

Bridges Teacher Of Year, O'Shields Top Principal

Susie Bridges, North School second grade teacher, was honored as Teacher of the Year and Central School Principal Glenda O'Shields was honored as Principal of the Year as highlight of the 1989 Service Awards Banquet of Kings Mountain District Schools Monday night.

Coveted plaques also went to Shirley Valentine, Grover School secretary for 28 years, Office Support Employee of the Year; Joyce Hord, KMSHS Cafeteria Manager, School Food Service Employee of the Year; Bonnie Bryson, Grover School, Assistant Teacher of the Year; Central School maintenance worker Robert Costner, Maintenance Employee of the Year; Central School custodian Melvinia Jackson, Custodian of the Year; Ethel Crocker, Grover School assistant teacher, Bus Driver of the Year; and Paula Goforth, counselor at North and East Schools, Instructional Support Person of the Year.

Ms. Bridges has taught in the Kings Mountain District Schools four years, three years at North and one year at West. She was graduated from Gardner-Webb College and received her master's degree in education from Western Carolina University. She taught two years in Florida before returning to her native Cleveland County. She is daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Carroll Bridges of Shelby. In her second grade class she has emphasized cooperative learning groups, interest centers for individualized reading, and is an advocate of the open court reading program which is a pilot program in K-3 grades at North School this year.

Secretaries Bobbie Ware, East School, and Doris McGinnis, of the Central Office staff, were given PSP recognition after completing a

two-year special program of study.

Special Friends awards went to Fulbright teacher Barbara Turner of England, who has taught this year in an exchange program at North School, and Cyprus-Foote Mineral Company and KMG Minerals, two local industries, which initiated the Science-Math Fair in the schools and strong supporters. Accepting the awards for the industries were Chuck Duncan of Cyprus-Foote and Levy Canova of KMG Minerals.

The four employees retiring from the school system this year gave a total of 65 1/2 years service to their professions and were presented plaques. Retiring at KMHS is cosmetology teacher Lillian Whitworth after 23 years service; Louise Wright, KMJH, cafeteria worker after 18 1/2 years; Janie Ware, East School, cafeteria employee after 10 years; and Pink Ware, West School, custodian after 14 years. Teachers of the Year from the eight schools in the KM District Schools were recognized with plaques from the schools and from the KM Chapter NCAE.

Teachers of the Year are: Jane Bryson, Central; Richa Clark, Bethware; Sandra Mullinax, East; Juanita Herring, Grover; Susie Bridges, North; Laura McGill, West; Julia Wood, KM Junior High, and Jaquitha Reid, Kings Mountain Senior High School.

Recognized as mentor teachers, after completion of a two-year program in the schools where they serve as advisors to new teachers, were Joan Dotson, Carolyn Roark, Ethel Bumgardner, Judy Gibson, Jackie Hope, Doris Wallace, Susan White, Teresa Biggerstaff, and Audrey Harris.

Dr. Robert McRae, Superintendent, recognized a large number of people who serve on



HONORED-Glenda O'Shields, left, is Kings Mountain District School's Principal of the Year and Susie Bridges is Kings Mountain Teacher of the Year.

various committees and thanked them for their service to the school system.

They included:

Citizens Get Out the Vote for School Bonds: Glee E. Bridges, C. A. Allison, Beth McIntyre, Andrew Milewski, Allen Propst and Jackie Rountree.

Criteria Testing: Julieanne Hambricht, Sandra Mullinax, Linda Stewart, Katherine Blanton, Ann Rudisill, Suzie Terres, and Ethel Bumgardner.

Educational Foundation Board: Howard Champion, Martha Bridges, Katherine Hardy, Billy King, Charles F. Mauney, Dr. Everette Thombs, Dean Westmoreland, Will Herndon, Mrs.

Emily Suber and Dr. Martin Stallings.

Health Council: Karen Arrowood, Cindy Borders, Rev. Bob Collins, Katherine Hardy, Jerry Hoyle, Billy King, Jane King, Cheryl Lutz, Quint McCoy, Barbara Ormand, Allen Propst, Twyla Robinson, Ann Rudisill, Dr. Martin Stallings, Dr. Everette Thombs, Jean Thrift and Mary Lou Ware.

Interim Report Card: Carole Wheeler, Jackie Hope, Hilda Kiser, Joe Rountree, Judy Gibson, Jim Owens and Priscilla Mauney.

