



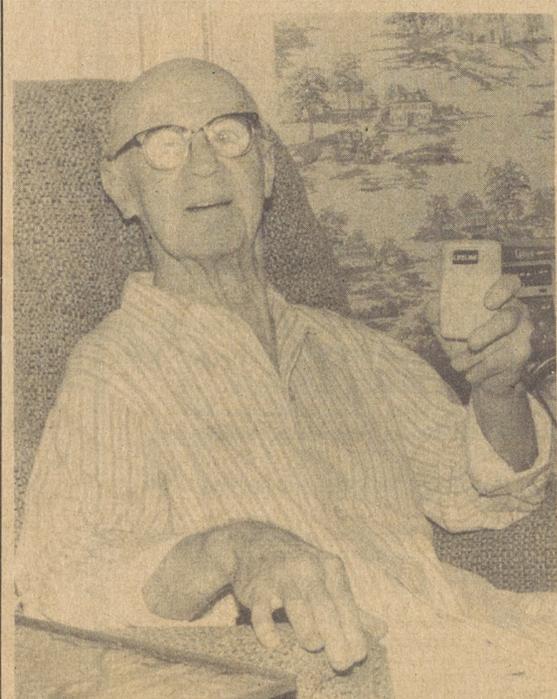
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KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA



Sam Dye and friend

Lifeline

Little gadget helps Sam Dye stay home...

By GARY STEWART
Editor

Eighty-three-year-old Sam Dye of Kings Mountain has Parkinson's Disease and lives alone. He's able to get around, watch television and do most of the things anyone else can.

But, if he falls, he doesn't have the strength to get back up. Living alone, that can present problems, especially on cold winter nights.

Mr. Dye did fall on Thanksgiving night after he cut off his TV and stove and turned to walk to his bed. Had it not been for Lifeline, he could have laid on the cold floor all night long.

But, he simply pushed a button on a small gadget he carries in the pocket of his pajama tops and within minutes his son, Gene, was to his rescue.

Mr. Dye is one of the first 12 area citizens to go on the Gaston

Memorial Hospital Lifeline System, and the first to use it.

Lifeline is a personal response system which uses one's telephone and a computer at Gaston Memorial for emergency communication.

Each Lifeline client has a small computer unit connected to his telephone, and another hand-held unit which can be clipped to a shirt pocket or belt. In cases of emergency, all one does is push the button on either unit, and it activates the computer at the hospital.

The hospital calls the client. If the client is unable to respond, the hospital calls a neighbor, family member or rescue personnel. They go to the home and check out the situation and call the hospital.

In Mr. Dye's case, he was just unable to get back on his feet. He did not require emergency

treatment. But in many cases, Lifeline is a life-saver.

Suzanne Amos-Grabus of Gastonia, a former Kings Mountain resident, sells the system. It is costly to the hospitals, but very inexpensive to users. Gaston Memorial charges only a \$10 per month fee and in cases where clients cannot afford the \$10, funds are available from other sources.

Ms. Amos-Grabus said there are over 500 programs and 20,000 units nationally, and 23 programs in North Carolina hospitals. She constantly hears of situations where Lifeline has been credited with saving a life.

"Lifeline is a wonderful alternative to nursing homes," she says, "and also means psychological security for the elderly who live alone."

She introduced the system to Mr. Dye's daughter-in-law, Joyce, about two years ago.

When Gaston Memorial began the program this year, Ms. Amos-Grabus contacted the Dyes and urged them to apply for a unit.

"Mr. Dye had already fallen a couple of times and we were concerned about him," Mrs. Dye recalls. "I got real fired up about it. It's a great thing that not too many people know about."

For the Dyes, Gaston Memorial began its Lifeline program at the perfect time. Because he had fallen several times, some members of the family thought they might have to put him in a nursing home.

"But, this way, he's able to stay at home and enjoy his cats and TV," Mrs. Dye said. "He's a very quiet man and doesn't get excited about anything. While his unit was being installed and explained to him, we wondered

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Melissa Martin Dies, Service Is Friday

Three-year-old Melissa Lynn Martin, who was critically injured in a house fire last Tuesday at 504 Broad Street in Kings Mountain, died Monday at Charlotte Memorial Hospital after doctors unplugged her life support system.

The young girl was declared brain dead the day she was brought into the hospital, a spokesman for Charlotte Memorial said.

She had been kept alive by a respirator while law enforcement

officials and her grandparents attempted to locate her father, who was last thought to be in Shreveport, La.

The child's mother, Nancy Biddix Martin, 21, remains in serious condition at the North Carolina Burn Center in Chapel Hill. She was burned over 47 percent of her body. Mrs. Martin's boyfriend, Conley Elwood Payne, 22, and Mrs. Martin's 14-month-old baby, Connie Sue Martin, both died in the fire.

