

Former resident writes 2nd novel

Over 15 years ago in the exotic gardens of Thomas Edison Winter Homes in Fort Myers, Florida, Kings Mountain native Charlotte Harrill Douglas discovered a fascinating fact, a seed that would grow into her second novel.

That tidbit, she says, is not the one that inspired the Gothic romance, "Darkness at Fair Winds," but if she tells the fact that served as the catalyst it will give the ending away.

Next month Douglas' book will be released by Leisure Books and will be arriving at area bookstores.

Douglas, daughter of Dorothy Harmon Harrill, formerly of Kings Mountain and now of Clearwater, is the niece of Mary Ann Beam Huffstetler of Cherryville and granddaughter of the late Mae and Ben Beam of Kings Mountain.

She reveals her ties to the Tar Heel State in the opening chapters of her book, set in New Bern in 1894. The remainder of the book takes place in Dunedin and Tampa, Florida, against the 19th century background of the burgeoning citrus industry and the growing tensions that ultimately led to the Spanish-American War.

"I've always enjoyed using historic buildings in my books," said

Douglas, whose first book, "Secrets in the Shadows," was written under the pseudonym Marilyn Malcolm and was set at what is now the Belleview-Mido Hotel in Belleair, Florida.

When she uses real places as settings, she says she spends a great deal of time at those spots. She says she walks through the rooms and grounds and sees her stories unfolding. This habit of surveying her settings in person provides her and her husband an excuse to travel and explore possible locales for future books.

The character "Arby" in the new book is patterned after her dog, Buttons.

For almost 20 years Douglas taught English and writing, first in secondary schools, and most recently at St. Petersburg Junior College. She has recently given up teaching to write full time, although she does give workshops and seminars on teaching writing in Dunedin. She writes about six hours each day. Other time is spent promoting her books and working as a director at the newly-formed Dunedin chapter of Florida Mystery Writers of America. She ends each day with a two-mile walk along the waterfront with her



CHARLOTTE DOUGLAS

husband, Bill, watching the sun set into the Gulf of Mexico and the lights come on along the beaches.

"Bill encourages me when the writing isn't flowing or the rejections are," Douglas shared. "He serves as my emotional and financial support as I am building this new career."

Douglas feels that if you find an author you love, you should tell your friends about her, ask for her books at a local bookstore, and

place an order if the stores do not have them.

"In today's soft book market, word of mouth endorsement is the biggest thing Gothic writers have going for them," she said. "Only through the support of faithful readers will be able to ring up the kind of sales that will encourage editors to continue acquiring our manuscripts and publishing Gothics and romantic suspense."

Etc.

Leanne DeVane to present piano recital

Leanne DeVane, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl DeVane of Kings Mountain, will present a concert Wednesday, February 24, at 7 p.m. at Central United Methodist Church.

Miss DeVane is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

She will play piano selections by Bach, Mozart and Ravel. The public is invited.

Elizabeth Moody of Kings Mountain has been named to the Dean's list at High Point University for the fall semester. To qualify, a student must complete 12 semester hours and earn a 3.5 grade point average or above on a 4.0 scale.

A cool ensemble playing hot jazz will perform Friday night at 7:30 at Myers Center Auditorium at Gaston College. "Sweet Dreams" is part of the 1992-93 ArtsQuest series, "A Community Adventure in the Arts."

Free tickets for school-aged children and adults are available at all Gaston County Public Library branches.

The latest job information may be as close as your local library. Starting this week, the State Library of North Carolina will make available job listings to the library via the North Carolina Information Network.

The job listings are being pro-

vided by the Employment Security Commission. The system will be updated on a weekly basis.

The Whisnants from Morganton will present a concert at Macedonia Baptist Church, 1101 S. Battleground Ave., on Sunday at 6 p.m. Rev. David Philbeck invites the public to attend.

An Americanism program will be presented at Thursday night's meeting of Unit 155, American Legion Auxiliary, at the Post home. Margaret Arrowood and Carolyn Bell are hostesses at 7 p.m.

KM Woman's Club meets Monday night at 7 p.m. at the clubhouse on East Mountain Street. The program is on "The Arts."

A workshop on The Presence of Rabies in North Carolina will be held Feb. 19 at 1 p.m. at the Agricultural Center, 1303 Dallas-Cherryville Highway, Dallas. Admission is free. Veterinarians, animal shelter staffs, health directors, wildlife officers, hunting club representatives, law enforcement, humane workers, emergency personnel, grooming shop personnel and the general public are invited. For more information call Wayne Smith at Gaston County Animal Control, 922-8678.

Duke Power Co.'s corporate video department recled in five awards and the top honors in the "Best of the Best" video competi-

tion recently. The competition was sponsored by the Raleigh-based Write One Public Relations/Corporate Communications.

A country-western dance featuring DJ Arey Poston will be held on March 13 at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds' new exhibit building. Tickets are on sale at \$10 from any member of the Cleveland County Youth Assistance Program or from Suttle's Drug Store or by calling 482-2315. Tables may be reserved. Tickets are \$12 at the door.

Prior to the open dance, which starts at 8 p.m., a dance workshop will be held from 4-8 p.m. Bill and Emily Crenshaw, dance instructors for Coyotes Jones in Charlotte, will lead the workshop.

Barbecue supper will be served from 6-7 p.m. at \$5 per plate and entertainment will be Navajo's Country Steppers.

Jay Jay Brigman of Radio Station WTDR will be a special guest at the event.

