



**Give Blood Friday** See Page 2-A

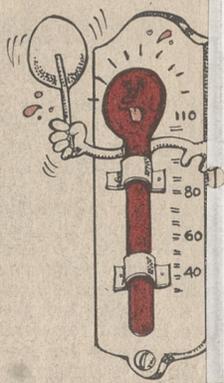
# Kings Mountain Herald

VOL. 99 NUMBER 26

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1986

KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA

**Man,  
It's  
Hot!**



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

Wife, Former Employee Also Charged

## Masters Jailed On 28 Charges



BENNETT MASTERS

Bennett J. Masters, 53, Kings Mountain mortician, was arrested Monday afternoon on 28 counts of securities fraud after he was indicted by a Cleveland County Grand Jury earlier in the day.

Masters is in Cleveland County Jail in lieu of \$75,000 bond.

Masters' wife, Betty Masters, who recently filed for divorce, also was arrested Monday on six counts of securities fraud and was released on \$4,000 bond.

Former associate at Masters Funeral Home, Raymond J. Galloway,

45, was also arrested and charged with one count of perjury. He is accused of swearing to a Cleveland County Assistant Clerk of Court that he witnessed the signature of Earl Harmon on a document prepared by Masters and purported to be Harmon's will. Galloway was released on \$1,000 bond.

Masters was arrested by two agents of the Special Bureau of Investigation at a Gastonia residence.

If convicted, he faces more than 100 years in prison as well as possible fines and restitutions reportedly at a half million dollars.

The indictments against Bennett Masters include seven counts of embezzlement, six counts of selling unregistered securities, six counts of acting as an unregistered securities agent, six counts of securities fraud and one count of obtaining property by false pretense.

Betty Masters was indicted on two counts each of selling unregistered securities, acting as an unregistered securities agent and securities fraud.

The indictments followed an investigation by SBI Agent B.M. Lea of Kannapolis and after a Superior Court

Judge ordered Masters Funeral Home closed on April 26.

Bennett Masters is accused of obtaining \$20,000 in cash from Hattie Bess Harmon and Steve Harmon, executors of the estate of the late Earl Harmon, on Feb. 21, 1983. According to the indictment, Masters gave Mrs. Harmon a document reported to be the last will and testament of Earl Harmon which instructed the executors of the estate to buy \$20,000 worth of stock in Masters Funeral Home "when

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Scene Of Sunday's Fatal Wreck...

## Wreck Fatal To Larry Smith, 42

A two-car crash on Dixon Road Sunday afternoon at 5:20 p.m. claimed the life of a former Kings Mountain fireman and injured seven people. Three members of the victim's family remain hospitalized.

Killed in the collision was Larry Dale Smith, 42, of 110 Center St., who died after the car he was driving and a truck driven by Michael Jeffrey Smith, 18, of Hiddenite, collided when the truck cross-

ed over the center line in a curve just below the old Compact School.

Highway Patrolman R.D. Keenum, who investigated, charged Michael Smith with death by vehicle.

Three members of the Larry Smith family remain hospitalized in Kings Mountain Hospital in fair condition. They are Larry Smith's wife, Linda Leigh Smith, 34; their sons, Larry Dale Smith, Jr., 8, and Billy Smith, 8. Their daughter, Keisha, 6,

was treated and released.

A passenger in Michael Smith's truck, Paul Rash, 17, of Stoney Point, was admitted to the hospital Sunday, but was released Monday morning. Michael Smith and another passenger, Monte Dean Rhyne, 17, of Stoney Point, were treated and released.

According to witnesses, the Hiddenite young people were headed toward I-85 enroute from a ballgame in the

Shelby area.

A native of Gaston County, Smith was employed by Black Electric Co. of Gastonia. He was a former volunteer fireman. He was a member of Piedmont Baptist Church where funeral services were conducted Wednesday morning at 11 a.m. by Rev. Tim Spencer. Interment was in Bessemer City Memorial Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife, two sons, and one daughter.

## Firebombing Case

### KMHS Custodian Gives Testimony

A 53-year-old Kings Mountain High School maintenance man and gun dealer, William Franklin Small, testified about his part in the firebombing of the home of the estranged wife of a former federal agent last Friday in U.S. federal court in Charlotte.

