

# Mrs. Randall Saved A 'Hen's Nest' Full Of Antiques

Sarah Henry Summitt Randall has been a serious collector all her life.

The Kings Mountain native, now of Morganton, traded toys with other children while growing up in Kings Mountain and saved everything—from flea markets, yard sales, auctions, many treasures of all descriptions.

Her antique collection was started with an old Victorian walnut dresser which she purchased at age 18. "Not that I needed it," said "Hen", as she is affectionately called, "But I just had to have it because it was so beautiful."

Soon, her collecting "fever" spread and her house was running over with items. "I had no more room to keep all the things I had collected, so I started going to the markets and before I knew it, I was in the business, buying, selling and trading," said Mrs. Randall.

Last June 9th on her birthday, Mrs. Randall, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Summitt of Kings Mountain, proudly opened "Hen's Nest" in downtown Morganton. After painting, scrubbing and redesigning the interior, "Hen" gathered up a thousand and one treasures from her collection and opened the antique shop which features sparkling china, bric-a-brac, furniture and jewelry arranged in attractive settings.

Glassware is displayed in neat showcases, each shelf devoted to separate colors such as pale

pink, turquoise, cobalt blue, ruby, amber, emerald, and brilliant crystal. Bisque and porcelain figures are aligned in precise rows, with enough elbow room to show off their meticulous handpainting and sculptured details. Tables, chairs and china cabinets are set on rugs, with inviting coziness and charm. Milk glass, lustreware, chinoiserie, and R.J. Reynolds Brown Mule tobacco cutter, high button shoes and decorative objects of every type and description capture the attention and fire the imagination of visitors to "Hen's Nest".

Browsers are treated, too, to "Hen's" lively conversation and "make yourself right at home" brand of friendliness. She affably gives customers background and history about specific objects, often educating them as to what to look for in judging the authenticity of certain items.

Sarah's father operated Summitt's New Way Grocery in Kings Mountain for a number of years before his death and operated a drug store at one time. "I used to help him", she recalled, "even when I was so small I had to stand on a tobacco box to reach the counter. Even back then, I loved dealing with people. I've been around people all my life—people are my hobby."

After high school, Sarah studied to be a beautician and became a licensed cosmetologist. She was the owner of two shops, Sarah



**SERIOUS COLLECTOR**—Mrs. Sarah Henry Summitt Randall shows off some of the beautiful glassware in "Hen's Nest", an antique shop she has opened in Morganton. The Kings Mountain

native has been collecting since she was a child growing up in Kings Mountain. "People are my hobby", she says.

Henry's, in Kings Mountain (before she was 21) and Randall's House of Beauty in Newton. In 1945, Hen and Alex Talmadge (Red) Randall, Jr. (then a sergeant in the 30th Infantry, U.S. Army, were married. The couple moved to Hickory after the war where

Alex worked for Knitmode Mills and Sarah for the Esprit d'Amour beauty salon. Later they moved to Newton, where Sarah operated her own shop and Randall became owner of Randall's New and Used Auto

Parts. Red went on to work for Wamsutta, an affiliation that lasted 11 years. He now works at Morganton Dyeing and Finishing.

Sarah stayed close to home while the three Randall children

were growing up. Now Barbara lives in Lincolnton, where she works with the Federal Housing Administration, Sarah Kristina works at Burke County's Social Security Office, and Alex III, a captain in the U.S. Army, is in Stuttgart, Germany, with his wife, and their twins, Tam and Tina.

But "Hen", was never just a homebody, recalling that she was active for years in P.T.A., in a garden club and in Morganton Woman's Club. She has won ribbons for her floral arrangements and was a school volunteer for many years.

Even when she was working part-time in a flower shop, store and beauty shop, Mrs. Randall was always looking for "something old and beautiful, unusual."

Mrs. Randall, who has many fond memories of growing up in Kings Mountain, has always liked to surround herself with memories of family and cherished belongings.

"Old things have character," says this versatile collector, who said she is glad to see younger people show a renewal of interest and enthusiasm for everything touched with the patina of age. She said some of her youthful customers tell her "there's no romance in plastics or microwaves."

"Hen's Nest" is never dull, according to Sarah Randall, who has combined in her business a splendid fusion of past and present.

## Cochrans Wed Saturday

(Begins on page 2B)

Tim Davis of Kings Mountain was best man for the bridegroom and the bride's brother, Reggie Flowers, ushered with the bridegroom's brother, Keith Cochran.

Mr. and Mrs. Van Birmingham, neighbors of the bride, entertained after the ceremony at a beautifully-appointed reception in the Church Fellowship Hall.

Christmas greenery and berries, along with candles and poinsettias, decorated the lace-covered tables from which punch and party pickups were served from silver and crystal

appointments. Rebecca Birmingham played seasonal music while the wedding party greeted guests.

The lavender and pink theme of the wedding was also featured in decorations.

After a wedding trip, the newlyweds will be at home in Kings Mountain.

### BRIDE AND BRIDEGROOM

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur A. Flowers of Kings Mountain are parents of the bride who is a graduate of Kings Mountain High School and is employed at Spectrum Fibers in Kings Mountain.

Mr. and Mrs. William C. Cochran, Jr. of Kings Mountain are parents of the bridegroom who is also a graduate of Kings Mountain High School and employed by Firestone Textiles in Gastonia.

### AFTER REHEARSAL

The bridal couple was entertained at an after-rehearsal cakecutting Friday night in the Church Fellowship Hall.

Entertaining together were Mrs. Richard Ross, Mrs. Don Flowers, and Mrs. Marion Flowers, all aunts of the bride, and Miss Sharon Ross, cousin of the bride.

The highlight of the table decorations was a three-tiered wedding cake on pedestals with an identical miniature three-tier anniversary cake commemorating the bride's parents' 35th wedding anniversary, the same date as Lynn and Robert's wedding on Dec. 15th.

Wedding colors of pink and lavender were carried out in the decorations, which also featured greenery, poinsettias and a large Christmas tree.

A second refreshment table was appointed in crystal and held a variety of party pickups and punch.

## Dinner Honors Teachers Of Dale Bible Class

On Thurs. night, Dec. 13, the teachers of the Catherine Dale Bible Class were entertained by the members of the class with a dinner at the Fortress Restaurant.

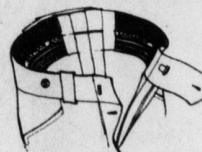
A delicious meal consisting of a variety of meats, vegetables, baked potatoes or French fries, salad bar, hot rolls and iced tea

or coffee were served to the 15 members and teachers present.

Teachers attending were Bill and Betty Moss, Mrs. Evelyn Hambricht, Mrs. Elizabeth Lynch and Mrs. Elizabeth Gamble. Not present were Miss Margaret Ratterree and Mrs. Mable McGill.



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