5-A Peggy's Restaurant under new owners

6-A Mountaineers host Shelby Friday

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North Carolina Press Association

Kings Mountain Herald

Vol. 109 No. 03 | Thursday, January 16, 1997 | Kings Mountain, N.C. • 28086 • 50¢

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White Oak revised plan on agenda

White Oak Manor officials are offering adjoining neighbors of the Sipes Street property an additional 14 feet to be fenced, buffered and planted even if plans for expansion are not realized in the near future.

The Kings Mountain Planning and Zoning Board will take a look at the nursing home's revised plan for expansion Tuesday at 7 p.m. and make a decision on a recommendation to City Council January 28 for rezoning of the facility from Residential to Conditional Use.

White Oak Administrator Jane Alexander said Cecil's, which owns the nursing home, wants to be a good neighbor and that President Oliver Cecil is going the extra mile by inviting the neighbors to select the trees and shrubs which will form a buffer.

"We have had some very positive meetings with the neighbors," she said.

Alexander said White Oak officials were meeting with Vice President of Finance John Barber this week on how to proceed with expansion if a grant is not approved to fund a proposed addition which would include 20 beds for alzheimer patients.

The rezoning is imperative for expansion but Alexander says it's most important because under current zoning in event of a fire or disaster the nursing home could not be rebuilt at the spot. The facility was built in a residential area 23 years ago.

"We have just been extremely lucky that we've had no disasters," she said.

Alexander said that property owner Lou Ballew is suggesting the type of fence and plants to separate her property from White Oak. Dot Finger has suggested a buffer of trees and shrubs and shrubs at the end of her driveway.

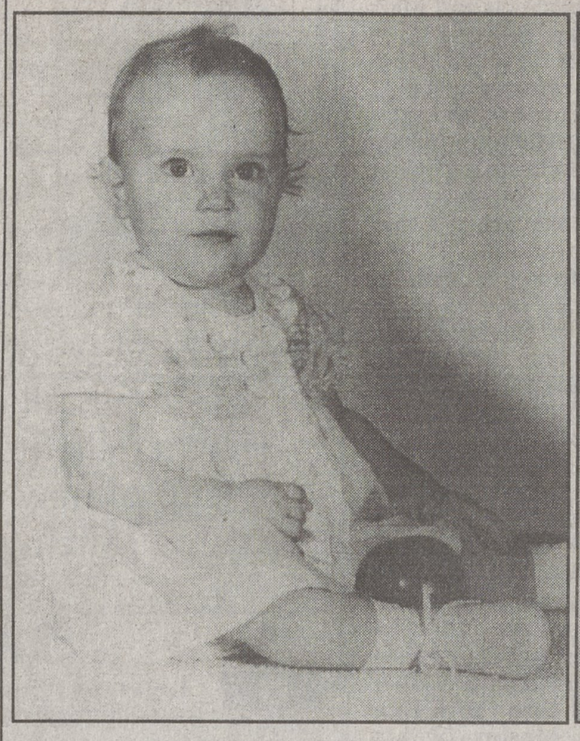
White Oak also plans to remove some of the pine trees with small roots as a precaution in ice storms.

"We have a gentlemen's agreement with the property owners," she said.

Alexander said she is preparing information on Number 4 Township, including the age of the population based on a 1990 census to present to White Oak officials as they look to expansion of the facility.

"We won't know if it's practical or feasible to go forward on the addition but when and if we do we need the rezoning for the future of White Oak Manor," she said.

In Search of Mother



PATTI CARLAND-DEEN
..at 3 months, she was called Peggy

PATTI CARLAND-DEEN
.at age 42

Patti Carland-Deen given up for adoption shortly after birth in Kings Mountain in 1954

Every day Patti Carland-Deen searches for some small clue that may lead her to her biological mother.

Friday she drove from Richmond, Va. to Kings Mountain where she was born November 14, 1954.

Standing in line at a local fast food restaurant the attractive five feet six green-eyed brunette looked around at other customers waiting for lunch and wondered if someone there could be one of her relatives.

The intriguing story of the young travel agent's search for her Kings Mountain roots began in 1973. But North Carolina has strict laws forbidding her adoption file to be opened even though she learned she has two letters in that file from her mother.

Patricia Susan Carland was adopted Sept. 11, 1956 by an Asheville couple who got a telephone call in the middle of the night in February 1955 that a three-months-old baby girl had been located for them but the child must never be returned to her place of birth. Lawrence and Sarah Carland had earlier adopted a boy and after adopting Patti had two daughters. At the age of five Patti was told by her parents that she had been adopted and that her name at birth was probably Peggy and she came from a place called Kings Mountain.

