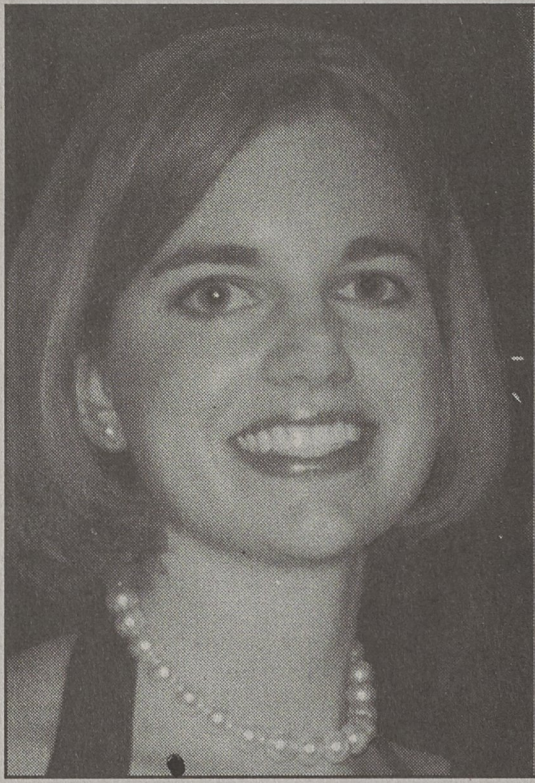


■ ENGAGEMENT

■ PEOPLE



SARAH KATHERINE BOONE
(Bride-elect of Mitchell Tucker Brown)

Boone-Brown

Mr. and Mrs. William Thomas Boone Jr. of Washington, NC announce the engagement of their daughter, Sarah Katherine Boone of Raleigh, to Mitchell Tucker Brown of Elizabeth City. He is the son of Mrs. Merrill Tucker Brown Griffin of Greenville, NC and the late William Henry Brown.

Sarah Katherine is the granddaughter of Mrs. John Oates Plonk Jr. of Kings Mountain and the late Mr. Plonk, and Mrs. William Thomas Boone of Winston Salem and the late Mr. Boone. Tucker is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. William Franklin Tucker Jr. of Charlotte, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Dalton Brown of Robersonville.

The wedding is planned for October 9, 2004 at First United Methodist Church in Washington, NC.

Thelma Hicks, 90, loves living in a 'country town'

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

After moving from Chapel Hill to Kings Mountain in midlife, Thelma Hicks has made this western North Carolina town her home.

"I love to live in Kings Mountain. I have a lot of friends here," she said.

Mrs. Hicks describes Kings Mountain as a country town where "people have time to say a few words, not like being in the city. You don't know your next door neighbor."

When her employer, Craftspun, a textile mill, moved operations from Chapel Hill to Kings Mountain's Second Street, management asked workers to relocate temporarily to train new workers. Initially she did not like the town, returning to Chapel Hill every weekend.

After women from Kings Mountain Baptist invited her to get active in their church and a co-worker encouraged community involvement, Mrs. Hicks found a place for herself.

"Now it's just home," she said. "I wouldn't trade places with it for another."

When she retired at age 62, Mrs. Hicks sought another job, this time as site manager for the newly formed senior meals program operating out of the depot.

"The healthiest thing in the

world is to work" she said.

Before Mrs. Hicks could be hired she had to earn a General Equivalency Diploma. Despite anxiety, she took the test at Cleveland Community College and passed on her first attempt.

Mrs. Hicks' second career began in the spring of 1976. She ran the program and sometimes helped cook the meals along with Audrey Webster and Isabelle Ellis. Volunteers also helped out.

"We worked but we had a good time together, like a big family," Mrs. Hicks said. The job paid less than textiles but was more enjoyable.

"There was not a lot of money in it but there's more to life than money."

While she admires the new Patrick Center, Mrs. Hicks misses the homey atmosphere at the former building.

After 22 years as site director, she retired because of vision problems. Botched surgery damaged her left eye but did not slow her down. Then a hemorrhage took her right eye.

"I lost driving and everything all at once," Mrs. Hicks said.

Continuing to adapt, she now uses a magnifying device which enables her to read mail and books from her television screen. She calls the machine a "life saver."

A walker keeps her mobile.

Mrs. Hicks' Sunday school teacher cut out cloth squares and friends thread needles for her. She sews to relieve hand stiffness.

