



Visiting former exchange friend Bep. V.D. Hurk, who has visited Kings Mountain, chats with Tommy Allred, Wanza Davis, Nick, Bep's grandson, and Michelle Allred in the Hurk home in Eindhoven, The Netherlands.



Tammy Allred, Michelle Allred and Mary and Debra Blanton, left to right, stand on a covered bridge over a canal in Luzern, Switzerland.

## Another memorable trip for Wanza

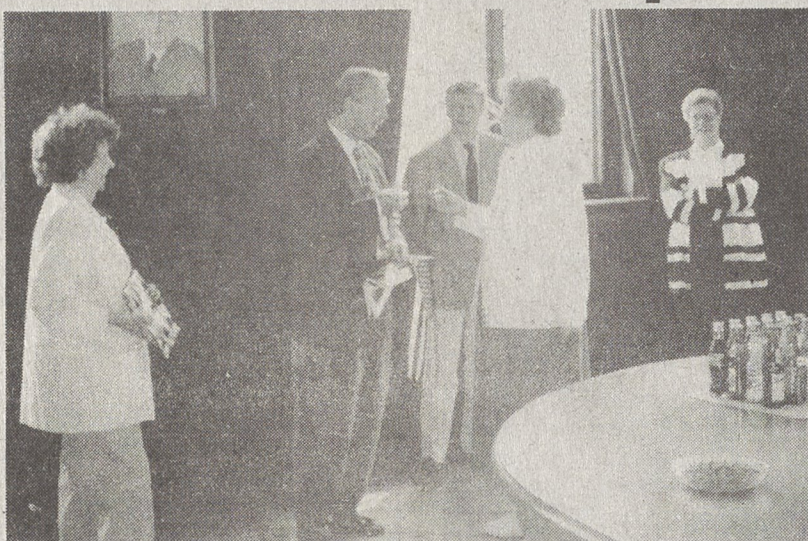
Wanza Davis along with her grandchildren, Tommy and Michelle Allred, and 18 other members of the Shelby/Cleveland County Friendship Force recently returned from a "memory filled trip" in Herne, Germany.

Upon receiving the announcement of a summer home hosting exchange, Wanza, retired school secretary, immediately enrolled her grandchildren and herself. "This was the perfect opportunity to build memories," she said.

Their host family was Dr. and Mrs. Klaus Bucker and their two children, Mary Louise and Ann Katrin.

Mayor Will Pohlmann welcomed the North Carolinians to Herne City Hall. Harriette Holton, local exchange director, presented him with gifts from the Cleveland County/ Shelby Friendship Force. Wanza presented a letter and pin from Kings Mountain Mayor Scott Neisler. The letter sent greetings from the citizens of Kings Mountain and an invitation to visit Kings Mountain should he be in the area. During Wanza's conversation with Pohlmann he indicated that he had been to Hilton Head, South Carolina and was looking forward to being in Atlanta in a few years and hoped to visit Kings Mountain.

The world's largest coal mining museum in Bochum, Germany was one of the stops on the tour. Wanza said they visited coal mining towns where large coal mines had closed due to the lack of coal. These were ghost towns with large mining fa-



Wanza Davis of Kings Mountain presents a letter and pin from KM Mayor Scott Neisler to Gerd Pieper Rathams, Bürgermeister of the City of Herne, Germany, during a recent visit. Harriet Holton of Shelby, exchange director for Shelby/Cleveland County Friendship Force, looks on at left.

cilities, homes, and businesses closed. Wanza learned that four very large mines in Germany had closed with great losses.

A cruise on The Rhine was exciting. One of the members of the group lost her footing stepping on rock and had to be pulled from the Rhine. "We will always remember that part of the trip," said Davis.

Dr. Bucker gave Tommy Allred an unforgettable experience. The two made an overnight trip to Nurnberg to attend the "Old Timers Race." Bucker had a friend racing who took them into the areas with the drivers and crew. Tommy took a ride around the track, finding a few dream cars he would like to

drive. He said the pit area was noisy.

"The trip from Herne to Nurnberg was made with Tommy holding on to the seat. He didn't believe the Porsche's tires ever hit the pavement, a four hour trip made in a 1 1/2 hours," said Wanza.

After the home stay, seven of the group visited Berlin, two went to England, and eight took a 10-day motor trip mapped out by Wanza to Austria, Switzerland, Luxembourg, France, Belgium, and The Netherlands. With Debra Blanton driving the VW mini-bus, they visited many interesting places.

Wanza's group spent one night in a small French town in a very

small hotel along the canal and enjoyed a typical French meal, raw meat.

The sites of Paris and the subway won't soon be forgotten by the Davis grandchildren. Highways into Paris were blocked due to the strike of truck drivers. After being forced to turn around several times, Wanza got her famous map out and took country roads out of Paris and France.

The group arrived in Brugge, Belgium in plenty of time to participate in a festival complete with marching bands, street fairs and wall to wall people.

A trip to Eindhoven, The Netherlands, to visit Bep. V. D. Hurk, a former Friendship Force exchange friend who had visited in the Davis home, was a special time. The years soon rolled away as memories were shared, said Davis. Even though Bep was very ill, she hopes to return to Kings Mountain.

Wanza had previously visited the countries in which the group traveled but saw many new sites.

"The most important thing to me was making new friends in those countries and becoming closer friends of those making the trip," she said. Davis invited her hosts to come to Kings Mountain for an April 1993 visit.

"This is what Friendship Force is all about," she said.

