

KM vs. Crest Friday For First Place

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KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA

Sale's Lucky To Be Alive

Kings Mountain policeman Gary Sale has always been proud of his superior physical condition.

The veteran officer spends many hours lifting weights in Charlotte area gyms, and when he's not there, he can usually be found exercising with his registered bloodhound, Buck, which he uses to track criminals for area police departments. Just this spring, he entered the North Carolina Police Olympics and won a number of awards and ribbons.

His excellent physical condition, and the quick action of a

Kings Mountain man, saved his life late last Wednesday when he wrecked his police car on Grover Road while answering a call for assistance to another police officer in the Margrace community.

Sale was leaving Hardee's on Cleveland Avenue after having coffee with his wife, Mary, when he received a call that officer Billy Benton needed backup on a 10:40 (fight in progress) on Margrace Road.

"He kissed me goodbye and said he'd see me later," Mary said Tuesday from Gary's hospital room in Charlotte,

where she has stayed since Sale was rushed to Charlotte Memorial after the 10:30 accident. "I went on home and turned on the scanner and heard them call for the rescue squad to go to the wreck scene. But I had no idea at that time that it was Gary."

A tire blew out on Sale's police cruiser, causing him to swerve back and forth across the road several times, run up an embankment, hit a utility pole and overturn into the highway. The car burst into flames.

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GARY SALE

Mountaineer Days Slated

A big four-day celebration of Mountaineer Days will get underway next Wednesday morning and continue through Saturday night.

The celebration is sponsored by the Kings Mountain Fire Department, with all proceeds earmarked for the Toys For Tots program, which benefits needy children at Christmas.

There will be activities for the entire family. Barbecue will be sold throughout the event by the fire department, and a dunking machine will be set up on Railroad Avenue. Saturday, there will be carival rides all day at the Community Center and buggy rides all day at the Community Center and Railroad Avenue.

An always-popular rock-athon will begin Friday at 4 p.m. on Railroad Avenue, and judging for the beard contest and best dressed contest will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Railroad Avenue. Street dances will be held on Railroad Avenue on Thursday and Friday nights.

Hot air balloon rides, featuring Mr. Bill's balloon from Channel 13-Asheville, will be given Saturday from 12 noon until 3 p.m. on Battleground Avenue.

The fire museum on Cleveland Avenue will be open all day on Saturday, and the Kings Mountain Jaycees will have fingerprinting stations setup all day Saturday.

A complete list of events follows:

WED., OCT. 5

7:30 a.m. - Breakfast for industry, hosted by the Industrial Committee, at the multi-purpose Senior Center.

12 P.M. - Industry exhibit opens at community center gym.

6:30 p.m. - Raising of flag at city hall; Firing of cannon at city hall.

7-9 p.m. - Group singing at city hall.

9 p.m. - Taps and lowering of flag at city hall.

Continuing events - Barbecue sold by fire department at concession stand on Railroad Avenue; dunking machines (evening) on Railroad Avenue; band on Railroad Avenue.

THURS., OCT. 6

All day exhibit at community center.

5 a.m. - Self-defense exhibition by Robbie Eng on Railroad Avenue.

6:00 until - Horseshoe contests on Railroad Avenue.

6:30 p.m. - Raising of the flag at city hall; Firing of the cannon at city hall.

6:30-8:30 p.m. - Bingo (tent on Railroad Avenue).

8 p.m. - Street dance featuring "South's Finest" on Railroad Avenue.

Continuing events - Barbecue sold by fire department at concession stand on Railroad Avenue; Dunking machine (evening) on Railroad Avenue.

FRI., OCT. 7

Morning - Industry exhibit. Closes at 12 noon.

4 p.m. - Rock-a-thon on Railroad Avenue.

6:30 p.m. - Raising of the flag and firing of the cannon at city hall.

6:30 p.m. - Judging of best dressed contest and beard contest on Railroad Avenue.

6:30-8:30 p.m. - Bingo (tent on Railroad Avenue).

