

MERGER

From 1A

"When we're going out talking to parents, we're trying to listen to the needs of the parents," she said. "We want parents to understand what they can do to help their children stay in school and make them more successful. But it has absolutely nothing to do with the merger. I was appalled that my name was used in the (Middlebrooks) report. It almost showed that I was in favor of merger."

Accor said she has already had correspondence with people in authority objecting to the use of her name, and she is going to make more contacts.

"The report was a little twisted," she said. "Things were taken out of context."

Accor said she has been to all of the Close the Gap meetings, which began in January at different churches in the county, and at most of the meetings merger hasn't even been mentioned.

"We have met with commissioners, superintendents, school board members and concerned parents," she said, "and it's never been related to school merger. For the commissioners to say they used this to merge the schools would be ludicrous."

"In my opinion this merger situation has never had anything to do with the kids. It's about buildings. It's about infrastructure. It's about everything but kids."

Accor said it's ironic that Close the Gap was mentioned in the report, but neither the commissioners (except Willie McIntosh) nor Middlebrooks have attended any of the meetings. She said the core planning group for Close the Gap met once with commissioners Charlie Harry and Jim Crawley at the commissioners' request.

"They initiated that meeting," she said. "When they said they were going to come we met with them (at Roberts Tabernacle in Shelby) to see what they were going to say. They did more telling us why

we needed merger than listening to us. Not one time did Gil Middlebrooks meet with our group."

Kings Mountain School Board member Stella Putnam, and Kings Mountain parent Holly Robinson also took issue with items in the report.

"The Close the Gap meetings I went to were not about merger," Putnam said. "In a couple of them it was not even mentioned. He (Middlebrooks) has implied that close the gap meetings were merger meetings. I don't think merger was on the agenda of the Close the Gap meetings. Their agenda was to close the achievement gap."

"To me, he's turned that around and he's also turned around the meetings that Willie McIntosh had over the county for merger discussion. Most of the comments received during Mr. McIntosh's meetings were anti-merger."

Putnam said the Close the Gap issue, as well as the redistricting issues in Middlebrooks' report need to be rebutted by parents.

"The fact that he put in there that Kings Mountain refused to redistrict and move children out of our most overcrowded schools doesn't make sense," she said. "That would have meant that we would have to bus students past our schools to go to Shelby. I thought this was the problem all along, of people driving past Shelby to go to Crest. It makes no common sense to bus our children past Bethware and Grover to send them to Shelby."

Robinson said KM Board Chairman Larry Allen hand-delivered merger alternatives to the county commissioners.

"I just don't know where he came up with that," she said. "The media would have been all over that if Kings Mountain had not participated."

Robinson also echoed Accor's and Putnam's feelings on the Close the Gap issue.

"Close the Gap doesn't have anything to do with merger," she said. "It has everything to do with closing the achievement gaps between black and white

students. The Justice Department needs to realize that our elected officials, all concerned citizens, and all community leaders were invited to these meetings. They were not meetings between the commissioners and Close the Gap."

Robinson also questioned why some maps that were requested by the Justice Department were not furnished, and why the names of business leaders and other individuals and organizations that pushed merger were not included in the report.

"The letter said we are not aware of any such reports," she said. "But this whole thing started with a letter from the county commissioners that referred to a report done by the Executive Roundtable that said kids are not ready for the workforce. I don't see how that can be overlooked. They're not going to tell the government who's on the Executive Roundtable, so they certainly wouldn't tell us."

Robinson said she has already sent three pages of information to the Justice Department rebutting the report, and she plans to send more.

"I'm just not going to sit around and let somebody run over me," she said. "If the county commissioners had gone through the proper channels from the beginning we wouldn't be able to do anything. It's their own fault that it's a problem at this point."

Grover church plans summer cook-out

Grover Church of God will hold a summer cook-out Saturday, August 12 from 6-8 p.m. at 201 North Main Street, Grover.

Hamburger plates are \$5 each and include burger, chips, dessert and drink.

Proceeds will support the Women's Ministry Benevolence Fund. Dine-in and take-out plates are available.

For more information call 937-7541.

OBITUARIES

SELENA TROTT

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Selena Parton Trott, 79, died August 7, 2000 at Wendover Hospice.

A native of Haywood

County, she was the daughter of the late High R. and Ethel Woody Parton. She grew up in Kings Mountain where she returned after attending Lenoir Rhyne College in Hickory and after her marriage to Thomas L. Trott. She was an active club woman. In 1999, she was named Woman of the Year by the Kings Mountain Woman's Club. She belonged to Open Gate Garden Club where she served as the former President and chairman of the Conservation Department. She was also an active member of the Thursday Afternoon Book Club. A long-standing member of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, she was a former circle leader and member of the Social Committee. She was a homemaker and was honored with the Paul Harris Fellow Award by Rotary Club International. Mrs. Trott was preceded in death by one brother, Lynwood Stephen Parton.



She is survived by her husband Thomas L. Trott of Kings Mountain; daughters Anne Trott Nunnery and husband Larry B. of Raleigh, and Libby Trott Blanton and husband Jerry of Kings Mountain; grandchildren Molly Blanton of Chapel Hill and Adam Blanton of Kings Mountain; niece Lynda Parton Rotter; sister in law Pauline C. Parton; also a great niece and nephew.

The funeral will be conducted Thursday at 11 a.m. at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church by Rev. James Dougherty. Burial will be in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights Road, Shelby 28150, or St. Matthews' Lutheran Church, 201 N. Piedmont Avenue, Kings Mountain 28086.

