heath is closing a store. Heath is terminating his business at First Street and Uni-

versity Avenue this weekend because of a lack of convenient parking, which forced him out of business at another location last year.

Grocer closing another business

Parking problem again hampers attempt to run convenience store

By CHERYL W. THOMPSON
News-Gazette Staff Writer

Champaign resident Eugene Heath is going out of the convenience store business for the second time in a year, but says he'll keep trying until he gets it right.

Heath, owner of the One Stop Pantry at the corner of First Street and University Avenue, is closing his doors Saturday after six months in business.

The store is closing because of a lack of convenient parking and disagreements with the landlord on store hours, Heath said. The building Heath leased had been the location of Baker-Illini Pharmacy. It is owned by Joseph Manzella, operator of Manzella's Restaurant.

"We had an agreement with Manzella to close at 5 p.m. so he could have the parking lot," Heath said. "But with a convenience store, you can't close early because most people don't get off work until 5 or 6 p.m. and that's when you

make your money."

Although there is parking on the street next to the store, Heath insisted more adequate parking is needed.

"People can park down near the police department, but who wants to walk a block?" he said. "But we had to go along with his program."

MANZELLA ADMITTED extending Heath's store hours would create a problem for his customers, but said other things were going on at the store he didn't agree on.

"There was food being served in there and we don't want that," Manzella said. "Not because of the competition, but because that wasn't our agreement."

Heath has been in the convenience store business for more than 10 years. He opened his first store — Gene's Quick Stop — on North Fourth Street in April 1975.

That store closed last October — also because of a lack of parking space, Heath said. The city of Champaign, in an effort to elimi-

nate traffic problems, prohibited parking on the street last year.

"The city didn't want any parking on Fourth Street," he said.

HEATH said he has no regrets about losing the convenience store.

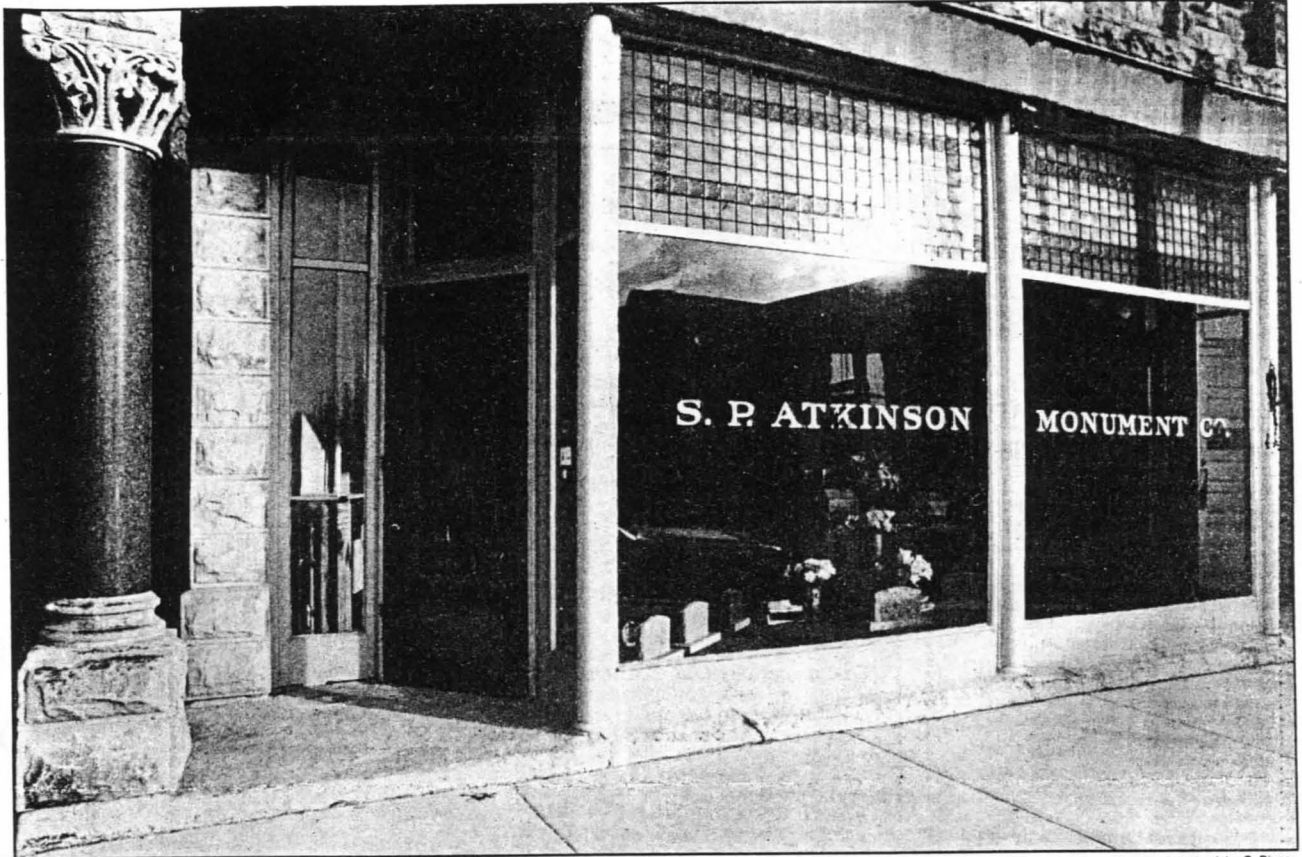
"After staying in this business so long, it would be best to go out of this business and go into another kind," said Heath.

Despite his bad luck, Heath has plans to open a new business — a barbecue restaurant on Bradley Avenue near the Kraft Inc. plant.

"Owning a barbecue place is something I've always wanted to do and the field is not as crowded as the convenience store business," Heath explained.

He said he doesn't anticipate parking problems that will force him to close down the new restaurant, which is scheduled to open the first week in November.

"There's plenty of parking there," he said.



News-Gazette photo by John C. Dixon.

The Atkinson Monument Co., founded in 1880, moved to its home at 106 S. Neil St., C., in 1904. A bankruptcy judge on Friday

approved the sale of the building and business to Jeff Mellander, despite objections from Dr. William Youngerman.

Sale of monument company wins OK

By DON DODSON
News-Gazette Staff Writer

One of Champaign's oldest businesses soon will be in new hands, as the result of a ruling Friday in U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

Atkinson Monument Co., which has made grave markers in downtown Champaign since 1880, was approved for sale to Jeff Mellander. The sale was part of a reorganization plan confirmed by Bankruptcy Judge Gerald Fines.

The sale includes the rough-cut stone and brick building at 106 S. Neil St., C, that has housed the monument company since 1904.

"The building has so much character and charm. I want to take it as far as I can," said Mellander, who owns three other downtown buildings and the Precision Graphics typesetting firm.

MELLANDER SAID he plans to take over management of Atkinson Monument, refurbish the building and move Precision Graphics to the second floor of the Atkinson building. The monument company's former owner, Brenda Hopper, will remain with the business as an engraver.

Hopper and her sister bought At-

kinson Monument in 1984 after three generations in the Atkinson family. Hopper later bought out her sister's share. In August 1987, she filed for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the bankruptcy code.

Approval of the reorganization plan came over the objections of Dr. William Youngerman, who filed a separate bid to buy the business. Youngerman, a Christie Clinic doctor who owns several buildings in downtown Champaign, offered as much as \$135,000 for the Atkinson Monument building and business.

BUT HOPPER preferred Mellander's offer, saying she believed it gave her greater job security and ensured the continuity of the firm.

The Mellander offer included \$100,000 cash for the building and business and the hiring of Hopper for \$16,960 a year.

Youngerman, who had originally bid \$107,000 for the building and business, upped his offer to \$115,000 and offered Hopper an annual salary of \$19,600.

"This will be a marriage if she will consent to it," Youngerman's attorney, Harold Miller, told the bankruptcy judge Friday.

Mellander's attorney, David Sho-

lem, responded, "I don't believe the court can force a marriage to someone with whom she's not interested in being in business."

IN COURT RECORDS filed before Friday's hearing, attorneys for Hopper and Youngerman debated whether Mellander or Youngerman had a better record as a preservationist.