7-8 p.m. - Play - Little Theatre

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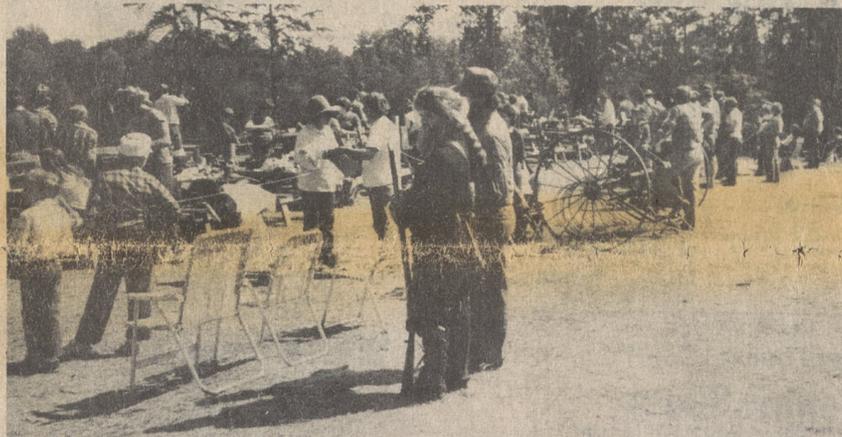


Photo by Gail Shytle

PIONEER DAYS - People flocked to the Kings Mountain State Park last weekend to celebrate Pioneer Days. Over 6,000 attended the two-day event.

Pioneer Days Held

By GAIL SHYLTLE

Thousands of people took a brief trip back into time this past weekend during Pioneer Days at the State Park.

Held at the Kings Mountain History Farm, Pioneer Days was a re-creation of the 19th Century lifestyle of settlers from this area.

The pioneer character of the 1800 farm homestead provided the setting as both spectators and participants re-lived the past during the two day festivity held September 24-25. According to Phil Gaines, Park Manager Assistant, around 6,000 people turned out for Pioneer Days.

Activities included musket

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Woman Wins Zoning Suit Against City

A Cleveland Avenue woman who recently had her property backzoned by Kings Mountain City Council had her day in court Monday and will be permitted to open a beauty shop in her residence.

The court ruled that the city illegally backzoned the property of Della Carter Sexton because it did not advertise for a public hearing before taking its action.

Mrs. Sexton requested that her home be rezoned from Residential to Neighborhood Business several months ago so she could open a beauty shop. The board approved her request.

But several weeks later, a group of citizens appeared before the board and asked that the action be rescinded because the city code of ordinances allows other businesses besides beauty shops to be located in Neighborhood Business areas.

The board, with Commissioner Jim Childers casting the lone no vote, reversed its earlier decision.

Mrs. Sexton, who was not present at that second meeting, took the matter to court because the board did not advertise for, or hold, a public hearing before voting on the matter.

Firemen Douse Blaze At Convalescent Home

Fast action by the Kings Mountain Fire Department prevented a potentially dangerous situation late Sunday night at the Kings Mountain Convalescent Center.

A fire broke out in one room of the center at 10:23 p.m. Firemen quickly went to the scene and had the fire under control in minutes.

According to Pete Peterson of the fire department, the fire was caused by a short in a window heating and cooling unit. No major damage was reported.

The Kings Mountain Rescue Squad was also on the scene.

The city police department had its emergency command post ready if an evacuation had been necessary, Mayor John Henry Moss said.

"I appreciate the fire department, rescue squad and con-

convalescent center staff, who handled the situation so well," Moss said. "Everyone in the community can be very proud of these organizations for handling what could have been a very serious fire so well."

The city fire department battled five other fires during the past week.

Wednesday night, the firemen extinguished the fire and hosed down the area on Grover Road where city policeman Gary Sale wrecked while answering a call. The car was a total loss.

Friday at 6:30 a.m., the firemen extinguished a house fire at a vacant house at 808 Third Street. The rear of the house was heavily damaged.

