

Home EC Not What Mom Remembers

(This is fourth in a series of twelve articles spotlighting opportunities in each of the Vocational Education programs offered in Kings Mountain.)

As someone said, we're not your father's army any more; home economics is not what your mom remembers. Many of the basic concepts are the same, but the approach has changed. The need for food, shelter, developing a value system, and learning to make decisions are still important. Just as the family has changed in how to meet these needs, so has home economics.

In North Carolina two out of three meals are eaten away from home. People still need balanced diets, but planning and shopping for three balanced meals a day is not how we live. Today's student learns how to make food choices when away from home. With the age of processed foods and the microwave, food preparation techniques are not necessary for survival. The emphasis in comprehensive homemaking classes is in making wise consumer decisions, not preparation.

However, if a student has a high interest in foods and nutrition, then

skills courses are available. At Kings Mountain Senior High, Commercial Foods I-II students can prepare for a career in the foods industry. The students are exposed to basic food preparation techniques, running a catering business, and commercial food cookery.

Can you believe that making a garment is no longer included in the comprehensive courses? Choosing ready-made garments and caring for them is the focus. Sewing skills are taught in a separate course, Clothing and Textiles. Here the students learn clothing construction techniques, all about fibers and fabrics, and how to choose and make products for one's household. Today there are electronic sewing machines, domestic surgers, and short-cut tailoring techniques.

The child development your mother studied is in some ways unchanged. Child rearing skills and prenatal development facts are still vital to the curriculum. But, oh, how the concept has changed. For example: what is a family? Less than 10% of households today fit the stereotype of father, mother, and two children. So the family has

to be redefined. Reproductive technology has forced us to expand the explanation of conception. Students today need answers in the area of sex, morality, decision making, and establishment of and reasons for an appropriate value system. Not only do they need the ability to think through the impact of what is happening in our society now, but the ability to cope with the changes for the future.

With events happening so fast text books can become out of date before they are printed. Home economics teachers have to rely on newspapers, current magazines, videos, and professional journals to keep topics current. At Kings Mountain it must be working. A third teacher was added to the department this year. It is the belief at KMHS that home economics is for everyone, whatever the ability level or career objective. It is the trend in some areas to make courses such as Independent Living, a comprehensive course for juniors and seniors, a requirement for graduation. Why? Because people are not learning the skills needed to manage a household, to be an effective parent, and to be a contributing member of that family. As Judge Brown from Mecklenburg County said, "If families were teaching their children what they needed, I wouldn't see what I do in court."

Another occupational course taught at KMSH, other than Commercial Foods, is Home Economics cooperative Education. This course is designed for students with a career objective relative to child care, clothing and textiles, or foods. In this course students learn basic job seeking skills, how to advance on the job, management and leadership skills, and entrepreneurship. As a guest speaker recently said to the students in HECE II, "When I was in high school I had never even heard the word entrepreneur and now I am one. How fortunate you are!"

Another important role home economics plays is the integration of learning with basic skills. When the teacher asks a student to pull out their tape measure, measure their waist, measure their pants pattern front and back, add the two together, and multiply by two; sud-

denly match becomes very important. They want that garment to fit. Or when they must analyze the reason for their cake's failure based on scientific principles, science takes on new meaning. And when what legislators do or don't do affects opportunities or conditions in the workplace, cooperative home economics students see a need to be informed citizens.

No, home economics is not what your mom remembers! Ten years from now it won't be what those moms or dads remember. (Yes, we have as many males as females in class now.) As our society changes, so do families and so does home economics.



Allison Ware, Norris Degree, and Stacy Goode are Clothing and Textile students. Norris is using the domestic serger and Stacy, the electronic sewing machine.



FHA HEROES - Alison Parizo and Julie Jenkins of Kings Mountain High School were trophy winners in the regional division of a home economics cooperative education competition held recently in Charlotte. Both participated in the job application and interview competition, with Alison taking first place in the occupational division and Julie capturing third in the senior division. Alison will participate in the state competition to be held in Raleigh on April 21. Eddie Kuykendall also participated in the commercial foods competition. Home economics teachers at Kings Mountain High School are Linda Dixon, Peggy Baird and Patsy Rountree.

Bethware News

Talent Contest Winners Named At Bethware School

By CHRISTIE HUGHES

Congratulations to Beth Bumgardner, Kimberly McDaniel, Candace Wallace, and Annie Robbins. These fine students were the Bethware Talent Show winners.

Beth Bumgardner was the winner of the K-1 division. She is in Mrs. Mary Anne Gibson's Kindergarten class and the daughter of Becky and Mike Bumgardner. Beth sang "My Alphabet Song." When asked if she was afraid of going on stage Beth said, "Not really."

