

Editorial

Remembering Big D

Living with cancer for Darrell Austin Sr., 61, was like riding a roller coaster. It was filled with peaks and valleys.

"The news is bad," Darrell told his friends in March 1995 when he prepared for lung cancer surgery.

"But I'm going to beat it," he said, displaying his usual upbeat attitude.

And his friends at Republic Newspapers thought he would.

"I beat alcohol and I know that Shirley and I can beat the big C," he said.

Four months ago Darrell began another battle with the insidious disease. He died of cancer early Sunday morning at home.

"I'd be lying if I didn't admit that deep in the back of my mind, I'm scared," Darrell said that last day in the log building he had a hand in designing and the newspaper which had been his baby for 22 years.

Darrell Austin loved the newspaper business and particularly The Herald which he joined as advertising director when Garland Atkins assumed ownership in 1974. A people person, he enjoyed calling on advertisers and making their ads look good and sell. He moved through the ranks of his profession as general manager, publisher, assistant publisher and more recently as operations manager.

Next year on his 62nd birthday Darrell wanted to retire but he planned to keep his hand in at The Herald, play with his grandchildren, stay on the golf course more and of course continue his relationship with the Serenity Club he helped found to help people.

"Big D" genuinely cared for employees, for Kings Mountain in general and for people who needed help in battling a drug he whipped.

Darrell received his 14th chip recently as a cured alcoholic from one of his good friends he sponsored in the program. Ken Nantz made the presentation at Gaston Memorial Hospital.

Darrell helped a myriad of people through his

LIB STEWART
News Editor



work with Alcoholics Anonymous. "Darrell absolutely helped people turn their lives around," said Nantz.

Austin's brother, Gene, said Darrell had a playful side too, recalling some of their antics as children growing up in the parsonage home of Rev. B.F. Austin, their grandfather.

Darrell had a reputation for helping people laugh when they were down. He was a good listener.

Jim Heffner, a co-worker at the Belmont Banner and Darrell's cousin, traveled with Big D when both were young insurance salesmen.

"We'd ride home together, smoke cigars and sing," he said.

Printer's ink got in Big D's blood after that and he sold advertising for The Charlotte Observer and Gastonia Gazette. It was at The Gazette that he became friends with the J. W. Atkins Family and that friendship brought him back to his hometown in 1974 to work for his hometown paper.

"Darrell seemed to have a calming effect on people," said Jim.

"I have seen young men giving Big D a big hug with tears in their eyes because he helped them out of the alcohol doldrums," he said.

"Where do you want to go?" Gene Austin asked his brother enroute home from a recent chemotherapy treatment. The two men were passing The Herald building at Canterbury Road and King Street.

"Right in there, that's where I want to be," Darrell replied.

Darrell made the statement once that it seemed to him that in our world, with the means to put a man on the moon, with the medical knowhow that has eradicated many diseases, halted polio and transplanted hearts that we could lick the Big C once and for all.

We can only pray that the time will come when that dream will become a reality.

MUENCH-LANEY

From Page 4A

Moulthrop of Odenton, MD; Jean Moulthrop Wolff, Kimberly Jeanette Wolff and Steven Edward Wolff of St. Louis, MO and Jeanette Moulthrop Babyok, Michelle Esther Babyok, Kelly Jean Babyok and Robert Francis Babyok III of Fairfax Station, VA; Sharon Laney of Raleigh, sister-in-law of the bridegroom; and Dr. Mary Louise Baker of Kings Mountain.

Mr. Kueter played show tunes on a grand piano at the reception in the church parish hall following the ceremony. Other family members also played classical piano pieces for the event.

The bride's table was highlighted by a wedding cake decorated in fresh flowers and topped with the bridal couple figurines which had been used by the bride's grandparents at their wedding in 1937. The figurine was made by the bride's great-aunt Elizabeth Burton Howell of Kansas City, MO. The bride's parents' cake decoration used at their wedding was featured at the base of the cake.

Dr. and Mrs. Laurence W. Muench of Kings Mountain are parents of the bride who is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Moulthrop of Bethany, MO and the late Mr. and Mrs. Albert F. Muench, Evanston, IL. She is the great granddaughter of Mrs. Ruth Moulthrop of Bonner Springs, KS.

The bridegroom is the son of Ms. Pat Sawyer Laney and Neill Macauley Laney Sr. of Wilmington and the grandson of the late Mrs. Kathrine Redfern Laney and Emsley Armfield Laney of Wilmington and Mrs. Josephine Erskine Sawyer and the late Thomas Holcombe Sawyer of Merritt Island, FL.

After a honeymoon in historic Charleston, SC, the newlyweds will reside in Raleigh.

KMMS Patriots play football Monday 3 p.m.

Tryouts for fall sports at Kings Mountain Middle School begin Monday at 3 p.m. with football tryouts for interested seventh and eighth graders for the Patriot football team.

Athletic Director David Heffner said that tryouts for boys soccer begin August 14 and those participating must have chin guards. Heffner said that girls softball tryouts begin August 19.

Heffner said that all athletes must have physicals before they tryout for school sports but that all interested seventh and eighth graders can apply.

Football coaches are Heffner, Maury Williams, Monty Deaton and Craig Cavender. Boys soccer coach is Cheryl Lutz. Girls softball coach is Lisa May.

Legal Notice

CITY OF KINGS MOUNTAIN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 1996 - 7:30 P.M.

CITY HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS Proposed Amendment to The Kings Mountain Code of Ordinances

The City Council will conduct a Public Hearing on a proposed amendment to the City of Kings Mountain Code of Ordinances, Chapter 16, Streets, Drainage, Sidewalks, and Driveways, Article V, Driveways, Section 16-98, Commercial, Industrial and Institutional Driveways which would allow the City to use NCDOT policy guidelines for street and driveway access to all roads within the City's jurisdiction.

The proposed amendment would be as follows:

Section 16-98, Commercial, Industrial and Institutional Driveways.

(a) Entrances and exists to public streets shall be placed and constructed in accordance with the "Policy on Street and Driveway Access to North Carolina Highways" adopted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) as may be amended.

(b) Plans and studies as required by the City shall be submitted and reviewed for compliance with City plans, codes and standards prior to the issuance of a permit or the start of construction.

(c) The above category driveways must also be approved by the North Carolina Department of Transportation when on a state maintained road.

Should you have any questions please call Steve Killian at 734-4595. You are invited to express your views at the Public Hearing. KMH-1238 8:8.15

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Engagement



ROBIN LEE MOFFITT
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Mr. and Mrs. K. Dean Moffitt Sr. of Bessemer City announce the engagement of their daughter, Robin Lee Moffitt, to Terry Lee Wilcox, son of Louise Hamlet of Hickory and Ned S. Wilcox of Granite Falls.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Bessemer City High School and Belmont Abbey College.

The prospective bridegroom is a graduate of Lenoir Christian Academy and Western Piedmont Community College.

The wedding will be an event of September 7.

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