

1985

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

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## Kings Mountain Herald



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KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA

### KM Writes 'The End' To 1984

Kings Mountain citizens wrote "the end" to 1984 Monday at midnight and could reminisce over a large number of news events during the year just closed.

Files of The Kings Mountain Herald reveal a wide range of activities, some happy, some sad for Kings Mountain area citizens.

Among the top news events of 1984 in Kings Mountain (not necessarily in order of importance) were: The dedication and opening of the long-awaited Highway 74 Bypass of Kings Mountain; the election, for the first time in 40 years, of a Kings Mountain chairman of the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners in the person of L.E. (Josh) Hinnant, Kings Mountain banker and the election of a woman member of the board, first time ever, in the person of Joyce Falls Cashion of Kings Mountain; Mayoral committee appointments of a city annexation, utility, and hydroelectric committee, among others, which will mean much, when implemented, to the future economy of the area for many years to come. Development of the utility district will extend city water in the early part of this new year to the Quail Run Community which will become an outside city water customer of the city. Development of the utility district would extend city water and sewer to Kings Mountain's "bedroom" communities and outlying areas and first step of a long range need, according to Mayor John Henry Moss; Building a hydro plant, which is envisioned, on Moss Lake would enhance the magnitude of the Utility district as would annexation, a project which is now off the drawing board and the committee is now studying feasibility as it meets North Carolina statutes and the city's capabilities to provide city sewers. A map of the study area is on display at City Hall. During a general election year, the community went for most of the winners, including President Ronald Reagan, Senator Jesse Helms who defeated Governor Jim Hunt in his bid for Helm's U.S. Senate seat; and Republican Jim Martin who takes the oath as North Carolina's governor the latter part of January. Kings Mountain area citizens heavily supported J. Ollie Harris as he was re-elected to his seventh term in the N.C. Senate and Joyce Cashion in her successful entry into politics as the county's first woman commissioner. Combustion Engineering Company announced plans for building a boiler manufacturing plant in Kings Mountain; and the city's 1984-85 budget topped \$13 million but reflected the same 50 cent tax rate which has applied for nearly 20 years; TG&Y announced plans for and closed its popular business at West Gate Plaza, then after talks with Mayor Moss, city officials, and much correspondence from local citizens announced that the firm is seriously considering returning to Kings Mountain in February 1985 to reopen in its old location; county commissioners in a split vote increased the county property tax rate four cents; and the Kings Mountain Board of Education approved



GOVERNOR JIM HUNT  
...Opens New 74 Bypass

by 4-1 vote construction of a half million dollar wing at KM Junior High School; Scissors-Smith, among five urban renewal projects underway in downtown Kings Mountain, became the first UR project completed when it opened beside of Griffin Drug Company; and building construction got a boost with several apartment complexes completed by Alexander Realty and construction beginning for Cres-

cent Condominiums by Hal Plonk. Fourteen-year old Chris Miller was lucky to be alive after his fall from the top of Kings Mountain and America's birthday celebration July 4th was a big day for Kamphone Sonvichit, 37, who became an American citizen; Planters and Merchants Warehouse bought the old Phenix Mill and Kings Mountain's first resident surgeon, Dr. George Webb Plonk, announced plans he would retire.

The community had its share of bad news too as many well-known people died during the year. Millie Mauney Gladden, 80, was killed by a truck as she crossed the street to the KM Aging Program at Depot Center. Former Mayor Kelly Dixon died suddenly of an apparent heart attack at age 82; Former Park Yarn General Manager John Smathers died in Charlotte. Death also claimed the lives of Mrs. Paul M. Neisler, Sr., veteran grocer Boyce H. Gault, Sr., former postman George Hord, veteran Plonk's sales clerk Mary McGill, Bob Suber, Charles Carpenter, Sr. and Robert Guthrie in a tractor accident, among others.

Prolock announced plans to open a plant in Kings Mountain in 1985 and Kings Mountain United Way was feeling the pinch of a downward trend in industry as plant layoffs were affecting the industrial division of the campaign which seeks \$80,000 for 14 causes. First Presbyterian Church celebrated its 100th birthday with a special celebration and First Presbyterian Pastor Eric Faust and his wife and family welcomed a new addition, a second Korean child they named Ann Louise Hye Shin Faust who arrived just in time for Thanksgiving. The Faustus are looking forward in early 1985 to their first adopted Korean child, James Faust, becoming an American citizen.

A successful first-ever two-day seminar for elected city officials was held and most speakers agreed that textiles is hurting in the area and that the area needs diversification and to merchandise ourselves and look for new industry. Kings Mountain area citizens played Santa Claus to the needy and recorded one of the best years in giving canned food, staple items, gifts, clothes, toys from many individuals, clubs, churches in many year's memory; and the city of Kings Mountain and Hank Plonk were sued in the waning months of Old Year 1984 for a total of \$21 million over a house fire on Dec. 20, 1982 which claimed the lives of two small children and seriously burned their mother. The city was served papers in the litigation last Friday. Nancy Sue Martin of Kings Mountain, through Attorney Robert Forbes of Gastonia, filed the suits in Gaston Superior Court last Thursday-two years to the day after the fatal fire. The suits ask for jury trials.

