

A. Moseley
Hussey

By BILL WOMBLE.

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Hussey is the 42-year-old dynamic executive secretary of the Wilson Chamber of Commerce. He's also a successful Wilson businessman—an independent oil jobber—whose business in the past 14 years has helped keep the big companies in line on prices of gasoline and lubricants.

When the Wilson Chamber found itself in dire straits in 1960, it turned to Hussey, the ex-tank company commander in General George Patton's World War II European Theater Army. It found the right man.

Results Quick In Coming.

Virtually surrendering his business interests, Hussey took hold. Working at the start on a part-time basis, he sparked the Chamber into action, and in a few short months, results were spectacular.

The Chamber membership soared and was revitalized. Its budget went up from a puny \$14,000 to a healthy \$58,000 for the current year. It has been instrumental in bringing in a sizable amount of new business and industry to Wilson.

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"But I don't deserve the credit. The work has been done by our committees and by individuals who could see the opportunities and were able and willing to help."

When he took the job as acting executive secretary in 1960, Hussey promised only that he would give the task a conscientious "good try." His business needed most of his time.

He soon found, he said, that cooperation of his fellow chamber members was so enthusiastic that he couldn't in good faith let them down by quitting while the rehabilitation plan was still in its infancy.

So when last June rolled around, and a professional secretary still had not been found, the Chamber directors persuaded him to assume the task full-time. He was put on the payroll.

Two Jobs For A Tank Man.

Today, he reports to his oil firm offices at 7:30 a.m., works there until about 9 o'clock. Then he turns the company business over to his brother, Charles, and goes to the Chamber offices, a remodelled home near the business district. (Hussey, incidentally, was instrumental in the purchase of this site several years ago. Long-range plans call for a modern Chamber building here within the next few years.)

Moseley Hussey is a native of Wilson, born here in 1919, son of Mrs. H. Moseley Hussey and the late Mr. Hussey. His mother lives here today, and he describes her as the "hardest working person I've ever known." His father died in 1941, while he was in officers training school in Kentucky, learning to be a tank commander.

Upon graduating from high school in Wilson, Hussey enlisted in the United States Army and was assigned to the Tank Corps. He worked himself up to the point he could apply for a commission, although he'd never been to college and had no degree.

Winning his commission, he was assigned to the Eighth Armored Division of Patton's Third Army, and was sent overseas to Europe. There, he fought

through several major engagements, including the crucial Battle of the Bulge, to the link-up with the Russians at the Elbe River.

Out of the battles, Hussey, as commander of a medium tank company of 180 men and officers, won the Bronze Star and several other decorations. In all, he was in four major engagements.

Family Man On the Go.

During the war, Hussey married a home-town girl, Marguerite Poindexter Lane. They now have two children, Martha Lane Hussey, 16, and Hugh Moseley Hussey III, 12. The family also includes a dachshund, Willie, acquired in recent years.

Since his return from the Army in 1946, Hussey has been active in many civic undertakings.

He's been president of the Wilson Kiwanis Club, president of the local Elks Club, chairman of virtually every fund-raising drive in Wilson for several years, and very close to the American Red Cross drives.

He explains the latter thusly: "When I was in Kentucky, at officers' training, I received word my father was critically ill. I had no money, no way to get home. I turned to the Red Cross. They told me to start packing, and they'd look after the rest. They did. I've always had a soft spot in my heart for the Red Cross."

Interest Burns In Midnight Oil.

When he served in Europe, Hussey was a Captain, in charge of a company of 180 men and officers. His own tank crew consisted of himself and five men.

After the war, Hussey returned to Wilson and accepted a travelling job with the Pure Oil Company. He continued in this until 1948, when he went into the oil business as an independent dealer.

Soon, he was in both the retail and wholesale end of the business. He opened a filling station here under his own brand name. It is now a part of the "Tops" chain of stations, controlled by Durham interests.

Hussey served as President of the Chamber of Commerce in 1955, and found he liked that type of civic activity. So, when, years later, the Chamber found it couldn't lure a suitable professional man to take the secretaryship because of the low membership and small budget, Hussey volunteered to try the job on a temporary basis, and with the understanding it would take up just a part of his time.

