

EDUCATOR PROFILE



DIANNA ALLEN
Always Wanted To Teach

Dianna Allen Always Wanted To Teach

BY MARTY HOHMANN
Of the Herald Staff

Dianna Allen is giving back to the Kings Mountain School system some of what she got out of it. Allen, a graduate of Kings Mountain High School, has been teaching for nearly 20 years. She has spent the past 11 teaching fifth graders at Bethware Elementary.

"I really can't remember anything I ever wanted to do besides teach children," said Allen. "I like working with ten-year-olds. They're still at an age where they listen."

Allen appreciates the fact that her students listen to what she has to say. She says she doesn't have any special secrets for teaching. She just does it the good old-fashioned way. And she adds a little of her own love and caring to make it special.

"I treat children like I would want someone to treat my own children," she said.

Her methods obviously work as she has gained the respect of her students, their parents and her peers. In fact, Allen was named Teacher of the Year at Bethware last year. That was an honor she continues to live up to.

Aside from teaching the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic, Allen likes to add activities she calls "icing on the cake".

"I like to do things other than just textbook things with my kids," said Allen.

She was originally trained as a home economics and biology major, so her background lends itself to a little creative teaching. For instance, Allen teaches a little cross-stitch to her students on occasion.

"The fellas are really great. But the hardest thing for them is threading the needle," she said laughing.

Her class also runs the school store from 8:10 until 8:25 every morning.

"It's a lesson in the free enterprise system," she said. Students are allowed to buy two shares of interest in the school store, which they run like a mini company. At the end of each year, their investment is returned to them and as a class, they decide how to spend the profits. In years past, they have purchased rose bushes or supplies for the school.

Allen has also started somewhat of a tradition at the school with her class taking on the name "Allen's Angels" each year. She buys T-shirts with the logo on them and the children wear them on prescribed days. The purpose, she explained, is to create a sense of unity and it gives them something to relate to. It also makes for tranquil days when fifth graders try to live up to the "angel" image.

But her extracurricular involvement doesn't stop there. Allen recently returned from a two-day class trip to Washington, D.C. Although some might describe the trip as a potentially chaotic experience, Allen feels it's worth the risk because of the academic advantages.

"It gives them a chance to see the things we've studied in social studies," she said.

She is also co-chairman of the steering committee in preparation for the visit by the Southeastern Association of Colleges and Schools for reaccreditation purposes. The team will visit the school on May 2 and 3 to evaluate Bethware and its teachers. Although the event takes many hours of preparation and can be highly stressful, Allen is looking forward to the visit.

"I think it will really help us to take a good look at where we are and where we are going," she said.

But Allen admits that there is sometimes a downside to teaching. Dealing with children on a daily basis lets her see some of the problems they are experiencing in their young lives.

"It's not a job that you can go home with just a pocketbook on your arm," she explained. "I take home their problems with me."

But that, she knows, is part of her job - to care and to help.

"I want them to know that I'm here for them," she said. "If you can make a difference in just one child, it's worth it all."

*Allen is married to Dr. Larry Allen, associate superintendent of schools in Kings Mountain. They have three children: Angel McCray of Columbia, S.C., Laura, a student at Gardner-Webb College, and Aaron, a student at Kings Mountain Junior High School.

Sally Hendricks Named Outstanding Math Teacher

Sally Hendricks, Kings Mountain Senior High School math teacher, has been honored as Outstanding Math Teacher in the Kings Mountain District Schools.



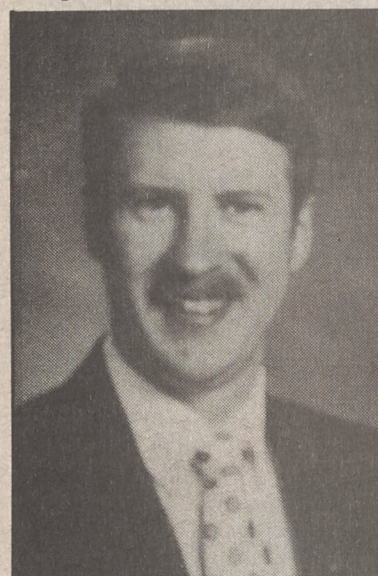
SALLY HENDRICKS

Mrs. Hendricks will now compete at the regional level in an awards program sponsored by the North Carolina Business Committee for Education.

