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■ FOOTBALL FEVER



Kings Mountain High football coach Ron Massey talks to his team after recent victory at John Gamble Stadium. The Mountaineers, who shared the Southwestern Conference championship with Burns and East Rutherford, will make their third

straight trip to the state 3A playoffs Friday night when they travel to High Point's Simeon Stadium to take on T.W. Andrews High School. Details on last week's 36-12 victory over North Gaston and this week's playoff opponent are on page 1-B.

England okay, but KM home for Champion

Driving a stick-shift rental car on the opposite side of the road was a first experience but after all everything was a new experience for Ashley Champion, who worked in Manchester, England for six weeks.

"It was like being an exchange student but better," said Champion, who is now home on Oak Grove Road and back at work in Charlotte as a tax accountant for Cooper and Lybrand.

Ashley's job took her to England. A program called International Tax Services to Executives Abroad, she worked in an office with tax accountants from Scotland, Ireland, and England.

"All the accents were different and they thought my accent was unique," she laughed.

The Charlotte company has been exchanging with tax accountants from abroad for four or five years, sponsoring staffers twice a year in spring and fall and then entertaining foreign accountants in the Queen City. Cooper and Lybrand is ranked among one of the big six firms and the staff includes 35 people in Nations Bank Center.



ASHLEY CHAMPION

Champion was in England three weeks after the death of Princess Diana and she said the flowers were still at Kensington Gardens, the residence of the Princess of Wales, and at Buckingham Palace. She said the flowers were gathered twice a day and sent to the hospitals.

Touring the British countryside was one of the pleasures of her stay abroad. Manchester

was only a 2 1/2 hour train ride from London and the Lakes District and Champion rented a car and when she wasn't working in the office she was on the road.

"Everything is so accessible and it's only an hour's plane ride or a half day train ride to so many wonderful places," said Champion who visited Edinburgh, Scotland and family members in Eltville, Germany near Frankfurt.

It took only 20 minutes on public tram to go from her workplace to the second family she lived with in England. The first home she lived in England took about 30 minutes.

Westminster Abbey in London is very beautiful, according to the Kings Mountain visitor who was in the sanctuary while a service was underway. Worms Cathedral in Germany and Chester Cathedral in England were also high on her list of places to visit.

Champion, a history buff, said the castles and elaborate decorations are fascinating.

She had visited England 10 years ago with the Kings Mountain High School French

class but she said this trip gave her time to get into the Lakes District of England which she said should be a must for local people going to England. She also suggests stops in London and in Edinburgh, Scotland and Frankfurt, or Weisbaden, Germany. Ashley said the smaller villages along the Rhine river are also the places to go.

Ashley's father, Carl, was stationed near Frankfurt in The Army and she said it was interesting to see how Frankfurt looks today compared to the Frankfurt her father talks about.

Hiking the mountain range with friends, seeing sheep, rolling green hills, and beautiful scenery were lasting impressions of her trip.

"There are no skyscrapers in the areas I visited but traveling by cable car, by train and tram and by ferry were once in a lifetime experiences," she said.

Next time she goes to England Champion hopes to revisit some of the same places.

Daughter of Carl and Pat Champion of Kings Mountain and the late Patty Champion of Melbourne, Fla., Ashley has

See Champion, 3A

Kings Mountain People

Church secret to McGinnis' happy marriage

Church-going, life-long friends and sweethearts, J.T. and Helen McGinnis say that's the best ingredient for a happy marriage.

The Kings Mountain couple celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary in October and their 25th year of perfect attendance in Sunday School at First Presbyterian Church.

In fact, the super salesman for Wade Ford says he equates what he learned in church with his job of selling automobiles for over 50 years.

"I just tell the truth," he says.

McGinnis started courting his wife when they were fifth graders.

He rode his bike across town to see Helen Tidwell. They

were friends all through high school and graduated in the Kings Mountain High School Class of 1944. After J. T.'s discharge from Uncle Sam's Air Force the two were married at First Presbyterian Church October 11, 1946 by Dr. P. D. Patrick and it was natural for them to attend services every Sunday.