Proceeds benefit the Youth Assistance Program of Cleveland County.

The popular Rodgers & Hammerstein American musical, "Sound of Music," is the next production of the Kings Mountain High School Drama, Choral and Band programs.

The show will be presented on March 5 and 6 at 7:30 p.m. and March 7 at 3 p.m. in B. N. Barnes Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$4

for students and senior citizens.

Music director is Eugene Bumgardner. Play director is Mrs. Betsy Wells.

Students have been rehearsing for weeks for the ambitious production, which Wells says promises to be a big hit and a show the public will love.

Eldercare workshop at CCC

"Eldercare in Cleveland County: An Umbrella of Services" will be the theme of the third annual workshop for senior adults March 2 at Cleveland Community College.

Preregistration for the workshop is \$4 and includes breaks and lunch. Registration at the door will be \$5. Call 484-4040 to make a reservation.

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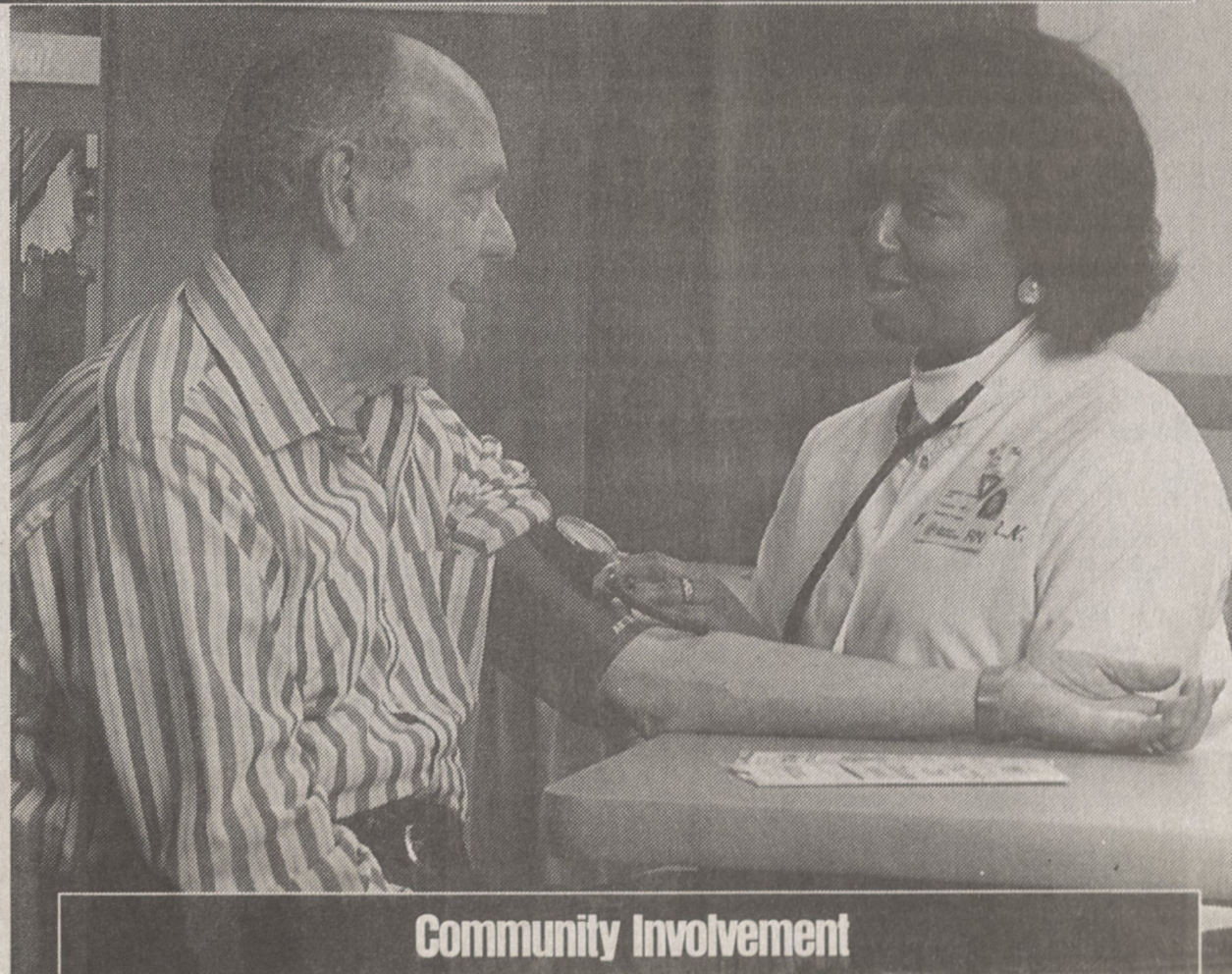
Gaston Memorial helps save lives by discovering health problems in their early stages through free screenings - including cholesterol tests, hemocult tests, lung function tests, blood pressure tests and prostate screenings. We also help educate the community about health care issues by sponsoring health fairs and seminars...by conducting hospital tours...and by making presentations to local civic, church and social organizations.

Gaston Memorial also provides the community with health educational information through *Health Scene* and *Health Hints*, and we provide leadership and financial support to numerous service groups in the area. What's more, Gaston Memorial is a major participant in Red Cross blood donations, the March Of Dimes Walk America and the United Way.

Our active role in promoting wellness throughout the community is another example of why Gaston Memorial is a health care leader - and why you will always have the advanced care you need, right where you need it.



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