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KINGS MOUNTAIN, N.C. 28086

Gas Bills High

Utility customers are paying this month for keeping their homes warm during the coldest December on record but they aren't happy about the bills they are getting from the city which reflect in some cases a 30-40% hike.

"Can spring be far behind?", asks City Utilities Supt. Jimmy Maney, who said that, acting on complaints, meter readers have rechecked bills submitted by more than 500 utility customers and found that the bills reflected usage during the coldest weather in December when temperatures dipped in the teens in the daytime and high 30's at night.

"Customers getting these bills in February when were are enjoying abnormal temperatures are, understandably, unhappy but next month they should get some relief because they haven't used as much fuel in milder January," he said.

"The error rate is less than one percent in the bills we have rechecked and meters we reread," he said.

"The problem is that here we are enjoying spring temperatures in

See Utilities, 5-A

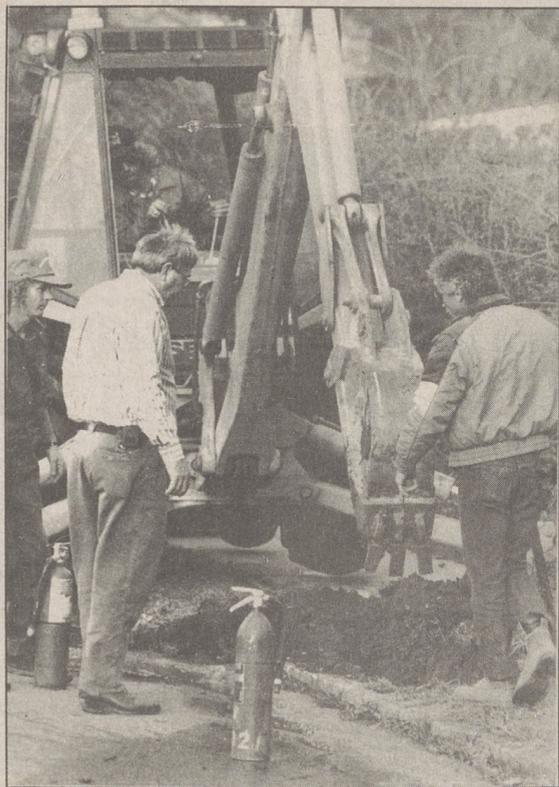


PHOTO BY DIETER MELHORN

GAS MAIN BREAK-City gas department workers fix a ruptured gas main on North Battleground Avenue after a car hit a city utility pole Tuesday afternoon. Ten residents were evacuated from their homes for an hour but the repair work took until 9 p.m. The driver was treated at the hospital and released.

Gas Break Causes Evacuation

A ruptured gas main in front of 106 N. Battleground Avenue turned out to be a "lucky break" but resulted in evacuation for about an hour of 10 residents, Depot Center and First Wesleyan Church Tuesday afternoon. City workers worked until 9 p.m. to make the repairs.

"If you're going to hit one that was the place to do it. As it happened, the break was on a dead end line and we were able to repair it without interrupting service to other customers," said Utilities Supt. Jimmy Maney.

City police said a 1988 Chevrolet being driven by Tracy Shane Sullens, 17, of 105 Robinson Road, pulling out from the Ridge Street Bridge and turning left, struck the city utility pole in front of 106 N. Battleground Avenue which ruptured the underground gas line.

Sullens, who was treated at Kings Mountain Hospital and released, said a cat ran into his path and he swerved to avoid it. Sgt. Mark Simpson cited the youth for safe movement violation.

Evacuated residents of the area of 106 N. Battleground returned to their homes at 4:45 p.m., Maney said. Kings Mountain Fire Department and utilities workers with the Natural Gas and Electric Department were on the scene until the gas main was fixed.

Maney said the leak itself did not interrupt any service to any other customers. "It was lucky if this was going to happen that it happened where it did without interrupting service to any other customers. The utility pole that was hit by the car didn't interrupt service except at 106 N. Battleground where the gas and electric line ends at King and Battleground. If you're going to hit on one that's the place to do it and it was just a lucky situation for all of us," he said.

Paramedics were on the scene in four minutes after the 911 emergency number was called, according to police.