Small agreed to help agents develop a case against Dale Winters, a former Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) agent accused of conspiring to firebomb Sandra Winters' apartment after a felony gun charge against him was reduced to a misdemeanor. Small has pleaded guilty to the gun charge but hasn't been sentenced. Small could still be charged in the firebombing, according to "The Charlotte Observer", in its June 21, 1986 edition in a news story by Ed Martin and Pam Kelley.

Winters is the first ATF agent charged with a crime since 1979.

James Michael Dunham, whom Small described in testimony as a Gastonia drug dealer, is also charged.



FRANK SMALL

"The Observer" reported that "as though listing ingredients for a cake, Small ticked off the makings of a bomb: A pound of flash powder, two 9-volt batteries, a small watch or clock tape, wire, pocket knife and soldering iron. Small testified that the ingredients, when assembled were meant for Sandra Winters."

"The Observer" reported that when he was questioned, "You realize Sandra Winters might die from that bomb"

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## KM Men Face Coke Charges

Two Kings Mountain men, Richard Steven Whitley, 30, of 802 Meadowbrook Road, and Clemmie Wayne Humphries, 24, of 300 Midpines, were arrested last Wednesday and charged with trafficking in cocaine and conspiracy to traffic.

Bond was set at \$100,000 for each.

Four State Bureau of Investigation agents, the Cleveland County vice officer and the Shelby ABC officer arrested the pair at the southbound rest area of I-85 during an undercover operation.

Officers also seized a 1978 Datsun 280-Z, two bags containing about eight ounces of cocaine, a Colt .45 automatic handgun and one set of scales.

According to Vice Sgt. Ralph McKinney of the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department, one SBI agent went to the southbound rest area on I-85 Wednesday to buy some cocaine as McKinney and another SBI agent covered him.

Just after 4 p.m. a car with two men inside pulled up beside the agent's car. One

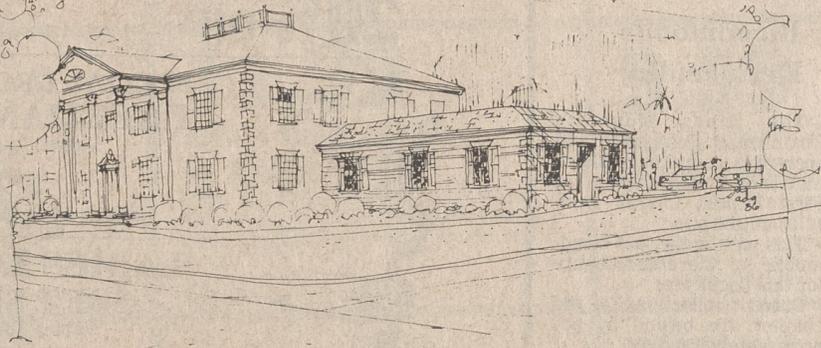
man got out of the car, spoke to the SBI agent, went back to his car and returned to the agent with a white package in his hands. The man got into the agent's car, and after two minutes, the agent gave the signal to move in, according to McKinney's report. At that point, McKinney said, the other SBI agent approached the suspect's vehicle and ordered the second man out of the car. At that time, ABC Officer Danny Wright and two other SBI agents arrived on the scene. The suspects were handcuffed and arrested.

### Sale Trial To Begin

Trial of a Kings Mountain policeman charged with misdemeanor larceny of gasoline is slated for Thursday, June 26, in Cleveland County District Court.

City Ptl. Gary E. Sale, who has been suspended from the force since June 10th when he was arrested, is charged with

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Drawing Of Home Federal Expansion...

## Home Federal Is Expanding

Home Federal Savings & Loan Association has begun work for construction of an east wing portico and additional drive-in facilities on the west side of the existing home office.

The new addition will house the mortgage and consumer loan departments.

President Thomas A. Tate, Sr. explained the need for additional space in these departments. The loan

volume has increased continuously since 1979 when the new facilities at 700 West King Street were occupied. At that time, consumer loans

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