

Kings Mountain Herald

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VOL. 98 NUMBER 32

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1985

KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA

\$4.3 Million Marijuana Field Found Near KM

Marijuana plants growing in a field near Kings Mountain with a street value of more than \$4.3 million were confiscated by law enforcement officers during a drug bust Friday.

During the second day of a Cleveland County law enforcement "seek and destroy" drug operation, officers discovered 4,320 plants growing in a one and one half acre field on Wells Road, just off the Dixon Community near Kings Mountain. The property borders the North Carolina-South Carolina line.

Officers of the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department, State Bureau of Investigation, Shelby and Kings Mountain Police Departments, guided by a state airplane piloted by Special Agent B.C. Matthews of Asheville and accompanied by Cleveland County Sheriffs Department Sgt. Joel Newton - started the search on Thursday and found 500 plants growing in four fields in two rural areas of northern Cleveland County. Dirty Ankle and Moriah. The team with Matthews being accompanied by Sgt.

Phillip Todd of the Sheriff's department, discovered the large field about 1 p.m. and second, small field Friday afternoon of 50 plants growing in a wooded area off Long Branch Road near Grover.

Cleveland County Vice Sgt. Ralph McKinney said the purpose of the two day project was to find marijuana fields and to remove the plants before the owners could harvest them.

McKinney said that suspects have been questioned and that criminal charges are possible.

"This was the largest field we've ever gotten around here", said McKinney. "The discovery certainly ruined somebody's day", he added.

McKinney said the large field of plants ranged in height from three to seven feet and had been carefully planted and cultivated. He said the plants were in rows and separated by exactly 28-inches of soil. He said that North Carolina officers cut the plants and filled two pickup trucks to overflowing with them. He said that officers also confiscated a tiller

and fuel for the tiller.

McKinney said the marijuana confiscated Thursday was burned at the Cleveland County landfill. The marijuana from the large Wells Road field was turned over to Cherokee County, S.C. authorities for potential evidence in criminal prosecution.

Officers used four-wheel drive vehicles to enter the field through a logging road. McKinney said the Wells Road field was the largest ever spotted in North Carolina.

Plants found in the small field near Grover were cut and removed to the Cleveland County Law Enforcement Center for later burning, he said.

McKinney thanked all law enforcement officers involved in the eradication project for a "real coordinated effort." He said another eradication project will be conducted in late August or early September or about the time marijuana plants would mature and ready for their growers to harvest them for sale.



BOARD OF ELECTIONS SWORN—Myers Hambricht, left, Ruth Wilson and Tony Eastman, right, are sworn by Clerk of Superior Court Ruth Dedmon as new members of the Cleveland County Board of Elections.

Hambricht Takes Office

Myers Hambricht, retired Kings Mountain teacher, was sworn in Tuesday at noon as a new member of the Cleveland County Board of Elections.

Other members of the board, who also took the oath of office from Clerk of Superior Court Ruth Dedmon, were Tony Eastman of Boiling Springs, who was elected the chairman in a meeting following the swearing-in ceremonies, and Mrs. Ruth Wilson of Shelby who was elected secretary to the board. Both Wilson and Eastman are Republicans. Hambricht is a Democrat.

The Board of Elections will be meeting regularly on the first Wednesdays of the month at 1 p.m. in Shelby and will begin touring the 28 polling places in the county

beginning July 24th at 1 p.m. Members will also be seeking recommendations from political parties for recommendations for precinct officials and will be communicating with members of the county board on commissioners to thank them for their assistance and advising them they will be following their recommendations in studying elections for efficiency.

Terrie Jones of Shelby is supervisor of the Board of Elections. State chairman is Robert Hunter, Jr. and Executive Secretary-Director is Alex Brock.

Mrs. Hambricht accompanied her husband to Shelby for the noon swearing-in ceremonies in the clerk of Superior Court's office in the Law Enforcement Building.

Fund Tops \$300,000

Grady Howard, general chairman of the current campaign for funds to construct an indoor swimming pool, today announced that more than \$300,000 has been pledged or donated to the campaign total at the present time. Howard indicated that the total includes gifts of \$150,000, \$36,500, \$25,000, \$16,500 and \$15,000 committed to this point, with some expected to rise in total amount.

Names of the donors will be announced according to wishes of those giving. Howard said, at appropriate times, including commemorative that are named.

"We have every reason to believe," Howard added, "that the campaign will be a success. We believe we will, when all pledges and gifts are in, meet our goal of \$750,000."

At the time of this announcement, Tom Tate and Frank Cagle, Co-chairmen of the Special Gifts Division in the campaign announced the appointments of Team Members in the division.

Those enlisted to work with Tate are Bill Davis, Dr. and Mrs. Roger Miller, Kelly Bunch and Stella Putnam. Those working with Cagle are Corky Fulton, Jerry Eskridge, Lynn Mauney and David Neisler.

Jane King and June Lee announced the appointments of Kathy James, Claudia

Grissom and Bob Maner as Captains in the Community Gifts Division that is Co-chaired by King and Lee.

A meeting for both these groups has been set for July 23rd, at 7:30 p.m. at the campaign offices in the First Union Bank building. The meeting will be for purposes

of orientation and prospect selection as appropriate.

"We hope," Howard said, "that all these people—as well as those who may have missed earlier meetings scheduled for their groups—will make every effort to attend."

Taxi Owner Frank Price Dies, Funeral Thursday

Funeral services for Frank Ranson Price, 74, of 400 S. Cansler St., who owned and operated Price's Taxi Company in Kings Mountain for 44 years, will be conducted at 4 p.m. from First Baptist Church, interment following in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Mr. Price died Tuesday at home.

He was a native of Catawba County and had retired several years ago. He was a veteran of World War II and was the son of the late William Wesley and Nancy Elizabeth Starnes Price.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Marie Phillips Price; one son, Fred Price of High Point; one daughter, Mrs. Gail Metcalf of Kings Mountain; two brothers, John Price of Granite Falls and J.C. Price of Lenoir; three sisters, Mrs. Colise Patterson, Mrs. Elsie Dellinger and



FRANK PRICE

Mrs. Thelma Dellinger, all of Kings Mountain; and two grandchildren, Steve Eugene Price and Timothy Brian Price.

Harris Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Rezoning Hearing Monday

The city board of commissioners will conduct a public hearing Monday night on re-

quest by Kelly Bunch to rezone his Pauline Mill property for proposed construc-

tion of condominium apartment dwellings.

The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall.

Several property owners opposed the proposed construction before a recent meeting of the Planning and Zoning Board, which has recommended the city board approve the request to rezone from light industry to residential multi-family dwelling.

In another zoning matter this week, the Zoning Board of Adjustments denied a request by Eugene Isenhour, 1614 W. Franklin Ave., Gastonia, for variance of five feet on his property fronting 75.05 feet on the north side of Monte Vista Drive beginning



Photo by Gary Stewart

TG&Y BACK IN BUSINESS - Kings Mountain Mayor John Henry Moss, second from right, cuts the ribbon to officially re-open TG&Y in the West Gate Plaza Thursday morning. Employees of the store look on. The store reported an excellent opening day of business and is continuing its grand opening specials this week.