

'The Coach' Don Parker To Be Inducted Into KM Sports Hall Of Fame 1-B



KM Wins Playoff/6-A

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Sports Hall Of Fame Banquet Thursday

The third annual Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame banquet will be held Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Kings Mountain Community Center.

Don Parker, the most victorious coach in KMHS sports history; former Mountaineer All-American quarterback George Harris; and former Kings Mountain pitching great Charlie Ballard will be inducted.

Perry Champion, chairman of the Hall of Fame committee, said tickets will be sold at the door and can also still be purchased at area businesses, including McGinnis Department Store, C&S Mart, Sagesport, Western Auto and the Chamber of Commerce. Tickets are \$10 each.

Ronnie Wilson, personnel director for Kings Mountain Schools and a popular speaker, will be master of ceremonies. Guest speakers are Ken Pettus, as-

stant football coach at N.C. State, and Buzz Peterson, assistant basketball coach at N.C. State.

Shu Carlton and Bill Bates, former KMHS football coaches, will induct George Harris and Don Parker, respectively. Former Mayor John Moss will induct Charlie Ballard.

The meal will begin promptly at 7 p.m., with the induction ceremonies and special recognition to follow.

The annual Special Recognition Award will go to the 1989 KMHS baseball team, which won the state 3-A championship.

A number of former KMHS athletes will be attending, including:

Punch Parker, star of the 1960 team and still owner of the school scoring record. He went on to make Honorable Mention All-American at The Citadel.

Rusty Bumgardner and Aubrey Hollifield, stars of the championship 1986 KMHS team and now teammates at Wake Forest University. Hollifield played in the Shrine Bowl.

Brent Bagwell, another star of the 1986 team who is now a lineman at N.C. State. Bagwell was selected to play in the 1987 East-West All-Star game.

Calvin Stephens, a Shrine Bowler on the 1985 KMHS team and now a starting offensive guard at South Carolina.

Brad Wilson, who played on three conference championship golf teams at KMHS and now a standout golfer at Campbell College.

Bryan Jones, former KMHS All-American tennis player and now an All-ACC standout at North Carolina.

Dale Greene, one of the stars of last year's state championship baseball team and now a freshman starter at Wingate College.

Members of the championship 1955 KMHS football team (teammates of George Harris) have been invited and many are expected to attend.

Previous Hall of Fame inductees were:
1988 - Major league baseball great Jake Early, Cleveland Browns running back Kevin Mack, former All-American basketball player George Adams, and Mayor John Moss.

1989 - Retired Wake Forest women's athletic director Marge Crisp, All-American football star Pat Murphy of KMHS and Appalachian State, former KMHS and Catawba football star Jim Dickey, and the championship 1964 KMHS football team.

Linda Moss Beats Odds

By JIM HEFFNER

The chances of a writer selling a short story the first time out area about one in 200,000.

Linda Moss of Kings Mountain has beaten the odds. Admittedly, she had a better chance. Moss submitted her story to the Charlotte Writers Club children's story contest and carted off the blue ribbon and \$100. There were just 27 entries, but some of the other contestants were professionals and some had won the contest in the past. Viewing it from that perspective, she may have been bucking greater odds.

Linda Moss lives, with husband, Larry, and daughter, Laura Beth, on El Bethel Road. "You won't have any trouble finding the house," she says. "It looks like a big brown Pizza Hut."

A brown-haired, hazel-eyed woman of almost regal carriage, Linda has a constant smile and laughs easily, which is remarkable, because, for the past 13 years she has suffered from severe headaches.

Linda's problems began when her jaw joints were damaged during the removal of wisdom teeth. The condition is called Temporomandibular Joint dysfunction (TMJ).

"During the past 13 years I've gone two and one half days without a headache," said Linda.

Asked how she deals with pain on a daily basis she said, "After a period of time, pain becomes your friend, your buddy, your ally and you become comfortable with it. Finally, one day you just crawl off into a corner, just you and Mr. Pain and you just sit there together."

The TMJ, thus far has required four major surgical procedures at a cost of over \$300,000. The latest, in April of 1989, seems to have been successful.

