

# Education Expert Encourages Students To Face Challenges

By LEE SULLIVAN

"Plant your feet on the ground, be proud of who you are...reach for a star."

Those were part of the lyrics in a song performed Tuesday by the Mooresville Senior High Chorus as a prelude to an address delivered by Dr. Elizabeth Duncan Kootz. The song, and Kootz's address, delivered similar messages.

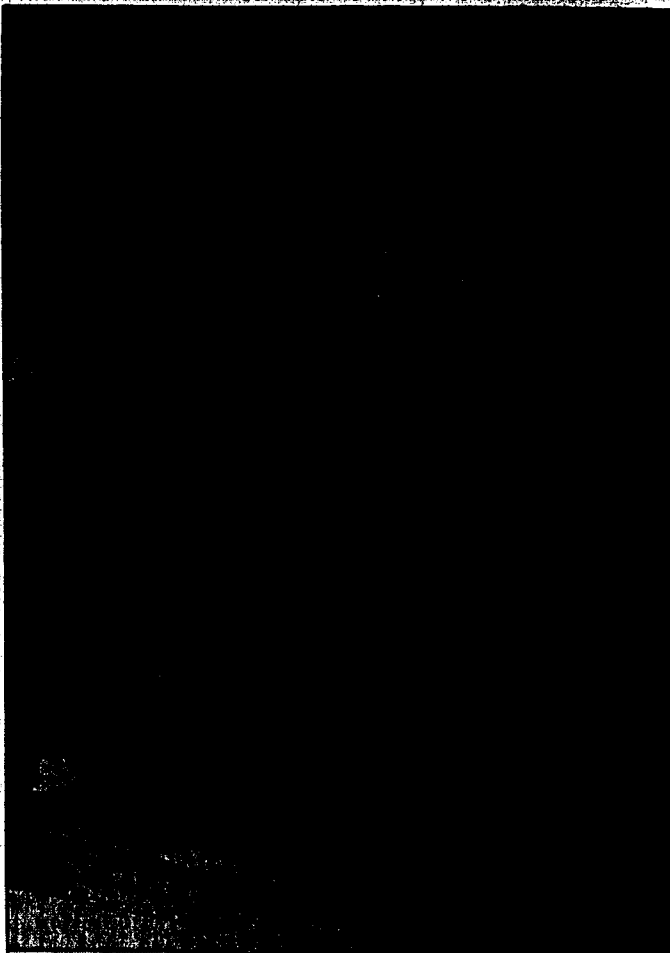
Kootz was the special guest and featured speaker at the Tuesday afternoon program sponsored by the Mooresville Human Relations Commission as part of the commission's tribute to Minority Enterprise Development Week.

Students from Mooresville senior and junior high school attended the program as did local government and school officials. The purpose of the assembly was to hear Kootz, described by Mooresville School Board Chairman Frank Fields as "one of North Carolina's most outstanding citizens," talk about the educational and professional opportunities and challenges facing young people today.

Kootz, a native of Salisbury, has received countless honors for her work in all fields of education, been recognized for her dedicated work through state and national education and government agencies and been presented with more than 30 honorary degrees, but on Tuesday, her message to Mooresville's young people was simple, direct and more motherly than scholarly. She asked them to learn.

Kootz stressed the importance of education and told the students "values and sense are worth more, and will last longer, than dollars and cents." She urged them to learn at every opportunity, whether it was in the classroom, in the library or from the past.

"Remember the saying about those who do not learn from the past," she said. "Don't make the



Kootz Stresses A Point During Speech

same mistakes."

Kootz told the students they are the ones who will shape the future.

"Today, the Mooresville Human Relations Commission is working to make Mooresville a better place to live," Kootz said, "but the future depends on you. You are the ones who will serve on the commission in

the years to come."

She added that the approach young people take to deal with obstacles and take advantage of opportunities will determine their future.