Hopper's attorney, Peter Alexander, contended that "Mellander had been far more successful in renovating older Champaign buildings and preserving a sense of Champaign history important to our community."

But Miller called foul, saying Alexander's assertion was "an inappropriate and unjust inference that this objector (Youngerman) is less successful in renovating or preserving buildings."

Miller said Youngerman would "renovate the (Atkinson) building, preserve the unique architectural design as a historic landmark, improve the second floor for professional offices and remodel the first floor."

As it turned out, that task falls to Mellander, who said building renovation will start within 60 days.

"We'll be working on the first floor right away. At the same time, Precision Graphics will be working on a program to increase its (Atkinson's) identity," he said.

"We'll strip the building back to its purest architectural features," said Mellander, identified in court documents as a graduate of the University of Illinois in architectural design.

"We'll do refinishing of the woodwork and ornamental detail, refinishing of the wood floors and returning the beautiful ceiling back to natural wood," he said.

BESIDES THE PRECISION Graphics building, Mellander owns the Rick Orr Florist building, 122 N. Walnut St., C; and the Carmon's Restaurant building, 415 N. Neil, C.

Atkinson Monument Co. was founded in 1880 by Samuel Atkinson, who moved the business to its current location in 1904. After Samuel's death in 1937, his youngest son, Joseph Atkinson, managed the business until his death in 1966.

The third generation, Joseph M Atkinson, continued the business until his death in 1983. Hopper worked for Joseph Atkinson the last six years of his life.

Tuesday, May 26, 1998

prime time



Bob Leach repairs a clock at his business in Urbana.

News-Gazette photo by Robin Scholz

Clocking in

Urbana jeweler's had time on his hands for 57 years

By RUTH GERLACH
News-Gazette Staff Writer

URBANA — A story could be told about most

of the clocks and many of the watches that pass through the shop of Bob Leach, an Urbana jeweler and watchmaker.

Take, for example, the watch that belonged to Bill Rinne's father.

"It's just an old gold pocket watch that I have on a miniature stand that looks like a grandfather's clock," said Rinne of Urbana. "My dad passed away when I was a freshman in high school, and my mom gave it to me. When I moved down here, it needed some work. Bob Leach got it back running."

Rinne, a retired University of Illinois professor, added, "He does an excellent, excellent job, I think, on watch repair."

Leach, 78, who repairs watches, clocks and jewelry in his one-man shop in Washington Square Plaza in Urbana, has been plying his trade in Champaign-Urbana since he graduated from Bradley Horological Institute in Peoria.

He went to work for Bing's Jewelry in Cham-

Please turn to Page T-12

Leach

Continued from Page T-1

paign on March 3, 1941. When Kloss Jewelry Co. bought Bing's Urbana store, Leach leased the repair department from Kloss. Then, when Kloss went out of business, Leach opened his own store on West Main Street in Urbana. He eventually moved his business to Broadway Avenue in Urbana and then to University Avenue at Five Points in Urbana. He moved to his current location in April 1985.

"Actually, when I moved out here, I had turned 65 and I told my wife I was going to work a year or two and quit. It has turned into over 13," Leach said.

His wife died 4½ years ago, and that, he said, gives him all the more reason to continue working.

"At least, it's much better than sitting at home," he said. "Every morning I wonder why I don't retire. And then I say, 'What are you going to do if you do?' At that time, then, I decide to come to work one more day."

He has cut back on the number of hours he works.

"I come in a little later and leave a little earlier," he said. "I'm past the age when I'm going to come in at 8 and stay religiously to 5:30."

He added, "I attempt to maintain regular working hours, but if something comes up, I simply have to lock the doors when I can't be here."

He used to sell jewelry and watches in addition to his repair work. When he moved to Washington Square Plaza, however, he stopped selling new merchandise.

He also has stopped doing one kind of repair work on jewelry — bead restringing. His wife used to do it until she decided to stop working three years before she died.

"That's a time-consuming job, not something I want to take on to do. Back when I was younger and more eager than I am now, I used to do it myself. But I was much more eager for a dollar

then than I am now," Leach said.

He will take on just about anything else that comes in for jewelry repair — sizing rings, tightening stones, soldering chains.

"We're soldering lots of gold chains now, which we almost never did before. About 20 or 30 years ago we rarely saw those," he said. "They just weren't fashionable."

Changing fashions have led to changes in watch repair too.

"When I first went to work at Bing, we were repairing more pocket watches than we were wristwatches," Leach said. "Now the pocket watches we get are, most generally, grandpa's old pocket watch that they want repaired for sentimental reasons. We rarely see a modern pocket watch. First of all, pants don't have watch pockets anymore."

It's new technology, however, that has brought the greatest changes in watch repair. Cleaning mainspring driven watches used to constitute a large portion of Leach's repair work. Today's battery-operated watches don't need cleaning so often, but do need batteries replaced regularly and may need to have such repairs as the replacement of a circuit.

To keep up with changes in watchmaking, Leach attended seminars, such as those put on by the American Watchmakers Institute, of which he was a board member, or the Central Illinois Watchmakers Association. He served as president of the latter organization for three years and secretary-treasurer for one year.

He also took advantage of watch repair courses at Parkland College.

"Parkland taught courses when battery watches first came out," he said. "Practically every watchmaker in larger central Illinois has been to a course at Parkland College. They either had to or fold up. It was a matter of learning or quitting."

He said that fewer people are getting watches repaired now.

"You're not going to pass many watches down to your great-grandchildren anymore," he said.

**THE BEST
JUST GOT BETTER!**

**OPEN
SUNDAYS
12-4PM**

Restaurant may open soon in minimall

Editor's note: Today marks the debut of "It's your business," a weekly column focusing on what's happening in area businesses — the openings, the closings and changes in the works.

Remember Robeson's? The grand old downtown Champaign department store-turned-minimall may soon house a new restaurant too.

Dave Meyer, who bought the Robeson's building about a year ago, says negotiations to reopen the old restaurant on the store's first floor fell through, but another deal with an experienced restaurateur looks promising.

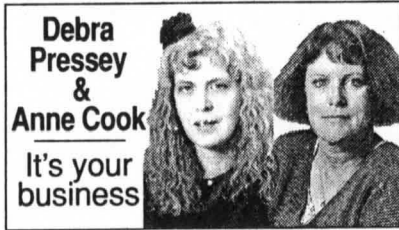
"We're hoping to have something on that in a couple of weeks," Meyer said.

There are 11 businesses now open on the first floor of Robeson's, and Meyer is rounding up uses for the rest of the building. He says he's had some nibbles for the vacant beauty salon and mezzanine area and may put an antique or craft mall in the basement. He's keeping his plans for the third floor a secret for now.

Meyer first opened the building for Christmas shopping. Some of the vendors, primarily craftspeople, stayed only for the season, but several remain.

New in the minimall is **Flowers and Dreams**, where Rossville grower Tom Petersen sells dried arrangements of the flowers he grows.

Petersen and his daughter, LuAnn Lusk, are planning to open a similar shop about March 1 on the east side of Monticello's square.



Petersen said he's also negotiating with owners of a building at Danville for a third location. He sells flower arrangements at the Rossville farm where he grows the flowers — this year, 35 acres of them.

At **Zenobia**, Champaign resident Mustafa Merza, a native of Syria, sells jewelry, gifts, clothing and tableware imported from his native country.

And Champaign artist Marilyn Cleveland sells her African-American art at **Reddeanna's Art World**.

Elsewhere in Champaign: Dave Meyer's **Meyer Drapery Services Inc.** store, at 330 N. Neil St., has started a new mini-blind venture.

Meyer signed up for a trial production program with Kirsch, the largest drapery hardware company in the country, and employees are now turning out mini-blinds on a special machine that does the whole job.

"We're the only company in Illinois doing this, and we're selling them to the public at our outlet store," Meyer said. "Within a month or two, we'll be selling to the wholesale network."

BayTowne Shoppes, the brand

new 24,200-square-foot strip center developed by the Atkins Group at the corner of Marketview and Anthony Drives, is signing tenants. Moved in so far are the Boy Scouts of America and a Jenny Craig Weight Loss Center.

