

KM native Jimmy Barber hopes to make it big in country music

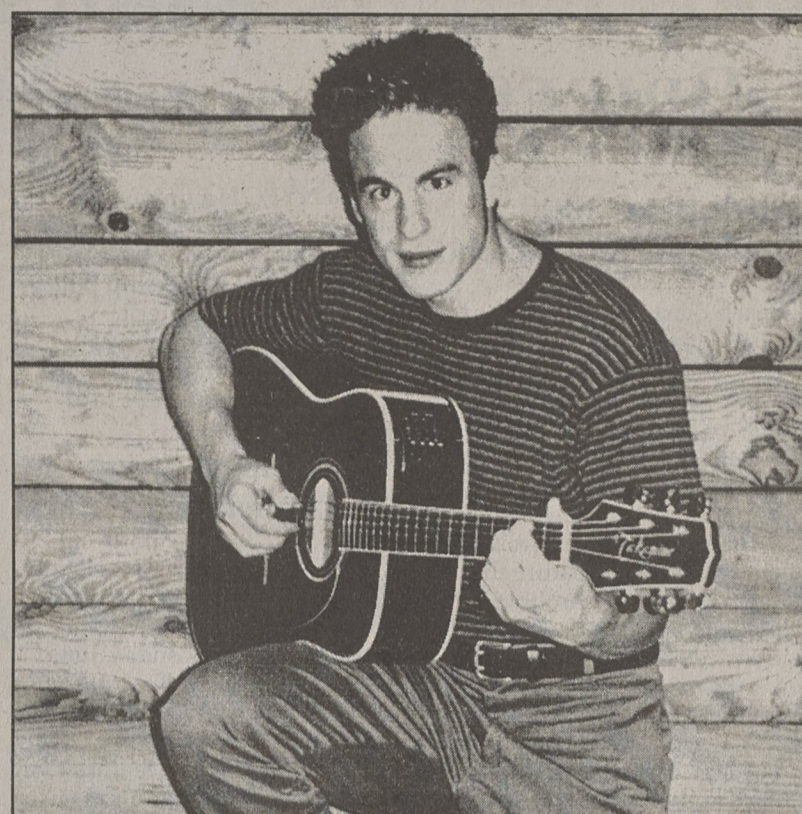
BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

Singer and songwriter Jimmy Barber is living what many might consider a dream. Originally from Kings Mountain, Barber is currently working in Nashville, Tennessee as a songwriter and performer. With talent and hard work, Barber is already making a name for himself in the recording industry with Acuff/Rose Music Publishing Company. Barber's rise to a full-time songwriting job in Nashville began in 1992 when he bought a guitar at an attic sale for \$30. "I got the guitar, took it home, and started to practice," Barber said. "The more I played, the more melodies came

out of my head." Barber's next step involved performing on the beauty show circuit with Miss Gastonia. He also played at clubs and other gatherings. "I played anywhere I could get an audience," Barber says. "It didn't matter if it was for one person or 100." When a chance to audition for the Opryland theme park came up, Barber jumped at it. As fate would have it, a talent scout from Acuff/Rose was in the audience. "Mike Whelan, the creative director for Acuff/Rose, heard me perform and invited me over to their studio," Barber said. "I've been working for them ever since." A typical day in Nashville for

Barber includes going to the studio where he sits with other musicians and works on song ideas. Sometimes this may be only a few hours, but if the creative juices are flowing, then the day can stretch into night. One of Barber's songwriting mentors is Skip Ewing, the author of tunes such as "Wish You Were Here," and "It Wasn't His Child." Barber describes his own style as "contemporary." "I write for myself," Barber said. "I try not to mimic anyone." One of Barber's tunes has already been recorded. His song "Put Your Hand in Mine" was picked up by singer Tracy Byrd. With a solid musical foundation under his wings, Barber is ready to take the next step in

his country music career. "I really want to combine my singing and composing skills and be on stage," Barber said. "The people who write the songs are the seed for the whole music business, but don't get all the credit they are due. They are the first to work, and the last to get paid when a record is made." Meanwhile, Barber has the support of his family while he continues to climb the music industry ladder. Barber's sister, Patricia Barber, and brother Kenny Stewart - a Kings Mountain police officer - keep Jimmy going. "I'm ready to go to the top with my songwriting and singing," Barber said. "I want to be the best."



ALAN HODGE/THE HERALD
Kings Mountain native Jimmy Barber is making a name for himself in the country music business in Nashville. A singer and songwriter, Barber works for Acuff/Rose Music.



ALAN HODGE/THE HERALD
Folks looking for some good food in Kings Mountain should give Piedmont Family Restaurant at 415 N. Piedmont Avenue a try. Friendly service is provided by staff, from left; Casey Short, Patricia Moore, Beth Hamrick, Amanda Hamrick, and Rick Hamrick.

