

Mrs. N.C. visits KM

Sharon Tucker, the reigning Mrs. North Carolina USA, says being a beauty queen is more than a wave, a crown, and a smile. It's hard work.

The vivacious 33-year-old Gastonia native was in town this week to help publicize the upcoming Mrs. N.C. USA Pageant to be held April 12 at 2 p.m. at University Place Hilton in Charlotte at which ticket sales will benefit her special project, Special Olympics. She also wants married women ages 26-56 to know they can still participate in the pageant by calling 704-846-3642 or 704-537-0891.

Categories for judging will be interview, aerobic wear and evening gown. Each contestant will be asked an on stage question and each contestant will be escorted and crowned by her husband. Tickets are \$10.

The wife of Gerald Tucker and mother of Amice Tucker, 13 on April 18, and stepmother of Page, 16, and Christa, 19, plans to return to her traditional role as wife and mother after the pageant finals. Tucker, who owns and operates a balloon business in Matthews and is a bridal and pageant consultant, entered the pageant last year at the last minute.

"Women have always been the stalwart of the family and in today's world we need more than ever to promote families sticking together to give children the anchors they need in life," said Tucker, who gave those goals as her reason for becoming a contestant.

Tucker entered her first beauty pageant as a first grader at a May Day event in Lineberger Park in

Gastonia which her sister won. In later years she and her daughter won a Mother-Daughter pageant. At age 33, she said entering the state pageant helped her self-esteem because it showcased the housewife and focused on the family unit. "It was an humbling experience to win," she said.

Although Sharon didn't place in the top 15 at the Mrs. USA 1992 pageant in Plano, Texas, the experience was a highlight of her life. Although talent numbers are not performed in state events, Tucker danced a cameo role in the national pageant's production number which starred Dr. Deborah Williams, Mrs. USA 1991.

She began her year riding in the Azalea Festival in Wilmington and has made guest appearances since at churches and drug education facilities, signing autographs and making speeches.

On April 8-10 she will participate in the WTVI Channel 42 auctions. She will be auctioning six tickets to the 1992 Mrs. N.C. USA Pageant, her personal collection of bears and an autographed picture.

Daughter of Mrs. Mildred Nichols and Allen D. Bingham, both of Gastonia, she is also stepdaughter of the late LaVern Nichols. She is a graduate of Ashley Junior High, Myers Park High School and Libby Stone Modeling School. She has resided in Charlotte 14 1/2 years.

The five feet four beauty is a green-eyed blonde. She will feature the Broadway theme in the Mrs. N.C. pageant. Both her daughter and niece, Tara Tucker, will be performing in the show. Mrs. Tucker will present a slide show.



Sharon Tucker, Mrs. N.C. USA, shows a scrapbook of her year's travels as the reigning beauty queen. She was in Kings Mountain this week signing autographs and announcing plans for the upcoming pageant in Charlotte.

Tucker sees the role of Mrs. N.C. as a role model for young people. She says that the Mrs. N.C. pageant focuses on women, kids, and community.

What does she like to do in her

spare time? She likes soap operas and "Young and Restless" is her favorite. Often times when she is traveling as Mrs. N.C. she will stop for a break and watch Y&R on her portable television set.

Books bought for Head Start

Women of Central Methodist Church Circle 5 have bought 60 paperback books for Head Start children and will read selections from them at three schools in the Kings Mountain area Tuesday.

Readers will be at North School from 9-9:30 a.m., at Grover School from 10-10:30 a.m. and at

Bethware School from 11-11:30 a.m.

The activity is a feature of "A Reading Is Fundamental" book distribution for Head Start children in Cleveland County to motivate youngsters to develop a lifelong interest in reading. The books are the children's to keep.

■ A wildflower slide show will be presented by a local expert on wildflowers Saturday night at 7 p.m. at the Park Office of Crowders Mountain State Park. The show is free to the public and will last about 30 minutes.

■ A Pinnacle hike is planned from Crowders Mountain State Park Saturday beginning at 2 p.m. Wear hiking boots and take a canteen. The moderate to strenuous hike will last nearly three hours and will be led by a ranger.

Attention:

Kings Mountain Rescue District:

The funds you provide each year have made a major difference in the quality of service we can provide. To constantly improve our level of services and facilities we are once again conducting our portrait fund raising program. Our representatives will be calling on every residence within our service area and in return for your support a beautiful Easter portrait can be yours. Please ask for identification and call to check on them if there is any question, but please help all you can.

