

NEXT WEEK:

Find out what has happened this year in our schools in . . . The Kings Mountain District Schools Report To The People

Kings Mountain Herald

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LOCAL



Leroy Mathis works on airplane engine at Mount Mauney Memorial.

MAUNEY MEMORIAL
100 S. PIEDMONT
KINGS MOUNTAIN, NC 281

Jackie Lavender Named First Woman Principal At KM High

BY TODD GOSSETT

The Kings Mountain Board of Education announced Monday its selection of two new principals to fill the posts being vacated at Kings Mountain Senior High School and North Elementary School.

Jacqueline Lavender, an assistant principal high school, was named that schools new principal and Joe Hopper Jr., an assistant principal at Kings

Mountain Junior High School was named principal at North School.

The announcement came after a mammoth closed-door executive session of the board lasted nearly four hours.

Mrs. Lavender taught chemistry and physics at the high school from 1973-1979. She has been an assistant principal there since 1979. Her educational background includes: a B.A. degree in biology and chemistry



HOPPER



LAVENDER

from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, teaching certification from Carolina State University, a M.A.T. degree in physical sciences from Campbell College, gifted and talented certification from the North Carolina Department of Instruction, principal's certification from Western Carolina University and some additional study at UNC-G.

Hopper was a classroom teacher. Turn To Page 2-A



Photo by Darrin Griggs

TO TEACH ABROAD - North third grade teacher Connie Phifer is pictured above in her classroom here. She will teach next school year in England through the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program.

KM's Phifer To Teach For Year In England

North Elementary School teacher Connie Phifer will spend the next school year teaching in Firs Primary School in Salecheshire, England, as part of the Fulbright Teacher Exchange program.

While Ms. Phifer is teaching in England, her duties here will be assumed by Barbara Ratchford Turner of England.

Ms. Phifer is one of only 2,000 teachers nationwide participating in the program. She says she'll miss her students and co-workers here but looks forward to the challenge of teaching in England and also the opportunities for travel.

Ms. Phifer, a Kings Mountain native, has been teaching for 13 years. She is a 1975 graduate of Erskine College and holds a master's degree from Appalachian. All 13 years of her career here have been spent at North School.

Ms. Phifer is the daughter of Mariott and Bess Phifer of Kings Mountain. Her father was in the hardware business for many years and her mother recently retired after 27 years in public schools.

Ms. Phifer, who teaches third grade here, will be working with eight and nine year olds in England. She will still be paid by the Kings Mountain District Schools and Ms. Turner will receive her salary from her system in England.

"Their school year begins September 6 and runs through the middle of next July," Ms. Phifer noted. "I'll be there the whole time. Who knows what will happen!"

Ms. Phifer said she will have a two-week break after each grading period and a long break at Christmas. She hopes to spend Christmas in Switzerland and plans to go back to the Netherlands and visit Annie Prinsen, whom she met on a trip there with the Friendship Force. "I want to spend some time in Germany and see everything in the United Kingdom except Ireland," she said. "I've been told by Dr. (Bob) McRae that he doesn't want me to go there."

The school days in England run from 9 a.m. until 3:30, with 1 1/2 hours for lunch, Ms. Phifer said.

Ms. Phifer said she looks upon being selected as a Fulbright teacher as an honor, since only 4,000 teachers (half from the U.S.) are accepted.

"The main reason I want to go is for a new challenge," she says. "I need a change. I want to see what they do differently from our system and what I could bring back to our system to help us improve. I have a feeling I'll be more appreciative of what I have. I will have 24 to 30 kids, no aide, and I will report to school the same day the students do. It will be different. I hope to come back home and give some slide shows and share what I've learned."

Ms. Phifer said teachers participating in the program will get together August 3-4 in Washington for a seminar. She'll then come back home briefly before going to England.

"I think Barbara will bring a wealth of knowledge to North School," said Ms. Phifer. "She has a background in drama and seems to be really interested in education and children. She's 51 years old and has two grown children. I've not met her but I've talked to her on the phone three times. She sounds delightful. My only regret is that I'm not really going to get to know her."

