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KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA

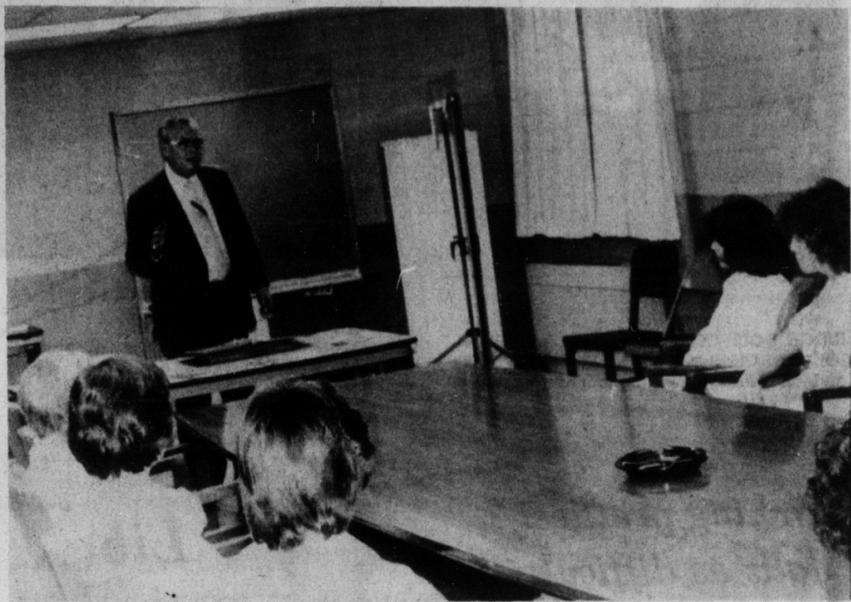


Photo by Lib Stewart

ADDRESSES NURSES — Robert L. Sears, certified crime consultant, talks to hospital personnel during an in-service program last

week in which he urged women to be more cautious and on the alert as the holiday season approaches.

Operation Santa Claus Underway In KM Area

Operation Santa Claus, a countywide effort to collect gifts for Cleveland County residents in five state psychiatric or mental retardation facilities, is now underway in the Kings Mountain area.

The drive will be conducted through the Mental Health Center and Mental Health Association as it was last year and collection boxes to deposit them and gift wrapping paper and ribbons are located in Kings Mountain at First Union National Bank and at the Schools Administration Building on W. Parker St. In Grover a deposit box is located at Grover City Hall on Mulberry St.

Cut-off date for monetary donations and gift items is Dec. 1. Monetary donations to purchase gifts for patients should be made payable to the Mental Health Center and forwarded to Mrs. Lynn Young, 222 Crawford St., Shelby, N.C. 28150. Contact persons in the Kings Mountain for the drive

are Mrs. Jim Potter and Mrs. Charles Blanton at the KM District Schools Office.

Broughton Hospital is also inviting community groups to sponsor a Christmas party for patients and for information contact Frances Pittman at 433-2331 in Morganton. Among the Christmas list for patients are unwrapped gifts, including fruits and nuts, cigarettes, snuff, soft and stick candy, toothpaste and brushes, bath powder, deodorant, body lotion, sta-

tionery, cotton housecoats, socks for men and women, rain boots for men and women, etc. Ward gifts can include games for indoors and outdoors, coffee pots, record players and records, etc.

Western Carolina Center suggests a number of gift items for patients including toys, balls of all sizes, rocking horses, farm and block sets, unbreakable tea sets and personal gifts such as sweaters, shaving lotion, sleepwear, jewelry and lipsticks and Bibles.

Women Should Play It Safe

Yell Fire, Don't Beg If You're Rape Victim

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Co-Editor

How a woman reacts to a sexual assault depends upon the individual but there are alternative tactics a woman should know to play it safe.

Robert L. Sears, a certified consultant with "Operation Crime-Fight," speaking before a group of nurses at Kings Mountain Hospital Thursday, said that panic and fear are normal reactions.

Don't plead, beg, sob. That type action turns the assailant "on." Scream "fire" as loudly as you can. He will be caught off guard and may give you an opportunity to escape.

Rape. How to avoid it. How to defend yourself. How to report it. What every woman should know.

