



SANTA CLAUS ON HIS PRE-CHRISTMAS VISIT—Shown above is Santa Claus aboard the Christmas float of the Kings Mountain Merchants association just before last Friday's Christmas parade. Donner and Blitzen, or a couple other of Santa's reindeers, can be seen in the background of the float which was designed by J. L. Settlemire and built locally. The Christmas bunnies in the picture were not identified.

Hamrick Sells Phenix Store To Floyd Payne

Floyd Payne, well-known and popular former postal clerk, announced this week that he and Mrs. Payne had purchased the Phenix Store business from Earl Hamrick.

Consideration was not announced, but included the inventory and fixtures, plus a lease on the building.

Mr. Payne, who will actively manage the firm, said the company which had formerly been incorporated had been dissolved and would be operated now without incorporation.

Mr. Payne recently resigned as a postal clerk here, after spending two years at the Kings Mountain post-office. He is a veteran of World War II, with three years and four months service—three years of it in the Southwest Pacific. Before entering service he worked as an employee of Phenix Stores, Inc., for five years, and spent three months at the store when he returned from service, prior to becoming a postal clerk.

He is a member of the American Legion and VFW.

"We are happy to announce our purchase of the Phenix Store, and invite all the old patrons of the firm, as well as new ones, to visit us. We shall make every effort to supply top quality merchandise at fair prices at all times," the new owners said.

Frank Watson Charged With Hardware Robbery



Argument Over Pistol Swapping Leads To Arrest

Lewis Frank Watson, of Andrews, last week confessed robbery of Bridges & Hamrick hardware here during the night of Nov. 18, according to N. M. Farr, local chief of police.

Watson, handsome youth, was picked up by Gastonia police on a warrant for assault originating in Andrews and admitted the robbery here to Chief Farr and Glee A. Bridges on Dec. 4.

Watson was traced to Gastonia from Andrews after he purchased a bus ticket to the Gaston city and was picked up at his rooming house there. He was reportedly working in Gastonia.

Watson claimed to have executed the break-in here by himself. He was cut on the hand while entering the building through a ventilator on the roof. He still had scars of a wound on his hand when picked up, Farr said.

Three pistols and some ammunition were reported missing after the robbery. Watson had one with him when he was arrested, one was pawned in Gastonia, and police here now have the two guns. The other pistol was reported sold in Andrews.

Preliminary hearing will be held here next week on the Bridges & Hamrick charge, Chief Farr said Wednesday.

Meantime Watson is being held in Gastonia for the next term of Superior court there on charge of breaking and entering an automobile firm there, according to Chief Farr.

MISSIONARY AT BOYCE MEMORIAL — Rev. W. C. Halliday, a missionary of the A. R. P. church in Mexico for 20 years, will speak at both morning and evening services at Boyce Memorial A. R. P. church Sunday. Mr. Halliday will show pictures of the ARP work in Mexico at the evening service. The public is invited to attend.

Lions, Kiwanians To Hear Dr. Barr

Dr. V. Ward Barr, pastor of the First Baptist church, of Gastonia, will address a joint-meeting of the Kings Mountain Kiwanis and Lions club which will be held at the high school cafeteria Thursday evening, December 18, at 7 o'clock.

The two civic clubs have made it a policy in the past to hold occasional joint meetings, and the meeting this year was arranged by the inter-club relations committee of the two organizations.

Joe Lee Woodward represented the Kiwanis club, and William Plonk the Lions club in arranging the program.

Dr. Carr will come here highly recommended as a speaker, it was stated, and an interesting program is in prospect.

Barnes Chairman Of Dimes Drive

B. N. Barnes, superintendent of city schools, will again head the annual March of Dimes drive for funds to fight polio in Kings Mountain, according to announcement made this week by Walter L. Fanning, of Shelby, Cleveland County chairman.

Mr. Barnes said plans are now being mapped for the campaign, and that it is possible his committee will hold an advance "March of Dollars" drive among business and industrial firms, prior to the first of the year.

However, the regular March of Dimes solicitations will be conducted in January. The campaign honors the late President Roosevelt.

Water, Light, Power Used Breaks Record

City of Kings Mountain's December 1 billing for water, light, and power consumption covering the month of November, broke all previous records according to Mayor H. Tom Fulton.

Total billed out in this department was \$12,456.23, divided as follows:

9,008,000 gallons of water	\$2,857.74
158,574 kwh (lights)	\$7,140.10
80,000 kwh (power)	\$2,458.39
Total billing for the month of October	was \$11,819.04.

Buying On Upswing As Christmas Shoppers Seek To Check Off Lists

Traffic on Kings Mountain streets and in Kings Mountain retail firms was definitely on the upswing this week as the buying tempo increased with the influx of more Christmas shoppers.

