

Member Of The North Carolina Press Association

# Kings Mountain Herald

35¢

VOL. 102 NO. 15

Thursday, April 12, 1990

KINGS MOUNTAIN, N.C. 28086

## Love, Second Time Around 1945 Classmates Reunited At August Class Reunion

By LIB STEWART  
Of The Herald Staff

Love is wonderful the second time around. Just ask Peggy Hord and John W. Gladden.

The Kings Mountain High graduates of 1945 were thousands of miles apart for nearly 45 years before they renewed friendships at their class reunion in Kings Mountain last August. Their whirlwind courtship of nearly eight months will culminate in marriage at the altar of First Baptist Church on Sunday, April 22, at 12 noon, the same place they held their first date by attending services together and where Bill and Betty Moss played cupid and asked the two to sit together at the August reunion luncheon.

"We are so happy," said the radiant Peggy Smith Hord, who was widowed 12 years ago. Her bridegroom-to-be was widowed a year ago.

Although he declares that he came to the reunion especially to ask his future bride for a date, J.W. Gladden, as his Kings Mountain friends remember him, is just as ecstatic about the wedding date, as are his three children and Peggy's two children.

"The Lord moves in mysterious ways," they both admit.

Peggy Hord said their courtship

has been very special. Both have much in common, including their love of family and the church. "I knew John was special when I saw him coming across the parking lot at our church carrying his Bible," said Peggy.

Born in a family of 11 children of the late Mr. and Mrs. John W. Gladden Sr., J. W. Gladden graduated from KMHS in 1945 with Peggy Hord and her former husband, Joe Hord Sr. After four years in the U. S. Navy, he joined Eastern Airlines and he met his wife, Bert, a former stewardess, in Miami, Fla. The family moved to Plymouth, Michigan in 1962 and last July J. W. retired after 27 years with General Motors where he was an aircraft dispatcher. His wife died of cancer March 3, 1989 after a long illness and following more than 30 years of marriage. They reared a daughter, Kathi Gladden, a sales representative in Austin, Texas; and twin sons, Bob and Mark Gladden, 26. Mark is a computer engineer who programs robots in Fort Worth, Texas. Bob, of Westland, Michigan, is a pilot for Northwest Airlines.

While J. W. and Bert Gladden were rearing a family in Michigan, Peggy and Joe Hord were rearing a family in Kings Mountain. Peggy



Peggy Hord, John Gladden

and Joe were married 23 years when Joe died suddenly of a heart attack 14 years ago at age 48.

Coincidentally, Joe and J. W., who were also KMHS classmates, worked together in Charlotte for

Eastern Airlines in 1961 but Joe left Eastern to go into the Coast Guard. An engineer with Pneumafil Corporation in Charlotte, he was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Hord. Joe See Love, 10-A

## School Board To Ask County For \$1.6 Million

The Kings Mountain Board of Education Monday night approved budget requests of \$1,653,145 for current expense and \$298,367 for capital outlay from the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners.

The county commissioners will receive the requests at their next meeting. Operating budgets must be approved by July 1. Kings Mountain expects its total local current expense budget for the next school year to be \$3,098,691.

Supt. Bob McRae pointed out that the current expense requests are 13 percent more than last year but are necessary to meet the rising costs of personnel, supplies and utilities. He said two-thirds of the requested increase is needed to insure continuation of the current level of operation.

McRae and board members Doyle Campbell and Billy King all pointed out that the proposed budget is "tight." "We're doing our system a disservice if we do not identify our needs," Campbell said. "If some items have to be trimmed we'll do that when it comes to that point."

Built into the budget is a request for funds to employ an addition teacher to reduce the number of combination classes, McRae said. Other funds are for instructional supplies, compensation of employees, and summer employment to

help make a successful move to the new Middle School.

McRae said the capital outlay budget asks for an increase of 16.8 percent. He pointed out that since 1980-81 KM's allotment has increased by only \$12,223 and that is not enough to keep up with rising costs of capital outlay items.