Part of the **BayTowne Apartments** development, the \$1 million shopping center stands in the heart of a booming area by the new Sam's Club and Wal-Mart stores.

The apartments, situated on a 12-acre lake with a clubhouse, are renting so well there's a waiting list to get in. Construction will start this summer on 102 more, says Mark Dixon, project manager for the Atkins Group.

The **Credit Bureau of Champaign County** now has a place of its own at 2104 Park Court, C.

The bureau moved Feb. 1 from 2106 W. Springfield Ave., C, its home for five years. Before that, it was a longtime tenant in downtown Champaign's Lincoln Building.

The latest move was prompted by the need for more space. Plus, said Secretary/Manager Floyd Bauman, "we just decided we want our own building."

Stay tuned for new life in the former **Old Mill Pottery** store that closed in October at Champaign's Country Fair Shopping Center.

Larry Brown, former owner of Old Mill and a 1970s chain of off-price clothing stores, is getting back into the discount clothing line with a new store called **Fashion Mart**.

Brown surfaced this past December with a used clothing store called **The Outlet** at 1036 Bloomington Road, C. But he has just closed it to get his new store ready to open.

The new 80,000-square-foot store will feature name-brand adult and children's clothing. Brown says he and his new partner — LBC Inc. of Indianapolis — plan together to open six Fashion Mart stores in Illinois in 12 to 18 months. Other sites in the works are in Decatur, Springfield, Peoria, Kankakee and Bloomington.

There may be pool tables and outdoor batting cages before long at the new indoor family recreation center called **Putt N Play** at 109 W. John St., C.

Owners Cheryl and Morris Huberman, who also own a Putt N Play in their hometown of Danville, are considering those additions, says Champaign manager Jim Evans.

Putt N Play features an indoor miniature golf course, along with a snack bar and assortment of video and mechanical games.

Since it opened this past August, it's hosted some 400 birthday, church and office parties, Evans said.

Putt N Play also holds regular "school appreciation nights" in which students, teachers, and parents pay the regular price for games, but the school gets to keep part of the proceeds.

Debra Pressey and Anne Cook are News-Gazette staff writers and their column appears on Sunday. They can be reached at 351-5229.

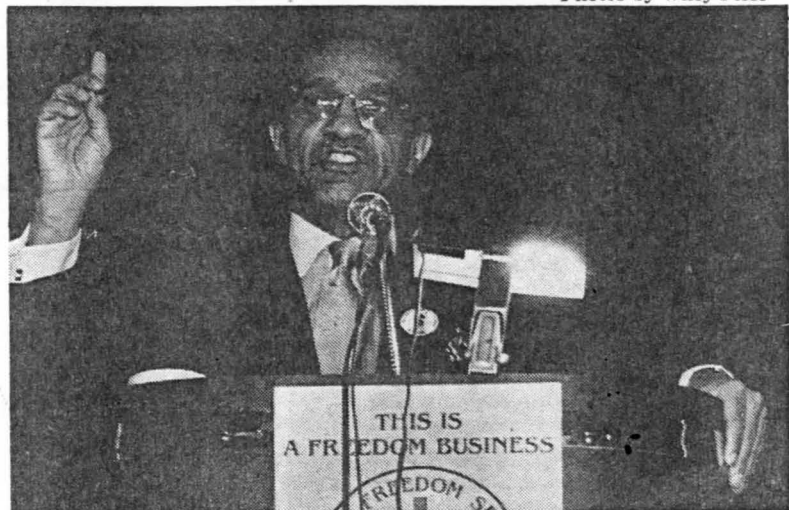


Photos by Wiley Price

More than 1000 people attended the "Buy Freedom" month rally Oct. 30 at Kiel Auditorium. Syndicated newspaper columnist and public television talk show host, Tony Brown (right) was the keynote speaker at the rally. October was designed "Buy Freedom" month.

Above, supporters sign pledge cards at the rally indicating their participation in the "Buy Freedom" month campaign.

The campaign, organized by the Council for the Economic Development of Black Americans, a non-



partisan, bi-racial group in support black entrepreneurs and professionals by buying Black Americans, a non-encourage black consumers to their goods and services.

Business Horizons Urbana Laundry Outgrows Wash

By MARY KAY SWEIKAR
News-Gazette Staff Writer

Shelton Laundry, 1104 N. Goodwin Ave., U, found its modest beginning with a wash tub, a scrub board and a determined mother who supported her family of six.

Those were the days when the black "Gone With the Wind" pots were used for washing, buttermilk and soda were used to remove rust, and lard and hot, soapy water was the antidote for black grease.

Since the late Mrs. Arah Mae Shelton started taking in laundry in her home back in 1942, the laundry has expanded its services considerably.

Sheltons currently has contracts with large institutions like the University of Illinois, Christie Clinic, Chanutte Air Force Base, Fort Harrison at Indianapolis, Ind., and even Illinois State University, during the summer.

According to Mrs. Verma Shelton, who owns the laundry business with her husband Albert, nearly 25,000 sheets, 15,000 bath towels, 12,000 pil-



ARAH SHELTON
... started business

low cases and 10,000 wash cloths are run through the laundry here every week.

This volume of washing, drying and pressing, which would take weeks with normal-sized household machines, is accomplished

with the aid of five 400-pound washers, five 200-pound dryers three flat irons, a folder, three flat press units for uniforms, a shirt and a pants unit, and 35 employes to keep all this moving.

Mrs. Shelton explained the workers can feed the pressing machine with about 100 sheets in 20 minutes, and they come out pressed, folded and stacked.

The other pressing units are used for hospital uniforms. Bulky towels, like the ones used for the UI Intramural Physical Education Building, are folded by hand.

Loved Her Work

Mrs. Shelton recalled how her mother-in-law, Arah Mae, loved her work: "I've never seen a person like her. She must have loved the business. If she could, she would have worked 'til the day she died. She said she would have made the deliveries if she could drive."

The late Mrs. Shelton, who was 72 when she died in 1973, worked until Sept. 19 of that year and died two months la-

ter.

A native of Covington, Tenn., the late Mrs. Shelton grew up with the laundry business.

Her daughter, Mrs. Frances Moreland, believes "Mother must have gone into the laundry every day of her life."

Mrs. Moreland said she was trained to iron a shirt every three minutes by the time she reached third grade. She recalls how her mother did the laundry for the UI sorority and fraternity houses back in the 1940s. Since she washed and pressed the students' personal items, they all were marked with some kind of identification.

"If we would ruin something, like shrink it, mother would always replace it," she said.

Mrs. Shelton reportedly put the entire family to work when the laundry business first began. Even seven-year-old Albert, the youngest, started the fire to heat the wash water. He later made laundry deliveries with his wagon, and eventually with a truck when he was older.

Larger Laundromat

A fire destroyed Mrs. Shelton's first simple laundry set up in the garage at her Urbana home. Undaunted, she took out a money loan and built a larger laundromat so she could expand the business.

Next came the modern wringer - washers and the electrical irons that eased the workload somewhat and encouraged the hard-working woman to take on more and more customers.

The Albert Sheltons have been working in the laundry since the 1950s. And as Mrs. Shelton explains it, they stay there each night until the work gets done.

Shelton himself seems impatient to get things done. He recently drove to Virginia just to ship back a new clothes dryer. He couldn't wait for any kind of shipment delay, Mrs. Shelton said.

The Sheltons seem content with their present work load, but if they contract more laundry, another Shelton Laundry may expand the present operation someday, according to Mrs. Shelton.

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FEATURES

04/29/99

“We have hung with this radio station through some real tough times, and we were determined to make it work. (We’ve) got to be doing something right.”

— J.W. Pirtle, one of the owners of radio station WBCP

X





News-Gazette photo by Darrell Hoemann

Founders of WBCP radio Lonnie Clark, left, and J.W. Pirtle, right, pose with long-time staffer Lynn Randall in the main studio of the station at 904 N. Fourth St.,

C. The AM radio station, which focuses on the black audience, continues to struggle but has been on the air for 10 years.

Still around

Area's only black-owned radio station marks 10th anniversary

By **ALDEN LOURY**
News-Gazette Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN — What looked like a risky bet 10 years ago appears to be a sure thing today.

