

John Dilling - a KM sports icon

As a young lad back in the late fifties and early sixties some of my favorite moments were spent in C.H. "Cat" Houser's old Mountain Lanes Bowling Center which was located on Battleground Avenue just below where Cleveland Music is now.

Those were the days of pin boys and you could bowl either tenpins or duckpins.

The second year (1965) that I worked for the Herald I joined the local mixed duckpin league. I wasn't any good but was fortunate enough to be placed on a team with some good bowlers like Jenny Oates and Clarence Plonk and we won the league championship.

The best thing about bowling wasn't winning the league title. It was meeting a lot of good men and women and being amazed by the tal-

ent of the really good bowlers like those mentioned above and others like Albert Brackett, Ronnie, Clyde and Richard Culbertson, Lib Gault and Bob Herndon.

And John Dilling.

John was a lanky left-hander who bowled hard and kept those pin boys dodging the flying ducks. He had the knack of throwing the ball about a third of the way down the lane and softly landing it on the floor. He was not just one of the best bowlers in Kings Mountain but one of the best in the nation. In those days duckpin bowling alleys were plentiful in the south. But as the years wore on they became almost as extinct as the dinosaur.

When downtown revitalization came to Kings Mountain in the 1970s, Houser's bowling alley was

purchased and torn down. It could have spelled the end of the sport in Kings Mountain but John Dilling and other dedicated bowlers took it upon themselves to save the sport.

Before demolition of the building they tore apart the lanes and salvaged all the pins and the automatic pin setters that had replaced the pin boys, and stored them for awhile in the basement of the building next door that once housed the Ford dealership.

League bowling was suspended for awhile until the



GARY STEWART
Sports Editor



John Dilling bowling at Mountain Lanes.

new Dilling Heating building was constructed on York Road. Then, the bowlers moved the equipment to Dilling's basement and re-

assembled it and Kings Mountain's bowling tradition continued.

Even the Mountain Lanes Bowling Center sign was

salvaged and placed above the lanes at their new location, which is now the only duckpin bowling alley in

SOMEWHERE, 6A

The late Chief will be missed



This 1982 photo shows JD Barrett, former KM Police chief, filling up a squad car.

The late Jackie Dean (JD) Barrett loved retirement more than anyone I know except my brother, Gary, who still covers all sports activities for The Herald and loves emailing his stories to Editor Emily Weaver so that he can hit the golf course and/or go fishing.

Barrett retired as Kings Mountain Chief of Police in 1987 at age 55 and by all accounts in retirement has enjoyed his hobbies: fishing, hunting, cooking, gardening and he put up some of the best beet pickles you ever tasted. He and his wife haven't missed many reunions with his Navy buddies.

Former retired Police Chief Houston Corn, now a

city councilman, joined the city police force when Barrett was a lieutenant. "Jackie served the city most of his life, he was a good person to work with, fair to employees and fair to the public," said Corn.

"I always enjoyed my time with Jackie," said Mayor Rick Murphrey who occasionally joined Barrett and others on fishing and hunting trips. "Jackie could tell some of the best stories," said the mayor who called Jackie (JD) a people person who cared for his associates and loved his church, his family, and the Kings Mountain community.

Fire Chief Frank Burns said Barrett will be missed. Since 1971 Barrett was sec-

retary-treasurer of the firemen's relief fund which created a supplementary retirement fund for Kings Mountain firemen. Firemen looked forward to their friend Jackie dropping by the station. A volunteer fireman for 25 years, Barrett was active in American Legion Post 155, Veterans of Foreign Wars Frank B. Glass Post, AMVETS and Fairview Masonic Lodge 339 AF&AM.



Lib Stewart
Staff Writer

REMEMBERING, 6A

OBITUARIES

JD Barrett

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Jackie Dean "JD" Barrett, 202 Park Dr., passed away Saturday,

April 2, 2011 at Kings Mountain Hospital.

He was born in Cleveland County, NC, to the late Theodore Ralph Barrett and Daisy Parrish Barrett Queen.

JD served his country, community, and church throughout his entire life. He served in the US Navy during the Korean War, was a career Kings Mountain Police officer who rose through the ranks to become Chief of Police, retiring as Chief after 31 years of service. He served as a volunteer fireman with the Kings Mountain Fire Department and was elected to the Kings Mountain City Council.

An active member of First Presbyterian Church, he served as a former deacon and was a member of the Goforth Men's Bible Class.

JD was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting and fishing through all seasons. He was a member of the American Legion, AMVETS, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Fairview Masonic Lodge; a loving husband, father and grandfather.

Surviving are his wife of 56 years, Arlene Schneider Barrett of their Kings Mountain home, originally from Corydon, Ind.; daughter, Cheryl Barrett Butler and husband Randy Butler of Kings Mountain; son, David Dean Barrett and wife Carol Fleming Barrett of Weaverville, NC; and grandson, Morgan Alexander Barrett of Weaverville.

The graveside service with Kings Mountain Police Honor Guard and Masonic Rites was held at 3 p.m. Tuesday, April 5, at Mountain Rest Cemetery. Rev. Lee Thomas, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, officiated, interment following in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

The memorial service was held at 4 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. Rev. Lee Thomas officiated.