Superintendent's Liaison Council: Mary Plyler, Cindy Wood, Mike Smith, Jackie Blanton, Sally Hendricks, Julia

Wood, Ann Lefevers and Carla Bennett.

Middle School: Jane King, overall chairman; Glenda O'Shields and Jerry Hoyle, co-chairmen; Mary Accor, Karen Arrowood, Ann Bennett, Dr. Larry Allen, Libby Blanton, Cindy Borders, Ethel Bumgardner, Doyle Campbell, Sarah Cole, Betty Corry, Betty Gamble, John Goforth, David Heffner, Joey Hopper, Jean Thrift, Laura Whiteside, Julia Wood.

Math-Science Fair: co-chairmen Patti Weathers and Grace Costner; Marti Clemmer, Mike Smith, Linda Stewart, Connie Bell, Garnelle Bailey, Judy Gibson, Audrey Harris, Sally Hendricks, Michelle Spivey, Susie Terres and Jane King.

Parents Advisory Council: Ann McDaniel, Leonard Rayford, Brenda Lovelace, Jim Jolly, Sandra Senter, Mary Perkins, Sandra Wingo and Donna Butler.

Personnel: Jackie Blanton, Annette Parker, Ann Scism, Shirley Bynum, Lynn Echols, Carole Wheeler, Ronnie Wilson and Supt. McRae.

Southern Accreditation Study: Joe Rountree, Dianna Allen, Nancy Hughes, Jane Talbert, Barbara Bridges, Gail Baber, Linda Stewart, Juanita Lutz, Susie Roberts, Sarah Simpson and Linda Humphries.

Teacher of Year: C.A. Allison, Katherine Blanton, Joey Hopper, Priscilla Mauney, and Ronnie Wilson.

Five teachers represented the Kings Mountain system in regional competition: Pattie Weathers, Science; Sally Hendricks, secondary math; Joe Rountree, social studies; Ethel Bumgardner, liberal arts; and Beverly Moffett, elementary math.

Dr. McRae, who presented the

awards, assisted by other principals and staff members, recognized guests, including members of the KM Board of Education.

McRae said this is the second year the system has held the awards program. It is the first year the system has presented an award to a Instructional Support Person of the Year. Paula Goforth, guidance counselor at North and East Schools, received the award. Mrs. Goforth is wife of KMSHS Assistant Principal John Goforth and they are parents of two sons. She graduated from Limestone College and completed graduate school at Georgia University. She taught school five years in Georgia and Florida.

Prior to the awards program, a dinner of baked chicken and wild rice with accessories was served buffet style.

Rev. Dewey Smith, pastor of Galilee/St. Paul United Methodist Churches, gave the invocation.

Special entertainment, coordinated by Lynn Echols, featured talented singers and musicians from the school staff who delighted the large audience with a variety of music from "Dueling Banjos" by Jerry and Steve Edmonson; a quintet by Rachel Bolt, Vivian Duncan, Jean Thrift, Larry Allen and Robert Scism; a quartet composed of Gene Bumgardner, Tim Echols, Joey Hopper and B. S. Peeler; an octet, "60's Medley" by Treda Berry, Mary Accor, Gene Bumgardner, Ronnie Whisnant, Sherrill Toney, Billy King, Judy Whisnant and Claudia Stroup.

Craig Mayes was a audience favorite with his comic routine, "Jerry Clower."



HONORED FOR SERVICE-Paula Goforth, left, was honored as Instructional Support Person of the Year and Lillian Whitworth, right, was the retiring teacher honored by the KM Schools Monday night. Making the plaque presentations is Supt. Bob McRae.



TEACHERS OF THE YEAR-Pictured are five of the eight Teachers of the Year in the Kings Mountain Schools. From left, Juanita Herring, Jaquitha Reid, Laura McGill, Jane Bryson and Susie Bridges. Not pictured are Julia Wood, Sandra Mullinax and Richa Clark.

EDUCATOR PROFILE

Craig Mayes Always Wanted To Go Home

BY MARTY HOHMANN
Of the Herald Staff

It has been said that you can never go home again. But for Craig Mayes, that old adage doesn't mean a whole lot. For him, going home was a dream come true.

