



READY ON THE HOSE — KM firefighters await a signal to hose down the roof of the Lipford estate home on E. King. Eight departments from Cleveland County participated in the controlled burning training exercise in Kings Mountain last Wednesday evening.

Photos By Tom McIntyre

Firefighters Exercise Better Than Television

It was better than television. Maybe that's why numerous Kings Mountainians came out on E. King St. last Wednesday night to watch the members of eight different fire departments in action.

Although at first passersby were alarmed when they saw the old wood house, belonging to the Mary Lipford estate, going up in flames they were soon sitting back and enjoying the spectacle of firefighters conducting a controlled burn exercise.

Kings Mountain Fire Chief Gene Tignor said the exercise was held in conjunction with the Cleveland County Fire School. Classes were held all last week, taught by Bill Allred of the N. C. State Insurance Department.

Participating in the exercise were members of the Kings Mountain, Grover, Oak Grove, Bethlehem, Cleveland County, Shelby, Casar and Earl (No. 3) fire departments.

A total of 55 firefighters were involved throughout the evening as the old house was set afire repeatedly until the structure was completely consumed.

During the exercise three firemen sustained minor injuries; two men inhaled smoke and a third cut his knee in a fall.

In the early stages of the burn firefighters were sent into the house to fight small fires, then later, when the walls and roof were blazing, the firefighters took up positions around the house to contain the fire to the one site.

The weather was hot and dry and no winds stirred, but one unit was detailed to keep a ready eye and firehose on flying sparks. Another fireman took up a position beside a metal walled carwash beside the Lipford house to douse the walls when the heat became intense.

Twice during the exercise units were pulled away to assist in real emergencies. The units in the

exercise were about one third the strength of the individual departments participating.

Charles Carpenter, local magistrate, told The Mirror-Herald during the burn there was criticism of the exercise and the destruction of the house. "Some persons feel the materials in the house could have been used again, or that the materials could have been given to citizens to use as fuel," he said.

Carpenter said the house was offered to a salvage company, but that the fee asked for tearing the

house down and hauling it away was very high. As an alternative the house was offered to the fire department and permission to burn the house was given the department in writing.

The house on E. King St. was built in 1920. In 1939 the house was bought by Mayor J. B. Thomason and is currently in the Mary Lipford estate.

As the last wall of the structure was crumbling in flames, Chief Tignor, said, "I used to live in that house, too."



SILHOUETTES — Members of the Kings Mountain Fire Department are silhouetted against the flames that destroyed the Mary Lipford estate home on E. King St. last Wednesday as part of a training exercise.

Public Works Facility Contract Is Awarded

Reynolds and Sons of Charlotte has been awarded the general construction contract on the Kings Mountain Public Works building and garage.

One of eight firms bidding for the contract, Reynolds was recommended to the board of commissioners by Pete Bougham of Holland and McGinnis, Architects, at a special meeting last Friday.

The Reynolds bid was for \$184,869 and 105 days to complete construction.

Actual construction is scheduled to begin on May 2 and end on August 15. Occupancy of the structure is estimated to be October first.

Reynolds will construct the entire flooring, walls and roofing structure, enclose it and leave the interior construction, wiring, plumbing, heating and air conditioning work to the various city departments.

The public works building will contain 18,984 sq. ft. and the shop, 2,240 sq. ft.

Commissioner Jim Childers, chairman of the public works building committee, said, "I am well pleased with the response in the bidding process. The bids were all well below the estimated cost of the project."

In other action at Friday's special board meeting, the commissioners voted to accept a grant agreement from Farmers Home Administration for \$75,000 to be used in making sewer improvements along York Rd.

Commissioners voted to begin a twice-weekly city-wide garbage pickup service. The service began yesterday (Mon., Apr. 18).

Mayor John H. Moss told the board the city has been through an experimentation period using collection carts and "based on that experience, we feel our rolling pickup can be used more advantageously."

