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Kings Mountain Herald

VOL. 101 NO. 38

Thursday, September 21, 1989

KINGS MOUNTAIN, N.C. 28086

Erroneous Report Upsets KM Citizens

The Lake Belongs To Us

City Manager George Wood's telephone has been ringing since a story appeared in a daily newspaper Friday that erroneously stated that he, as a member of the county's Oversight Committee, recommended linking the seven existing water systems in the county and placing them under county control.

Wood demanded a clarification of the story which he said "was flat out wrong" and the newspaper printed a clarification Saturday.

"There is no way that Kings Mountain would agree to giving another city control of Moss Lake," he told callers and The Herald.

Wood said that the panel did not approve "Alternative Five" in the draft of a water study presented Thursday by Ron Geiger of Woolpert Consultants.

The panel recommended, instead, that individual boards maintain separate ownerships of their systems but that the water systems be joined together for back-up. Systems will have the option of selling water on long-term agreements, if it is in the best interest of the system.

In Section 6, "Recommendations and Conclusion",

"There is no way that Kings Mountain would agree to give another city control of Moss Lake."

— George Wood

the report on Page 87 reads: "through numerous meetings investigating the various components of the alternative plan, a consensus was reached by the members that a county-wide system should maintain the individualism of each water supplier while at the same time providing for future needs for the county by working together to provide the necessary support to each system."

"Agreements would be made between the utility systems to buy and sell water to one another as necessary to meet the user demands," the agreement concludes on page 89 of the final draft.

Some specifics in the six alternates in the 89-page long-awaited water study are unclear but are to be clarified in the final report presented by consultants to Joe Hendricks, director of the Cleveland County Economic Development Office which initiated the study.

All water systems would remain totally separate, owned, operated, maintained and controlled by the same entities that own and operate and control them now, said Wood. "Kings Mountain will always retain control of Moss Lake."

"There was never any talk or agreement to sign control of Kings Mountain's lake and/or our water plants and systems to Cleveland County," he said. The approved proposal states "whereby the county would be asked to assist or pay for major lines that would connect the systems and those major lines would have meters on them whereby in emergency situations Kings Mountain could sell water to Shelby or vice versa and with any other entity the city is connected with." "The result is that Kings Mountain would be building additional emergency capabilities. In addition the county would look at putting major lines to connect these systems and to improve these distribution

See Lake, 3-A



GEORGE WOOD

They're Not Dummies

Lineman Course Vital For Safety

Rescue Randy, a 120 pound "dummy", is being rescued from atop a utility pole by linemen in a training exercise here every day this week.

Forty employees of utility departments in Western North Carolina are in school at Holiday Inn in a program hosted by the City of Kings Mountain and sponsored by Electri Cities.

To complete the course, linemen must rescue Randy in about 45 seconds. The simulated rescue is all part of the training.

Carlton St. John is coordinating the school and instructors are Jim Rushing of Granite Falls, Larry Jacobs of Greenville, Robert Smith of Shelby, Bob Godfrey of Morganton and Eric Dean of Concord.

Among the students are Todd Hambricht, Tom Roddy and Andy Scoggins, all linemen with the Kings Mountain Utility Department.

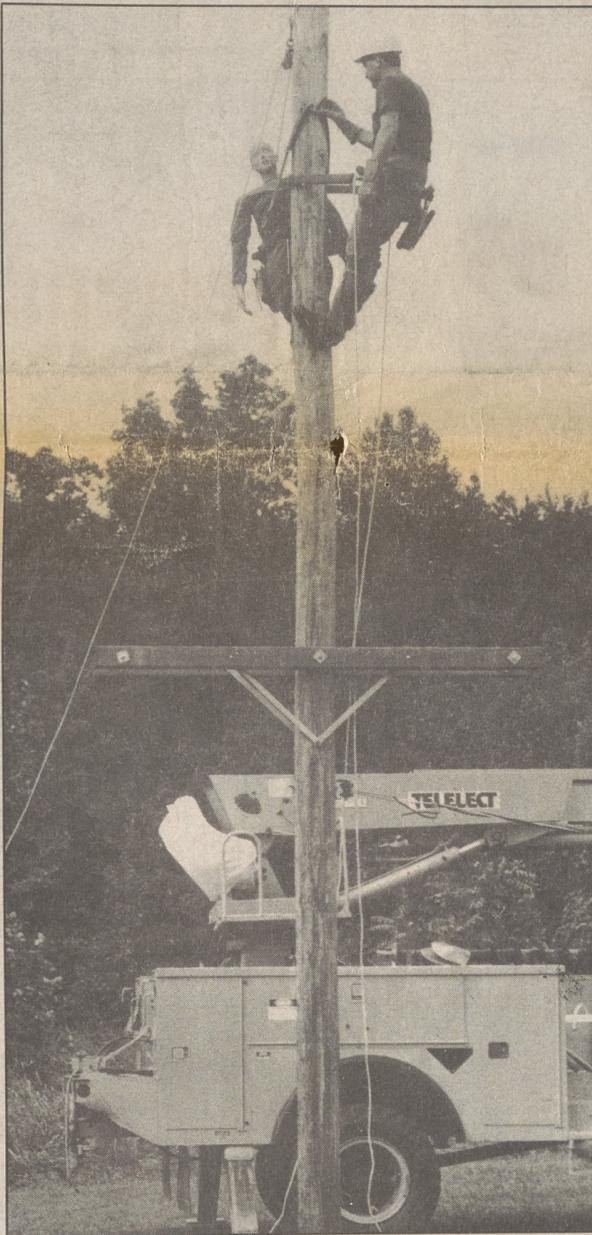
Pole climbing expertise is essential to linemen, although 95% of municipalities in the state own and operate bucket trucks. In an emergency situation, however, the training experience is vital for linemen to be able to do their jobs effectively and safely.