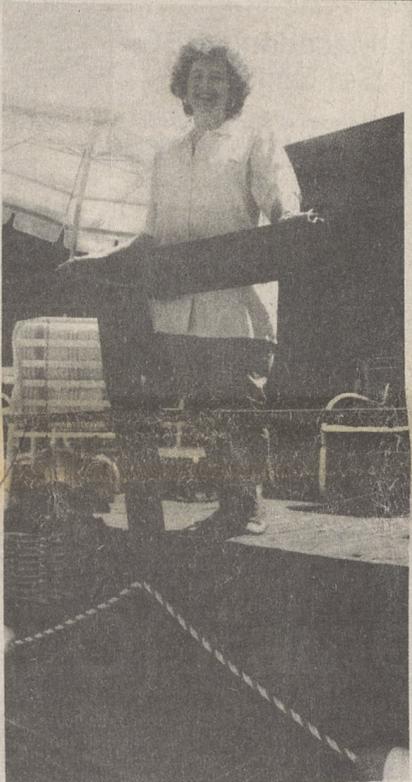
"We found a doctor in St. Petersburg, Florida, who rebuilt my jaw joints, inserted plastic discs and reconstructed a good part of my lower face," she said. "Prior to the last surgery, I was forced to take strong pain killers every day, but now I just take an over-the-counter medication. I still have headaches but they are not as severe. It's just short of a miracle."

Miracle doesn't describe her winning of the short story contest, but phenomenal isn't too strong a word.

"I saw the notice in a newspaper," she said, "and I had an idea so I decided to enter. I thought: I'll write a little story for the school kids. I scribbled it out in about 10 minutes. When it was finished I remembered there was no typewriter so I borrowed one from an old friend and pecked it out while the soaps were playing on TV. My typing was atrocious. I showed the story to my friend Brenda Falls and she offered congratulations and told me it was a good thing typing wasn't a consideration."

The story is about a white mouse named Rooney who leads a classroom of school children to safety during a tornado. It is entertaining, thought-provoking and a lesson in safety for small children.

"I have great fears that children might find themselves exposed to a tornado or some other dangerous situation they're incapable of handling. That's why I wrote the story," she said.



LINDA MOSS

When Linda had finished her short story, she noticed the entry deadline was that day. She jumped into her car and drove to the Charlotte restaurant where the Charlotte Writers Club was meeting. By the time she arrived the meeting was in session.

"I didn't want to disturb them, so I just left the story with the girl at the cash register and forgot it. A few days later, I got a call from a lady who told me I'd won first prize and \$100. I had no idea there would be a monetary award. It was a complete surprise," she said.

The Charlotte Writers Club invited Linda to their next meeting to receive her prize.

"I thought it would be a small affair with just a few people, but when Laura and I arrived we were shocked to see about 200 people. It was a very exciting evening. They asked me to read my story, but Laura read it instead. She's so talented."

Paul Jernigan, President of the club, attests to that fact. "They're both talented people—quite a pair," he said.

As a direct result of the reading, Laura was invited to join the Charlotte Actor's Guild. The 16-year-old is vitally interested in dramatic theater. Her latest role

See Linda, 3-A

Committee Recommends Closing Two City Schools

The 17-member committee studying elementary school reorganization is recommending closing East and West Schools and consolidating the present five elementary schools into three larger K-5 campuses at North, Bethware and Grover Schools.

John Goforth, Principal of East School and chairman of the committee, said he will formally present the 70-page report to the board of education at a special work session Monday night at 6 p.m. at the School Offices on Parker Street. Goforth said that members of the board received copies of the recommendation this week.

Goforth said the committee adopted the recommendation 10-3 on April 26 after narrowing 10 scenarios to two.

If the plan is adopted by the board of education, the report states consolidation would take effect by school year 1992-93.

Among the advantages of consolidation of the five schools to three offered in the report:

+ A solution to achieve racial imbalances and problems of declining enrollments at some schools.

+ Staffing, planning, maintenance, utilities and other services would cost less;

+ Kings Mountain's share of the \$30 million in county school bonds could be used to improve North, Grover and Bethware rather than for maintaining all five schools.

+ The three remaining schools, each with enrollments of 500 to 700 students, would be better located to handle westward growth in the city;

+ The larger schools could offer a wider variety of programs for students.

+ With elementary school size in the range of 500-700 students (current size of Bethware is 470) the following can be provided: larger professional staffs having more diverse approaches and specialties to offer students, thus providing a better opportunity for matching stu-



JOHN GOFORTH

dent needs with teacher strengths; a uniform structure allowing each school to have more teachers and classes on each grade level (approximately 4-5 classes) giving more opportunity for grade level planning; grouping of students, according to their needs, and enhancing academic capabilities.

+ Larger schools would better utilize support staff. More time could be spent at each site when staff is divided three ways instead of five. There would be less travel or no travel for support staff. Due to increased time at schools, support staff could better schedule their pull-outs from regular classrooms, giving larger blocks of time to classroom teachers for instruction of basic skills and planning.

