



**S.K.A.T.E.S. Screening
Planned For KM Schools**
Page 5A

**Senior Citizens Walking
Club To Organize
Monday**
Page 8A



WIN \$100.00
In The Herald's Football Contest
Page 12B



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Kings Mountain

THEY LIKE CALLING KM HOME

Exchange Students Adjusting To KMHS

Mette Nielsen, 17, of Denmark, and Nicolas Werner, 16, of Duesseldorf, Germany like the U. S. A. because it's different from their homelands and they like KMHS but find subjects tough and teachers strict.

The two young people made these observations about their new homes for a year this week as they talked about campus life compared with their schools in faraway countries.

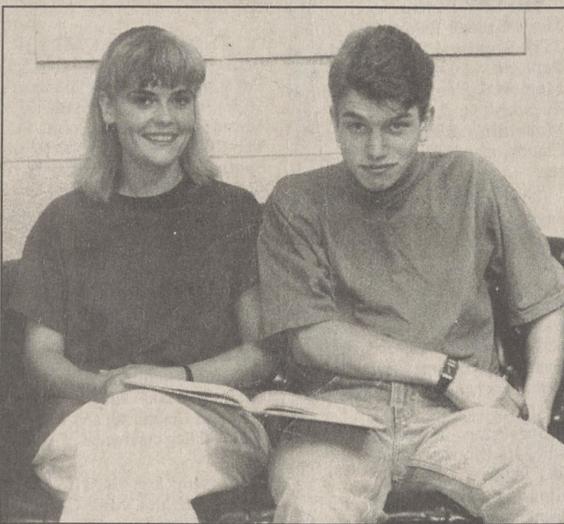
Nielsen, who comes from Arhus, a city of 280,000 in Jutland, Denmark, is learning to love okra and other home-grown vegetables and has already attended her first-ever football game and loves it. Soccer is the favorite sport in Denmark but young Nielsen prefers football.

Werner, also a junior at KMHS, finds American behavior "strange." He dislikes the fast foods that local young people adore but has found that choosing his school subjects, which he can't do in Germany, allows him to learn computer keyboard, computer mathematics and participate in fun activities like

drama. Werner doesn't think he'll get any credit in high school next year for the subjects he's taking in America but he wants to broaden the scope of his school work. Werner speaks German and English, a little French and Latin.

Nielsen saw school spirit at the first pep rally she attended on campus and liked what she saw. She believes American students have a more personal relationship with their teachers and friends but finds that local schools have more rules. For instance, in Denmark the high school girls can wear shorts to school and Physical Education is the only sport open to students. In Kings Mountain the pretty Danish blonde plans to join the tennis team and participate in the pep rallies. She is just back from a first trip to the beach with her American family, Pat and Don Huffstetler and daughter, Crissy, and already she is active in youth of First Baptist Church.

An only child, Nielsen said she isn't homesick because her American parents and sister give her plenty to do. She finds it fun to



EXCHANGE STUDENTS-Mette Nielsen of Denmark and Nicolas Werner of Germany are studying at KMHS this year as exchange students. The junior students like the friendly campus and say they see a more personal relationship here with students and teachers than they have ever experienced.

have an older sister.

Werner's Kings Mountain family is Rev. and Mrs. Bob Little of Central United Methodist Church and their children, Kim, an 11th grader at KMHS, and Sean Little, a college student. Werner has two

sisters, age 3 and 30, in Germany, where his father is a controller and his mother is a medical assistant. At KMHS, Werner plans to join the soccer team and get some help from his KM family in advanced

See Students, 10-A

Prep Program For Schools?

Kings Mountain Board of Education will consider a new "Tech Prep" program to target students not planning to attend four-year colleges but those who could benefit from education at the community college level Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. at KM Middle School.

The place of meeting for the September meeting has been changed from the Administrative Office Building.

Also on the agenda is the final proposal for an allotment reduction of \$156,923 as required by state school officials to balance the state budget. Cut are two teaching positions at \$34,500 each; one instructional support position at \$36,680; \$10,000 from the Exceptional Children's program; \$10,000 from summer school; \$7,584 from duty-free funds; \$17,500 from remediation program; \$2,500 from vocational education program; \$1,171 from employee liability insurance; \$2,000 from driver education supplies; and \$488 from staff development funds.

Vocational Director Betty Gamble will present the agreement

for implementing a Technical Preparation (Tech Prep) program with Cleveland Community College and the two other school systems. The Tech Prep program, developed in Richmond County several years ago, prepares students for advanced courses required by two year technical and community colleges. As in Richmond County, the local school systems will implement courses of study that include more technically oriented vocational courses along with higher level English, mathematics and science courses. The program is designed to ensure a smooth transition for students into the vocational and technical curriculum at the community college.

The board agreement is the first step in pursuing the program, which will include application for a grant to provide teacher training and publication of brochures about the program.

Community Schools Coordinator Bill Hager will also address the board on a new parent involvement project being pushed statewide and Associate Supt. Larry Allen will present a report on East School construction.

Senator Ollie Harris To Get National Award

Kings Mountain Senator J. Ollie Harris will receive the American Medical Association's "Dr. Nathan Davis Award" Monday night at a dinner meeting of the Cleveland County Medical Association.

The group meets at 7 p.m. at the old Elks Club in Shelby.

Senator Harris was nominated by Governor James G. Martin; Dr. Reginald T. Harris, president of the North Carolina Medical Society; and Dr. Ronald H. Levine, N.C. State Health Director.

Dr. Levine is expected to make the presentation.

