



DEBS HONORED - Kings Mountain area debutantes are pictured above at a country-western dinner-dance held recently at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Yarbro on Moss Lake. Front row, left to right, are "Chub" Cobb,

Jill yarbro, Elizabeth Borchert, Leigh Anne Baliles and Dawn Hambricht. Back row, Rhonda Bridges, Lisa Crawford, Kim Sisk, Alison Champion, Danna Scism and Anne Tate.

Country-Western Dance Honors KM Area Debs

Kings Mountain debutantes were honored at a country-western dance Sat., Apr. 17 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Yarbro on Moss Lake.

Debutantes present included Rhonda Bridges, Dawn Hambricht, Leigh Anne Baliles, Elizabeth Borchert, Alison Champion, Sandra "Chub" Cobb, Lisa Crawford, Danna Scism, Leslie Sherer, Kim Sisk, Ann Tate and Jill Yarbro.

Upon arrival the debs and their dates were invited to the

back lawn, where barbecue with all the trimmings was served. Music was provided by "The Pilgrims."

The country-western theme was carried out with red checked table cloths on the tables, which held baskets filled with an assortment of homemade goodies and cokes.

The lawn was decorated with old-fashioned lanterns, torches, baskets with red geraniums and ferns. Bales of hay were used as seats. White azaleas and dogwoods were in full bloom.

Miniature western hats were given as favors.

The party was hosted by the debutantes' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hambricht Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Bridges, Rev. and Mrs. Paul Baliles, Mr. and Mrs. Ernst Borchert III, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Champion, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Cobb, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Scism, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Sherer, Mr. and Mrs. James Testa, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Tate and Mr. and Mrs. John Yarbro.

Facts, Fallacies And Fancies



By **JESSE A. KISER**

Facts about my father and mother, Larkin A. and Lorena J. Kiser:

He was born in the Cleveland County rural area known as St. Luke's Community on November 14, 1875. The community was approximately seven miles from Kings Mountain. He was the eldest son of J.P. and M. Elizabeth Kiser, who lived on the farm.

My dad worked on the farm very hard. All the family were ill, except he and grandma, so he would take two mules to the field to plow, hitching one of the mules in the shade of the trees as it was very hot, and plow the other mule until about exhausted. Then he would hitch the work until time to eat his food at noon, and afterwards, would continue until dark. He would bring the mules to the branch for water, and then to the barn for feed and for the night. But he did not stop. He would then cut stove wood so his mother could cook the food for the family.

Our mother, Lorena J. Williams, was born in Burlington, N.C. May 8, 1877, and lived with Jesse M. Williams, her brother, for sometime. She and papa were married on April 11, 1900, in Burlington and came to Kings Mountain to reside. I believe they occupied a house to the rear of Dr. Baxter R. Hunter and wife, Cora Dilling Hunter. The home is on North Piedmont Avenue, where Mr. and Mrs. George L. Scharf now live. They lived there until they built their home on a lot given to them by Uncle Jess Williams on West Mountain Street, known as the redhouse. It was on the corner of Tracy Street and West Mountain.

During this time Jesse, Eugene and Arnold were born. I believe I was seven years old and Gene 18 months younger when Arnold was born in 1906.

So papa and mama decided to purchase the P.M. Keller property situated on North Church Street and consisting of 18 acres, a large two-story house, barn, orchard with many kinds of delicious fruit, and some acreage for cultivation. Dorothy was born there in July 1908 and Ozell was born in 1910. We lived there many years until it was divided into lots and the home sold at auction by Dillon Land Co. Papa had purchased the I.W. Garrett property situated on East King Street, consisting of 87 acres. We built a home known as the Garrett house, which was occupied by our family in 1922.

Our mother was a dearly, devoted wife and mother, very modest, and a Christian, and did her utmost for us children in a loving way. She gave our father her love, admiration and full support at all times.

I shall never forget when we lived in the Keller home. All five of us children would sit around



ALL DRESSED UP - Jesse Kiser, right, was all dressed up for this early 1900 picture with his brother, Eugene, left, and his mother, Lorena J. Kiser.

the fire in the winter and listen to her tell stories, play happy family—a card game—and made our own deck, consisting of father, mother, brothers, sisters and others.

Afterward, she would sing to us, especially one song that still lingers on even today. "Hello, Central, give me Heaven. My mother is there on the golden stairs."

Afterwards she would read the Holy Bible scripture to us, then each of us would kneel and she would offer her prayer, and each of us would offer our own prayer and close with that familiar prayer, "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take. Bless mama,

papa, brothers and sisters." Then off to bed for the night.

I remember that every Sunday after dinner, we would hitch old "Bob" to the carriage and all of us drove up to visit grandma and grandpa, who lived in the rural section known as St. Luke's.

Now, our father purchased a Chalmers six-cylinder, seven-passenger touring car as he had promised if Woodrow Wilson was re-elected President for another term.

Mr. W.J. Arey sold this make of car in Shelby and had a sub-dealer operation in the Grady King garage on East Mountain Street. So Mr. Arey took my dad and I after church service to Shelby, where he had this car. We took a ride several miles, then he brought us back home to Kings Mountain. Papa informed Mr. Arey that he would let him know of his decision in a few days. He bought the car. I don't recall the price.

Mr. Arey taught me how to drive. Since we were living in the Keller home, he drove toward Bessemer City on a sand clay road, down "Milk Dairy Hill". The road was full of curves. I began to understand how to drive after having several lessons from Mr. Arey.

Sometime after learning to drive men were being drafted for our country's armed forces. Uncle Gus Kiser was 21 years old on June 4 and the registration was June 5. He was placed in A-1 and was soon called to ser-



LARKIN A. KISER

Turn To Page 2

Living Today

April 29, 1982-KINGS MOUNTAIN HERALD-Page 1B

Things To Do

Watsons To Perform May 7 At Crossroads



Doc and Merle Watson

Bluegrass guitarists Doc and Merle Watson will be in concert at 8 p.m., Fri., May 7 at Crossroads Music Park in Kings Mountain.

Appearing along with the duo will be "Wooden Nickel" and "Fifth String."

The Watsons are world known for their musical ability, and although they are skilled in all types of music, their biggest exposure has come through bluegrass festivals.

Doc Watson, from Deep Gap, N.C., is blind. He began playing electric guitar in a local country band in 1960. He is skilled in the guitar, five-string banjo and French harp, and singing. record-

He believes in a broad repertoire and adheres to no particular songwriter. "If I hear a song I like, I sing it," he says.

He often opens with Lester Flatt-type bluegrass music, and switches to gospel, blues, mountain music and any other type that comes to mind. "They call my music traditional," Doc says. "It's really traditional plus whatever else we try to pick. If it was jazz, we'd pick it country style anyway."

His son, Merle, who recently rejoined his father following a trailbike accident which sidelined him for sometime, has made the three-finger picking style famous.

Doc and Merle have a new album on Flying Fish which is scheduled for release within the next few weeks. It includes some Jimmie Rodgers tunes, "Smoke, Smoke" by Merle Travis, a Dan Fogelberg song, and a pair of songs by their regular bassist Michael Coleman.



FIRST KISER HOME - This is a picture of Larkin and Lorena Kiser's first home, the "Red House", which was located at the corner of Tracy and West Mountain streets at the loca-

tion where now stands a duplex apartment constructed by Ruby Alexander. The land was given to Mr. and Mrs. Kiser by Jesse M. Williams, Mrs. Kiser's brother.