

Buck (And Gary) Always Get Man

By GARY STEWART
Editor

Kings Mountain Policeman Gary Sale was just settling down after a long night on the third shift Thursday morning, when his telephone rang.

Several Bessemer City policemen were chasing a suspected thief, who had jumped from a vehicle and ran into the woods after leading police down a dead-end street. They needed Sale and his registered bloodhound, Buckheimer, to track the man down.

Sale, who used to train bloodhounds for the North Carolina Prison Department in Asheboro, bought Buck two years ago and is often called upon by area law enforcement agencies in such situations.

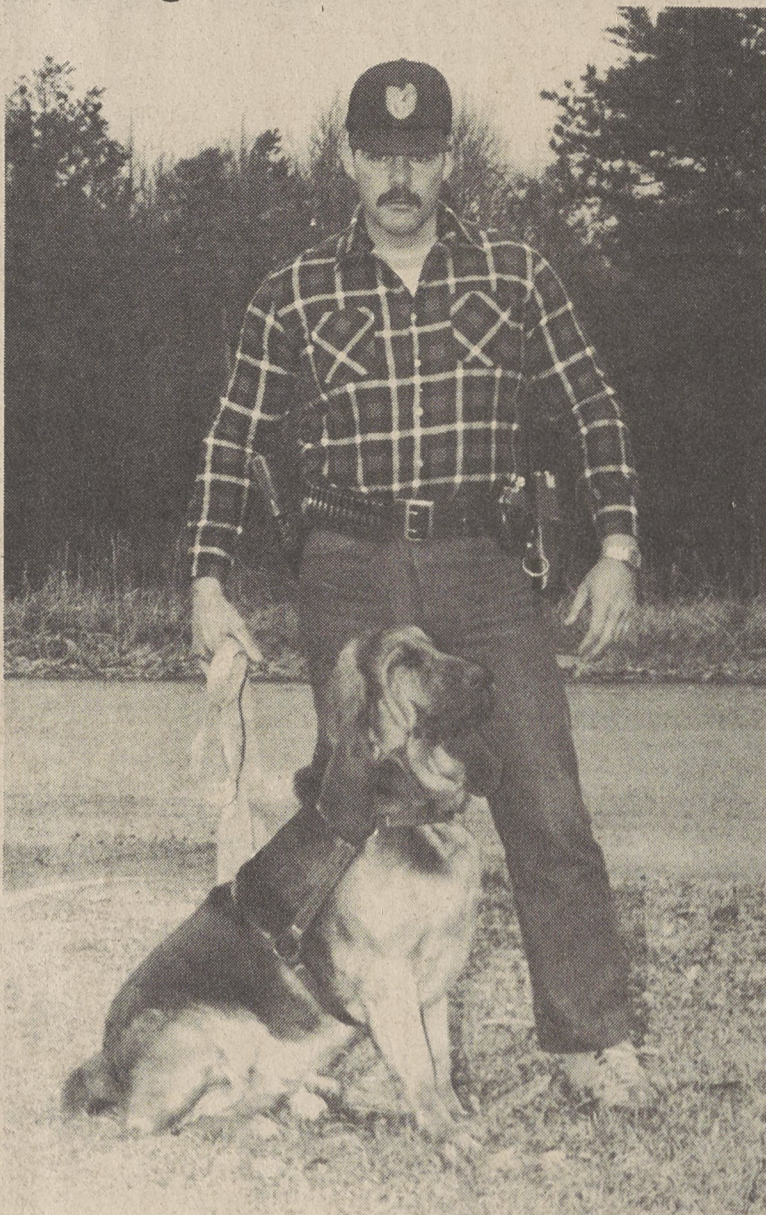
Sale dressed quickly, loaded the 95-pound Buck into his pickup truck and headed for Fourteenth Street in Bessemer City.

An hour and a half later, Buck had his man.

"He was so exhausted from running from Buck, he just laid down in the bushes," Sale said. "He gave out."

The man was identified as 18-year-old David Thomas Gunnel of Route 1, Ringo, Va. He was wanted by Virginia police for two counts of grand theft auto, including the theft of the pickup truck he was driving.

Also apprehended was Sherri Beterson, 16, of Route 1, Ringo, Va., who was wanted by Virginia officials for a probation violation.



GARY AND BUCK - Kings Mountain policeman Gary Sale is pictured with his registered Bloodhound, Buckheimer. The two helped Bessemer City police track down a larceny suspect last Thursday.

According to Sale, the two stopped at Oates Shell Service on King Street in Kings Mountain for gas. They left the store without paying, and headed north on Highway 161.

"I think they were actually headed for South Carolina," Sale said. "They didn't know which way to go, I guess."

After the couple left the Shell station, Kings Mountain police were notified. Three Bessemer City police cars spotted the truck near Lithium Corporation and the chase began.

As far as Buck is concerned, the man sealed his own tomb when he turned down the dead-end street, because, according to Sale, "Buck always gets his man."

Miss Beterson did not run and was apprehended at the scene. According to Sale, Gunnel was carrying a small calibre handgun but dropped it as soon as he saw the officers.

Kings Mountain Police charged both with larceny. Gaston County officers charged Gunnel with larceny of an auto.

