By ROLAND MANUEL
News Editor

It has been said that if you want something done, give it to a busy man.
Well, if you want something done that will definitely benefit your community, give it to Ville Platte's own Norwood Davis.

This enigmatic people person is not a native son of Evangeline Parish.
He was born in St. Landry Parish and received his primary education in Opelousas. His high school years were spent at the St. Landry Training School, where he graduated when he was 15 years old.

Norwood Davis was brought up in a family where respect for others was a way of life and being charitable was simply a way of being thankful for what you had. Working for and with people was what his family knew best.

Davis' father was the first black mortician in Opelousas and his mother was an educator. They both knew the value of working hard to be the best you can be, and this philosophy was instilled in their children’s minds at an early age.

When Norwood graduated from high school, he didn’t waste any time before moving on to enroll at Southern University at Baton Rouge. When he first started college, he thought of becoming a doctor, so his first courses were in Pre-Med. It wasn’t long, however, before he changed his mind and decided to emulate his mother. He graduated from Southern in 1951 when he was only 19 years old with a degree in education.

Davis got his Masters degree at that same school, and went on to get his Plus 30 at Texas Southern University at Houston. He furthered his knowledge even more at LSU and USL.

Norwood’s first job as a teacher was in Evangeline Parish was at James Stephens High School, which was known at that time as the Ville Platte Colored School. He taught science and coached basketball and football at this school until he had to go into the Army because of the Korean Conflict.

While in Korea, he served as an Administrative Specialist in Regimental Headquarters and coached his units basketball team. During his stint in that position, he lead these hoopsters to their final victory as champion, of the entire 8th Army.

When he completed his tour of duty in the service, Davis returned to his position as teacher at James Stephens, where he became assistant principal in 1966. He remained in this position through the period of integration. He then

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Recognition does come...Norwood has the keys to several cities, Letters of Commendation from many areas, is on the Diocesan Pastoral Council, the National Education Association's Lobby Team and was the charter president of the Evangeline Association of Educators, among many others.

Right now, Davis is still working. He is currently a staff member of the Evangeline Parish Alternative Center for Education, where he works toward changing young students negative attitudes in a positive direction. He also teaches math, language arts and reading.

At this point, we had to put our conversation on hold...it was time for Norwood Davis to get on the highway and head toward Atlanta, Georgia, for a multi-state meeting of one the commissions he belongs to....

As a closing note, it is realized that the Davis work and study ethic has been passed on to five children: Darryl is now chief comptroller for Austin Industries of Houston. Cheryl is an investigative agent with the IRS, also in Houston. Brynolyn is a registered pharmacist and medical doctor. Brandon is a Junior at VPHS and Lena Irene is in the seventh grade at Westminster at Opelousas.

This is one family that is definitely on the right track...pass it on.