



LEESA CANIPE
... In the Army now

Just Call Her Woman Soldier

Leesa Canipe, 17, has made a decision on what she can do for her country. She has enlisted in Uncle Sam's Army and after high school graduation reports for basic training at Fort Leonardwood, Mo.

The daughter of Jewel and Gaylon Canipe of Grover is a combination tomboy and young lady who intends to go after what she wants in life.

And, although she is not an avowed Women's Libber, she feels that women can work alongside the men and she has the confidence and ability, she thinks, to defend herself should the need ever arise.

Jewell Lowrance Canipe, 37, was reared with the idea that girls should remain feminine and were out of place in the military. She admitted to being a bit skeptical when her daughter started talking about enlisting in the Army. Gaylon Canipe, who served in the Army during the Berlin Crisis and was stationed in Germany for 33 months, liked the idea but was uneasy with prospects that their daughter could become a combat soldier.

S/Sgt. James W. Rowlett, U.S. Army Recruiter in this area, has counseled the family for the past seven weeks, explaining that the intent of integrating women into male training is not to make combat soldiers out of them but to give them the confidence and ability to defend themselves should the need ever arise. In Recruit Canipe's selection of field artillery, specializing in radar, she would not be on the front lines in any situation if a war should occur, he said.

Last week Recruit Canipe and her parents went to Charlotte for Leesa's swearing-in ceremonies and on July 1 Miss Canipe will become Recruit Leesa Canipe, a three year enlistee, assigned to Fort Leonardwood, Mo. for basic training and subsequently at Fort Sill, Oklahoma for advanced training as a Field Artillery Target Acquisition Specialist.

Leesa, who has enrolled in the Army's Delayed Entry Program, qualified for six different fields during a four-hour testing period recently in Charlotte and scored highest in the radar field. Sgt. Roulette picked Leesa up at her home at 5:30 a.m. on a recent morning and returned her at 6:30 p.m. that evening from an extensive physical testing program in which the petite five feet-one 115 pound brunette lifted weights and underwent rigorous testing. During "breaks," Leesa surprised the men recruits by arm wrestling with them and beating them in pool. She also surprised the doctors that a diminutive young lady could lift heavy weights without flinching a muscle.

But Leesa's mother wasn't surprised, she said. Leesa has been playing ball, skating, swimming, camping, and fishing with her parents and her brother, Mark, a 10th grader, all her life. A sports enthusiast, she loves the out-

doors and at one time was the only female student at KMSHS enrolled in the agriculture and welding programs which is almost always predominately male. She is also a horticulture student and likes mechanics.

Leesa illustrates that today's woman doesn't have to play the traditional role of homemaker, although Leesa qualifies for that role too. She was the high school biscuit baking champion which pleased her parents and grandmother who were used to seeing energetic Leesa in the yard instead of the kitchen. She also does beautiful needlepoint and works after school at Pizza Hut in Kings Mountain.

When she visited Fort Bragg several years ago with her parents Leesa fell in love with the Army and was impressed with women drill leaders. Her first choice for a military career was the Military Police but Leesa changed her mind and decided to pursue a course in radar and the field artillery, which is a top field and limited to only top qualifying candidates.

An average student, Leesa aspires to serve in Germany and plans to save her money, adding her dollar to the Army's two, in the special enlistee program to give her money for post-Army education if she does not decide on the Army as a career.

She likes to travel, and although she has stayed away from home only a few times, she looks forward to the opportunity to see new places and make new friends. Mr. and Mrs. Canipe hope Leesa's opportunity will give them a chance to visit her, especially if she is stationed in Germany and Europe.

"We decided to sign for our daughter to enlist because we want the best for her," said Mrs. Canipe. Leesa will be 18 on May 22. She graduates from high school on May 29th and will have a month to vacation with her family before departing for service duty July 1. She will also have a chance to enjoy her new 1981 Mustang, which she received as a present from her parents.

