

	May 3-9	Year Ago
Total precipitation	.75	.10
Maximum one day	.65 (4th)	.10 (4th)
Year to date	9.90	18.84
Minimum temperature	46 (5th)	44 (5th)
Maximum temperature	84 (7th)	89 (9th)
Average temperature	63.2	65.9

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Grover's Scruggs Principal Of Year

BY GARY STEWART
Managing Editor

Jim Scruggs has always been the kind of person that stood out in a crowd...not just because he's 6-feet-6, but also because of the things he has accomplished in almost 40 years as a North Carolina educator.

The veteran Grover Elementary School principal, who has held the same job for 32 years, was recently honored as Principal of the Year in Kings Mountain District Schools. The selection by his peers only made official what students and parents in Grover have known for years.

Scruggs wanted to be a teacher while growing up in Cliffside, and shortly after becoming a teacher and basketball and baseball coach at nearby Ellenboro he set his sights on administration.

Ellenboro's principal died during spring of Scruggs' third year there and he filled in until the end of school. He applied for the job but was not hired because he didn't have a master's degree.

"I decided I wouldn't let that happen again, so I went to Appalachen on a teaching fellowship and got my master's degree," he recalled Tuesday at his office.

Scruggs taught at Burlington for two years before moving to Grover in the fall of 1956.

"We were a union school with grades one through 12," he recalled. Scruggs taught some classes in addition to being full-time principal, and in 1960-61 he coached the girls basketball team.

He's seen a lot of changes through the years, including consolidation, intergration, several school re-organizations, modern math, the addition of kindergarten, and most recently implementation of the state's Basic Education Program.

But one of the best programs to come along in recent years, he says, was the early childhood dropout prevention program in which schools screen incoming kindergarten students and pinpoint potential dropouts. "We are able to spot kids with problems and offer books and advice to parents to help get them ready for school," he said.

He has seen teacher loads eased because of reduction of sizes, the addition of teacher aides, and the age of computers: has seen learning become more comfortable due to carpeted



JAMES SCRUGGS

classrooms and efficient heating and cooling systems; and has seen such brainstorms as modern math and open classrooms come and go.

"When I first came here we had some classes with 35 to 40 students," he recalled. "Now the maximum is 29 but we shoot for the low 20's. Computers have also helped ease the load. The secretaries are doing blue sheets that teachers used to turn in once a month and the teachers don't have to worry about it."

Of course, all things that happen aren't good, and Scruggs has experienced his low points.

"One of the bad things I've noticed is that we have more and more single-parent families," he said. "There are a lot of divorces and more kids with problems with their parents. Probably 25 percent of our students' parents are either divorced or re-married or separated and trying to make a go of it on their own. There are more and more kids who have a key to the house and going home without anyone being there."

Scruggs has always had high praise for his staff, which includes 21 teachers and 12 aides. Almost half of the teachers have master's degrees and a third of the aides are working on degrees. Grover has produced the last two

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School Board Approves Indoor Pool Contracts

By GARY STEWART
Managing Editor

The Kings Mountain Board of Education awarded bids totaling \$652,510 Monday night for construction of the indoor swimming pool at Kings Mountain High School.

The board also approved up to three alternate bids-which would bring the total cost to \$702,990-if the Kings Mountain Indoor Pool Foundation can raise the extra funds.

The alternates would allow the foundation to add a dehumidification system, an energy-efficient vestibule area and a better roof, said architect Stan Anthony and Dr. Scott Mayse, president of the foundation which has been soliciting funds for the pool construction.

Mayse said the foundation, with the help of a \$100,000 gift from the school system, already has enough money to cover the base bids. He said he will ask the foundation to authorize him to borrow money to cover the alternates, if the group feels it can raise the necessary funds. If not, he said, he will not sign a contract for the additions.

"The basic pool is similar to Shelby's," he told the board. "We could very easily live with it. However, the alternates would make it a nicer facility and more efficient to operate."

Grading work for the facility, which will be located on the south side of the campus near the student parking lot, has been completed. The foundation hopes to begin construction soon and complete it next year. It would be used by the school system and the community and the Pool Foundation and City of Kings Mountain have pledged to help with the upkeep.

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Principals King, Wilson Promoted By School Board

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Two Kings Mountain principals were given promotions at Monday night's meeting of the Board of Education at the School Administration office.

Jane King, principal of North Elementary, was named Director of Instruction, and Ronnie Wilson, principal of Kings Mountain High School, was appointed to the new position of Director of Personnel. Both appointments go into effect July 1.

Mrs. King has been in education for 20 years, serving almost 19 of them in the Kings Mountain District Schools. She taught briefly at Franklin in Western North Carolina and served one year with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction's regional center in Albemarle as a consultant with exceptional children.