"You must face the challenge and work to create an open society that See KOONTZ Page 14

## Artists Guild's Arttoberfest Set For Two Day Run Oct. 3-4

The Mooresville Arttoberfest exhibit at the Visual Arts Center on Oct. 3 and 4 will feature the works of 30 or more members of the Mooresville Artists Guild.

The exhibit will include creations in porcelain dolls and paintings, miniature furniture, tapestries, decorations, teddy bears and other specialties. These are in addition to original paintings in oils, watercolor, acrylics, pastels, etc. that represent the best of local and area artists.

Most of the items exhibited will be

available for purchase by the public. This year's event celebrates the fifth year of the October event for the Guild.

It will be held at the Depot Visual Arts Center at the corner of Main Street and Center Avenue in Mooresville.

The exhibit will be open on Saturday, Oct. 3, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and again on Sunday, Oct. 4, from 12:30 p.m. until 5 p.m.

The public is urged to attend either or both days to view the accomplishments of local artists and possible purchase items for home decorations or for Christmas gifts.

At 4 p.m., on Sunday, Oct. 4, a drawing will be made to determine the winners of prizes.

Prizes include prints of Richard Newton's paintings, a Tom Clark gnomie, a Rachael Bonney porcelain doll, a framed print from Lake Country Gallery, an overnighter case from Merle Norman, and a \$25 gift certificate from Wooten Jewelers.

A donation of \$1 makes a person eligible for one of the prizes.

Tickets are offered by Guild members and will be available at the Depot Art Center during exhibit hours.

## Troutman Man Suffers Bullet Wound

David Eller, 37-year-old resident of the Lake Norman area of Troutman, route 2, was hospitalized at the Durham County General Hospital in Durham Friday night.

He was hit by a bullet fired into his Ford Bronco in which he, his wife, Diana, and their two children were traveling on U.S. 70, just east of Durham.

Alison Eller, 16, had bits of glass lodged in her wrist, but was released following treatment at the Durham hospital.

Mrs. Eller and 15-year-old Mike Eller escaped injury. The bullet entered and lodged in Eller's right side, just below the kidneys. Doctors decided not to remove the bullet.

The Ellers left their Troutman area home Friday night to meet relatives in Raleigh. They had planned to go to the Outer Banks Saturday for a few days' vacation.

The Ellers were traveling east on U.S. 70 when a bullet apparently fired from the roadside broke the back side window. It passed through the driver's seat and into Eller's right side.

"They just heard a loud bang in the passenger side of the window," a Durham police officer said.

"They thought at first no one was hurt," the officer said.

Eller discovered he had been hit when he stopped at a service station near Hardee's Street Apartments shortly after 10 p.m., to check on his

See ELLER Page 14

## Inside This Week

—Town Manager serves as guest speaker at Mooresville Women's Club luncheon, section one, page 4.

—Ideal Girl Pageant here Saturday night, section one, page 7.

—Third-generation of Bakers are attempting to maintain family's rich success in the sport of stock car racing, section one, page 13. More sports, pages 11-12, section three, pages 2-4.

—Spotlight on business this week shines on auto dealership specializing in sale of used cars, section two, page 2.

—Mooresville seaman is a member of Coast Guard's three-masted 'ball ship' Eagle crew now on an eight-month adventure trip, section two, page 6.

## Uncle Dan From Doolie Says:

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

Use to, Zeke Grubb told the fellers at the country store Saturday night, fall was full of tough choices. Ever year about this time, he said, a feller had to take a hard look at his pickup. After he had been courted by ads singing the praises of the latest marvels in truck beauty and performance, Zeke said, he would come around to thinking that the old rattletrap just couldn't make it another year. Then the big decision came when he went down and got prices on trade and straight out buy. About 11 years out of 12 the old truck run like a brand-new sewing machine all the way home, was Zeke's words.