Ms. Turner will live in Ms. Phifer's apartment during her year here. Ms. Phifer said she'll probably share an apartment with another teacher in England.

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Utilities Approved For Park

Kings Mountain City Council Tuesday night agreed to provide utilities for a proposed industrial park to be located on the present site of KOA Campgrounds near I-85 and Highway 161 south, and to a proposed new business to be located on Canterbury Road.

The Cleveland Business and Industrial Park plans to develop the 22-acre KOA site which will contain six buildings ranging in size from 28,000 square feet to 40,000 square feet. All of the buildings combined would include about 200,000 square feet.

Construction of the facilities will cost approximately \$4,200,000 and would provide the city a minimum yearly revenue of \$240,300 through property taxes and purchase of electrical, natural gas and water and sewer services.

The building projects are scheduled for completion within three years and would eventually provide over 150 jobs. Estimated

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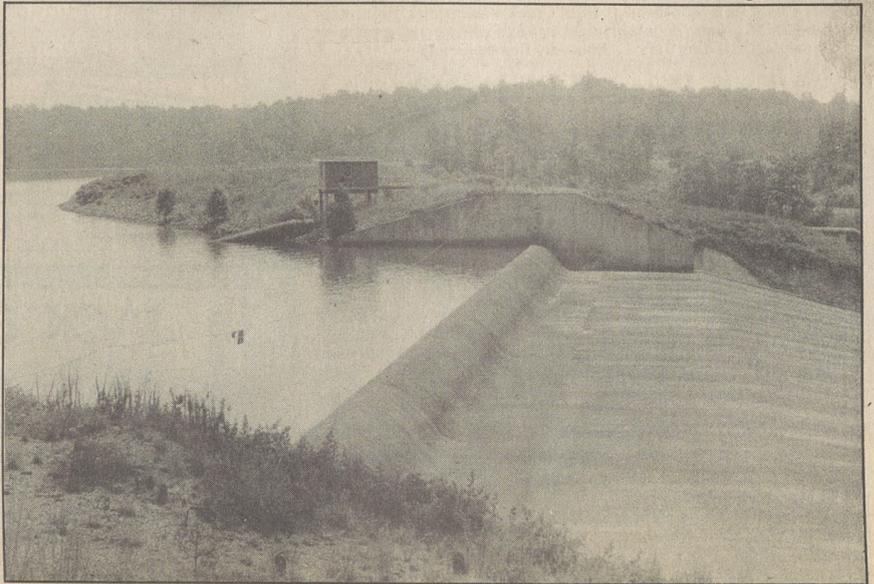


Photo by Todd Gossett

LAKE LEVEL DOWN SLIGHTLY - The water level at Moss Lake near Kings Mountain is down about a foot as shown in this picture taken near the spillway. The dry weather that has caused many area towns to mandate conservation measures has not affected the Kings Mountain system.

No Water Problems (Yet) In KM

BY TODD GOSSETT

The Kings Mountain water supply is in good shape so far, and barring an exceptionally dry summer, there shouldn't be any problems later on, said Walter Ollis, the city's water and sewer superintendent.

High temperatures and minimal rainfall have forced

some local towns and cities to begin voluntary water conservation. Charlotte last week began calling on its citizens to conserve water.

However, the situation in Kings Mountain is better. The water department can pump 8 million gallons to the city every day. And so far, the city has been able to keep up, Ollis said. "The

lake has started to drop, but it's nothing to get excited about," he said.

Another summer like last year's, however, could create problems later in the season, he said.

The 90 day outlook from the National Weather Service says that there is a probability of below average rainfall in the

South Atlantic states during the summer.

Local farmers are feeling the effects of the drought, said Steve Gibson, field crop agent for the Cleveland County Agriculture Extension in Shelby. "We're desperately hoping for enough rain to do some good," he said. "There's still time."

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'Walking Man' John Finger Invited To The White House

By TODD GOSSETT

Former Kings Mountain resident and March of Dimes, "Mr. Walk America" John Finger has been in the area recently. He's visiting his sister in Gastonia and is preparing to go to Washington, D.C. to visit the White House at the invitation of California Senator Allan Cranston.

