

# Chamber backing merger

A Cleveland First Committee of 11 members of the Cleveland Chamber has recommended the merger of the school systems "as soon as feasible" after a six-month research project which made recommendations in 14 areas of the county.

Jim Barnette, general manager of ABB Combustion Engineering's Power Systems Group and himself a relatively new resident of Shelby, chaired the committee.

Among other things the group determined that fine-tuning of the county's strengths in real estate, quality of life, marketing and education would attract newcomers and keep people at home.

The study revealed: There are almost no temporary, single family dwelling or upscale rental opportunities in Cleveland for relocating families and individuals, which forces many into Gaston and Mecklenburg, where they usually stay. There are a "glaringly inadequate" number of spec homes for sale which isn't the case in Gaston and Mecklenburg.

The absence of fully effective land use planning and zoning ordinances and regulations is a problem.

Overly enthusiastic and misguided partisan boosters of the three school systems, some of them in the real estate industry, tend to disparage one or both of the other systems to the "ultimate disadvantage of all three."

There is a need for more specialty shops, gourmet food, coffee, one of a kind shops; for more and better restaurants and evening hours, at least until 6 o'clock.

Their criticism also led the committee to urge that the county board of commissioners and the leadership of the county's various towns and cities work together to improve recreational and cultural programs and opportunities county wide.

Cleveland First Committee contends that the strengths and achievements of the three school systems are far stronger than indicated by materials readily available for dissemination to relocating students and parents. The committee recommends immediate development by the school systems of marketing-useful data that succinctly and accurately depicts and compares the caliber of their instructional programs from the elementary grades through high school to others in the region. The committee also found that programs and racial mix inequities among the three local school systems to be major impediments to attracting relocating families to Cleveland County.

In addition to Barnette, members of the study committee were real estate executives Ruby Alexander of Kings Mountain and Jeri Horn of Shelby; insurance executive Robin Brackett of Shelby and Lawndale; Cleveland Memorial Hospital's Cindy Kirby; banker Kim Price and attorney John Schweppe of Shelby; Larry Brown of Wirtz Manufacturing Co. Inc.; Mel Parent of Hoechst Celanese and Wendall Stone of Motor Panels Inc.

# Performance set at CCC

Cleveland Community College will host Chapel Hill's Transactors Improv Company on October 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the College Auditorium.

Their performance is theatre that evolves and is created the moment it is performed. Music, dance, song, comedy, tragedy can all occur in the same show.

Transactors Improv stage shows are based entirely on audience suggestions. No portion of the show is scripted. Audience members provide locations, relationships, song titles, situations and more.

This event is sponsored by the Cleveland Community College Student Government Association, the College Foundation, the Cleveland County Arts Council, the Greater Shelby Community Theatre, and the High School Drama Departments from Burns, Crest, Kings Mountain and Shelby High. An event in the Celebration 30 project, Transactors is supported by a grant from the North Carolina Arts Council with funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Tickets, available at the door, are \$5 for general admission and \$2 for students and senior citizens. For more information, contact Dr. Dottie McIntyre at 484-4025.

# Happy 75th anniversary Macedonia

Diamond jubilees are special events, not only for people but for churches and Macedonia Baptist Church has good cause to celebrate.

The Grover Road Church will celebrate its 75th birthday October 31. Sunday the members will open a time capsule and go back in time themselves as they dress in the styles they think their ancestors wore in Kings Mountain 75 years ago.

Edna Biddy Drewery can remember when the women of the church made lemonade in a No. 3 tin tub for Bible School.

Newer member Terri Lewis recalled that she had never heard the word "pounding" before and didn't know what to expect when the church pounded a family with groceries.

Bessie Biddy, a former Presbyterian, was baptized by Rev. C. B. Bobbitt. She tells the story of how the preacher was afraid he would drop her in the water because she weighed more than the preacher. "I wasn't a bit worried because I could swim", she said in the Macedonia Book of Memories the church published recently as a part of its anniversary celebration.

Annette Wright Cooper's family of nine brothers and sisters joined the church at Macedonia and her



LIB STEWART  
News Editor

brother, the late Ray Wright, was called to preach at Macedonia. "I remember when Ray told Mom. She hugged him and said 'God's Little Preacher Boy.'"

Minnie Sue Mitchem Hartsoe recalled that when her children were whispering and squirming in the pew one Sunday Grandma pinched the little boy's leg. "He yelled out loud and said, 'Maw Maw why did you pinch me?'" Hartsoe said the preacher had to stop preaching.

Another comical moment in the church was also recalled by Mrs. Hartsoe. She said one preacher preached his dentures right out of his mouth, grabbed them and shoved them back in his mouth and didn't miss a beat.

# Kings Mountain Weather Report

	Oct. 18-24	Year Ago
Total precipitation	.22	.35
Maximum one day	.22 (20)	.32 (22)
Year to date	52.47	49.42
Minimum temperature	36 (20)	47 (24)
Maximum temperature	77 (20)	78 (23)
Average temperature	57.6	63.7



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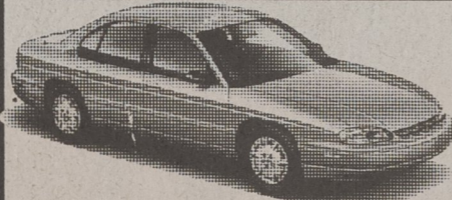
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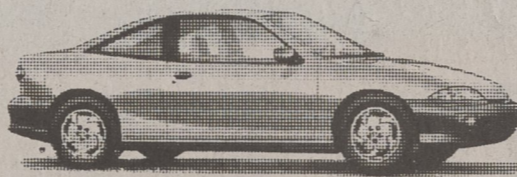
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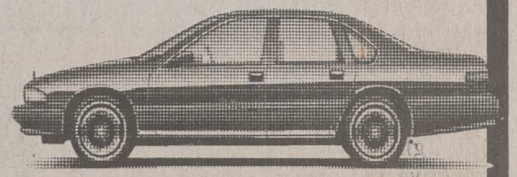
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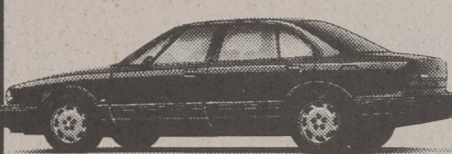
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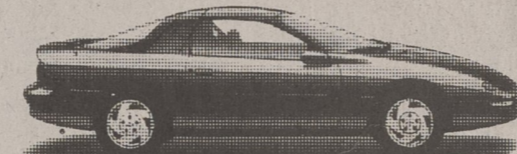
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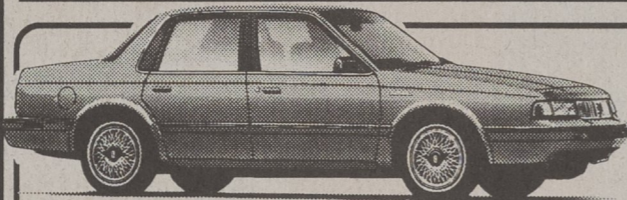


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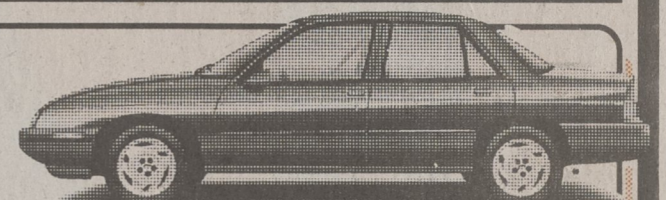
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