Channel One Ruling Disappoints McRae

Kings Mountain Schools Supt. Bob McRae said the N. C. Board of Education's ruling Thursday that satellite news shows can't take classtime is both disappointing and confusing at a time when the state board is advocating more flexibility and freedom by local boards under Senate Bill II.

"Clearly, they can make the policy but I don't agree with it and question why the state got involved," McRae said of the state board's action to ban the showing of a commercial television program aimed at teenagers.

The Cleveland County and Kings Mountain school boards are among those which already have signed contracts to show "Channel One". McRae and Asst. Supt. Larry Allen are meeting today with other school officials involved in the state board ruling and the item, as well as a discussion of Senate Bill II, will probably be on the agenda of Monday night's board of education meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Kings Mountain schools planned to begin showing Channel One next fall at Kings Mountain Middle and High Schools and McRae said his teachers and staff have shown no less commitment to the program

"Clearly, they can make the policy but I don't agree with it and question why the state got involved."

-Bob McRae



since the recent controversy by state officials.

Channel One is a 12-minute television program that features 10 minutes of new clips and two minutes of commercials. High schools that agree to require students to watch the show each day are promised about \$50,000 worth of video equipment, which they can keep for the duration of the contact with Whittle Communications, the company marketing the program.

Under the measure approved Thursday, at least 89 North Carolina schools that already have signed three year contracts for Channel One may show the program as long as it does not infringe on the 5 1/2 hour school day. However, such contracts cannot be renewed when they expire and the equipment would have to be returned to the company.

Kings Mountain Schools had planned to show the program during class time but now must reschedule. "I think it's a grand opportunity for us but we will need to add some time and will be meeting today (Thursday) to talk about it," said McRae.

At Monday's meeting the board is expected to endorse a differentiated pay plan, under Senate Bill II, for employees who will then be given an opportunity to vote on it. This plan would give bonuses on a reward system based on certain criteria, rewarding teachers for higher performance. If 50 percent of teachers approve the measure, the plan will be presented to the state. The legislature would provide the money through Senate Bill II and the local board's work on the pro-

See McRae, 10-A

Bruce Scism Joins Race For State Senate Seat

Just when local State Senate incumbents thought they were "home free" in the May Democratic Primary a last-minute race developed with Bruce Scism's announcement that he will challenge the three incumbents for a seat in the 25th Senatorial District. As political filing deadline passed Monday, only Sheriff Buddy McKinney and Coroner Ralph Mitcham were unopposed for reelection.

The incumbent Senators are J. Ollie Harris of Kings Mountain, Marshall Rauch and Helen Rhyne Marvin, both of Gastonia. Their

See Election, 11-A



BRUCE SCISM

Kings Mountain Hospital To Open Psychiatric Unit

Kings Mountain Hospital will soon unveil a new dimension in health care for the residents of Cleveland County and surrounding areas. A Psychiatric Unit is targeted for opening in April of this year. This new inpatient unit will treat those persons eighteen years and older who suffer from acute mental and emotional disorders.

Kings Mountain Hospital Administrator Huit Reep said, "Kings Mountain Hospital is proud to offer this service to the community. We will be meeting a need in the community that is presently not being met."

The Kings Mountain Psychiatric Unit will be a 20-bed inpatient unit. It will be geared to provide medical/psychiatric and nursing care as well as structured therapy to all patients in a setting where families, friends an employers can support the treatment process.

Currently, all patients needing to be admitted for psychiatric treatment must travel out of Cleveland County which is costly in time and travel. "At Kings Mountain Hospital, we feel we are breaking new ground with this unit, said Reep. "We'll be treating patients in their own town instead of sending them out of the county. We're doing everything we can to ensure the success of this new unit and we anticipate community support."

The new Psychiatric Unit is an integral part of the services planned, developed and supported

by the Cleveland County Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, Substance Abuse Services. Dr. Brian Simpson, Clinical Director at the Cleveland County Mental Health Services said, "I am looking forward to the development of the unit and I'm keenly interested in rapid development of the unit."

