

Laura Janet Falls celebrates 91st birthday

While most of her contemporaries may be content to retire to their rocking chairs, Laura Janet Falls, 91, is still enjoying croquet under the century-old oak trees and on the green lawns she played on as a child.

The retired Kings Mountain teacher and author of "The Falls of Oaklawn," was honored by 60 family members and friends at an autographing signing party recently and capped off the day's festivities by challenging her 83-year-old cousin, Ethel Pigott, of Fort Belvoir, Va. to a game of croquet.

Guests cheered them to the finish in a grand finale while nephew Turk Falls of Banner Elk and cousin Joe Patterson of Kings Mountain recorded the party on film and video.

The Falls memoirs chronicles a century of memories about the lives of her parents, her 10 siblings as well as herself, in a delightful and informative style.

The legacy that Falls gave the family set the theme for the event.

Nephew Cyrus Falls Jr. of Tampa, Florida greeted guests. Four regal banners billowed in the breeze announcing the title of the book and the 23 relatives who are honored in it. Niece Betty Wentz and her daughter, Barbara O'Neal, both of Wilmington, created the banners as a tribute to the memories of each of the 13 relatives.

Great-nephews James Wentz of Greensboro and Lynn Scism, Kenny Davis and Russell Falls, all of Kings Mountain, directed guests to park. The winding driveway which was decorated with hanging baskets of pink begonias and pink ribbons.

The original latticed wellhouse served as the backdrop to a geranium-filled 18th Century watering trough for horses. It had been



LAURA JANET FALLS

carved out of a block of stone by Indians who resided on the land prior to the King's Grant.

Amid purple and white irises, purple petunias, white Impatiens and a wheelbarrow of pastel pink hydrangeas, niece Becky Scism of Kings Mountain greeted the guests as they entered the east lawn. The guest of honor received on the lawn near an ornate white and gold leafed antique easel. It showcased a framed needlepoint, "Home Sweet Home" she had done decades ago. Pink Impatiens adorned each side of this central theme.

Guests mingled on the lawn to French harp music honoring Falls who once was fluent in French and studied at the Sorbonne in Paris. Handmade quilts draped the table of century-old artifacts. Conversation pieces were the plotting instruments that her father,

Alvin Price Falls, used in the late 1800's to survey the city of Kings Mountain. Also featured were the beautifully preserved beans, carrots and peaches which were artistically canned by her mother, Sarah Elizabeth Falls, and displayed at the 1933 Chicago World's Fair. An exquisite, gold-leafed and etched glass bowl with matching candleholders were features as well. They were given to her parents on their 50th wedding anniversary in 1942 by Janet, Butler and Hugh Falls who resided at the homeplace.

Other significant artifacts were centerpieces for the four guest tables which were covered with French heirloom luncheon cloths.

The book-signing table was covered with a white cloth with crocheted borders and embroidered with pink, blue and yellow flowers. Several copies of the "Falls of Oaklawn" were on the table for

viewing.

Great-niece Barbara O'Neal welcomed guests and paid a tribute to the author. She read the poem, "The Old Homeplace" and niece Betty Wentz presented an engraved plaque to the only surviving uncle, Alvin Hugh Falls. It was given in appreciation for his loyal support to the authoress and for his continuous work in the perpetuation of Oaklawn.

Miss Falls received a surprise gift, an embellished gold leafed bound book with a collection of letters of personal tributes from friends and relatives.

Great-niece Roxanne Bridges of Grover sang "Bless This House" to end the program. Great-niece Barbara O'Neal invited guests to enjoy refreshments in large striped party tent provided by Paul and Judy Scism and beautifully appointed tables set with flowers from the gardens of Jeanette Patterson.

Silver trays of mushroom rolls and petit crabcakes were prepared and served by niece Sarah McCraney of Dunedin, Fla. Niece Ann Davis baked the three-tiered cake which was decorated in pink and white and prepared the punch. Davis served the cake and Becky

Scism served punch.

Mrs. Cyrus Falls Jr., of Tampa, added the colorful and refreshing

watermelon baskets filled with chilled melon balls, kiwi and fresh pineapple.

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Free business counseling sessions planned in county

The Small Business and Technology Development Center at Western Carolina University's Center for Improving Mountain Living will offer free business counseling sessions in Shelby and Boiling Springs during the month of June.

Sessions will be held at the World Trade Center of Gardner-Webb University on June 7 and 21 from 1-3 p.m. To make an appointment, call 434-4385.

Sessions will be held at the Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce June 15 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and on June 29 from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 487-8521 for an appointment.

The sessions involve one-to-one counseling with an experienced counselor familiar with small business operations and problems. The one-hour sessions are confidential and open to individuals who operate existing businesses or those in-

terested in starting a small business. Services provided include startup counseling, assistance in preparing business and financial plans to support loan applications, marketing surveys, patent search and product feasibility assessment.

Also, the SBTDTC offers counseling through the Procurement Technical Assistance Program to help small companies do business with the federal government.

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<p>1994 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT 4x4 4 dr., straight 6 cyl., automatic overdrive, air, cruise, tilt, power windows, power locks, power mirrors, cassette, rear defogger, styled wheels</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">Sale Price 17,997</p>	<p>1994 NISSAN PICK-UP 1 owner, only 7,000 miles, bug deflector, cap, bedliner, stripe pkg, styled wheels, 5 speed, A/C, power steering, power brakes</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">Sale Price 11,997</p>	<p>1990 DODGE CARAVAN SE V-6, automatic, air, 7 passenger, cruise, tilt, locks, mirrors</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">Sale Price 7,997</p>
<p>1994 DODGE CARAVAN SE V-6, automatic overdrive, air, cruise, tilt, power mirrors, power locks, power windows, child seats, rear defogger</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">2 to choose from at 15,997</p>	<p>1992 CAMARO RS V-8, T-tops, power everything, new tires, styled aluminum wheels, like new</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">Sale Price 11,997</p>	<p>1990 PONTIAC SUNBIRD LE V-6, automatic, air, AM/FM cassette, cruise, tilt, cass aluminum wheels</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">Sale Price 7,997</p>
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<p>1995 NEON SPORT Only 2,000 miles, 5 speed, air, dual air bags, anti-lock brakes, cruise, tilt, power locks, cassette, rear defogger</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">Sale Price 11,997</p>	<p>1993 FORD RANGER XLT PICK-UP Like new, styled wheels, V-6, bedliner, XLT upgraded interior, air, cruise, cassette</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">Sale Price 9,997</p>	<p>1989 PLYMOUTH HORIZON 4 dr, automatic, air, cassette</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">Sale Price 2,997</p>
<p>1992 OLDSMOBILE ACHIEVA 4 dr, V-6, automatic, air, power everything, cruise, tilt, cassette</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">Sale Price 9,997</p>		

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