

McDOWELL

From 1-A

was the perfect choice for compiling the history of Lincoln Academy.

The retired educator is writing a history of her alma mater which was founded in 1888 by Emily Prudden and up until 1922 had all white teachers with Rev. Walter Rix as the first black principal and minister of the First Congregational United Church of Christ founded in 1895.

White missionaries started schools like Lincoln Academy in the South and also started small churches.

Lincoln Academy was once a popular boarding school as well as a school that had day students with a student body which included students and faculty from all over the world. The student body numbered about 300 but closed about 1955. It burned and many of the historical artifacts were lost forever.

The First Congregational United Church of Christ, organized in the old Baker School,

and celebrated its centennial year in 1995 and is now led by McDowell's grandson, Rev. Lynn McDowell.

Mrs. McDowell's scrapbooks depict the history of the church over 100 years and the history of Lincoln Academy from information she has collected from former students and residents of the community.

"Lincoln Academy was always such a vital part of this community," said Mrs. McDowell. Her father, C. V. Alexander, used to run a grocery store in the community. After school consolidation the old Baker School was the perfect home for a new church.

First Congregational United Church of Christ is an active church with just under 100 members, an active group of senior citizens and membership from the Crowders Mountain Community and as far distant as Charlotte and Gastonia.

McDowell graduated from Lincoln Academy and from Winston-Salem State University. She taught in both the Cleveland and Gaston County Schools.

McDowell didn't get her call to teach in Africa until after she met her husband who came to the local church as a widower and a former missionary to Africa. They were married 45 years prior to his death.

"Africa is a continent of 4 1/2 million people and at the time there were 200,000 white people, no English speaking people in West Africa and the official languages were Portuguese and African," said McDowell.

She said Africa has been struggling to rebuild for many years. Magazines on her coffee table in her living room were entitled, "Africa's Problems-African Initiatives."

McDowell wrote the 100 year history of her church which was printed in booklet form and she continues busy on the school history. She also enjoys tutoring, reading and all church-related activities. Working with senior residents of the community she has learned interesting facts about the school which have been passed on by word of mouth.

Her regret was that someone could not have salvaged some of the books and other historical materials in the old school when it burned.

"When we are young we just don't value our roots," she said.

Letter to the Editor

School Board wants input on facility needs

To the editor:

The Kings Mountain District Board of Education is conducting a series of public hearings to receive community input regarding the expenditure of the \$6,142,100.00 in school facilities bond revenues which will come to our school system. The Board is genuinely interested in gaining the perspective of the public regarding this matter and hopes the public hearings will be an adequate strategy for accomplishing that goal.

There will be three public hearings held at various dates and times. The first hearing will be on Thursday, January 30 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Kings Mountain Middle School. A second hearing will be held at 9 a.m. in the Board Room of the District Office on Thursday, February 6. The third hearing will be on Tuesday, February 18, at 7 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at Grover Elementary School.

The options the Board is considering for use of the bond funds involve expanding and renovating existing campuses or building an additional school. Feeling that such a decision should not be made without the input of the community, the Board has scheduled the above referenced public hearings.

Citizens are encouraged to give input to this issue by addressing the Board at one of the public hearings or by sending your written comments to me at the school system office, 105 E. Ridge St. Your opinions are welcomed and will be highly valued by the Board as it makes this very important decision.

Thank you very much.

Robert R. McRae Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

COUNCIL

From 1-A

building has Summit Place in Southwoods Subdivision.

Reappointed Mary Hillman to a three year term on the ABC board by 6-1 vote. Jerry Mullinax cast the "no" vote, saying he did not object to Mrs. Hillman but that many people had indicated they wanted to serve on the board.

Amended the city's personnel policy regarding health insurance to retiring employees. The policy stipulates that an employee must have worked for the city for at least 25 years as a full time permanent employee if employed after the 29th day of January, 1997. An employee can get credit of one year for each two years of service as a volunteer firemen or reserve police officer.

Approved no parking on both sides of Webb Street in the area of East School on recommendation of the Police Department.

Authorized the city manager to enter into an agreement for leasing or renting of city owned property for a year's period with reports to City Council and on recommendation of the city attorney.

Authorized staff to work with Gaston County to correctly reassign addresses of 19 residents at Carolina Garden Apartments. Councilman Ralph Grindstaff said that all 911 calls should be directed to Kings Mountain Police, citing that some residents who live in Kings Mountain but are also residents of Gaston County are having difficulty getting help because when they call 911 they are routed to Bessemer City first.

ANIMAL

From 1-A

limits who actually reside in Gaston County and the requirements for the job of animal control officer which Stallings said included three or four months on the road with an officer, about two months of actual training but no basic schooling in law enforcement but instruction on how to set cages and pick up animals.

