

LOOKING BACK

At The Class Of '84

(ED. NOTE: Rainey Haigler, Kings Mountain High correspondent for the Herald during the 1983-84 school year, kept a year-by-year history of the KMHS Class of 1984 as she progressed through her 12 years of public schooling. Her class history is printed in today's edition of the Herald.)

Our research began on an August day of 1972 in a small-sized southern town, Kings Mountain, North Carolina. It was just like any other clear August day for the merchants of Kings Mountain, but for the mothers of Ann, David, Lisa, Michael, and all the other six-year-olds, it was a day of excitement, fear, happiness, tears, and adventure. Yes, that day was far from any ordinary day for these little people because they were embarking on the experience of their first day of school. With shining faces and dirty ears, they were escorted, dragged, and pushed to the grammar schools of Bethware, East, Grover, North, and West with 316 students attending the first grade.

After having made their first contact with the new realm known as school, many were eager for more, while the thought of going back terrified others! With all the normal reactions of first graders, the year of 1972-1973 went by with most mothers and fathers finding a couple of gray hairs at the end of the school year.

In 1974, the people of this community started planning for the Kings Mountain Centennial Celebration. A play was presented October 1-4 at John Gamble Stadium entitled, "Look To The Mountain." The following students took part: Caroline Harper, Holly Dellinger, Laura Duncan, Cindy Adams, and Rainey Haigler. The Kings Mountain Centennial Celebration had a Children's Day Parade which featured all Kings Mountain children, ages preschool through sixth graders. The children celebrated in grand style with decorated bikes and costumes commemorating the city's one hundredth birthday. Tracy Scism won first prize for best costume, and Pat Davis won second prize.

1975...1977. Fifth graders already? Where had the time flown? Of course, they thought they were the "big dogs" to find out later they were not. May came with each grammar school having a May Day Program under the direction of their music teacher, Mrs. Shirley Austin. Each elementary school in the community participated with dancing around the Maypole.

Election was held and on May 2, 1977 East School elected Pat Davis, May Queen; Paula Greene, Maid-of-Honor; Beth Lindberry and Tina Lindermen, fifth grade attendants. On May 5, 1977, North School held their May Day with Rainey Haigler, May Queen; Terry Welch, Maid-of-Honor; Gail Stamey, Carla Adams, and Jill Plonk, fifth grade attendants. On May 10, 1977, West School held their May Day with Pam Morrow, May Queen; Deda Smith, Maid-of-Honor; Debbie Whetstone and Melissa Morrison, fifth grade attendants. Bethware held their May Day on May 12, 1977, Lisa Wright, May Queen; Dana Blalock, Maid-of-Honor; and Marisa Dixon and Leslie Thomasson, fifth grade attendants. Grover held their May Day on May 27, 1977, Toni Camp, May Queen; Jada Ellis, Maid-of-Honor; and fifth grade attendants, Tammy Van Dyke and Sonya McClain. To finish the year, each school held a field day event with all the students participating and many winning prizes.

The end of the school year came, and Central School was given some fleeting glances as these fifth graders rode by thinking about the coming August, 1977, when 329 sixth graders entered Central School. Every-

day after lunch they would rush out on campus to get in a few games of jacks. Boys were becoming a greater impact in girls' lives.

A hat contest was held on February 14, 1978, with each homeroom having a winner: Jamie Black, Holly Dellinger, Dwayne Williams, Cynthia Wright, Dana Blalock, Jerry Camp, Robert Gehring, Caroline Harper, Tomi Camp, Pat Davis, and Cindy Greene winners. During this year Angel Allen, Holly Dellinger, Mary Starnes, and Angela Lyon won the talent show.

As leaders of Central School in August of 1978, they set out to publish a school newspaper, **The Central School Rep.** Editor was Becky Bolt; Mary Starnes, Copy Editor; Dawn Morris, Layout Editor; Jeff Barnette, Picture Editor; Wendy Smith, Business Editor. Reporters included Curtis Pressley, Kim Hawkins, Denise Edwards, Cindy Adams, Todd Cloninger, and Quinton Rikard. Christmas Dance was held with Keith Bell crowned as the king and Jada Ellis crowned as the queen.

Two one-act plays were put on at Central on April 6, 1979, under the direction of Cary Osborn and Carol Parker. "The Dear Departed" featured Jerry Laws playing the part of Mr. Jordan and Guy Sipes as Abel. "The King Who Hated Birthdays" starred Todd Gossett as the Prime Minister and David Parker as the Palace Guard. Easter came with an egg decorating contest in which Caroline Harper, Tracy Bolin, Norma Davis, and Tina Brown were winners. The talent show winners from this class were Amy Mayes, Denise Edwards, Sonya McClain, Spring Young, Tammy Van Dyke, and Sandy Wells. Tammy and Sandy went on to win the Division IV of the Kiwanis Talent Show. The wrestling team won the conference with a 9-0 record led by Roger McClain, Todd Cloninger, Dale Moore, and David Parker. Finally, the year ended with a Disco Dance with Todd Cloninger and Charlene Gamble winning the dance contest. The group had made their imprint on Central with notable emphasis. Even Donald Deal and Chris Cole had high hopes for their seventh grade band.