In 1983 Patti hired a national search company after hearing their success on the Oprey Winfrey Show. After five years and thousands of dollars she started her own search and was able to secure some legally open information about her birth mother's family.

Hoping to identify either her biological mother or father's side of the family she secured Kings Mountain and Gaston County telephone books for the period 1954-55, visited countless libraries and newspaper offices and looked through hundreds of newspaper files, all to no avail.

A former journalist, Patti said her curiosity and her desire to just meet her mother, if she is still living, or her mother's family has kept her digging for her roots.

"Maybe it's the journalist in me that wants to know the whole story," said Patti who describes her life as "happy and fulfilled" and herself as "a strong self sufficient person fully enjoying her life."

In her search for non-identifying information she says she is not trying to invade anyone's privacy, just hoping to find out about her heritage.

Patti's birth mother was in good health in 1954 and delivered a full term baby weighing six pounds, 14 ounces. The mother came from a large family in which most of the siblings went to high school and one brother in 1954 was studying to be a minister. The other brothers were carpenters, electricians and TV service men. Patti's maternal great-grandfather was a carpenter and her maternal great-grandmother operated a school cafeteria. Patti's mother worked as a sales clerk, waitress and nurses aid. At the time of her birth Patti had an eight-year-old half brother. Patti was told that her father managed his father's grocery store and died in his 40's.

Social Service workers told her adopting parents that Patti was surrendered for adoption after many months of working with her birth family. She said she was told that her mother, particularly, tried to find a way she could keep her and adequately care for her. However, the mother felt she could not provide for her and give the baby the opportunities in life she could provide through adoption," said Patti.

Every year on her birthday Patti Deen, a recent bride, thinks of a woman she has never met who she wants to thank for giving her a good life. And she wonders if she got her curly top hair and freckles and some of her stamina and strength from the woman who gave her life.

Deen chose a career in the travel business because she loves to travel. Her adopted father, a Delta Airlines employee for 38 years, raised the family in Charlotte but he and his wife and their children lived all over the country, including St. Louis, Mo. and 15 years in Dallas, Texas.

See Patti, 3-A

KM Schools see big jump in enrollment

School enrollment expected to jump by at least 200 students by next school year will mean more mobile classroom units, Supt.of Personnel Ronnie Wilson told members of the Kings Mountain District Board of Education.

He said a reduction in class size for 1997-98 at the third grade level will place 23 students in a class and that by 1997-98 the largest grades K-4 will comprise about 400 students and the total school population could rise to 4,300.

"Across the system we are gaining about 100 students each year," said Wilson who was asked to give the numbers as the board heard priorities for the system established in the facilities study conducted in the 1995-96 school year. The Board discussed the process for proceeding with the facilities development in light of the passage of the state bonds in November 1996.

The board voted unanimously to submit the report as presented by Supt. Dr. Bob McRae to the Department of Public Instruction which sets an order for the work which is to be completed with bond funds. McRae said the report can be revised after the board decides, following public hearings, if it favors building a new school or using the bond money for improvements to present campuses.

Vice-Chairman Billy Houze called attention to the growth in the Bethlehem Road area and said that some 50 new homes have gone up.

Chairman Ronnie Hawkins said the study estimated that six classrooms were needed in the elementary schools and 17 at the middle and high schools which seemed out of line with the growth projection particularly in the Grover and Bethware areas.

McRae said East Elementary is completely out of space and no land is available for additional classrooms. He called Grover Elementary the tightest area and he said two classrooms could be made available at both North and West Schools and Bethware still has the luxury of an old school building which could be utilized for classroom space.

See School, 3-A

Public hearings set by School Board

The first of three public hearings by the Kings Mountain District Board of Education for input by the public on how the system will spend $6.1 million in state school facilities bonds will be held January 30 at 7 p.m. in the Kings Mountain Middle School Cafeteria.

Other public hearings are set February 6 at 9 a.m. in the Board Room at Central School and February 18 at 7 p.m. in Grover Elementary School Cafeteria.

"The public is encouraged to attend one or more of the public hearings and give input to this very important decision," said Supt. Dr. Bob McRae who said board members welcome comments at other times as well and written comments may be sent to the superintendent's office at 105 E. Ridge St., Kings Mountain, 28086.

