

Tree lighting ceremony November 29 at library

The City of Kings Mountain will host Mountaineer Christmas beginning on Thursday, Nov. 29 at Mauney Memorial with the Grover Elementary Head Start/Smart Start Children's Chorus singing Christmas carols.

Following the songs will be the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Saturday Dec. 1, will have several events including a five

kilometer race that starts at 12:30 p.m. and will go through the newly designated Central School Historic District.

Fire Chief Frank Burns, Police Chief Houston Corn, and Rescue Squad member Jonie Blanton will serve as parade grand marshals.

• Santa Claus will be at the Kings Mountain Historical Museum from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The five people pictured above represent five generations of the Moss family of Kings Mountain. Left to right are Pearl Huffstetter Moss Horne, her son Ted "Sonny" Moss, granddaughter Karen Moss Steed; great-granddaughter Carrie Steed McKinney, and great-great-granddaughter Cassidy Lynn McKinney.

BIRTHDAY



ELIZABETH TARLETON

Elizabeth Tarleton celebrates birthday

Elizabeth Brynn Tarleton, daughter of Matthew and Lora Goins Tarleton of Charlotte, was one year old November 7. She celebrated November 11 with a party at her grandparents' home.

Attending the party were family members, Hunter and Cooper Scarborough, and Hunter Cody.

Grandparents are Brenda Goins and Mike Camp of Kings Mountain, Sue and Reg Tarleton of Charlotte, and the late Steven R. Goins. Great-grandparents are Jack and Sadie Thrower of Kings Mountain.

Brock named Lee Dean's Scholar

Stuart Brock of Kings Mountain was one of 150 students named as Dean's Scholars

at Lee University for the 2001-2002 school year. He is a freshman majoring in

communications with an emphasis in public relations. He is the son of Joe Brock and Beth Bielke and is a graduate of Kings Mountain High School.

Dean's scholarships are awarded to first-time freshmen who graduate from an approved high school and who scored between 24-26 on the ACT of 1120-1220 on the SAT. The scholarship is equal to standard one-half tuition for the freshman year.

JOY

From 6A

in white dinner jackets wandering through the audience, candles in hand and chanting a shaky "shaboom" or two. They are shaken and confused by what the fates have done to them, nervously eyeing the audience as they stumble about trying to synchronize their clumsy choreography and uncertain four-part harmonies.

The show's wistful undertones and sympathy for the Plaids' plight give way to belated success and the culminating moment is the group's perfect take on "Love Is a Many Splendored Thing." It's a love letter to the guy groups of the '50s and '60s," said Scott Neisler, summing up the whole show.

They get a second chance 37 years later when they are allowed to return to Earth to perform the show they'd been waiting for all their afterlives. After they perform they'll go to what director Andy Neisler calls "the big choir in the sky."

The audience joins the singing actors on an engaging journey back to a more innocent era when chaperoned teenagers sought dreamy-eyed romance at the high school prom. No audience should be confused by this slightly loopy work that debuted off-Broadway in 1989 and has gone onto widespread national and international success. As the play continues to unfold, the Plaids begin to find their confidence and footing on-stage. Songs such as Hoagy Carmichael's "Heart and Soul," Sam Cooke's "Chain Gang" and "Moments to Remember" reveal ever growing vocal strength and stage savvy.

Their quest: To perform the perfect show that always eluded the reach of their dubious talents. If they complete their mission, the men in plaid can return in peace to their place in the cosmos. But it won't come easy. Each questionably talented Plaid has a flaw, be it jittery nerves, indigestion, a slight

speech impediment or the inability to tell his left from his right.

The increasingly assured boys even turn in a manic, prop-laden comic tribute to the odd range of acts that played the "Ed Sullivan Show" show, a recreation of the jugglers, the barking seals, trained dog, the Groucho imitators, among forgotten others and, of course, Jose Jimenez, — all appearing at a blistering pace to the accompaniment, naturally, of "Lady of Spain" played on an accordion.

The premise not only allows for a number of diverse musical numbers, including "Rags to Riches," "Sixteen Tons" and "Scotland the Brave," but also emphasizes the growing that takes place in and between the members of the group.

The out-of-fashion and fictitious Plaids, lovable losers who met in their high school audio-visual club, may have been killed instantly — a taped voice-over tells the tale as the auditorium darkens — but a mystical and mysterious time warp hauls them back to earth.

"We all make this journey," said Andy of the characters that he, Randy Patterson, Scott Neisler, and Tim Miller portray. "We all start at one point and then evolve throughout the course of the show. We learn things about ourselves and each other."

There's tongue-in-cheek symbolism behind the quartet's untimely end. Popular music was about to blossom in radical new directions, leaving clean-cut harmonizers like the Four Lads, the Four Aces, the Four Freshmen, the Hi-Lo's and the Crew Cuts in the dust.

No one seems to have a better handle on those dynamics than Neisler. A semiprofessional singer, he has performed not only with the Cleveland County Choral Society, but also with the Charlotte Orotorio Chamber Singers at Spirit Square and at the Spoleto Festival in Charleston.

(Al Rankin, published author, is manager of the One Hour Photo Lab at Eckerd's.)

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