Kings Mountain Junior High 1979... with high heads and prides swelling, they set out to conquer junior high school, only to find that the ninth graders had other ideas! The Kings Mountain Junior Patriots finished the conference season in first place in football, led by Curtis Pressley, Arnold Jordan, Thomas Putnam, Jeff Chapman, Todd Cloninger, Dale Moore, Calvin Goode, Tyrone Grier, James Ellison, Randy Whitaker, and Zach Roseboro. Cheerleaders that cheered them on to victory were Angel Allen, Becky Bolt, Holly Dellinger, Laura Wright, Angela Lyon, Lisa Austin, Spring Young, Leslie Thomasson, Wendy Smith, Lee Ann Lineberger, Kim Hawkins, and Rainey Haigler. Eighth grade chorus did very well under the direction of Doris Jenkins. The eighth grade band performed twice that year, once for a Christmas Concert and a Spring Concert under the direction of Donald Deal.

The sun shone bright when the "seniors," or ninth graders appeared on the scene in August, 1980. Their first work of the year came with the choice of cheerleaders. Cheerleaders for the 1980-1981 school year were Kim Hawkins, Lisa Austin, Tina Brown, Angela Lyon, Leslie Thomasson, Barbara Gass, Spring Young, Angel Allen, Laura Wright, Holly Dellinger, Lee Ann Lineberger, Rainey Haigler, and Chris Parton. Becky Bolt was their Mascot. The football team had a great year with one tie and the rest wins to capture the conference. Touchdowns were made by Zach Roseboro, Curtis Pressley, Arnold Jordan, Thomas Putnam, Calvin Goode,



Rainey Haigler

and Todd Cloninger. The band played at the home football games.

Editor of their school newspaper, **The Hydrant**, was Denise Greene with the help of Amy Mayes, Susie Biggers, Deia Parker, Joy Queen, Dana Blalock, Kim Hawkins, Lisa Austin, and Teresa Grigg. One of their publications was honoring Gary Shields, Assistant Principal, who left to be a principal in Franklin, North Carolina. This was a very sad day for all ninth graders because Mr. Shields was a friend to every student.

April 3, 1981, was another very sad day at Kings Mountain Junior High School because of the death of two classmates who were burned in a fire. Rod Lewis and Jeff Wood will never be forgotten. Trees were planted on campus in memory of these students by the class of 1984.

The basketball, baseball, tennis, golf, and track teams did well. In track, Spring Young was undefeated in the 50 and 100 meter dashes during the entire season. The ninth grade band under the direction of Chris Cole went to State Band contest and won a superior rating. The ninth grade chorus did an outstanding job under the direction of Doris Jenkins.

Awards Day finally came and these students left behind the school song, "A school that leads and guides us true, A school that is so dear, our school, Kings Mountain Junior High, we give our praise to you. Kings Mountain Junior High we love, the school with pride and joy. Kings Mountain Junior High we love, forever we'll be true. Our colors are so bright and gay, this song we sing today 'cause with a smile we go a mile, True Patriots are we. Kings Mountain Junior High we love, the school with pride and joy. Kings Mountain Junior High we love; forever we'll be true."

Their journey had not stopped yet. On down the road all they could see was high school! Such a magical word that struck wariness and excitement in all hearts—they were finally going to high school, 309 tenth graders.

Their enthusiasm was short-lived, and once more they had to take a back seat—but not for long. Soon they elected class officers: President, Ronnie Wright; Vice-President, Jeff Chapman; Secretary, Rainey Haigler, Treasurer, Pat Davis. Sophomore student council members were: Laura Wright, Sandi Watterson, Eric Dixon, Thomas Putnam, Denise Edwards, Spring Young, Arnold Jordan, Tippi Curry, Curt Pressley, Angel Allen, and Lisa Wright.

Their sophomore year had been difficult at times, but as the months passed, they adjusted accordingly. They knew it would be hard to adapt to the new high school routine. Determined as they were, they set out to become a part of the "Moun-

taineer Life." Time was spent on learning their alma mater: "Dear ole Kings Mountain High, we love thee. Loud and long our praises ring. Joining in with all our voices, evermore they name to sing. In our work or play or studies, we will try our best to do. For we love and honor dear ole Kings Mountain High. To thee, we'll ever be true."

