

Mount Airy Native Hopes To Be Florida's New First Lady

By **CAROLINE BEAMER**
Staff Writer

Mount Airy native Alex Sink now lives near Tampa, Fla., and is working diligently to help husband Bill McBride with his bid to become Florida's next governor.

McBride will be in the Florida Democratic primary Sept. 10, running against former U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno and candidate Darryl Jones.

Sink's father, Kester Sink, still lives in Mount Airy in "the original home of the Siamese Twins." His late wife, Adelaide, was a granddaughter of the twins. He said his daughter Alex is "a women's libber" and said that he was himself.

Alex Sink recently retired as President of Bank of America in Florida, one of the top women executives in the coun-

try. She said she met her husband when she was transferred from Charlotte to Miami.

"I was transferred and we met in 1984," she said. The couple married and now have two children, Bert, 14, and Lexie, 13. Kester Sink said he just got back from a trip to the coast to see his grandchildren while they attended camp at Seagull and Seafarer.

Sink said her husband will win the Democratic primary "because he's the best candidate to beat Jeb Bush." Bush, a Republican, is the incumbent.

McBride is originally from Leesburg, Fla. He put himself through college and graduated from law school after serving in the Marines during the Vietnam War, leaving the service as a Captain and with a Bronze Star. He most recently has been chief

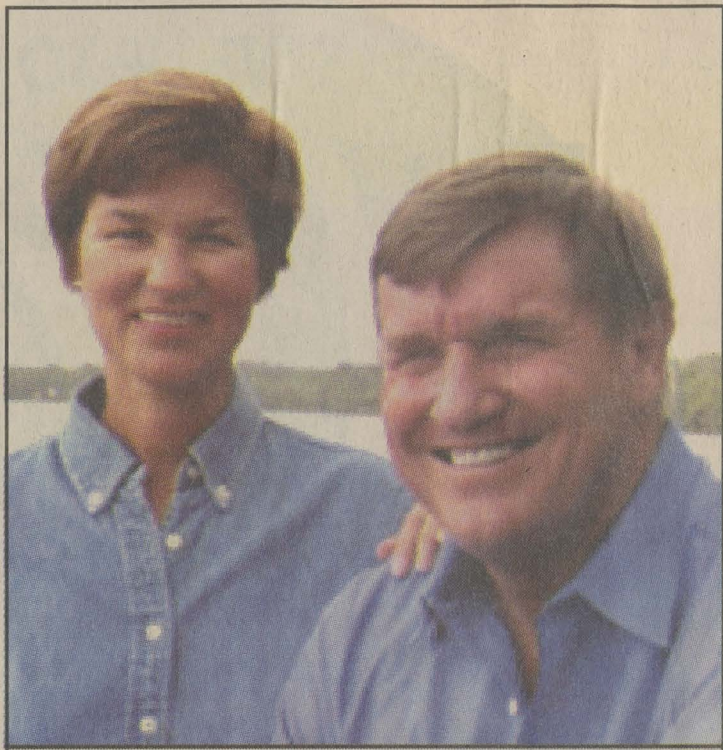
executive of a prestigious Tampa law firm.

Sink said that she gives speeches all over Florida and elsewhere and is "putting Mount Airy on the map." She returned to Mount Airy with her husband last summer to attend her 35th high school reunion, having graduated from Mount Airy High School in 1966.

"While we were there, I saw my old classmate Teresa Fleming, who now lives in Florida, and now she's one of my husband's biggest supporters."

McBride has often come to Mount Airy with his wife and family. "He loves Mount Airy. He's been to Snappy Lunch and had a pork chop sandwich," she said, as well as touring the other familiar sights of "Mayberry." She said he also loves barbecue.

As the couple campaigns she said she often makes the Mount Airy connection. "I'm running into people from Mount Airy all the time," she said.



Caroline Beamer/The Mount Airy News

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL: Mount Airy native Alex Sink campaigns with husband Bill McBride, who is hoping to be Florida's next governor.

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