



LIKES TO GARDEN — Mrs. Tom Hambricht, Sr., who moved to the Antioch Community as a bride 63 years ago and who lives on farmland once owned by Col. Frederick Hambricht, lists gardening and crocheting as her hobby. Her beautiful two-story colonial house, its eight rooms full of history, is filled at this season of the year with blooms from her garden.

Mrs. Hambricht: Love The Lord And Work

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Womens Editor

Sarah Mable Weir Hambricht moved into her present two-story colonial house 63 years ago as the bride of Thomas A. Hambricht, Sr., Grover farmer who was born there on 75 acres owned by the Revolutionary War hero, Col. Frederick Hambricht.

The vintage house, some of the eight rooms which are more than a century old, is full of history.

A. C. (Ansel) Hambricht, Tom Hambricht's father, was hauling lumber to build the house in 1889 when his mule ran away and Hambricht was killed.

Tom Hambricht, Sr. and his 18-year-old bride farmed the land and raised eight children, Mrs. Hambricht learning quickly how to operate the farm tractor and toll beside her husband in the fields. Mable Hambricht's training as a newlywed paid off in later years when her husband was attacked by a bull and deafened. For 30 years before his death in 1973, Mrs. Hambricht listened for him to the sounds of the farm machinery as they operated the tractor and worked the large plantation with the help of tenant farmers.

Mable Weir (pronounced Ware after her marriage) is a youthful 81 and probably holds the record as Sunday School teacher at Antioch Baptist Church for 63 years. Mrs. Weir started teaching the Senior Adult Class at age 18 and now is the senior member of her class.

Daughter of former Kings Mountain Postmaster S. S. Weir and Mrs. Weir, she was born in a family of five boys and two girls in the Dixon Community area, her family moving "uptown" when she was six and he became postmaster.

Reminiscing of early years growing up in Kings Mountain, she recalled attending the one-room then-wooden Dixon and Bethlehem Schools and being drenched by rain one afternoon and taking refuge from the storm at the home of Mrs. Aaron Wells, who then lived in the 196-year-old house now occupied by my family, the George Stewart family, in the Dixon Community.

"Miss Mable" said the nearby creeks were overflowing and the school children couldn't get across the foot logs to their homes. Mrs. Wells gave them some of her boys clothing and dried the youngsters' school clothing by the cook stove.

Mrs. Hambricht worked for her brother, also a former Postmaster, W. Ted Weir, groceryman, at Weir's Store in the Park Yarn community for 18 years. Another brother, Sam Weir, Jr., lives in Kings Mountain.

She graduated from Kings Mountain High School in a class of nine girls and three boys in 1912. The late Ector A. Harrill was principal.

The silver-haired grandmother of 22 and great-grandmother of 14, credits her longevity and good health to "loving the Lord and working hard."

She believes strongly that early religious training should begin in the home and should continue in the schools and churches. Every Sunday morning found the entire Hambricht brood ready for Sunday School at Antioch Church, Mrs. Hambricht "laying out the clothes on Saturday night." Young tots who complained with "feeling bad" about church time had miraculous recoveries when Mrs. Hambricht brought out the castor oil bottle.

When her devoted husband passed away, Mrs. Hambricht recalls a three-year-old granddaughter exclaiming the day

of his funeral that "Granddaddy is hearing this morning."

Mrs. Hambricht declares that a child feels security in the Lord if taught at home, at school and at church and believes that "prayer and scripture reading should be returned to the schools."

Crocheting and gardening are Mrs. Hambricht's hobbies and she recently gave beautiful afghans to her daughters. She has also crocheted scarves, capes, and made decorative pillows and other hand-work as gifts for her family.

Her beautiful colonial house is colorful with day lilies, crepe myrtle, floss, scarlet sage, cockscomb, Joseph's Coat, begonias, impatiens and tiger lilies at this season of the year. Her grandsons cut the grass and children who live nearby tend the vegetable gardens.

A comfortable addition to the house is the spacious yellow and gold den, the living room and kitchen on the lower floor. There is a big front porch where she enjoys sitting in late afternoon.