In 1989, three local residents gambled on a floundering AM radio station, but thanks to loyal listeners, dedicated staff and a little luck, WBCP is still hanging around.

"A lot of people said we wouldn't make it two years," said J.W. Pirtle, one of the three men who bought the struggling station, changed its call letters and brought the area its only black-owned radio station and urban music format.

Lonnie Clark and the late Vernon Barkstall were Pirtle's partners. The station's call letters stand for the first letter in each of their last names: Barkstall, Clark and Pirtle.

While the station's struggles continue, the owners consider making it nearly 10 years a remarkable feat because none of them had any experience in the radio business.

"We have hung with this radio station through some real tough times, and we were determined to make it work," Pirtle said. "(We've) got to be doing something right."

The threesome's first successful move might have been focusing on a black audience craving a radio station that catered to its community, concerns and music preference. And its formula hasn't changed much.

"If we shut the doors today, I would feel like we did a lot for this community," Pirtle said.

WBCP features an urban contemporary format targeting those 30 and older, just as it did when it first went on the air in April 1990.

The station also features some blues, jazz and gospel.

The station has added the popular Straight Talk Live call-in program, focusing on issues affecting the local black community, and the Tom Joyner Morning Show, a popular syndicated music and talk show heard in more than 25 markets.

Such programming isn't available anywhere else on the radio dial locally, Clark noted. For that reason, Pirtle said, many black listeners consider WBCP to be "their radio station."

Clark said proof of the community's commitment to WBCP is evident on Sundays. Normally a slow day for most radio stations, Sundays have become WBCP's bread and butter, he said.

Several local black churches buy air time to broadcast their services or other events on WBCP. Pirtle said some churches also participate in a fund drive every year to help support the station.

But the station's base of support has stretched beyond the boundaries of the predominantly black neighborhoods north of University Avenue, Pirtle said. Listeners from as far away as Mahomet and St. Joseph often call in during station promotions, he added.

"For the most part, we get positive feedback," said Lynn Randall, the station's program director and one of many who have been with the station since the beginning.

Without the resources to keep a steady, full-time staff, Pirtle said the station has relied heavily on Randall and others to provide whatever time they could.

Randall, who also works for the city of Champaign, said she's always loved working in radio. And hearing the comments of listeners while at the grocery store and other public places keeps her enthusiasm high, she said.

"We don't get that anywhere else. So those are the kinds of things that keep me hanging on," added Randall, who started as a part-time announcer for the station.

Despite the commitment from staff and the community, the owners say there is still a long way to go to build that support with advertisers — people who ultimately decide the fate of any radio station.

"Without the advertising dollars, you have nothing," Clark said.

Both Clark and Pirtle, neither of whom claims to have earned a profit from WBCP, remain frustrated with the station's inability to attract advertising from several local businesses that serve the black community.

For a number of reasons, they believe the station is not getting its fair share of the area's advertising dollars.

"Since we've made it 10 years, we don't plan to give up," said Randall. "That makes us even more determined. We certainly have a ways to go in the market, but (being around 10 years) makes us want to try a little bit harder."

SECTION

C

Sunday
July 11, 1999

The News-Gazette

BUSINESS & AGRICULTURE

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Courtesy Vans high bidder for airport contract



News-Gazette photo by Darrell Hoemann

Courtesy Vans owner Timothy Pearson, foreground, stands with employees Sharen Tice, left, and Joel Callahan at Willard Airport in Savoy. Under a new contract that's expected to be signed soon, Courtesy will provide service from the airport.

■ Start-up expected to take Corky's place in Willard terminal

By DON DODSON
News-Gazette Staff Writer

SAVOY — Come August, there's likely to be a new taxi company with the contract for ground transportation services at Willard Airport.

For the last 10 years, Corky's Cab Co. has been the lone cab company with a presence inside the terminal — although other taxis sometimes waited outside for passengers.

But under a new contract that's expected to be signed soon, Courtesy Vans, a company recently started by Timothy Pearson, will provide service from the airport.

"This contract will allow him to be the exclusive solicitor of taxi transportation within the terminal building," said Bill Ferguson, business manager for Willard Airport.

"Passengers can pick up their baggage and go to the podium for him to make arrangements," Ferguson said. "This does not limit them from picking up the phone and calling for other taxis operating in the area."

But by operating from that podium within the airport, Pearson gets first crack at passengers, Ferguson said.

"He'll have to meet a certain number of incoming flights," Ferguson said. "Our first concern is to make sure the travelers are furnished with transportation."

Pearson, 29, of Champaign said he has two full-size vans and two mini-vans and expects to have four more

full-size vans soon.

"We'll always have at least two 15-passenger vans there," he said. The other vehicles will be used for luggage delivery and in-town shuttles, he said.

Pearson said the rate for passengers will remain the same as it was with Corky's: \$9 from the airport to anywhere in town.

Pearson said he's been in the transport business for less than a year. A part-time youth pastor with Harvest Church in Urbana, he was previously owner of The Clean Group, a commercial cleaning business.

He said he got the idea for a shuttle service while getting his car serviced. He started offering rides to people having their cars worked on.

As word got out, he was asked

See TAXIS, C-8

Taxis

Continued from C-1

whether he could provide shuttle service to the airports in Chicago and Indianapolis, as well as to the local one.

"I did all the driving myself for five months," Pearson said.

Since then, his company in Savoy has expanded to 10 employees, including drivers and office workers, he said.

Pearson bid \$650 a month, or \$7,800 a year, for the ground transportation contract. It's expected to be a three-year agreement that will run through June 30, 2002, said airport manager Joe Attwood.

Glen Roseman, owner of Corky's Cab Co. and A-1 Limousine, said he put in a "small" bid for the Willard contract but doesn't think airport business is as lucrative as it once was.

"I just don't believe the business is there any more, for what it costs to operate," Roseman said. "The payroll is pretty expensive for what you get out of there."

When he first had the contract at Willard, Chanute Air Force Base was still operating and Willard had more traffic.

"When Chanute was open, it

was a gold mine. We did a tremendous amount of business. At that time, we had 13 scheduled runs a day off the base to the airport," Roseman said. "Seventy percent of business from the airport was base-connected."

But when the contract came up three years ago, Corky's didn't bid on it — and no other response met the airport's requirements. Roseman, however, did reach a verbal agreement with the airport to have a van there to meet flights.

Roseman said he thinks the estimate of people needing taxi service at Willard is too high.

"They say there are 280,000 passengers in and out each year that need cab service. I think that's way out of proportion, misleading," he said.

'Captive market'

Many people who fly in have already reserved a rental car, Roseman said.

"Car rentals are huge business. Most people know the airport's out of town so they make arrangements to pick up a car," he said.

Ken Shorkey, who operates Special Care Transport, We

Care Cab Services and Mommy's Cab, said he too put in a bid for the ground transportation contract.

He said the contract seemed attractive because "you get a captive market with no competition." Plus, by being in the terminal, the company with the contract is close to airline personnel, who can provide additional business.

Redith Ewing, president of Yellow Transport Ltd., which operates Yellow Checker Cab in Champaign-Urbana, said she had hoped to bid on the contract but didn't get around to it.

Ewing, who operated her company from 1987 to 1990 and again from 1994 to now, said she has the business up for sale again — "not because it's not a viable business, but because I'm tired and want to do other things."

Still, she said she saw advantages to having the Willard contract.

"There's more to the business than soliciting people who come off the planes," Ewing said.

For example, if bad weather cancels a flight, airlines may arrange to have passengers taken by van to airports in St. Lou-

is, Chicago or Indianapolis.