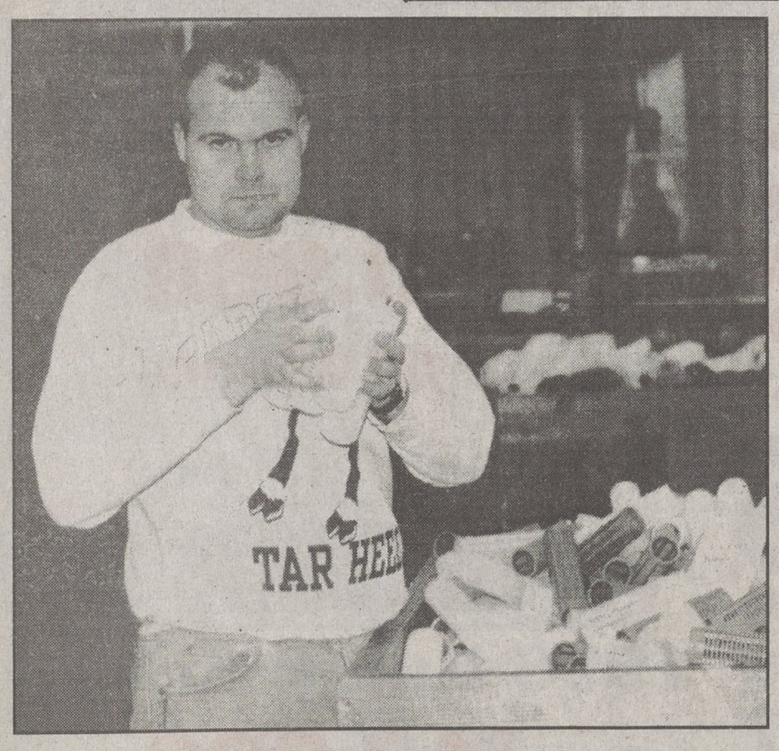
Monday night the Board of Education set the hearings and said information will be sent to parents prior to the meetings and local principals will also help get the word out at parent-teacher meetings and other school-wide events.

The Board of Education is considering three options for the use of $6,142,100.00 for capital expenditures from the sale of state school facilities bonds which voters approved in November.

1) Various capital projects at each campus including the construction of additional classrooms on several campuses. Examples of other projects which would be carried out include reroofing, paving, heating and/or air conditioning upgrades, painting and carpeting.

2) Construction of a new elementary school, grades K-5, to relieve the overcrowding which is developing in the system, especially in the Bethware and Grover areas.

3) Construction of a new intermediate school, grades 5-6, which would relieve the overcrowding in all elementary schools and at Kings Mountain Middle School. This would result in the Middle School becoming a school which serves grades 7 and 8.



HAPPY ON HIS JOB - Brian Moss has participated in the program at Cleveland Vocational Industries in Lawndale for eight years and loves it, never missing a day.

Proud to be in the workforce

By LIB STEWART
of the Herald Staff

Happiness for Brian Moss, Terri Cook and Walter Camp is catching the van in Kings Mountain every morning to Cleveland Vocational Industries in Lawndale.

"I never miss and when I have to miss I'm upset," said Moss, son of KM Public Works Supt. Karl Moss and Mrs. Moss.

Cleveland Vocational Industries serves 175 young adults who may have barriers to employment but by all accounts are moving from dependence into lives with usefulness and meaning.

Brian, a handsome 30-year-old and a big Tar Heel fan, uses his paycheck for tapes, new clothes and Tar Heel memorabilia and to take his grandmother Eva Moss out to supper.

"And you bet we are proud," says his doting Dad.

Terri, daughter of Ken and Becky Cook, was among the first 40 young adults in the program in 1985. She was born with Xerodermapigmentosum, a skin problem, and Desanctis, a muscular disorder. Her wheelchair doesn't hamper her enjoyment of the program.

"Terri can't do what she used to do when she first joined the program but she's excited every day to see her friends," says her Mom.

Walter Camp is ribbed alot by his friends about his favorite activity, playing Santa at the recent Christmas party. Walter formerly worked at Bost Bakery for three years and is a part-time employee of Plastic Oddities.

"They call me Walter Claus," he said with a big grin.

Most every day a visitor to the facility can observe Walter grinding up plastic materials which are recycled and Moss boxing cones which are bought by local industry.

Moss and Cook are in the same Sunday School class at First Baptist Church. Moss rode with the Cook family to the recent Christmas party and never sat out a dance.

"I enjoy myself wherever I am," he said.

"CVII bridges the gap between a work force with valuable energy and potential and the needs of businesses and industry in Cleveland County," says Ken Bagby, director of the program since its inception in 1984.

Cleveland Vocational generates 45 percent of its operating expenses through work contracted with area businesses and industry. Partnerships with the area textile industry helps to annually recycle 2.6 million pounds of polypropylene plastic waste destined for area landfills and provides a stable base of work for training associates. In its raw state that textile waste equates to 346 tractor loads of material kept out of area landfills. When possible, clients are placed and supported in traditional work places in industry. Since 1987 over 36 individuals have been successfully placed in jobs with businesses in Cleveland County. To date, their taxable earnings have been in excess of $865,000.

Cleveland Vocational Industries is a Kings Mountain United Fund and Cleveland

See Work, 3-A