

Woman Manages "Green Monster"

(ED. NOTE - Mary Adams of Kings Mountain has been named greens superintendent at Willow Creek Country Club near Boone. The following story by Tom McAuliffe appeared in last week's edition of the Mountain Times.)

By TOM McAULIFFE

Don't tell Mary Adams it's a man's world. At 23 years of age, Willow Creek's Country Club's greens superintendent is cutting her own path down an unlikely road and looking ahead to bigger and better things.

A Kings Mountain native, Adams grew up around the golf game and before coming to Willow Creek in 1981, she manned crews at Kings Mountain and Grandfather Mountain Country Club. At the par-3 Willow Creek course, dubbed down owners as the "little green monster", Adams began as a pro shop attendant, but it wasn't long before she was back on the course.

"I liked the outdoors too much to work inside," she explained. "My mother raised me on the golf course, so I thought why not make a career out of something you love."

In spite of her lack of formal turf management education, Adams' hard work and interest in greenskeeping caught the attention of owner/developer Howard Bloom. In March of this year, Adams was named superintendent.

"She cares about her work, and you can tell she has an interest in it," Bloom reasoned. "She was doing most of the work on the crew anyway."

"This is a very challenging course," Adams said of her Willow Creek charge. "I haven't seen or heard of a par 3 that compares."

Adams and her crew of five men not only maintain the Willow Creek layout, but care for the surrounding properties and the Smoketree Lodge five

miles to the south. In the winter, she cuts wood for the 14 cabins of Frontier Village adjacent to Willow Creek and performs maintenance duties on the equipment.

"It was an experience this winter learning about the gears and maintenance work," Adams remembers. "I like getting greasy. I don't mind getting dirty under my fingernails. I just go home and give myself a manicure."

Adams has a quick answer for those who question her ability in light of her formal education in turf management. "You learn to recognize diseases and indications of insects in the field," she said. "It's something that comes with time. It's hard to learn reading from a book in class. You have to see it happening to recognize a problem. This is my fifth year in course maintenance and I think field work is better than class work."

Adams has overcome her most significant drawback—the lack of pesticide applicator's license—with the help of longtime turf professional John Testor of Hounds Ears.

"If there's a problem I can't handle, I call John," Adams explained. In her spare time she is preparing for the pesticide applicator's license, administered in Raleigh. She plans to take the test in the fall. In the meantime, her training is on the job, and Adams thinks that's the best education going.

"I think I know as much about it as a lot of people in the business," she said matter-of-factly. "But knowledge is important. You could kill these bent grass greens just like that if you're not careful."

Degree or no degree, Adams runs the show in the Willow Creek maintenance department and things have been made easier thanks to a hard working staff.

"They're all motivated," Adams said of her five man crew. "People ask if I have any problem with

them, but they respect me as a boss and a lady. Sometimes they won't let me do things they don't think I should do, but I'm stronger than most women." She knows the demands of golf course maintenance and when the play gets heavy through the warm weather months of July and August, the task gets even tougher. But Adams is ready for her first summer at the Willow Creek helm.

"Come July there'll be more players and more work," she predicts, "and with our Penn-Cross bent grass greens you have more work. You have to care for them like a baby."

Maybe it's the maternal instincts that makes the woman a natural for caring for the golf course. For Adams, only lack of experience and the desire to take time off to raise a family pose obstacles to a top job at Pinehurst or Ponte Vedra Beach — a goal she believes is within reach.

"Sometimes women do a better job," she said. "They put their heart in their work. I look at Willow Creek as my course and hope I'm bringing people into play by keeping it in good shape."

This fall Adams is looking forward to adding to the foundation of the Willow Creek landscape. "There are things to do here," she concluded. "I want to redesign some trees, plant some more flowers and shrubs, and make this a prettier place."

"Greenskeeping is fun. You're outside enjoying the environment and you're around good people. Everyone should try it."

Developer Bloom is glad he took a chance on the young lady from Kings Mountain.

"She's unbelievable," Bloom said. "She's a tough little operator."



MARY ADAMS

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Section B

Kings Mountain Herald



Social Notes

By Lib Stewart

Fashion Show Features Gowns, Past To Present

A Walk Down Nostalgia Lane was the appropriate title for Thursday's luncheon and program of the Shelby Christian Women's Club.

