

TUESDAY'S

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Jim Ledford Of Kings Mountain

Arm Severed, But He Remains Conscious

Jim Ledford was able to walk around for awhile in his hospital room Sunday and that's pretty good considering the fact he lost his right arm in an on the job accident Friday night.

The 38-year-old Kings Mountain is foreman at Lithium Corporation of America's mining operation about five miles north of Bessemer City. Friday night Ledford's right arm was literally torn from his shoulder by an ore conveyor.

The conveyor belt is located outside the building where the ore is stacked and milled and because of the heavy machinery noise Ledford's cries for help could not be heard.

Ledford underwent surgery at Gaston Memorial Hospital Friday night to repair his shoulder, but the arm was too badly damaged for surgeons to attempt to reattach the limb.

Keeper Ling, manager of industrial relations for Lithium, said, "Our investigation shows us how the accident could have happened, but we won't know for sure until we are able to get the story from Jimmy."

Ling said Ledford, an employe since

March of 1969, was making his rounds at the time of the accident. "We think he discovered the conveyor belt slipping and tried to repair it without stopping the belt. We have a policy that all machinery be stopped before maintenance is attempted, but Jimmy is pretty good at his job and must have felt he could adjust the belt quickly without stopping the operation."

Ling said the arm was severed by being pulled through a pulley on the

conveyor machinery.

Ledford was found approximately 20 minutes after the accident by Von Roberts, an operator. Roberts had gone looking for Ledford after receiving a call from Lyman Robbs asking to speak to Ledford. Roberts raced back to the phone and told Robbs to call the Bessemer City Rescue Squad, then returned and stayed with Ledford until the rescuers arrived.

Ron Deck, an EMT with the BC squad, said Ledford apparently never lost

consciousness during his ordeal nor during the trip to the hospital. Deck said Ledford asked if anyone had called his wife; if his arm had been found; and if he was going to die.

The badly damaged arm was found about 50 feet from where Ledford had staggered and fallen. The limb was beneath the conveyor. Mary Morris, a BC rescue member, found the arm.

Ling said he had heard from family members that the fact Ledford had not

been moved before medical help was available, that he had held his right shoulder tightly with his left hand and that he was constantly exposed to the cold night air were all contributing factors in saving his life from bleeding to death.

"As a supervisor Jimmy should have no trouble carrying on his job with Lithium," Ling said. "When he is able to return to work his job will be here. Meantime he remains on full salary."

New City Directory Prepared

Johnson Publishing Co. of Loveland Colo., is currently soliciting data to update information for a 1978 Kings Mountain city directory.

Bill Coxe, regional manager for Johnson, said representatives are currently calling on business, industries and professional people in the community for directory information.

The directory is scheduled to be released in the third quarter of 1978.

Coxe said the new directory will contain complete listings of businesses, industry and professional services in the community. In addition there will be a complete listing of residences with the name of the man, his wife, business affiliation, address and phone number.

"We will hire local people to handle the canvass of private residences for directory information," Coxe said.

Johnson Publishing Co. has been in business for 44 years and is known as publisher of the world wide chamber of commerce directory in addition to individual city directories.



Photo By Gary Stewart

NEW STYLE? — No, this isn't a new style of utility pole. It's one that, due to Thursday night's heavy ice storm, broke off and formed this design. The pole is located in the parking area of Herman Blalock's Grocery on Highway 216 south of Kings

Mountain. The pole created sagging lines in the neighborhood and caused homes to be without power until a new pole could be erected.

Ice Causes Damage, KM Power Outages

When dawn broke last Friday Kings Mountain looked like a picture postcard. Ice decorated trees, power poles, signs and the rooftops of homes and business houses.

It may have looked pretty, but a second look told you the icy weather had taken its toll in broken trees, fallen limbs and damaged utility poles. But worse than that the ice had caused a four hour power outage over certain sections of the city.

City streets and electrical crews worked around the clock beginning Thursday night answering trouble calls all over town, then around 3:30 Friday morning the ice knocked out the power,

which wasn't restored until 7:17 a. m.

A tree heavily crusted in ice snapped and fell across the 12,000 KVA line down York Rd. and wiped out power in that area Friday. Cleveport, K Mills and Frederickson Motor Lines were about an hour late starting up because of the outage.

Near Blalock's Store on Grover Rd. another power pole, this one belonging to Duke Power, snapped and dropped hot lines into the road and across lawns.

