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KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA

Inmates Help Young Students 'Get Smart'

The program is called "Get Smart" and inmates 18-21 enrolled in the Dallas Youthful Offenders program are telling teenagers in Kings Mountain not to learn how to get smart the hard way.

For the past three Wednesdays, sixth and seventh graders at Central School have listened as inmates talk to them about getting smart.

Don't fall into the trap we fell into, watch the crowd you run around with, and listen to your parents and teachers is the advice they're giving local students.

A total of 127 Central students gave their impressions of the lectures in a survey con-

ducted by teachers. Most all rated the program excellent. Some of their replies: "It was a trip", "Makes us think twice before getting into drugs"; "They don't look like criminals"; "They're cute", "They're good speakers."; "This should tell us not to get in trouble and get in jail." "I learned alot"; "We didn't have enough time to ask more questions."

North Carolina's "Get Smart" program, which was copied by the Dallas Department of Correction in Gaston County from a similar program in South Carolina, got its start from the

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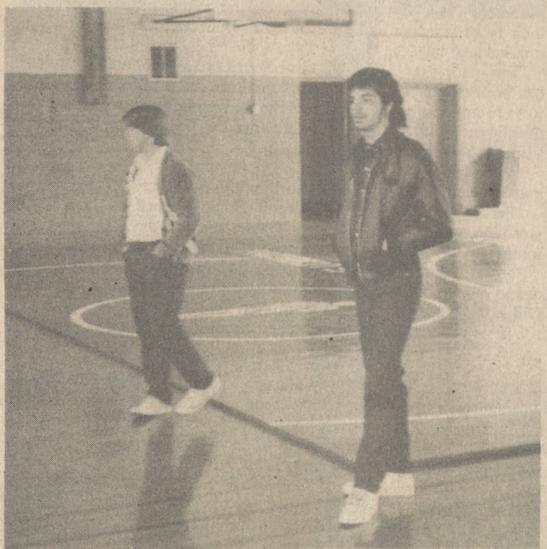


PHOTO BY LIB STEWART

INMATES LECTURE - Two inmates from the Dallas Correctional Unit above, lecture to Central School sixth and seventh graders and encourage them to "get smart and stay out of trouble."

Downtown Property Sold Monday Night

The sixth sale of property in the downtown redevelopment district was approved Monday night by the city board of commissioners who also approved final construction plans for the fifth parcel.

Bobby R. Bridges' plans to construct a \$80,000 plus 100x50 metal building for a textile parts distribution center were given the go-ahead sign and Boyd E. Edmonson's bid of \$850 was accepted for a 14,950 square foot lot north of the Bridges parcel where Edmonson proposed to build a body repairs business estimated to cost \$22,000. Edmonson also plans to build a six foot high non-see-through fence around a potential car storage area. The portion of the building facing King Street will be of brick construction.

T.C. Strickland of Shelby will be general contractor for the Bridges construction which will get underway Feb. 24, Mr.

Strickland told the board. The textile parts distribution center and training center will employ 10 people initially and the 100x50 foot metal building will include a glass front and office space. Bridges paid \$2700 for parcel 74.

The board reserves the right to review and approve final plans prior to awarding building permit.

Community Development Director Gene White said that sale of lots to citizens at the highest responsible bidding price was approved by the city board last July to encourage building in the downtown area. Since that time numerous citizens have taken the opportunity to get property at a price they can afford. Under state law, only one bid is required but the person making the bid must be ready to begin construction. The property cannot be sold for a parking lot.



GOVERNOR HUNT

Jim Hunt To Speak

Governor James B. Hunt will be speaking during an assembly program at Kings Mountain High School at 1:30 p.m. on March 20, Principal Ronnie Wilson announced at Monday night's School Board meeting.

The week of March 19-23 has been proclaimed "Celebrate America Week" in North Carolina schools.

In another matter Monday, Wilson told board members that Kings Mountain High's "Scholars Program" which allows talented students to take strenuous courses to better prepare themselves for college, is becoming more important in

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Counselors Discussed

Elementary school guidance counselors could be a future asset to Kings Mountain District Schools, Ronald Anderson, Elementary Schools Guidance Director for the State Department of Instruction, told members of the Kings Mountain School Board Monday night.

Anderson said other school systems that have guidance programs in the elementary schools have seen much improvement in discipline and academic performance in middle and junior high grades.

Kings Mountain schools do not have guidance programs in elementary schools but have expressed interest in adding them. Superintendent Bill Davis said the biggest thing standing in the way of adding such programs is money.

Anderson said there are 350 elementary guidance counselors in North Carolina now, serving about 60 percent of the school systems. "I would hope that someday we would have one counselor for each school with 400 or more children," he said.