Falls of the long build up to the showing of next year's wonders of the road are gone, Zeke said, because nowadays they come out with new models ever two months or when the last new model starts being a drug on the market, whichever is sooner. Dealers cook up deals so they can clear the books for a new fiscal year, he said, and now and again a dealer will say he'll make you an offer you can't refuse simple because he's got a lot of vehicles he'd like to sell.

Zeke's opening remark set the fellers to thinking, and it was Clem Webster that came with the comment that cool weather give him another set of decisions. All summer, he said, he puts off little honey-do jobs around the place by telling his old lady he'll catch all of em up as soon as the heat breaks. Now he's got to come up with fresh reasons and this gets to be a chore after 50 or so years. Fair work allus is good as long as it last. Clem said, but the truth is he got to soon old and to late smart. If he had took up hunting or fishing or football watching early, Clem declared, he wouldn't of run out of excuses late.

General, the fellers were strong

# Mooresville Tribune

MOOREHILL MT. ULLA OSTWALT TROUTMAN MAZEPPA SHEPHERDS MAYNEW TOWN SNYVILLE DOOLIE MT. MOORE BELLS WOODS TERRELL CASCADE MILL

"Although I Disagree With Everything You Say I Will Defend Unto Death Your Right To Say It"

VOL. LIII Single Copy 25c

Mooresville, N.C. (28115) Wednesday, September 30, 1987

No. 33

## Mooresville Downtown Commission Names Frick Executive Director

The Mooresville Downtown Commission has selected a full-time director and is now ready to get down to the task of rejuvenating and improving the downtown business district.

Monday afternoon, the commission's board of directors voted unanimously to hire Wayne Frick as the downtown executive director.

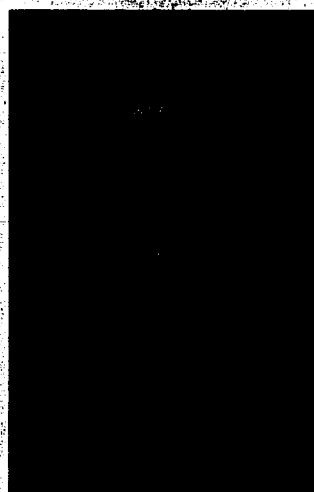
Frick, a resident of Mooresville, will begin his new duties Oct. 1 and will be on hand to meet local business people during an informal drop-in reception to be held Oct. 5 at The Depot. The reception will begin at 5:30 p.m.

The selection of a full-time director closes out the organizational phase for the commission, which was formed in April of this year with the mission of invigorating Mooresville's business district.

The goal of the commission is to promote the downtown business district, helping firms on Main Street and throughout the downtown area remain competitive with nearby shopping centers and other commercial developments.

The first-year project has received financial backing from the town, which gave \$20,000, and the county, which supplied \$5,000. In addition, donations from business owners and local financial institutions total more than \$10,000. The commission will pay Frick \$24,000 a year for his duties.

Frick's job will be to promote and market Mooresville's downtown business district and coordinate



WAYNE FRICK

efforts to improve the appearance of the downtown area.

"My first priority is to attract more customers to downtown businesses," Frick said Tuesday, "and the best way to do that is to have an attractive shopping environment."

Frick said he will be working with the Mooresville-South Iredell Chamber of Commerce, the town of Mooresville and Iredell County to determine the best route for Mooresville to take. He said he will also talk with people in Statesville about their program.

"The keys to getting a successful program started are cooperation, participation and planning," Frick said, "and part of my job is to make

sure we get these things established in Mooresville."

Frick was recommended for the job by the commission's hiring committee, which conducted interviews with several candidates before making their decision.

Frick, 47, has experience in promotions, marketing and sales, the areas he will be working in as the downtown director.

A graduate of East Carolina University, Frick has worked in several promotion and advertising positions. Most recently he served as the operations/advertising manager for Carter Lumber Company in Mooresville, where he was responsible for the personnel, property and merchandise at 11 retail stores and developed special promotional events.