Mrs. Hicks turned 90 late last month. Looking back, she says Chapel Hill has changed dramatically. She remembers as a child traveling through the town in a wagon with her grandmother. Stores had hitching posts for horses. The campus was tiny compared to today.

"You go there today, you don't know anybody," she said.

Many students rented rooms from local residents. Sports were not center stage and students were not known for loud parties.

"When I was growing up you didn't do things like that," she said.

Her advice to today's youth is to decide career goals early, base that decision on work that is personally interesting and get as much education as possible.

"If you don't have an education, you're in bad shape," she said. "You've got to have it. You used to could get by without it."

Mrs. Hicks' children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews hosted a party for her at granddaughter Linda Dellinger's home.

"It was very nice. We had a good time," she said.



THELMA HICKS

Her children include Dickie Burgess and Margie Lawrence, both of Kings Mountain, Pete Burgess of Blacksburg, S.C., Doris Chamblee of Shallotte, the late Lib Green and the late Steve Hicks.

Her grandchildren include Patsy Leigh, Brenda Wells, Linda Dellinger, Junior Green, Donnie Burgess, Rusty Burgess, Lonnie Burgess, William Howard, Lisa Andrews and DeShon Hicks.

She has 11 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Deadline for Lifestyles news

Lifestyles items include weddings, engagements, anniversaries, birthdays, club news, church news and community news.

Deadline for information and articles is 12 noon on Monday. Items received after dead-

line may run in other parts of the paper if time and space permit.

When holidays or other reasons make it necessary for the paper to publish a day early the deadline is Friday at 12 noon.

Hilda Goforth turns 90

Hilda Goforth was honored on her 90th birthday Sunday, March 28 at the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life and Conference Center.

The buffet luncheon was attended by 150 of her family and friends.

The party was hosted by her three children and their spouses, Rick and Vicky Goforth of Midlothian, VA, Tom and Monica Goforth of La Platta, MD, and Sonya and Gerald Lovelace of Kings Mountain.

Mrs. Goforth has seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren. She is a retired teacher and has been active in various capacities in the community.

She attended Asheville



HILDA GOFORTH

Normal College (ASNC) and graduated from Appalachian State

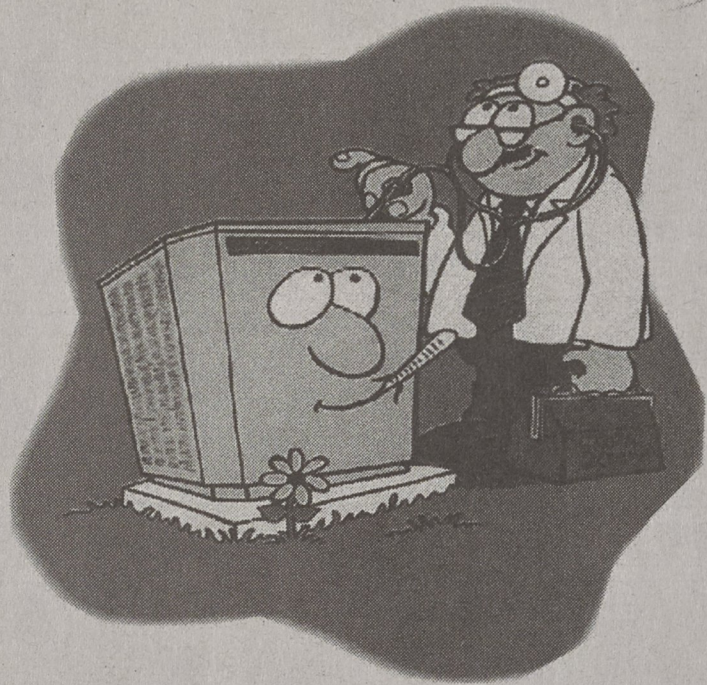
University with a degree in education. She taught fourth and fifth grade in Gastonia and at West Elementary School in Kings Mountain, where she retired in 1979.

She is a member of First Presbyterian Church in Kings Mountain where she has served as Sunday School teacher and Assistant Sunday School Superintendent. She recently was recognized for receiving her 54-year perfect Sunday School attendance pin.

She is a member of the DAR, where she has served as Regent, Vice Regent, Secretary, Treasurer and Chaplain. She served several terms as President of American Legion Auxiliary

See Goforth, 3B

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