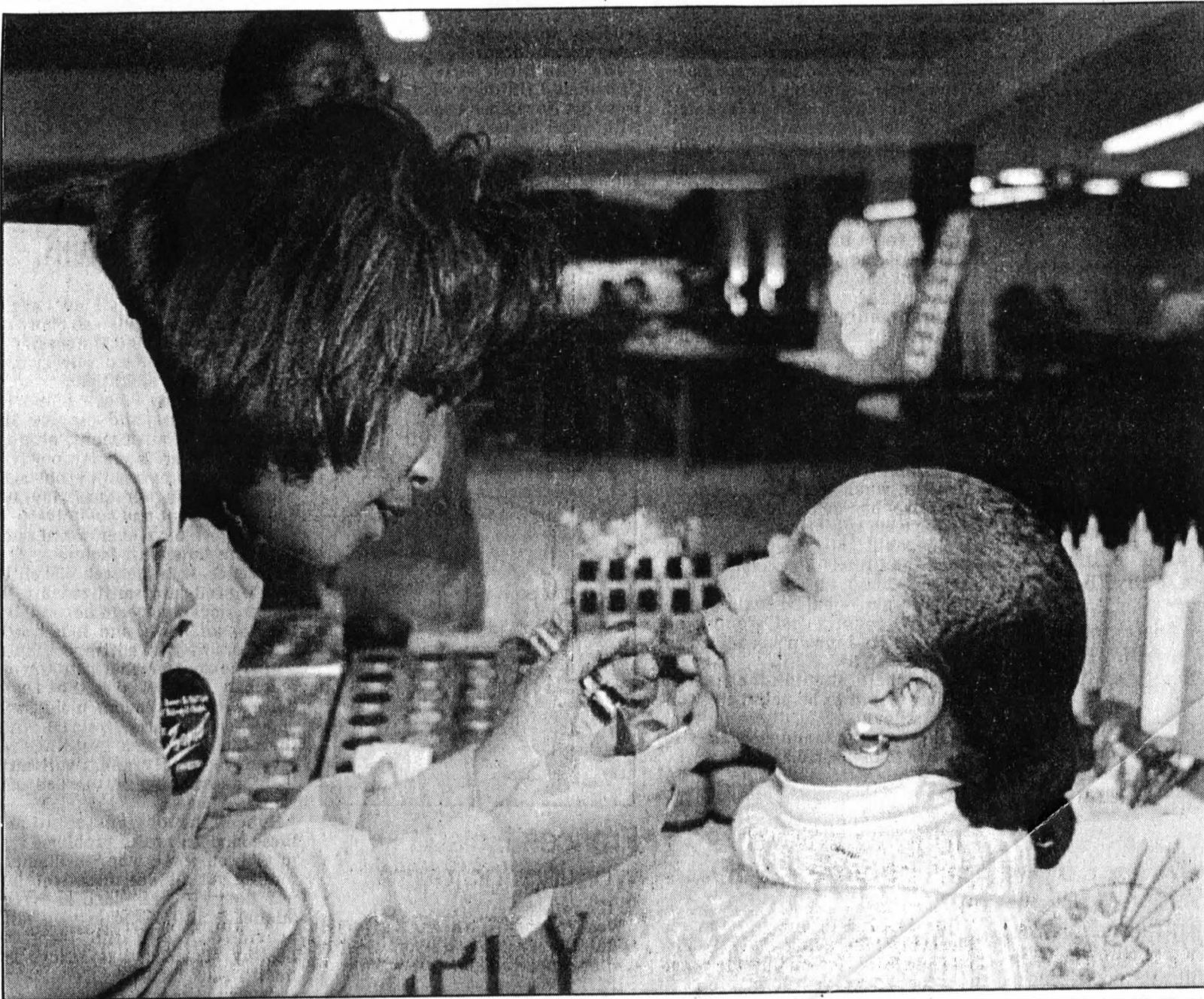
"That's where the contract pays off," she said.

Roseman said sometimes the airlines turn to Illini-Swallow, a charter bus company, when large groups of passengers have to be taken to other airports.

Even without the Willard contract, Roseman said his company has other opportunities for income at the airport, including delivering lost luggage for airlines and transporting packages for carrier services.

Altogether, 17 cab companies are licensed to operate in Champaign-Urbana, said Delora Siebrecht of Urbana's finance department.

Companies licensed to operate more than one cab include: Yellow Transport Ltd., eight; Going My Way Cab Co., six; Corky's Cab, five; Andy's Limousine Service, five; Starr Limousine, four; Courtesy Vans, three; and Admiral Limousine, three. Licensed to operate one vehicle each are: Big Orange Taxi, D&D Cab, Dynasty Transport, Elite Limousine, Kids Only Taxi, Mommy's Cab, Shannon Cab, Sista Cab, Special Care Transport and We Care Cab.



News-Gazette photo by Robert K. O'Daniel

Black businesses

Jewel Warfield-Nelson, owner of Simply Jewel, Complete Nail Care and Make-up Center in Champaign, applies make-up to Sandra Gray of Champaign. Parkland College's Black Student

2/10/94
Association invited two dozen businesses to the college on Wednesday to demonstrate that there are black businesses in the area. The event was part of Black History Month.

Businessman to attend minority round table

By The News-Gazette

CHAMPAIGN — A local businessman who plans to attend the Minority Business Round Table briefing in Washington, D.C., next week wants to know what issues are important to local minority business owners.

Bishop Nkereuwem Matthew, who operates the Global Gift Shop on the first floor of the Illinois Terminal building, 45 E. University Ave., C, plans to attend the luncheon and briefing on Wednesday.

He arranged the trip after reading that Curley Lee, president of Courtesy Ford-Lincoln-Mercury in Danville, was going.

Matthew said he wants to stress the need for better financing for minority business owners.

"Minority business owners have a hard time getting loans and do not receive proper training and encouragement," he said.

Participants will meet at the

02/01/02 CU-71 J
Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington, go to a luncheon at which Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle is the invited speaker; and attend a White House briefing on "Minority Businesses and The New Economy."

Matthew, 50, is originally from Nigeria and is a longtime resident of Champaign-Urbana.

In addition to operating the gift shop, he said he is chief executive officer of Matthew & Associates, a consulting firm that deals with social services, religious training and international business workshops.

He has been involved with the Brother's Keeper Community Resource Center in Chicago and is trying to make similar services available in Champaign-Urbana.

Those wanting to suggest business issues for Matthew to bring up during the trip to Washington may call him at the gift shop, 363-2310.

WORKPLACE

Where/how to get training

Schooling

■ Barbers/stylists: Education and training can be achieved through the military, or private or technical schools. A license or certification is required by all states after training. Training time is one to two years.

■ Hairdressers and cosmetologists: Education and training can be provided via private school or technical school. License or certification is required by all states. Training time requires one to two years.

■ Manicurists: Education and training can be provided through technical or private schools. Training time is three months to one year.

■ Shampooers: Training can be achieved through private or tech school. Training can take six months to a year.

At least a 10th-grade education is required by most states for these careers.

Internships/apprenticeships

Most states require all school graduates to work as an apprentice in a salon or shop before being certified or licensed.

Financial aid

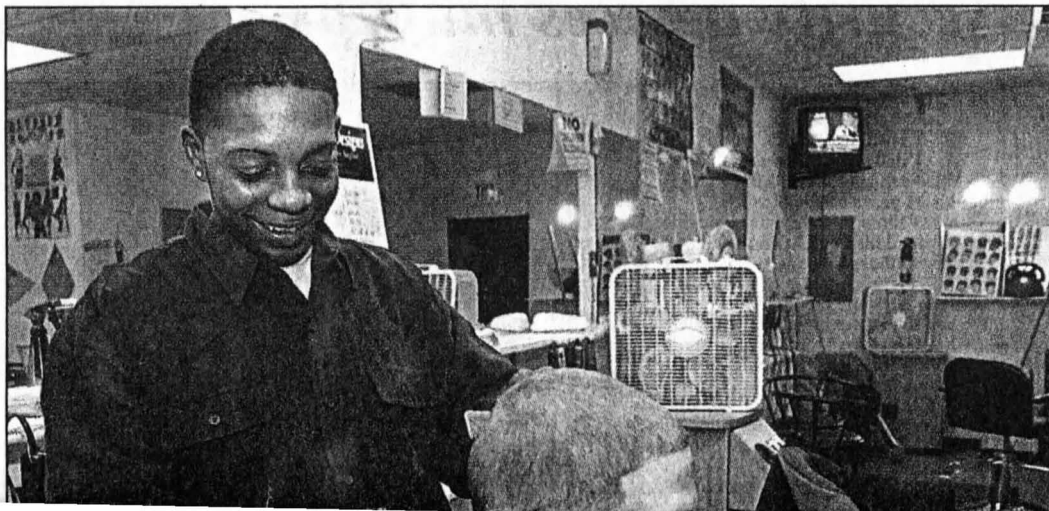
There are two types of financial aid: gift assistance, which does not have to be repaid; and self-help assistance in the form of deferred loans and work/study programs. Grants, scholar-

For more information on federal financial aid programs, call (800) 4-FEDAID

THE JOB CENTER

FOCUS ON CAREERS IN Cosmetology

By The News-Gazette and Knight Ridder Newspapers



Profile

Seon Williams
Champaign

Name: Seon Williams
Job: Barber

Company: The Whip Hair Designs and The Whip Cafe, both of which are owned by Williams, a licensed cosmetologist.