Piedmont Family Restaurant opens in old Peggy's location

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

From the crack of dawn to evening's cool darkness, there's plenty of good things cookin' at Piedmont Family Restaurant in Kings Mountain. Located where Peggy's Restaurant operated for many years at 415 N. Piedmont Avenue, the newly refurbished eatery is currently owned by Rick and Beth Hamrick. "We've been around the restaurant business for years," Rick Hamrick said. "When the chance to get this location came up we jumped at it." Former owners Peggy and Loretta Chaney set a good example of home-style food and service during their years of operation. Peggy Chaney's lessons in the kitchen weren't lost on Beth Hamrick who started her culinary career at Peggy's elbow over 17 years ago. "I was just 13-years-old when I started working at Peggy's,"

Hamrick said. "She taught me a lot about how to make good food that keeps the customers coming back." Operating hours for the Hamrick's Piedmont Family Restaurant are 5:30 a.m. until 8 p.m., Monday through Friday. Saturday hours are 5:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. With that range of times, the Hamricks serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Items on the menu are unpretentious, down home fare that not only gives you your money's worth, but sticks to your ribs as well. Don't go into Piedmont Family Restaurant looking for truffles or caviar, but if your stomach is craving some good gravy and biscuits, a juicy hamburger, or a plate of vegetables and meat, then you've come to the right place. With its new owners, Piedmont Family Restaurant has gotten a complete face lift. In addition to new carpeting and flooring, the whole place is freshly painted. Decor is still in

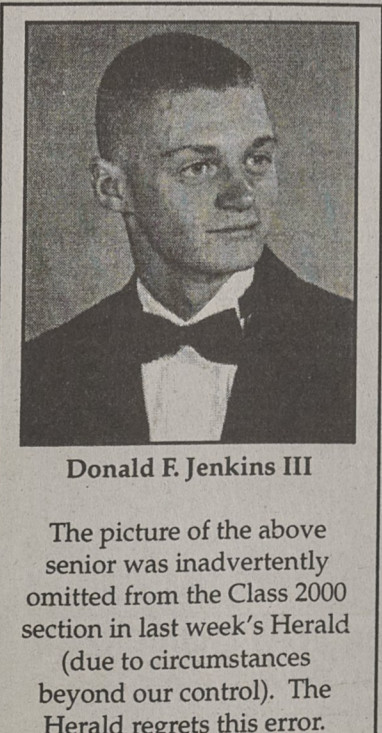
the working stages, though several posters of famous athletes and film stars grace the walls. One especially large poster of Clint Eastwood watches over diners as they devour their food. Taking the family theme to the next level, Rick and Beth Hamrick have daughter Amanda, nephew Casey Short, and friend Patricia Moore on the staff. Amanda is following in her mom's footsteps in the restaurant business. Running from table to table taking orders and pouring tea, the 13-year-old stays busy. The Hamrick's also have another daughter, Jennifer Greene. "Amanda is learning how to do every job from waitress to dishwasher," her mother said. Friendly, clean, full of good food, and providing fast service, Piedmont Family Restaurant is a place you've got to try when your stomach is growling louder than a Bengal tiger.

Bluegrass Festival June 1-3 to raise funds for LIVE!

The Cleveland County Fairgrounds will reverberate to the sounds of banjos and guitars when the LIVE! 2nd Annual Bluegrass Festival takes place Thursday, June 1 through Saturday, June 3. The event is being held to raise funds for the Living Independently Through Volunteers for the Elderly (LIVE Inc.) program in Cleveland County. LIVE! provides volunteer services for the frail elderly and adults with disabilities of Cleveland County, enabling them to live independently in their own homes, and preventing premature placement in long term care facilities. LIVE! was founded in 1988 with a Venture Grant from United Way of Cleveland County and is a volunteer assistance program. LIVE! is currently in need of volunteers in the Kings Mountain area. "We always need volunteers, but especially so in Kings Mountain," said Bob Davis of LIVE!

LIVE's staff works through a coordinated system of volunteers and offers a variety of services. Volunteers of all faiths offer their time - approximately 312,000 hours per year. Their kindness and compassion are extended to assist their neighbors when their needs are not met by other programs or agencies. All frail elderly over 60 years of age and other adults with permanent disabilities qualify for LIVE services based on their individual needs, not their ability to pay for services. LIVE's volunteers are recruited, trained, and assigned by LIVE's staff. When a referral is received, needs are identified, appropriate volunteers are assigned, or referrals are made to other service providers. Advocacy ensures that services meet clients' needs. Services offered by LIVE include, medical transportation and housekeeping, shopping, yard work, meal preparation, personal care, respite companionship, emergency assistance

(prescriptions, incontinent supplies, nutritional supplements), and many others. The need for LIVE services increases every year, as the fastest growing segment of the population is the elderly. Two or three new requests for LIVE services are received daily, averaging 10 or 15 new requests each week. For information on how you can volunteer for LIVE, call 484-5483. Over a dozen bands have been lined up to play at the LIVE Bluegrass Festival. Groups include Jimmy Bowen and Santa Fe, Far City Boys, Lost and Found, New River, III Tyme Out, The Country Gentlemen, The Strangers, Radio Dispatch, The Cockman Family, The Nashville Bluegrass Band, Big Country Bluegrass, Southern Junction, Dewey Farmer and Powder Creek, The Hudson Family, The Bass Mountain Boys. Also appearing will be Darren Aldridge Band and Maple Ridge. See LIVE, 6A



Donald F. Jenkins III

The picture of the above senior was inadvertently omitted from the Class 2000 section in last week's Herald (due to circumstances beyond our control). The Herald regrets this error.

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