

French Student Enjoys Teaching, Living In KM

From Page 1-A

The answer is yes. She recently ate her first catfish at Paul's Seafood and enjoyed it very much. "They call them fishcats in France," Hord said.

"We don't eat them there," she said. "When we catch one, we throw it away. But I have to admit it was very good."

She loves all other seafoods and live oysters sprinkled with lemon juice.

"I'm learning to eat many fried foods," she said. "We don't eat fried foods in France, except for French fries. We eat a lot of vegetables and meats. I'm going to get fat here. Many people have already told me that I've come to the wrong place if I want to lose weight."

Catherine is anxiously awaiting Kings Mountain's first "heavy" snowfall. She hopes to take at least one trip to the mountains and learn to ski.

"I hope it's going to snow very heavily," she says. "We don't have much snow where I come from. It's rather hot in the summer and cool in the winter. We have to go to the mountains to see heavy snow."

"If it snows, we're going to take her out and roll her," Mrs. Hord joked.

Catherine's visit here is as much a learning experience for her as it is for the junior and senior high students she teaches.

In addition to different eating customs, she's learning about the



Photo by Gary Stewart

AT HOME WITH HORDS - Catherine Bacle of France, second from right, is working as an assistant French teacher at Kings Mountain junior and senior high schools this year. While in Kings Mountain, she's living with the Paul Hord Jr. family on York Road. She's pictured here with her American family. Left to right are Joyce Hord, Paul Hord, Ms. Bacle and Kim Hord.

arts, election process and the Southern Baptist Church.

A Roman Catholic, she says attending church services each Sunday at Oak View Baptist Church is "very different. But it's interesting."

"She'll understand it more after she goes for a while," says Hord, a deacon at Oak View.

Catherine recently got a first-hand look at the American voting process during city and school board elections at the Kings Mountain Community Center. Basically, she said, the process is the same here as it is in her homeland except that they don't have school boards there.

One of the biggest differences

she's seen is in the schools. In France the universities are owned by the government. Her tuition for a year is \$100. "You can see, we don't pay as much money as you do," she said. "Another thing is that we don't have sports."

"The high schools are really different," she went on. "The

periods are an hour longer and we go from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. 10 months a year. We have a long lunch break, usually an hour to an hour and a half.

"We have just two hours of sports a week," she went on. "We go to school on Wednesday mornings and if anyone plays sports they do it after school on Wednesday."

Foreign language is required in junior high school and usually by the time a student has reached high school, he's taken at least three years of foreign language.

After the fourth year of junior high, a student chooses what he thinks he would like his career to be. His high school courses are geared to prepare him for that career.

"We get driving lessons when we're 18 years old, instead of 16 as it is here," she said. "You

never see a student going to school in his own car."

Students who want to learn a trade often take vocational courses in junior high and quit school at age 14 or 15.

"We do not have graduation as you know it here," she said. "We just have to pass a big exam (called BAC) at the end of school. You're required to pass it if you want to go on to a university. If you miss it, you try again. If you miss it the second time, you can take a home correspondence course and then go to the university."

Although she sees a big difference in French and American students, she finds her work at Kings Mountain rewarding. Her English is very good, and she has no trouble at all understanding Kings Mountainians as long as they talk slowly.

"My biggest problem so far has been understanding Paul Hord," she joked. "He talks too fast."

Board Okays Policy

From Page 1-A

every year, is time-consuming and its not uncommon for a principal to spend a week evaluating each teacher.

"A fair evaluation takes time," board member Kyle Smith said. "In the past principals haven't had time to do that. Under this change, they will."

Superintendent Davis said the new process will "allow the principals to spend more time with probationary teachers and will permit the principals a chance to use their time more intensely."

In other matters Monday, the board:

*Heard a report from West Principal Jane Shields on programs at that school. Three West students gave demonstrations on the use of computers, which are being included in the West instructional program this year. Ms. Shields said West's enrollment was down to 274 at the beginning of the year but a new Head Start program which began Monday increased enrollment by 13.

*Was introduced to Catherine Bacle, a French student who is working at Kings Mountain junior and senior highs this year through the Amity Aide Program. She assists in French classes and is living with the Paul Hord Jr. family.

*Approved a request by Davis that the school system be a pilot unit for a new state program for evaluation of superintendents.

*Approved the transfer of Pamela Diane Wilson to Gaston County, Starla Darnell to Shelby City Schools, and Lee Ann Lineberger and Brenda Lee Conner from Gaston County to Kings Mountain.

*Accepted the resignations of Evelyn Degree at North, Charles Dye at West and Bill Little of Grover and approved the transfers of Pink Ware to West and Eddie Lockhart to Grover.

*Approved the employment of Craig Hawkins, North; and Jeffrey L. Patterson, Central Maintenance Department.

HOT DOG SUPPER

The choir of Eastside Baptist Church of Kings Mountain will sponsor a hot dog supper November 19 in the church fellowship building. Proceeds will go toward the purchase of choir robes. Hot dog plates will sell for \$2. Carry out orders will also be available.

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