Excited at donning army fatigues, Leesa has been instructed to bring only the basic items with her to the Army, like three pair hose, one comb, one deodorant, one toothbrush, one pair pumps, two towels, one washcloth, etc. "There won't be much room for extra clothes," said Leesa, who said the Army will assign her what she needs.

And she's getting her family excited, too, and friends at school and at Allen Memorial Baptist Church. "If I can recruit two other people to join I can be an E/2 instead of a Recruit," says Leesa, and her pay scale will advance \$50 a month.

Leesa would not have considered any other branch of the military, she said. She has heard about the Army all her life from her proud Dad, who works for Duke Power Co. in Shelby. "Just call me a woman soldier," she says.

A Committee to assist Vietnam veterans in obtaining employment in the Kings Mountain area has been formed by Kings Mountain Mayor John Henry Moss and applications will be taken, beginning Saturday, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at City Hall.

Members of the committee represent the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars in the city and the committee is headed by Commander Aud Tignor of American Legion Post 155 and Commander Dickey Burgess of Frank B. Glass VFW.

Other members of the committee, in addition to the Mayor, are Mrs. Clara Rhea, president of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 155, Mrs. J.D. Barrett, a former unit president, Miss Elizabeth Stewart, Herald Co-Editor and a former state president of the American Legion Auxiliary, and Mrs. Peggy Guin of the VFW Auxiliary.

Veterans can obtain a work application form by coming to City Hall Saturday morning or can sign up at the City Hall next week, Mondays through Fridays, from 8:30 until 5 p.m. Application blanks will also be mailed to interested veterans by calling City Hall or any member of the committee.

"We want to recognize the contribution made by our Vietnam veterans and feel this effort should be made to assist them in entering the mainstream of our nation's and community activities," said the Mayor in announcing the committee appointment. "This type program," he added, "can best be effected by starting at home instead of looking totally to Washington for direction and leadership."

After the application process is completed, the committee will call on industry leaders to meet for a dutch breakfast to seek their participation and assistance. Plans for the program also cover counseling for veterans and assistance by Mrs. Ina Towery, Cleveland County Veteran's representative, and Richard Wade, representing the Apprenticeship and Occupational Division of the Veterans Administration. The Veterans Administration, through its Occupational program, assists industry in providing the salary for

Vietnam qualified veterans.

Commander Tignor said the local program is expected to reach a large percentage of Vietnam veterans in the Kings Mountain area and estimated

that as many as 300 veterans of the Vietnam Conflict reside in the Kings Mountain area.

Commander Burgess called on all citizens who know Vietnam veterans who qualify for

assistance to give their names to the committee. The committee is seeking applicants, of not only new employees, but of veterans interested in broadening their skills and in new occupations.



Photo by Gary Stewart

VET COMMITTEE - Members of the committee to help Vietnam War veterans in job placement met Monday morning at the Governmental Services Facilities Center. Discussing plans, left to right, are Arlene Barrett of the

American Legion Women's Auxiliary, Aud Tignor, Commander of Legion Post 155, Dickey Burgess, Commander of the Frank B. Glass VFW Post, and Mayor John Henry Moss.

KM Population Is Up

The preliminary count of the population of No. 4 Township was 16,334, a gain of 1,437 from the count of the returns of the 1970 census.

According to the 1980 census report from the U.S. Department of Census, Kings Mountain's population is 8,523, compared with 8,436 ten years ago, Grover's totals are 596, compared with 555 ten years ago, and Waco's population is 317, compared with 245 ten years ago.

The preliminary count of housing units in No. 4 Township was 6,008, compared with 4,800 ten years ago. In Kings Mountain the unofficial count was 3,149, compared with 2,770 in 1970. In Grover, the count was 235, up from 206, and in Waco the housing count was 120, up from 85.

As of April 1, 1980, the population of the state was 5,847,778, according to a preliminary count of the returns.

This figure represents an increase of 763,377, or 15.0 percent, from the 5,084,411 inhabitants enumerated in the 1970 census.

The preliminary count of housing units in the state as of April 1, 1980 was 2,271,105. The figure, which includes both occupied and vacant housing units, represents an increase of

629,090, or 38.3 percent, from the 1,642,015 units enumerated in the 1970 census.

