



Ethel Conner, 90, holds her 18-month-old great-great grandson, Dallas Conner, who represents the fifth generation in her family as the baby's grandmother, Sheryl Myers, left, and the baby's mother, Angel Conner, right, look on. Not pictured is the baby's great grandfather, Johnny Conner.

Ethel Conner 90 years old

Ethel Cabe Conner, 90 on December 27, says her life is rich because of her close-knit family.

The four children, 15 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren gathered around her in her room at Kings Mountain Hospital to help her celebrate with a birthday cake and plenty of gifts.

Mrs. Conner has been a resident in the Extended Care section of the hospital for over a year.

Dressed in her long, warm purple robe, she held the small children on her lap and posed for a



SHANNON ANDERSON
Shannon Anderson celebrates birthday

Shannon Anderson, daughter of Elaine and Eddie Anderson of Kings Mountain, was five years old December 29.

She celebrated with a Pocohantas party with family and friends on December 30 at Eat Gold Street Wesleyan Church. She also had a cupcake party January 2 with friends at school.

Special guests at her party were Mr. and Mrs. Ken Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Spearman, Jordan Clemmer, Stefanie and Krista Anderson, Richie and Elizabeth Anderson, and Elaine and Eddie Anderson.

Shannon is the granddaughter of Dot and Glenn Spearman and Ken and Lucy Anderson. She is the great-granddaughter of Ethel Childers.



HANNAH FAITH CHAPMAN
Hannah Chapman celebrates birthday

Hannah Faith Chapman, daughter of Rick and LeAnn Chapman of Kings Mountain, was one year old January 4.

She celebrated with a party December 30 at True Gospel Holiness Church fellowship hall. A Minnie Mouse theme was carried out. A Minnie Mouse cake was served with other party refreshments.

Family and friends attended the party.

Hannah is the granddaughter of Rev. Jerry and Marie Morrow, and Loyd and Joann Chapman. She is the great-granddaughter of Tom Helms and Mae Morrow, and Noah and Beulah Chapman.

fifth generation picture and welcomed relatives who brought colorful balloons and two dozen red roses.

Mrs. Conner reminisced about her long marriage - 65 years - to the late mechanic Ervin Conner and how they started housekeeping in Gaston County, moving "from mill house to mill house" until they settled down in Kings Mountain and lived on Margrace Road for 25 years and worked at the Margrace Mill. Mrs. Conner worked in the spooling and winding room at the old Margrace for 25 years. Mr. Conner owned and operated his own garage for many years prior to his death and was active in a popular gospel singing group.

"Ervin sang professionally, he was that good," said Mrs. Conner, who accompanied her whole family to all the gospel singing conventions but never sang herself.

"I couldn't sing and play but I could clap for him," she said.

Born in Bryson City, daughter of the late John and Clementine Cabe, Mrs. Conner likes to quilt and her Yo Yo quilts were gifts to friends and relatives over the years.

"I haven't been able to do much sewing lately but I love it," she said.

Her children are Johnny Conner of King Mountain, Garnell Bryant of Cherryville, Betty Payne of Bessemer City and the late Clyde Conner. Her great-grandchildren are Dallas Conner and Tiffany Shockley, representing the fifth generation in the family.

The family has been active in Zion Baptist Church in Gastonia for 30 years.

Although Mrs. Conner is unable to attend her local church services she enjoys watching preaching on the television set in her room, reads her family Bible and never fails to turn on the set when gospel groups are singing.

"They bring back beautiful memories for me," she says with a look of nostalgia in her face framed by silver hair and keen eyes that belie her years.

Winter bird hike Saturday at 2 p.m.

A winter bird hike is planned Saturday at 2 p.m. at Crowders Mountain State Park.

Park volunteer and local birder Mike Peters says to bundle up and grab your binoculars and enjoy a hike to look for the feathered, year round and winter residents of the park.

