



State of North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission Newsletter

July 2009 Issue 7

Our best wishes go out to those ABC store managers who have recently retired and congratulations on a job well done!

We also wish to recognize other ABC managers and industry representatives who have long years of service and continue in the ABC system in North Carolina.

Orange County Launches Re-usable Bag Pilot Program



The NC ABC Commission approved the Orange County ABC Board to sell re-usable bags in a pilot program.

3,000 bags were ordered at a cost of \$1.09 each including printing, shipping and handling charges. The bags started selling in the ABC stores in mid-May.

The bags hold several heavy bottles without any problems. Cardboard separators taken from the cases received can be used to separate bottles within the bags.

A total of 169 bags were sold at cost from mid-May through June 30. The bags are in eight retail stores. Board members, employees and the Chamber of Commerce were given bags to help promote the program.

Each time the bag is used/re-used it saves the Board at least one plastic bag which cost about 14 cents. We encourage customers to bring in their re-usable bags.

Anyone interested in purchasing re-usable bags should shop around for the best price. For additional information, you may visit the supplier's website at: www.onebagatatime.com.

There are also bags with dividers built-in. However, they are not part of the pilot program due to cost considerations.

Larry Mullis
Concord ABC
Cabarrus County
40 Years



Larry recalls talking with his Minister neighbor in 1969 "over the backyard fence" about his new job at the ABC store. The Minister replied "he would go to hell" for working there.

After his military time, Larry began working at Advance Home and Auto in Concord (known today as Advance Auto) in 1965 where he sold appliances and by 1969 was Manager. After a conversation with George Stanton, Supervisor of the ABC store, he was offered a job as a clerk earning \$95 per week. A new ABC store was being opened in June of 1969 and new employees were needed.

Larry became Supervisor in 1995 replacing Walt Steele. One of the first things he did was replace the old rotary dial telephones with more modern ones. When he became Supervisor, the ABC system had two stores; today there are five.

Larry has a married daughter who works at the N.C. State Veterinary Hospital in

Raleigh where she is in charge of the Virology Lab. He enjoys his home workshop and is skilled in many areas such as electrical and heating and air conditioning.

Larry credits the success of the ABC system in Concord to good board members and to the contributions of employees over the years.

Larry has no plans to retire any time soon.

Concord ABC opened in 1967. Annual sales are approximately \$9.2 million.

Concord is home to the Concord Mills Shopping Center, a 1.4 million square foot shopping mall, and the number one tourist attraction in North Carolina.

Paul Banta
Pitt County ABC
37 Years, 8 Months, 11 days



Paul's first job was with A.B. Whitley Painting Company in Greenville; then after a year or so he started with Ken's Furniture Store in delivery, sales and bookkeeping while attending East Carolina University at night. His

employer was paying his tuition and book costs in college and his salary was \$50 per week. He worked there from 1967 - 1971.

Paul was hired by Administrator John Harris on December 20, 1971. His duties included assisting the bookkeeper, Joan Respass, in the office and floating around to different stores as Relief Manager. In 1977, he became the Manager at the Arlington Street store and remained in that capacity for 10 years. In 1987, John Harris retired and Tommy Fisher was appointed Administrator. Paul was then relocated to the Memorial Street store next to the office. He went back and forth between the store and the office where he assisted Joan. Paul later assisted with warehouse and ordering duties during Tommy's illness.

In 1993, Joan was appointed Administrator and Paul was promoted to Assistant Administrator where he continued with warehouse and ordering duties. In 2002, Joan retired and Paul was appointed Administrator.

Paul recalls when the ABC Board got their first Sweda computerized cash register system from Carolina Cash Registers (now Carolina Data Systems). With a master register in the office, price changes could be entered in one time. The register was then carried around to each of its 10 stores, where it was plugged into store registers for price downloading, a tedious and time consuming process.

Paul is the fifth Administrator at the Pitt County ABC Board since its inception in 1935. He and his wife are enjoying their

retirement, taking life a day at a time. They have three children and nine grandchildren to keep them busy.

Pitt County ABC opened in 1935. Annual sales are approximately \$13.2 million.

Pitt County is home to East Carolina University, the second-largest university in North Carolina. The main campus is about 520 acres and located in the town of Greenville.