They faced the coming years at Kings Mountain Senior High with determination and the hope of reaching their goals. With sophomores participating on the varsity teams, they contributed to the success of their outstanding sports program. Their lively spirit, which won them the "spirit stick" more times than the Juniors or Seniors, showed everyone how proud they were to be a part of the Class of 1984. The chorus trip to Atlanta, Georgia was a highlight for the students who participated in the Invitational Choral Contest and won them a superior rating. They also got to sing at one of the Braves baseball games, and be on national tv. As the year ended, in each heart a little voice could be heard saying, "Just wait until next year...we'll show 'em!"

And they did! They barreled into the halls of Kings Mountain Senior High School the following August as the Class of '84, the juniors, 285 strong, next to the oldest class in school. They started off in a "whosh" as they elected their class officers with President, Ronnie Wright; Vice-President, Jeff Chapman; Secretary, Kim Hawkins; and Treasurer, Pat Davis. Sandi Watterson was elected as Secretary/Treasurer of the Student Council. Junior Council members elected Thomas Putnam, Angel Allen, Jill Plonk, LaDonna White, Rainey Haigler, Joy McCoy, Debbie Whetstone, Susie Biggers, Tippi Curry, Charlene Gamble, Caroline Harper, and Lisa Wright.

Their first project of the year was the magazine campaign for the purpose of raising money for the Junior-Senior Prom. At the close of the campaign the class had sold \$21,275.81, profit of \$8,498.59, beating the class of '83 and every preceding class, even the class of '85, with Holly Dellinger, Lisa Wright, and Lee Ann Lineberger leading the way in the most successful magazine sale ever at Kings Mountain Senior High School.

During the next few months, the juniors picked out their class rings. The following students were chosen for Presidential Classroom: Jill Plonk, Jeff Chapman, Sandi Watterson, Tracy Scism, and Caroline Harper. Lee Ann Lineberger was elected Vice-President of FHA for the State of North Carolina. Deia Parker wrote articles for the **Charlotte Observer**. The Blazer Band raised \$20,000 for their trip to Florida. They marched in the parade at Disney World and showed everyone they could come back home with a third place bronze award after

competing with other bands around the country. The band went on to the State Band Contest and won a superior rating, under the direction of Donald Deal and Chris Cole. The chorus won a superior rating also, under the direction of Gene Bumgardner.

Next on the agenda was the Junior-Senior Prom, held on May 7, 1983. The spring air was filled with the sounds of the "Staircase Band," as the students, escorts, and teachers enjoyed the 1983 edition of the Junior-Senior Prom, "Before the Year 2000." The hard work from the sales of the magazines had paid off; they proved to be one of the most exceptional junior classes ever at Kings Mountain Senior High School. It was a remarkable and entertaining night to be remembered!

June came and brought with it, summer vacation and summer jobs for some of them. But the dwindling months brought school around that August, 1983, for the last time for the Class of 1984. The moment they all had waited for—the pride and joy of being a senior—not just being any senior, but being a Senior in the Class of 1984. They had made it. After dreaming, praying, hoping, and waiting, they were—**The Seniors!**

As seniors, 252, they soon realized what a big job they had to do. They were the leaders of Kings Mountain Senior High School. With the help of their principal, Ronnie Wilson, teachers, and students, the hard work began. Jeff Chapman was elected as President of Student Participating Organization. Senior Class elected officers: President, Sandi Watterson; Vice-President, Susie Biggers; Secretary, Holly Dellinger; and Treasurer, Pat Davis. Student council members elected Carla Adams, Angel Allen, Dana Blalock, Tippi Curry, Shawn Gibby, Todd Gossett, Rainey Haigler, Angela Lyon, Joy McCoy, Lisa Wright, Ronnie Wright, and Spring Young. At-large representatives were Thomas Putnam, Lee Ann Lineberger, and Si Silaphet with Mrs. Anita Cambell and Mr. Dean Westmoreland, Faculty Advisors.

The **Mountaineer**, the school newspaper, flourished with Neesie Taylor, Editor; Julie Clore, Managing Editor; and Joy Queen, Photography Editor. They published five editions under the supervision of Faculty Advisors, Miss Annette Parker and Mrs. Elizabeth Throop. The Literary Magazine, "Phases," which included the creative efforts of students in all eight schools in the Kings Mountain School System was headed by Deia Parker, Editor; and Joy Queen, Managing Editor.

Their 1984 yearbook was headed by Pat Davis, Rainey Haigler, Holly Dellinger, Kim Hawkins, Wendy Smith, Dawn Morris, Deda Smith, and Dana Blalock with Mrs. Brenda Neal and Mrs. Mattie Lowery as faculty advisors. The Class of 1984 voted to dedicate the 1984 yearbook to Mr. Dean Westmoreland, history teacher, known to many as "The Pope."

