

WESTMORELAND

From Page 1-A

really run from the people up, not from the top of government down." Dean got an education in politics when he traveled the state in 1975-76 as president of the North Carolina Association of Educators. He compared the experience as running for governor. He waged a successful campaign from Murphy to Manteo. A highlight of that year on-the-road was representing educators at the world organization of teaching professionals in the Republic of Singapore in the Far East. That conference opened doors for him, he said. Serving on the national education association commission on violence in the public schools, he was the only person on a 25 member committee who had not been mugged at school and the committee wanted to how he had escaped. Kings Mountain schools have corporal punishment, he related, but other states, even at that time, employed full time policemen and tight security systems.

Dean also flew to Washington, D.C. frequently to lobby congressmen for federal funding of education. He said he practically lived in the General Assembly in Raleigh, working for better teaching conditions and salaries and better retirement for teachers, generally improving the teaching profession.

Being a precinct chairman taught him politics from the grass-roots level. He volunteered at Democratic headquarters and was on the county Democratic executive committee.

In 1953 as a college freshman at Lees McRae, Dean became president of the Young Democrats Club. In later years he chaired Les Roark's run for a seat in Congress and co-chaired Carl Stewart's campaign for lieutenant governor in 1984. "Both of these men would have represented this area well," said Dean, who said Stewart carried the county in 1984. President Jimmy Carter carried the county for the Democrats in 1976. Republican Presidents Reagan and Bush carried Cleveland County three times since.

Republicans have made inroads into Cleveland County, says Dean, but Democrats are targeting Charlie Harry's seat on the county commission in the primaries and general election. Contrary to what some speculate, the county commission race doesn't boost its largest number of candidates this year with 10 Democrats and three Republicans running. The year 1984 was a big year with 17 Democrats running for three seats on the county commission.

Westmoreland said the Democrats are gearing up for the upcoming elections. Precinct meetings were held on Thursday night. The big county convention is April 4 at the County Office Building auditorium.

Westmoreland follows in his father's footsteps as a solid Democrat. The late Bert Westmoreland voted the straight Democratic ticket and also took his wife to the polls regularly and encouraged his son as soon as he became old enough to cast his ballot. But, unlike Dean, his activity stopped at the ballot box.

Dean started his teaching career in 1961 at West Mecklenburg High School in Charlotte. Terry Sanford was Governor of North Carolina. Dean had finished Lees McRae College and served a tour of duty with Uncle Sam's Army. He had also completed graduate work at the University of South Carolina and Appalachian State University. Westmoreland taught in Charlotte until 1968 and he and his wife, Carolyn Lee Westmoreland, also a Charlotte teacher, moved to Kings Mountain and built a new home in Grover.

Since retirement in 1988 Dean gardens and raises 50 beef cattle on the farm near his mother, Mrs.

Youth dance slated

A dance sponsored by the Kings Mountain Parks and Recreation Department, Youth Assistance Program and Kiss 102 will be held Thursday, March 26 from 7:30-10:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

Admission is \$3 per person. The dance is for middle school and high school students.

All proceeds will go to the Youth Assistance Program.

Kiss 102 will be on hand to provide music and door prizes. Concessions will be available.

For more information, call the Community Center at 734-0449.

Vangie N. Westmoreland. He continues his activity in the Kings Mountain Educational Foundation, an organization he helped organize as charter president. The local grants supply funds for teachers and students to continue their education.

When he relaxes, he campaigns for a friend, talks politics, or goes fishing or coon hunting. He and his wife also enjoy a summer house with her parents at Myrtle Beach, S.C. where Carolyn grew up. Mrs. Westmoreland has retired after 27 years in the elementary classroom.

"Report card and graduation day is your pay day," Dean told his American History students. "Invest time and effort and you will succeed."

Westmoreland said he is quite proud of the boys and girls he taught in high school and has seen many of them succeed in the workplace. When he retired, he left behind history notebooks for other teachers and an American flag for co-teacher Joe Rountree. In typical Dean fashion, he didn't tell his co-workers he was retiring with the graduating class of 1988 on May 31. He had tendered his resignation to the Board of Education. Saying goodbye was too difficult to him, he said, although he doesn't regret early retirement. He heartily recommends it. "When the time came I knew I had paid my dues," he laughed.

The recent U. S. census mandated redistricting of the state senate and U. S. Congress made him unhappy but Westmoreland said it was designed to give people equal representation following a 'one man one vote' ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court. "We ended up with weird district lines but with basically the same number of people for the 12 Congressmen," said Westmoreland.

Cleveland County is cut exactly in the middle with half the county in the 9th Congressional District and the other half in the 11th. That means, says Dean, that Cleveland will have two members in Congress which many counties can't boast about. In the state Senate Cleveland will have two senators, another boon. Dean says some voter confusion may result for a couple of years.

Being party chairman is almost a full time job for Westmoreland. He works at getting people to the polls and gets excited with campaigning.

Politics is a rough and tumble game, he declares, agreeing with the late President Harry Truman who said, "if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen."

CRIME

From Page 1-A

terror by holing up in an East Kings Mountain home. Hamrick admitted to the shooting of two of the four people but said he did not kill the woman he loved before he placed a sawed-off shotgun under his chin and pulled the trigger.

Darren Schenck is charged in the shooting death of Angela Shapel Adams, 21, of 206 N. Canster St., who died February 24. The baby girl she carried 5 1/2 months was born prematurely after she was shot, and died. The young mother had two other children.

Wednesday, March 4, a sausage delivery man found the knife-riddled body of Karen Hardy, 35, of Groves St., mother of three children, inside Mountaineer Restaurant which she and her husband owned and operated on York Road. Three hours later the husband, Charles Hardy, was charged with her murder. Police said the couple had been separated for several months but had continued to work together.

Domestic calls to Kings Mountain police in January totaled 48 and rose to 54 in February. September 1991 saw the figure rise to 114 for a 30-day period. The rest of the year report of domestic calls was: January, 55; February, 62; March, 66; April, 70; May, 74; June, 69; July, 82; August, 65; October, 61; November, 52; and December, 57.

Goforth says many people don't take advantage of free human ser-

vice organizations that offer, not only counseling, but a shelter for battered spouses and children. The number to call is 487-1111.

Goforth suggests three steps to follow if you are in an abusive situation:

- Call the Police and then secure a warrant through a magistrate's office. This is a free service. However, if you decide not to prosecute the court may charge you a fee.

- Contact a lawyer for a 50-B restraining order to give police more authority in the case.

- Contact a referral service. Police have the names and telephone numbers of trained volunteers who can help you on a confidential basis. Child Abuse Prevention Services, 487-1278, operates a 24-hour crisis information line for victims of rape and sexual abuse. No one is turned away from the shelter, says Goforth. This program operates out of an office on the third floor of Central United Methodist Church in Shelby.

Cleveland County Abuse Prevention Council, 481-0043, is another United Way family support service which offers a 24 hour hotline and provides counseling and referral to a temporary shelter. Battered wives and children can stay at a shelter for a week by volunteering three hours of work.

Goforth said that the court system provides protection for abuse victims by referring/linking them to agencies in Cleveland County that can help them. So many don't take advantage of these free services or don't know about them, he said.

Calls about domestic disputes escalate in the lazy summer months of May through August, says Goforth. Some disputes are sparked by alcohol.

Goforth says the police respond to every call that comes into the department. In a domestic situa-

tion, without a 50-B order an officer can't make an arrest unless he/she actually witnesses the assault or abusive situation. Goforth says it's imperative that the victim takes the first step in the legal action but often the battered are scared and afraid of retaliation.



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