Stallings said the county accepts all liability for the employees hired by the health department but Grindstaff, and the city's attorney agreed, that a "hold harmless" clause in the present contract means that the city won't hold the county liable from any action, claim process or suit made against it or its animal control officer acting within the city.

"I think we need to get the lawyers together on that before we act," said Grindstaff.

Mayor Scott Neisler, Councilman Rick Murphrey and county supervisor Sam Lockridge spoke in favor of a contract with the county.

Stallings, who is a Kings Mountain resident, assured Council that Kings Mountain would get full protection and that a supervisor is being hired to run the county wide program. She said Cleveland County hasn't had a rabies case.

Grindstaff said the city won't save money by going to the new plan and will be giving up its current service.

"I'm for Cleveland County taking over animal control, it's a real plus for us," said the mayor.

LIBRARY

From 1-A

Preschool Resource Enrichment Project have added much needed materials and equipment to the library inventories.

Sanders said that three factors contribute to the growth of the children's services: outreach and programming, the Smart Start project and the accelerated reading program in the schools. She said juvenile circulation has almost doubled in five years - from 16,625 in 1991-92 to 31,932 in 1995-96. She said that over 1,165 children are

served by Smart Start and 64 families and 28 agencies are enrolled, a six months increase from 457 to 708 in 1996-97. She said people from all over the county utilize the services of the library.

Sanders said the children's room is so packed that there is no place for children to sit comfortably and read and study.

In 1996 nearly 500 children were enrolled in the summer program and 30,000 books were checked out by juveniles.

Members of the library board, in addition to Mauney and Corry, are Charles Blanton and Rev. Doug Peterson who also attended Tuesday's Council meeting, Tom Trott, Faye Kerns, Willie Marable, Pat Plonk and Helen Lancaster.

SURVEY

From 1-A

girls said they had used alcohol and had problems.

Forty-two percent of junior boys surveyed said they had used alcohol and experienced problems. The percentage of use among the girls was 34 percent.

In the 12th grade, 35 percent of the girls responding to the survey in the senior class reported they had used alcohol and had problems and 51 percent of the boys concurred. Seventeen percent of the boys and 32 percent of the girls said they had never used alcohol.

A high percentage, 60 percent for boys in the seventh grade and 67 percent for girls, said they had never used alcohol while 16 percent of the boys and 18 percent of the girls said they had used alcohol and had problems.

A high percentage of eighth graders, 43 percent for boys and 51 percent for girls, had never used alcohol but 22 percent of this age group said they had used some alcohol and had problems.

"Smoking seems to increase with higher grades too," said Reuntree who said that 18 percent of the class of senior boys surveyed reported they smoked but only 1.8 percent of senior girls. In the

11th grade the percentage figures were 6.3 for boys and 9.5 for girls; 10th grade 8.7 for boys and 9.5 for girls; and ninth grade 10.7 for boys and 16.9 for girls.

King said the surveyors said that binge drinking statistics are alarming and blamed the high rate of binge drinkers on alcohol packaging or marketing. She said that alcohol is packaged in cartoon character cartons, for instance, and in frozen popsicles that appeal to teenagers. She said that incidents of violence, child victimization and violent acts which seem acceptable for television also lend glamour for a teenager.

"The schools can't solve all the problems but we can target some of them and with the community coming together we can get some results," King said.

King said that kids are not getting a clear message on the dangers of alcohol and drugs and suggested that they are less likely to get in trouble if they hear "no" from their elders who mean it.

The survey also addressed questions of self image.

"We already teach drug abuse prevention in the health curriculum and we're hoping the Class of 2000 will be a smoke free class," said King, who said that all school campuses are smoke free.

"This is really good information that we can give to the Health Council and study it to implement in some of our activities," said King.

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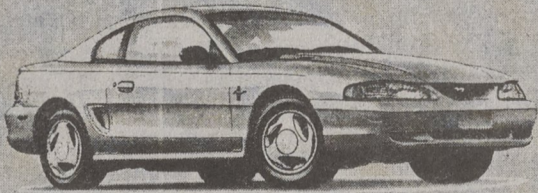


was \$19,715
NOW \$14,345

was \$26,470
NOW \$19,880

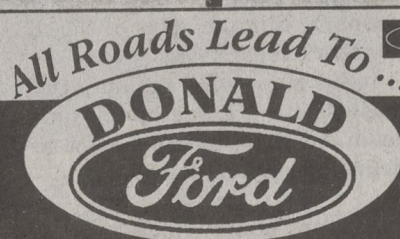
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