

Kings Mountain Herald

VOL. 99 NUMBER 9

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1986

KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA

MAUNEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY
100 S. PIEDMONT AVE.
KINGS MOUNTAIN, N.C. 28086



Alda Loves Her Chair And 'Price Is Right'

At 96, Alda Deal Still Independent

Alda Deal, 96 on Tuesday, likes to relax in her special easy chair in front of the television set and watch her favorite show, "The Price Is Right," and when company comes to her home on Groves Street you can bet she entertains them with stories of early years in Kings Mountain.

Until two years ago when she broke bones in her left hand and her arms, "Aunt Alda" was quilting, cooking meals, keeping house, and on occasion, "sitting" with a sick friend.

"I stayed with lots of people in Kings Mountain over the years," Miss Deal recalled. When friends needed a helping hand to sit with a sick member of the family or help out during a convalescent period they always knew who to call.

Miss Deal lived with her niece, Hazel Smith and her husband, Leonard Smith, until Mrs. Smith's death last February and came to live with her only living nephew, Bobby Moore and his wife, Monzell, on Groves Street. Leonard Smith brought Miss Deal a special gift, a jar of peas Miss Deal had canned from the Smith garden. "This

time last year Aunt Alda was shelling peas and canning them, cooking her own breakfast and being just as independent as ever," said her niece, Monzell Moore. "Aunt Alda" will never lose her "independence."

Born Feb. 18, 1890, she grew up in a little log cabin on Beaver Dam Creek near Crouse and the family moved around, from Crouse to Lincolnton, where her father helped build cotton mill houses, then to Cherryville and Gastonia where he helped build houses in the Firestone Mill village and in 1903 when the family settled in Kings Mountain and bought a six-room home on King Street, where Kentucky Fried Chicken now stands today.

Papa Deal (Julius Monroe Deal) died in 1905 of pneumonia and 10-year-old Alda went to work in the cotton mill, standing on a stool to reach the spinning frames at the old Bonnie Cotton Mill. "I helped mama buy our school clothes and groceries at the old Plonk store on credit and then I helped pay

Turn To Page 5-A

Special Payment Plan Given Utility Customers

The city has extended special payment procedures to utility customers who have requested additional time to pay December power bills.

Acting Public Works Supt. Walt Ollis and Meter Supervisor Dan Hughes said that they personally visited 19 complaining residents who signed up at the recent city board meeting for a review of their bills and rechecking of meters, and found, "without fail", all of them receptive to them and cooperative. In some of the cases, the higher bills, when compared to last year's December billing, were not as high and at least one said hers was the lowest in the past three years for the same period.

"In 90 percent of these cases the utility customer had forgotten how cold it was in December and how nice November was. Dropping from 59 to 15 degrees minimum really hurt", said Mr. Hughes.

In one case, Hughes said he discovered abnormal use in one customer's water and electric consumption and investigation revealed an electric range with altered wiring. Two burners, said Hughes, were controlled by one switch with a very possible hot water leak and all foundation vents open. In another case, an electric baseboard heater and high thermostat settings were the reasons for the increase

Hughes, meter reader supervisor, said that he personally rechecks meters and

said that reading meters is not a simple procedure. "It takes six months to train a meter reader and right now we're working on some improvements in the routing". He praised meter readers for the city who he identified as Ricky Bell and Johnny Allison.

The city has 4200 water customers, 4300 electric customers and 2300 gas customers and over 10,000 meters, said Hughes. "I found one overread gas meter this month and the consumption was almost nothing and I immediately contacted the customer," said Hughes.

"We work with individual customers and a customer gets two bills marked delinquent before he gets a red tag on his bill that calls for immediate attention," said Ollis.

"We've had to make no adjustments on customers bills because we have found no inaccuracy on the part of the city", said Ollis. "We realize that it will be a hardship for some customers to pay December's bills in one payment and Mayor John Moss and city commissioners are working on an individual basis with them to extend payments.