The mayor also asked for a motion, and received it, to set aside the month of May in Kings Mountain for Cleanup, Fixup, Paintup by citizens.

In giving approval, the commissioners also committed the city to assist citizens in hauling away debris and trash to the extent of one truckload per residence.

Approved the erection of more speed limit signs on W. Gold St. to cut down on the fast drivers. Commissioner Childers asked for the motion, based on complaints

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Band Returning From Disney Trip

A chartered bus and a U-Haul trailer rattled out of Kings Mountain, last Friday evening bound for Orlando, Fla.

Aboard were members of the Kings Mountain Senior High Band, its director and a handful of chaperones.

Yesterday the band, dressed in KM High colors, led the grand parade through Disney World.

For this outstanding event the students and their parents and the community at large has been preparing for several months, raising funds to finance the trip.

The tab was around \$10,000 for travel and accommodations for the almost 100 persons who signed on for the trip. It might seem like a great amount, but it is one event that will long be remembered by those who participated and by the community that helped make it possible.

It all came about when Donald Deal, the senior high band director, submitted a tape of the band in concert to the officials at Disney World last year. Each week the huge amusement complex selects a different band to lead the grand parade.

At the December concert the first \$500 was raised toward the trip

through donations made by the audience. After that the committee to raise finances sold tickets on a color TV set to raise about \$4,000 more. The students involved in the band trip each raised about \$40 and then private donations and donations from local business and industry rounded out the figures to make the trip a reality.

Following an all night bus trip last Friday, the travelers checked into the Hilton West Inn in Orlando at 8 a. m. and two hours later were looking over Disney World.

Following Sunday School at the hotel Sunday the group toured Circus World and Sea World of Florida. At 7:30 p. m. Sunday Deal gathered the band into a special area provided by the hotel for a rehearsal.

Monday morning the band was given instructions on the noon performance by Disney World officials. Following the parade the band members shucked their uniforms and slipped back into their jeans to enjoy the amusement park for the rest of the afternoon.

Last night the KMers enjoyed a poolside barbecue at their hotel. The group left Orlando about 9:30 this morning and is expected back at the senior high around 9:30 tonight.



TIM BLANTON

Cancer Claims Blanton

Timmons Rohe (Tim) Blanton, 14, lost his hard-fought battle with cancer Friday at 6:40 p. m. in Duke Hospital in Durham.

The youngster, son of Lois and Howard Blanton of Durham, formerly of Kings Mountain, and grandson of Mrs. Ruth Gamble of Kings Mountain and the late Howard Gamble and of Mr. and Mrs. J. Wiley Blanton of Kings Mountain, underwent his first operation for a brain tumor shortly after the Blantons moved to Durham five years ago. He underwent a second operation in December and has been hospitalized the major portion of this year.

An eighth grader and honor student at Carrington Junior High School in Durham, he was active in

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Cameron Ware Is Named To Committee

Governor Jim Hunt today appointed Cameron S. Ware of Rt. 4, Kings Mountain to serve on the Governor's Advisory Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Seafood Industry.

Ware operates an apple orchard and a roadside market.

The Advisory Committee serves at the pleasure of the Governor, and is to keep the Governor informed of current conditions and opportunities for improvement in the growth and harvest of food and fiber. The committee may recommend ideas

for policies to the Governor, but it in no way conflicts or competes with the Board of Agriculture in the Department of Agriculture.

The Agriculture Advisory Committee is to help citizens express their views on pertinent topics to the Governor, and is to make suggestions to the Governor on ways to improve relationships between suppliers, producers, processors and regulators.

The Committee is not paid, but will receive compensation for travel and subsistence expenses.



Photo By Gary Stewart

FLORIDA-BOUND — Members of the Kings Mountain High School band board two chartered buses Friday for a trip to Disney World. The band members raised funds for the trip by selling tickets to a drawing

on a color television set, which was won by Clista Cole of Kings Mountain. The band is scheduled to arrive back home tonight.