What led you to choose a career in barbering?

I used to be in the military and after I got out and worked a few jobs, I wanted to be independent and work on my own. I got involved in the Community Collaboration for Economic



WILLIAMS

Development through the University of Illinois and the City of Champaign and I was the first one out of that program to get my business started. (Williams graduated from Concept College of Cosmetology in Urbana; The Whip opened in 1999.)

What do you find most enjoyable about your job?

To interact with the community. I enjoy talking to the guys. I have a few UI basketball players in the chairs right now. I do a lot of people from the neighborhood, from campus, a lot of ministers. This is probably the

...programs and workshops are available for college and technical school students.

For most of this aid, high school seniors must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid, which is available from high school guidance offices and higher education financial aid offices.

Scholarships and other forms of financial aid are often available through programs sponsored by the student's state of residence, as well as through civic organizations and individual educational institutions.

Ask your guidance counselor or contact the financial aid office at the school of your choice for more information on available aid.

The Job Training Partnership Act is a federal program that will pay for training for people with low incomes as well as for dislocated workers. Contact the nearest office of the Department for Employment Services for information.

Future job opportunities

Nationally, growth for barber/stylists is expected to be slower than average.

Faster-than-average growth is expected for hairdressers, cosmetologists, manicurists and shampooers.

In general, the more skill and experience a person has, the more successful he or she will be in developing a clientele.

You have the power



News-Gazette photo by Robin Scholz

Seon Williams, owner of The Whip Hair Designs, Champaign, cuts the hair of patron Kevin Smith.

Cosmetology is more than teasing and dying hair. People successful in this competitive career mix a little counseling, consulting and a willingness to please customers with their cosmetology skills.

"Sometimes you have a great hairstylist who just doesn't know how to treat people. And that person is not going to be a success," said Olive Benson, owner of Olive's Beauty Salon in Boston, Mass.

"You have to be able to communicate, to listen to the customer and translate what she's saying onto her head. Because if you don't give her what she wants, she's not coming back."

Cosmetologists are skilled in caring for hair, skin and nails. Students practice hundreds of hours styling hair and applying makeup.

Barbers/stylists cut and style hair, as well as give shaves. Theory classes for all these students teach anatomy, electricity, chemistry and physics.

High school students interested in cosmetology or barber/stylist careers should study science and health. Business classes are also helpful.

After completing coursework and practice hours at a state or private school, cosmetology and barber/stylist school graduates are eligible to take the exam administered by state boards.

Skills required

Cosmetologists and barbers/stylists must have good manual dexterity, be good listeners and have a desire to please people.

Jobs in this field

Job titles	Place of work	Kind of work	Entry/Average salary*
Barber/stylist	Salon, shop	Cut, style and arrange hair, as well as give shampoos, massages and shaves.	\$16,437
Hairdresser, cosmetologist	Salon, shop	Provide beauty services for customers. Suggest hairstyles. Style, cut, shampoo, bleach and dye hair.	\$21,836
Manicurist	Salon, shop	Provide services related to nails, including trimming, filing, shaping, buffing, polishing and applying acrylics and gels.	\$10,000/15,000
Shampooer	Salon, shop	Shampoo hair and prepare it for cutting, dyeing, treatment or styling.	\$10,000/15,000

Recommended

Math
Chemistry
English

Local contacts

Readers seeking additional information about this week's career may contact the following area colleges for information about programs they offer.
University of Illinois . . . 333-0302

...only place we meet except for at church. I like the discussions that go on here, the dialogue and back-and-forth.

What do you find most difficult about your job?

Trying to please everybody. Everybody's so different, you know? And trying to give everybody that look they're going for, that's difficult. Bringing out their uniqueness.

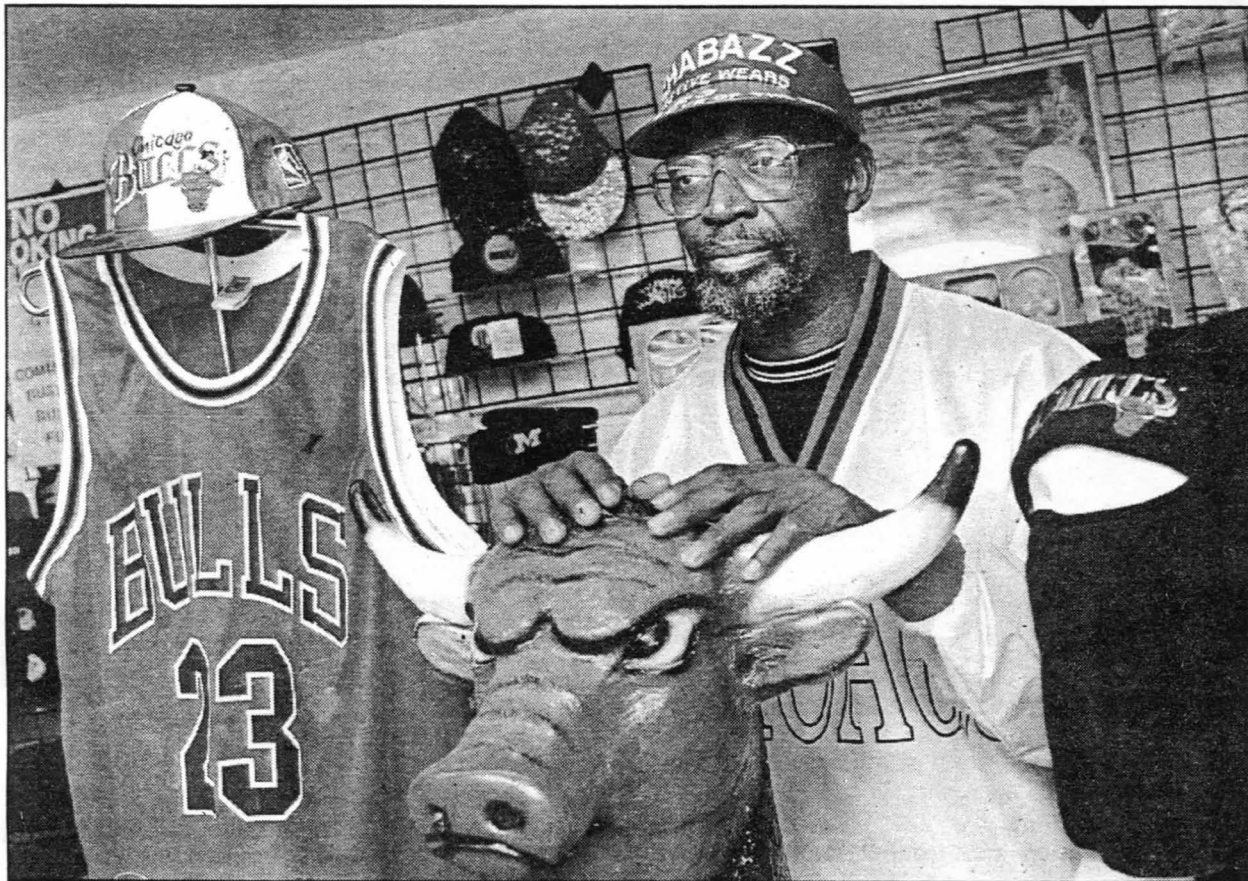
What do you think is the most important quality for someone considering a career in barbering?