J. T. drives to church every Sunday in his 1988 Chrysler. The first to arrive, he puts the coffee pot on at 9 a.m. Helen drives her 1986 Chevrolet to church about 9:45 for the Sunday school hour.

J. T. got the car selling fever in 1946 when he operated the Kiser & Packard dealership, selling cars for himself. From

1950-60 he ran the Ford dealership in town for Fred W. Plonk and after that worked for 30 years, first at Victory Chevrolet, for Charlie Dixon at Dixon Chevrolet, Nation's Chevrolet, Jim Testa and Bauman Chevrolet. He joined Wade Tyner at Wade Ford in 1959.

"Now that I'm 70 I can work as much as I like and I love to sell and to see people get a car that they can enjoy," said McGinnis.

"Car salesman now have a better image, they're more professional," he said.

"To get along with people is the biggest thing that a person has to learn to succeed in the business and another thing is to work hard and like what you

do," says J. T.

Helen says she and her husband have always liked doing things together, whether it's going to church or eating out. Helen enjoys playing bingo at the local American Legion Post of which J. T. is a 51 year member.

Both were raised in the church and both are treasurers of their respective Sunday School Classes. They have one son, Chip, who is married to Pat Strickland and they live in Kansas City, Mo. The family includes one grandson, Clint, 27.

Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. T. McGinnis Sr., J. T. Jr. was raised in the automobile busi-

See McGinnis, 3A



J.T. AND HELEN McGINNIS

Ward 2 election protested

Guyton cites irregularities at East KM

by ELIZABETH STEWART
of The Herald Staff

Another city election could be called in Ward 2 between Jerry Mullinax and Jim Guyton if allegations of voter discrepancies and irregularities in the East Kings Mountain precinct November 4 are proven fact.

Board of Elections Secretary Ruth Wilson said protest letters were filed both by Joe King, challenger in the recent city council Ward 1 race won by incumbent Phil Hager by eight votes, and Guyton, who lost by one vote to Mullinax in the unofficial vote, tied with incumbent Mullinax in an official canvass Friday and lost by one vote, 164-163, to Mullinax in a recount Monday.

Late Tuesday afternoon King said he would not pursue the challenge but Guyton has mailed his official protest to the State Board of Elections calling for another election.

Wednesday at noon Shirley and Jim Guyton were meeting with Board of Elections Chairman Pat Spangler and members Wilson and James Hoskins and Director of Elections Debra Blanton in Shelby to support data for their claims.

King said he had decided to back off. He says he disagrees with the state law that the candidate has to file the challenge. "We pay election officials and a staff and why shouldn't they file the challenges when they are told about alleged discrepancies?" he said.

"I asked for a recount and it would have taken only a little time to recount Ward 1 Monday when election officials recounted the votes in Ward 2," he said.

"I was told I'd have to send a letter detailing my complaints and that challenges should have been made on election day but how are we as citizens and candidates supposed to know that?"

King said he still believes that irregularities did occur in the November 4 city elections. "I just wanted to be treated fairly but I can live with it," he said.



JIM GUYTON

On November 5 Guyton wrote a letter to Blanton requesting a recount of the votes; asked that the election board verify the number of people marked in the registration book that voted in the election is the same number of the ballots counted in the East Kings Mountain precinct; and said he didn't understand why so many people received the ballots for another ward that they were not registered in instead of receiving the ballot of their own ward. "Some of them returned the wrong ballot and received a correct ballot. Some did not return their incorrect ballot and probably voted outside their own ward," he said.

On November 10, Guyton wrote to Johnnie McLean of the State Board of Elections. He asked that the State board investigate and give him an explanation of the actions that took place at the East Kings Mountain precinct election polls on November 4. Guyton requested another election on the grounds that the election did not comply with the rules of the North Carolina Board of Elections.

Lori Holland, Guyton's daughter, said she was given the wrong ballot and returned it to get the correct one. Guyton's wife, Shirley, said their telephone had been ringing off the hook from people all over town who got the wrong ballot.

"You would not believe what went on at East Kings Mountain precinct at the American Legion on election day," said Mrs. Holland.

See Guyton 4-A