

Aging Program Giving Many New Lease On Life

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Womens Editor

Thelma Hicks, site manager for Kings Mountain Aging Program, will tell you the happiest day of her life was a year ago when she left retirement and took on a new job with senior citizens.

Her new job required she have a high school diploma, so Thelma, who hadn't been in a classroom since 1932, went back to school.

Working with senior citizens at KM Community Center is a rewarding experience that Thelma Hicks treasures.

Thelma, along with Thomasina Brown and Lucille Peeler, serve approximately 89 meals per day in the Hot Meals for Senior Citizens Program and also supply 45 meals-on-wheels daily to the Waco Community. Sometimes as many as 100 attend the daily program, which includes lunch and visits to area nursing homes, churches, and civic clubs where a band of approximately 40 entertain as "The Swinging Mountaineers."

Mrs. Gussie Bolton gets the credit for organizing the band and she and her husband, M. V. Bolton, direct the music and plan the outings. Two vans, provided by the city program, transport the members to various places in the county.

Returning from a local convalescent home one of the members commented about how happy the patients were to have the senior citizens visit and entertain with such old-time hymns as "Amazing Grace," "I'll Fly Away," "Standing On The Promise," "When The Storm Passes By," and the familiar spiritual, "Swing Low Sweet Chariot" where Lydia Mitchem sings the verse and all join in the chorus.

Senior member of the band is Ferrie Gordon, who has already observed her 80th birthday and who plays tamborine despite arthritis.

One of the newest songs of the group is a youthful rendition which begins "Refusing To Grow Old."

Thelma Hicks says one of the joys of her new occupation is seeing the smiling faces of senior citizens as

Photos by Lib Stewart

they attend the regular meeting. "One woman who always needed a walker now comes to the meeting without it. Others who never talked to their across-the-table friend, now chatter a mile a minute," she declares.

"Swinging Mountaineers" are now in process of stitching new spring green formal for their band appearances. They visit once a month at Kings Mountain Convalescent Center and are invited to other nursing homes in the areas, to churches, and civic groups, carrying along their home-made instruments including a washboard, drums, horns and guitars.

"I used to sit at home all day and see nobody but the mailman when he brought the mail but now I am really enjoying life," said one of the band members.

Swinging Mountaineers is how these ladies and gentlemen like to be addressed, and swinging, they are!



DIRECTORS OF BAND - Mr. and Mrs. M. V. Bolton perform regularly for civic and church groups and at area nursing homes.



READY TO PERFORM - "The Swinging Mountaineers" are pictured ready to board two vans to travel to area nursing homes to entertain patients.

How Ya Gonna Keep 'Em Off The Farm?

Shades of Grandma's day!

The kids are going back down on the farm, if not for real, in educational programs planned by scouting groups.

Cub Scouts of Pack 98 of Boyce Memorial ARP Church were treated to a "Rural America" program at a recent meeting and the kids reported it was fun.

Three generations ago most

Americans lived in rural areas, and life on the farm was as familiar to most boys as television is today to boys everywhere.

Designed to acquaint Cubs with farm life and the methods of agriculture, the program was attended by Cubs and their families who came dressed in rural farm clothing.

Farmer Brown's Cub Scout Farm and the sounds of country music

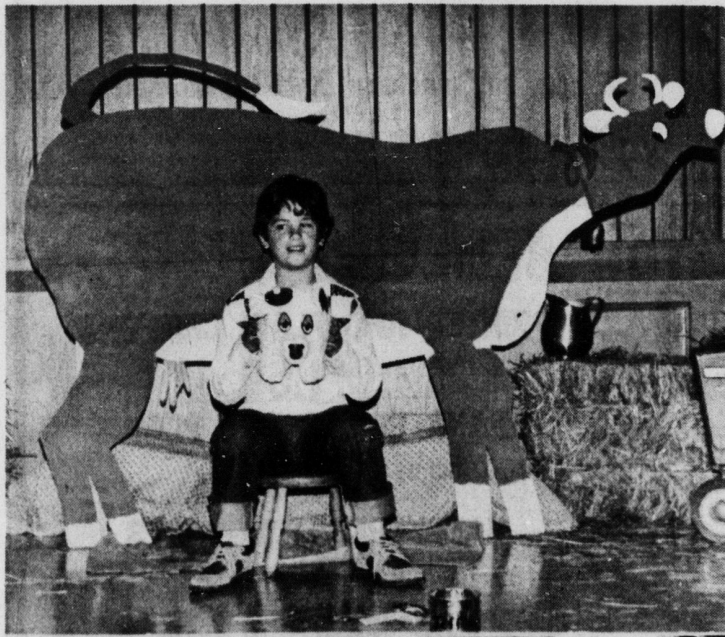
welcomed the guests to Boyce Memorial ARP Church Fellowship Hall where the stage was transformed into a barnyard with bales of hay, a tractor, milk cans, and animal cut-outs painted by the Cubs of chickens, a pig, and would you believe Bossy herself made by Billy McCarter.

Jacky and Sandi Rhea, their children, Trent and Tiffany, were judged the "best dressed farm family" by Mr. and Mrs. George Hatch, who were judges, assisted by Rev. Charles Edwards and Mrs. John C. McGill who presented the winners with an iron frying pan.

