Congratulations
Sue Crane

Celebrating 40 Years

Sue Crane and the Kennett Hearing Aid Center

Celebrating 40 years this month as Office Manager at the Kennett Hearing Aid Center is Sue Crane.

Crane, whose daughter is the owner of the business started work for the hearing center in the year 1978. At the time, the business was owned by a woman named Juanita Mason. She and Crane became good friends and Crane worked for her until the year 1989.

"I loved (her) dearly. Just like a mother." Crane said.

It was in 1989 that Mason decided to sell the business and Crane thought it would be a good business for her daughter, Shawn Blake, to buy, which she did. Blake is a National Board Certified Hearing Instruments Specialist in Hearing Instrument Sciences.

The location has been in several locations since opening including the old Cotton Boll Hotel building and the old True Value Store building on St. Francis. five years ago this month, the center opened at its present location at 607A Billington Road.

"I found out I loved the people. I loved the work." she said, adding that she also loved seeing the expressions on the people's faces when they could hear after so long.

"They'd come in and couldn't hear anything and then tears would roll down their face," Crane said, continuing. "I can't even imagine being anywhere else but here. I've worked here so long and my daughter said even if she has to roll me down here in a wheelchair I've got to work."

When asked what changes she's seen since beginning work for the center, she said that when she first started what was available were the larger over the ear hearing aids. During the years, there were improvements in the hearing aids going eventually to the all in the ear, then the canal aid, and now to the computerized hearing aid.

Although Crane doesn't work on the hearing aids herself. She leaves this to her daughter. She is kept busy managing the front office, taking care of the patients and making the appointments.

Crane shared the memory of her first day at work.

"She just gave me a push that I could do it (Mason). The first day I started, she went to Florida and left me at the office to sell batteries. She went for a week and I didn't know one battery from the other but the people that came in would tell me what size they would need. Them I learned to clean them. It was a scary situation there for awhile if someone came in and had a question I didn't know." Needless to say, when her boss came back, everyone told her what a good job Crane did in running the office in her absence.

"I can't believe it's been 40 years," she said.

Other jobs Crane has held include working at wal Mart and at the Quality Stamp Center.

Crane grew up in Peach Orchard, Mo., and has been married to Jerry Crane for 58 years. Together, they have three children, Shawn, Scott and Tori and six "beautiful, beautiful, grand-children and one great granddaughter."

In closing, Crane said, "I've had a wonderful, happy life."

Sue Cane

Kennett Hearing Aid Center
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