As the holiday season approaches, women may find themselves even more vulnerable to crime, said Sears, who pointed out that sexual assaults occur, not only in parking lots, in dark stairwells and empty buildings, but in the homes of the victim and often times in the home of her assailant who may be a date, a co-worker, a relative.

Mary Jones (not her real name) met a man at a singles bar. He didn't drag her home with him. She went willingly, not realizing this new acquaintance was a rapist.

The woman's car had stalled on a dark street. When the man, who pulled alongside her, offered to help she thought he was a good samaritan. He was a rapist.

The young man approaching a

lady on a downtown street seemed like a "nice young man." She had not suspected the man had been following her until he got close to her, followed her to the door, and she was unable to find her door keys from the bottom of the large handbag she carried before the man touched her.

Sears, who presents safety programs to numerous women's groups and is based in Charlotte, said that women are not helpless, that women who live alone can avoid potentially dangerous situations by learning to play cool and don't admit to anyone that you're at home alone.

The safety expert gives these suggestions.

•Secure your home with sturdy (dead bolt) locks, a lock that you require a key to open. Purchase a 180 degree peephole viewer from any hardware store (sells for about \$7) and comes with easy-to-install instructions. You drill one hole in the door and you can see what's outside but the outsider can't see you.

•Sliding glass doors are extremely vulnerable to the break-in artist. Be sure doors are locked. Never open the door to a stranger. If someone comes to the door and asks to use your phone, offer to do the calling for him but don't let him gain entrance to your house. Never admit to anyone that you are alone. If someone comes to your door to "check the phone" and you don't know him, call the telephone company. Don't be afraid to call the police.

•Don't list your name as Miss Mary Jones in the telephone directory or on the mailbox. Use initials. A case cited as an example was of Mary Jones (not her real name) who was a widow and lived alone. On her mailbox Mrs. Jones had written Sam and Mary Jones. Sam was a cat but the "creep" driving the street looking for his next victim didn't know that.

•Don't walk alone at night. If you must, call ahead and advise your neighbor when to expect you. Walk in well lighted areas and don't take shortcuts.

•Always lock your car, even in your own driveway. Park in well lighted areas. Look in the back seat before you get into the car. If your car breaks down at night and you're alone, sit in the locked car until a patrolman comes by. If a stranger offers to help, tell him that your husband will return momentarily and that the police are on the way. Don't let the would-be "samaritan" in the car with you. Don't pick up hitch hikers. Always have your car keys in your hand. Digging in your pocketbook for car keys or door keys gives the would-be rapist all the opportunity he needs. Digging in pocketbooks for keys to open car keys and doors is dangerous.

•A rapist looks for a woman unattentive to her surroundings. If you're walking on the street, don't daydream. Give the impression that you know where you're going. Don't be cocky. A rapist is a "sickie" and sexual gratification is not what he's after. If you're walking and someone harasses you from a car, turn around and walk the other way. Statistics show that most of the time the driver won't turn around.

•Women driving alone at night should be sure gasoline tanks are sufficiently full to get them to their destination. If you think you're being followed, head for a lighted area and people. Run a red light if you have to, and knock on a stranger's door. Don't go to your house if there is no one at home.

•If you own a police whistle, this works effectively on an obscene caller. Don't carry the

whistle around your neck. Don't scream "rape, police, get away from me." Scream "fire" at the top of your lungs and you'll gain a little time. More people react to fire calls than anything else. The attacker may think you're a lunatic, if you're lucky, and take off. Sink to the ground, fake a seizure, vomit, turn him off, make yourself as unappetizing as possible. Talking can be important but you must be calm. All rapists have potential for great violence. Fighting should be the last thing to resort to, but the speaker cited several examples where one woman engaged in kissing her assailant and literally bit off the man's tongue. Women are not necessarily disrobed by the man but the man, at some point, must remove some of his clothing. If the woman is fast and smart enough, sometimes she can injure her assailant and get away. Other times, a woman has to submit to the frightening and debasing experience to save her life.

Mr. Sears said that the most important thing to remember is that the rapist frequently plans his crime. Looking for the right chance. And the easiest victim. Your best defense is to eliminate his opportunity to attack you.

Stroupe Charged In Death

Michael B. Stroupe, 38, of 832 First St., has been charged with murder in the shooting of his estranged wife, Lois Jeanette Campbell Stroupe, of 902 Second St.