While in Washington, Finger will try to present his Bible to the Smithsonian Institution - not an ordinary Bible, but one filled with the autographs of more than 1,100 celebrities. Giving the Bible to the Smithsonian was Cranston's idea, Finger said. "They don't know about it yet."

Finger was born in Hartsville, S.C. in 1916. He and his family moved to Kings Mountain around

1925 so his father could work in a cotton mill here.

He attended the West End School through the fourth grade and then quit because he knew more than his teachers, he said.

After working at the Mauney Cotton Mill for a few years, Finger moved to High Point to work in the Depression - era Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) as a ditch digger.

While in High Point, he met his wife, the former Gertrude Ashwell and married her in 1937.

He continued living in High Point after he got out of the CCC and worked for a local cotton mill for the next 16 years.

In 1948, Finger made his first walk for the March of Dimes - walking from High Point to

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JOHN FINGER..THE WALKING MAN

Every Day Father's Day For Dub Fulton

Sunday will be a special day when children from all over the world return home to give a gift to their father and thank him for all the things he's done for them.

One of the happiest scenes in this area will likely be at the small farm home of Mr. and Mrs. G.D. "Dub" Fulton in the Antioch community near Grover.

The Fultons raised 10 children-eight of whom are living-and the happiest moments of their 50 years of married life are the times spent with their children.

The Fultons, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 11 at the new fellowship hall of Antioch Baptist Church, worked hard to make a living, but always found plenty of time to devote to their family, worshipping and teaching Sunday School, hosting a popular religious program on radio, and being good neighbors to hundreds of friends and relatives in the area.

They paused at their 50th wedding anniversary-given by their children-to reflect on some of their periods of joys and heartaches. "We were married on June 11, 1938, and at that

time I was making only \$13 dollars a week," Mr. Fulton noted. "But we planned from the start to have a large family. The Lord gave us 10 children, born about two years apart."

The Fultons taught their children to love God and each other, and their fellow human beings, and they can look back with joy on 10 children who grew up to be successful in all of those areas.

"Not one of our 10 children has ever been arrested," recalled Mr. Fulton. "Three were captains of their high school football teams and later elected to the high school sports 'Hall of Fame.'" Three won college scholarships...to West Point Military Academy, Newberry College and Wake Forest University. One was later an instructor at West Point. Two were presidents of their high school student bodies."

Where are the children now? One is assistant manager of a farm and garden store in Forest City.

One is a supervisor at Vulcan Materials quarry in Blacksburg, S.C.

One is an executive with United Parcel Service in Greensboro.

One works in the central post office at Columbia, S.C.

One is an Army Lt. Colonel and vice president of the "Star Wars" project (SDI) at Huntsville, Ala.

One is an IHRA champion drag racer and engine builder in Spartanburg, S.C.

One is a science teacher and football coach at Blacksburg High School.

One is a hospital lab technician in Mocksville.

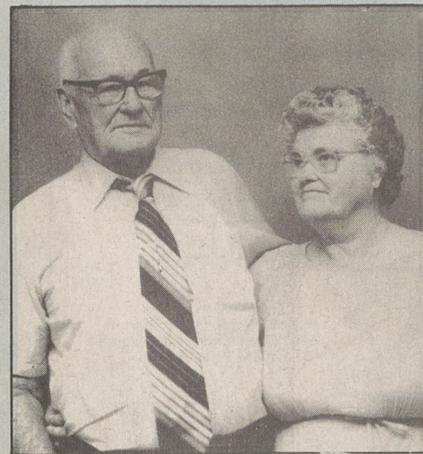
One was employed at Timken Bearings in Gaffney, S.C., and died of an auto accident in May of 1978.

One was a senior at Blacksburg High School when killed in an auto accident in August 1974.

Reflecting on the lives and accomplishments of their children, the Fultons can look back and call their decision to have a large family a blessing.

"I think a big family is a blessing and not a disgrace to our society, schools, churches and the nation's defense," Mr. Fulton said. "We gave

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MR. AND MRS. DUB FULTON