

Deaths

ELBERT HICKS

BLACKSBURG, S.C. - Elbert Melvin Hicks, 76, of Route 1, died Saturday at Cherokee County Memorial Hospital after a long illness.

He was a native of Mitchell County and the son of the late James and Martha Wise Hicks. He was a retired textile employee and a member of Buffalo Baptist Church.

Surviving are his wife, Mary Louise Hunsinger Hicks; four sons, James M. Hicks of Gaffney, Joseph M. Hicks of Spartanburg, Steve Hicks of Shelby and Elbert M. Hicks Jr. of Mint Hill; one daughter, Mrs. Martha Byers of Grover; three brothers, Dewey Hicks of Johnson City, Tenn., Dave Hicks of Unicoi, Tenn., and Carroll Hicks of Stanley; three sisters, Mrs. Betie Harris of Ervin, Tenn., Mrs. Pansy Watts of Johnson City, Tenn., and Mrs. Vergie Mauney of Shelby; a half brother, Jess Hicks of Johnson City, Tenn.; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Monday at 3 p.m. at Shuford-Hatcher Chapel by the Rev. Jeff Jones and the Rev. Harold Johnson. Burial was in Oakland Cemetery.

MRS. McCLAIN

SHELBY - Mrs. Nettie Dunson McClain, 80, of Route 9, Shelby, died Sunday at Shelby Convalescent Center.

A Jackson County, Ga., native, she was the daughter of the late William Jackson and Rilla Rice Dunson. She was a member of the WMU and Eunice Sunday School Class of Elizabeth Baptist Church, where she served as the church librarian and in the Cradle Roll Department for many years.

Surviving are her husband, E.C. McClain; three daughters, Mrs. Garrison (Rachel) Goforth of Kings Mountain, Mrs. Eugene (Marty) Mathis of Greenville, S.C., and Mrs. Fred R. (Jean) Mauney of Shelby; a brother, Marvin Dunson of Toccoa, Ga.; two sisters, Mrs. Ina Whitmire and Mrs. Tom Eaton of Gainesville, Ga.; nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday at Elizabeth Baptist Church by the Rev. Fred A. Mauney and the Rev. Cline Borders. Burial was in the church cemetery.

MRS. BLANTON

Mrs. Qullia Bell Blanton, 73, of 801 West Mountain Street, died Saturday at Kings Mountain Hospital.

A native of Kings Mountain, she was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Tillman R. Bell. She was a member of First Baptist Church.

Surviving are her husband, J. Wiley Blanton of the home; three sons, the Rev. Demouth Blanton of Union, S.C., Howard Blanton of Durham and Harold Blanton of Kings Mountain; a brother, Dorse Bell of Shelby; three sisters, Arcie Lovelace of Kings Mountain and Vassie Watterson and Madge Parker, both of Shelby; nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday at 3:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church by the Rev. Clyde Bearden. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

MRS. ABSHER

Mamie C. Absher, 88, of Route 3, Kings Mountain, died Saturday at her home.

A native of Gaston County, she was the daughter of the late Michael and Margaret Clark Bess. She was a housewife and a member of Concord United Methodist Church of Bessemer City.

Survivors include her husband, Charlie C. Absher of the home; two sons, Evan S. Absher of Bessemer City and Robert Lee Absher of Kings Mountain; one daughter, Mrs. Margaret A. Wilson of Kings Mountain; nine grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted at 3 p.m. Monday at Concord United Methodist Church by the Rev. Harry Queen. Burial was in the church cemetery.



IN STATE BAND - Mark Sanders, right, of Kings Mountain, is a member of the N.C. State University Symphonic Band, which is going on tour of high schools. He is also a member of the N.C. State Stage Band, which plays at the Wolfpack basketball games. Mark is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Sanders of Kings Mountain and is a senior engineering student at State. He is a 1978 graduate of Kings Mountain High School.

Vocational Ed Future Not So Gloomy

From Page 1-A

McWhirter, guidance counselor at Kings Mountain High, who spoke on resources of public education.

Smith said he has hired over 1,600 Kings Mountain students over the years, and one time hired an entire vocational class of 60 students, and has never been disappointed with a KM student.

"I've found all of them to be well-prepared and they have taken pride in their work, which is one thing I demand," he said.

Smith said it should be the schools' responsibilities to teach citizenship skills, the basics (reading, writing and arithmetic), work ethics, provide job entry skills, prepare students to enter technical schools skills programs, teach apprenticeship programs, provide skills for advanced and expanding industries, and prepare students for four-year college programs.

Mrs. Gamble said a student recently did a study asking businesses and industries what they looked for in an employee and only one or two out of 200 industries mentioned a skill.

"Ninety percent of them stressed the importance of being

on time and having a good attitude toward work...that is, giving a good day's work for a day's pay," she said. "Most of them said that if two people with the same amount of skill apply, and one has experience, he would be selected. That's not a plus for vocational education, but it's something we need to understand."

Asst. Supt. Bryant said schools begin training students for the work force as early as kindergarten through the basic skills.

Federal money, staff development, additions of courses such as eighth grade algebra, and addition of programs such as in-school suspension and the Extended Day School play key roles in the overall success of the vocational education programs, he said.

"I constantly ask myself if we are spending too much money in vocational education," Bryant said. "But then I look at it and see we're sending 75 percent of our students into the work force."

Mrs. McWhirter said the schools offer testing programs, placement programs, guidance, and work with the Employment Security Commission and colleges and technical schools to match students with careers that interest them.

The high school, she said, works closely with the junior high in placing upcoming sophomores in vocational classes that interest them.

"Students are very interested in their future," she said. "We're holding the programs out to them and all they have to do is reach out and do something with it."

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