

Holiday Accidents Reported

Police reported no accidents occurring in the city on Christmas Day but investigated several wrecks with high property damage during the holiday period.

Ptl. R. K. Rikard charged Robert Rocky Ingram, 403 Belvedere Circle, with insurance violation after a wreck involving his 1988 Chevrolet truck and a 1983 Toyota operated by Rebecca B. Sprouse, 108 Springwood Lane, Grover. Ptl. Rikard said the Ingram vehicle backed up at the intersection of Charles Street and York Road and struck the Toyota at the stop sign. Damages were estimated at \$600 to the Sprouse car and \$100 to the Ingram vehicle.

A hit and run accident involved a parked 1988 Ford belonging to Spring Collette Young, 3400 Margrace Road. Ptl. Mark Simpson said the Young vehicle was parked in the parking lot at Food Lion Store and was damaged \$600 by another vehicle which left the scene.

Ptl. Keith Williams investigated a two-car accident on Highway 74 Business at West King and S. Sims Streets on Dec. 18. He said a 1980 Datsun truck operated by Dale Martin Nelson, Route 2, Shelby, struck a 1985 Toyota operated by Thomas Frank Goforth, Hillside Drive, doing damages of \$500 to the Nelson vehicle and \$450 to the Goforth vehicle.

Vehicles were moved from the scene of a Dec. 19 accident before Ptl. T. E. Wright arrived on the scene. The officer listed the drivers as Ann Blalock Green, of 25 Blalock Dr., operating a 1985 Buick which was damaged \$1500 and a 1980 Olds operated by Elizabeth F. McAbee, 110 Peoria Lane, which was damaged \$50.

Property damages were estimated at a total of \$4,000 in a two-car crash on Dec. 20 at the intersection of West Mountain Street and South Sims St. and involving a 1980 Dodge operated by Faye Rebecca Rigdon, 717 Gantt St., and a 1987 VW operated by Michael Claude Kahn, 430 Robinwood Road, Gastonia.

Ptl. Don Ware charged Karen H. Hargett, Route 2, with stop light violation at the intersection of West King Street and Country Club Road when her car hit a 1979 Olds operated by Kelly Vernon Ross, Route 5. Property damages totaled \$5800.

Property damages were estimated at \$950 in a two-vehicle wreck involving a 1987 Plymouth operated by Willowdean Marchell Burris, 49 Carolina Garden Apts. and Phillip Cecil Roberts, Route 4, operating a 1984 Chevrolet on Floyd Street Dec. 21.



NEW DWI CAR - Police Chief Warren Goforth, left, and Assistant Chief Bob Hayes show off the new DWI enforcement car of the Kings Mountain Police Department.

Alcohol Biggest Drug Problem In KM Area

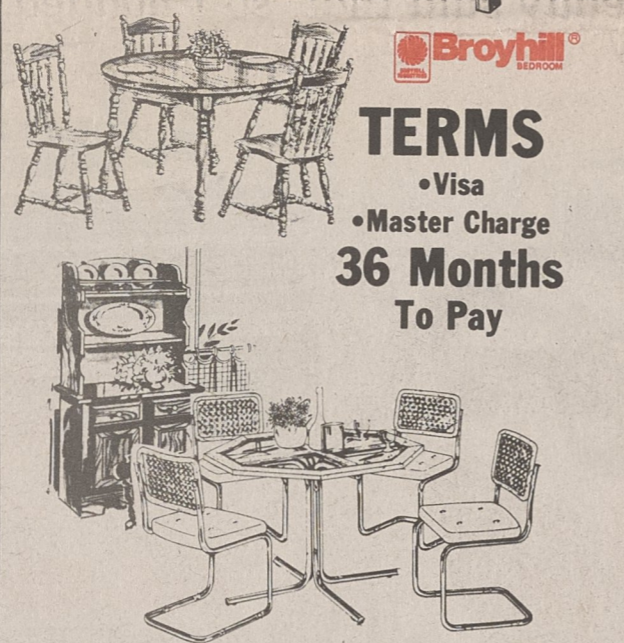
Kings Mountain's biggest law-enforcement problem is not hard-core drugs but alcohol, says Police Chief Warren Goforth.

