



LONGACRE

## You can have it all says Kim Longacre

By EMILY ANDERSON  
*Special to the Press*

Kim Longacre's wide range of interests and experiences in different fields provide a positive image for daughters, Taylor and Blake.

Longacre recalls a diverse past. Although she majored in psychology and minored in art when in college, her first job after school involved doing foreclosures for a law firm in Oklahoma. She always knew that she would have a career.

As a child, her own working mother influenced and encouraged her. Longacre's grandmother also inspired her. Her grandmother was widowed when her three children were small and she never remarried. She worked to support them during a time when that wasn't always popular or common.

From a young age Longacre had dreamed of owning her own business. When she moved to Martin this dream was realized with the opening of the coffee shop, The Looking Glass. The grocery store that she man-

aged while in high school in Texas helped her prepare for being the owner of a coffee shop. Not only did she learn how to juggle several things at once, she also learned the nuances of personal relationships.

Working in, but not being from Weakley County, posed a challenge at first for Longacre. People in this area like to know whom you are related to. Because she was from a big city, she didn't understand this in the beginning.

"Now that I have had a local business and I'm on the school board, I get this. I guess it took me being fully integrated as a Weakley Countian," Longacre says.

Longacre's daughters are learning like she did at a young age.

"She has shown me how to be strong and confident, and those are some of her best traits," daughter Blake says. Her other daughter Taylor adds, "My mother has always worked hard and tried her best, and she has inspired me to do the same."

Longacre enjoys the arts, working on her house, knitting and ceramics. In addition to being a member of the Weakley County Board of Education, she works with Historic Martin, and her daughters also volunteer for the organization.

In May, The Looking Glass will be closing. Longacre will begin a new career in real estate.

"I hope my girls have realized you really can have it all," she says.

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## Audrey Roberts, no stranger to leadership

By EMILY ANDERSON  
*Special to the Press*

At age 88 Audrey Roberts seems like a typical grandmother. But at a time when most women were struggling for equality in the workplace, she was vice president of Martin Manufacturing. In that capacity she took a leadership role in making the workplace safe for the workers.

Eighty percent of the workers were women who sewed on the machines. Roberts felt a bond with them and worked to make sure they were treated well. She still is in contact with many of the people that worked there.

"They were a great group of people. No one could talk about them in front of me because I knew how hard they worked. They took care of each other" she says.

The friendships Roberts has forged with women are



ROBERTS

important to her. She recently visited a friend from high school who she has remained in contact with through the years. "We might pick up the phone and talk at 11 at night."

In talking with Roberts, one can see her love for people and community. During the years she has worked for United Way, the WLJT TV board, the Carl Perkins Board, the Music Guild and the Martin Business Asso-

ciation. She was the third woman invited to join the Rotary Club.

When asked who her influences were growing up, she immediately mentioned her teachers. Students were quick to do what teachers asked and expectations were high.

She attended school and community college in Claymont, Del. With a degree in business she honed her skills in a variety of jobs before becoming vice president of the corporate office in Philadelphia. She transferred to the Martin plant in 1969 and remained there for 34 years. After three years at the Martin Manufacturing plant she was promoted to president.

During her long career, she also had another career as mother to five children. She retired in 2002, and enjoys spending time with her children and grandchildren.

"A woman with opinions had better develop a thick skin and a loud voice."

Anya Seton, The Winthrop Woman

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