The safety feature is being underscored Thursday with a visit by the linemen to American Safety Engineering Company in Shelby where they will tour the test labs to see how rubber blankets, line hose and protective gear are tested and observe equipment and tools which make their jobs easier and safer.

"The most important aspect of the school is safety, learning the right way to do things efficiently and more effectively," said Elaine Conyer, communications specialist for Electri Cities.

The basic lineman course is for linemen with less than two years experience. The local school is the largest Electri Cities has held in this section of the state. Basic electricity, a video on pole climbing, the simulated exercise with Rescue Randy and a written test are included in the training. An advanced course will be hosted next month by Kings Mountain.

Kings Mountain is the 64th of 65 cities to join Electri Cities of North Carolina, a service organization.



SIMULATED RESCUE-Cecil Ward, a lineman from Harrisburg, Va., climbs a city utility pole to rescue "Rescue Randy" during a training exercise for utility linemen which City of Kings Mountain Utility Department and Electri Cities are co-sponsoring here this week.

Forum At High School

Meet Candidates On Monday Night

The 10 candidates for three seats open on Kings Mountain City Council in the Oct. 10 city election will meet the public Monday night at a "Meet The Candidate Night" sponsored by Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce.

The forum will begin at 7 p.m. at Barnes Auditorium.

President Bobby Maner said the public is invited to attend.

Written questions for the candidates should be submitted to moderator William Davis, retired schools superintendent, who will conduct the forum.

Davis will ask the questions submitted by the audience. There will be no oral questions from the audience.

All three incumbents for three Council seats have opposition at the polls on Oct. 10.

District 2 Councilman Humes Houston faces opposition from Gilbert (Pee Wee) Hamrick and Elvin Green.

District 5 Councilman Fred Finger faces opposition from Marshall (Coot) Camp.

District 6 Councilman Harold Phillips faces opposition from Floyd (Will) Sanders, Jerry White,

Willard Boyles, and Scott Neisler.

"We encourage all voters to come out for this forum and will be happy to receive your input and questions for the 10-member panel," said Maner.

The Chamber of Commerce sponsoring the forum as a public service project.

Should a run-off be necessary would be held the same time as school board election in November.

Five of the seven challengers are newcomers to city politics. Two of the challengers have run for city and school board offices previously. Both Phillips and Finger are running for second terms on the board. Houston is the veteran member of the city council, also offering for reelection.

Kings Mountain voters will vote Oct. 10 at two precincts: West Kings Mountain at the Armory and East Kings Mountain at the Community Center. All registered voters in the city will receive one ballot and may cast three votes, although the commissioners represent three different wards in the city. Election officials will use new voting machines to tabulate the vote.

KM Man Allegedly Shoots Wife, Then Kills Himself

A 27-year-old Kings Mountain man allegedly shot his wife, then killed himself Saturday.

Kim Jenkins Lail, 30, of 1700 Parkdale Circle, is in fair condition at Kings Mountain Hospital where she is being treated for a gunshot wound to the abdomen.

Her husband, William Lee Lail, a truck driver, was found dead of a gunshot wound to the head Saturday night on a service road off Dixon School Road on the northbound side of I-85.

Deputy Ricky Beaver of the Cleveland County Sheriff's

Department said the couple had separated last week and Mrs. Lail had called the Sheriff's Department about 3:15 a.m. Saturday to say Lail had returned to their home and they were having a domestic dispute. About a half hour later, she called back saying Lail had gone.

Just before 6 a.m., Beaver said Mrs. Lail was shot. She walked to a neighbor's house to call for help.

Authorities said Lail was last seen alive at 6:10 a.m. near the scene of the shooting. A search be-

See Lail, 5-A

Della Heffner, 100, Maybe Oldest Citizen, Dies Sunday

After a century of living, Della Rosella Foster Heffner, of 202 Blanton Street, died Sunday at age 100. She was probably Kings Mountain's oldest citizen and a former resident of York, S.C.

Funeral services were held Wednesday at 4 p.m. at Mount Carmel Free Will Baptist Church in Sharon, S.C. Rev. William Benton officiated and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery in York.

A native of Concord, Mrs. Heffner was the daughter of the late James C. and Kate Herring Foster. She was a retired York, S.C.

Mills employee and oldest charter member of First Baptist Church of York. She was widow of Charles Heffner.

Surviving are two sons, Peyton Heffner of York and William Heffner of Kings Mountain; two daughters, Mrs. Grace Hubbard of York and Mrs. Bessie Welch of Ramseur; one brother, Harvey Foster of El Paso, Texas and one sister, Mrs. Maggie Long of Gastonia. Also surviving are 26 grandchildren, 61 great-grandchildren and 21 great-great-grandchildren.



DELLA HEFFNER

INSIDE AT A GLANCE

Love Knows No Barriers
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Ping Pong Champion
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\$100 WINNER: Kim Franks of Kings Mountain. This Week's Football Contest On Page 6-B.