Probably being dedicated and consistent. That's where we fall short on a lot of barbers and cosmetologists being dedicated to their clientele. You gotta be on the job. You're on your own a lot and it's hard for people to motivate themselves and be at work on time. I work with the guys I employ on promptness and customer care.

What advice would you give someone going into a career as a cosmetologist?

I would probably encourage them to go to barbershops and check out different styles they create and implement them into their own style. When I was starting out, I would go to other barbershops and watch other guys do designs and then I'd go home and work on it. Talk to different barber shop owners. (Williams has talked to kids at Thomas Paine and King schools about careers in barbering.)

National Council honors



News-Gazette photo by Francis Gardier

Nathaniel Shabazz, owner of Shabazz's Active Wear, poses in his store at 902 N. Fourth St., C.

He was there last week. Shabazz was among several minority business people honored Saturday.

s minority businesses

By ANTHONY KINNEY
News-Gazette Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN — Joe Page has wondered privately whether people notice how committed his auto dealership is to serving the community and customers.

Page, owner of Illini Lincoln-Mercury Sales in Champaign, was openly congratulated for his service Saturday.

The National Council of African-American Men honored Page's business and three others at the second annual Evening of Celebration and Recognition.

"Sometimes, when we try our best to provide service in the right way, and try to do the right things, you wonder if you're successful in doing that," Page said. "I think this is recognition of a job well-done."

Illini Lincoln-Mercury received the Business of the Year Award.

The Outstanding Community Service Award went to Lonnie Clark and J.W. Pirtle, owners of WBCP-AM radio station in Champaign.

The Madame C.J. Walker Award of Excellence went to Dawn Blackman, owner of Motherland Art and Design, at Church Street Square, 206 N.

Randolph St., C.

The Booker T. Washington Achievement Award went to Nathaniel Shabazz, owner of Shabazz's Active Wear, at 902 N. Fourth St., C.

The businesses were honored for a combination of their rapport with, impact on and contribution to the community, said National Council member Robert Walker Sr. They represent the best of the best in Champaign-Urbana, he said.

"I'm pleased to be in a position to recognize these individuals and their minority businesses," he said. "We don't do it enough."

Blackman, whose business sells cultural clothing replications and contemporary clothing in ethnic fabrics, said the honor was a surprise.

Her business is only three years old, so Blackman credited her visibility in the community as the reason for the honor.

"I was really pleased about that particular award," she said. "My mother was a graduate of Madame C. Jane Walker School (Chicago). She taught me a lot about (Walker), so that really made this award special."

Pirtle said the Community Service Award was fitting for

WBCP. The radio station is the mouthpiece for a sector of the community that would otherwise go unheard, he said.

"We're not doing enough, but we're doing as much as we possibly can," he said. "We're proud to be able to serve the community."

Pirtle said it was a special treat to receive the award from the National Council.

"They do a great job in this community," he said.

The event was also sponsored by the Urban League of Champaign County and the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce.

1981



News-Gazette Photo By John Dixon

**ALBERT SHELTON, OWNER OF SHELTON LAUNDRY, 1981 ILLINOIS SMALL-BUSINESS PERSON
...in Urbana facility — he and his mother started business in their back yard**

Hard Work Shelton's Winning Secret

By JOHN HALLADAY
News-Gazette Staff Writer
Albert E. Shelton of Urbana is a winner.

The 45-year-old Shelton, owner of Shelton Laundry Inc., 1104 N. Goodwin Ave., U, is the 1981 Illinois Small-Business Person of the Year.

Shelton was honored this past week during ceremonies co-sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Champaign and Urbana chambers of commerce. Along with that honor, Shelton also received a certificate of appreciation from Governor James Thompson in recognition of his "courage, tenacity, management initiative and desire to learn." Shelton also was named by the SBA as Small Business Subcontractor of the Year "in recognition of outstanding contribution and service to the nation's need."

The awards grew out of Shelton's operation of his laundry business, a firm that was begun in his backyard and now has annual sales of more than \$1.2 million.

Phil Ramos, manager of the SBA's Springfield branch office, said Shelton's accomplishments are

"a veritable Horatio Alger story."

Ramos said, "Al Shelton's ascent to the top in the commercial laundry industry reflects his unique understanding of all those ingredients which contribute to the profitability and longevity of a small business."

Shelton said Friday, "Anything you do, you have to work hard to get to the top — we're not at the top yet, but we're working to get to that point."

Asked to comment on the honors he has received, Shelton said, "I don't really have much to say — it's nice for the company; it's nice."

Shelton's involvement in the laundry business began in 1942 when his mother created the business to support a growing family.

Shelton still remembers his mother washing with a washboard and large kettle in the backyard of their home. That big black kettle now sits in Shelton's office as a memorial to his mother's hard work and a reminder of the firm's humble origins.

Today, Shelton Laundry is the largest Illinois commercial laundry south of Chicago.

Asked to comment on the secret of his success, Shelton said, "It's hard work and listening good," using "all the good ideas you can get" in your business, and "keeping your mind open."

Shelton said he aims to

"do my best" and to "give people good quality service."

Shelton said his desire for accomplishment was sparked when he was attending University High School in Urbana. While there, he won 13 varsity athletic letters, but he had to forego playing on the high school football team (of which he was captain) to re-establish the business after a fire in 1950.

Going to UHS, Shelton said, "made me want to do something" because his classmates were also obviously headed for success.

Two years after the 1950 fire, the business Shelton had re-established in the basement of the family home had generated enough work to build a block facility in the Sheltons' backyard.

After graduation from high school, Shelton rejected athletic scholarships to three universities to pursue the goal of being "the best laundryman in

the business."

The SBA says in a news release that "Shelton's marriage to Verma McNair in 1955 formed the basis of a strong management team. The Sheltons have come a long way from a joint income of \$35 a week, but success has only strengthened their teamwork and Mrs. Shelton remains indispensable to the business."

The business grew and began to penetrate commercial markets during the 1950s and '60s and was incorporated and relocated to its present 14,000-square-foot facility in 1968.

In 1972, Shelton assumed control and sole ownership of the company from his mother.

He retired the company's home delivery trucks and concentrated on penetrating commercial markets, upgrading equipment and increasing plant capacity.

By the end of 1972, Shelton had 23 employees, sales of about \$120,000, and con-

tracts with Chanute Air Force Base, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois State University and several local nursing homes.

As the SBA says, "Today, Shelton Laundry bears no resemblance to the backyard operation of 1942. Its washers process more than 3,300 pounds of laundry per hour and a fleet of trucks delivers the finished product within a 250 mile radius. Service is offered within 24 hours six days a week."

Sales in 1980 exceeded \$1.2 million, and the company's labor force has grown to 70, the bulk of them Vietnamese and minority individuals. "They needed jobs; we needed help — so it worked out good for both of us," Shelton said.

Shelton is now eligible to become National Small Business Person of the Year. The winner of that award will be announced in Washington during Small Business Week, May 10-16.

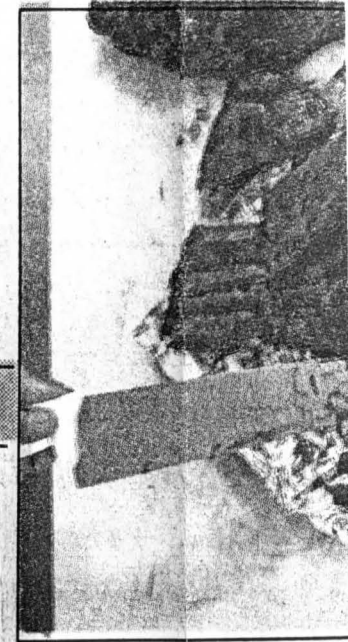
SECTION

C

Wednesday
May 4, 1988

Features

Barbecue



By Paul Wood
News-Gazette Staff Writer

Arnie Yarber's grandma started something that simmers to this day.

During the Depression, she set up a stand on Columbia Avenue, where her grandson now owns Po Boys, and sold "Southern lady" barbecue and hot tamales from a truckbed.

Hot tamales are hard to spot in Champaign nowadays; southern-style barbecue is here, though, now and forever, and even if it's transplanted, it has no contenders as our regional food.