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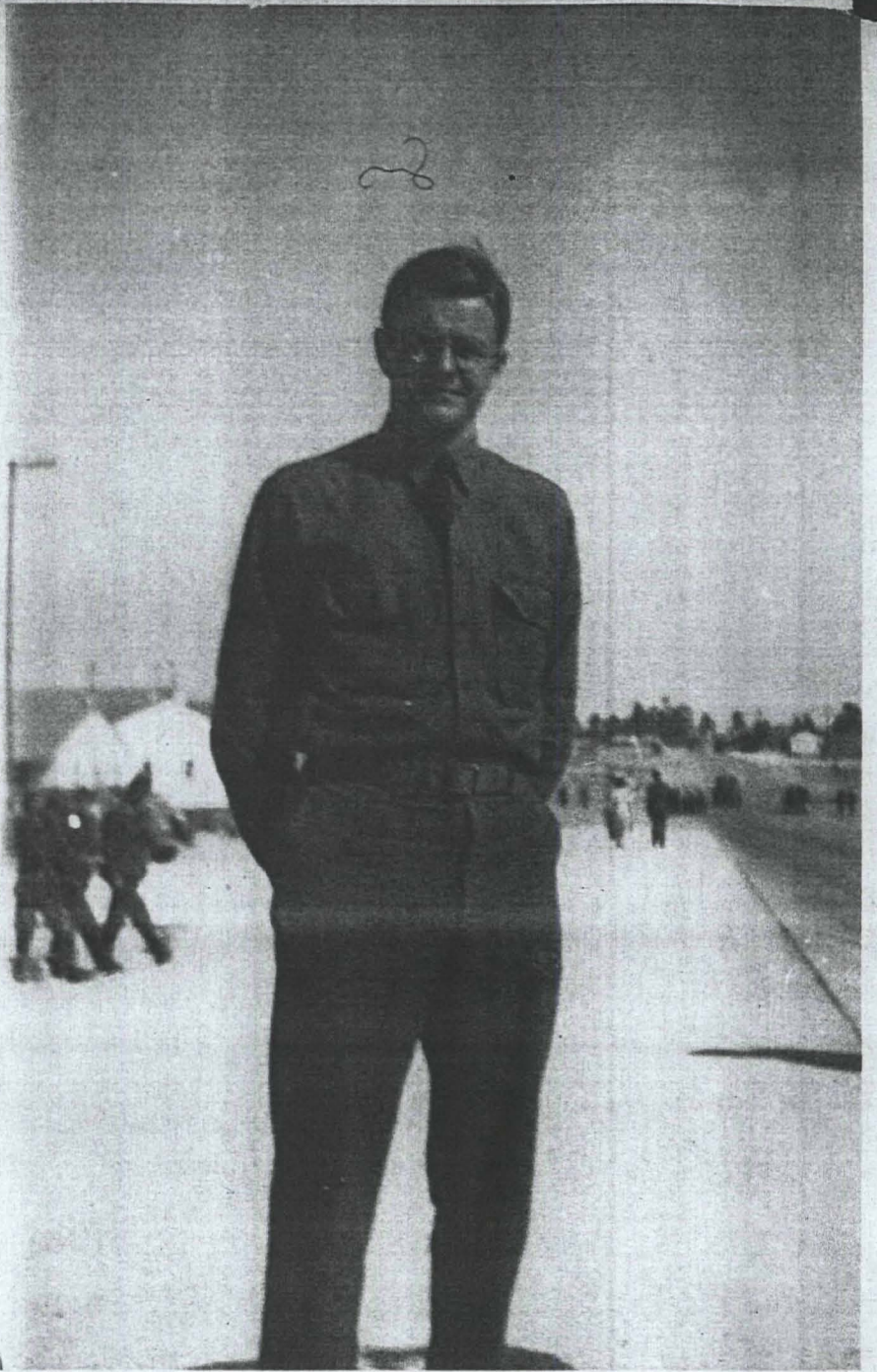
"We decided to shake things up," he said. "We burned plenty of midnight oil, but we soon got results."

A City Aims For Leadership.

Wilson, says Hussey, is the logical leader of its area, because of its location and the facilities it offers. It is the nation's largest tobacco market, has the most grain-handling facilities of any place on the East Coast, is served by two railroads (Atlantic Coast Line and Norfolk Southern), is going to get this year a \$350,000 sweet potato flaking plant, is about to build a \$5 million hospital and medical center. Also, it already has a 500-bed State-operated tuberculosis sanitarium, a fine four-year college in Atlantic Christian, and hopes to get the proposed new State School for the Deaf. There are more than 31,000 persons living in the city, a large increase over that of a decade ago. The county population is about 58,000.

Hussey, a past president of Kiwanis and the Elks, has served as chairman of nearly every fund-raising drive Wilson's had in the past 15 years.

He's a member of St. Theresa Catholic Church. He belongs to the Wilson Country Club and was a charter member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce.



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