Thank You,
Jonie Blanton, Captain

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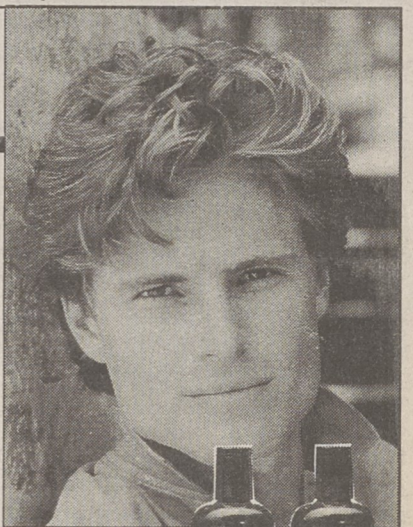
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Paxton campaigns in KM

Harrisburg tire dealer Charles Paxton brought his campaign for North Carolina Insurance Commissioner to Kings Mountain this week, launching it by distributing a bar of soap to campaign workers which read "Help Charles Paxton clean up the Insurance Department."

Paxton, 39, served as assistant commissioner in 1984-85. President of Paxton & Son Tire Company, he is a longtime friend of the Fred W. Plonk family of Kings Mountain.

Paxton has sold tires all his life in the family operation and assumed the ownership of the company in 1983. He was the Democratic nominee in 1986 for a state Senate seat representing Cabarrus County.

During his work with the Insurance Commission, he assisted the Commissioner in department management, including planning systems, evaluation, governmental liaison and budget control. He is a life-long Democrat and a graduate of UNC at Charlotte with degree in political science with background



CHARLES PAXTON

in business.

He has served on a number of legislative study commissions to study motor boat insurance requirements, community college needs, auto insurance problems and

bail bond regulations. He has also served as a public member on the Board of the Directors of the N. C. Joint Underwriting Association.

Paxton charges that under the present administration the budget for the N.C. Insurance Department has increased 300 percent, automobile drivers are paying 82 percent more for their car insurance, and the business people of the state have seen 200 to 300 percent increases in their workers' compensation rates.

If elected, Paxton pledges to clean up the department by reorganizing it by strengthening the Consumer Division and reforming automobile insurance. He said that recently the state auditor's office studied the Department of Insurance and found 25 problems. He said the auditor's report will be used as a guideline to clean up the operation.

Paxton challenges incumbent Jim Long in the May 5 Democratic Primary. The winner of that race will face the GOP challenger Mike Causey in November.

Obituaries

EUGENE HERRING SR.
Eugene Herring Sr., 60, of 1108 Stony Point Rd., died March 25, 1992 at home.

A native of Fair Bluff, SC, he was son of Victor Herring of Dillon, SC and the late Janie Watts Herring. He was a retired Wix Corporation employee. He was a member of Souls Harbor Tabernacle in Gastonia.

Surviving, in addition to his father, are three sons, Eugene Herring Jr. of Gastonia and James and Jerry Herring, both of Kings Mountain; two daughters, Mrs. Cathy Moore of Belmont and Mrs. Patricia Mackins of Kings Mountain; one brother, Ander Herring of Dillon; two sisters, Mrs. Betty Powers and Mrs. Mary Powers, both of Dillon; and 12 grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted Saturday at 3 p.m. at Souls Harbor Tabernacle in Gastonia. Rev. James Chambers, Rev. Jerry Morrow and Rev. S. M. Lane officiated. Burial was in Mt. Calvary Church Cemetery in Dillon.

ADA COGDELL
Mrs. Ada Morrison Cogdell, 98, of 310 Range Rd., died March 25, 1992 at Kings Mountain Hospital.

A native of Cleveland County, she was a homemaker and widow of William Monroe Cogdell. She was daughter of the late Lafayette and Louteshsia Green Morrison. She was a member of Allen

Memorial Baptist Church and Senior Center of Shelby.

Surviving are one daughter, Mrs. Mildred Howard of the home; four grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted Friday at 2:30 p.m. at Allen Memorial Baptist Church by Rev. Norris Willis. Burial was in Union Baptist Church Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the building fund of Allen Memorial Baptist Church, 1222 Long Branch Rd, Grover, 28073.

MARY H. MOORE
HENDERSONVILLE - Mary Harris Moore, 83, of Carolina Village, died March 31, 1992.

A native of Forsyth County, she was the widow of Terry Moore. She was the daughter of the late John Frank and Alphonsin Miller Harris. She was a member of Central United Methodist Church of Shelby.

She is survived by nieces and nephews.

The graveside service will be conducted Thursday at 3 p.m. at Sunset Cemetery in Shelby. Rev. John Barnes and Rev. Linda Kelly will officiate.

CARD OF THANKS
The family of Luther Jamerson would like to thank all their friends for the kindnesses shown during the loss of our loved ones.
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