Mrs. Hendricks, who grew up in Charlotte, graduated from South Mecklenburg High School, attended Meredith College two years and graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She also completed graduate courses at USC-Spartanburg and Coastal Carolina. She taught math in Charlotte Mecklenburg School System and Rock Hill, S. C. Schools before joining the Kings Mountain Schools at KMSHS where she has taught Algebra II, Algebra III and advanced math for six years. She is married and mother of a 17-year-old son, Jay.

Joel Rountree Is Top Social Studies Teacher

Joel Rountree, social studies teacher at Kings Mountain Senior High School, has been honored as Outstanding Social Studies Teacher in the Kings Mountain District Schools.



JOEL ROUNTREE

The awards program is sponsored by the N. C. Business Committee for Education. Rountree now advances to regional competition.

Rountree joined the Kings Mountain Schools at the Extended Day School in 1975 and also taught at Cleveland Technical College. He joined the KMSHS faculty in 1976 and has taught social studies and math and began the advanced placement program. He currently serves as chairman of the SACS steering committee.

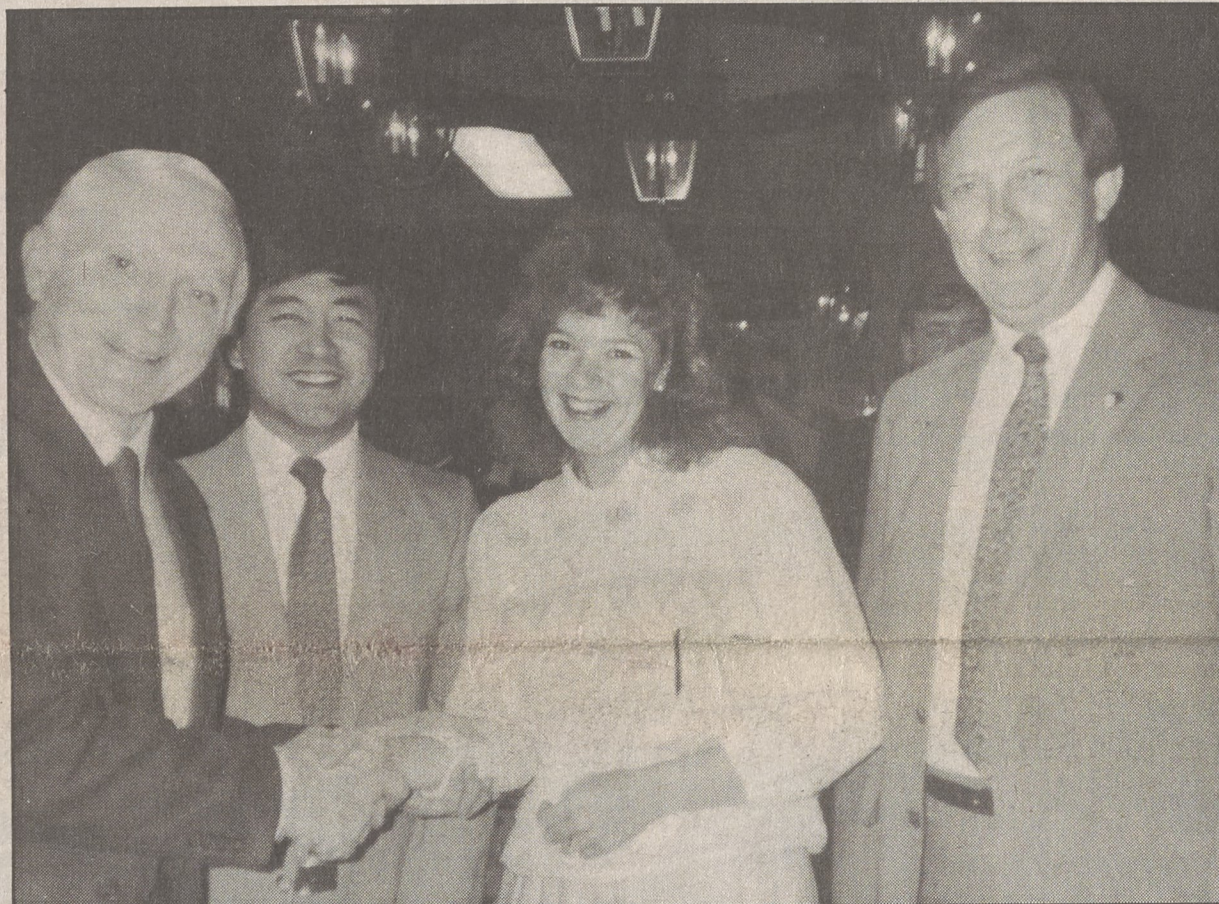
A native of Winston Salem, Rountree, 39, is son of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Rountree of Grover. He attended Grover Elementary School and graduated from Shelby High School in 1967. He received his B. A. in history from Davidson College in 1971 and his Master of Arts in Teaching in Social

