

Annexation Studied

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Board, (all of whom were present), on the annexation plan. He said the first step has involved "long work by the city, planning and zoning boards and with this inauguration tonight of this program feel we can get to full bloom..we don't have time to lose. Some may feel these boundaries enormous but all will appreciate what can be accomplish-

ed for the quality of life for everyone in the Kings Mountain area." he said.

Houston pointed out that the area under consideration parallels Interstate 85 and the long range program will cover a four year period. "During this first year a lot of leg work will need to be done," he said.

Most of the targeted area is in Cleveland County but specific boundaries won't be decided for

some time.

"We're saying this is the area we are now considering", Houston reiterated. We can't say how much of the area we will actually annex."

Mayor John Moss called attention to the fact that Kings Mountain, with excess water and sewage treatment capacity, and with Moss Lake, could serve industrial and residential growth brought about by annexation. He said the city can expand only with the capabilities of water and sewer and city services for more citizens, and noted that annexation is being considered by the city commission because of the growing costs of providing municipal services and to acquire a strong tax base. "I know people hear me say all the time that want to improve the quality of life for all citizens, but that is exactly what the annexation program and the new utility district will do for us", he said in a statement prior to the board's action.

After the meeting, Gene White, who also serves on the annexation committee from the local office of community development, said the timetable will follow this schedule for completion:

Resolution of Consideration, 365 days; Resolution of Intent, 45 to 90 days; Public Hearings, 10 to 90 days; Passage of Annexation Ordinance, 40 to 400 days; and effective date of ordinance, 460 to 945 days or covering a four year period.

The board, White said, could take no further legal action for at least a year, under state law. During this time period the board will be in process of evaluation of all services needed, such as utilities, cost revenue projections, etc. and commissioners will be working with a planning agency to put together a complete annexation report. At the end of the first year, the city can pass a resolution of intent and that identifies the specific area to be annexed and only after evaluation of long range goals. After the resolution of intent is passed by the board, legal steps could be initiated to complete the annexation and public hearings would then be scheduled to receive citizen input. Also, during that process, every citizen would be notified in a thorough process undertaken to involve all citizens living in a proposed annexed area. When an annexation ordinance is passed, at that point the city would begin providing the various city services, such as fire and police protection and garbage pickup and from that point the city would have two years to complete construction of any necessary utilities.

ALUMNI

Davidson Alumni Association will sponsor a Disco on Saturday night, Dec. 22, from 9 p.m. until at Powell Recreation Building on Crocker Road. Admission is a \$5.00 donation.



Lib Stewart

Lost Christmas

Erma Bombeck's "The Lost Christmas" has become a perennial. We are repeating it this Christmas.

There is nothing sadder in this world than to wake Christmas morning and not be a child.

Not to feel the cold on your bare feet as you rush to the Christmas tree in the living room. Not to have your eyes sparkle at the wonderment of discovery. Not to rip the ribbons off the shiny boxes with such abandon.

What happened?

When did the cold, bare feet give way to reason and a pair of sensible bedroom slippers? When did the sparkle and the wonderment give way to depression of a long day? When did a box with a shiny ribbon mean an item on the "charge"?

A CHILD of Christmas doesn't have to be a toddler or a teen. A child of Christmas is anyone who believes that Kings have birthdays. The Christmases you loved so well are gone. What happened?

Maybe they diminished the year you decided to have your Christmas cards printed to send to 1,500 of your "closest friends and dearest obligations." You got too busy to sign your own name.

Maybe it was the year you discovered the traditional Christmas tree was a fire hazard and the needles had to be vacuumed every three hours and you traded its holiday aroma for a silver one that revolved, changed colors, played "Silent Night" and snowed on itself.

OR THE YEAR it got to be too much trouble to sit around the table and put popcorn and cranberries on a string. Possibly you lost your childhood the year you solved your gift problems neatly and coldly with a checkbook.

Think about it. It might have been the year you were too rushed to bake, and resorted to slice-and-bake with no nonsense. Who needs a bowl to clean—or lick?

Most likely it was the year you were so efficient in paying back all your party obligations. A wonderful little caterer did it for you for \$5.00 per person.

Children of Christmas are givers. That's what the day is for. They give thanks, love, gratitude, joy and themselves to one another.

IT DOESN'T necessarily mean you have to have children around a tree. It's rather like lighting a candle you've been saving, caroling when your feet are cold, building a fire in a clean grate, grinding tinsel deep into the rug, licking frosting off a beater, giving something you made yourself.

It's laughter, being with people you like, and at some time falling to your knees and saying "Thank You for coming to my birthday party."

How sad indeed to awake on Christmas and not be a child. Time, self-pity, apathy, bitterness and exhaustion can take the Christmas out of the child, but you cannot take the child out of Christmas.

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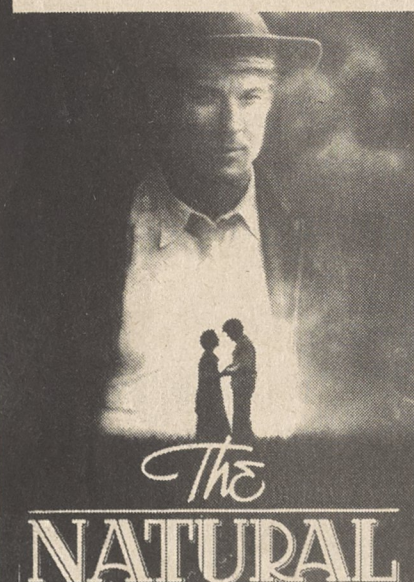
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