

Wells: Convention exciting

Cleveland County Democratic party chairman Betsy Wells attended the National Democratic Convention in Los Angeles last week. An exciting time was had by all according to her dispatches from the field.

Last Tuesday Wells says that Jesse Jackson, Senator Ted Kennedy, Caroline Kennedy and Senator Bill Bradley all gave speeches. After their presentations, Wells, and Jack and Judy Hunt, went to a reception honoring governor James B. Hunt. The reception was at the Museum of Television and

Radio in Beverly Hills. Last Wednesday Wells and two of her former Kings Mountain High School drama students, Cshediiz Coleman and Jaimie Sherrill, went with Wells' roommate and Lincoln County Democratic chairman Judy Gilbert for a tour of Los Angeles. Places they visited included Mel's Diner, Ming Theater, and views of the homes of several Hollywood stars.

That evening, Wells saw Senator Joe Lieberman and his wife Hadassah introduced to the convention as well as the

roll call which nominated Al Gore for President.

Thursday, Wells joined the North Carolina delegation for breakfast at the Universal Hilton where they spoke with Gov. Hunt and N.C. democratic Chairman Barbara Allen. The afternoon was again spent with Coleman and Sherrill on a trip to Malibu Beach.

Thursday evening, the convention heard speeches by several dignitaries including Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Andrew Cuomo, Kweisi McFume of the NAACP, and Senator Tom Harkin of

Iowa. Later, Senator John Breaux officially nominated Lieberman for Vice President. Gore and his wife once again appeared before the convention.

Following the convention's conclusion, Wells said she was interviewed by C-SPAN about her response to Gore's speech.

"The week at the National Democratic Convention was the most exciting week of my entire life," Wells said. "I was very appreciative of the opportunity to represent Cleveland County at the history making event."

RELAY

From 1A

prostate cancer.

"A girl from the American Cancer Society came to City Hall to meet with some of the key people from the city about beginning a Relay for Life here," he recalled. "It just so happened that it was on the very day that my father had his first treatment. Fire Chief Frank Burns volunteered me to be the chairman."

Neely and others also pointed out that they were greatly inspired by Joe Smith, a civic and business leader who lost a courageous fight against cancer earlier this year.

"Joe fought cancer very bravely and very dignified," Neely said. "He lost his battle to cancer but he will live in our hearts forever."

"Cancer affects us all," he added. "It knows no boundaries. But someday we're going to look back at cancer like we do polio. It's going to be a thing of the past."

Joni Smith-Wilson, Joe Smith's daughter, also spoke of her father's courageous battle and urged everyone in attendance to keep the fight going.

"It's wonderful to have a Joe Smith Relay," she said, "because, in a way, he was every man. He enjoyed being just Joe. And it's the Joe Smiths and the Browns and the Joneses that fight every day to find a cure for this disease. It's everyone's battle. It's something he fought for until the day he died."

Smith-Wilson recalled that her father always spoke to his children about "do wells,"

things that everyone can and should do.

"He'd always say 'you'd do well to do this,'" she noted.

"But he always told us you have to pick your battles. You want to fix every problem, but you can't pick every battle and win. You have to pick your battle and then fight it with all you've got."

"There's a cure for cancer already out there," she added. "We're not raising money to find a cure but so the cure can come to us - so that all the powers that be can give it to us."

"We can beat this disease. All we need is money. Daddy wanted to be able to beat this in his lifetime. But he would be happy to know that all of his friends are working to beat cancer in the lifetime of his children and grandchildren."

"Some of the younger people will see it," added Neely.

"People my age may not see it, but it's on its way."

Mayor Rick Murphrey pointed out that he has seen both sides of the disease. His father, has been "cancer clean" for 10 years, but his wife's father lost his battle.

"You do a lot of praying and a lot of crying," Murphrey said.

Murphrey said he was proud to live in a community like Kings Mountain - a "caring community and a loving community."

Many cancer survivors were on hand to walk the first lap of the Saturday morning Relay. Rev. Ron Caulder, pastor of David Baptist Church, probably summed up all of their feelings when he said "I am a cancer survivor and I praise God for it and I pray that others will never have to deal with it."

OPINION

Parents group needs support

To the editor:

Save Our Schools, a group of parents actively fighting the forced merger of Cleveland County Schools, is appealing to the citizens of Kings Mountain and Cleveland County for financial support in carrying on the battle.

This group was formed in April by concerned parents who simply thought the merger issue too important not to fight. The group hired Lou Lesene of Charlotte as attorney, and currently has actions pending in Gaston County Superior Court and in the State Office of Administrative Hearings. Members of the group have also been especially active in opposing preclearance by the Justice Department, sending several hundred pages of documentation to the agency.

Although things have been relatively quiet lately, the fight is far from over. Save Our Schools has already paid several thousand dollars in legal fees, but continuing community support is necessary to carry on the battle.

Contributions may be sent to Save Our Schools, c/o First Union, 125 South Battleground Avenue, Kings Mountain, NC 28086
Jerry Ledford

Nikki Childers first runner-up in Global American Pageant

Ashley Nicole "Nikki" Childers of Grover recently traveled to Columbia, South Carolina and participated in the Jr. Miss Division of the Global America Pageant where she was awarded first runner-up.