A review of the major Herald headlines of 1984 follows:

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BILL AND JANE MITCHAM

### KM Native To Direct Ministries

Ed. Note-The following feature story appeared in the recent "Family Connections", a quarterly publication of N.C. Lutheran Family Services. Mr. Mitcham grew up in Kings Mountain and was reared by an aunt and uncle, Mrs. Lillian Mitcham and the late John Mitcham.

L. William Mitcham and Jane Pope Mitcham have been hired by Lutheran Family Services to direct family ministry in North Carolina. The Reverend L. William Mitcham, a native of Kings Mountain, is head of the new Division of Family Ministries for Lutheran Family Services. Dr. Jane Pope Mitcham, a native of Statesville, is the new Director of the Family

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## Station Owner Surprises Burlgar

J.B. Falls, operator of J.B. Falls Exxon at I-85 and York Road, surprised a burglar in the bay area of his service station early Wednesday morning, struggled with the man, and was slightly injured.

The suspect, a black male, fled on foot, according to Sgt. Joe King and Sgt. V.D. Fortenberry with the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department, who are investigating the break-in.

Officers said the suspect entered the service station by breaking a window on the south side of the building. Surprised by Mr. Falls who came by to make a check of the building at 4 a.m., the suspect struggled with Falls as he attempted to flee the scene and Falls suffered abrasions of the right hand and neck.

Vandals and thieves kept Kings Mountain police busy during the Christmas and New Year's holiday period.

Incidents included break-ins, attempted larcenies of automobiles and the larceny of some children's Christmas toys.

On December 28, someone apparently tried to steal three cars in Kings Mountain, but failed.

Police reported that Carrie Hord of 116 North City Street parked her car at her residence and locked it. Someone broke into the car and pushed it to the center of the street, but failed to get it to start.

Pete's Gulf Station, 112 East King, reported that someone moved a car out of the station's parking lot to South Gaston Street but also failed to start the car.

Kandy Mitchem of 202 East Georgia Avenue, Bessemer City, reported that her car was parked at 315 North Dilling Street and

someone moved it to another area of Dilling Street, but also failed to get the car started.

Margaret Underwood of 400 Hill Street reported to police that the Kings Mountain Fire Department had delivered toys to her residence for her children and someone stole them off the front porch.

A break-in New Year's morning at the Kings Mountain Herald resulted in the theft of electric typewriters, a stereo and a portable black and white television set.

Denise's Cafe on Carpenter Street reported that someone broke into the building and stole

change from the cash register. The cafe also reported an earlier break-in in which \$1,480 worth of items were stolen, including \$500 in change, stereo speakers and turntable, large amount of steaks and a .22 calibre rifle. Linda Moss of 606 Jackson Street reported the theft of a tiller valued at \$350. Ray Ball of 113 North City

Street reported that someone broke into his automobile and stole a radio.

Mary Hager of 412 Belvedere Circle reported that someone broke into her car while it was parked at the Winn-Dixie and stole her purse and \$300.

Food Lion, 1320 Shelby

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### Cooper's George McClain Joins The Ranks Of Semi-Retired

George McClain, 65, spent his first day of semi-retirement on New Year's Day but was back on the job Wednesday morning at Cooper Furniture.

McClain received a watch from company president Richard Barnette on New Year's Eve for a service record of 38 years.

He plans to continue his warehouse and delivery duties with Coopers but to take some extra time to go fishing and to enjoy his two grandchildren. He also plans to continue his janitorial service at McGill Clinic where he has worked since Dr. John McGill opened a Kings Mountain Practice many years ago.

A Kings Mountain native, McClain belies his age with his quick wit and good health. He went to work at an early age for the late J. Harold Coggins at Cooper's after graduation from Davidson High School and a hitch in Uncle Sam's Army with service in France and the Euro-

pean theatre during World War II.

Barnette, who became Cooper's president and general manager eight years ago and McClain's "boss", said that the local furniture company has always been a family oriented business and prides itself on a total of 103 years of service by four veteran employees. Barnette has been a Cooper Furniture employee for 45 years, Dean Payne has been with the firm for 39 years, George McClain for 38 years and Jenny Owens for 18 years. Newest employee is Dougal Davis who joined the firm a little over a year ago.

"George", as McClain is affectionately called by his many friends in town, enjoys working and said that the best part of his job is meeting new friends. He is married to Luerainey McClain and they are parents of two children, Gail McClain Hunter of Kings Mountain and Alice McClain of Kings Mountain.



HONORED FOR SERVICE—Richard Barnette, left, president of Cooper Furniture, presents a 38-year service award to George McClain who is joining the ranks of the semi-retired.