## LIB

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■ Mathew Oszejca has been named director of engineering at Gaston Memorial Hospital. He comes to Gastonia from York Hospital in Dover, PA. His background includes more than 14 years of hospital engineering experience.

■ Hospice of Gaston County will begin training sessions October 5 for volunteers. The five sessions will be on the four Monday nights in October and the first Monday in November from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. at the New Hospice House, 717 North New Hope Road in Gastonia.

■ Leona Bucci of New York has joined Gaston Memorial Hospital as the nursing director of medical services. She comes to Gastonia from St. Elizabeth Hospital in Syracuse, where she was vice president of nursing.

■ The Beatles' tribute band,

"Yesterday," will perform September 26 at 7:30 p.m. in Myers Center Auditorium at Gaston College. Tickets can be purchased for \$7 at the college's Community Arts office or the college bookstore in the Myers Center. Tickets can also be purchased at the door for \$10.

The Los Angeles-based band recreates the Beatles' look and sound with startling accuracy by wearing collarless satin suits, mop-top hair cuts, and Beatles boots while playing authentic instruments.

■ Courtview OB/GYN and Gaston Memorial Women's Services are sponsoring a free program on endometriosis Tuesday night at 7 p.m. at Gaston Memorial Hospital in classrooms 1 and 2 in the northeast tower. Parking will be available in the outpatient parking lot. Students should enter through the emergency room.

■ Dr. Richard Thomas Avioli has joined the Department of Surgery at Gaston Memorial Hospital, specializing in orthopedics with special interest in arthritis surgery, sports medicine and surgery of the spine.

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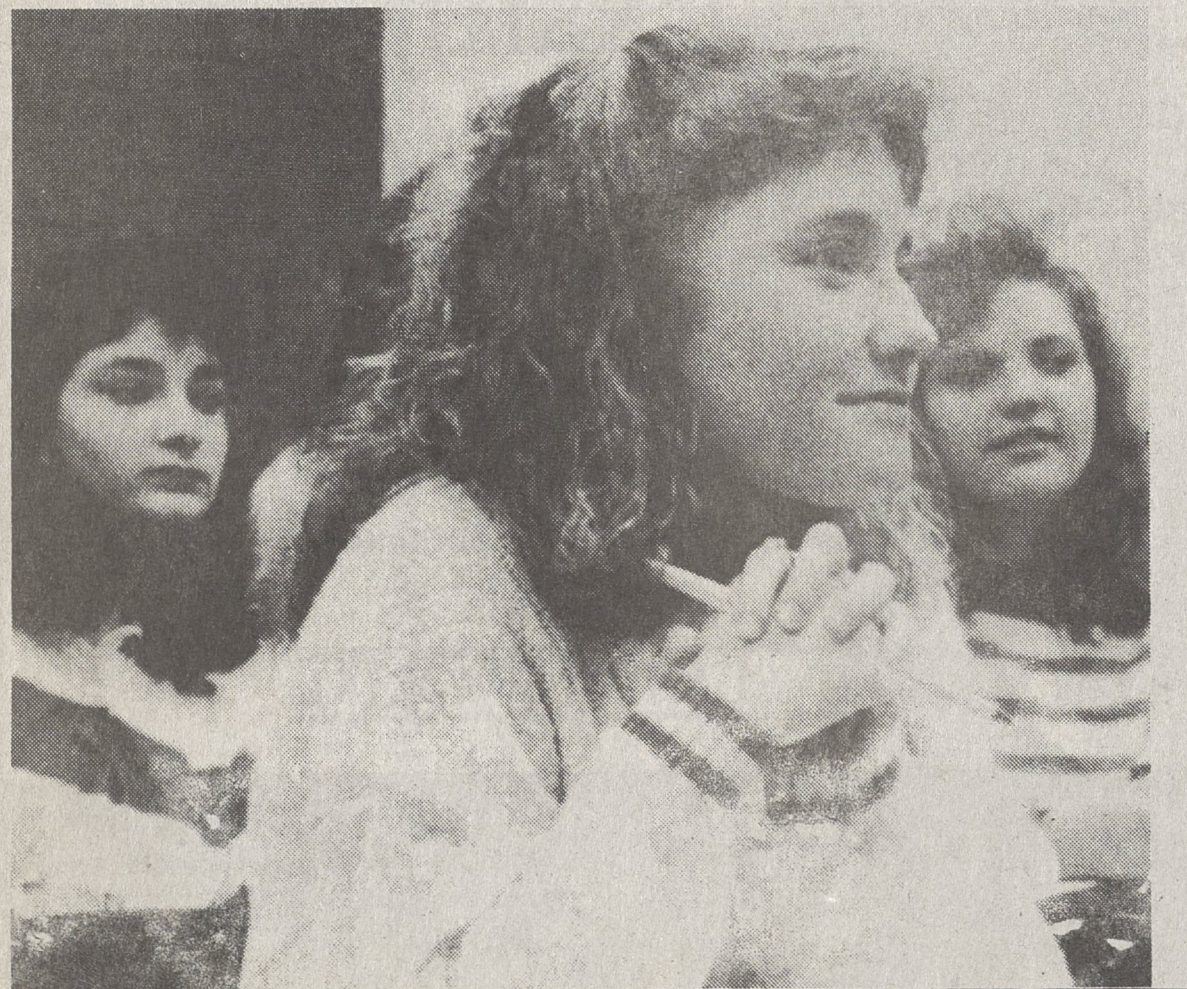
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