Harris Funeral Home served the family.

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Brian Camp, Deborah and David Lynch, Caroyll Camp; sisters, Edna and Bob Fortenberry, Jean Allen, Joann and Charles Daves, Raye and Aubrey Clark, Rachel and Bill Jolley; brothers, Hoyle and Katherine Camp, Jack and Barbara Camp, John and Earleen Camp, Hugh and Carolyn Camp; sisters-in-law, Irene and Louise Camp; 13 grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Keith Dixon at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Clay-Barnette Chapel in Shelby. Burial was in Pleasant Hill Baptist Church Cemetery.

MILDRED BUMGARNER

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Mildred Hawkins Bumgarner, 69, 806 Hillside Drive, died Saturday, August 5, 2000 at Kings Mountain Hospital.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late Preston Audie and Nettie Pearson Hawkins. She was the wife of the late Ira Bumgarner. She was also preceded in death by her sister, Ann Ruth Whitesides, and brother, J.B. Hawkins. She was a member of Grace United Methodist Church, and was a homemaker.

She is survived by her sons, Mark Bumgarner and wife, Debra, of Brunson, SC, and Lt. Col. Mike Bumgarner and wife, Sandra, of Ft. Bliss, TX; daughter, Angela "Dee" Fous and husband, James, of Round Rock, TX; brother, Tommy Hawkins of Kings Mountain; sisters, Betty Crawford, Etha Bumgardner, Peggy Davis, Myra Hagans, all of Kings Mountain, Lois Ellis of Grover and Linda Tignor of Shelby; and four grandchildren, Matthew Fous, Audrey Fous, Kyle Bumgarner, and Kirk Bumgarner.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Dale Swofford at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Grace United Methodist Church. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery. Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

THOMAS POST

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Thomas Willis Post, 70, 500 York Road, died Saturday, August 5, 2000 at Kings Mountain Hospital.

A native of Erie, PA, he was the son of the late Luther Post and Isa Hilliard Post. He attended Rose of Sharon Ministries in Gastonia. He was a retired security guard.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth Brown Post of the home; sons, James Post, Norman Post, and Ronald Simpson, all of Western New York State, Frank Simpson of South Carolina and Harold Post of Pennsylvania; daughters, Myrna Davis, Elaine Rink and April Kelley, all of Western New York State; step-children, Daniel Arthur Rudd, Debra Dowd, Dean Edward Rudd, and Larry Chapman, all of Kings Mountain, and Pattie Jo White of New York; 26 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Orville Hoover at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel. Burial was in

Lakeside Cemetery, North East, PA.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

FAYE STACEY

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Mrs. Faye Stacey, 73, 626 Bell Road, died August 3, 2000 at Bowman Gray.

A native of Cleveland County she was the daughter of the late Lester and Vada Champion Canipe. She was retired as a Nurse at Kings Mountain Hospital. She was a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church.

She is survived by her husband, J.B. Stacey of the home; sons and daughters-in-law, Jerry and Marie Stacey, Larry and Barbara Stacey, and Jeff and Sherry Stacey, all of Kings Mountain; brothers and sisters-in-law, Wray and Louise Canipe of Kings Mountain and Yates and Betty Green of Fallston; sisters and brother-in-law, Ruthie and Arnold Bell of Lenoir, and Hazel Canipe of Kings Mountain; 11 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be conducted by the Rev. Ron Caulder at 5 p.m. Sunday, August 13 at Oak Grove Baptist Church. Visitation will be immediately following the service.

Memorials may be made to Admore Moravian Church, 203 West Academy Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27103-3780.

MARY LANGSTON

SHELBY - Mary Lou "Lukie" McCurry Langston, 3719 Robert Riding Road, died August 8, 2000 at home.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late Robert Wilson McCurry and Maultie Jarrett McCurry. She was also preceded in death by sisters Eva McDaniel, Libby Elam, Hannah Jones, Zola Greene, Nancy Callahan, and Ellen Towery. Brothers Hoyt McCurry and Dan McCurry. She was a retired professional answering service operator and a member of Lafayette Street United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her husband of the home Herbert M. Langston, Sr.; son Herb M. Langston of Cramerton; daughter Gail Langston of Boiling Springs; brother in law Ralph Callahan of Shelby; sisters in law Frances McCurry of Columbia, S.C. and Mary Lee L. Martin of Jacksonville, Florida; granddaughter Brittanie Nicole Langston of Cramerton; also 18 nephews and 10 nieces.

The funeral will be conducted Thursday at 4 p.m. at Lafayette Street United Methodist Church by the Revs. Gervase Hitch and Bruce Bradley. Burial will be in Cleveland Memorial Park.

Memorials may be made to Lafayette Street United Methodist Church, 1420 S. Lafayette Street, Shelby, 28152, or Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights, Shelby 28150.

TROTT

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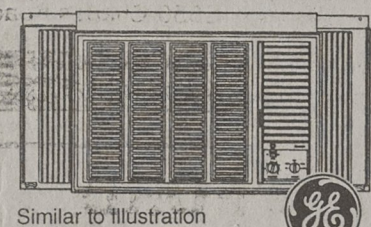
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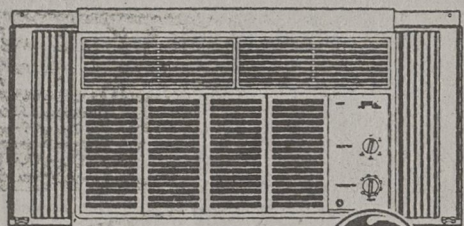


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