Anderson said counselors are needed in the K-5 grades "because we can do things at this level that are very hard to do later on."

The elementary guidance program, he said, focuses on large group guidance, working with classroom teachers to set up units on how to help children cope with problems, heading off potential problems, working with children with specialized needs, and working with youngsters on a one-to-one basis.

Anderson said a recent

statewide survey done on guidance work with three categories of students (disruptive, under-achievers and those experiencing difficulty) showed "a change in behavior, in their self-perception and their grades."

A survey in Florida, where Anderson served as an elementary guidance counselor before taking his present position in North Carolina, showed that schools with elementary counselors had better academic performance and noted a change

for the better in problem students when they got to the middle school and junior high level.

Anderson said it has been his experience that classroom teachers are supportive of the elementary guidance program. "They like the idea that there's someone they can go to on a personal basis and talk about these problems."

Many teachers and principals attending the board meeting said

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Recreation Project To Begin At Moss Lake

The city commission advertised for bids for fencing, water pipe and fittings for a Bureau of Outdoor Recreation Project which is beginning at John Henry Moss Lake.

When completed, the recreation project will include improved camping, picnicking and swimming area facilities. The project is expected to cost \$322,000.

In other actions: The Board heard annual Fire Department report from Fire Chief Tignor in which he at-

tributed a drastic reduction in fires to improvement of water system, fire training programs and demolition of sub-standard housing through the city's redevelopment program. Tignor said the number of fires in the city since 1975 are "cut in half" and suggested that fire training exercises are held in local industrial plants and that fire brigades be formed in communities.

Mayor John Moss announced that the city has acquired the

right-of-way for widening to a 70 feet right-of-way Cleveland Avenue from Woodside Drive to Linwood Road and the North Carolina Department of Transportation can now consider requesting bids for contract for this work.

The Board forwarded request to the Planning and Zoning Board from Ben H. Goforth who asks that his property on the south side of King Street at the intersection of S. Roxford Road and West King St. be rezoned

from residential 10 to General business.

The Board approved petition for street improvements and curb and gutter for Oakland Street from Hillside to Sandhurst and authorized the mayor to negotiate to acquire property less than one half acre in size adjacent to the city boundary for the purpose of access control.

The Board approved a resolution from the Kings Mountain Police Department to pay employer special contributions

to special annuity savings fund mandatory by state law and in effect a tax shelter. The action does not involve any additional monies.

The Board accepted Shelby Ford Tractor's low bid of \$18,895 for a tractor trencher for the electrical department. Other bidders were Charlotte Ford Tractor, \$19,332.59; Contractor service, \$21,698; and Jones Tractor, \$21,400.

Hospital Lays Off 17 People

Triggered by a low patient census over the past several months, Kings Mountain Hospital laid off 11 full-time employees and six part-time employees Friday, Administrator Grady Howard said.

Mr. Howard said layoffs represent about 10 percent of the current staff of 180.

The 102-bed facility has been operating with a declining census (patient load) for the past several months. The decline represents 10 to 15 percent on the normal census, said Howard. He said that a number of hospitals are experiencing the same problem and that trustees for the past several months have been looking at the declining patient census and in an effort to expand the hospital's medical

coverage to the Greater Kings Mountain area have opened a Doctor's Clinic in the neighboring town of Grover.

The Kings Mountain Hospital Satellite Clinic opened Monday morning and will be open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and will be staffed temporarily by Dr. Donald F. Schwab, of Western North Carolina and formerly of Wisconsin. Dr. Schwab has been employed as a "Locum Tenen" physician on a temporary basis. Wanda Neal, registered nurse, is also a member of the staff and serves as receptionist. The telephone number is 937-9280.

The new clinic is located on Mulberry Road beside Grover Post Office.



RECEIVE AWARD - Employees of the Kings Mountain branch of Branch Banking and Trust were presented the 1983 President's Award for being the most improve branch in the system. Pictured, left to right, are Jean Dyer, Betty Pallazza, John Allison, senior executive vice president and head of BB&T Banking Group, Frank Cagle, Alex Hall, senior vice president and West Regional Manager, Ann Gray and Suzanne Sowersby.

BB&T Wins Award

The Kings Mountain office of BB&T has received recognition for outstanding achievement in The President's Award competition of 1983. The plaque, presented by John A. Allison IV, senior executive vice president in charge of the Banking Group, and W. Alex Hall, senior vice president and regional manager, was accepted on behalf of the Kings Mountain staff by G. Frank Cagle, vice president and city executive.

Cagle, commenting upon the award, said, "We are pleased to have been recognized in this competition. Our achievement is a result of the dedication of our staff to provide outstanding service to our customers."