

PIG

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sales. Mike, an engineering supervisor, started the family on a unique hobby two years ago. They became rock hounds. Now the family gets in the car and travels to Franklin and other mountain places to find agate, amethyst in crystal form, black onyxes, Australian crystals that change color, rose quartz, Alexandrite, Ruby and blue Lindy star and quartz, all of which become 14-Karat gold-filled rings and necklaces for friends. Learning to make wire jewelry is fascinating but tedious work because it's tough on your eyes even with glasses and good lighting. Using tiny pliers and wirecutters, the ring is fashioned to size with choice of stone. The couple has also made gem trees. Their hobby is quickly turning into a business for them. When friends place orders for certain designs the Bumgardners load up the family and pets and head for the hills. Mike became interested in the hobby after becoming friends with

Harold Roper of Marble N. C., who owns a jewelry business and also found the world's largest sapphire, a 17 karat grapefruit size stone with floating star. The sapphire is listed in the Guinness Book of Records 1991, has been on a touring exhibit but is now in a vault in Dallas, Texas. The gem was cut in England and certified. Mike and Harold have dug for sapphires in broomstraw fields and other sites and Becky and Linda Roper have become fast friends. Jewelry making has been a good learning experience for the Bumgardners who describe it as a trial and error experience but fun. Little stones are more difficult to mount, but there's no gluing but it's a time-consuming process. Mike said he took a jewelry making course in college but never thought he'd get into the business.

A Kings Mountain native, Mike, son of C. Gene and Frances Bumgardner, likes to fly radio-control airplanes. Becky likes to make sweatshirts and is big on ceramics and decorating and is also a Kings Mountain native, daughter of Bill and Joyce Cashion. Young Mike plays guitar and Beth loves to dance. They are all active in First Baptist Church.

Whatever they do, the fami!



THE BUMGARDNER FAMILY
Front, Beth and Mike. Back, Becky and Mike

KING

From Page 1-A

Kings Mountain and for the last 12 years has worked at the McGill Wastewater Treatment Plant for Walt Ollis. King, senior employee on the city's 160-plus payroll, likes his job, the people he works with and the benefits that Kings Mountain employees receive.

When Claude and Sallie King and young Willis moved to the Old Cora Mill village nearly 72 years ago there were dirt roads in town and cotton mills paid \$9. 60 a week. King's first wages were 10 cents an hour in the spinning room. He has seen Kings Mountain grow over the years, and although he wasn't born here has been a resident since the age of two when the family moved from Sylva.

King is regarded by many of his friends as a "pretty good ball player" back in the early years of the American Legion baseball program in Kings Mountain. King wanted to play Legion ball but when the team opened here in 1934 he was a year too old. Kids could be 16 but not 17 and King had just celebrated his 17th birthday in May that year. "My parents were good Christian people and they wouldn't fib about my age so I joined what was called the Ex-Juniors, boys who had aged off the Legion team." King played shortstop and he recalled great plays from the American Legion playing field (where the Post is today). The Ex-Juniors were sponsored by local textile plants and if you could play ball you could take your pick of jobs in the local mills. What it was was baseball fever and Kings Mountain had it, said King, recalling that one of the best coaches in the area was Pop Simmons of Mooresboro. "You've got a habit of throwing that ball wide to first base," Simmons told young King. "Get out of that habit and I can put you on any ball team in the country," he said.

Willis said he played for VFW teams and a little for Western Carolina League but his first love was playing with the Ex-Juniors for Cora Mill. The War also interrupted any future days of glory on the baseball field.

King still likes to play ball with his two grandsons, Billy Jr. and Brian King. He's the boys' biggest fan. He is always in the audience when Billy Jr. plays drums.

King's long-time friends will also recall his love for skating. Before World War II King taught other kids to skate at a popular skating rink at Crowders' Mountain. Those were fun days, he said.

King and Frances Mills King have been married nearly 46 years. They are life-long members of Second Baptist Church and King led the singing there when he was a boy. Son, Billy, chairman of Kings Mountain Board of Education, is married to Linda Pearson. Daughter, Joan, is married to Steve Baker. All are Kings Mountain residents. King's brother, Ellis, was on the police force for a number of years, as were his sons, Tommy, Joe and Jimmy King. Willis has four living sisters, Reba Wilson, Jeanette Kiser, Sadie Burton, and Mamie Roper, all of Kings Mountain.

The 25th Infantry was the first division to go into the Vietnam War and its brother, the 24th, was the first to enter the Persian Gulf War. Willis, said his old 25th didn't have the modern equipment that today's fighting army has but it had the guts. "We were fighting against great odds because many of us were untrained. We had to listen and learn the hard way and we had to hunt the enemy like rats in the jungles," he said as he wiped a tear from his eyes.

King is still the No. 1 fan of the American Legion Juniors. During his baseball heyday in Kings Mountain and his military service duty, he said he learned about teamwork. "We have a good team working for the city too," he said. "And teamwork is what counts in the long run."

