



REASON TO SMILE—Dee Ann Blanton, age nine in October, has reason to smile after she set two new city-county swim meet records to help her Cedar Creek, Athens, Ga. team to the championship. Dee Ann is daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dewitt Blanton, Jr. of Athens and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dewitt Blanton, Sr. of Kings Mountain. She is a fourth grader at Athens Academy.

Sets 2 City-County Records

Two state-record performances by De Ann Blanton highlighted a fourth-place finish in the Georgia Recreation and Parks Society's state meet last weekend by the Athens entry.

De Ann is daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dewitt Blanton, Jr. of Athens, Ga., formerly of Kings Mountain, and granddaughter of Bonnie Blanton and Dewitt Blanton, Sr. of Kings Mountain. She is a fourth grader at Athens Academy and will be nine-years-old in October. De Ann's father teaches medicinal chemistry at the University of Georgia.

The Athens Recreation and Parks Department team compiled 203 points to barely miss third, taken by Cobb County. But Athens was also just three points ahead of fifth-place Albany. Dekalb County won the meet followed by Warner Robins.

Blanton's two firsts were two of seven first place finishes by Athens swimmers and divers in the three-day meet. Competing in the 8 and under girls division, Blanton won the 25 yard freestyle in a record time of 15.387 and the 25 yard backstroke in a record 18.989. She also swam on the medley relay team which was first in 1:17.92, along with Kerry Webb, Amy Page and Penni Reeves. The same quartet was fourth in the freestyle relay.

Bids Open Soon For 74 By-Pass

Bids will be opened in Raleigh Sept. 25 at the State Highway Department for grading and structure work on the second section of the U.S. 74 By-Pass of Kings Mountain.

The approximate two and one-half mile stretch of road runs from east of Road 2026 to east of Kings Mountain.

Grading and structure work on the 4.3 mile section from Waco Road to Bethware School area began in May with a completion date set for Aug. 1, 1981. Division Highway Engineer Kenneth Mauney estimates that contract for the interchange at U.S. 74 and I-82 east of the city will be let in January with construction work slated for early spring.

According to Mauney, traffic will be maintained through the interchanges at all times and the work will take about two years to complete.

Smaller interchanges are slated on the first section of the By-Pass between Bethware and Waco Road and on the section interchanges will be constructed at Cansler St. and N.C. 216 and 161.

Cost of the project is expected to total more than \$30 million with no set completion date.

In Bombing Incident

Conner To Be Tried Week Of Oct. 1

Don Conner, Sr., 45-year-old Kings Mountain man charged in the attempted bombing of the residence of Gaston County Sheriff C.L. (Sarge) Waldrep, will be tried the week of Oct. 1 in McDowell County.

Superior Court Judge Lacy Thornburg ordered the trial moved after a hearing in Gastonia last week.

Conner remains free on \$100,000 bond pending trial. Conner was tried last

month in Catawba County but that trial, moved to another county because of pre-trial publicity, ended in a mistrial when the jury was unable to reach unanimous verdict.

Conner was one of the

five defendants originally charged in the April 9 attempted bombing of Waldrep's residence. Charges were dropped against two of the defendants and against Betty Conner, wife of the

defendant. The fifth defendant, Jeffrey Thompson, 19, also of Kings Mountain, plead guilty to the malicious damage of occupied building by use of explosive device. He testified

against Conner in the first trial and is expected to testify in the second trial.

A guilty verdict on the charges carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

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