Homecoming was held on October 21, 1983, with Spring Young, Angela Lyon, Becky Bolt, Lisa Wright, Rainey Haigler, Dina Jenkins, Jill Plonk, Holly Dellinger, Pat Davis, Leslie Sellers, Donna Blackburn, Neesie Taylor, Cynthia Adams, Sonia Ross, Caroline Harper, Joy McCoy, Anita Ware, Lisa Nation, Pam Morrow, Angel Allen, Charlene Gamble, and Susan Biggers running for the title. Angela Lyon was elected as Homecoming Queen.

At the last football pep rally all the Seniors were called to center court, and they sang their school song with tears streaming down their faces. It came time for the last football game at John Gamble Stadium where some very special band members marched for their last game. Senior cheerleaders cheered for their last game: Angel Allen, Captain; Spring Young, Co-Captain; Lee

Ann Lineberger, Jill Plonk, and Tina Brown. A group of dedicated senior football players played their last game: Curtis Pressley, Todd Cloninger, Thomas Putnam, Dale Moore, Quinton Rikard, Shawn Rainey, Brad Reynolds, Jeff Stokes, Gerald Gladden, James Ellison, Zach Roseboro, David Parker, and Shane Burton. Overall 6-4, won third place in the conference.

Joy McCoy won the title of Carousel Princess. Jeff Chapman was recipient of the Good Citizen Award. The Class of 1984 National Honor Society members: Tracy Bolin, Sandi Watterson, Tracy Scism, Lisa Nation, Joy McCoy, Pat Davis, Laura Wright, Susan Dyer, Lucy Whitaker, Jeff Smith, Paula Greene, Eva McKinney, Jill Plonk, Shawn Gibby, Si Silaphet, Barbara Lovelace, Pam Morrow, Lisa Birkovich, and Sararan Murray with Mrs. Sara Griffin, Faculty Advisor.

The girls' tennis team had a great season, 13-1. Senior players were Pat Davis, Becky Bolt, Caroline Harper, Wendy Smith, and Chris Parton.

The next project the seniors undertook was the presentation of the Senior Class Play, "Up the Down Staircase," under the direction of Mrs. Betsy Wells, head of the Drama Department. What an undertaking! It was presented at Barnes Auditorium on November 17, 18, and 19, 1983. Those seniors who took the roles of faculty members were: Dr. Maxwell Clarke played by Kevin Echols, Sylvia Barrett by Joy McCoy, Beatrice Schachter by Lisa Nation, Paul Barringer by Steve Fain, J.J. McHabe by Ricky White, Ella Friedenberg by Sonia Ross, Frances Egan by Lisa Wright, Charlotte Woff by Rainey Haigler, Samuel Bester by Tracy Bolin, Sadie Finch by Cathy Clore and Helen Arbuezzi by Laura Duncan. Students were played by Michael Lee, Mark Herndon, Joella Hamrick, Carla Adams, Tippi Curry, Jeff Lynn, Holly Dellinger, Naido Lugo, Cathy Pace, Shawn Gibby, Angela Lyon, Kim Hawkins, Charlene Gamble, Sandi Watterson, and Michael Bowles. The senior class raised \$2,650 from the sale of tickets.

The boys' basketball team was led by Tyrone Grier, All Gazette; Arnold Jordan and Larry Crocker. They finished their season 15-10.

The girls' basketball team was led by Sonia McClain, All Gazette; Jeanelle Parker and Anita Ware.

Semester exams came and went, leaving behind thoughts, "Did I Pass? or Did I Do Well? or Will I Graduate or Not?"

Spring arrived and the 1984 class was honored to have Governor Jim Hunt visit their school in March, 1984, to "Celebrate America Day." During this week the students raised \$516 for the renovation of the Statue of Liberty.

This class also volunteered to raise \$1,540 for the American Cancer Society, \$800 of which was raised by the seniors themselves.

The Blazer Band under the direction of Donald Deal and Chris Cole went to State Band Contest and came home with a superior rating. Band All-State Seniors '83-'84 were: Lisa Nation, Tracy Bolin, and Todd Gossett.

The chorus also came back with a superior rating under the direction of Gene Bumgardner. Chorus All-State Seniors '83-'84 were: Angel Allen, Laura Wright, Joy Queen, Angela Lyon, Marva Johnson, Sandy Wells, and Cathy Pace.

Senior members of the boys' tennis team were Thomas Putnam, Jeff Barnette, Mike Boyles, and Todd Gossett, coached by Ed Guy.

Track team was led by Arnold Jordan, Zach Roseboro, David Pettis, Walter Cooper, Jimmy Barrett, Tim Hamrick, Morris Hamrick, and Curtis Pressley.