Children of Mrs. Hambricht are Louise (Mrs. Eugene Roberts, Bess (Mrs. M. D.) Phifer, both of Kings Mountain, Alene (Mrs. A. D.) Cantrell of Davidson, Lucy (Mrs. Herman) Kinard of Charlotte; Anderson Hambricht, Lawrence Hambricht, both of whom are her neighbors, Tom Hambricht, Jr. of Antioch Community; and Sue (Mrs. Ralph) Drye of Charlotte.

The Hambrichts are a close-knit family and hundreds of them trace their family tree to the Revolutionary War Hero Colonel Frederick Hambricht. The annual Hambricht Family reunion is first Sunday in August at Grover Rescue Squad and attracts a large crowd of ancestors.

Section

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Mirror-Herald Living Today

They Said It Couldn't Be Done, But Red Proved Them Wrong

By TOM MCINTYRE
Editor, Mirror-Herald

There is a touch of Florida in Kings Mountain.

Also a smattering of the great southwest.

To find this unique panorama, you've got to travel to Stinnett Acres and Roy and Anita Morrison's trailer site.

Rooted in the Piedmont red clay you'll find banana trees, Yucca plants, Sego and Australian Crocus Palms and cactus plants among other blooms.

"Three years ago my neighbors told me I would never get grass to grow on the red clay," said Roy (Little Red) Morrison. "Well, I proved them wrong there. Then, they said the banana trees and palm trees would never grow in the red clay."

Little Red proved the doubters wrong there, too.

This week the banana trees bore fruit — finger-length bananas.

Morrison said his uncle gave him three banana plants about two years ago and he planted them and nurtured them as a challenge.

"I read the encyclopedia and magazines for information on how to care for these plants," he said. "To get grass to grow on my acre of red clay I hauled ten wheelbarrow loads

of top soil from my garden each evening and spread it around to plant grass. To get the banana trees and palms and other things to grow I armed myself with information. You know what type of soil is needed, what type of plant food."

Morrison said he fed his plants about a gallon of liquid fertilizer each week to prepare the soil. But, he said, you do have to take pains with the banana trees.

"You have to plant the trees in the spring," he said. "Then dig them up in the fall to replant them the next spring. During the summer the trees will grow sprouts. These sprouts can be planted and will produce trees."

He said it takes about 18 months of such care before the trees bear fruit.

"It just takes time and patience," he said.

Morrison works for Blythe Brothers Construction in Charlotte as a dozer operator and after a hard day of demolishing the earth for construction, he likes to relax by making unusual plants grow to add beauty back to the earth.

Besides the banana trees a visitor will find the Sego palms, cactus plants, century plants, Yucca plants scattered about the Morrison acre. And these plants are not there without design.

"I have moved the trees and plants several times about the land," Morrison said. "And on many of them I've added lights to highlight the beauty of the plants at night. We have a lot of visitors riding by just to look. Tommy Ellison, the former city commissioner, claims that the Morrisons have brought a touch of Florida to Carolina."

Actually, the Morrisons have brought touches of Texas to Carolina, too. Some of the unusual plants, the ones found growing wild in desert land, came to KM as cuttings.

"We had some many cuttings in the car once that my wife thought she was gonna have to catch a bus back home," Morrison said.

Why would anyone want to go through all of this trouble just to have an unusual lawn?

"We like to travel to the different parts of the country, see the sights," Morrison answered. "And when you figure 90 percent of the people around here have never been past the Mississippi River, then maybe our lawn displays will give those people a chance to see how beauty is

defined in other sections of the country."

Since his banana trees (the species grown in the U. S. is called the Musa Nana and is a dwarf tree)

Photos by

Tom McIntyre

& Gary Stewart

began blooming Morrison has given away a number to visitors and neighbors who expressed interest.

"I don't sell the shoots," he said. "But I give them away along with the warning that if you don't have patience and time to care for the shoots, then there is no need to plant them."

"The old tar heel red clay, just has too much acid in it for these plants to survive," he continued. "You have to read up on how to take care of the plants, then get serious and follow the instructions. Like I said, it takes time."



A banana after 18 months...



Roy Morrison surveys his botanical kingdom of cactus, palm, yucca



Banana shoots will make new trees...