

Ms. McGinnis hosts Thursday Book Club

The Thursday Afternoon Book Club met at the home of club member Carolyn McGinnis on April 27. Club members enjoyed the social time before the meeting and also enjoyed the strawberry dessert that was served.

Anita Campbell gave a most interesting program on the lives of five women who made a definite and distinct contribution to society during the last century.

Laura Ingles Wilder, an author, teacher, and pioneer was the first woman in the biographic sketch.

Rita Dove, also a teacher and author, was discussed. Mrs. Dove won the 1987 Pulitzer Prize for her poetry and was also named as Poet Laureate for the United States in 1993.

Susan B. Anthony wanted women to act together and collectively.

Madeline C. Albright was chosen to be the 64th Secretary of State in 1997. She was the first female Secretary of State and is the highest ranking woman in the United States government. Her approach to politics is hopefully peace and prosperity.

The last woman to be discussed was Eleanor Roosevelt. Her role was expanded in political affairs to help her husband. She became a controversial figure with many policies and programs of the times. She was a writer and speaker with interest in humanitarian concerns.

It was noted that the May 25 meeting will be hosted by Patsy Rountree and the program will be by Maude Patterson.



KELTON STONE

Kelton Stone notes her fourth birthday

Kelton Stone, daughter of Larry and Beverly Stone of Kings Mountain, was four years old April 24. She celebrated April 15 with family and friends at a Barbie party at Oak Grove Baptist Church fellowship building. The tables were decorated with pink and purple table cloths, balloons and streamers.

Children attending were Emily Bell, Alayna Pearson, Phillip and Andrew Barrett, Emily and Holly Faulkenberry, Cassidy Chapman, Mackenzie Gibson, Haley McDougal, Hannah Bickley, Summer Wooten, Haven and Jacob Sipes, and Savannah Ford.

The children enjoyed Barbie cake, ice cream and chips. Each girl was given a Pearl Beach Barbie doll.

Kelton is the granddaughter of Bill and Sandy Stone and Larry and Gail Bollinger. Great-grandparents are Virginia Stone, Lurene Proctor, Ray and Sarah Mullinax, and Hester Bollinger.

Alzheimer's support group sets meeting

The Alzheimer's Support Group will meet May 8 at the Kings Mountain Senior Center on Piedmont Avenue. The program will feature a video.

For more information call 734-0447 or 739-8132.

Shelby Senior Center schedules May classes

Dancercise and Brazilian embroidery classes are scheduled in May at the Shelby Senior Center, 408 E. Marion St.

Dancercise begins May 25 at 6

See Class, 8B

Mothers & Daughters

The tie that binds the generations

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

Mothers and daughters that have a close relationship have something special indeed. Sometimes that bond is so strong that it holds tight for the next generations that come along.

EdenGardens in Kings Mountain is one place where the bonds of love and friendship between mothers, daughters, and even granddaughters is alive and well.

Any given day at EdenGardens will find a mother and daughter sitting together in the living room catching up on the latest family news. When the weather is nice, these chats are often taken outside to rocking chairs and a warm breeze.

A recent morning at EdenGardens found several such visits going on. One group included resident Pearl Horne, daughter Ruby Alexander, and granddaughter Cindi Wood. In another area, Mabel Ross was having a talk with her daughters Eva Nell Crawford and Dorene Ballard. Seated near the piano, long-time Cherryville citizen Elva McGinnis was having a nice visit from her daughter Rita Beam.

"A child is a child as long as they have a mother," said Ruby Alexander.

Alexander's mom, 92-year-old Pearl Horne says her secret to raising kids was a simple one. "Make them follow the Golden Rule," Horne said. "Also teach your children to treat others as they would like to be treated."

Alexander says that she and her mom have always had a close relationship.

"Mother still calls and checks up to make sure I wear a coat outside if it's cold," Alexander said. "She's also interested to know when I build or sell a house."

Alexander is head of Alexander Realty in Kings Mountain. She also credits her mother with instilling the strong work ethic which has helped make her a successful businesswoman.

"Mother used to get us up at 5:30 a.m. to study our school lessons," Alexander said. "We didn't have a car, but we got up and walked to school and church."

Alexander's daughter, Cindi Wood says she also gained inspiration from her grandmother.

"My mother and grandmother have been wonderful role models for me," Wood said. "One of the lessons I teach in my stress management seminars is the importance of families being together."