RECREATION

From Page 6-A

Community center. The clinic will be held April 2 and April 3 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Community Center and registration fee is \$5. Each person completing the course will receive a certificate. The course will also cover first aid. Enrollment is limited.

A Double Dutch workshop in jump roping will be held March 27

from 4-5 p.m. at the Community Center co-sponsored by Parks & Recreation and Pioneer Girl Scout Council. Call 734-0449 by March 22 to register.

A babysitting clinic for students 11 years and up will be held April 2 and April 3 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Community Center and registration fee is \$5. Each person completing the course will receive a certificate. The course will also cover first aid. Enrollment is limited.

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TRANSFERS

From Page 1-A

Board members seemed to agree that the #1 priority would be hardship in cases of medical reasons and day care needs. Some board members also suggested that parents requesting transfers supply documentation.

"I think documentation is the key," Campbell said. "They need to know that they have to bring documentation and that transfers can't be granted just on their own word."

Some members also suggested that transfers might be granted if they positively impact the racial and/or socio-economic situation of the schools. The board will also consider whether or not to allow teachers to transfer students to the schools where they work.

Supt. McRae pointed out that 28 employees had signed a petition requesting the board to allow teachers to transfer their students. He said there could be others who would like to request it also.

"We've worked hard to make a plan as fair as possible," King said. "If we decide to allow teachers to transfer their children it ought to be based on whether or not it benefits the system," King said such a policy could prove beneficial to the system if it allows teachers to report to work earlier and stay later. "It could benefit a lot of children," he said.

Hawkins said he sees the matter as an "extra benefit" the system can provide its employees. "But I can also see why so many people are against it," he said. "They see it as something the teachers are getting that they aren't getting. If we do it I would favor just letting teachers and aides do it and then just allowing them to transfer their children to the schools where they work. I think we should look at transfers for the general public first and then, if possible after that, allow it."

Campbell said he also sees both sides of the issue but said if, "after other requests are looked at and it doesn't disrupt the numbers, do it."

All transfers, the board pointed out, would be contingent upon class size. "We prefer not to have

combination classes unless absolutely necessary," McRae said. "It's reasonable to set limits above which you will not go."

The board will probably include in its policy a clause stating that the board reserves the right to assign future housing developments and sub-divisions to schools out of their present district.

"We have been subject to the whims of developers for several

years," Hawkins said. "We need to work together with the county and city in order to make our school system work."

Campbell noted that the reassignment plan has been a lot of hard work for the board "and has been disruptive and discouraging for many people. If we allow the new developments to move the traditional families out of their school zone it's not fair."

HONDA

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'86 Prelude Si black, 5spd, sunroof, AC, 57,000 miles, sharp	\$8495	\$7850
'86 Nissan King Cab 4X4 burgundy/silver, camper, AC, sharp	\$7995	\$7295
'88 Nissan Short bed Pickup Black, 5 spd, AC, burgundy color	\$5995	\$5400
'87 Pontiac Bonneville 4 dr, full size, luxury, nice, 20,000 miles	\$7495	\$6950
'90 Ford Escort LX gold, 5 spd, AC, Like New, S/R, AC, Alloys	\$6795	\$6200
'90 Accord EX 4 dr, 5 spd, burgundy, 12,000 miles, WOW	\$15,995	\$15,295
'84 VW Golf Wolfsburg Edition gray, 5 spd, economy galore!	\$2995	\$2200
'86 Honda Accord LXI 4 dr, auto, blue, loaded	\$8495	\$7800
'87 Chevy Cavalier 5 spd, silver, cold air, AM/FM, 66,000 miles	\$3495	\$2000
'84 Ford Tempo GLX 4 dr, red, auto, 36,000 miles	\$3995	\$3650
'88 Ford Escort GT gold, AC, 5 spd, very sporty	\$4695	\$3900
'88 Toyota Camry S/W, red-brown, auto, AC, nice	\$8295	\$7500
'87 Ford Escort 2 dr, gray, auto, 45,000 miles, the nicest used car around.	\$4295	\$3750
'85 Mercury Topaz GS dk. blue, 4 dr, AC, FIRST	\$2000	
'86 Ford Bronco II Eddie Bauer, 80,000 miles 2 new tire, auto, 4WD	\$6995	\$5800
'88 Civic DX 3 dr, H/B, auto, AC, blue	\$5995	\$4850
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COMMODITIES-The March distribution of surplus commodities will be held March 20 at Shelby Armory from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Butter, cornmeal, flour, honey, pears and rice are available.

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A 30-minute video designed to help you recognize heart attack symptoms.

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The Carolinas Heart Emergency Network is pleased to offer "How To Beat Heart Attacks"- a 30-minute health information video that teaches individuals how to recognize the symptoms of a heart attack.

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To receive a copy of this important video, and a copy of the quiz, please contact the network hospital in your area.

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