From 1973 until 1982, Frick was a group sales promotion coordinator for Belk department store, where he was in charge of advertising expenditures and served as the company's representative on the local and regional level as a

See FRICK Page 14

## Main Street Night Patrol Successful

The Mooresville Police Department's increased after-hours presence on Main Street is working.

Police Chief Joe Puett said Tuesday that the department's strategy to combat illegal and destructive activity on Main Street during the evening hours was accomplishing its goal.

"I think it is going pretty good," Puett said. "We've done what we set out to do, which is cut down on the number of undesirable and trouble-makers hanging around down here at night."

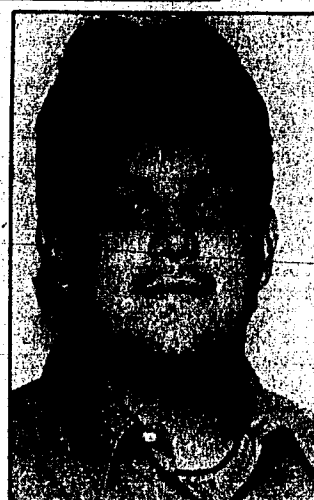
The department began its evening foot patrols on Main Street seven days a week, seven hours a day.

Several business owners reported an increase in the amount of litter being left on the street and on the sidewalks in front of their businesses. Other complaints centered on possible alcohol and drug use by the people parked on Main Street.

The department's answer to the problem was to assign an officer to patrol the Main Street area during the night hours.

"Just by having a presence on the street during the evening hours we've eliminated the people who were drinking and possibly using drugs down there," Puett said. "They are just staying away."

See PATROL Page 14



RICARDO VARGAS

## Morehead Nominee Selected

Teachers and administrators at Mooresville Senior High School have selected Ricardo Vargas as the school's lone nominee in the Morehead Scholarship awards program.

Vargas, of 480 Hillside Apartments in Mooresville, will join nominees from throughout the state and country in competition for the prestigious scholarships to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Vargas was picked as the school's nominee by a selection committee of teachers and administrators. The committee was responsible for evaluating the senior class and picking the most outstanding candidates for the scholarship.

Vargas, the son of Rigoberto Vargas and Margie Garcia, has been active in a variety of school functions.

He is a member of the Beta Club, Key Club, Spanish Club, Monogram Club and Art Club. Vargas has also been active in participating in the Summer Vacation Program and North Carolina Governor's School, both designed for academically

superior students.

biology, Spanish and government and economics. He was selected as a junior ROTarian and, during his junior year, as a commencement marshal.

Vargas has also been active in athletics, participating on the football and track teams during his high school years.

In community activities, Vargas is the senior patrol leader for his Boy Scout troop and has earned the rank of Life Scout.

Vargas, 17, plans to study medicine in college.

Vargas will join nominees from other Iredell high schools in county competition in the near future. Those students selected by the

See MOREHEAD Page 14

## Assistant DA Phillips Resigns

Richard Phillips, an assistant district attorney for the 22nd North Carolina Judicial District, resigned last week after families of four wreck victims complained that he failed to adequately prosecute the 16-year-old driver, William Dingler, charged in the four deaths.

Phillips resigned following a meeting with families of the four victims of the July 15 collision. The only survivors were the driver, who was charged with their deaths, and his brother.

The families of the victims filed a formal complaint with the office of District Attorney H.W. (Butch) Zimmerman of Lexington earlier this month complaining that Phillips didn't do his job when he prosecuted the case against Dingler when he came to trial in Iredell District Court in Statesville.

The four counts of death by motor

See PHILLIPS Page 14

## Neill May Be Coming Home Friday

Once again, Larry Neill may be coming home.

Neill, a resident of the Shepherd community near Mooresville, has undergone two liver transplant operations and been in or near Thomas Jefferson Memorial Hospital in Philadelphia for more than four months. But if things go well at check-ups today and tomorrow, Neill should be headed home Friday.