Long-time Cherryville resident Elva McGinnis now calls EdenGardens home. When her daughter Rita Beam comes for one of her frequent visits, the two often talk about music. Beam even has her own organ at EdenGardens and has been known to sit down at the black baby grand in the living room there and tickle the ivories.

"Mother was music director at First Baptist in Cherryville for many years," said Beam. "She was serious about me learning to play the piano and would spank me if I didn't practice."

Though she might have been strict at times, McGinnis was never harsh - a lesson she learned from her own mother who raised nine kids on a farm near New Prospect Baptist Church.

"I never saw my mother get mad," said McGinnis.

Being an only child, Beam and her mom have spent a lot of time together, and still do.

"We go out shopping and for ice cream," said Beam. "Just visiting at EdenGardens is nice too."

For her part, McGinnis feels like she's lucky to have such an attentive daughter.

"She's real good to me," McGinnis said. "I'm glad I have her."

Memories of the good old days often crop up in the conversations between mother Mabel Ross and daughters Eva Nell Crawford and Dorene Ballard. Ross also has a son, Emmett Ross, Sr., of Wilkesboro.

"I try to visit mother every day," said Ballard. "She has taught me so many things, including cooking."

Ballard is justifiably proud of her mom's culinary skills. For many years Ross ran a catering service and was always in demand for her wedding cakes.

"We did so many fun things together growing up," Ballard said. "We played games and listened to the radio in the evening. On Sunday night, the kids from church would come over and eat up all the leftovers from dinner. It was good, family fun."

Ross is modest about her philosophy for raising good kids, but the solid sense her style contains has borne fruit.

"Teach your children to do right and treat others right," Ross said. "I raised three kids and none of them gave me any trouble. Mothers today should stay at home and raise their families."

Though their financial means may have been modest growing up in earlier times, the emotional relationship that these mothers and daughters share now is rich beyond compare.



ALAN HODGE/THE HERALD
Mother Elva McGinnis (right) enjoys a visit from daughter Rita Beam at EdenGardens in Kings Mountain. McGinnis was former director of music at First Baptist Church in Cherryville.



Mable Ross (left) passed on her culinary skills to daughters Eva Nell Crawford (center) and Dorene Ballard. The trio often gets together at EdenGardens to recall days when they would gather around the radio on Sunday evenings.



EdenGardens resident Pearl Horne (center) has a close relationship with her daughter Ruby Alexander (left) and granddaughter Cindi Wood. Alexander and Wood both credit Horne for teaching them the importance of hard work in achieving success.

Carolina pottery is a work of art

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

Since the dawn of time, North Carolinians have made pots out of native clay. In addition to fashioning their jugs, jars, and plates for practical purposes, Carolina potters also create beautiful works of art from the raw earth.

Perhaps the hottest spot for potters in our state is the Seagrove community in southern Randolph County. Once known as Jugtown, Seagrove is home to the new \$1.7 million North Carolina Pottery Center. The Pottery Center was 16 years in the making.

In addition to showcasing modern potters, the center also gives attention to groups that laid the foundation for modern clay works. Some of these groups include the Native Americans, Moravians, and the English potters from Staffordshire who settled in the Seagrove vicinity.

Besides the Pottery Center, Seagrove also hosts an annual Pottery Festival. This event draws thousands of visitors and pottery shoppers to the town and gives potters a chance to show their wares as well as exchange ideas with other artists.

Besides the big shows, the more than 90 potters in the Seagrove area also sell their wares from small shops and even their own porches. One of