Special Fund Will Assist Cancer Patient Pam Jones

Friends of cancer patient Pam Jones, 17, have opened up a special account at First Citizens Bank & Trust Company, Battleground Avenue, to help her family with mounting doctor bills.

The Kings Mountain Senior High School senior was transferred Monday from Charlotte Memorial Hospital to Duke Hospital at Durham and remains seriously ill with leukemia.

Four and one half years ago doctors diagnosed Pam's condition as lymphoma and she underwent chemotherapy and radiation for more than two years and for several years her body has been in remission. Thanksgiving week she returned to Duke where her condition was diagnosed as leukemia. Since November she has been hospitalized at Cleveland Memorial, Duke and Charlotte Memorial Hospitals.

Friends have called the young woman a "real fighter" and she has told her story of her fight with cancer in programs to the Cleveland County Cancer Society. Her illness has not kept her from keeping up with her school work and until her most recent hospitalization she continued her love of horseback riding, cross-stitch and candlewicking. She was also employed part-time at TG&Y and has been active in East Gold Street Wesleyan Church.

Members of her church sponsored a benefit sing for her in December and members of El Bethel United Methodist Church sponsored



PAM JONES

a benefit breakfast for her in December.

"Pam has kept her optimistic spirit through many trying days and has been a real inspiration to all of us," said Mrs. Jim Amos, who opened the special bank account for Pam this week. She said friends who want to help the family can mail their contributions to Pam Jones Special Fund, c/o First Citizens Bank & Trust Co., S. Battleground Ave., Kings Mountain.

Pam is the daughter of Johnny and Sandy Jones of Kings Mountain and the family includes her sister, Gayla, 14, and her brother, 11. Jones is employed by Gastonia Welding & Industrial Supply and Mrs. Jones is an East School aide. Both parents have been at their daughter's bedside throughout her bout with cancer and the family remains with her at Duke Hospital in Durham this week.

Grover To Meet Engineer

Grover Town Board will meet Thursday for a 12 noon luncheon meeting at Powell's Restaurant with the project engineer for the proposed waste treatment plant for the sewer system.

John Edwards has notified Mayor Bill McCarter that state officials have approved the limits of the proposed water treatment plant for the sewer system for Grover.

Commissioners Jim Howell, Bill Camp, Donald Rich, Mayor McCarter and Mayor Pro Tem Ronald Queen will meet with engineers and attorney Andy Neisler for the special session.

New Program Encourages Students To Buckle Up

Only 13 percent of student drivers at Kings Mountain Senior High wear seatbelts.

The low percentage is expected to increase dramatically during the period March 3-26, during a "Buckle Up" incentive program in which wearing the seatbelt will pay off in the form of hundreds of small prizes to be given to students wearing seat belts during March.

KMSHS students learned about the UNC Highway Safety Research Center pilot program during a student assembly Wednesday morning. They also learned they, along with students at other high schools in the county, were being watched in December and the number of student drivers and riders wearing seat

belts was documented at Burns, Crest, Kings Mountain and Shelby high schools.

All four high schools will participate in the pilot program. Seat belt usage rates will be checked during educational and incentive phases of the programs in March and again with a follow up later in the school year.

Meal coupons, movie tickets, and records will be incentives to encourage students to buckle up.

The program was first tested in the spring of 1982 at Chapel Hill High School. About 24 percent of the students wore seat belts before the program and more than half have continued to buckle up since. Before the campaign the school averaged one stu-

dent killed in an automobile accident each year. Since the program, no students have been killed in wrecks.

Health education coordinators Dianne Whisnant of Cleveland County schools and Paula Hildebrand of Kings Mountain/Shelby Schools have combined efforts with employees of the Cleveland County Health Department to coordinate the local programs.

Bumper stickers with "Seat Belts Pay Off" in the various school colors, as well as posters, brochures and other educational materials will be provided and a project committee, including representatives of student organizations, will be calling on businesses for donation of prizes for the project.



Buckling Up May Pay Off

For Students At Kings Mountain High