



Mary Nantz works with Barbara Bees at West School Parent Center

Grandma to get diploma

Kings Mountain's Barbara Bees will receive her high school diploma from Kings Mountain High School as an Adult High School graduate from Cleveland Community College on May 27. Her hard work and dedication is the result of an effort to assist her grandchildren with homework.

"A couple of my grandchildren came over and wanted me to help them with their homework," said Bees. "I told them there was no way I could help them. I figured that if I went back to school I could help the ones that asked me to help them."

The 58-year-old grandmother attended classes at West Elementary School Parent Center. Her instructors were Barbara Bridges and Mary Nantz.

Bees formerly worked at Kings Mountain Hospital and Mauney Hosiery. She now helps out one of her

children by taking care of the grandkids.

Bees attended classes each Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:15 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. She was able to work at her own pace and completed her requirements for graduation in about a year and a half.

"When I started I had a hard time trying to concentrate because the books have changed and I had a hard time with some things," said Bees. "But the instructors were nice and helped out in any way they could."

Bees said she plans on marching in commencement ceremonies at Cleveland Community College on May 27 and that her family plans to attend.

"I said I was going to try it and I didn't know if I could do it or not," she said. "I didn't come back with the idea of getting my diploma but that's how it worked out."

Billy Bridges granted wish

Billy Bridges, 3, will get his wish to see Mickey Mouse at Disney World in Florida Sunday.

The terminally ill boy was visited Saturday by representatives of the Make a Wish Foundation who brought him a life-size Mickey Mouse and a watch and told him the news.

"It was a belated birthday present for Billy," said his grandmother, Helen Barnette. Helen and her husband, Butch, will accompany the boy and it will also be their first trip to Orlando, Florida and their first vacation since they took the boy to live with them three years ago.

The family will be picked up about noon in a chauffeur-driven limousine for the 30-mile trip to Douglas International Airport in Charlotte. They are scheduled to depart US Air at 1:45 p.m. for a holiday until Friday.

"We're excited but we are scared for Billy," says Mrs. Barnette, who said that Make A Wish Foundation officials said that the best possible care will be available for the little boy. The family will stay in a facility for terminally ill children and their families near the resort.

I don't know how Billy will react to flying," said Helen. "He has asked me every day since Saturday if it was time to go."



BILLY BRIDGES

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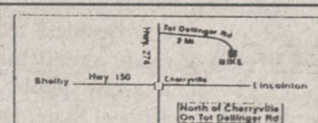
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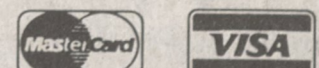
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