A 14-year-old ninth grade student at Kings Mountain Middle School, Childers earned the N.C. State Banner and crown based on her high standards in academics, student life, and service to the community and world.

An example of this attitude is the fact that Childers recently spent two weeks in Suriname, South America where she worked in an eye clinic in the interior. The clinic was operated by a group of missionaries from the Broad River Baptist Association of South Carolina. For her efforts in this project, Childers was awarded a certificate by the Foreign Missions Board. She has also attended three prior mission trips to West Virginia where she worked in Camp Jerry, a place where troubled youth are taken for the



NIKKI CHILDERS

summer and ministered to by volunteers.

At the pageant in Columbia, Childers competed in several competitions. She won the interview competition based largely on her achievements and experiences overseas. Childers also caught the attention of "Time Stoppers" photog-

raphy agency of Rock Hill. She was chosen as their Cover Model and has had a photo session with prospects for more in the future.

The Global America Pageant's platform is Breast Cancer Awareness, and it is a nonprofit organization whose proceeds are donated to the South Carolina Comprehensive Breast Cancer Center in Columbia. Childers recently lost her grandmother to cancer and has a heightened awareness of the importance of the need for testing, treatment and research funding.

Childers is a member of Mount Whitaker Baptist Church in Blacksburg. She gave her testimony as the reigning Jr. Miss N.C. Global America at Blacksburg's recent Fourth of July celebration. She plans to attend the "Walk of Life" event to be held in Columbia on October 15 for breast cancer awareness. She is the daughter of Wynn and Della Childers of Grover and granddaughter of Joe and the late Reba Fortenberry of Grover and Richard and Peggy Yarborough of Kings Mountain.

Bumgardner earns degree

Rae Bumgardner of Kings Mountain earned a Bachelor of Science in Graphic Arts and

Imaging Technology during the summer term at Appalachian State University.

Kings Mountain Weather Report

(Compiled by Kenneth Kitzmiller)

	Aug. 16-22	Year Ago
Total precipitation	.40	.41
Maximum 1 day	.24 (18th)	.31 (20th)
Year to date	32.72	24.11
Low temperature	60 (22nd)	68 (20th)
High temperature	97 (18th)	100 (18th)
Avg. temperature	77.0	82.1

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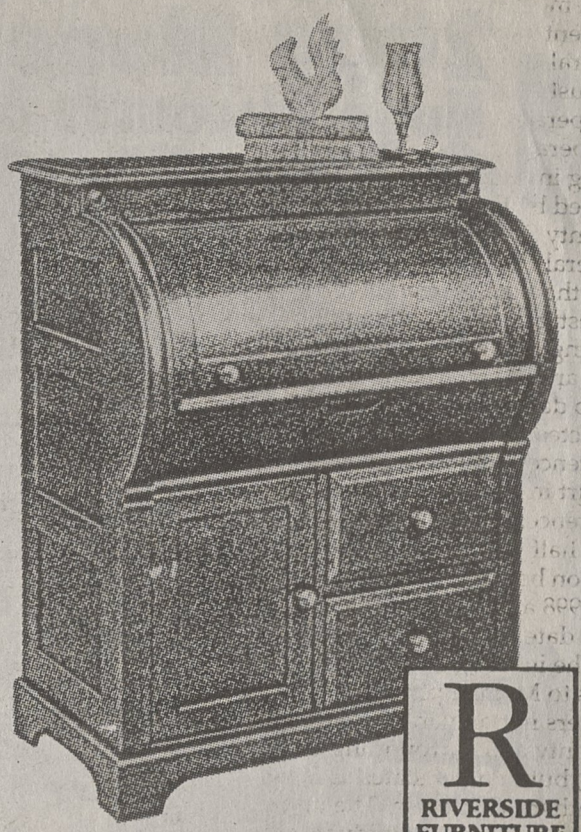
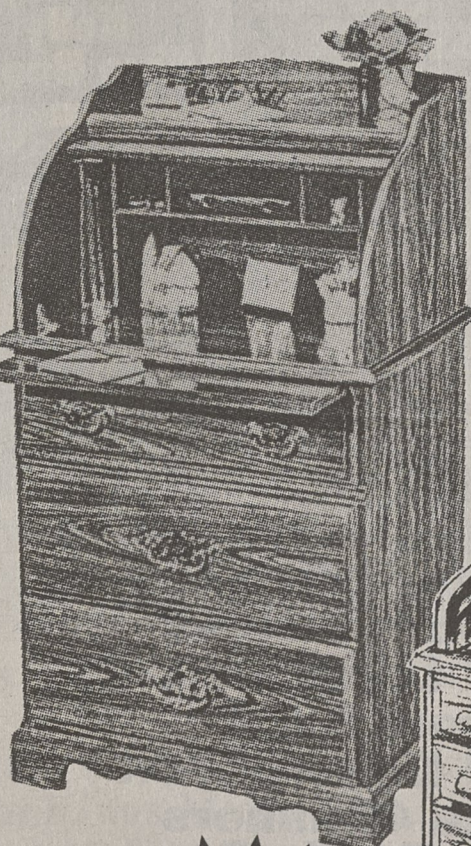
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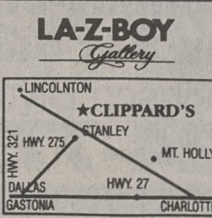
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