

### Chris Goforth Is Classroom Participant

Chris Goforth, a student at Kings Mountain Senior High School, recently witnessed the federal decision-making process in action as a participant in Presidential Classroom's 1989 Senior High School Program in Washington, D. C.

Chris joined 270 high school juniors and seniors representing 39 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Great Britain, Japan and Kuwait. The students spent a week meeting with leaders representing each branch of government, the military, the media, the diplomatic community, lobbyist organizations, and federal agencies.

While in Washington, the students attended sessions at the Supreme Court, on the Floor of the U. S. House of Representatives, and in other federal buildings. In addition, participants met with the offices of each of their Senators and Representatives and attended sessions of the House and Senate, committee hearings, and other events on Capitol Hill.



PRESIDENTIAL CLASSROOM-Area students, above, met with Congressman Cass Ballenger in Washington, D.C. during the recent session of Presidential Classroom. The students, from left to right chatting with the Congressman, are Christopher Goforth of Kings Mountain, Naeem Rahman and Devaughn Durham both of Gastonia.

## Radon Is Growing Concern

By JERRY KING

Radon Gas is a growing cause of concern for homeowners. Radon is a radioactive gas produced by the decay of radioactive elements, such as uranium, in the soil. It is tasteless, odorless and colorless. Prolonged exposure to radon may cause damage to lung tissue and result in lung cancer. A recent study by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimated that 8 million homes contain potentially dangerous levels of radon.

Radon flows from soil into basements through cracks in the foundation, sump pumps or pipes. Low pressure indoor air then sucks the gas up into the house where, without proper ventilation, it can accumulate and cause risk to the inhabitants. If ventilated properly, radon becomes diluted in the outdoor air and no longer presents a health hazard.

"Fortunately, elevated levels of radon are very easy to detect and possible to reduce," according to Jerry King, president of the Kings Mountain Board of Realtors. "Testing for radon is very simple." A small collector is placed in the house for a pre-determined period of time, and then a lab measures the radon buildup. The simplest form of testing kit is a charcoal canister that absorbs the gas and, within a few days, registers the level of radon. It is important to keep in mind, however, that radon levels may fluctuate on a daily basis depending on varying conditions, such as open windows. Other tests require a period of several months to report an accurate reading. The cost of EPA approved

testing kits range from \$10 to \$50. Locally, kits are available at Eckerd Drugs for \$15.74 tax included.

The EPA approved tests provide instructions for administering the test. The lab results will report the level of pCi/l (picocuries per liter of air), a standard measure of radiation. The EPA's A Citizen's Guide to Radon provides information on understanding levels of radon and suggested means of mitigation. The guide is available free of charge. For information on obtaining a copy of the guide, contact your state EPA office.

There are two general responses to the presence of radon: prevention of radon entry into the structure or removal of radon from the structure. Solutions vary in complexity and expense, and it is advisable for you to consult an EPA certified radon removal/home improvement firm before proceeding with major mitigation procedures.

Strategies for reducing radon levels range from simply improving your home's ventilation with window or ceiling fans, to piping the radon-laden air out from under the foundation, a process which ranges in cost from \$800 to \$1,500. If radon is detected in your home, you may wish to employ some of the suggested "do-it-yourself" solutions, such as installing a window fan or covering any open area near your sump pump, and then retest. The cost of having radon removed by professionals will depend on the means of removal, rather than the radon level. Low levels cost just as much as high levels if the same method must be used.

As a homeowner, it is important to be aware of the possible presence of radon. If radon is detected, it is the decision of the homeowner to determine what is an acceptable level of risk and expenditure before proceeding with mitigation strategies.

What does this mean for homebuyers and sellers? King advises that concern about radon is no reason not to buy a home since any problem can be corrected easily. The National Association of Realtors has worked closely with the EPA to inform association members, formulate policy and to educate the public.

The association's board of directors has adopted a radon policy supporting increased efforts by both the private and public sectors to evaluate the extent of indoor air quality problems and to encourage the development of meaningful and affordable monitoring and mitigation strategies. This includes educating homeowners on the need to

monitor and mitigation strategies. This includes educating homeowners on the need to monitor and mitigate indoor air quality problems, and for homeowners to inform real estate agents and brokers of any known environmental health hazards in listing a home for sale.

