

Love Is Key For KM Teacher Of The Year

Kings Mountain's Teacher of the Year, Jackie Anne Hope, 27, attributes her success in the classroom to her genuine love and desire to work with children and her belief in herself.

Mrs. Hope sees her role as a fifth grade teacher at West School as a "job to discover a child's placement and provide individualized instruction in order that the child can constructively utilize his or her time to achieve the utmost success."

"The key to success, Mrs. Hope affirms, comes when a student has been taught communication skills, such as listening, reading, speaking and thinking with competency.

Being able to communicate effectively is essential if a child is to live in our rapidly changing world."

Education and teaching has been Jackie's whole life, growing up as daughter of Supt. and Mrs. Jack Hoff of Morton, Mississippi, where Jackie's education began. Both her parents had taught in Presque, Maine, where Jackie was born, and in Pineville, Miss., before moving to Morton, Miss. on the advancement of her father's career.

"I thoroughly loved school and my teachers," recalled Jackie. "My parents took such pride in my work and instilled within me a desire to always do my best,"

she added. During her senior year at Union High School she was selected to attend All-State Band Clinic at Biloxi, Miss. and was also actively involved during her high school career in the Beta, FBLA, and Garden Clubs, as well as on the staff of the school newspaper, "Jackets Nest O News." During her graduation exercises at Union, Jackie received a plaque for 12 years of perfect attendance.

Enrollment in Mississippi College was a happy day for both Jackie and her parents and soon she began involved in many events on campus.

Continuing her story of how she became interested in becoming a teacher, Jackie

said, "I believe my parents were one of the major reasons I decided to major in education. Daily, I saw the personal satisfaction my parents derived from working with students. This intensified my desire to follow in their footsteps."

Jackie Hoff earned her B.S. in Education in 1973 with an elementary concentration in grades 4-8 and history grades 4-12. Her teaching career began in Cross City, Fla., where she taught eighth grade English and one class in enrichment reading. She was selected as an eighth grade class sponsor and was co-sponsor and director of the Drama club.

In 1974 Jackie moved to Kings Mountain where she joined the faculty of West School and the following year met James Philip Hope, Kings Mountain native, to whom she was married at Macedonia Baptist Church on Jan. 23, 1976.

Mrs. Hope has served in numerous positions in the N.E.A., N.C.A.E. and A.C.T. and has been active in church, community and school affairs.

A first-time visitor to her fifth grade classroom can readily observe that students love her.

Said Becky Bolt, "Mrs. Hope is my teacher, she speaks like a preacher. When she stands so tall, though we look so small, she explains things so well, you really can tell, I love Mrs. Hope my teacher, though she speaks like a preacher."

One of the parents said of her, "Mrs. Hope is a dedicated teacher, not to a job, but to the teaching and learning of our children. She has a keen concern for the individual needs of each student."

A co-worker says of Mrs. Hope, "Jackie utilizes her boundless energy and her

challenging ideas into an electrifying, well-rounded curriculum which generates a great deal of excitement and interest in her students. The learning situation is thus much improved. She achieves total class involvement through their

presentation in class plays, preparing a class yearbook, building relief maps, having spelling contests, math games, and a variety of other activities. Students are "turned on, not off" to education in Jackie Hope's classroom.



Photo by Katrena McCall

TEACHER OF YEAR—Kings Mountain District School's Teacher of the Year, Jackie Hope, is pictured in her fifth grade classroom at West School. Mrs. Hope's genuine love and desire to work with children earned for her the distinction of being Kings Mountain Teacher of the Year for 1979. She will vie for district teacher honors.

Preventing Birth Defects Community Effort



MARCH OF DIMES National Poster Child Betsy Burch greets volunteers attending a regional meeting for prevention of birth defects. From left, Arlene Barrett of Kings Mountain, an officer of Otis D. Green Unit 155 American Legion Auxiliary which sponsored the March of Dimes drive here last year; Betsy Burch, Meredith Craig, five-year-old N.C. Poster Child, from Kinston; and Nancy Reis, Executive Director of the Appalachian Valley Chapter, Betsy, 6, of Stone Mountain, Ga., was born with multiple birth defects. The March of Dimes is working for expansion of programs for research, medical service and professional and public health education.

"Prevention of birth defects calls for intensified efforts in every community," reports Mrs. Arlene Barrett, of Kings Mountain, among volunteers who attended a regional meeting in Atlanta, Ga., on Nov. 7-8-9 sponsored by the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation. Accompanying her were Mrs. Nancy Reis, Mr. and Mrs. Al Smith, and Mrs. Teresa Morgan.

Nationwide programs of research, medical services, volunteer action, and education all of which are supported by public contributions, were reviewed during the two-day session. All are directed at overcoming birth defects, the nation's most serious child health problem. More than a quarter-million newborns are stricken with physical or mental damage every year.

"Low birthweight, the most common birth defect, is often associated with inadequate prenatal care and poor maternal nutrition," Mrs. Barrett says. "The March of Dimes supports needed growth of community-based and regional maternal-newborn health care services to diminish the serious threat to a newborn's healthy survival."

Priority March of Dimes programs include making prenatal care more available where shortages of staff and facilities are critical problems, and developing genetic services in underserved areas.

The meeting also featured new materials on comprehensive health education for junior and senior high schools. These programs are sensitive to family and cultural attitudes, as well as community concerns about responsible childbearing. The nationwide incidence of adolescent pregnancy has particular concern for the March of Dimes because babies born to mothers under 17 are at increased risk of birth defects and infant death.

"To expand community-based maternal-newborn health care programs, the March of Dimes believes in building alliance support with health professionals, educators, parent leaders, churches, and service organizations," Mrs. Barrett says. "Each of us has an important role in working for prevention of birth defects."

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