Between those two terms, she taught fourth and sixth grades and special education in Kings Mountain. She returned to Kings Mountain as director of the exceptional children's program. Most recently, she served as principal of West School for three years and principal of North for two years.

"I'm real excited about the new appointment," she said following Monday's board decision. "I feel like there are all kind of new opportunities in education and that the Basic Education Plan is going to offer us new positions and programs that will make it challenging."

Mrs. King said she welcomes the opportunity to work with all the schools and teachers in the system, and the challenge of



WILSON

KING

helping develop the curriculum for the new middle school which will come into existence within the next three years.

Mrs. Kings will supervise the entire instructional program of the system and implement new programs which will come about through the state's Basic Education program.

"We feel really pleased that we have somebody of her capabilities to be in one of the key positions in the system," said Supt. Bob McRae. "She has clearly done an outstanding job as principal. She's well-respected by the people in the system and the community and we feel like we have made a very sound decision."

Mrs. Kings replaces Martha Bridges, who has announced her retirement.

Wilson is completing his fifth year as principal at KMHS. Prior to coming here, he was principal at Washington High in Eastern North Carolina. He has also taught and coached baseball and football and served as an assistant principal at Latta, S.C., High School, and was principal at

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'Paw Paw' Melvin Faucette Trades Frying Pan For Badge

By LIB STEWART
NEWS EDITOR

Melvin C. Faucette, 62, returned to police duty this week after serving as a N.C. State Trooper 28 years ago.

His determination and spirit earned him the praise of his fellow classmates at Gaston College Rookie School who at graduation Friday gave him a plaque as the oldest rookie cop in the class of '88.

What he like most, however, was their close friendship. They dubbed him "Paw Paw" and he came away with 13 adopted sons and daughters between the ages of 22 and 38.

Kings Mountain Police Chief Warren Goforth also praised the newest reserve officer in the Kings Mountain citizens can be proud to know. We expect to learn much from him", said the chief.

Goforth said that Faucette will work 10 hours a month primarily as a reserve officer at Moss lake but will also be riding the streets in a patrol car. "We'll keep him busy. You can't tie this man down", he said.

"I had such a glorious inner feeling that I completed rookie school which reminded me of the time I joined Grace United Methodist Church," said Faucette who said he decided to get back into police work because "it gets in your blood." It was important to me. I asked God to help me and I asked people to pray that I would make it", he said.

Faucette's father was a policeman in Salisbury 20 years before he died at age 51. Faucette served as a state trooper from 1952-60 with duty in Reidsville, Madison County, Alamance County and Nash County. In 1969 he moved to Kings Mountain and local people remember him as the manager of Kentucky Fried Chicken on East King Street. They sampled his original recipes for ham and steak biscuits and barbecue over the years. Faucette retired last September.

Faucette suffered a stroke in 1982 and it took him two years to get back in top physical shape. He completed 480 hours of law enforcement training May 6, passing the rigid requirements for a cop with flying colors. "Sometimes I'd come home from school sore and bruised but my wife would encourage me not to quit. "You're tough and you can make it", she said.

All his previous training came back to him, he said, as motor vehicle and search and seizure laws are the same he had learned years ago. He scored 90 on the tough obstacle driving course, shot 94.8 during the day and 84.8 in total darkness on the police firing range, outshooting younger classmates. "We didn't have as much paperwork to do years ago in police work", said Faucette who said he thinks it time police get back to policing and leave paper work to others.

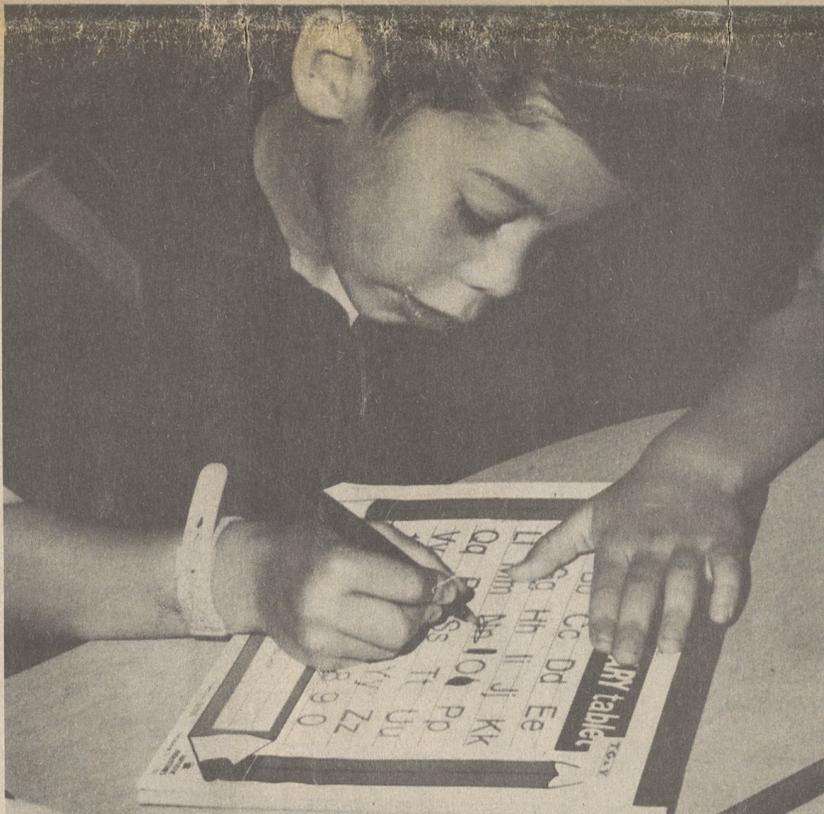
Faucette said the instructors at Gaston College Rookie School were excellent and that he will long remember the friends he made. Earlier in his training, Faucette got the affectionate title of "Paw Paw" from Rodney Young of Cramerton. "Why I'd be proud to be your Paw Paw", said Faucette. Soon everyone in the class was calling him "Paw Paw", an endearment which stuck.