The preliminary reports were announced this week. The final counts will be issued in the new few months and are subject to further processing and review and may differ from the preliminary figures.

Boone Gets 12 Years

A Cleveland County Superior Court jury Thursday found Henry Boone, 33, of Forest City, guilty of voluntary manslaughter in the death last July of Ernestine Mauney, 21, of Kings Mountain.

Miss Mauney was killed by a shotgun blast during a shooting incident at Chesterfield Apartments on Margrace Road in which several other persons were injured, including KMPD Sgt. Johnny Belk.

Judge Robert Kirby sentenced Boone to 12 years in prison.

Testimony in the case began Monday. The jury deliberated about three hours Wednesday and Thursday before returning the verdict of voluntary manslaughter which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years.

Among five character witnesses testifying on behalf of Boone was Mrs. Wilma Mauney, mother of Ernestine Mauney.

Commissioners Attend Meeting

City commissioners Jim Childers, Norman King and Bill Grissom last week attended the annual National League of Cities Conference in Washington, D.C.

Part of the agenda was a speech by President Reagan during which he outlined his proposed tax and budget cuts.

Commissioner Childers, who has attended five such conferences, said he was impressed with Reagan's determination and liked his proposals in general.

But, Childers said he is disturbed that one of Reagan's proposed cuts is in Clean Water funds, which, if passed, could prove costly to many cities.

"Locally, we're in real good shape for the next 25 or 30 years," said Childers. "But if those funds are cut out, cities would have to pick up money somewhere else to improve their water plants. It's costly and I just don't know where the money would come from."

Otherwise, Childers was pleased with everything he heard during the three-day meetings.

"I believe President Reagan is determined and sincere about making cuts," he said. "Whether or not he can get the backing of Congress is another question."

Among the cuts Reagan talked to the group of over 4,000 about were in federal grants, CETA funds, housing and misuse of the food stamp program.

Kings Mountain has been a big recipient of federal funds in the past.

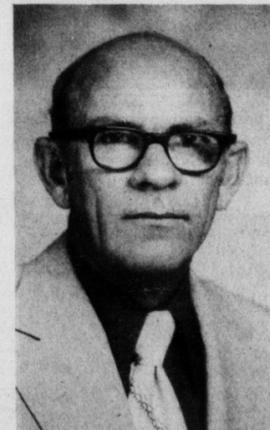
"He's talking about combining various grants into the Community Development Block Grant program," Childers said. "If he does that there will be less money for Community Development grants. I feel like the grants will be harder to get because we'll be competing with so many more people."

Reagan also proposes a reduction in regulatory agencies.

"When the Community Development Block Grant program started, there were 150 regulations pertaining to grants," Childers noted. "Now there are over 1,250."

Childers said the loss of CETA funds would not hurt the City of Kings Mountain, since it has only two CETA employees, and he doesn't feel cuts in the low-rent housing programs would hurt there.

"Except for the clean water cuts, I was pleased with his proposals," Childers said, "if they



JIM CHILDERS

are carried out on a fair basis."

Childers said the Board of Directors of the group went on record as supporting some, but not all, of the President's proposals.

"Senator James L. Oberstar, chairman of the Economic Development Agency, said they were going to take his proposals item by item and give him some support, but not all that he

wants," Childers said. "At this point there is a lot of indecision. But, of course, if the proposals are approved, cities would have time to make some arrangements since none would take effect until 1982."

Childers said the local representatives talked with people from "Scotland Neck, N.C., to Los Angeles, and found we're better off than some and worse off than others."

Childers is a strong believer in a city taking part in such meetings "to keep abreast of what is going on."

"I was in a meeting in 1978 in San Francisco when the Small Cities Grant program was first introduced," he recalled. "We brought back some literature and started working on small cities grants. You get some good out of the conferences."

The city presently is seeking over \$900,000 in a Small Cities Grant which, if approved, would be used for rehabilitation of homes, improvement of water and streets, and other beautification of several streets off Linwood Road.