

Ethelyne Shelley Volunteer Of Year

Greensboro volunteer of the year, Ethelyne Shelley, is no stranger to Kings Mountain friends and relatives, although she moved to Greensboro many years ago.

Her Kings Mountain friends will be interested in the feature story, written by Mariso Porto, which appeared in the June 23 Greensboro Daily News.

Doing a job and doing it right is the motto of Greensboro resident Ethelyne Shelley. If it's volunteer community work, all the better.

So it is no surprise that last week the Interclub Council of Greensboro recognized Shelley for her service to the city — service that began when she arrived here 58 years ago.

A native of Kings Mountain, Shelley came to Greensboro in 1927 to spend two weeks with an aunt, Mrs. Jesse Whittemore.

"They had just opened the new railroad station and it was the most beautiful thing I'd ever seen in my life," Shelley said. "On Sundays, we looked at churches. When I began to look at colleges, my mind began to spin."

She didn't even return to Kings Mountain for her clothes. Her parents followed her to Greensboro shortly thereafter.

Shelley declines to give her age, but she says she is "over three-quarters of a century."

An active church member, Shelley attends College Place Methodist Church.

"I owe everything I have to my family and to the church," she said. "Without their support, I wouldn't amount to a hill of beans. The church gave me an opportunity to learn. I felt responsible so I came back here and I've done what I could."

A modest woman, she gives much of the credit of her success to her brothers and sisters.

"I have one brother who is an artist," she said. "When I needed to raise money for a fence around a day-care center, he drew the flip chart. He's done that more than once. I have one sister who was always concerned about what I was going to wear. I never really cared much, but I could never have done any of the things I've done without my family."

Shelley's biggest victory was the preservation of Lake Daniel reservoir — which, she says, other good people helped win.

The notice to sell the property, which serves as a park for area residents, was put in the newspaper the July 4 weekend in 1978. The minute she saw it, she went to work distributing letters and getting petitions signed.

"We kept it low key with no harsh words," she said. "We attended all the meetings and we kept getting "no" (to save the reservoir), but we kept up the fight. Then they decided



ETHELYNE SHELLEY

to make it a permanent part of the parks and recreation department.

"It was five years of real hard work," Shelley said. "But it paid off. It was a marvelous victory. It ended up in a very friendly way."

Shelley said twice a year Lake Daniel residents get together to clean the area, including the surrounding woods, and programs are set up for holidays.

The list of organizations Shelley has served and duties she has performed is long.

Shelley has served on the church's education commission, administrative board and Woman's Society of Christian Service. She was president of the Wesleyan Service Guild, an organization for working women, and taught Sunday school for more than 25 years.

She was appointed to a four-year term as bishop to the Conference on Ecumenical Affairs, and was a six-term delegate to the managing board of National Assemblies of Church Women United. For four years, she was president of the state Church Women United, and in 1960, she was elected as a member of the board of directors of the Japanese Christian University.

Shelley was appointed to a four-year term on the Advisory Committee to the North Carolina Correctional Center for Women in 1962. In 1968, she organized a committee to raise \$120,000 to rebuild the chapel at Samarkand Manor, an institution for delinquent girls.

Shelley served two terms as president of the Greensboro Soroptimist Club, a civic club for working women. She served as a member of the board of directors of the Wesley Long Community Hospital Auxiliary and chairwoman of volunteers for the office of admissions.

She still serves as a volunteer on Sunday afternoons for both the Soroptimist Club and the Auxiliary. "My life has been very satisfying," Shelley said. "I've had nothing to regret. I've had all the ups and downs that everyone else has ... but I've had a good life and a happy time."

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