With it already impossible now to "shop early" mass and more citizens were exhibiting awareness that only 11 more shopping days remain before the holiday, and they were getting their shopping lists in hand and moving around to various stores to fill it.

Most merchants reported heavier-than-usual sales last weekend, with the trend continuing through Monday and the earlier part of the week.

The Christmas shopper this year will find wider selections in Kings Mountain stores than in any Christmas season since 1941. All firms have made special efforts to buy additional Christmas merchandise and are now displaying it.

The merchants, however, are not promising too great selections for those who wait to do their buying on Christmas Eve.

Hearing Tests Being Conducted

Hearing tests, to ferret out school children's audio defects, are now underway in Kings Mountain.

A representative of the state board of health is conducting the tests to determine which children, if any, have hearing defects.

For the tests, two machines are being used, both of which have been given to the county health department by the county's Kiwanis clubs. A group-testing machine, given by the Shelby Kiwanis club is first-used, indicating which of a group tested have hearing defects. Then the audiometer, purchased by the Kings Mountain Kiwanis club, and the same type machine used by medical ear specialists, is used to ferret out particular hearing defects.

First testing of students began Thursday, Superintendent of Schools B. N. Barnes said.

Unlawful To Possess Fireworks Chief Says

Police Chief N. M. Farr emphasized in a statement this week that the firecracker law passed by the last General Assembly states that possession of the pyrotechnics by any person is unlawful and that persons caught with fireworks on their person or in their homes are liable to prosecution under the act.

The new law, effective last July 1 states that "pyrotechnic (any and all kinds of fireworks and explosives, which are used for exhibition or amusement purposes) cannot be manufactured, purchased, sold, dealt in, transported, possessed, received, advertised or used in North Carolina.

Two exceptions state that county commissioners are authorized to issue permits for use of fireworks at fairs and common carriers are permitted to receive, transport, and deliver fireworks in the regular course of business without permit.

"A violation of the act is a misdemeanor, with fine or imprisonment, or both left to the discretion of the court," Chief Farr said.

WOW To Hold Square Dance December 26

Woodman of the World officials announced this week plans for a square dance at Central gymnasium Dec. 26 at 8 p. m., honoring college students home for the holidays.

Everyone is invited to attend, the announcement said, with the dance being sponsored at the request of the students.

It was also announced by the organization that the local camp defeated the Shelby camp in attendance at the annual district booster's club banquet held at Lilly Hall in Shelby on Dec. 4.

T. P. Lail, district manager, was toastmaster at the affair, given by the mill's ladies club. Nick Newberry, of Charlotte, state manager, was the principal speaker.

Next year's meeting will be held in Kings Mountain it was announced. A dance, held in the Shelby gym recently purchased dance hall, followed the meeting.

School's Yule Holidays To Begin Next Friday

It's only 11 shopping days 'til Christmas, but Christmas is nearer for school children.

Annual Christmas holidays will begin at the close of school next Friday afternoon, December 19, and the Christmas vacation will not end until Monday morning January 5, according to an announcement by B. N. Barnes, superintendent.

City Fathers Hold Session

The city board of commissioners, in regular meeting Tuesday night at City Hall, voted to accept the gift of a portable iron lung tendered by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, considered purchase of a street sweeper, and heard monthly reports in a meeting confined principally to routine business.

Martin Harmon, on behalf of the Jaycee organization, informed the board of the proffered gift and added that the only maintenance expense would be annual replacement of rubber gaskets on the plate fittings, which would cost about \$47 annually.

On motion of Commissioner Tommy Ellison, seconded by Commissioner Marrott Phifer, the city accepted the gift "with deep appreciation."

Interesting by-play at the meeting was appearance of Booth Gillespie, representing Veima-Craft Mills, Inc., local manufacturers of chenille products and Rex-Tex rugs, in which Mr. Gillespie sought relief from a \$1.50 penalty assessed for late payment of the city privilege license fee.

The board was adamant, as was Mr. Gillespie, who continued to contend that he had not received notice of the tax being due, and therefore should not be penalized. In the course of the conversation, it developed that both Mayor Fulton and Commissioner Ellison had paid penalties for late payment of their privilege license fees.

Discussion had continued for some time when Mayor Fulton said, "I'll pay the penalty, if you'll get out of here." Mr. Gillespie agreed, promising the Mayor a bedspread.

The board voted to change the classification of Floyd Williams, previously listed as job printer, to the miscellaneous division and continue on page 4 this section)

Big Christmas Parade Successful Even Though Some Units "Got Lost"

In spite of an on-the-march mix-up in which one portion of the parade got temporarily lost, the big Christmas opening parade delighted a record crowd of youngsters and their parents last Friday afternoon who jammed the city streets to get a preview of Old Nick for 1947.

The little folks were young and younger, from virtual babies in arms, to larger ones who could maneuver for themselves, but even the youngest were jumping with excitement to see Santa.