Mrs. Martin was pushed out

BURN FUND
Friends of the Nancy Biddix Martin family have established a fund to help pay the hospital expenses of Mrs. Martin and her daughter, Melissa Lynn, who died Monday. Contributions may be made to the Biddix Burn Fund, BB&T, South Branch, P.O. Box 1776, Gastonia, N.C. 28052.

the window of the front bedroom of the home by Payne, who stayed inside in an attempt to rescue the two children. Melissa Lynn was found unconscious in a back bedroom by Kings Mountain Policeman Harry Martin and was revived by Kings Mountain Fireman Frank Burns, who gave her mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Investigators have determined that the cause of the fire was a faulty gas heater. According to City Gas Superintendent Jimmy Maney, the gas was turned off

because of a dangerous leak but someone turned it back on.

Later in the week, investigators also found a small device which was inserted into the breaker box to keep the breakers from tripping. There were reportedly some naked wires in the front room where the fire began. County Fire Marshal Delane Davis said the wires could have contributed to the fire after it started, but the origin was still believed to be the gas heater.

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MELISSA LYNN MARTIN

SBI Investigating KM Police Incident

The State Bureau of Investigation has been called to Kings Mountain to investigate an incident which occurred several weeks ago at a game room.

Lamar Fletcher of Kings Mountain alleges that several Kings Mountain police officers and reserve officers gave his 17-year-old son, James, some "unfair treatment after he was placed under arrest."

Fletcher lodged formal complaints in the form of letters to City Commissioners Norman

King and Corbet Nicholson, Mayor John Henry Moss and Acting Chief of Police, Jackie Barrett.

Fletcher said he hasn't heard anything from any of the four. He said he gave letters to the commissioners on December 6, to Barrett on December 9 and to the mayor on December 13.

According to Fletcher, his son suffered a burst eardrum.

Fletcher has retained attorneys Steve Dolly and Mark Warshawsky of Gastonia. Warshawsky said possible legal action will not be discussed until the SBI investigation is complete.

"I understand the SBI has been talking to some witnesses and to our client," Warshawsky said. "They have not contacted me."

Chief Barrett said he has not yet received a report of the SBI investigation.

It's Time To List Your Tax

Kings Mountain area residents may list their 1983 real and personal property for taxes January 3-30 at the Governmental Services Facilities Center.

Tax listers for Number Four Township are Mrs. Betty Ballard, Mrs. Joann Houser, Mrs. Charles T. Carpenter Jr. and Mrs. W.D. Werner.

All persons owning property on January 1 are required to list.

Persons who listed taxes in 1982 may list by mail if they desire. Forms may be requested from J.O. Hendrick, County Tax Supervisor.

All persons who fail to list by January 30 may be charged penalties or fines.



Citizens complain about utility costs...

Year Wasn't One Of Best

By GARY STEWART
Editor

As citizens look to the new year, many will look back on a 1982 which won't go down as one of the town's best.

The year was filled with economic and personal tragedy, as many area citizens lost their jobs and many more lost their lives.

The recession which began the year before was predicted to end early in 1982, but continued

throughout the year.

The year began with Mayor John Henry Moss predicting that two new industries would locate in town and bring more jobs to the hundreds of persons affected by layoffs at Fiber Industries and other plants. That prediction came true, but it wasn't to be until December, and in the meantime two other KM plants closed and many others cuback their operations and number of employees.

The year ended with the tragedy of a house fire which claimed the lives of three citizens and the serious injury to another, and a rash of highway accidents resulting in the death of many area citizens.

Between January and December, death claimed many of the city's most prominent citizens and the city spent most of its time trying to come up with almost a half-million dollars to repair the dam at Moss Lake,

which had been declared unsafe by state and federal investigators. Those funds finally came late in the year through an amendment to the Community Development Block Grant program.

Some of the top stories of 1982, as taken from the pages of the Kings Mountain Herald, included:

JANUARY

Cleveland County deputies

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Mike Causby, 30, Dies In Myrtle Beach Wreck

Michael Gene Causby, 30, of Myrtle Beach, S.C., formerly of Kings Mountain, died Thursday in an automobile accident in Myrtle Beach.

He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Junior Causby of Kings Mountain and was employed as a registered nurse at Conway Hospital. He was a member of Temple Baptist Church of Kings Mountain.

In addition to his parents, he is

survived by a sister, Miss Jacqueline K. Causby of Kings Mountain; and his grandparents, Sallie Mae Hamilton and Mr. and Mrs. Coley Freeman, all of Kings Mountain.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday at 3 p.m. at Temple Baptist Church by the Rev. Gerry Davis and the Rev. Buddy Freeman. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.