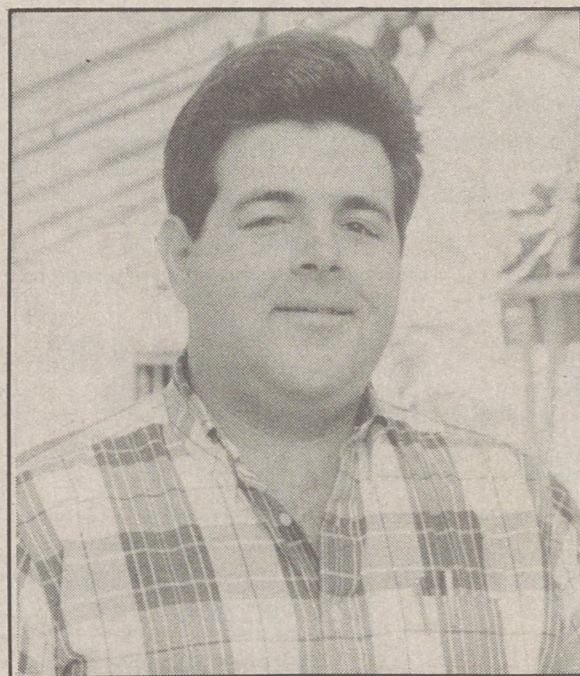
As a youngster growing up in Kings Mountain, Mayes took great interest in his agriculture classes at Kings Mountain High School. He knew that he had to learn more about the issues of concern to the nation's farmers and livestock producers. So, when Mayes graduated number two in the class of 1980, he decided to pursue a degree in agriculture at N.C. State.

But the prompting of an assistant principal at the high school pointed him in the direction his future was to take. The principal recommended teaching agriculture and he gave an open invitation to return to Kings Mountain High School and teach - after Mayes learned what it took to be a good teacher. The principal advised, "Go make your mistakes somewhere else and then come back here."

Mayes set out for college where he earned a bachelor of science and a master of science degree in agriculture education. Following the advice of his mentor, he taught school for two years in Asheville and then he came home to Kings Mountain.

"I always wanted to come back home," said Mayes. "I wanted to come back here and give the students some opportunities I had and some I didn't."

Coming back to his alma mater eight years after leaving was not an easy transition for Mayes.



CRAIG MAYES

"It was interesting because a lot of the people who are here were here when I was in school," he said. "After I got used to being a teacher rather than a student, it was okay."

Finishing his first year back at Kings Mountain High School, Mayes has learned that he is still young and that it will take time to achieve the expectations he has set for himself.

"I felt like 'here I am'. I always thought Kings Mountain High School was a good high school. I felt like I had to live up to their level of work. I guess I've done okay. Realizing that I was one of their colleagues now rather than a student really helped," he explained.

Mayes' goal to find his new place as teacher at Kings Mountain High was not easy to attain, but he had a bigger goal in mind.

"I knew when I came back that it wasn't going to be a promised land," he said. "But I've got to make this program into something that it wasn't before. I know it's not going to happen overnight."

He says, though, that he is willing to stick with that goal and help others to see the importance of agriculture.

"I was interested in agriculture and always had been and I wanted people to understand agriculture is important," he said. "We need some people in agriculture and they need to understand that it's not some farmer leaning on a fence chewing on straw."

In fact, Mayes explained, only about two percent of the population actually farms the land, and we depend on that small group for most of our food. For that reason, he notes, they need to understand the science of agriculture.

"It's not just farming," he said. "There are a lot of opportunities there for people if they're just made aware of them."

Mayes has made a point of making his students more aware and he is seeing that agriculture and horti-

culture are no longer just a man's line of work.

"About one third of my students are girls. It seems like the percentage is going up too," he said. "Sometimes they do better than the guys in some things."

Already Mayes has improved the agriculture vocational education program at Kings Mountain High School by getting students more involved. Not only are they on-line with the agriculture program computer system, students are also actively involved with the FFA, Future Farmers of America.

"If it weren't for the FFA, I probably wouldn't teach," said Mayes.

He calls it one of his best motivational tools because it gives the students hands-on opportunities. The class has participated in livestock and poultry competitions, are learning leadership skills and have attended the state fair. The class also runs its own greenhouse where they grow a variety of plants to sell. The experiences, Mayes notes, are invaluable.

"If I had had somebody to get me involved, I could have done a lot of those things," he said.

With the program headed in the right direction, Mayes is encouraged by what he sees in his classes. Progress is being made and interest is being generated in the field of agriculture. But for himself, he doesn't expect any drastic changes. Mayes just wants to continue doing a good job at what he loves best.

"I'm looking forward to teaching right here and building this program up," he said.

"This is home."