

Little Drummer Boy!

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Scouts Celebrate 75th Anniversary

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# Kings Mountain Herald

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KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA

## Sewer Project Hits More Snags

The town of Grover continues to hit snags in its effort to provide sewer service for its citizens.

Mayor Bill McCarter told the board Monday night that land appraiser Ralph Gilbert is moving "slow" in appraising property needed for sewer right of ways and that Attorney Andy Neisler is working on ways to obtain right of way from Southern Railway to take sewer lines under the railroad tracks.

McCarter said thus far only "10 or 12" property owners have signed over right of ways to the town, and all of those did so voluntarily. He said he had been told by Neisler that the attorney had not yet received the first appraisal report from Gilbert.

Gilbert met with the board in early December and said he hoped to have his reports ready no later than January 1, McCarter said. "I'm sure the weather has hindered him some," McCarter said. "I really don't know how we stand."

McCarter said Southern Railway is asking a \$50 fee from the town for "consideration" of issuing a license and \$522 per year for granting a right of way for Grover to run sewer lines under the railroad crossings. McCarter said in 1977 when Grover first began working on a sewer project, Southern Railway asked a flat fee of \$350 to cover its paper work.

He said Neisler talked to an official of Southern Railway last Friday "and the response he got wasn't too good."

McCarter said that it's possible Southern Railway doesn't actually own the property its tracks are on and may just have right of way agreements with property owners. "If that's the case, I believe we can condemn the property just like we're doing the other property in town," McCarter said.

McCarter said Neisler is checking on who actually owns the land and will send a report to the board by next month's meeting.

McCarter said the town needs to obtain around 50 more rights of way from individual property owners. "I believe most of them will come around," McCarter said, "but the main thing I'm concerned with is how much increased construction cost has taken place in the last 12 months. I'm concerned if the bids will come in within our budget."

"Every hour we delay on it is costing money," said Commissioner Grady Ross.

McCarter said all bids were projected on costs of last spring. "The time we've already lost is very critical," he said.

Grover voters approved a sewer referendum to cover some of the cost of the project and the town has loans to cover the remaining costs.

In a related matter, McCarter told the board that he had received a letter from the North Carolina Department of Resources and Community Development regional office in Asheville advising that Grover has a sewer discharge permit and instructing the city of Kings Mountain to accept the sewage and make the necessary changes at its waste treatment plant to handle Grover sewage.

McCarter said Mayor John Henry Moss of Kings Mountain had told him that Kings Mountain had the contract "in committee" and that Kings Mountain would be ready to sign it by February 13.

In other matters Monday, the board:

\*Authorized McCarter to check the references of three persons who had applied for the Police Officer's job and to call a special meeting, if necessary, to interview applicants.

\*Approved the purchase of supplies for the Water Department.

\*Authorized McCarter to check with an architect to design a plan to connect a town hall which was sketched in 1979 to the present town hall.

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## Hortons, Grover Settle Law Suits

Former Grover Town Clerk Gloria Horton and her husband, Steve, have agreed to out-of-court settlements in their three lawsuits against Mayor Bill McCarter and the town.

The suits were filed in 1982 after Mrs. Horton was dismissed from her duties.

The settlements were reached in October and the cases were officially settled last Friday, Mrs. Horton said.

Mrs. Horton filed suit against McCarter for harrasment and against three members of the town board because of her termination. Mr. Horton also filed suit against McCarter.

Town councilmen mentioned in the suit were Ronald Queen and Jim Howell and former councilman Dennis McDaniel. All three were members of the board in April of 1982 when Mrs. Horton was terminated. Other members of the board at that time, Bill Camp and Vickie Smith, were not named in the suit, said Mrs. Horton, because Camp was not present the night the action was taken and Mrs. Smith voted against her termination. Mrs. Smith later resigned her position on the town council.

Mrs. Horton was Grover's Town Clerk for five years. She was fired in January of 1980 by another board and re-instated in April of 1980.

Attorneys for the Hortons were Mickey Corry and Richard Abernathy. Attorney for the town was Andy Neisler.