"You can't find good barbecue down South anymore," Arnie Yarber says. "All the people that really did it came north."

Like Yarber's, Gene Heath's family comes from Mississippi. The owner of the Hickory Pit says that's the only state worth mentioning when it comes to ribs. "The Southern taste is more tangy and the rest is just too sweet," he says.

Willie Jackson, who owned a store on Route 45 before he opened Jackson's Lounge on First Street in 1980, says he feels sorry for people who don't understand those Southern secrets.

"OH, THERE ARE people that like the mild. But there's always a few that keep on ordering extra hot," he says approvingly. "I sell

beer."

Heath's Hickory Pit offers a full line of liquors, while Po Boys pushed soda pop, but barbecue and barbecuers in Champaign have more in common than a few peppers. Heath lives six doors from Jackson. Yarber and Jackson go to the same church. They all meet at Po Boys on Fridays, competitive urges paling besides reverence for well-made ribs.

And they all speak in kindly tones of Bernell Turner, whose Ri House was the place to beat (more often, to eat) until his health failed, the place opened only rarely, and he died.

"I never felt like it was a competition; we were too good friends for that," says Jackson, who was a chef at the old Urbana-Lincoln Hotel (now Jumer's) when Mr. Turner was head waiter.

"The town is large enough for everybody, and it's even easier when everybody is friends," says Yarber. In his case, day-to-day business isn't of the least concern — Po Boys only opens on Fridays and Saturday nights.

"IT'S NOT WORTH the overhead to hang around on the Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday syndrome, running the heat and nobody in the place," Yarber says. "Not when you can just rake it in on wee-

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Southern barbecue: A reverence for well-made ribs

ends.”

If Yarber has a comfortable crowd of customers — that includes his competitors — other barbecue specialists in town sport the lean and hungry look.

B'Ques Express, 1411 S. Neil St., is the new kid in Champaign. The new kid has

corporate backing; the take-out eatery is part of an East St. Louis concern.

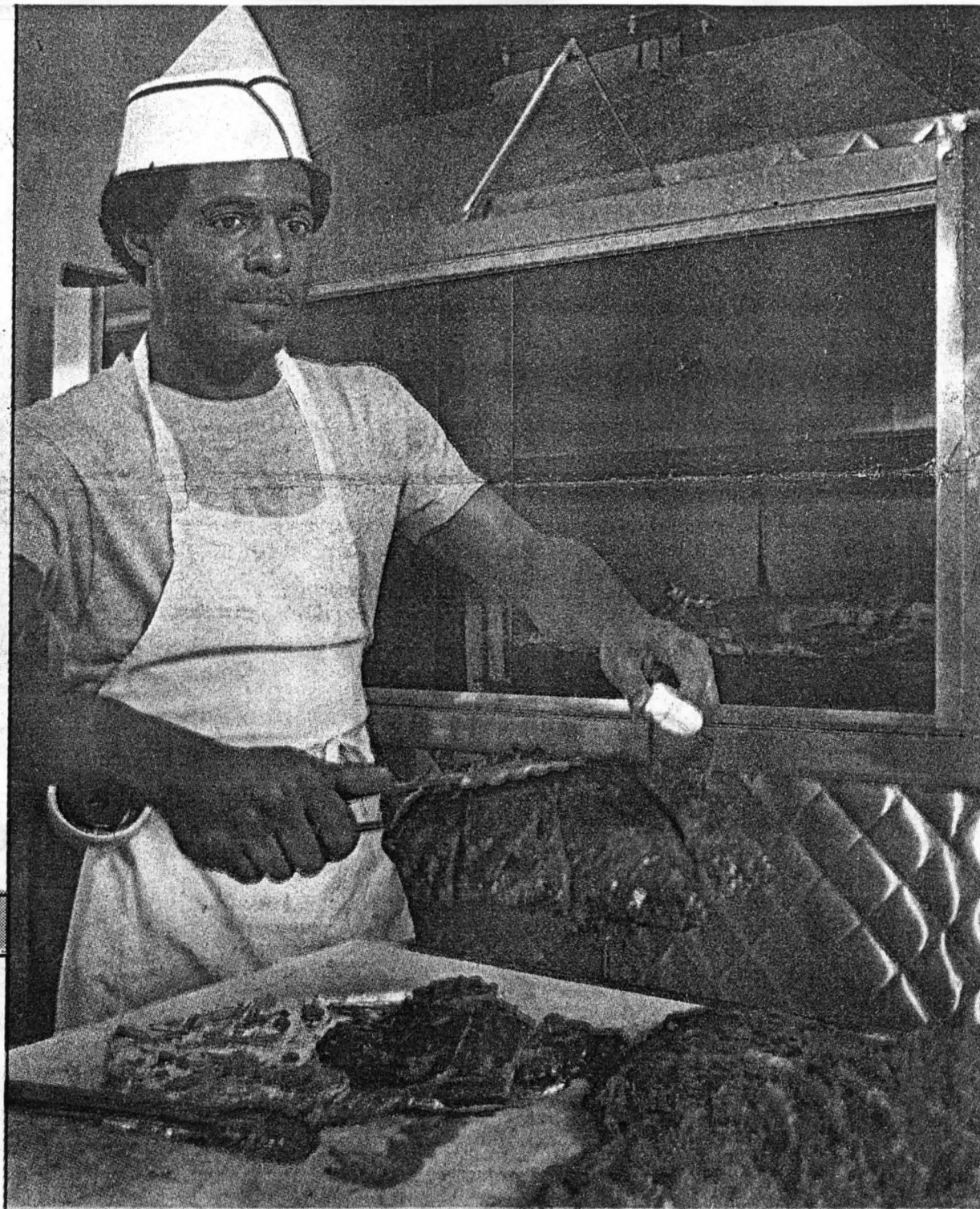
“We want to be considered the Domino's of barbecue,” says co-manager Kevin Barnett, who first came to town as a University of Illinois student.

Barnett says quality barbecue is something most dorm residents have not encountered, especially in a town where the choice is pizza, subs or more pizza. In eight months of south campus work, 70 percent of B'Ques' business has been delivery, and Barnett hopes to win some catering contracts.

“WE'VE DONE PRETTY well so far, and we hope to move on to military bases and other campuses,” he says. “At this stage, that means working 17 hours a day.” The store is open to 1 a.m., an hour later on Saturdays.

A similar approach has paid off for Lil Porgy, which has restau-

(See BARBECUE, C-6)



Plum-glazed gri

Any barbecue man worth his p
isn't about to divulge family secr
are two recipes from scholars at
Barbecue Institute:

1 broiler-fryer chicken
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 large onion, coarsely choppe
1 glove garlic, crushed
1 can (pound) purple plums
1 tablespoon cider vinegar
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ground ginger
½ teaspoon ground allspice
¼ teaspoon ground cloves
⅛ teaspoon Tabasco sauce

Line one-half of cooking grid
heavy-duty aluminum foil. On
side, place cut-up chicken on g
6 inches above medium coals; g

Herbed hambur

2 pounds ground beef
½ cup chopped fresh parsley
¼ cup chopped fresh chives
2 tablespoons rosemary
1 garlic clove, chopped
salt and pepper to taste
¼ cup olive oil

Eugene Heath Jr.,
assistant chef at Gene's
Hickory Pit, shows off a
freshly cooked rack of
ribs. Above, another rack
of Gene's Hickory Pit ribs
gets the final treatment
prior to the table.

Downtown Businesses

Cool Brothers Cleaners & Alterations

Walnut Street and then Sugar 1945-1982

Subby's Press Shop

Elmer Bracy Cleaners

Scott's Bowler - Custodian

Homer Clavis Royal Cleaners

D'Andre Beauty & Barber Salon North Hill

Eddie Jones
owner of
Coke

Wilkie Caraway - Iron and Dishwasher Brownies Store

Jordan's Barber Shop across from Kuhns 1920s

RR and African American
RR employees

Bernice Chambers father

McKinley - husband to Mary

Erna Clark's husband

~~Erna~~ Wellie Holt - then Clifford Jacobs

then own sanitary business

Les Jamerson