Science in 1980 from ASU. He attended UNC-Charlotte in 1979 for graduate studies and received his Associate of Sciences in accounting in 1982 from Gaston College and also completed an Associate of Sciences degree in computer science.

He is married to Patsy Smith Rountree and they have three children: Katy, 9; Joshua, 8 and Emily, 3 1/2.

Rountree is a ruling Elder and Clerk of Session at Shiloh Presbyterian Church and has been a member of the N. C. National Guard since 1984 and served two years on active duty after being commissioned through ROTC at Davidson College in 1972-73. He is a Captain serving as Commander of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery.

He is a member of Kings Mountain Association of Educators, North Carolina Association of Educators, National Education Association and Phi Delta Kappa.



BREAKFAST WITH ONE-Dr. George Plonk, left, Symphony Conductor Darrell One and Mrs. One and Dr. Robert McRae are pictured at "Breakfast With One" honoring supporters of the upcoming Charlotte Symphony Orchestra to Kings Mountain.

Two Inmates Tell Students To Stay Away From Drugs

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Of The Herald Staff

J. R., 48, is an Ex-Marine who is serving a 40-year prison sentence but hopes to be free next year after nearly 12 years behind bars.

Cowboy, 47, played professional ball with the Minnesota Twins and has served 18 years of a 40-year sentence, and will be up for probation soon.

The two inmates at the Dallas Correctional Center told Central School students last week to "think smart and don't do drugs. Take it from us, drugs are a bad scene."

The "Think Smart" program has been conducted for 12 years by prison inmates and it is the sixth year that Central School has participated during its World Health Day program.

"I've been a convict since most of you kids have been in the world. Prison is no place to be. You just exist and there's no privacy. It takes just a few minutes to get into prison but it takes years to get out," said J. R., of Taylorsville, who said he started smoking pot in Vietnam and after his discharge got into the fast lane with hard drugs. He said he got hooked on cocaine and the habit changed his thinking and his lifestyle. "It's not cool to shoot heroine. I've seen people killed over \$2 and I'm not trying to scare you but I want to tell you not to mess with drugs."

"I said drugs would never happen to me," said Cowboy, who ran track for West Charlotte Junior High and played professional ball for a year. "Be aware of



J.R. AND COWBOY
Meet Students At Central

what's going on around you. You've got your whole life ahead of you. Man, I've got a second chance to live now. The pen don't grow old, it's just cold, and I'm not

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Central News

Inmates Advise Students

By JADA BROWN
and JAYDA BIDDIX

We had two very special visitors at Central School Friday. "Cowboy" and "J.R." from the Dallas Correctional Center came to talk to the health classes. In order to get into the Dallas Correctional Center, you have to work your way there. While there, you are eligible for parole. You are also able to get jobs. Cowboy was convicted of first degree murder and armed robbery. J.R. was convicted of first degree murder and illegal substances. J.R. and Cowboy are both representatives of the "Think Smart Program." They have been going around to different schools and telling students about the hard life they have had and encouraging them not to take drugs and run with the wrong crowd. The kids really enjoyed their visits. We hope that students also learned from the two.