"The only way to know if you have a radon problem is to test your home," advise King. The Kings Mountain Board of Realtors encourages all residents to have their homes tested for radon gas.

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### Hohmann Joins Ballenger's Staff

Congressman Cass Ballenger has appointed Marty Hohmann of Gastonia to serve as a district assistant in his Gastonia congressional office. Mrs. Hohmann began her appointment on Monday, July 3.

"I am delighted to have someone of Marty's talent join our staff," Ballenger said. "Her knowledge of the area and understanding of local issues will be a tremendous asset to our office."

Mrs. Hohmann was born in LaGrange, Georgia and attended Georgia Southern College where she received an undergraduate degree in journalism. She then earned

her graduate degree in journalism/public policy at CBN University in Virginia Beach, Virginia, before becoming Editor of the Cherryville Eagle.

Mrs. Hohmann's husband, Leo, also has a background in journalism. He previously worked at the Virginia Pilot-Ledger-Star in Virginia Beach and is now the assistant business editor for the Gaston Gazette.

Congressman Ballenger's Gastonia office is located at 418 South Street. Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## Country Trivia

Here's some country trivia I hope you find interesting.

At age 3 Roy Clark got ahold of his dad's banjo, he hasn't stopped playing it yet.

Mickey Gilley, Jerry Lee Lewis and Jimmy Swaggart are all cousins.

Johnny Duncan is the cousin of Jimmy Seals (of Seals & Croft) and Danny Seals of (England Dan and John Ford Coley).

Jeannie Sealey is credited with introducing the first mini-skirt to country music.

Ernest Tubb was the first country artist to play Carnegie Hall. (1974)

Deford Bailey was the first black country artist, he played the Opry in the 30's.

**Jim Arp**



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Music Director

Roy Clark was the first country artist to tour the Soviet Union. (1976)

The Byrds were the first rock performers to cut an all-country album. It was titled "Sweetheart Of The Rodeo" the sister, "Sweethearts Of The Rodeo" took their name from the album.

Marty Robbins was the first country artist to win a Grammy

See Arp, 7-B

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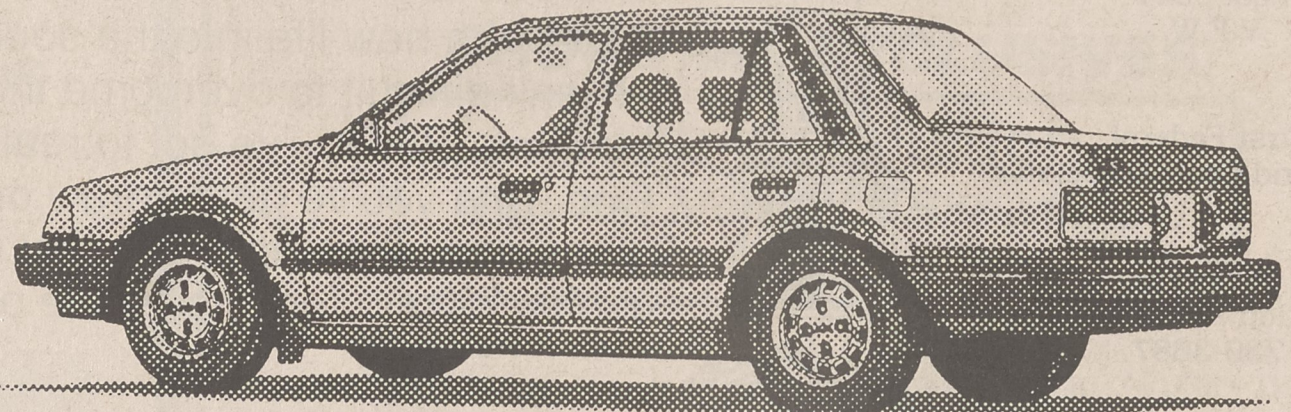
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