Black

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including good friends Nell and Don Parker. Before he had back surgery, Hilliard bowled on the Foote Mineral bowling team and recalled he rolled a few high games and received "a couple of trophies. I guess if I'm bowling over anybody now it would be Mary," he said affectionately of his wife of 51 years. Every Saturday night the Don Parkers and Hilliard Blacks enjoy an evening on the town and enjoy dining and shopping together. In his free time, Hilliard helps his wife can vegetables. "Usually I just tighten the lids on the jars," he laughs.

Hilliard has retired twice. He worked at the old Margrace Mill and Margrace Store for 25 years and then went to work at Foote Mineral where he retired in 1975 after a 20 year tenure. Except for a short time in Blacksburg, S.C., he has been a lifelong resident of Kings Mountain, one of six children of the late Harley Black and Annie Black Self. He has two living brothers, Charles Black and Jimmy Black, both of Kings Mountain, and a sister, Aileene Black Gibson, also of Kings Mountain. He was brother of the late Ruth Black Cloninger and Bill Black.

A graduate of Kings Mountain High School, Class of 1931, he recalled that Mountie teammates on the football team called him "Black boy." Stumpie Houser was quarter-

School Board

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requests because, McRae said, the system knew funds would not be available.

In other action Monday, the board:

*Authorized McRae to write a resolution to the State Legislature urging continued funding of the Basic Education Program, differentiated pay plan and administra-tion salary schedules.

*Heard a report from John Goforth, chairman of the Elementary Reorganization Committee, who said the group has had two meetings since last month and has discussed over 850 surveys which were received from the public. He said the committee has also discussed why so many children are attending schools out of their district, and has continued to discuss several possible scenarios for achieving racial balance, including re-districting and the possible closing of East and West Schools and construction of a new school. Goforth said the group will meet again April 26 and plans to have a recommendation for the board to

consider at its June meeting. *Approved the release of Sean Gregory Collins to Cleveland County Schools and Kari and Chadwick Davis to Shelby City Schools; and accepted Jeremy Grayson from Cleveland County, Michael S. Fredell from Gaston County, and Sandy Lynn Hopkins from Gaston County.

*Adopted resolutions honoring the 1989-90 KMHS wrestling and basketball teams which finished second in the state tournaments.

Approved interim contracts for Sylvia Neisler, kindergarten teacher, West School; Pat Regan, BEH, North School; and Judy Hancock, Junior High.

*Approved the employment of Pat Gould as cafeteria manager at Kings Mountain Middle School, effective August 1990, and accepted the resignation of Angela Wilson, After-School Care, North School.

*Approved the following additions to the teacher substitute list: Marshall Blanton, Rebecca Crawford, Lesia Ann Etters, Connie G. Griffin, Betty Greene Sharpe, Monnie A. London, Albert Brock Harris, and Lorena Dawn Lawrence.



back, Shoot Stowe was halfback, and Skimp Stowe was halfback on the 1929-30 Mountaineer football team. "We were a young, small team but we could run fast," recalled Hilliard who outran his friends and jumped in field day activities as a young boy at West School. "Shoot Stowe always beat me jumping," he said of Charles F. Stowe.

During the war years Hilliard recalled that he didn't have to report for duty but he contributed to the war effort by making ducking for army tents when Margrace Mill was awarded numerous defense contracts. He also welded during the war years in the Margrace machine shop and recalled working with H. R. Hunnicutt, George Barber, Monroe Rhea and got his job in the old Margrace Store by working for Barber when he was on vacation. He started off at the Margrace Mill in the dyehouse. "They wanted someone who knew a little about working in a store, so I got to leave the finishing plant and work in the store for a week. I found I liked it," he said. At that time the old Margrace Store was a general store which sold "everything", according to Hilliard who bought his daughter's baby bed there in addition to other household furnishings and food. The store also sold cow feed.

It was love at first sight for Hilliard and Mary McCaslin Black. Hilliard was standing in front of his house on Grover Road waiting for a ride to work at Margrace Mill when Mary's sister, Harry Lee McCarter and their friend, Mary Frances McGinnis, stopped and introduced Hilliard to his future

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their marriage and then joined bride, then a senior at Kings Mountain High School. It wasn't Hilliard's church, Central long until their relationship blos-Methodist, where both are active today. They are parents of two chilsomed into marriage. "I'd marry her again," said Hilliard. And,

Mary agreed. They said their close

relationship with God and the

church helped them over rough

times. Mary was active in the old

First Baptist Church, across the

street from where Central

Methodist church is today. After

their marriage, Mary returned to

her home church the Sunday after

dren, Peggy Black Jackson of Spartanburg, S.C. and Tommy Black of Lexington. Peggy is married to Harold Jackson and they are parents of twin daughters, Alicia and Ashley Jackson, 22 and seniors at Clemson University, and a daughter, Alison Jackson, 13. Tommy Black is married to Patricia Curlee Black of Charlotte

and they have two children, Stephanie Black, 13, and Trey Black, 11.

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Their Kings Mountain grandparents try to spend as much time as possible with the grandchildren and Hilliard is always proud to show his "brag book" of pictures of their growing family.

Talking to people is probably Hilliard's favorite pastime. His enthusiasm for life and good humor belie his age. He will celebrate his 79th birthday on May 10.

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