Stroupe, an unemployed textile worker, was arrested Sunday afternoon in Kings Mountain by Charlotte police officers, assisted by Kings Mountain Police Sgt. Houston Corn and Ptl. Harry Martin.

According to R.T. Guerette of the Charlotte Police Department, the shooting occurred at 6:50 p.m. Saturday at the corner of I-85 and Graham St. in Charlotte. A passing motorist called the Police Department and reported "that an unknown subject was attempting to rob and was arguing with a motorist and that shots were fired." Officers, responding to the scene, discovered the victim in her car and the suspect had fled the scene.

Stroupe was jailed Sunday without bond and a probable cause hearing was scheduled Monday.

According to Mrs. Stroupe's brother, Otha Campbell of Kings Mountain, the couple was separated five months and Stroupe had been living in New Orleans, La., returning to Kings Mountain two weeks ago. He said his sister was shot as she sat in her car.

Mrs. Stroupe was the daughter of the late Virgil Campbell of Kings Mountain and Mrs. Blanche Craig Campbell. Surviving, in addition to her mother, are three daughters, Mrs. Kim Marie Brooks of Lincolnton, Mrs. Dawn Marie Slingerland of Charlotte and Mrs. Renee Marie Reese of Ravenna, Ohio; two sisters, Mrs. Claudie Ryvicki of Buffalo, New York and Mrs. Aline Reid Lasky of Charlotte; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted Wednesday afternoon at 3 p.m. from Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church by Rev. Mitchell Pruitt and Rev. Roy Hannagan. Interment will be in the church cemetery.

The family will receive friends Tuesday night from 7 until 9 p.m. at Masters Funeral Home.

Oak Grove Family Is Burned Out

Fire razed a doublewide mobile home in the Oak Grove Community last Tuesday and the children at home at the time escaped with only the clothes on their backs.

Friends in the Oak Grove Community are asking for furniture, clothing, and a place to stay for Roger and Frances Wigginton and their children, Lee, age 20, Lewis, 17, David, 16, Steve, 15, Vanessa 12, and Alexis, 10 months.

The fire was believed to have been caused by an electrical shortage and firemen were called to the scene at 3:30 p.m. The trailer was located only a short distance away from the Oak Grove Fire Department.

Cleveland County Red Cross Chapter provided the family with motel rooms for several days' lodging and clothing. Neighbors are also assisting the family, but a house had not been located for them this week. The family wants to remain in the Kings Mountain area, where the children are in school. Mrs. Wigginton is employed by Kinmont Industries.

Persons wishing to donate clothing and furniture to the couple can call Mary Ramsey Lanier at Cleveland County Head Start, 739-8816 or at her residence, 739-5963.



Photo by Lib Stewart

ROTARIAN HONORED — Thomas L. Trott, who organized the Kings Mountain Rotary Club, was honored by the civic club at Thursday's meeting.

Rotarians Honor Trott

Tom Trott, Kings Mountain insurance man, was honored with a pin representing 22 years' perfect attendance by the Kings Mountain Rotary Club.

Mr. Trott is a charter member who helped found the local civic club in Kings Mountain 22 years ago.

Rotarian Scott Cloninger presented the pin to Trott as a highlight of Thursday's meeting of the club at the KM Country Club. Kings Mountain Herald Publisher Garland Atkins was guest speaker.

Mr. Trott was honored by

fellow members in a recent Rotary bulletin in which he was cited for his long service to the club and community. A native of Salisbury, he was graduated from Patterson Episcopal School in Lenoir and from Lenoir Rhyne College in Hickory. He was also instrumental in organizing the Kannapolis Jaycees. He was formerly associated with Cannon Mills in Kannapolis and operated a theatre in Bennettsville, S.C. He is married to the former Selenia Parton of Kings Mountain and they have two daughters, Mrs. Anne Russell of Raleigh and Mrs. Libby Blanton of Kings Mountain, and are ac-

tive in St. Matthew's Lutheran Church.

"The Kings Mountain Herald is here to serve the people of Kings Mountain and surrounding area and we invite your suggestions and your criticisms," said Publisher Atkins, who interspersed his remarks on "Newspapering" with anecdotes on travels and examples from some of the publications he had printed over the years. "The closer we get to deadline the more excitement we feel about getting our papers off the presses," he said. The Herald publishes six newspapers at the Canterbury-King Street location.