None were disappointed. Old Nick appeared on a reindeer float, and as he passed along the way threw out candies and other Christmas favors along the route.

The parade began only 10 minutes late at 5:40, and there were still traffic jam-ups at 6:30.

In the parade contests, the Judges reported the following winners: Pet division, Joyce Biser, first, Connie Bennett, second, and Billy Styers, third. Wagon division, Maxine Jackson, first, (only entry.) Bicycle division: George Hord, Jr., second, and Elizabeth Sisk, third. First-place winner was a Bumgardner child, but his first name could not be learned.

Checks for \$10 went to first place winners, while second place winners received \$5 and third place winners \$3.

Gaffney high school band received \$25 for first place in the band contest, while Shelby collected the second place \$15 check. Kings Mountain, as host band, did not compete.

Following was the parade order of march as it began: patrol cars, city officials car, Gaffney band, Boy Scout units, bicycle contestants, glee club float; wagon contestants and clowns, Queen City Coach company Cinderella float, Shelby band, pet parade contestants, Girl Scouts, Miss Christmas car, Kings Mountain band Santa Claus float, fire truck.

The girls glee club sang Christmas carols to the strains of a small foot-pump organ, and prior to the parade the Methodist church chimed played a half-hour concert of carols.

Christmas lights were turned on for the parade.

Bobbie Simmons, "Miss Christmas" of Kings Mountain, and her attendants rode in a fancy convertible auto, and the Bridges Airport jeep was gaily decorated for the parade.

Any Old Toys Today? Jaycees Want Old Toys To Distribute To Needy

Kings Mountain Junior Chamber of Commerce is conducting a two-day used toy drive which ends today (Friday) and W. B. Fulton, Jr., chairman of the organization's Christmas activities committee, yesterday urged all children to donate toys they are not now using to the drive.

Toys collected will be repainted and made ready for distribution to needy children.

Collecting points are Victory Chevrolet company and Thomason Hardware.

The Kings Mountain drive is similar to the one held in Gastonia last year.

ed and have been urging donation of used toys to the drive in bulletins and programs in local schools.

Jaycees will work with the Kings Mountain Lions club in distribution of the toys collected with the Lions giving clothes and food stuffs. Jaycees will also give fruits and candy it was added.

"We feel that the more fortunate children of Kings Mountain will appreciate the opportunity of joining in our efforts to contribute to less fortunate children's happiness at Christmas time," Mr. Fulton said, "and we are expecting a large donation of used toys to the drive."

Local News Bulletins

EXECUTIVES CLUB

Jeff Williams, well-known humorist from Chickasaw, Okla., will address the Cleveland County Executives club at its dinner at Hotel Charles, Shelby, Friday night at 7 o'clock. Reservations should be in the hands of Secretary W. M. Ficklen, by noon Friday.

WILLIS RE-APPOINTED

J. K. Willis, mail messenger for the local postoffice, was low bidder among three men entering bids for the contract job and was re-appointed to that position, it was announced by Postmaster W. E. Blakely.

RANGERS QUARTET

The Rangers Quartet, radio artists, featuring Hovie Lister, master of the ivories, will appear in person at Bothware high school auditorium next Tuesday night at 8 p. m., it was announced by Mrs. Charles Owens. The program is under sponsorship of the Bothware Home Economics club.

BRUNSWICK STEW

The Ladies' society of El Bethel Methodist church will serve supper at the church Saturday night at 6 o'clock. The menu will feature Brunswick Stew, coffee and dessert and the eating fee will be \$1.25. A bazaar will also be a feature of the event.

LUTHERAN PARTY

The members of St. Matthew's Lutheran church will gather Tuesday evening, Dec. 16, for the annual Christmas party. An evening of entertainment, decorating, games, refreshments will be enjoyed. A cordial invitation to attend is being extended.

FRESHETIAN FILM

At 7:30 Sunday night at the Presbyterian church a Christmas moving picture called "Child of Bethlehem" will be shown. It will interest both young and old, in its portrayal of the story. A cordial invitation is extended to all.

LUTHERAN SERVICE

"Christmas Blessings" is the title of the service to be held at the Lutheran church, Sunday evening, December 14, at 7:30 p. m. The service consists of the showing of the beautiful colored Church-Craft slides. The public is cordially invited.

NEW TEACHER

Miss Mary E. Patee, of Newton Highlands, Mass., is now a member of the Kings Mountain high school faculty, as teacher of history. Miss Patee is a graduate of Woman's College, at Greensboro, and has taught in North Carolina schools for several years. An additional teacher was awarded the local school due to a student overload.

BREAKS ARM

R. Crier Plonk suffered a fractured right arm Tuesday night when he misjudged location of steps and fell from the porch of his home on East Main street.