

DAVIS

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shop training of the teachers. She also developed a semester compensatory education curriculum for the reading and writing disciplines. As a result of this organized teaching format, the Holbrook 9th grade demonstrated gains in reading and writing. Presently, the materials are being compiled into a booklet to be used as a guide for other teachers in Gaston County and North Carolina.

One student whose assessment of Davis was read during a banquet recently at Gaston Country Club called Davis "the Mother Theresa of Holbrook Junior High." Her "ready smile and warm" heart in the classroom have been winning over her English students 18 years. One of her problem-solving techniques in her classroom has been to develop individual newspapers and the class is turned into a real live newsroom. Peer tutoring has also been popular with her AG students who prepare lesson plans, practice, and then teach the lesson. Davis has presented the peer teaching program to 15 Gaston County schools.

First Union National Bank's Surgeon Mackie said of Davis, "In her classroom she tries to provide students with the opportunity to learn." Holbrook principal Anna Cooke also praised the teacher for her leadership skills and said that the award could not come to a more deserving person.

The bank presents the Outstanding Educator award each year to honor former bank president Ben E. Craig. Davis also received a \$1,000 professional development grant she plans to use for doctoral studies and a crystal apple. Each of the 55 nominees received bronze bells. Davis was among 10 finalists for the top award.

Gaston County Schools gave Davis a special award last year for her reading and writing programs. She was named Gaston County Academically Gifted Teacher of the Year in 1986 and 1987. She is also sponsor of the school's Junior Optimist Club and Odyssey of the Mind, second place state team.

Davis inherited her love of teaching from her parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Smith of Saluda, SC, both retired teachers, and her aunt Fannie Edwards. Living across the street from the front entrance of the school, Davis could hardly wait to enroll. She liked to play school for hours on end and often as a youngster helped her aunt in the classroom, washing the blackboard,

bringing in water, scrubbing the desk, passing out books, and sweeping the floor. It was toward the end of the Great Depression that she began her life-long adventure with education. Teachers also influenced her to teach. They taught her facts and figures. They taught that it is what a person has on the inside that counts. They would say, "Harriet, you can be different and still be happy and successful."

Davis found learning fun and exciting. "All it takes to make a person special is a special view," she said.

In 1960 she married Baptist minister Robert G. Davis who was associated with Kings Mountain Baptist Association for a number of years and was also pastor of Lowell First Baptist Church. They moved to Kings Mountain five years ago from Shelby. Harriet said the three boys graduated from three different schools in the county. Gray Davis, now of Winston-Salem and married with one daughter, finished at Crest High; Ashley graduated from Shelby High and in 1992 from UNC at Charlotte and is an editor for Channel 36 News; and Benji, a

1992 graduate of Kings Mountain High, plans to attend Gaston College this fall.

Harriet taught eight years of out-of-state before moving to North Carolina. The family lived in Kentucky, Indiana, and West Virginia. She and her husband, a native of Mississippi, met at Southern Seminary in Louisville, KY, where he was a ministerial student.

"I really see teaching as my mission in life and I feel I can do more good in the public schools, truly a place to help humanity is to help kids," says Harriet.

Now that school is out, Harriet plans to do some traveling with her husband to Mississippi and Saluda to visit their parents and other relatives. Along the way they plan to visit antique shops to add stock to Harriet's new shop, Victorian Lace, which opened last spring at Rutherfordton Mall.

Browsing at flea markets and antique stores is a hobby the Davises started during the early years of their marriage. "It helps you unwind from the classroom or even from the pulpit," says Mrs. Davis. If they make purchases, the Davises use them or give them

away as gifts to friends at First Baptist Church. A recent "find" was a novelty item made with cotton from the fields in Saluda. Northern visitors to the mountains of Western North Carolina who had never seen cotton were quick to carry the \$2 memento home with them for a souvenir.

The USDA Soil Conservation Service reminds farmers facing conservation compliance deadlines that the Conservation Reserve Program could be their ticket to staying in compliance, saving soil, and making a profit.

The 12th CRP sign-up continues until June 26 at local ASCS offices.

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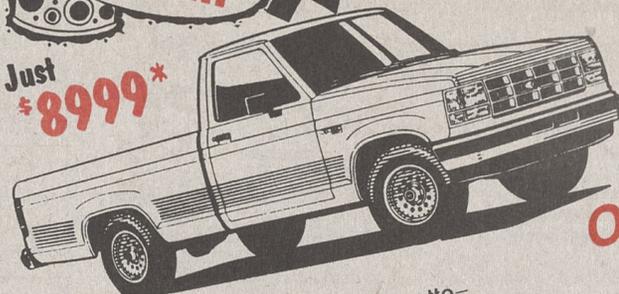
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WEST

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guidance will go in the existing building, newly named the Activity Building.

"It has a lot of appeal," said Toney. "The folks have said... the community has been interested in that building. That's good."

"It looks good from the outside and is functional from the inside," Toney said.

NORTH

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Walker, Niles Ferguson, Nichole Baisden, Wendy Limbaugh, Kristan Tallent, Jessica Hall, Kenny Houston, Jennifer Patterson, Drew Thomas, Heather Tate, Chad McSwain, Phillip Bolen, Alan Wray, Matthew Patterson, Kristy McSwain.

Matthew Ferguson, Amanda Maples, Elise Mayse, Alison Smith, Dee Chapman, Shawn Ezzell, April Glover, Marty Goforth, Ben Howell, Toni Loftin, Steven Tesenair.

Pizza Inn Contest Winners - Lisa Bishop, first place; Niles Ferguson, second place; Kristen Tallent, third place; Charlotte Fulton, fourth place.

First Place Poster Contest Winner - Ben Sabetti.

Bus Citizenship, #328 - Courtney Sopkowiak, Jolovonna Holman.

Bus Citizenship, #356 - Chatney Jeffries, Kenya Sloan.

Perfect Attendance - Daviena Baisden, William L. Barron, Steven Baxter, Carrie Brinkley, Kristie Brinkley, Ben Bumgardner, Tyler Chapman, Tyler Deaton, Cimena Elliott, Toshia Floyd, Nicole Hagner, Alice Ann Howard, Michael Hunt, Chanita Jackson, Dustin James, Duane Lawson, Travis Loftin, holly Oliver, Liana Owens, Robin Perkins, Brandon Pressley, Trent Redmond, Darren Surratt, Steven Tesenair, Sadie Wilson, April Wright.