



COLLECTING IS HOBBY—One of Glee E. Bridges' many hobbies in retirement is adding to his collection of beautiful keepsakes which he finds on the trips he makes with wife, Martha.



PLAYS PIANO—Retired hardwareman J. C. Bridges is a man of many talents. Here, he is pictured at the piano in his home.

Bridges

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J. C. continues the story. "Glee and I both get calls every day from former customers wanting advice on hanging wallpaper or painting and we try to help them as much as we can. It makes us feel good."

In retirement the Bridges Brothers have continued their long service to the community. Both have been active in the Kiwanis Club since the early 40's and they co-chair the club's popular "Terrific Kids" program in which they visit the schools and present awards to top students. J. C. and Edie Bridges co-chaired the advanced gifts division of the recent highly successful United Fund campaign. Glee is also an active United Fund and American Cancer Society volunteer, a director of the Chamber of Commerce, and on the board of First Federal Savings & Loan and serves on the church council at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. His wife retired after many years with Kings Mountain District Schools, first as a 4th, 5th and 6th grade teacher and then as Director of Public Instruction. The Glee Bridges family includes three children, Ed Bridges of Houston, Texas, Tom Bridges of Kinston and Lynne Bridges Fulton of Hendersonville and six grandchildren, Chris Bridges, Jennifer Fulton, Elizabeth Fulton, Kelli Bridges, Catherine Fulton and Samantha Bridges.

J.C. Bridges is active in Kings Mountain Baptist Church, the Shelby

Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, and serves as treasurer of Kings Mountain Baptist Church and Friends of the Library. Mrs. Bridges retired after 25 years as a first grade teacher at West School and has served as organist at KM Baptist Church since 1960. The Bridges family includes four children, Mrs. Jo Darnell of Hickory, Mrs. Janet Anthony of Basset, Va., Mrs. Joy George of Matthews and Don Bridges who has moved from France to Greenville, S. C. The grandchildren are Marc McCree, Ginnie Darnell, Laura Darnell, Dale Bridges, Emily and Eric Anthony and David and Greg George.

Their mother, Addie Bridges, 90 on Monday, underwent surgery last week.

Glee and J. C. Bridges were separated by World War II. Glee retired as a Captain in the U. S. Navy following service in the South Pacific. J. C. was a flying instructor at Texas Training Command and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in the USAF. "Maybe I should have been fighting during World War II instead of training pilots," laughed J. C. who said he had a few hairy experiences in the air with novice flyers. Both served in the Reserves.

Bridges and Gold Hardware was started in downtown Kings Mountain by their father, the late Mayor Glee A. Bridges and their great-uncle, the late R. C. Gold, shortly after World War II. In the late 30's Gold sold his part of the business to David Hamrick, a brother of Mrs. Addie Bridges, and in 1951 Hamrick sold his part of the business to the Bridges brothers. The firm was located on Main Street in the heart of town and carried everything from nails to groceries. In 1974 the new Bridges Hardware Inc., which had been incorporated in 1960, was opened in its present location.

"We grew up in the hardware business and worked after school and in the summer time," said Glee, who recalled that as youngsters they often

went to the store and sorted pipe fittings and put up stock. All four Bridges children, including the late Nelson Bridges and Jean Bridges Schenck, now of Chatek, Wisc., delighted in following their father to the store.

J. C. takes up the story of the early years in business. "They used to put coffee in 100 pound sacks and we would empty coffee, sugar, and pinto bins into big bins for customers to buy and weigh what they wanted. They also used to put feed and fertilizer in 100-pound burlap bags and we'd have to drag it from the truck to the store. I never could figure out why they packed goods that way. Fat back meat, coffee, and sugar were big grocery items and we stocked everything from groceries to nails. The hardware store was a favorite spot for people to come."

"We don't miss the pressure of running a business or the long hours but we miss the people," said Glee, who recalled that the hardware store was a favorite spot for people to stop awhile and talk to their neighbors.

"We didn't care if they bought a thing. We were just glad they enjoyed sitting a spell and talking to folks," said Glee.

Both J. C. and Glee say they don't miss the 16-hour work days they spent building up the business but wouldn't have missed the friendships they made over the years.

Although their father, Glee A. Bridges, was a prominent politician, mayor of Kings Mountain and former chairman of Cleveland County Board of Commissioners, neither of the Bridges boys wanted a political career. During the last mayoral race in Kings Mountain, friends urged both J. C. and Glee E. to toss their hats in the political ring. "We just had too many other things we wanted to do," laughed Glee who admits he has caught the traveling bug.

Friends told them they would be bored with retirement. "Aw shucks, they say, there aren't hours in the day to do all we want to do."

Busy Time For Filers, Tax Payers

The busiest spots in town this week are tax offices where citizens are lining up to get Rapid Refunds.

H & R Block's Kings Mountain Office at the Herald Building on Canterbury and King Streets has been a beehive of activity with customers lining up on the porches and filling the parking lot. Block will file federal returns electronically with banks offering a loan refund in cooperation with Internal Revenue Service. The cost of the service ranges from \$60 to \$70 and the bank fee is subtracted from the refund check the customer receives in about 10 days.

Other local tax offices are also busy. Hilda Moss, local tax preparer on Phifer Road, said that February is the busiest month. "We can be caught up one morning and then be behind in a very short time," she explained. Becky Cook, Grace Leagon and Tonia Anthony are helping out in processing applications.

Other local tax preparers, including Marvin Chappell, Betty Hullender, and Jim Amos said the busy time is here.

Filing deadline is April 15.

All agree that an error-free return speeds processing time. A carefully prepared, easy-to-read return can be processed faster.

Here are a few suggestions which will help you get your refund check faster.

+Get all forms and records together before starting to prepare the return.

+Read each line and refer to the instructions booklet for clarification.

+Attach all W2s, Wage and Tax Statement.

+Enter the name and social security number for each taxpayer and dependent listed on the income tax form.

+Be certain to use the correct tax tables for figuring your tax.

+Date and sign the return. If you are filing a joint return, both husband and wife must sign and date this return.

+Use the peel-off label which was sent with the tax package.

+Use the bar coded envelope contained in the tax package.

+Keep a copy of your return for your records.

+You can call toll-free 1-800-424-1040 Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. to get help from the IRS.

+File your return early.

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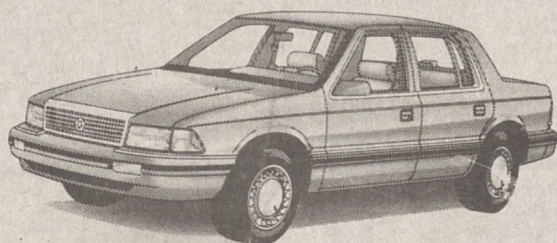
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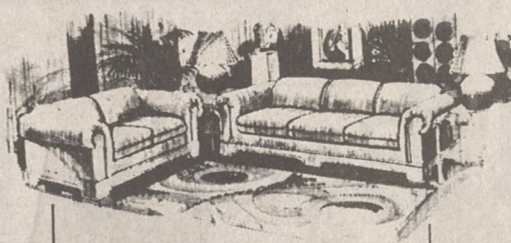
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