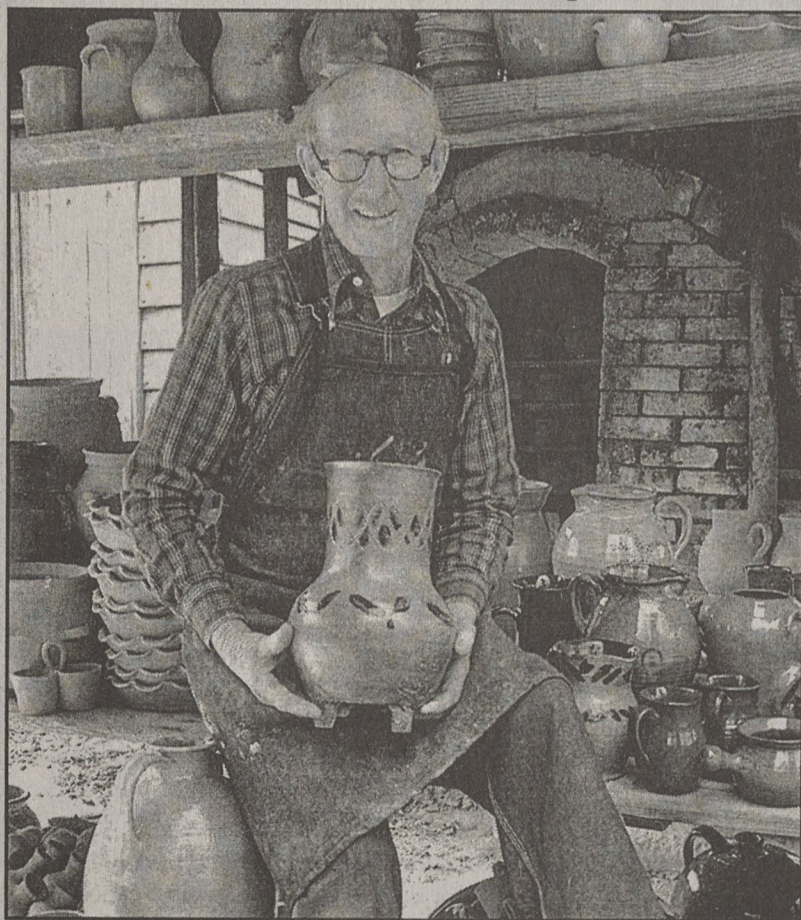


Photo courtesy of NC Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development.

the most famous potters to come out of the Seagrove area was William H. Chriscoe (1857-1944), a Moore County potter whose work was donated to the Smithsonian Institution.

Not all potters in North Carolina call Seagrove home, other strongholds of pottery activity in our state are the

Catawba Valley, Piedmont, and mountains. To these places, add Cleveland County as a spot where the tradition of pottery is still alive and well.

There are many active potters currently practicing their art and craft in Cleveland County. Perhaps the most active spot for

pottery is in the Lawndale and Polkville areas. Shelby also has several good potters.

Serendipity Antiques in Lawndale is just one place where things such as face jugs made by local potters can be found. In addition to selling their wares at shops, many Cleveland County potters also take part in shows like the one in February sponsored by the Cleveland County Arts Council.

Potters in Cleveland County come from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines. Frederick P. Hunt II is one of the newer pottery businesses in operation. Hunt works out of his home in Shelby and specializes in wheel thrown work. A graduate of Western Carolina University, Hunt gave up a job teaching school in Charlotte to pot full time.

Hailing from Mooresboro, potter Tom Whitaker fires his ash and slip glazed stoneware in a traditional, wood-burning kiln known as the "groundhog" type. The kiln was made from 6,000 salvaged bricks and consumes three cords of pine slabs when pots are fired. Whitaker prefers to call himself a craftsman rather than an artist - though both labels fit nicely.

Another Cleveland County potter is Kaye Lowery. A long interest in pottery took off when she enrolled in clay classes at Gaston College under the tutelage of Doug Knotts. Last year, Lowery went to the fa-

mous Penland School of Crafts and studied under Ben Owens III. Lowery is especially fond of the Japanese style of pottery called Raku.

After retiring from a 20-year counseling career in Shelby, potter June Miller decided she wanted to get her hands dirty, so she began throwing pots. Miller studied her art at Gaston College, Gardner-Webb University, and Isothermal Community College. A ceaseless experimenter, Miller is constantly exploring new techniques in glazes, firing methods, and pot construction techniques.

Hal Dedmon and Wanda Crotts are a Cleveland County clay duo who are very prolific. Dedmon's interest in pottery came about as a result of his job as an auctioneer. Crotts, like many potters, began collecting pottery first before she took the plunge into making it herself. Widely known, the pair sell their works at several venues.

Just a few other Cleveland County area potters active now include Tracy Price, Doug Pruett, Connie Rupprecht, Robert Beam, and Jamie Boyles-Willis. These and other potters in the region continue their endless quest for the "perfect pot" whether it be in a traditional or experimental style.

For more information on pottery in this area, contact the Cleveland County Arts Council at 484-2787.