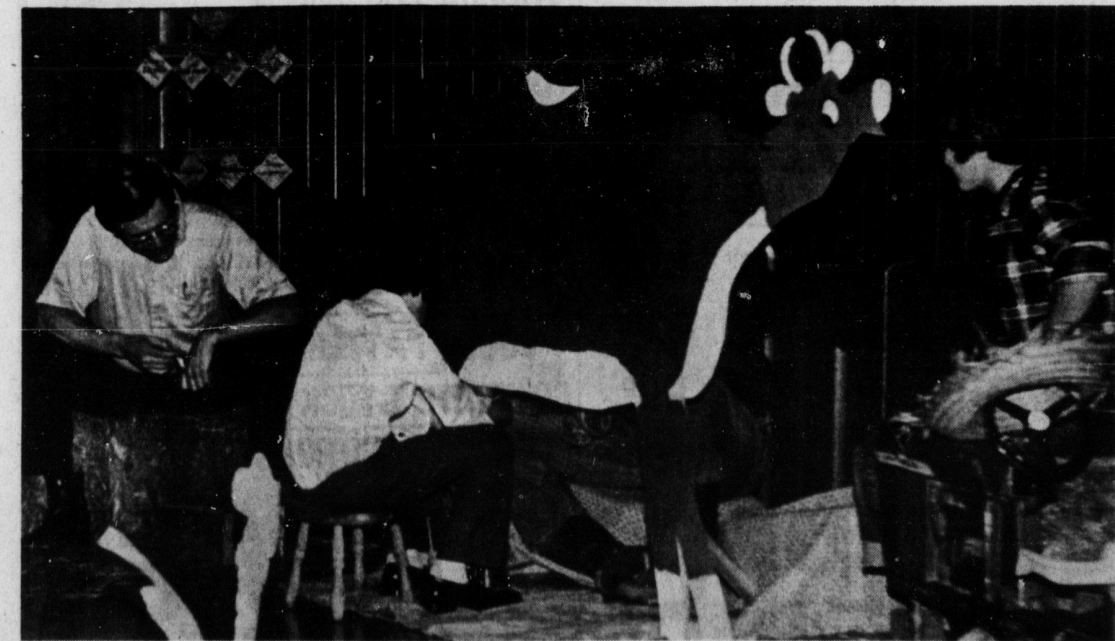
Brad Jones copped the prize as winner of the milking contest and other Cubs taking part were Todd Hughes, Patrick Lisk, Brad Jones, Trent Rhea, Jimmy Moretz and David Herndon.

George Hatch, district chairman for Cub and Scout activities in the Piedmont Council, was assisted by Cubmaster Paul Fulton and Dan Brooks who conducted the milking contest. They demonstrated how to fill a surgical glove with water (each finger had a pinhole, then fastening the glove to the cow and milking began with each Cub using a milk can and timed for two minutes. Brad Jones measured his "milk" at four and one-half ounces and was declared the big winner. His prize from Mrs. Nolan Scism, Den Mother, was a red and white stuffed pig.

Merit badges were also awarded during the festivities and refreshments of homemade pie and apple cider were served.



FIRST PRIZE WINNERS - Brad Jones holds the stuffed pig as the top prize winner in the Cub Scout milking contest sponsored by Cubs of Pack 98 during a program on rural America.



FARM SCENE - George Hatch, left, and Hamilton McGill, right, observe as Steven Lineberry demonstrates milking Bossy in a Cub Scout Rural Life program at Boyce Memorial ARP Church. All Cubs in Pack 98 participated in the milking contest.

Students Celebrating NC Heritage Week

Kings Mountain school children are participating in a variety of events the week of April 24-30 marking the celebration of North Carolina Heritage Week.

Singing North Carolina folk songs, visiting local historical dramas, visiting museums, and studying the history and culture of their counties are just a few of the things that young people will be doing.

The State's First Lady, Mrs. Carolyn Hunt, will serve as chairperson for the commemorative week.

"We hope that schools and communities of North Carolina will strive to give special recognition to the historical and cultural heritage of our State during North Carolina Heritage Week," said Mrs. Hunt.

LEGION DANCE

American Legion Post 155 has booked "The Mist," Top 40 Beach Rock, Saturday night from 9 p. m. until 1 a. m. at the American Legion



Lib Stewart

Building.

Advance tickets are on sale at \$7 per couple. At the door tickets will cost \$10 per couple, said a spokesman. The kitchen will be open for serving of steaks from 6 until 8 p. m.

CLUB PROGRAM

Hugh Falls, who has traveled extensively in the Middle East, showed slides of his travels as the

program for Tuesday's meeting of the Kings Mountain Lions Club.

Club members met for dinner at Kings Mountain Inn.

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FARMER'S MARKET PLANNED

Plans are underway for a big Farmer's Market at Cleveland County Fairgrounds on June 14.

Curtis Styles, associate county extension agent, said that interest has developed enough to schedule the market three times each week, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturday mornings to provide an area where local producers can distribute their home-grown vegetables, home-baked and home-canned goods, crafts, and plants, setting their own price for the products.

Styles said that to sell at the market the vendors need not be from Cleveland County but must be the producers of their merchandise.

Mr. Styles said that the Cleveland County Fair Association, of which Joe Goforth is president, will operate the market but that county extension personnel will assist the producers in getting better quality to the market.

Flea market items will not be allowed, said Styles, and ample space will be available to display the products.

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IT'S A BOY

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin L. Teer, of 307 Downing Dr., announce the arrival of a son, John Forrest Teer, April 3, Cleveland Memorial Hospital, Shelby.

The baby weighed eight pounds, 13 ounces. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. George Woody Teer of Hillsborough and the late Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Dudley, Jr. of Shelby. He is great-grandson of Mrs. W. R. Hartness of Sanford, formerly of Shelby.



BEST DRESSED FARM FAMILY - Sandi and Jacky Rhea and their children, Tiffany, left, and Trent, receive an iron frying pan from Mrs. John C. McGill, right, Den Mother, after winning the prize as best dressed farm family during Cub Scout activities.