

Women receive service awards



David and John McDaniel and Heather and Christie Hughes have a ball sledding down a slick hill on Stewart Road near Kings Mountain Monday afternoon.

Let's keep on dreaming

As we approach the holiday named in honor of Dr. Martin L. King, I would like to reflect on the "I Have A Dream" speech, as it relates to the present.

Many of us have read the speech and admired the speaker. However, the question now becomes, "Is the speech reality in our minds?" I've read the speech numerous times, and each time it brings about a different meaning.

Let's examine excerpts of the speech:

Dr. King begins by saying, "I have a dream." This is a very personal statement. It is a vision of one man for many people. Today, men continue to have dreams, as others try to block their progress and stop the visions by saying, "It won't work." One thing is for sure: you'll never know unless you try.

He goes on to say "that one day the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood..."

Wow!, what a challenging statement. Was he saying, "just because things weren't acceptable then doesn't mean it can't be now," or "There was turmoil then, but does it have to continue?"

Peace is reality in every sense of the word! So, why all the violence? If everyone would do what they know is right, America would be a better place. Stop the killing! Stop the hating! Love one another!

He continues by saying, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." We all want this. No one ever born can claim responsibility for the race of which they were born. In the next second, another child will be born, but even it will come into the world unaware of race. When does race become a factor? Certainly not in childhood. Judgment begins as we mature, or should I say, get older. Wise men would not judge at all.

Webster's New World Dictionary defines character as "a distinctive mark, trait, or quality." Children sit side by side daily, reading, writing, sharing, eating, and playing in our schools. How many times do you think they stop to think about who is in their circle of learning? I guess it's a lesson we can all learn from the children.

He then repeats his forwards, "I Have a Dream." This time, however, he adds the word "today." A favorite song of mine is worded this way: "Yesterday's gone, Dear Jesus, and tomorrow may never be mine. Lord for my sake, help me to take, One Day at a Time."

Dr. King's speech was given in 1963. Since then,

GUEST COLUMN

Mary Accor



many changes have taken place. We all know, however, that there's quite a ways to go. Each day, we have the opportunity to make positive differences. Not so much in words, but in deeds.

"Let freedom ring from every hill....," he said. "From every mountain top, let freedom ring. Freedom...being free...to act or think without arbitrary restrictions...political liberty...open to all...not held or confined...able to move in any direction..."

It's reality that two of the biggest restorations of freedom for me was education, which prepares me for the future, and acceptance of a Perfect Savior, which prepares me for eternity. Dr. King was an educated and spiritual man. In other words, he had the right "tools" to perform the task. He wanted a better life for all people.

In his conclusion, he said, "...we are speeding up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: 'Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!'"

I believe Dr. King's dream reached beyond this life when he made this statement. He saw a new thing! Whatever he saw, sounds good to me.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a dreamer. So must we all be. We must dream dreams of hope, love, peace, joy and understanding. Yes!, it matters to me who I am, but most importantly, whose I am.

*Keep dreaming!
For if dreams die,
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly!*

(Excerpts taken from "Hold Fast to Dreams" by Langston Hughes).

(Mary Accor is Principal of Bethware Elementary School and a member of the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners).

Three file for county board

Three more people filed this week upping the count to five who seek three open seats on the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners.

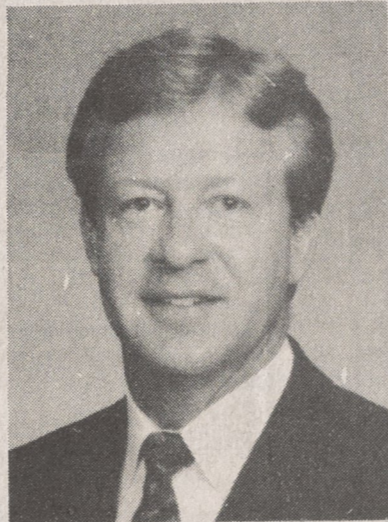
Ray Thomas, President of Thomas Petroleum of Shelby, John W. Goforth, the son of a former 20-year county commissioner and Shelby Police Lt. Willie McIntosh

challenge previously announced candidates Robert A. Williams of Grover and Joe Cabaniss Sr. of Shelby.

Goforth, 32, said his father's long service on the county board helped him appreciate the government.

McIntosh was the choice of the county board recently for a minority seat after the board and the Cleveland County Chapter NAACP took nominations and interviewed candidates and finally seated Mary Accor of Kings

See File, 5-A



RAY THOMAS

Obituary

KIMMIE S. WOOD

Kimmie Spurling Wood, 93, 309 Fairview Street, Kings Mountain, died January 6, 1996 at Kings Mountain Hospital.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late Jessie and Minnie Horne Spurling and wife of the late Charles Columbus Wood. She was a retired textile worker and a member of Trinity Church of the Living God.

She was also preceded in death by a son, C.R. Wood; and a daughter, Bessie Wood Ware.

She is survived by two sons, Robert Wood of Kings Mountain and Zeb Wood of Bessemer City; one daughter, Margaret Brackett of Kings Mountain; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted by the Revs. Harry Davis and Bill Daniel Wednesday at 2 p.m. at Mountain View Baptist Church. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

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