Since June is the season of brides and weddings, the program was a fashion show of bridal gowns from past and present. The tables were also decorated in the bridal theme with bride dolls in lace and satin centering the table. Bridal books of pictures of Shelby and area weddings decorated the head table along with portraits of brides in their satin and lace wedding gowns.

Linda (Mrs. Allan) Dixon, of Kings Mountain, sang "People," accompanied by her daughter, Kim Dixon, at the piano, and Mrs. Dixon and young daughter, Christy, sang a duet, "Thank You For Loving Me."

Eleanor Lewis of Atlanta, Georgia, a former cheerleader with the Pittsburgh Steelers and vivacious talk show hostess, was the inspirational speaker.

A number of Kings Mountain area people attended the luncheon, including Mrs. John L. McGill, Mrs. Jimmy Harris, Mrs. George Blalock, Mrs. Frank McIntyre, Mrs. Leroy McGill, Mrs. W. Eugene McCarter, Miss Elizabeth Stewart, Mrs. J.C. Bridges and her daughter, Jo McRae, visiting from Hickory, Mrs. Bill Moss, Mrs. Willie Howell, Mrs. Jane Falls, Mrs. Joyce Bolin.

The next meeting of the group will be a "Fun In The Sun" luncheon on July 19th at 12 noon at Shelby Elks Lodge. Joy Cooper, of Costner's Patio Shoppe, will present ideas for outdoor enjoyment and inspirational speaker will be Phyllis Scheuneman of Knoxville, Tennessee, who is a member of the Knoxville Choral Society and studied voice at the Detroit Conservatory of Music.

Reservations should be made by noon Monday of the meeting week with Virginia Bylund, 487-0857 or Bonnie Price, 434-6443. A free nursery will be provided for children of members attending the luncheon.



BRIDAL PARTY SCENE - A bridal attendant's dress, bridal gown and a junior attendant's gown were modeled during the fashion show of bridal gowns from the past and present at last Thursday's luncheon of the Shelby Christian Woman's Club.

Donna Caveny, Lane Logan Honored At Buffet Dinner

Mrs. W. Lawrence Logan entertained Friday evening at Holiday Inn at an elegant and beautifully appointed after-rehearsal dinner honoring her son, Lane Logan, and his bride-to-be, Donna Caveny.

Fifty guests, including members of the wedding party, two families and out-of-town guests enjoyed a buffet dinner in the Magnolia room. The buffet table was centered with a huge arrangement of magnolias and white glads, silver trays and appointments held an assortment of fruits and party pickups including chicken drummettes and Swiss meatballs.

The hostess welcomed the guests and Rev. J.C. Goare, pastor of Kings Mountain Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Various members of the wedding party offered champagne toasts to the bride and bridegroom.

Dinner tables were arranged cabaret fashion around the room and were covered with cream

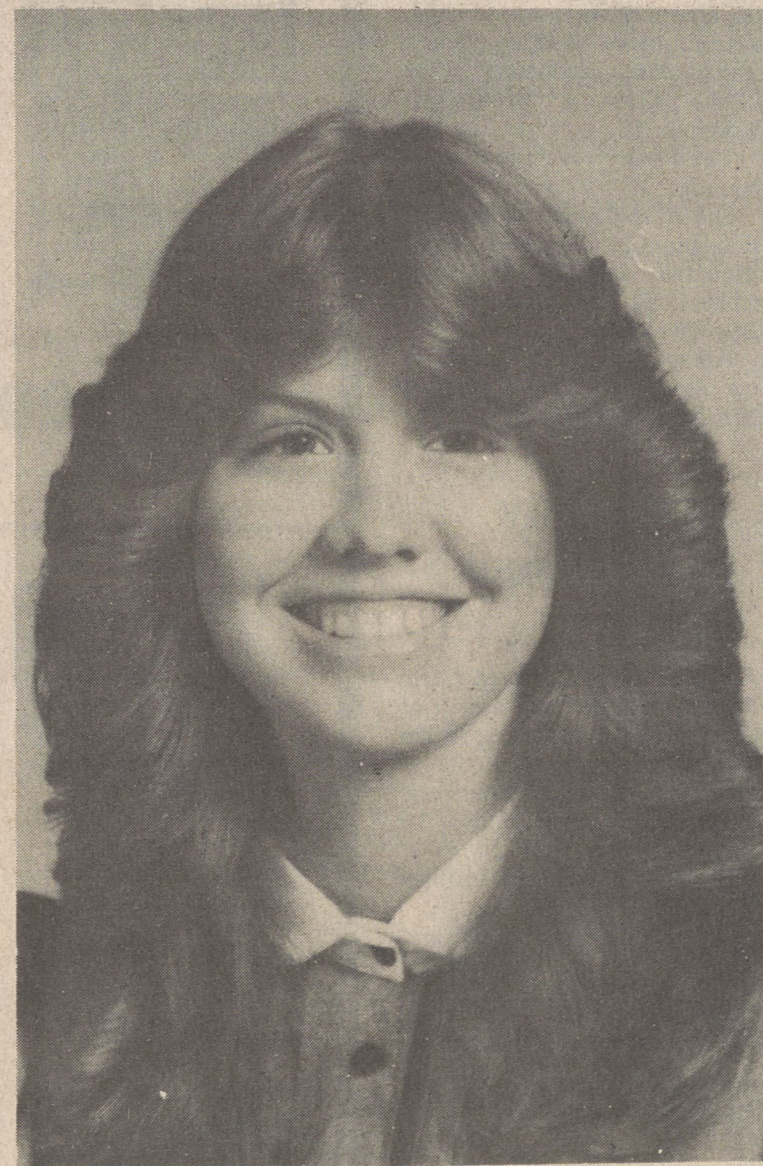
colored cloths and arranged with magnolias.