He also pointed out that over one-fourth of those requests is for items imposed on the system by outside agencies, primarily to meet federal guidelines for underground fuel tanks.

The capital outlay request includes \$12,500 for converting three match classrooms to science rooms at KMHS, \$8,000 for partitions to be built in the kindergarten building at Grover, \$7,000 for new lighting at North, \$30,000 for Central Office renovations, \$25,000 for furniture, \$43,558 for an underground storage tank for gasoline at the maintenance department, \$14,700 for removal and disposal of the current underground storage tanks, and \$41,690 to replace a roof on the second and third grade building at Grover and to renovate other areas.

The proposed budget also includes almost \$1 million worth of repairs needed, however they were not included in the official budget

See School Board, 15-A

## Eaton's Union Vote Delayed

A union vote at Eaton Corporation's Grover plant has been postponed.

Arthur DePalma, of Winston Salem, assistant to the regional director of the National Labor Relations Board, said Teamsters Local 61 filed charges last Tuesday against Eaton, accusing the company of promising workers higher wages and better benefits to keep out of the union.

DePalma said the charges are under investigation. "Our procedure is to postpone the vote until we dispose of the charges," he said.

Some 420 Eaton employees were to have voted Thursday on whether they wanted the Teamsters to represent them.

Eaton's Grover plant, a division of the Cleveland, Ohio-based Eaton corporation, manufactures transmissions for 18-wheeler trucks. The local plant employs 486 people and has been in operation here since 1976, said Human Resources Manager Lee Sherrill.

Jim Reinert, Eaton's plant manager said in a news release Thursday, that the company believes the allegations are unfounded. "The union made a last-minute charge against the plant, but it serves no purpose to comment on it until we can talk with the NLRB," he said.

Local 61 of Cherryville has 2,200 members in Western North Carolina. Some of its members are truck drivers at PPG Industries in Shelby, Consolidated Freightways in Kings Mountain and Carolina Freight Carriers of Cherryville.

Local 61 Teamsters filed for the vote at Eaton on Feb. 6 after obtaining the required 30 percent of eligible workers' signatures wanting an opportunity to vote. After the vote was canceled last week, some employees circulated a petition asking the NLRB and Local 61 not to postpone the election.



VOCATIONAL SPEAKER-Dr. James Wilsford, right, 1989 National School Superintendent of the Year, was guest speaker at a Vocational banquet Tuesday night at Kings Mountain High School and spoke of Orangeburg, S.C. School District's success with at-risk students. From left are Dr. Bob McRae, KM Schools Superintendent; Ann Brant, support services director; Vocational Director Betty Gamble and Wilsford.

## Parents Need To Care

Dr. James Wilsford of Orangeburg, S. C., 1989 National Superintendent of the Year, told 50 Vocational Educational staffers and volunteers Tuesday night that when "a community starts teaching parents to care about their children's success in school, things change fast."

He was the keynote speaker at a Vocational program review celebration banquet at Kings Mountain High School. Wednesday morning, he addressed teachers on the problem of drop-outs.

The something special that has happened in Orangeburg public schools can happen in Kings Mountain, he declared. Five years

ago, before sweeping state education reforms, the school district ranked near the bottom in performance, with a 40 percent dropout rate. Today, the annual dropout rate is less than 2 percent, and nine of Orangeburg's 10 schools rank among the state's top performers. Although most of the semi-rural area's 6500 students are descendants of slaves and still live in poverty, more than half of the Orangeburg Wilkinson High School's graduates are entering college. Parents who once appeared apathetic in regard to their children's future have become directly involved.

"Some think that poor people

don't care about their kids," said the district's superintendent, 56, who came to South Carolina 20 years ago from Ohio. "But as an inner-city high school principal, I learned that, although parents may never initiate a phone call to say they're worried about their kids, they usually respond when we call them. In Orangeburg, we run an early childhood parenting program in all the elementary schools. Our teachers and counselors try to keep close contact with parents and the middle and high schools as well. The PTA has high turnouts," he said.

