

## LOCAL

## KM author releases book on local history at library's exhibit Sat.

EMILY WEAVER

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The Mauney Memorial Library will open a new exhibit "Rhythm of the Factory: Life and Labor in North Carolina's Textile Mill Communities" at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, August 23, with a book signing and presentation from Tom Shytle about his new publication "Carolina Roots: From Whence I Came."

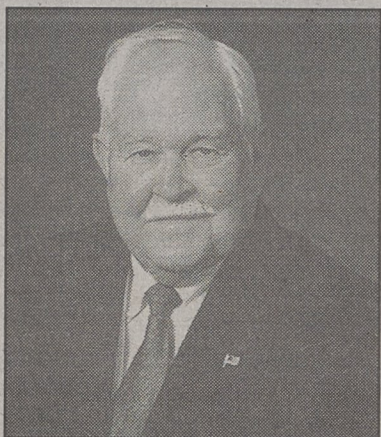
Have you ever wondered what it was like to grow up in one of the several mill villages that surrounded Kings Mountain back in textile's hey-day? Have you ever heard tales of swimming in the WPA hole here in KM?

Well these tales and more are tucked into the pages of Shytle's new book. "Carolina Roots: From Whence I Came," gives readers a unique glance at the stories behind history.

Most of the tales are not likely to be documented in schoolroom history books. But as colorful as they may seem, they are real observations of a boy, who grew up in the throes of the Great Depression; a boy, who hoped to be a man so he could join the other men, who left home to beat the Nazis in World War II; and a man who had the chance to fight and the opportunity to change his perceived roles in life.

Shytle grew up in the mountains of North Carolina and in the Park Yarn Mill Village near Kings Mountain. In personal recollections, he recalls life in the mill village and working at the mill along with his father and mother, in the book. These accounts of local history tie in to the library's new exhibit.

Shytle's new book, which will be available at the opening ceremony, centers around the circumstances



TOM SHYTLE

and note-worthy memories which helped shape him, the community, the state and the nation over the past 75 years.

According to librarian Margot Plonk, "The textile industry in Piedmont North Carolina was among the first to feel the ripple effect of the stock market crash in October 1929. The author was barely a year old in 1933 when his family was forced by events, over which they had no control, to leave the cotton mill where they worked and relocate to the mountains of Western NC. Economic conditions there were even worse.

"By 1939 war was already raging in Europe and the mills were flooded with orders to produce fabrics for the military. When the author was seven his family moved back to the mill village; to much better conditions. His story is about his experiences while growing up on a cotton mill village followed by a career in the US Air Force. From the Great Depression to the 21st century his story includes the sociological, political, and economic dynamics of that period; and his personal reaction to the evolution that shaped our world during the last seventy-five years."

For more information about the book-signing or exhibit, call 704-739-2371.

## OBITUARIES

## TONI ERNST LAWSON

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Toni Ernst Lawson, 44, of 201 Linwood Road, died August 12, 2008. She was born in Cleveland County.

She was daughter of the late Odrey Ernst and Pauline Dotson Ernst. She was a homemaker.

She is survived by sons, Brent Lawson and Craig Lawson, both of Kings Mountain; brother, Robert Ernst of Kings Mountain; sisters, Martha Scism and husband Bruce, Sue Ernst, and Roxanne McDonald, all of Kings Mountain; and grandchild, Mikaylah Griffin.

The graveside service was held at 4 p.m. Friday, August 15, 2008 at Mountain Rest Cemetery, followed by interment.

A guest register is available at [www.HarrisFunerals.com](http://www.HarrisFunerals.com)

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

## WILLIAM SCHOFIELD, JR.

GROVER - William Harding Schofield, Jr., 56, of 121 Ayers Road, died August 18, 2008 at his home after a long battle with brain cancer.

He was born in Providence, RI. He was a truck driver and served in the United States Navy in 1969.

He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Julie Andrews of Grover; parents, William and Rachel Zaccininni Schofield of Lincoln, RI; sons, Vincent Andrews and wife Regina of the U.S. Army and Cody Andrews of Grover; daughter, Tara Darity and husband Nate of Inman, SC; brother, David Schofield of Pawtucket, RI; sister, Norma Gendron and husband Jeff of North Scituate, RI; and seven grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, August 21, 2008 at Salisbury National Cemetery, Salisbury, NC. The family will receive visitors from 10-11:30 a.m. prior to the service on Thursday at Harris Funeral Home.

Interment will follow at Salisbury National Cemetery, 501 Statesville Road, Salisbury, NC.

A guest register is available at [www.HarrisFunerals.com](http://www.HarrisFunerals.com)

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY BUD MEDLIN

Cynthia Joyce Biddix, a Kings Mountain native, passed away at the age of 81 on August 3, 2008 in Fla. In addition to daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren, she is survived by her brother, Bud Medlin of Kings Mountain.

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