

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

CARRIAGE SERVICES, INC.  
(Name of Issuer)

CLASS A COMMON STOCK, PAR VALUE \$.01 PER SHARE  
(Title of Class of Securities)

143905-10-7  
(CUSIP Number)

Check the following box if a fee is being paid with this statement: [X].

CUSIP No. 143905-10-7

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1) Name of Reporting Person  | Melvin C. Payne                      |
| S.S. or I.R.S. Identification No. of Above Person  |                                      |
| 2) Check the appropriate box if a member of a Group  | (a)N/A<br>(b)N/A                     |
| 3) SEC Use Only  |                                      |
| 4) Citizenship or place of organization  | U.S.A.                               |
| Number of Shares   | (5) Sole Voting Power 504,771        |
| Beneficially Owned   | (6) Shared Voting Power 124,999      |
| by Each Reporting  | (7) Sole Dispositive Power 504,771   |
| Person with  | (8) Shared Dispositive Power 124,999 |
| 9) Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by<br>Each Reporting Person<br>(represents shares of Class B Common Stock<br>which are convertible at the holder's option<br>into shares of Class A Common Stock on a<br>share for share basis) | 629,770                              |
| 10) Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9)<br>Excludes certain Shares  | N/A                                  |
| 11) Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row 9  | 8.0%                                 |
| 12) Type of Reporting Person   | IN                                   |

SCHEDULE 13G - TO BE INCLUDED IN STATEMENTS  
FILED PURSUANT TO RULE 13d-1(c)

- Item 1(a). Name of Issuer:  
Carriage Services, Inc.
- Item 1(b). Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:  
1300 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 1500  
Houston, Texas 77056
- Item 2(a). Name of Person Filing:  
Melvin C. Payne
- Item 2(b). Address of Principal Business Office or, if None, Residence:  
1300 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 1500  
Houston, TX 77056
- Item 2(c). Citizenship:  
U.S.A.
- Item 2(d). Title of Class of Securities:  
Class A Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share
- Item 2(e). CUSIP Number:  
143905-10-7
- Item 3. This statement is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(c).
- Item 4. Ownership
- (a) Amount Beneficially Owned: 629,770  
(represents shares of Class B Common Stock which are convertible at the holder's option into shares of Class A Common Stock on a share for share basis)
  - (b) Percent of Class: 8.0%
  - (c) Number of shares as to which such person has:
    - (i) sole power to vote or to direct the vote: 504,771
    - (ii) shared power to vote or to direct the vote: 124,999
    - (iii) sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: 504,771
    - (iv) shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: 124,999
- Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class.  
Not applicable.
- Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.  
Not applicable.

- Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which  
Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding  
Company.  
Not applicable.
- Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.  
Not applicable.
- Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group.  
Not applicable.
- Item 10. Certification.  
Not applicable (statement is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(c)).

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I  
certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and  
correct.

Dated: September 25, 1996

/s/ MELVIN C. PAYNE  
Melvin C. Payne