Neill and all his family and friends have heard the good news before, but this time they're hoping it's for real. Neill, 48, was supposed to be released two weeks ago but a jump in his potassium level, indicating his kidneys were not functioning properly, put him back in the hospital for more tests.

Today and Thursday, Neill's potassium level will be tested and, if

See NEILL Page 14

## Custom Products' GM Retiring

Willis Barnette will retire Oct. 1 as general manager of Custom Products Inc., an ever-expanding manufacturing facility, located just east of town on N.C. 150.

He will remain as president of the family-owned company as well as a consultant for the firm owned by Barnette, his wife, Louise Jones Barnette, and their two children, Mrs. Lynda Barnette Annas, and Bill Barnette.

Succeeding Barnette as general manager will be Stuart F. Patch. Bill Barnette will continue to serve as assistant general manager, while Mrs. Annas will continue her duties as personnel director of the 100-employee firm.

The company manufactures commercial airline seat cushions, and sales of cushions totaled in the neighborhood of 250,000 in 1986.

The cushions sell for around \$50 each.

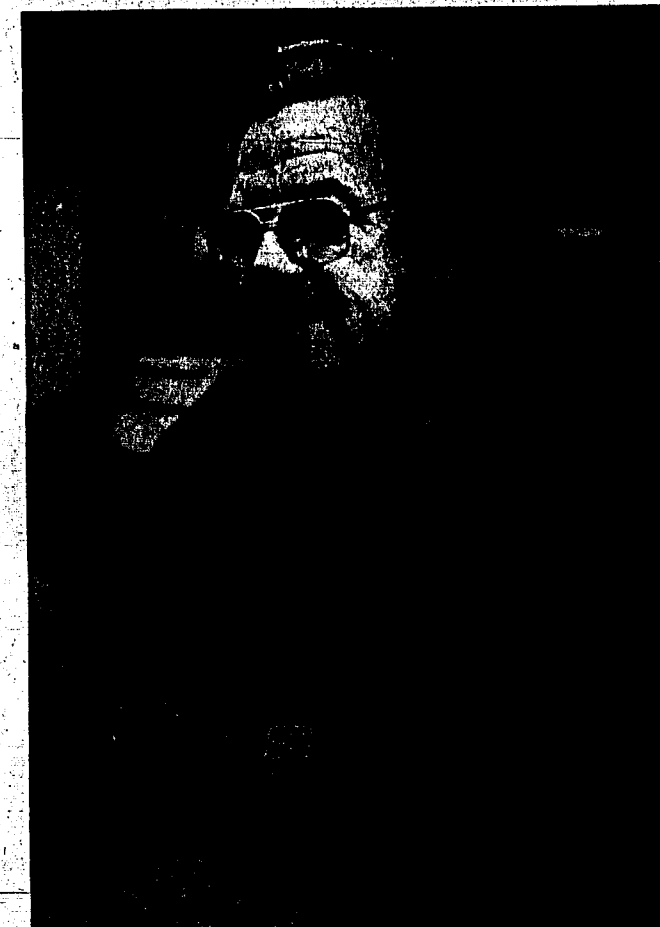
If there ever was an all-American business success story, Willis Barnette and Custom Products of Mooresville epitomizes it.

Barnette, the president and founder, started out in August of 1973 making the foam cushioning for commercial airline seats and flotation devices for the airline industry.

When he first started out he had three employees, two of them part-time — his son Bill and daughter Lynda, both still in high school then — and his wife, Louise.

They set up shop in the back of Precision Machine and Engineering, located west of town on N.C. 150, making do with about 1,000 square feet of floor space.

From that virtual backyard start, what began as almost a cottage industry picked up enough business



Willis Barnette...An All-American Success

in only two years to require moving to the building which had housed Schott Industries on Mooresville's North Main Street.

Barnette purchased the building now housing the industry in 1975.

This gave the expanding operation almost 17,000 square feet of work space and enough room to accommodate growing pains, at least

See BARNETTE Page 14