The organization of the psychiatric inpatient unit is a multi-discipline team model built on effective use of varied skills of several professions including physicians, nurses, counselors, activity therapists, psychologists and technicians. These team members work together sharing information about the patient's treatment to assure rapid stabilization and a return to the patient's normal routine.

As with all patients admitted to Kings Mountain Hospital, the confidentiality of the patients in the Psychiatric Unit will be of primary importance at Kings Mountain Hospital. Kings Mountain Hospital upholds its responsibility to protect the privacy of the individuals who seek assistance.

Reep said, "We recognize that the hospital has a legal and moral obligation to maintain and uphold the privacy of each patient. This has always been a foremost consideration here."

Currently, the Personnel Department at Kings Mountain Hospital is advertising and accepting applications for all staffing positions for this new service.

Kings Mountain People

Retirement Busy Time For Allison

By LIB STEWART
Of The Herald Staff

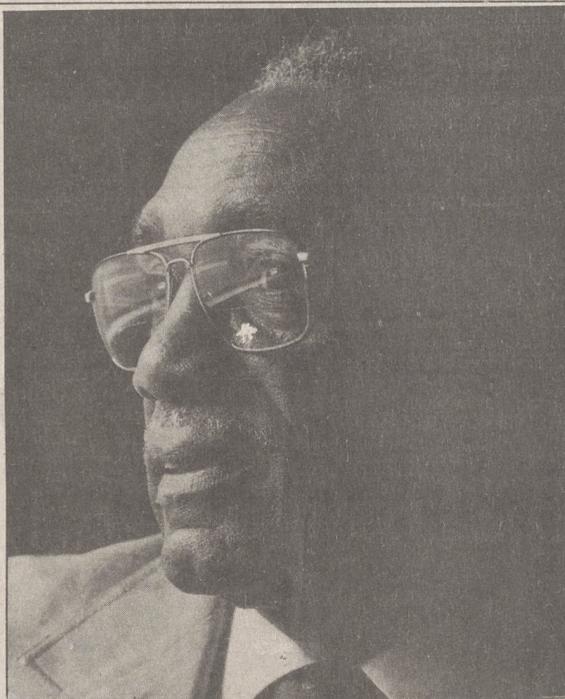
Retired educator C. A. Allison sees his upcoming trip to Salt Lake City, Utah as a commissioner to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) as the mountaintop experience in his religious life.

Allison is a member of Good Hope Presbyterian Church of Kings Mountain, one of the smallest congregations- membership 21-in the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. An ordained Elder since 1965, Clerk of Session, and Adult Sunday School teacher, he was recently chosen among four delegates-two ministers and two Elders-to represent the 118 churches in the Presbytery of Western North Carolina to serve with thousands of Presbyterians at a meeting of the highest governing body of the Presbyterian denomination.

The General Assembly meets the last week in May and Allison is excited about accompanying Rev. R. S. Owens, pastor of Gastonia's Olney Presbyterian Church; Rev. Ellen Dozier, pastor of Gastonia's New Hope Presbyterian Church and Elder Grace Munro of Brevard to Salt Lake.

"This will be my first trip to Salt Lake and I expect to be busy in meetings but maybe there will be some time for sightseeing but probably no sports events," he laughed. The popular, retired elementary school principal is in the stands at every sports event in Kings Mountain, whether it's baseball, football or basketball. He's a fan who cheers on the Kings Mountain teams. He's also a Carolina fan of the Tar Heels and a football fan of the San Francisco 49ers, he adds.

The General Assembly sets priorities for the work of the Presbyterian Church USA, develops overall objectives for missions, provides essential program functions and establishes and administers national and worldwide ministries of witness, service, growth and development. In addition, it oversees the life of the church and provides the communication with the whole denomination. The General Assembly makes position statements during the week's conference and serves in judicial matters within the denomination to make decisions on any controversial matters. Allison said he feels it an honor to serve as a commissioner to the meeting.



C.A. ALLISON

Photo by Dieter Melhorn

Allison, who retired in 1984 after 34 years in education, came to Kings Mountain nearly 30 years ago from Yanceyville. His wife, Adelaide, retired in 1985 after 38 years in education. The two have an enviable career total of 72 years in the educational field and served in various positions. During his 24 years with the KM District Schools Mr.

See Allison, 10-A

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