Later Friday morning ice shorted a transformer and set fire to a wooden utility pole on Gantt St. Over the weekend there were

thousands of Duke Power customers still without electrical power due to heavy ice conditions, but Kings Mountainians were fortunate that less damage was caused.

Mayor John Moss said the city's electrical and street department employes worked long and hard during the night to correct service. "The electrical department employes were kept busy constantly repairing lines while the street department employes cleared away and hauled off broken limbs and trees that had downed the lines all over the city," he said. "These men did a tremendous job in finding and repairing the problems to restore power to our citizens."

Grants Could Aid Business Revitalization

By TOM MCINTYRE
Editor, Mirror-Herald

The incentive needed to kick-off revitalization of Kings Mountain's central business district might just come in the form of Urban Development Action Grants.

At Monday night's board of commissioners meeting Mayor John Moss explained the three-phases UDAG program and requested approval to make application to the proper agency.

The three areas covered under the UDAG program include industrial, commercial, and residential.

The commercial grant could be the key to the CBD revitalization.

"In essence," the mayor said, "UDAG funding can augment local development up to 25 percent. It can be made part of a development program effort to improve existing facilities and to build new facilities."

The way the mayor sees it, local businessmen and citizens can form a development corporation, elect a board of directors and name an executive director who would serve as the catalyst to interest new business ventures in the downtown area.

"It would require local private investment and a project by project plan with cost breakdown," the mayor said.

"With the private investment and the 25 percent of the project cost in UDAG funding, it would relatively be easy to obtain a small business loan and equity funding from local financial institutions."

The mayor said there is additional funding available to assist in the projects, such as urban beautification, street and lighting programs, etc.

And local businessmen who will have to spend their own money in updating existing buildings as part of the revitalization program are also eligible

for federal funding under the UDAG guidelines.

The UDAG program is geared to a three-year period.

The mayor said he plans to call public meetings with local business and professional people and private citizens to explore fully the possibilities of the new funding program.

"I view this program with having an appeal for us to work together in a dedicated fashion to achieve the rebirth of Kings Mountain's business community," the mayor said.

Two other grants the mayor asked approval to apply for under the smaller communities program is a single purpose grant and a comprehensive grant.

The single purpose grant is a one-time grant, which the mayor said he would like to see used for making a citizens plaza of the present city hall and adjacent property. The grant would cover the cost of development of the plan.

The comprehensive grant can be used for improvement of utilities, street paving, sidewalks, street lighting, sewer, water and gas. The Burlington Phenix Plant — Anvil Knit residential areas are the targets for this grant-funded project.

Carroll, Bright Are Bound Over

Melvin Haskell Carroll has been bound over to Cleveland County Superior Court in the shooting of Sgt. Bob Hayes on Dec. 19, 1977.

Probable cause was determined by Judge Berlin Carpenter last Thursday morning after a preliminary hearing in the 27th Judicial District Court.

Carroll will face the charge of felonious assault in Superior Court.

Sgt. Hayes was shot five times with a 22 calibre pistol, according to testimony given by other Kings Mountain Police officers in court last Thursday. Hayes has arrived to assist officers Ralph Grindstaff and Anthony Ager in arresting Tommy Lee Bright on a charge of public drunkenness.

Bright was also bound over for trial in Superior Court last Thursday and faces a charge of aiding and abetting assault on a police officer.

On Dec. 19 Bright reportedly tried to escape from the arresting officers by fleeing into a house on Water Tower Rd. in Kings Mountain. Carroll reportedly ordered the officers off the property while holding a weapon. Sgt. Hayes was summoned to the scene and while attempting to get to Carroll across the backyard at the house, Hayes slipped and fell. It was then officers said Hayes was shot.

The veteran police officer underwent surgery at Kings Mountain Hospital and has been recuperating at his home.

New City Office Hours Announced

The mayor's office has begun remaining open for two additional hours Monday through Friday.

Mayor John Moss said, "We are opening half an hour earlier and closing half an hour later, and remaining open during lunchtime to provide better service and more responsiveness to the citizen needs."

The new hours are: 8:30 a. m. until 5:30 p. m. daily.

The city's business office hours are 8:30 a. m. until 5 p. m. Monday through Friday. The public works departments are open from 7:30 a. m. until 4:30 p. m. daily.

The after-business hours number for emergency services is 739-3636.

How Well Do You Know Your Neighbor? Would The Life He's Lived, Or His Hobby Make An Interesting Feature? What About Yourself? Let's Share The Story With Our Readers.

Call 739-7496