Saturday at 11 a.m., firemen doused a small grass fire across

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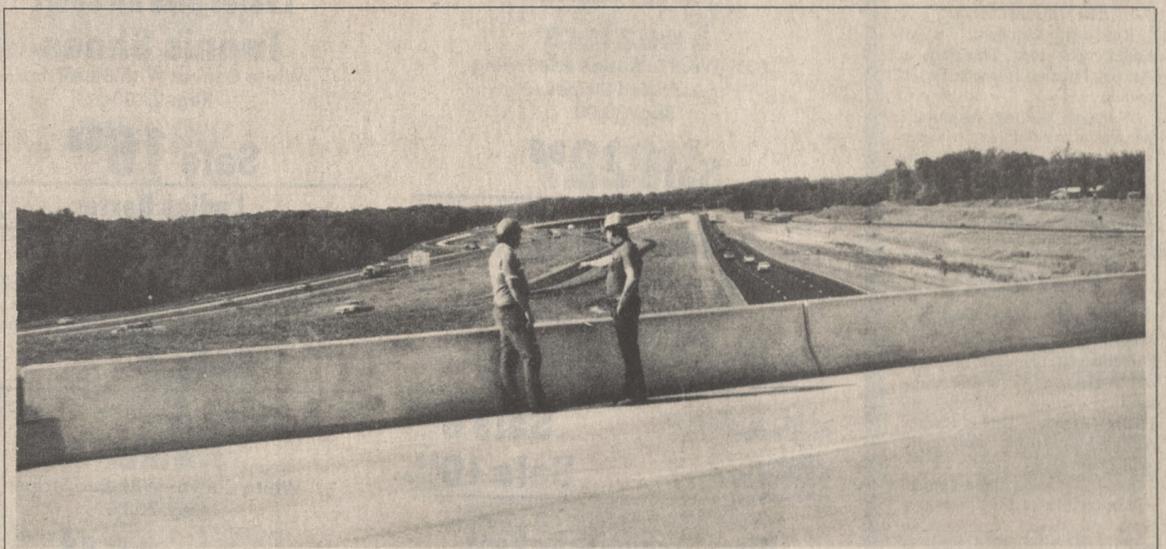


Photo by Gary Stewart

LOOKING OVER GOOD WORK - Carl Champion, left, and Gerald McMahan of Champion Contractors stand on the Highway 74 bridge east of Kings Mountain and look over the new I-85-Highway 74 interchange which got its official stamp

of approval from the State Highway Department Friday. There will be no more switching of traffic in that area of the \$15.8 million 74 bypass project.

74-85 Interchange Open

Kings Mountain motorists traveling to and from Gastonia at the new Highway 74-85 interchange will no longer be switching off and on lanes.

The State Highway Department Friday officially opened the interchange and gave its stamp of approval on new construction done by Champion Construction Company of Kings Mountain.

Construction of the total 2.2 mile project, which runs from I-85 past Bethware School, is scheduled to be completed by

November 15. Officials said Friday there's a good possibility that deadline will not be met, but they hope the new bypass will be open to traffic shortly thereafter.

The total project, which is costing \$15.8 million, consists of 30 miles of 12-foot traffic lanes. Construction began 2½ years ago.

Jim Warren, assistant division engineer for the State Highway Department, said all concrete work on the Highway 74 main line through Kings Mountain,

most shoulder work, construction of guard rails and signs, and some ramp work remains to be done.

Gerald McMahan, general supervisor for the 74-85 interchange project, said, "we appreciate the cooperation of the public during this 2½-year period. Everyone in Kings Mountain has been anxious to see this project completed, and as of today, we've finished ahead of schedule."

Carl Champion, owner of Champion's Contracting, said

his company, with the approval of the State Highway Department, made some minor changes in the original plans which made it possible to complete the project ahead of schedule.

"Those changes enabled us to relieve the bottleneck of traffic sooner than anticipated," he said. "We would like to thank the people of Kings Mountain for their patience and cooperation during the construction period. We're real proud of the job our men did."