



Attend Shriners Donkey Basketball

Saturday 7:30

Community Center

KM Women Flying High

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Mauney Memorial Library
100 S. Piedmont Ave.
Kings Mtn., 28086

Kings Mountain Herald

25

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KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA



PHOTO BY LIB STEWART

TRUE VINE GOSPEL SINGERS - Pictured are five members of a new gospel singing group who share a unique experience. Handicapped all, they sing for the Lord.

Handicap Is Blessing For This Gospel Group

The True Vine Gospel Singers is a unique Christian gospel singing group in the Kings Mountain area.

All the members are handicapped, but their handicaps are blessings, says the Rev. Arthur Allen who organized the group 19 months ago.

Every weekend the True Vine bus stops at a church to sing for the Lord and 15 Saturday nights and 29 Sunday nights are already booked this year. In addition, the popular and versatile singers are booked for a benefit singing for the handicapped on March 3 at the Old Gaston Armory in Gastonia. All proceeds are earmarked for the Respite Care Home for Mentally Handicapped children in Gaston, Cleveland and Lincoln Counties.

"We never make a dime and we never make a charge but we reap dividends from the Lord and in our own Christian lives", said Rev. Allen. Mr. Allen uses the money earned from collecting scrap paper from the Herald Office to keep his 1964 model utility bus on the road each weekend when the group of

eight pile in the bus and head for whatever church calls. They practice twice a week at the home of Ann Farris, who recently joined the group as pianist.

Allen, who is legally blind, plays lead guitar and is the lead singer in the talented group which also includes his wife, Laura, and their son, Kenny, who doesn't sing in the group but is their chief promoter and helps carry the instruments and set up the music. Eddie Mason, 28, who lost his right arm in an industrial plant accident, plays bass guitar and drives the bus, his son, Eric Lee Mason, plays drums, and Eddie's mother, Ellen Mason plays guitar and sings. Willie Tedder plays guitar and harmonica and James Thrift provides bass.

How did the talented group of singers get together? Rev. Allen praises the Lord for His choice of singers and says they started singing at a campground in Hickory and from there got their first booking. Other members joined the group and soon the families became close friends.

Ellen Mason said she led the singing for her father as a child in the Methodist church, where she grew up as a minister's

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Cemetery

Expansion

Committee Aim

A 10-member Cemetery Committee has been appointed by Mayor John H. Moss to look at expansion of Mountain Rest Cemetery and make recommendations to the city board of commissioners for property acquisition.

The Mayor said the committee will hold its first meeting Thursday morning, March 1, at 7:30 a.m. in his office at City Hall.

Members of the committee are Senator J. Ollie Harris, George H. Mauney, Jonas Bridges, Corbet H. Nicholson, Curtis Gaffney, Bennett Masters, Miss Elizabeth Stewart, the mayor, and the president of the KM Ministerial Association and the president of the Woman's Club.

"The city needs to expand Mountain Rest Cemetery and this will be the function of this new committee to study and make recommendations its findings after contacting potential land owners", said the mayor.

Vocational Education Will Face Changes

"Vocational Education builds upon the basics", said Dr. Clifford B. Belcher, of Raleigh, State Department of Public Instruction Director of Vocational Education, in an address before the KM District Schools Vocational Advisory Council Tuesday night.

With advancement of the computer and high technology, there will be a lot of changes in the next few years, he predicted, but Belcher says skeptics about vocational education won't win out. "This program is here to stay because it renders a service", he declared.

Citing statistics that 50,000 students graduated in 1983 from vocational education classes and half of them entered the job market immediately, Dr. Belcher said that the public schools are the biggest supplier of the labor market in North Carolina. He said that 30,000 students earned 60 million dollars last year and paid 12 million in income taxes. After high school training they earned \$1.50 above the minimum wage paid in the particular fields they entered. There are 6,200 vocational teachers today as compared to 1400 twenty years ago. Many skills have been replaced by electric and micro computers have entered every area. However, schools must keep up by providing the most up-to-date equipment and supplies to train students for these careers.

