



MITCHEM GARDEN IS YEAR ROUND FLOWER SHOW - Lillian Mitchem stands in her colorful garden at the corner of King Street and Railroad Avenue, which abounds with color at every season of the year thanks to her green thumb. Mrs. Mitchem won the first place beautification project for non-farm residences at the Cleveland County Fair last week.

Lillian Mitchem's Garden Catches Everyone's Eye

Lillian Mitchem's colorful year-round flower garden at the corner of King Street and Railroad Avenue catches everyone's eye who travels across the overhead bridge and this week copped the first place beautification award at the Cleveland County Fair.

Mrs. Mitchem, a great-grandmother whose vitality belies her age, received a plaque from the Cleveland County Agricultural Extension Service and \$100 cash.

Marigolds, mums, periwinkle, scarlet sage, and cockscomb abound in gorgeous fall colors at this season of the year and delight passers-by who stop just to marvel at the beauty of the yard where most any day you can find "Mitchem", as Lillian is affectionately call-

ed by her friends, busy watering and tending the flowers which come back prettier at each season of the year. The Mitchem yard is a year-round garden which Lillian says grows with love.

The first thing Lillian Mitchem does in the morning is to open her front door and look at the purple, red, yellow and green landscape.

One Sunday morning Lillian returned from Resurrection Lutheran Church to find a note pinned to her front door. It was from a man who enjoys her flowers when he travels back and forth from Asheville. He told her in the note that most people don't have time to stop and smell the flowers let alone grow them. He wanted her to know how much he appreciated her

efforts.

Mitchem had to have a pacemaker put in five years ago. "My family thought that would slow me down, But it hasn't yet. My flowers gave me inspiration", she says.

In her Sunday School class at Resurrection Church, the leader asked each one to tell when they felt the closest to God. Of course, Lillian said when she's working in her garden when everything is blooming.

"Anytime I ever get down in the dumps I only have to go outside and start digging," said Mitchem, who plans her garden at night and begins digging at dawn.

When Kings Mountain Housing Authority opened the new apartments across from the overhead bridge eight years ago, Lillian Mitchem applied for one because of the short distance to town. She said at the time if she was fortunate enough to occupy a corner apartment, she would make the city proud of the yard, and so her beautification project began. Lillian's yard is among the prettiest in Kings Mountain and the county. At 80 years of age, the petite silverhaired great-grandmother keeps on digging and the garden never comes out the same two years in a row. It gets prettier.

Mrs. Mitchem, widow of John Mitchem, was born and reared in Kings Mountain, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Lynn. She is mother of two children, Sam Mitchem of Greensboro and Madge Abernathy of North Augusta, S.C. and reared a foster son, Dr. Lloyd W. (Bill) Mitchem, Jr., a Lutheran minister in Charlotte. There are three grandchildren.

The flower show in the Mitchem yard begins in the early spring with pansies flanked by blue phlox followed by all the rainbow colors in petunias of brilliant pink and white, and of course, the darling of the midsummer annuals, the marigolds that resemble pompons in vibrant orange and lemon yellow. In the Fall there is periwinkle blue, white and pink tubeshaped ageratum, red cockscomb, which seems to be just what the name implies, like a regal rooster standing guard in the flower garden and celts which stands so tall it looks like feather dusters in pink and deep rose. Behind these are mums in beautiful deep orange and warm yellow fall colors. Large clay pots of geraniums flank the doorway of the Mitchem home and in the windowbox are pink and white begonias.

Lillian's flower garden is the best possible "medicine" for her and for the people who enjoy it. She would find life

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WITCHES HAT, HAY RIDE

Chestnut Ridge Volunteer Fire Department will sponsor a Witches Hat and Hayride from Oct. 24-31, except Sunday, from 7 until 11 p.m. weekdays and on Friday and Saturday from 7 to midnight. The Haunted House will be

located on Chestnut Ridge Church Road on Highway 216 and 161 and will be sponsored by the Fire Department with proceeds to be used for fire-fighting equipment.

Cost is \$2 for admission to

the haunted house and \$1 for hayride and discounts are available to groups.

For more information call 739-5853 after 5 p.m. or 739-5927 and on fire department or haunted house nights at 739-1416.

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SILVER MEDAL TO ALEXANDER—Teresa Melton, Director of the Senior Center program at KM Depot Center, presents a silver olympic medal to William (Bill) Alexander, who won the award during first annual state Senior Games Day Oct. 3-6 in Raleigh, patterned after the Olympics and an athletic event which drew over 700 senior citizens who had won awards in similar games in their own counties.

Walking For Exercises Pays Off For Alexander

William (Bill) Alexander, retired Kings Mountain Bible teacher, enjoys walking for exercise and for fun and last weekend he won the silver medal in the senior citizens olympic competition for adults 55 and older at Athens Drive High School in West Raleigh.

To make the state finals of the athletic competition, he had earlier won first, second and third prizes in Senior Citizens Games held at Gardner Webb College.

The North Carolina Senior Games are endorsed by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and the state competition, which will be an annual event, was sponsored by NCNB and the North Carolina Division of Aging.

"It was just like the real olympics", said Alexander, who said the participants assembled for a Parade of Athletes and an opening ceremony featuring torch lighting. Events were held on Friday and Saturday with the closing ceremony, including a worship service and awards

presentations, on Sunday morning.

Hester Bolin and Darwin and Clara Earle, and William and Edith Miller, all of Kings Mountain, also participated in the games but did not place in the competitions. They had all placed in competition in the spring at Gardner Webb College.

Alexander competed in basketball shooting, horseshoes, shuffleboard, softball throw, table tennis, and one mile walk, coming close to placing in several other categories.

Mrs. Alexander also accompanied her husband to Raleigh.

Alexander retired after 19 years as a KMSHS faculty member.

Other Cleveland County people taking part in the festivities were Virginia Clark of Earl, Earlene Cornwell of Lawndale, Paul Cole, William and Virginia Greene, Vida and Hugh Hester, Eliza Peeler, Lonnie Proctor, Erwin Singleton, and Gaither Young, all of Shelby.