

## Stinnetts Visit Presley Mansion

When Mrs. Gay Stinnett Jr. and her four-year-old daughter Toscha toured the grounds of Elvis Presley's heavily guarded Graceland Mansion less than a week prior to his death, Mrs. Stinnett at the time did not fully realize the feat she had accomplished.

Through a Bessemer City connection, Mrs. Stinnett, the former Sandie Whitworth, was let through the closely locked gates of the popular entertainer's residence which is kept heavily guarded by what is termed a "Memphis Mafia" of bodyguards.

The Stinnetts were in Memphis for Toscha to participate in the All American Pageant. In addition to being a finalist for the title of "All American Tot," she was judged the "Best Four Year Old."

When in Memphis, Mrs. Stinnett talked with Harold Stamey, formerly of Bessemer City. Sandie told Harold she would like to ride by and look at Elvis Presley's home.

Harold said, "I have a friend whose uncle is a guard there and if he is on duty, he may let you through the gates."

The friend's uncle was on duty and he did let the Bessemer Citians, including Mrs. Gay Stinnett Sr., onto the grounds.

While looking over Graceland Mansion's grounds, the group made photos. One was of Sandie and Toscha standing on the steps at the mansion's entrance.

"Elvis had just returned home from the hospital when we were there and was inside the house," Mrs. Stinnett revealed.

"I was tempted to ring the door bell but I felt we were fortunate to get onto the grounds. And she added, "The guard had been good enough to let us on the grounds and I was afraid I would get him into trouble."

When they passed through Graceland's gates leaving, guards at the guard house told them that Elvis had seen them on the grounds and had called the guard house to ask who they were.

In addition to seeing Graceland, the Stinnetts also saw a number of movie stars who were attending a film festival held in the same hotel as the pageant.

Toscha made friends with a number of the actors.

After Elvis' death and news accounts told how closely guarded Graceland was kept, Sandie then felt that she had accomplished the impossible, which in reality, she had.



Photo By Gary Stewart

**WELCOME NEW TEACHERS** — The local N.C.A.E. and A.C.T. units held a luncheon Wednesday at Kings Mountain High School honoring new employees of Kings Mountain District Schools. In photo above, N.C.A.E.

President Juanita Logan, left, and A.C.T. President Mike Smith, right, welcome Ana Taylor, new French teacher at KMHS, and David Hart, new teacher and coach at KM Junior High, to the KM system.

## DEATHS

### VIRGINIA BURTON

Funeral services for Virginia Falls Burton, 79, of Route 1 will be held at 4 p. m. today at Penley's Chapel Methodist Church with the Rev. Leonard Huffstetler, the Rev. Mitchell Pruitt and the Rev. Richard Plyler officiating.

Burial will be in the Patterson Grove Baptist Church cemetery.

Mrs. Burton died Tuesday night in the Kings Mountain Hospital.

She is survived by four sons, Dorus, Clarence and Doyle Burton of Kings Mountain, and Harold Dean Burton of the U. S. Army in the Panama Canal Zone; four daughters, Mrs. Bence Sellers of Cherryville and Mrs. Ruby Warlick, Mrs. Gene Sellers and Mrs. Voyd Hayes of Kings Mountain; two brothers, Dempsey and Earl Falls of Kings Mountain; 22 grandchildren, 19 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild.

### REUNION SET

The Watt and Pratt Herndon Reunion will be held Sun., Aug. 28 in the Bethlehem Fellowship Center and luncheon will be served at 1 p. m.

### 13TH FATALITY

During the week of August 15-21 the 13th traffic fatality on N. C. roads in Cleveland County was recorded for 1977, according to Highway Patrol Sgt. M. K. Holcomb. There were a total of 18 accidents resulting in three injuries. Driving left of center was the major cause.

than most motorist.

"The state troopers watch us truckers like hawks," Shoaf said. "It's impossible for a trucker pulling a gross weight of 85,000-75,000 to maintain a 55 mph speed. In order to pull a hill, a trucker has to gain some speed going down a grade. When we do this the troopers are right there stopping us."

Shoaf said the troopers don't seem to understand the problems truckers face. According to The Constitution a man is supposed to be judged with reasoning and understanding. That isn't the case where the speed limit is concerned. We are supposed to be able to live without fear of persecution by the state."

An 18-wheeler jockey, Shoaf said, "North Carolina is the roughest state on truckers of any I travel through and I drive from Boston to Florida. Truckers have the same point system as motorist. If a trucker gets two tickets in this state within a year he gets his license yanked."

"All that means to a motorist is that he has to get a ride to work with a friend," Shoaf continued. "It means loss of work to a trucker. Two months out of work can mean the loss of \$2,000 in salary. Also when the trucker applies for work with another company, this is counted against him."

Shoaf said the protest by truckers is a mutually agreed condition. "What we are doing is protesting for our rights. You have to show your dissatisfaction with something that isn't right or you never get any relief from it."

"This isn't a game to us," he continued. "It's our livelihood."

## Trucker Says Public Hears One Side

Sam Shoaf, a trucker from China Grove, who was in Kings Mountain last week said, "The public is only being told the Highway Patrol side of the current trucker's protest of the 55 miles per hour speed limit."

Shoaf said that most over the road truckers drive 130,000 miles each year and have better driving safety records

## Wesleyans

## Organizing

## CYC Group

The First Wesleyan Church is organizing a CYC Chapter.

CYC means Christian Youth Crusaders and will be a midweek club at the church for first through sixth grade children who have their own uniforms. The youngsters earn badges through programs.

In charge of the program are Mrs. Debbie Taylor and Mrs. Elaine Henson, who stated the club helps children to grow in the same way Jesus did — mentally, physically, spiritually and socially.

The directors said, "This club is an excellent way for your child to have good Christian training and at the same time earn their own awards. We will have hikes, games, picnics, crafts."

Club meetings will be held each Monday at the church from 8:45 - 8 p. m. The first meeting will be held Mon., Aug. 29.

First Wesleyan Church is located at 505 N. Piedmont Ave. For more information about the CYC Club call either Mrs. Taylor, 739-3355, or Mrs. Henson, 739-5494.

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