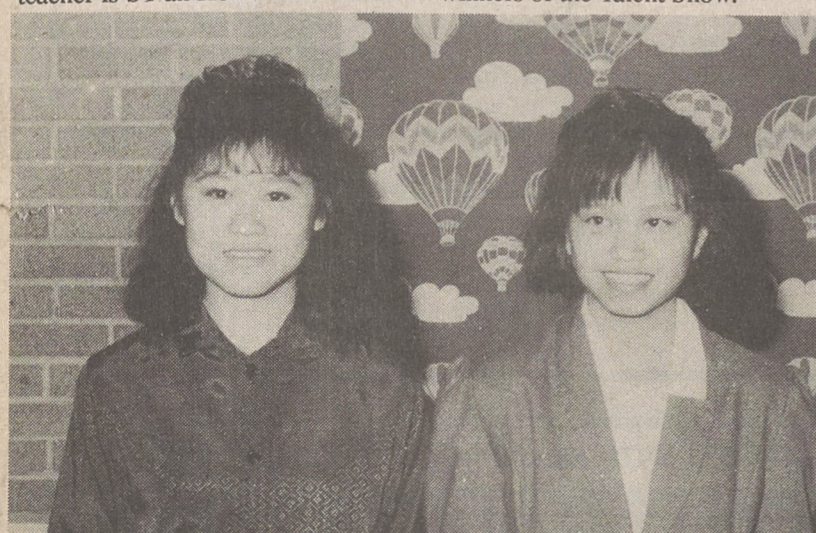
Other winners in the talent show were Candace Wallace and Kimberly McDaniel. They won the 2nd - 3rd division. Candace and Kimberly did a tap routine to "Five Foot Two." Candace is in Mrs. Richa Clark's second grade class, and is the daughter of Mrs. Doris Wallace and Rick Wallace. Kimberly is in Mrs. Julienne Hambricht's class and is the daughter of Ann and Larry McDaniel. Candace and Kimberly's dance teacher is Susan Horn. When asked

if they were frightened of going on stage; both said no, because they were used to being on stage.

The winner of the 4th - 5th division was Annie Robbins. Annie did a clogging routine to "Hippy, Hippy Shake." Annie is in Mr. Billy Lemon's fifth grade class and is the daughter of Linda and Johnny Bunch. Annie's clogging teacher is Tracy Mead. When asked if she was afraid to go on stage her answer was, "Not really."

Other contestants in the Talent Show in K-1 division were: Candi Lovelace, Patrick Ware, Jared Chapman, Katie Stowe, and Amber Dotson. In the 2-3 division: Kyle Tsui, Kathryn Champion, Heather Hughes, Bridget Barrett, and Jamie and Rhona Caulder. In the 4-5 division: Crystal Pace, Sharon Jones, Sherry Bridges, Stephanie Lail, Allyson Ellis, Lee Ann Jackson, Kathryn Morrow, and Danah McKinney.

We congratulate all of the contestants who tried out and were winners of the Talent Show.

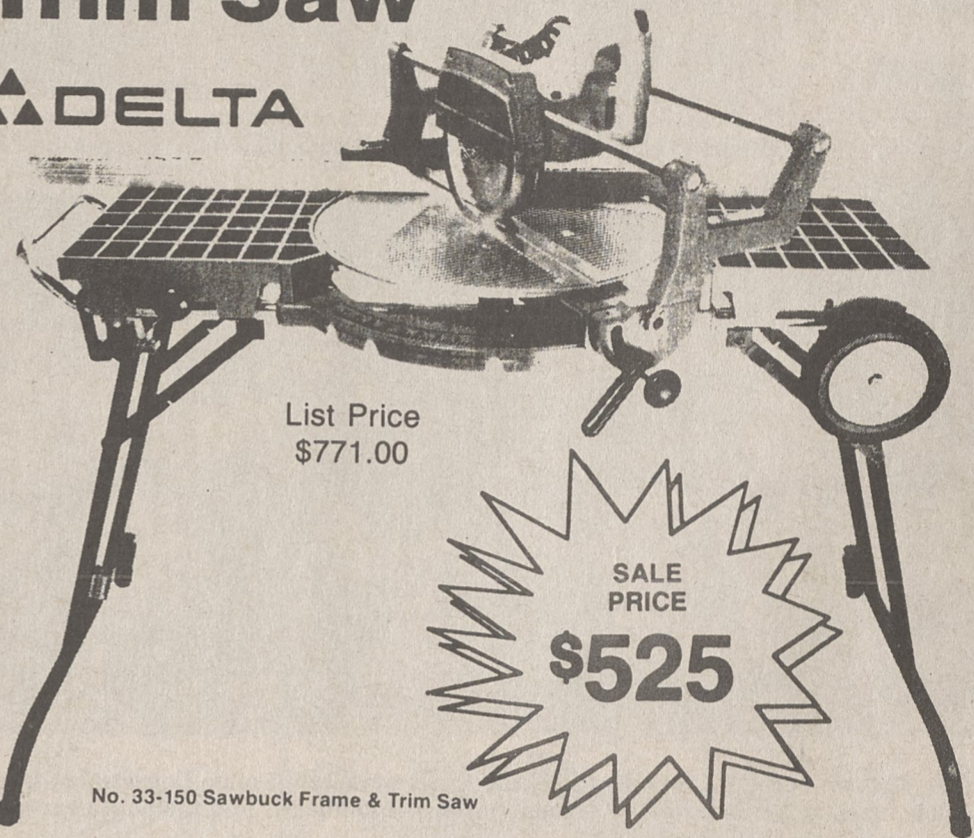


SENIOR DIVISION MATH WINNERS — Seng Silapeth, left, won first place and Dovang Mounghane won third place in the Senior Division Math category for 9-12 grade students. Not pictured are Roberta Van Dyke, second place winner, and Kim Terask and Joe Champion, honorable mention. KMJH swept the awards.

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