Jensen in concert at Worship Center

Singer/songwriter Gordon Jensen will be in concert Sunday, January 7 at 10:45 a.m. at Family Worship Center Church of God in Kings Mountain.

Among Jensen's gospel hits were Redemption Draweth Nigh and Tears Are a Language.

The public is invited.

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FILE

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Assembly and a Republican Governor we can do great things for the state," he said.

First term Rep. Clary serves on several key committees including Transportation Appropriations, Judiciary I and is vice chair of welfare reform. In October Clary was appointed by House Speaker Harold Brubaker as House Chair of the Commission on Aging and Brubaker called her appointment rare for a freshman. She also serves as a member of the child fatality task force and the low level radioactive waste commission.

"I feel I've been able to accomplish most of my initial goals when I began campaigning for office in January 1994," she said.

"I signed a contract with the people of North Carolina to lower taxes, offer a referendum for veto power for the Governor, repeal the intangibles tax, repeal the prison cap and reform welfare. The House Republicans made all these a reality instead of what people are use to - just a campaign promise. I am very proud to be a part of the General Assembly that has given the people of this state the largest tax cut in our history, without jeopardizing services to the elderly, disabled, handicapped or poor children in the state," Clary said.

Clary plans to be heavily involved in welfare reform over the next several months.

"We in the House have passed one of the most aggressive welfare reform bills in the country. Now it's time to begin negotiations with the Democrat controlled Senate to make sure we end up with legislation that is well balanced to protect the rights of the taxpayer and to keep social programs in place that

benefit children, elderly and handicapped persons.

Clary said her personal goal is to establish more private-public partnerships to and to encourage more industry to hire people with special needs."

Clary pledged to work with making sure the elderly people in this state have options open to them for quality health care. The reform of Medicare has many of them frightened, she says, whereas she sees it as an opportunity to give more health care choices such as in home health care instead of institutional care.

She pledged to continue to work to reduce or even eliminate legislative pensions. Clary led a group of freshmen Republicans in a failed effort to reduce pensions for members of the General Assembly. Clary said, "A legislative pension denotes a career status and I feel this is a stint of public service and should not be a lifelong membership club."

Dedmon said his top concern will be to promote economic stability for the working people across the district.

"There's a great deal of concern from the everyday working man and woman about the job market in our region. There's too much uncertainty in our workforce.

"I believe we need new leadership who can work to improve our economic base, support our traditional industries and improve our community colleges and public schools. It takes leadership who's not afraid of fighting for what's right and doesn't pander to one special group or some conglomerate corporation.

"We have too many families across our region who are literally living from paycheck to paycheck. With recent layoffs and cutbacks,

it's apparent that we must retool our workforce and recruit new industries who can bring good paying, clean environmental jobs to our area."

Dedmon says economic growth isn't the only issue. He remains concerned about the rising rate of crime despite major new laws passed and new prisons built to address the issue.

"We've passed all these laws but the lawman hasn't seen any help. Our criminal justice system continues to have a revolving door. We must look at court reform and we must pass a crime bill that helps protect those who are working to protect all of us."

A native of Spindale, Arnold returned to Rutherford County in early 1991 on retirement from Lockheed-Georgia after a 38-year career in aircraft manufacturing. He is active in Rutherford's First United Methodist Church, serving as a Stephen Minister Leader and volunteer for Meals on Wheels and is a member of the Rutherford Lions Club. Arnold has taught Total Quality Management at Isothermal Community College and has been a member of the Rutherford County Planning Commission since December 1991. Since early 1995 he has served as secretary of the Rutherford County Transportation Committee. He is a member of Congressman Charles Taylor's Priority Council and a Republican precinct chairman. He and his wife, Betty Moore Arnold, have one son, Mike, who lives in Charlotte with his wife, Debbi and twin sons.

"I believe we must continue the contract with the voters of North Carolina started in the 1995 session by the Republicans in the House and Senate.

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