Central School's Spring Festival will be May 5. There will be many activities going on. One event is Miss Spring Festival. A number of girls will be judged on an essay, talent and poise. Another event will be a car smash. Students will pay one dollar for five sledge hammer blows to a car bearing the names of teachers. There will be a jelly bean guess contest for a skateboard, and a dunking booth where students will get to dunk their "favorite" teachers.

Our Spring Festival will be fun and exciting. Come and enjoy the fun on May 5 at 5 p.m.

Have you missed a day of school? If not, you could get a Carowinds pass. One hundred students at Central have not missed a day yet. If they make it to the end of school without a missed day, they will get a Carowinds pass. A lot of fun for not missing any days!

Service lab classes had Shane Dody, a youth and recreation minister at First Baptist Church, to speak on April 4. Ministry is a career studied in service lab career explorations. He related his education, salary, duties, but best of all, he stressed how important it is to find a job that gives you satisfaction.

Student Recognition Day Held At West Elementary

Student Recognition Day was held recently at West School and students won a number of awards.

TERRIFIC KIDS-Marylee Dilling, David Phannareth, Ben McDaniel, Stephanie Rikard, Anna George, Tarik Smith, A'me Mauney, Becky Dodge, Sandy Morrow, Ponepasith Manomai, Somphone Prasongphime, Kristin Anderson, Summer Crisp, Kimberly Belt, Addie Moschler, Annie Jenkins, Kewan Smith, Namkhang Phannareth, Cheryl

Fisher, Crystal Fisher, Amanda Matney, Jacob Moschler, Kham Chanthapang, Vichith Meuangsakith.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE-Christopher Bennett, Cathy Bryant, Lindsey Gaffney, Michael Ingram, Lee Owensby, Anna Ramey, Leah Hall, Tammy Jolly, Ben McDaniel, David Moschler, Smith Meuangsakith, Emily Welborn, Matthew Biddix, Kelly Crook, Chanthamaly Khounsly, Tyler Moore, Avery Bess, Becky Dodge,

Wendy Neisler, Scottie Pendleton, Casey Short, Twyan Cansler, Pongpoui Duangtavanh, Georgett Grier, Davon Kanesouphonth, Cody Smith, Kiamesha Young, Chris Black, Josh Foster, Joey House, Jennifer McClain, Heidi McDaniel, Linda Phannareth, Boyd Shipman, Sheila Vaden, Kimberly Belt, Kylie Bryant, Sarah Bunch, Jonathan Cooke, Rusty Coulter, Erica Davis, Xoungyoui Duangtavanh, Christina Lutz, Shana Sizemore, Takiyah Smith,

Laddy Phanthalack, Martha Black, Lyndsey Edsall, Melissa Gore, Bucky Hasking, Jason Hendren, Kylie Huffman, Bandith Meuangsakith, Glenn Perkins, Jonathan Sanders, Kolita Williams, Shay Young, Ray Biddix, Weldon Hunter, Jason Putnam, Kewan Smith, Amanda Burns, Sloan Goforth, Treena Martin, Nikki Gladden, Stewart Marlowe, Autumn Edsall, Chris Foster, Chrissy Lanier, Joy Burton, Jason Murphy, Nikki Owensby, Elizabeth

Carroll, Kham Chanthapang, Jess Lightsey, Vichith Meuangsakith, Alyamone Phonephet, Chad Smith, Andy Welborn and Kristi Garriepy. **TALENT SHOW WINNERS**-Becky Dodge, Summer Crisp, Will Mauney, Brian King. Will Mauney and Brian King were District winners. **A-B HONOR ROLL**-Kimberly Belt, Sarah Bunch, Summer Crisp, Erica Davis, Collin Goforth, Brandy Morgan, Shana Sizemore, Takiyah Smith, Devin Willis,

Laddy Phanthalack, Mark Butler, Lyndsey Edsall, Kayte Falls, Melissa Gore, Matthew Hart, Jason Hendren, Elizabeth Hullender, Annie Jenkins, Bandith Meuangsakith, Addie Moschler, Nikki Wallace, Kolita Williams, Crystal Wilson, Ray Biddix, Melissa Bowen, Katie George, Will Mauney, Hiroki Nishiyama, Namhang Phannareth, Jason Putnam, Kewan Smith, Cheryl Fisher, Crystal Fisher, Sloan

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