Miss Caveny wore a pink dress and a pink corsage of sweetheart roses, gift of the hostess.

Out-of-town guests included Larry Logan of Washington, D.C., brother of the bridegroom-elect; Mark Pandick of New York and Washington, D.C., Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bell of Columbia, S.C., Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Carpenter of Anderson, S.C., Mrs. Nicholas Bowden of Keenansville, N.C., Mrs. Virginia Logan Sams of Winston Salem, Mrs. Elmer Logan of Kannapolis and Mrs. Dollie Cornwell Whitener of Asheville.

TO CHAPEL HILL

Six-year-old James Steven Richardson, son of James W. and Phyllis Richardson of Kings Mountain, is a patient in Chapel Hill Memorial Hospital where he is undergoing surgery to rebuild his eardrum.



KATHY DARLEEN BRANCH

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED - Mr. and Mrs. George Overcash of Range Road Kings Mountain, announce the engagement of their daughter, Kathy Darleen Branch, to Michael Jeffrey Falls of Kings Mountain, son of Mr. and Mrs. Doytt E. Falls of Kings Mountain. A spring wedding is planned.



MRS. TIMOTHY EDWARD WRIGHT (Sherry Chaney)

Wrights Wed Saturday At Second Baptist

Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Edward Wright, who were wed Saturday, are on a wedding trip to Myrtle Beach, S.C. and afterwards will be at home at Battle Forest Apartments in Kings Mountain.

Miss Sherry Kay Chaney became Mr. Wright's bride in a candlelight wedding in Kings Mountain's Second Baptist Church.

Rev. Eugene Land, minister of the church, heard the couple exchange vows of the impressive double ring ceremony.

Evelyn Bridges was pianist and Richard Hicks of Atlanta, Ga. and Rev. Dick Whitener of Bessemer City were vocalists for the program of traditional music.

The bride was given in marriage by her father. Best man for the bridegroom was his father.

Miss Terry Chaney of Kings Mountain attended her sister as maid of honor and bridesmaids were Jackie Johnson of Kings Mountain, sister of the bride, Cindy Goforth of Bessemer City, sister of the bridegroom, Kim Peeler, Elizabeth Sneed and Nancy Rickard, all of Kings Mountain. The bride's niece,

Marlisha Chaney, was flower girl and Mark Sizemore was ringbearer.

Groomsmen were Royce Peeler, Ricky Greene, Bill Johnson, all of Kings Mountain, Keith Goforth and Charlie Norman of Bessemer City.

After the ceremony the bride's parents entertained at a beautifully appointed wedding reception in the church fellowship hall.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack D. Chaney of Kings Mountain. She is a graduate of Kings Mountain Senior High School and is employed by Cinderella Knit.

The bridegroom, son of Mr. and Mrs. James W. Wright of Bessemer City, is a graduate of Bessemer City High School and is employed by Dixie Yeast of Gastonia. He is the grandson of Mrs. Ethel Owens Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Yates Wright.

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