Friday at graduation ceremonies, Young presented Faucette with an engraved plaque as the Oldest Rookie Cop who was an inspiration to all the class. The plaque carried the signature of all class members: Young, Nick Flemming, Terry Floyd, Billy Gardner, George Haydt, Jody Hooker, Felicia Howard, Debbie Hullender, Matthew Hunt, Ashley Lusk, Kathy Richardson, Melanie Thornburg and Kim Young.

"A true police officer" is how his new and older friends describe him.

Faucette is married to Bobbie Gean Faucette and they reside at 704 Marion St. They are parents of three sons, Lee, Wesley and

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HOME CLASSROOM-Aaron Taule, 4, loves school as much as his older brother and sisters, all taught by their mother, Mrs. Brian Taule, at the David Baptist Church parsonage, their home.

Taules Educate Children At Home

By JUNE BALLARD

There are acceptable alternatives to our established educational system. One such alternative is "Home School", or tutoring. This is, simply, teaching your children in your own time.

The state does not necessarily encourage this practice but by no means does it discourage it.

The Brian Taules of Kings Mountain have chosen this program as a means of education for their four children. Brian is the pastor of David Baptist Church and he and his wife, Gale, along with Jennifer, age 14, Nathan, age 9, Corrie, age 7, and Aaron, age 4, reside in the David Baptist Church parsonage on Shelby Road.

Gale, a former public school teacher, holds classes daily beginning at 9 a.m. and continuing for approximately 5½ hours. Sometimes the children are taught certain subjects simultaneously, but usually each child is taught individually according to age.

Gale uses a yearly standard as a guideline in each subject and this allows for a grade level determination.

Testing of the students is done yearly and submitted to the state. This is not a requirement of the state but Gale has chosen to do so to determine how her children are doing.

A weekly visit to the library is a definite requirement of Gale's and periodic visits to the YMCA is also on her schedule. At the YMCA, her children participate in sports such as basketball, football, swimming, gymnastics, and others. In addition to the group activities at the YMCA, the Taule children also participate in a support group which allows for group field trips and other activities.

The formal part of home school follows somewhat the same schedule as regular school, and lasts for nine months. However, field trips and other outings continue into the summer months. Gale believes that nature and animals are fabulous instruments for teaching along with the more formal curriculum. Music also has an important place in their lives. A program of music through tapes is incorporated into their studies.

Surprisingly, the Taules are not the only ones

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Clinton Jolly Rites Tuesday

Funeral services for Clinton Eugene Jolly, 63, of 401 Maner Road, who died Sunday of an apparent heart attack at his home, were conducted Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock from Second Baptist Church of which he was a member.

His pastor, Rev. Eugene Land, officiated and interment was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

A Cleveland County native, he was the son of the late Clarence Lafayette and Orangrel Barrett Jolly and was employed as Vice President of Manufacturing at Blackwelder Textiles in Cherryville. He was formerly



JOLLY

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Luther D. Joy Died Sunday

Funeral services for Luther Dewitt Joy, 72, of 111 Waco Road, who died Sunday in the Kings Mountain Convalescent Center, were conducted Wednesday at 2 p.m. from First Wesleyan Church of which he was a member.

His pastor, Rev. John Harris, officiated and interment was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Mr. Joy was a native of Gaston County and a retired textile employee. He was a Navy veteran of World War II. He was son of the late James Harvey and Nola Lawing Joy.

Surviving are his wife, Ida Fortner Joy; two sons, Gary Joy of Kings Mountain and Leslie Joy of Marietta, Ga., two sisters, Mrs. Ruby Gladden of Kings Mountain and Mrs. Margaret Millwood of Shelby; and two grandchildren.



JOY