



Trip McGill, left, and Kenney Potter will accompany Gaston County students to New York City this week for an appearance on CBS's Morning Show Monday at 8:30 a.m. and a concert in Carnegie Hall Sunday.

KM men to conduct choir at Carnegie Hall

"You send down your love like gently falling rain" is the opening of the original prayer song that Kings Mountain's Kenney Potter will sing with the Gaston County Choral Ensemble in Carnegie Hall Sunday night in New York City.

Kings Mountain musician Norman F. "Trip" McGill III will accompany his friend and co-director and the two talented musicians will conduct the Ensemble of 28 voices in the featured choir.

McGill has also arranged for the group to sing "Oh What A Beautiful Morning" live on CBS Channel 3 Monday morning at 8:30 a.m.

McGill, who has either served as accompanist, assistant director or director of the Ensemble for 14 years in the Gaston County School System, has taught at Ashbrook High School for eight years.

Potter, who co-directs the Ensemble, teaches chorus at East Gaston High and Stanley Junior High. He earned his master's in music from Portland State University in Oregon in 1993 after graduating from Florida State University in 1992.

Both young men had music mentors during their growing up years in Kings Mountain.

Potter, son of Betty and Jim Potter, credits KMHS choral director Gene Bumgardner and Central Methodist Church choir leader Linda Dixon for his musical talents. He graduated from Kings Mountain High school in 1988 and was active in the chorus program at both the junior high and high school levels.

Potter writes music and last year wrote "O Lord You Are My God" for the national honors 9th grade choir to perform in San Antonio

and then on a European tour to Austria, Germany and Switzerland.

McGill has worked with many of the students in the Ensemble since they started high school and is quite proud of their achievements.

McGill's grandmother, the late Mrs. N.F. McGill Sr., used to play the organ at Boyce Memorial ARP Church and as a youngster Trip sat on the bench beside her. He credits her and former KMHS band director Don Deal for inspiring his musical career.

"Music just came naturally," said McGill. He graduated from Kings Mountain High School in 1978 and from Erskine College in 1982 and is working on a master's from Winthrop University. He taught at Holbrook Junior High and North Gaston.

Two years ago his choral ensemble was part of a national honor choir and sang with a festival choir in Carnegie Hall but their performance Sunday will be the first time the local group has been the featured choir and invited to sing a separate concert.

"This is really a grand opportunity for our students," McGill said.

McGill volunteers at Camp Joy at Bon Clarken in the summer months. The camp is for mentally handicapped students and McGill recruits the staff. He has also been organist at Boyce Memorial and Pisgah ARP Churches and will be playing the accompaniment for the solo number by Potter. Both men will be conducting the concert and Mark Stamper will be accompanist.

Kenney also serves as music director at Covenant United Methodist Church in Charlotte where his former minister, Rev. Bob Little, is pastor.

KM schools Health Council to meet

The next meeting of the Kings Mountain District Schools Health Council will be Thursday, March 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the Teacher

Center, 105 East Ridge Street, Kings Mountain. The public is invited.



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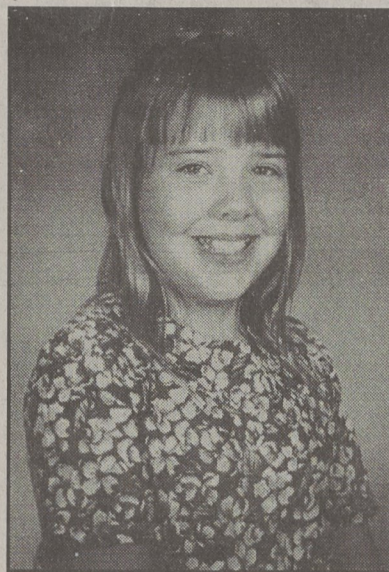
A friend remembers Sir Walter Raleigh

(Ed. note - This is the fourth in a series of winning essays by Kings Mountain students in the recent Colonel Frederick Hambright Chapter DAR essay contest on the subject, "Explorers of America." Grover Elementary fifth grader Abby Kates writes "A Friend Remembers.")

By **ABBY KATES**

The day was April 27, 1590. I was a young farmer on a ship carrying colonists to a new land. Our leader, Sir Walter Raleigh, had permission from Queen Elizabeth to sail across the ocean. That day we began our great adventure and I began my friendship with Sir Walter Raleigh.

Our journey was long and I grew to know the man called Sir Walter Raleigh. Born in 1554, Raleigh was deeply interested in exploration. He and his half brother Sir Humphrey Gilbert had sent out many explorations before us, including the first English colony on Roanoke Island in 1585. He was a scientist, sailor, poet, colonizer,



ABBY KATES

historian scientist and politician. He spent a fortune trying to establish an English colony in what was to be America.

Raleigh, a favorite of Queen Elizabeth, was a powerful figure in England and was soon knighted. According to legend, he impressed

the Queen very much when walking in the garden with her, he laid his cloak over a mud puddle to keep her feet dry as she crossed it. He also gained the favor of the Queen when he introduced something called tobacco to the royal court.

In 1592, Raleigh temporarily fell from the Queen's favor when she discovered he had secretly married one of her maids of honor named Bess. Soon after the marriage, their son was born. He eventually regained his power in the last years of Elizabeth's reign.

James I, Elizabeth's successor to the throne, disliked Raleigh and was afraid of his power. In 1603, my friend was convicted of plotting against the King and was sentenced to death. Fearing public opinion, King James later commuted the sentence to life imprisonment and Raleigh was sent to the Tower of London where he spent the next 13 years. His time there was well spent and his many writings and poems gained him an important place among Elizabethan

intellectuals.

By 1612, Raleigh was so frustrated with prison, that he began to bargain for his release. He promised King James a fortune in gold if the King would allow him to go to Guiana. James finally agreed to the expedition, but Raleigh was instructed not to invade any Spanish settlements. The expedition took place in 1616 and turned out to be a disaster. Raleigh had sent his son and an aide to search for El Dorado "the land of gold." They attacked a Spanish settlement and his son was killed.

After the disaster in Guiana, Raleigh returned to England where an angry King James invoked the death sentence of 1603. Sir Walter Raleigh went to his death on October 29, 1618 with great dignity. He joked with the executioner and even gave the signal for the ax to fall.

My friend, Sir Walter Raleigh was one of the most colorful figures in English history. His contribution to the exploration of the world will not be forgotten. I will miss him.

Gaston College to convert to semester calendar in 1997

Gaston College, along with the entire North Carolina Community College System, will convert to a semester calendar beginning in the fall of 1997.

Gaston College is currently in

the process of notifying students of this conversion.

All students that have completed 48 credit hours or more are being encouraged to attempt completion of their degrees prior to this con-

version to avoid complications. However, if students are unable to complete their degree before the conversion takes place, they will be able to finish under the semester

system. Gaston College students who have questions about the semester conversion should contact their advisors.

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