

HUD Audit Big News Story Of 1979

(Begins on page 1A)
JANUARY

Shortly after arrival of New Year 1979, city officials and developer Bill Gilbert of Greenwood, S.C. announced that Mountain View Towers, a 58-unit apartment complex for the elderly is projected for construction on a two-acre site on King and Tracy Sts. being acquired by the KM Redevelopment Commission and public hearings were underway to obtain citizen input on how the city will spend community development funds for 1979-80. During the upcoming program, fourth year in which the city has qualified for a total of \$4,180,000 for community development, the city will receive \$338,000 in CD funds.

Jessica Michelle Robbs, who arrived at KM Hospital four minutes and 57 seconds after New Year 1979, became Kings Mountain's and Cleveland County's first citizen of the New Year. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Robbs.

Kings Mountain Senator J. Ollie Harris returned to the N.C. legislature for his fourth term and said he won't support passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, one of the major issues which faced the 1979 General Assembly.

Stronger measures were taken by KM District Schools to control school bus vandalism and student behavior on buses and Supt. of Public Instruction Howard Bryant said he was not proud of recent test scores of students taking the competency tests.

City electrical workers spent a total of 55 manhours repairing home service lines knocked out by ice and falling limbs.

In this election year in Grover citizens asked for the expansion

of the town board from three to five members and in later months the city fathers did just that.

The site for a new two-million gallon water storage tank on Glenn St. was being cleared for construction, according to City Engineer Alvin Moretz.

Senator J. Ollie Harris drafted a bill that would call for a statewide referendum on the proposed Equal Rights Amendment.

The first two housing rehabilitation contracts for 1979 were awarded for general repair work to the homes of Lillie Mae Collins on Walnut St. and Cinda Taylor on Bennett Dr.

FEBRUARY

Pneumonia claimed the life of nine-year-old Crystal Sparrow, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Sparrow.

Richard Barnette, who joined Cooper's, Inc. as a salesman 39 years ago, purchased the controlling interest in the KM furniture firm.

A new department, Emergency Medicine, has been created at Kings Mountain Hospital. Six KMSHS students attended the Presidential Classroom Seminars in Washington, D.C. They were Leslie Hambricht, Lindsay Holmes, Laura McGinnis, Barry Lineberger, Julie Owens and Todd Gatts.

The area's first snowfall brought delight to youngsters but was the worst since the 1960's. City workers used two motorgraders, two payloaders and four dumptrucks to clear the roads and two crews were sent out to dump sand on streets where ice had formed.

A West Germany-based textile firm, American Rehers Zwrirn Corp. is planning to build a \$1.5 million plant south of Kings

Mountain. CETA funds to the schools dropped to \$17,887 for the six-months period beginning Apr. 1 and the bad news went to some teachers employed by the funds this month.

Herman Cobb says he's had it. The owner and operator of Fran's Superette on Margrace Rd. is unhappy with treatment by his gasoline distributors and he put a padlock on one of his gas pumps to protest.

Dr. Abdul R. Gangoo, native of Kashmir, opened offices at 810 W. King St.

As of this month the city's bonded indebtedness totals \$2,975,000 despite fact the city has received more than \$22 million in federal funds during the past 15-plus years.

King Winter dumped a second heavy snowfall on Kings Mountain, this time accumulations up to 12 inches.

Kings Mountain Little Theatre presented "Harvey".

KM School Board members are opposed to merger to one of the projects of the Greater Shelby Chamber of Commerce, pushing of merger of the Shelby City, Cleveland County and KM District Schools

MARCH

The city commissioners voted to send a letter of intent to the Gaston 201 Complex lead agency that Kings Mountain will consider constructing a new 1.5 million gallon per day waste treatment plant. KM and perimeter is included in the Gaston County 201 plan, which is a federally legislated program to develop waste treatment facilities that will serve current and projected needs for the next 20 years.