Dr. Belcher, while singing the praises of vocational education programs, said that it is the only program in the state that requires a local school system to put up 30 percent of the cost of the total program before it can receive state and federal appropriations. "This is unfair", he said and steps are being taken now to request the General Assembly to require the funds go to the local systems at 100 percent. He said vocational education received no additional money in the last four years except in the area of teacher salaries. "Local systems like Kings Mountain do a mammoth job on a limited budget", he declared.

Belcher said that a recent rating from 230 employers of high school graduates of vocational training in eight representative school districts gave



PHOTO BY LIB STEWART

ADVISORY COUNCIL - Dr. Clifford Belcher, left, is welcomed by Betty R. Gamble to the Tuesday night meeting of the Vocational Ad-

visory Council as Glee E. Bridges, chairman, second left, and Supt. Bill Davis, far right, look on.

students 81.2 percent above average on work attitudes, 79.2 percent on work quality, 71.4 percent on technical knowledge, 75.5 percent overall rating of prior knowledge and 80.7 above average on relative preparation.

"Vocational Education is the best kept secret in the state" Belcher said, adding one of the areas that Advisory Council's can communicate the good news about the program is through public awareness. Advisory councils also help in planning programs, curriculum update and development, and job placement.

Back from a recent trip to Egypt where he evaluated the vocational education program in that country, Belcher said government owns 70 percent of industry and Egypt has no data collection system at all. Most kids go directly into industrial jobs after completing grade nine and there is virtually no unemployment. "We can't incorporate the European system in free wheeling America", he said.

He predicted that one million students will enter the labor market during the period 1980-1990 and there will be

nurses and auto mechanics. "The day is coming when homes will be computerized," he predicted. By 1990, "knowledge will be turning over every five years and textbooks will have to be rewritten."

The State Department of Instruction is now looking into

program accountability while reviewing every program in all school systems, he said.

The Vocational Education Department received its first scholarship grant in the amount of \$250 to go to a drafting student from Alexander Realty, Mrs. Betty R. Gamble, Vocational Director, announced.

William Orr Named To Efficiency Council

William Orr, of 507 N. Waterson St., has been appointed to the Cleveland County Transportation Efficiency Council by Governor Jim Hunt.

Orr will serve through September 30, 1985.

The Cleveland County Council was set up in 1981 to examine the work program, policies, methods and operations of the local Transportation Department county maintenance unit.

The Governor said Orr's responsibility will be to make recommendations to him and to the Board of Transportation on improving efficiency and productivity in the local area. David Hoyle is chairman and William R. Roberson, Jr. is Secretary of Transportation.



WILLIAM ORR

Convalescent Rockers Raise Funds For Diabetes

A total of \$1,085.52 was raised by rockers and rollers at Kings Mountain Convalescent Center Friday as 14 residents of the facility rocked in rocking chairs and rolled their wheelchairs for benefit of the American Diabetes Association.

The "fun" event also featured

entertainment by popular WBTV entertainer Fred Kirby, cloggers from Central School and the Swinging Mountaineers, senior citizens band.

Not only residents of KMCC but a large turnout from the community, including family and friends of residents, enjoyed the afternoon festivities.

Carolyn Bell and Peggy Flowers, who coordinated the program sponsored by the Activity Department, said that patients worked hard to obtain sponsors. Top fund raiser among the residents was Lois Bivens, who was unable to attend the festivities because she was running a fever.

Mrs. Jessie Burton, whose husband is a patient, raised almost \$300 from a door-to-door canvass in her neighborhood.

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PHOTO BY LIB STEWART

KMCC RESIDENTS ROCK AND ROLL - Residents of the local nursing home sponsored a rock-and-roll-a-thon Friday for benefit of the American Diabetes Association. Residents, above, rock in rocking chairs and roll their wheelchairs.