Al Vaughan
Republic National
37 Years



Al entered the distilled spirits business in January, 1972 with Ralph Elmore Associates, located in Richmond, Virginia. He represented leading brands such as Early Times, Canadian Mist and Jack Daniels in eastern North Carolina. Lou Pucillo also worked for Ralph Elmore and when Mr. Elmore died, Lou was able to keep the company together by setting up a brokerage in the mid 1970s. Al joined Lou in the new brokerage and continued his duties until his retirement in February, 2009.

The spirits business was Al's second career, sports being his first. He graduated from Ahoskie High School where he had achieved All-Conference in football, basketball and baseball. The News and Observer named him All-East football running back. The team won the state's Class-A championship in his senior year.

After a short time at East Carolina University, Al was drafted into the Army in 1953 and during his time at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, was involved with their basketball team. On Easter Sunday morning, he was transferred to Korea where he became involved with the Special Services branch. Here he participated on their football, basketball and baseball teams. He was second baseman on the baseball team that won the Far East All-Army Championship.

In 1955, Al enrolled at Chowan College and started in all three areas of football, basketball and baseball. He was voted the school's Outstanding Athlete in his freshman year. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1957 and was named to the Chowan College Hall of Fame. It was at Chowan College that he met his bride, Bea, to whom he has been married since 1957.

In the fall of 1956, Al signed up for a football scholarship with the University of Richmond but returned to East Carolina University in the summer of 1957 after their offer of a full baseball scholarship. While attending East Carolina he was named All-North State Conference in his junior and senior years. In his senior year, he was named co-captain of the team. He was named All-American in baseball by the NAIA

(National Association Intercollegiate Athletics). He was also inducted into the East Carolina University College Hall of Fame and graduated in 1959 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Education with a minor in Psychology.

Al began his coaching and teaching career in Franklin, Virginia and stayed in this capacity for two years. In the second year, he was head coach of the football team. He then moved back to North Carolina and taught and coached in Wilson for two years. In 1963, he was contacted by his former high school coach in Ahoskie who was being promoted to principal, and offered the position of Ahoskie High School Football Coach and Athletic Director - the turning point of his coaching career.

In 1965, Al's new football team was the State runner-up. In 1966, they were undefeated and the State's double AA Champs and in 1970, were the State AA Champs. He was named Head Coach of the East-West All-Star Game at the North Carolina High School Athletic Association meeting in Greensboro.

After the 1970 school year, Al left coaching and leased a drive-in restaurant until he began his distilled spirits career in 1972.

A highlight of Al's Distilled Spirits career was winning the Brown-Forman National Military Sales Award in 1982. He called on all military bases in Virginia for eight years in addition to his regular eastern North Carolina ABC sales duties.

Al is an Ahoskie, Hertford County, North Carolina native where he lives

today with his bride of 52 years. They are the parents of two sons with several grandchildren.

His thoughts on retirement: "After 37 years of listings and cases of our brands sold by the North Carolina ABC store employees, I enjoyed every call and many friendships made over the years. I thank you and miss seeing you."

B. J. Smith
Columbus ABC
Polk County
25 Years



B.J. retired in 2007 and has been working 20 hours per week until his final retirement June 30, 2009.

After several jobs here and there, B.J. worked at the Brevard ABC store in the '70s for a year under Manager Bill Hill. He then worked managing an equipment rental business in Hendersonville.

In December 1983, he was hired as Manager at the Laurel Park ABC store upon their opening during a 15 inch snow storm. He states there were two employees that day; one acted as clerk in the store and the other pushed cars in the parking lot during the snow storm.

In the spring of 1998, he worked a few months at the Lake Lure ABC store assisting while some of their employees were out sick. Later that year, he started as Manager at Columbus ABC where he has been employed until his retirement.

B.J. and his wife Sybil have two children and two grandchildren. They hope to enjoy their time between Columbus and a retirement home at Lake James and spend more time with their family.

Columbus ABC opened in 1990. Annual sales are approximately \$530 thousand.

Columbus has a historic courthouse, finished in 1857, that is one of the oldest still in use in North Carolina

Craven County ABC
Vanceboro Store - New
8001 Main Street



**Orange County ABC
Hillsborough Store - New
112 John Earl Street**



**Highlands ABC Supervisor
Sandy Baty and Rick Holt with
Republic National**



**Highlands ABC Grand Opening
at Highlands Plaza**



Send any retirement and other announcements for inclusion in future newsletters to Guy Potts guy.potts@abc.nc.gov or call 919-218-0748.