



Photographs contributed by Bill Gattis

Seen here are the members of the Hammerheads Club. On the back row are Lewis Reynolds, Tom Beaty, John Gattis, Paul Flowers, Doug Johnson, Ed Beaty and Bob Roberts. In the middle are Oliver Green, Pinky McRae, Richard Reynolds, Reid Gardner, Bill Gattis, Delmar Kimray and Bruce Cowan. And in the front are Bob Rumpfelt, Presley Barefoot, Boyd Moose and Floyd Horne.



The girls also had an informal club. In the 1940's, Jean Hager, Irene Green, Ramona Panell and Dorothy Kimray posed for this photograph.



The same girlfriends also got together for a recent reunion. From the left are Ramona Panell Barefoot, Dot Kimray Gattis, Irene Green Cook and Jean Hager Lloyd. All stay in touch, just like in the old days

Hammerheads' Clubhouse

A favorite haunt for many an East Belmont boy

By THOMAS LARK

BELMONT—It's a bit like a story from the pen of Mark Twain.

It was a time of fellowship and fun in the '40's. It was the Hammerheads Club. And according to Bill Gattis of Belmont, this informal boys' organization was a big part of life in East Belmont's Aberfoyle Mill Village, and its modest clubhouse was a favorite haunt for many a lad.

Gattis, now 83, recently recalled his days as a young man in the group.

"We were a bunch of hammerheads," he said with a laugh, "just hammerheaded

kids. That's where the name came from."

The late Floyd Horne, an older gentleman, was the boys' adviser. From him came the club's name, and it stuck.

Gattis recalled being a 20-year-old U.S. Merchant Marine back in 1947. His late brother, John, was about 16 at the time. That year, the brothers posed for a group picture with their friends and fellow club members.

Both the Gattis boys enjoyed being in the Hammerheads. The group, founded in 1942, met in a small building in East Belmont, built by the members' parents and located not far from the

Catawba River. That building is now gone, along with the mill village, too, for the most part. But the memories linger on.

Gattis and friend Pinky McRae are the only survivors of what was once a big group of guys. Sixty-three years ago, about 20 boys and young men were members, all enjoying crafts, birthday parties, swimming in the Catawba and of course, just plain fellowship and fun.

"We were just a bunch of boys on the Aberfoyle Mill Village who wanted to get together," Gattis recalled. "We all lived on the mill village."

Gattis' wife, the former Dorothy Kimray, remembered those days as an idyllic time.

"The Aberfoyle Mill Village was one of the best," she said, recalling a playground with swings, a snack stand, fish-fry events, a portable picture screen that was the same size as the ones in the movie houses and a whole lot more. "We had a good growing up."

Mrs. Gattis said the village contained about 100 houses that were homes to some 500 people. And in one of them, just two doors down from her own house, lived the Gattis family.

"I didn't have to go too

far for a date!" her husband noted with a chuckle. "And I had the excuse of going over to her house so I could see her brother, my friend, Delmar Kimray."

The son of the late Archie and Rebecca Gattis and the daughter of the late Lester and Daisy Kimray were childhood sweethearts. From their early teens, they were inseparable. And in 1948, they were married.

The Gattises would go on to have twin sons, David and Daniel, and a daughter, Donna Craig.

Bill Gattis is well known as a veteran bluegrass picker. He has played the banjo in several local bands over the course of many years. He even builds his own banjos, double basses, Appalachian dulcimers and other instruments.

A good life

The Gattises are proud to be East Belmont folks. A

tranquil childhood on the mill village prepared them for successful lives as adults.

"We've had a good life," Mrs. Gattis observed, looking around at the many plants in her sunroom.

