

BRUTKO

From 1A

"So I went riding and found this house that had been condemned. I told her it could be fixed up beautifully," she said.

Carpenters came over and completely restored the house.

"We saved the beautiful structure, it's got a lot of personality and it makes a great gift shop," she said.

Saving a house from condemnation was only one of the things that has sparked her interest in preservation.

"I used to visit a lot of other areas," she said. "I always wondered why Kings Mountain didn't have more historic situations. Because I felt like we were the perfect spot for all that but we didn't have any of it," she said.

The first event she worked on that dealt with history in the city was the tour of homes. Brutko and Margaret Ledford coordinated the first tour.

After taking a job with the Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce, Brutko knew of other possibilities for preservation and community development.

She had worked on the gazebo in what's now the city's Patriot's Park. The downtown gazebo has been the home to several concerts and activities.

"The opportunity was there for me to help with that project," she said. "I really enjoyed being able to help put that together

and get that going."

One project that has been keeping her busy is the Barber Cabin.

The cabin was donated by Kings Mountain resident Toby Williams to the Kings Mountain Historical Museum.

The cabin, which is believed to be about 200 years old, will be rebuilt on property behind the historical museum on Piedmont Avenue.

Logs from a second cabin already taken down will be used to fill in holes with the Barber Cabin. The second cabin was on Dixon School Road.

Foundation work was expected to start at the Piedmont Avenue site Friday.

Community development and historical preservation are not the only projects Brutko spends time on.

She's involved with her family, such as helping her oldest daughter Ashley with her children, numerous organizations in the county and artwork.

Brutko continues a career as an artist and has done note cards for Cleveland County.

She believes two things will add to a community.

"I absolutely adore antiques and old homes," Brutko said. "I feel like it gives your town such character to have these preserved."

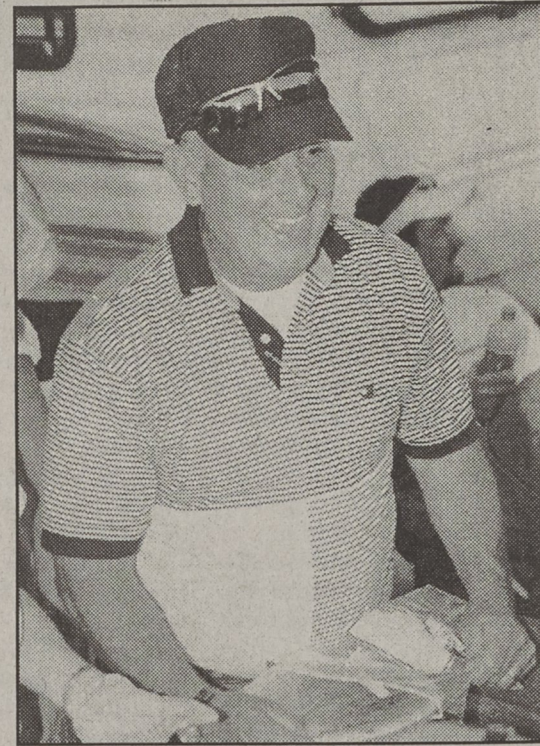
Without the character, a small town could lose part of its heritage, she said.

"It's great for education for children to be able to see what we used to have and how we used to make it and build it," she said.

"Without it you just lose a whole lot of your flavor—especially in a small town."



Cancer survivor Harriet Coffey and Joyce Roark share a hug at Friday's Relay for Life while Bob Myers of the First Baptist Church cooking team gives service with a smile



The number of walking teams this year was down to 32 from 34 a year ago, but Roark said most of the teams had more people walking.

"That's what we really shot for, other than setting a money goal," she said. "We had committees and teams that worked very hard."

Once again, David Baptist Church led in money raised. The church has already topped last year's \$9,000 record and has another fund raiser slated for June 22 which they hope will put them over the \$10,000 mark.

"They had to postpone a barbecue dinner Memorial Day weekend because of a shortage of meat," Roark explained. "Hopefully on June 22 they will be bringing in some more money. Plus, they still have their raffle of four VIP tickets to Sea World and a one-night stay in Williamsburg, VA." That drawing will be held on the day of the barbecue.

David's "See A World Without Cancer" camp site was voted tackiest camp site and also shared the most creative camp site with Christian Freedom Baptist Church's "Stepping Stone for a Blooming Cure."

The Central United Methodist Church "Boot Camp" camp site, manned almost entirely by young people, won the most spirited site. The Central youth also put out hundreds of luminaries that lit the entire track in memory and in honor of cancer victims.

Autumn Malpass, a fourth grade student at Bethware School, and Rev. Jody Griffin, pastor of David Baptist Church, were voted the Queen and King of the Relay. They are both cancer survivors who also participated in the survivor's lap with approximately 100 other area cancer survivors including Christine Morrison, who has been a survivor for 26 years.

Harriett Coffey, popular former disc jockey for Charlotte's Magic 96.1, got the Relay off to an exciting start at the 6 p.m. opening ceremonies. She told of her battle with cancer and urged the participants to live a positive, stress-free lifestyle.

"Prevention is the key to beating cancer," she said. "Take care of yourself. I never felt

any pain."

Coffey said she noticed her naval was getting big, but thought she had developed a hernia from doing sit-ups. When she went to the doctor, the diagnosis was that she had a hernia and she was scheduled for what she thought would be a routine, one-hour outpatient surgery.

But when the surgeons cut into her, she noted, "a mucous substance spewed out like a fountain," and after she woke up from the four-hour operation she learned that there was a tumor on her appendix that was spreading into her abdominal region.

A second, 12-hour surgery was scheduled two months later "and they took so many parts I could start a parts store."

"And I never felt any pain," she said.

Her malignancy reading that was an unusually high 26 went to .02 after surgery and chemo, and now she said she has a "clean bill of health."

"I thank God for that," she said. "I do believe in the power of prayer. I felt all along there was something besides doctors helping me."

Coffey also related how she lost her job at the Charlotte radio station because of downsizing, and how relieving stress had benefited her health.

"I loved what I did and didn't know I was under that much stress," she said. "But when I was let go my health improved."

She said she holds no resentment toward her company, and tries hard not to ever be angry about anything. "I just let it go," she said.

A Type II diabetic, Coffey said she has seen her blood sugar drop from nearly 400 to 114, and her blood pressure from 212/110 to 110/65.

"I don't recommend unemployment for anyone, but everything happens for a reason," she said.

"Cancer feeds off stress and negativity," she said. "Imagine what happens to your health when you are angry. Don't do anything out of negativity, but let it go."

"Do what you can to stay away from stress and negativity."

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