The national award honors public service and commitment to health care. The award was first given in 1989 to recognize public officials who have "promoted the art and science of medicine and the betterment of health care."

Harris is serving his ninth term in the North Carolina Senate. He chairs the Senate's Human Resources Committee and is vice chairman of the Manufacturing and Labor committee. As chairman of the Human Resources committee—a post he has held since 1977—Harris has been involved with all substantive legislation and funding of health and human services programs in North Carolina. He also serves on the Appropriations committee, which sets the state budget. In addition, he is a member of the committee on Banks, Finance, Judiciary, Rules, State Government, and Ways and Means. He is co-chairman of the Mental Health Study Commission and co-chairman of the Public Health Study Commission.

A Democrat, Harris represents District 25, which includes Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln and Rutherford counties.



SENATOR OLLIE HARRIS



Photo by Chris Nanney

GOVERNOR MARTIN IN COUNTY-Governor Jim Martin, right above, visited Cleveland County Friday and was in Shelby to promote Republican Representative John Weatherly, left, a candidate for reelection. Martin was guest at a fund-raiser for Weatherly at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Harry in Shelby. Harry, center, is a member of the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners.

KM Officials Say Census Takers Missed Homes

Kings Mountain city officials say they found houses this week that federal census-takers missed in a preliminary U.S. census count.

When figures are tabulated the city's population count will probably equal the 1989 municipal population estimate of 9,715.

Community Development Director Gene White, who led the house count, was preparing a re-

port Wednesday to mail Thursday to the district census office in Charlotte. White says the city count disagrees with the earlier census figures, which cut KM's population to 8,804. "The number of housing units were undercounted and the number of housing vacancies overstated," White said.

White said that city officials received on Monday a letter from the

Office of State Budget and Management certifying the population figure of 9,715, as of July 1, 1990, the estimates used exclusively for purpose of distributing state shared revenues to municipalities and municipal boundaries. "That to me is further evidence, based on earlier projections by the state, that the recent count by census takers is in error," said White.

Firemen Get Land

GROVER-Town Board will formally deed land on which the Fire Department is located to the Fire Department Monday night at a special meeting at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

The decision to deed the property came after a public hearing Sept. 4 in which no one spoke for or against the proposal. The board voted 4-1 over objection of Commissioner Jim Howell.

In other actions Sept. 4, the board approved two new street lights on Timberland Street and bought a sewer pump for the pump station. The board delayed action on buying new carpet for the addition to Town Hall and new furniture for the mayor's office, which will also be located in the new addition.

Winn Dixie Robbed Of \$800 On Monday

Kings Mountain Police are looking for three men believed to be responsible for a robbery Monday night at Winn Dixie at KM Plaza where \$800 was stolen.

Sgt. Derek Johnson said a man entered the store at 9:02 p.m. and walked to an aisle where cleaning supplies are displayed. He chose a large box of detergent and proceeded to check-out counter No. 3 to pay for it after asking the store manager and a cashier the cost. When the clerk opened the cash drawer, the man pushed her back and grabbed a handful of cash.

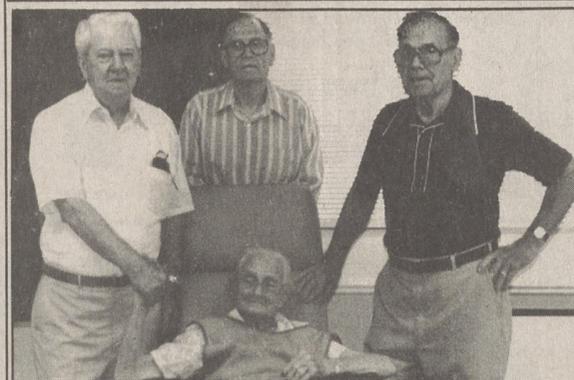
Police say the man was chased by store personnel, including manager Bike Butler, who lost the suspect when he ran behind Georgetown Apartments. Butler

said a 1980's model gray Nissan parked on the side of the store occupied by two black males left in a hurry after they saw the chase. A store employee got in his personal vehicle and followed the gray car to obtain a tag number. The vehicle was last seen traveling east on King Street.

The suspect was described as a black male, 5 feet, 11-inches tall, and weighing about 190 pounds. He had a medium build, short black hair and had a large growth, possibly a wart, on the left side of his neck near his ear.

Sgt. Derek Johnson's squad is investigating the incident. The suspect is being sought for strong arm robbery and assault on female.

MAKING A JOYFUL NOISE



FILLING A NEED-Bill Russell, left, C. J. Gault and Hilliard Black lead worship services each Thursday at KM Convalescent Center, a practice their Central United Methodist Church Davis Bible Class began 14 years ago. Neva Phillips, in wheelchair, is always ready to participate in the service

Church Laymen Fill Need At Nursing Home

When the church bells ring on Thursday mornings at 10 at Kings Mountain Convalescent Center the residents are ready to sing or just listen to gospel music and devotionals by a trio from Central United Methodist Church who have been leading the church service for years.

"We feel that we're filling a need," says Bill Russell, who has led the service for seven years since the death of Rev. Kelly Dixon, a former Kings Mountain

mayor who started the weekly church service at the facility 14 years ago. "It's the least we can do," says C. J. Gault, who started playing the piano for the worship hour 14 years ago when Dixon started conducting the preaching service. Hilliard Black, who joined the group 12 years ago, leads the singing. All are members of Central United Methodist Church Davis Bible Class which sponsors the religious service.

See Music, 10-A