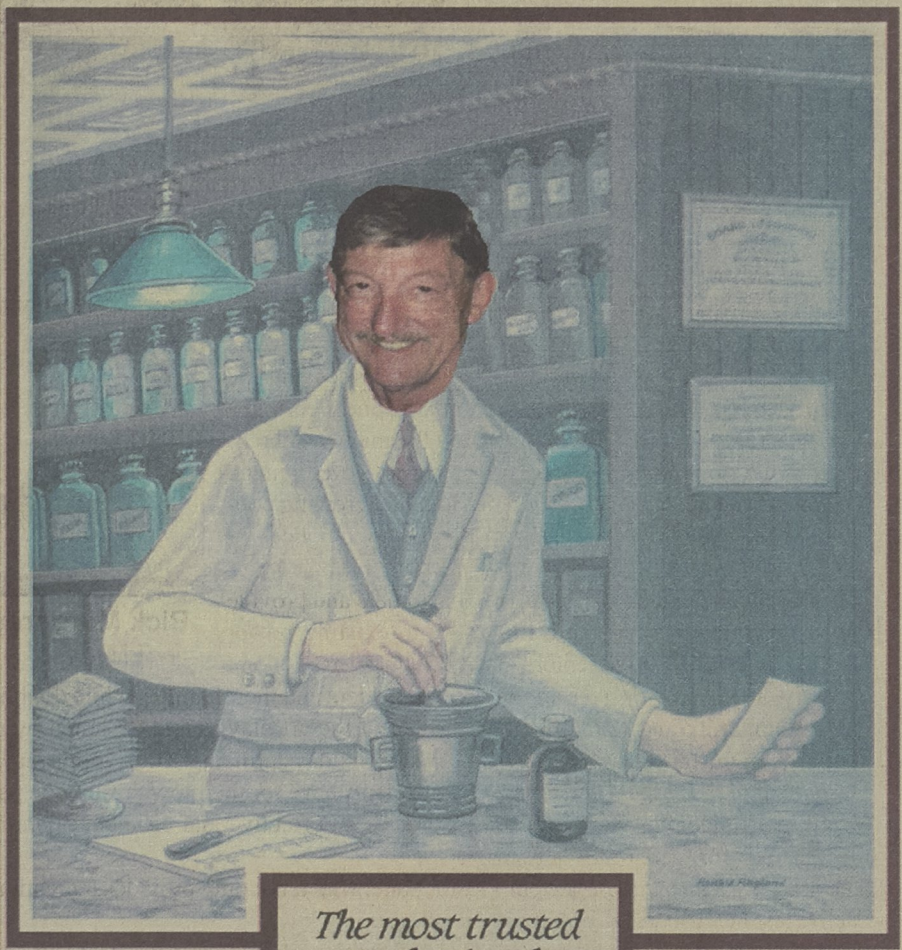
"People uptown envied us," her husband said of his fellow villagers. "I guess it was because we enjoyed such a closeness."

His wife recalled how talented her mother was. The late Mrs. Kimray was quite a seamstress.

"Mom would see dresses in store windows uptown," she said, "and she could then go and make dresses for us, just like the ones she had seen."

Dot Gattis added that her girlfriends also had their own informal club when they were growing up. Unlike the Hammerheads, theirs had no name. Trips to the mountains and to lakes White and Waccamaw were among the girls' activities.

See CLUB on Page 6A



The most trusted professional.

In "Doc's" day, they called him a druggist. Today, they're known as pharmacists. But, one thing hasn't changed. Pharmacists are still the most trusted of all professionals. Today, drugstores are vastly different from "Doc's" corner store. They may be large and high-tech with computers. And there are as many women as men behind the counter. But, today's pharmacists care as much for patients' well-being as "Doc" did. They serve our most important human need - our health. Stop in and see Harold Bolick and his staff for all your health care needs.

Since 1919

GRIFFIN DRUG CENTER

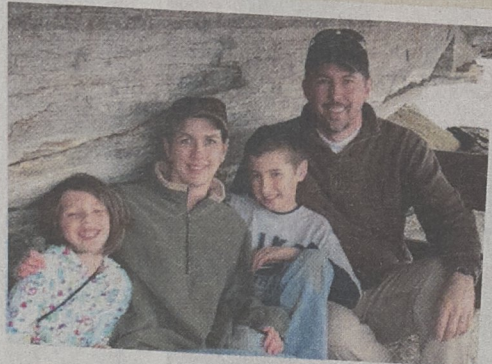
129 Mountain Street, Kings Mountain, NC 28086

704-739-4721

YOUR CHILD DESERVES A SPECIAL DENTIST...

At **YOUNG & ASSOCIATES**, Dr. Pauline Cahill takes pride in providing:

- Capability in calming your anxious or fearful child
- A child-friendly environment
- Cosmetic solutions for your children



Josie, Wendy, Cole, & David Clary

"Dr. Pauline Cahill is our children's dentist! We trust her to take the best care of them and they just love her. Thank you for putting our children's care first."

For an appointment, call
704-482-7986

1429 N. Lafayette St.
Shelby, NC 28150



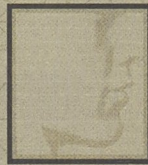
EUGENE YOUNG
DDS, FAGD



PAULINE CAHILL
DDS



BRENTON YOUNG
DDS



YOUNG & ASSOCIATES
COSMETIC DENTAL DESIGN • GENERAL DENTISTRY

SHELBYFAMILYDENTIST.COM 704-482-7986