Meanwhile, Sale was sleepy-eyed from trying to catch naps between interviews by area newspapers. With sleet falling outside his fence behind Sale's Wilson Street residence, Buck was snuggled inside his dog house and resting quite comfortably, thank you.

DONUT SALE

The Kings Mountain Rescue Squad will be holding a donut sale Saturday in front of Harris-Teeter, Winn-Dixie and Food

Lion. Donuts will sale for \$2 per box. All proceeds will go to the squad building fund.

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Dam Repair Bids Rejected

City commissioners Monday night rejected the recent bids for repairs of the dam at Moss Lake to give city engineer Buck Johnson more time to study the safety factors of installing a valve.

Johnson said he was concerned that a diver who was installing a valve similar to the one planned for Moss Lake recently drowned, and that the city should make sure it's installation procedure is perfectly safe before attempting the job.

"The dam is one of the most permanent things you have in this city," Johnson said. "We think of it in terms of several hundred years, and we don't want to involve things we can't undo."

The city accepted bids on the repair work in January and forwarded the low bids to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for its approval. The board planned to officially award the bids Monday night.

Leak Is Controlled

From Page 1-A

known, County Fire Marshall Delane Davis said the tanker's capacity was 30,000 gallons.

The chemical is used in airplane glue, and other things, Davis said.

The situation was potentially dangerous. Firemen working at the scene used oxygen masks and others were not allowed to go near the tanker. As one fireman at the scene said, "a spark or anything could set it off."

"We're lucky the leak wasn't worse," Davis said. "The chemical is highly explosive and toxic. It burns the sinuses and nose if you breathe the fumes."

Davis said emergency officials considered evacuating the area and would have had the situation gotten worse. "As a result, it wasn't that severe," he said.

"We had some complaints from residents who said they smelled something," Davis said, "and I'm sure that's what it was."

The workmen from Celanese who were trying to stop the leak Wednesday morning said that if the leak could not be stopped the chemical would be transferred to another tanker and moved on out of town, Davis said.

The low bids which were rejected Monday included Trans State Corporation of Denver, \$221,000; Evans-Eller Associates of Statesville, \$182,000; and Evans-Eller, \$14,995.

The city will now re-advertise for bids.

In response to a question by Commissioner Jim Dickey, Johnson said he did not believe the board's action would affect the deadline which the city has been given by the state.

He said he felt sure, because of the safety factor, the state would extend the deadline.

"I don't know how long it's going to take for us to investigate thoroughly what our problem might be," Johnson said. "We need to study the problem in order to advise you better. It's so important that it deserves further information. I don't know if a problem exists at all. We may come back and present the identical same plan."

In other action Monday, the board:

*Approved a request from George Houser to rezone property on the east side of I-85 from R-20 to Light Industry.

*Approved a request from P.D. Crane to rezone property located at the intersection of Linwood and Fairview from R-6 to Neighborhood Business for the purpose of opening a convenience store.

*Tabled a request from John Plonk and Keith Laughter to rezone property at 227 Cherokee Street from Central Business to General Business. Laughter hopes to open a skating rink, but on the advice of City Attorney George Thomasson, the board authorized Community Development Director Gene White to seek the proper rezoning procedure from HUD, since the property is located in the downtown Urban Renewal project.

Received a request from Norma Mahew Guyton that her property at 1003 Groves Street be annexed into the city. The board authorized advertisement of a public hearing on the matter.

*Awarded a bid of \$31,637 to Power Equipment Company of Charlotte for a bucket tower for the Electrical Department.

*Received a request from Thomas G. Brooks for water and sewer service for Kings Court, a 50-unit, one and two bedroom apartment complex which is planned for State Road 1001 adjacent to the Kings Mountain utility lines. No action was taken.

*Discussed, but took no action on, the surface drainage problems in the Catherine Street area. The drainage committee will study the problem and come back to the board with a recommendation.

*On a vote of 5-1, with Commissioner Jim Childers opposing, authorized Mayor John Moss to

submit an application for a Small Cities Grant for a neighborhood rehabilitation project in the First Street, Second Street, Third Street, Fourth Street, Cranford Drive, Fairview Street, Ellison Street, and McGinnis Street

Turn To Page 8-A



JCPenney

SIDEWALK SALE

Friday, February 18, Starting At Noon

We will be closed Friday morning in order to prepare for our giant side walk sale, but we will open at noon making available selected items in limited quantities from our sidewalk promotion. Here are just a few examples:

MEN'S WORK PANTS Orig. 14.00 Sale 7.49 Shirts Orig. 13.00 Sale 6.49	REVERSIBLE SKI JACKETS Orig. 60.00 Sale 15.99	TOP GRAIN LEATHER JACKETS Orig. 150.00 Limited Quantities & Sizes For Men Sale 40.00	FLYING TIME LUGGAGE 5 Pc. Set In Burgandy, Blue And Brown Orig. 99.00 Sale 54.99	MISSES WOOL PLAID SKIRTS 84 Only In Broken Sizes Orig. 14.00 Sale 3.99	SCISSORS Closeout All Styles And Sizes Orig. 6.00-15.00 Sale 1.99 - 5.29
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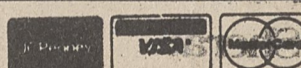
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