Goforth said that local officers have begun drug education in the community and are available to give programs before school and civic groups.

"All communities have some problem with drugs and we are no exception," said the Chief who said that any major highway such as Interstate 85 can be a dropping point for any usage of drugs. "This is not a hot spot for drugs," he said. However, the Chief warns that Kings Mountain is becoming a hot spot for alcohol abuse and the Police Department is cracking down on drunk drivers with a newly-enacted DWI Task Force. "We can already see a big difference on the arrest log," said Goforth.

Chief Goforth said the recent issuance of automatic weapons replacing the revolver was done to update equipment. "Revolvers were around in the days of Wyatt Earp," said the Chief who said that weapons are more accessible to the public now and the most-modern equipment is needed in law enforcement. "I don't see a major volume of drugs in Kings Mountain," he said. "There may be some marijuana and some cocaine. The alcohol problem is a big problem," he added.

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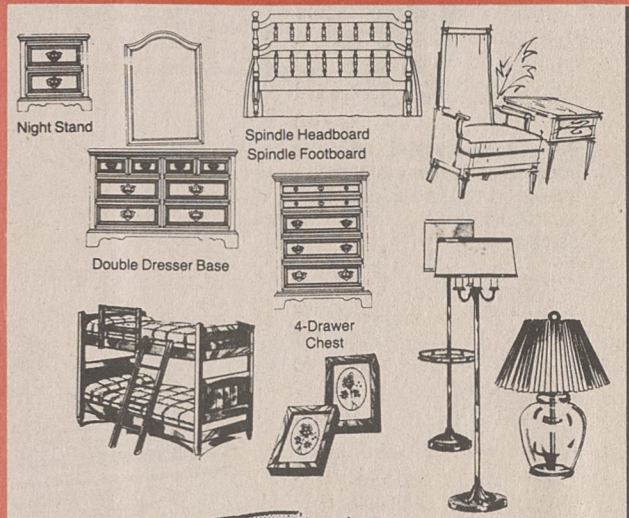
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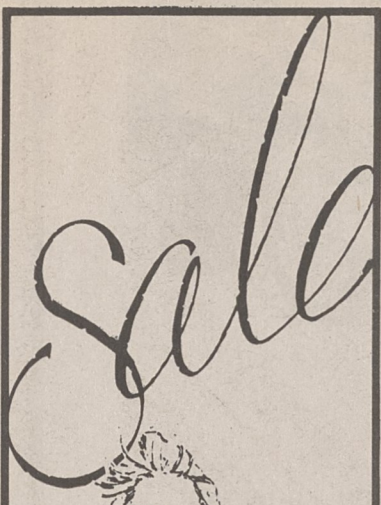
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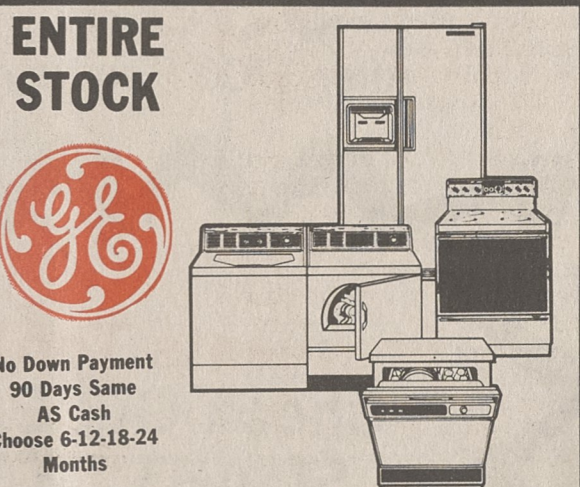
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