"We are not opposed to the Mirror-Herald locating on

Canterbury Rd. but..." That was the tenure of opposition by residents of Canterbury Rd. at a public hearing on a rezoning request from The Herald Publishing House to construct a newspaper plant. Following the public hearing, the commissioners voted unanimously to grant the request.

President Jimmy Carter will be invited to deliver the principal address at the 200th anniversary celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain. This was one of the decisions reached by a spearhead planning group meeting in Kings Mountain.

Seconds after the primary panel switch in the mechanical room at the new City Hall was closed fire leaped through the circuits destroying panel, primary wiring and transformer. Neither of the two workmen in the mechanical room when the panel exploded was injured.

Some citizens in Grover took exception to Comm. Harold Herndon's statement that "we don't need a radar unit in Grover nor a police officer to run down speeders." The issue surfaced after Comm. Martha Byers announced that a new radar unit had been purchased for Police Chief Lionel Barnes car.

KMSHS students danced to raise funds for MS with all-day events featuring a rock-a-thon and other activities.

During February Kings Mountain Savings & Loan Association reached \$20,000,000 in assets.

Heavy rains caused some flooding and property damages in Kings Mountain.

No probable cause was found against a Kings Mountain woman, Betty Jo Bell Ross, on charges of murder in the Jan. 28 shooting death of her estranged

husband, Randolph Ross. Mike Nappi was named superintendent of parks and recreation for the City of Kings Mountain.

Bowing to pressure by a crowded Town Hall overflowing with citizens expecting a decision, The Town Board of Grover unanimously voted to amend the town charter to increase from three to five members the membership on the board.

Immunization records of 1,108 students in the KM school system are either incomplete or show no proof of immunization against red measles.

The City of Kings Mountain plans to initiate a construction program at Moss Lake to run from April 1 through Sept. 30 for recreational development.

Students at KMSHS did their bit for the Muscular Dystrophy Association Mar. 8-10 and garnered over \$12,000 in pledges from the community. The 1979 total is almost twice as much as the students raised in 1978 and last year's fund-raiser earned KMSHS the record for the state among high schools involved in MDA projects.

The Local Government Commission has been authorized to request bids on \$120,000 water bond anticipation notes on April 17 in behalf of Kings Mountain.

Kings Mountain Hospital, Inc. has plans to update and modernize its facilities by 1982. The estimated cost of the project is \$5 million.

Independence National Bank will open its new branch bank in Kings Mountain with unique grand opening ceremony featuring a 28-musket salute by Cherryville New Year's Shooters and bankers in colonial-era costumes.

Stokes Wright has walked his

last mile for Uncle Sam. At 5 p.m. March 23, Wright punched the time clock at the Kings Mountain Post Office, went home and began making plans to become a gentleman farmer.

APRIL

KM Woman's Club copped 18 ribbons in the recent District Four Arts Festival.

KM Chamber of Commerce-Merchants Association moved in new offices in the new addition of KM Community Center and Jim Potter was elected president of the groups.

Herman Rehers, president of Rehers-Zwirn, made the official announcement that a new German industry will invest \$4 million in Cleveland County in the near future. The facility will be located in Grover and will be that company's first American venture.

KM District Schools presented a budget to county commissioners of over \$2 million, an increase of over 11 percent of the current budget.

Rev. Gary Bryant delivered the Easter message at community-wide Easter Sunrise Services.

Senators Helen Rhyme Marvin and J. Ollie Harris announced the city is recipient of a grant of \$161,091.50 from the Federal Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service for Moss Lake Park.

At the request of Gov. Jim Hunt, a Small Community Economic Development Program has been created to assist communities in attracting and establishing economic growth. The City of KM was designated a sponsoring organization and the KM Economic Development Office

(Turn to page 7A)

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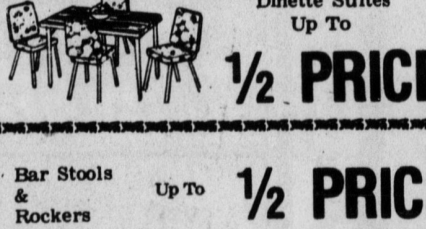
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