+ Funding supplied on a per-pupil formula means that larger schools are able to purchase a greater variety of materials and equipment, books, special packaged programs, computers and software.

+ Available research suggests that larger institutions are more conducive to higher levels of pupils achievement than their smaller counterparts. Due to the more balanced size of the three elementary schools, all students would have an equal opportunity in their elementary education.

+ The three elementary schools recommendation provides numerous options to balance the school district both racially and socio-economically.

+ The Department of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education believe that elementary schools ranging from 450-700 students offer the most efficient use of space and personnel at a reasonable cost per student without losing personal contact with and among students.

Goforth said the committee narrowed scenarios to two: closing East and West and enlarging Bethware, Grover and North; or West, North and East would become K-3 and 4-5 schools, two of the schools would be K-3's and one school would handle 4-5. Bethware and Grover would remain K-5. All schools would be affected by re-drawing of school lines.

"The committee has had at least a dozen long sessions over the past four months since the school board gave us this tough assignment and the members have worked diligently using outside resources and much material to study, including several elementary plans," he said.

Since 1988, school officials have searched for a solution to racial imbalances at East and Bethware and declining enrollment at East.

KMHS Graduation Is Tuesday Night

Commencement exercises for 234 graduating seniors of the Class of 1990 of Kings Mountain Senior High School will begin Sunday night with the baccalaureate sermon and end on Tuesday night with graduation exercises.

Rev. David Philbeck, pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church, will deliver the sermon at 7 p.m. in B. N. Barnes Auditorium. Members of the senior class are on the program for the 7 p.m. finals exercises at 7 p.m. Tuesday in John Gamble Memorial Football Stadium.

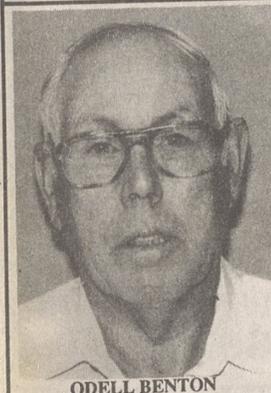
At Sunday night's service Rev. John Heath, pastor of East Kings Mountain Church of God will give the invocation; Rev. Robert Little, pastor of Central United Methodist Church, will read the scripture; Rev. John F. Bridges, pastor of First Baptist Church of Grover, will introduce the speaker and Rev. Larry Dixon, pastor of Long

Branch Baptist Church of Grover, will pronounce the benediction.

Noi Ouaneoudone will give the invocation at the graduation exercises Tuesday and SPO President John Wade Hendricks IV will give the welcome. The KMSHS Choral Union will sing special music after which Class President Rivers Smith will present the Class of 1990. Class Secretary Ashley Champion will recognize honor graduates. Principal Jackie Lavender, assisted by Supt. Robert McRae and Chief Marshal Michael Jordan will present diplomas. Class Treasurer Carmen Smith will present the Class of 1990 gift which will be accepted by Doyle Campbell, chairman of the Board of Education. The benediction will be pronounced by Class Vice President Scott Belcher.

The Ninth Grade Band will play for the procession of seniors.

Kings Mountain People



ODELL BENTON

Odell Benton Stays Busy

Odell Benton, 65, is a man of many talents. Whether he's doctoring cows with pink eye or hauling cattle to the sale barn, cutting wood or hauling hay, Odell stays busy. He never plans to retire because staying indoors is not something he likes to do.

"I like to be outside and I always find something to do on the farm," says Odell, who was reared on a farm near his present home and got his training with cows, initially, as a milker with the old Archdale Dairy. That was before the days of electric milkers. Odell got up at 4 a.m. in the morning and milked 70 cows by hand three times a day, at 4 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. "People find it hard to believe that we milked that herd more than once a day but we did and Archdale Farms was a

popular place for folks to visit to see a dairy in operation and I worked there until 1947 when Betty Jo Bell and I got married," he said. Neisler Brothers owned the dairy farm and Holland Dixon was manager of the large operation, Odell recalled.

"I reckon working with cattle got in my blood," laughed Odell, who makes regular trips hauling cattle in a specially-built trailer to a sale barn in Shelby on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He and his wife own 40 head of beef cattle and until eight years ago were poultry farmers, breeding 5500 hens. At one time he operated his own welding shop on their 37-acre farm on Benton Road. When cotton was no longer king in this

See Benton, 5-A