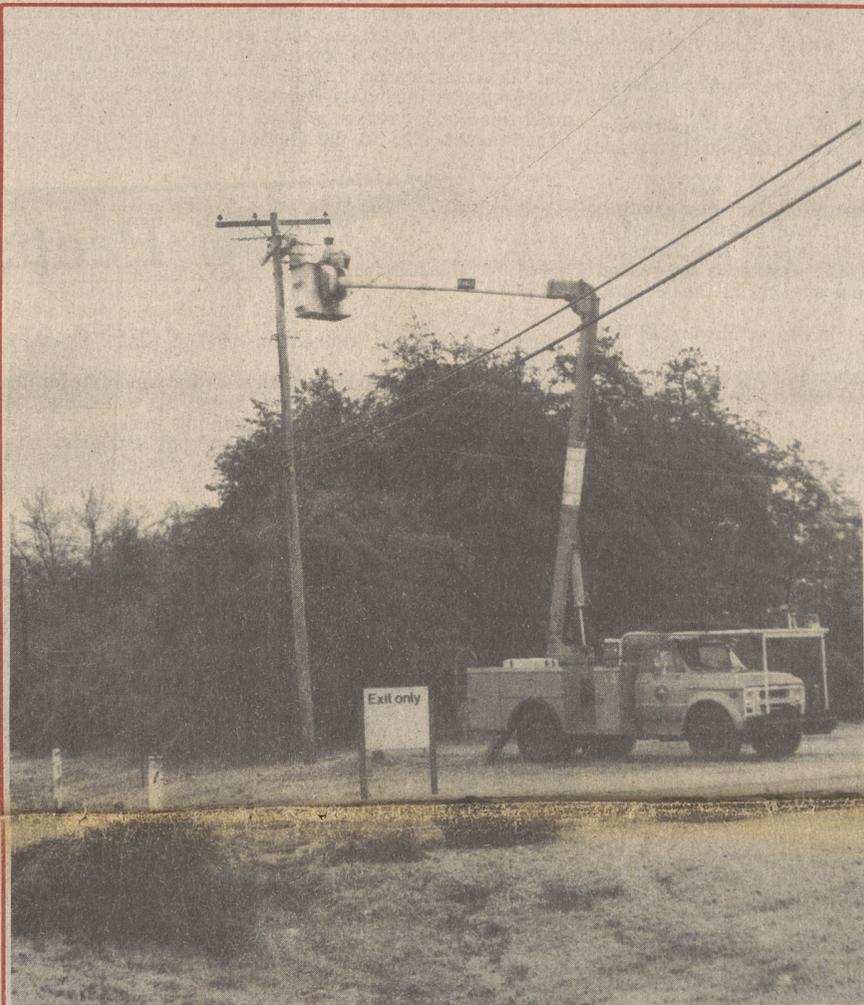


Photo by Gary Stewart

**RESTORING POWER** - Tuesday morning's ice caused some minor problems to the utility customers in the east end of Kings Mountain. Ice on the lines, which caused a minor fire at this section of lines on the York Road, put some customers in the dark for 2½ hours, but dedicated city employees like these prevented any major outages.

## Weather Damage Minor

Tuesday's glazing of ice on trees and limbs gave an almost mystic aura to roadside scenes but resulted in few problems to Kings Mountain area citizens.

"We were very lucky", said KM Superintendent of Public Works Wayne Kimbrell, who said that ice wasn't a major problem and no power outages were reported because of the wintery weather. A transformer near the Holiday Inn blew, but Kimbrell said the problem was not directly connected with the ice. The Kings Mountain Herald at the corner of King and Canterbury Roads reported a power outage of about one and one-half hours duration and the power had to be cut off at intervals during the morning hours while the city crews were repairing the transformer.

Problems were relatively minor for drivers. City officials delayed school opening one hour Tuesday morning because they feared conditions would make school bus driving hazardous. City police reported no weather-related accidents.

Weather forecasters predict it won't get any warmer the rest of the week. There will be some rain throughout Thursday, with the sun finally making an appearance on Friday and Saturday, according to the weatherman.

## Shoplifters Hit Mack's Store

A trio of shoplifters walked out of Mack's at KM Plaza Monday night with 160 pocket knives and didn't pay for them. The knives, inside a box on a counter, were valued at \$640. Police said a clerk said that one of the shoplifters, a woman, kept

the cashier busy while the two men helped themselves to the knives.

Kings Mountain Police Department is investigating the shoplifting incident.

A "strong arm" robbery was reported by The Pantry, Cleveland Avenue and Lin-

wood. A clerk told KMPD that a customer asked for a money order for \$125.00. The clerk handed the money order to the customer, assuming the customer would hand him the money for it. Instead, the customer walked out the door.

Ptl. Jimmy West charged Rickie Eugene McDonald, 24, of 807 Second St., with breaking and entering of a motor vehicle owned by Ted Ledford, of KM Farm Center. West, on routine patrol,

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## More Winter Ahead

You may not have seen any sunshine here Saturday, but Kings Mountain Harold, a groundhog that resides in a hole down on Canterbury Road, saw some light so we're in for six more weeks of winter weather. Harold came out of his hole early and played around all day. When he got under a security light at one of the Canterbury Road homes, the light cast his shadow on the ground and he hurried back home.

Photo by Dennis Ledford