The family received friends immediately following the memorial service at First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall and other times at the home of the daughter, Cheryl Butler, 813 Katherine Avenue, Kings Mountain.

Memorials may be made to First Presbyterian Church "Senior Fund", PO Box 1188, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

A guest register is available at www.HarrisFunerals.com

Harris Funeral Home, Kings Mountain, was in charge of arrangements.

Harris Funeral Home

Sarah 'Sis' Jones

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Sarah Hamrick "Sis" Jones, 88, resident of 106 Wateroak Street, died Friday, April 1, 2011 at Kings Mountain Hospital.

She was born in Rock Hill, SC on January 9, 1923 to the late Guthrie Hamrick and Dora Allen Hamrick.

She was also preceded in death by her husband, Clarence W. Jones, brothers, Frank Hamrick, Fred Hamrick, George Hamrick and sister, Mary Spearman.

She grew up in Kings Mountain and spent her working career in several firms there. She lived in what is now the Margrace Mill Historical District for over 70 years and was a passionate advocate for her friends and neighbors in that area.

She was a member of First Presbyterian Church, Kings Mountain, and retired from the textile industry. She was a gardener extraordinaire and loved cats. Blessed with many friends and work colleagues in Kings Mountain.

tain, Sarah was passionate about her work standards, her constant group of kittens, her flowers, and her vegetable gardens. She could make anything grow.

She is survived by her son, Billie W. Jones and wife Ann Broadwater Jones of Chapel Hill; two grandchildren, Geoffrey Jones of New Britain, CT, and Brian Jones and wife Mandy Burnett of Chesterfield, VA; four great grandchildren, Sarah Jones and Aaron Jones of New Britain, CT, and Benjamin Jones and Andrew Jones of Chesterfield, VA.

She is also survived by her nieces, Frankie Webster, Ann Hall and Jonnye Hamrick, all of Kings Mountain, Jo Merrell and husband Chad of Greensboro, Sara Colledge and husband Michael of Ormond Beach, Fla.; nephews, Eddie Hamrick and wife Donna of Kings Mountain and Chuck Spearman and wife Maggie of Melbourne, Fla.; sister-in-law, Gertrude Hamrick of Greensboro.

Sarah's family would like to thank Drs. Abdul Gangoo and Inderjeet Singh and their staffs for the extraordinary care that was provided. In addition, they greatly appreciate the patience and care provided by the staffs of Kings Mountain and Gaston Memorial hospitals.

The funeral will be conducted by the Rev. Lee Thomas at 4 p.m. Thursday, April 7, at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel. Visitation will be held prior to the service from 2:30-3:30 p.m. at Harris Funeral Home, Kings Mountain.

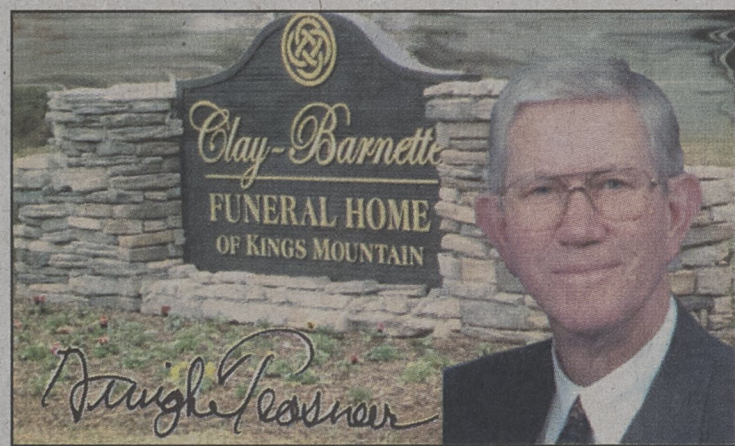
Interment will be at Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Sarah survived many surgeries for various health problems and was tough as nails. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to heart, cancer or diabetes funds since she suffered from those maladies.

A guest register is available at www.HarrisFunerals.com

Harris Funeral Home, Kings Mountain, is in charge of arrangements.

Harris Funeral Home



We invite you to visit our funeral home should you have any questions about a funeral service or advance planning.

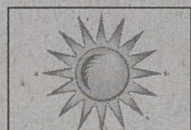
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Kings Mountain Weekend Weather

Thursday
April 7



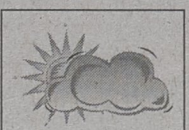
Sunny - 74°
0% Chance of precipitation
Avg - Low: 44 Hi: 69

Friday
April 8



Partly Cloudy - 78°
20% Chance of precipitation
Avg - Low: 45 Hi: 70

Saturday
April 9



Partly Cloudy - 83°
20% Chance of precipitation
Avg - Low: 45 Hi: 70

Sunday
April 10



Partly Cloudy - 85°
10% Chance of precipitation
Avg - Low: 45 Hi: 70

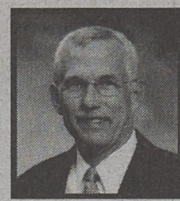
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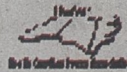
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