Wilsford, who is recognized as a

See Banquet, 11-A

## Put A Pen To Pushers

Anonymous tips about suspected drug dealers in the Kings Mountain area are encouraged by Kings Mountain Police in a write-in campaign called "Put A Pen To A Pusher" which got underway this week.

Det. Sgt. Billy Benton of the Kings Mountain Police Department will head up the anti-drug campaign which he thinks will "be a great help in the local fight against illegal drugs."

This is the way the program will work.

Using the anonymous letter-writing system, local citizens can turn in drug pushers by simply giving police the name of the suspected drug dealer and place of residence. "Some of the suspected drug dealers mentioned in your letters may already be known by police. We will check out each letter," said Benton. Letters that deal with suspected drug dealers in Cleveland and Gaston Counties will be turned over to county detectives, Benton said.

In an attempt to give the program more exposure, The Herald is running the "drug coupon" in today's Herald. Just fill in the blanks and mail the coupon back to PO Box 7, Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086. You do not have to give your name unless you want to. If you suspect someone in your neighborhood or school is using or dealing in drugs, let the police know by "Putting A Pen To A Pusher."

In other areas, including Gaffney, South Carolina, the program has been highly successful in terms of leads furnished to the various law enforcement agencies, said Benton. Kings Mountain police, who said they could not give specific tips and their resulting arrests, said that tips are extremely useful in ongoing drug investigations. Gaffney police have said that

See Pusher, 10-A

## Special Easter Services Planned At Area Churches

Several area churches have planned special Holy Week services this week, beginning on Maundy Thursday and continuing through Easter Sunday.

The annual Kings Mountain Community Sunrise Service, sponsored by the Ministerial Association, will be held at 7 a.m. Sunday at Mountain Rest Cemetery. The time has been changed from past years.

"The time change should allow a more optimum use of a beautiful sunrise on a clear morning, and more light for ready should it be cloudy," said Rev. Chip Sloan, a member of the Ministerial

Association Special Services Committee.

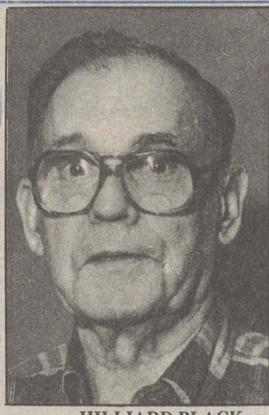
The speaker will be Rev. Mark Bardsley of First Wesleyan Church. Mrs. Linda Dixon of Central United Methodist Church will be the soloist.

Other participating ministers will be Rev. George Simmons of East Gold Wesleyan Church, Rev. Eric Faust of First Presbyterian, Rev. Frank Gordon of Grace United Methodist Church, Rev. Morris Jordan of First Baptist and Rev. Prueella Kilgore of Adams Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church.

The service will be held around

See Churches, 3-A

### KM People



HILLIARD BLACK

## Black Makes Joyful Noise With Nursing Home Patients

Hilliard Black doesn't remember a time he didn't like to sing. So, when he volunteered a dozen years ago to lead the singing every Thursday at Kings Mountain Convalescent Center church services he willingly agreed.

He's been bowling over the senior citizens ever since with his good voice. Forty-two senior residents were at Thursday morning service and often times as many as 54 attend the 10 a.m. half-hour service.

When Hilliard sings "Amazing Grace" and "Old Rugged Cross," they applaud and smile. Sometimes they pat their feet to the music by C. J. Gault at the piano and say "amen" to the message brought by Bill Russell. The trio of volunteers are all active in Central United Methodist Church and have continued the mission program started by the late Rev. Kelly Dixon, a former Kings Mountain mayor.

His retirement years have given Hilliard more time to volunteer. At

Central Methodist Church where he has been a member since childhood, he is active on the Administrative council and Methodist Men, is assistant treasurer and a member of the board of ushers.

His hobbies are gardening and working in the yard. He and neighbor, Yates Harbison, work a garden every spring and they share their vegetables with other neighbors,

See Black, 15-A