

Win \$100 in Herald Football Contest

You can win big bucks in the Herald's annual pick the winners football contest which begins this week.

The contest will run the next 10 weeks and will give area football experts the chance to win \$100 a week. The \$100 winner take all prize is the largest offered by any newspaper in this area.

Each week, a contest page sponsored by area merchants will appear inside the Herald. (This week's contest is on page 6-A and the entry blank is on page 5-A). Twenty area high school and college games will appear inside the individual advertisements on the contest page. Pick the teams you think will win and enter them in the 20 blanks on the

entry blank, which will appear each week on one of the sports pages.

Be sure to read the rules carefully. Only one entry per person will be accepted and all entries must be in our hands by 4 p.m. Friday. Entries judged as having the same handwriting will be disqualified.

The winner of each week's contest will be announced in the following week's paper. Please do not call the Herald office to see who wins the contest. The winner will be notified by telephone on Tuesday.

Be sure not to confuse the football contest with the "Pigskin Pickers" contest on page 8-A. That contest is just a friendly game be-

tween some of the Herald's employees and their friends and has nothing whatsoever to do with the \$100 pick contest. In the past, there have been contestants who use in the "Pigskin Pickers" contest as the schedule contest. Remember, all games for the football contest individual advertisements on page 6-A.

Get out your crystal ball, favorite football publications, or whatever else you use to judge the talent teams. You could pick up some spending money.

Good luck!

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Hospital to hike room rate

Area hospitals are following most North Carolina hospitals in upping room rates. Hospital officials say the increase is due to government reimbursements for Medicaid and Medicare not keeping pace with the actual cost of the services delivered and also for bad debts written off by the institutions due to non-paying indigent care, increased cost of supplies and competitive salaries.

Kings Mountain Hospital will increase room rates effective October 1 with rooms priced at \$233, up from \$210. Intensive/special care units at KMH will be \$710, the same as Cleveland Memorial at Shelby which is upping private rooms to \$239, up from \$230; and \$234 for semi-private rooms, up from \$225.

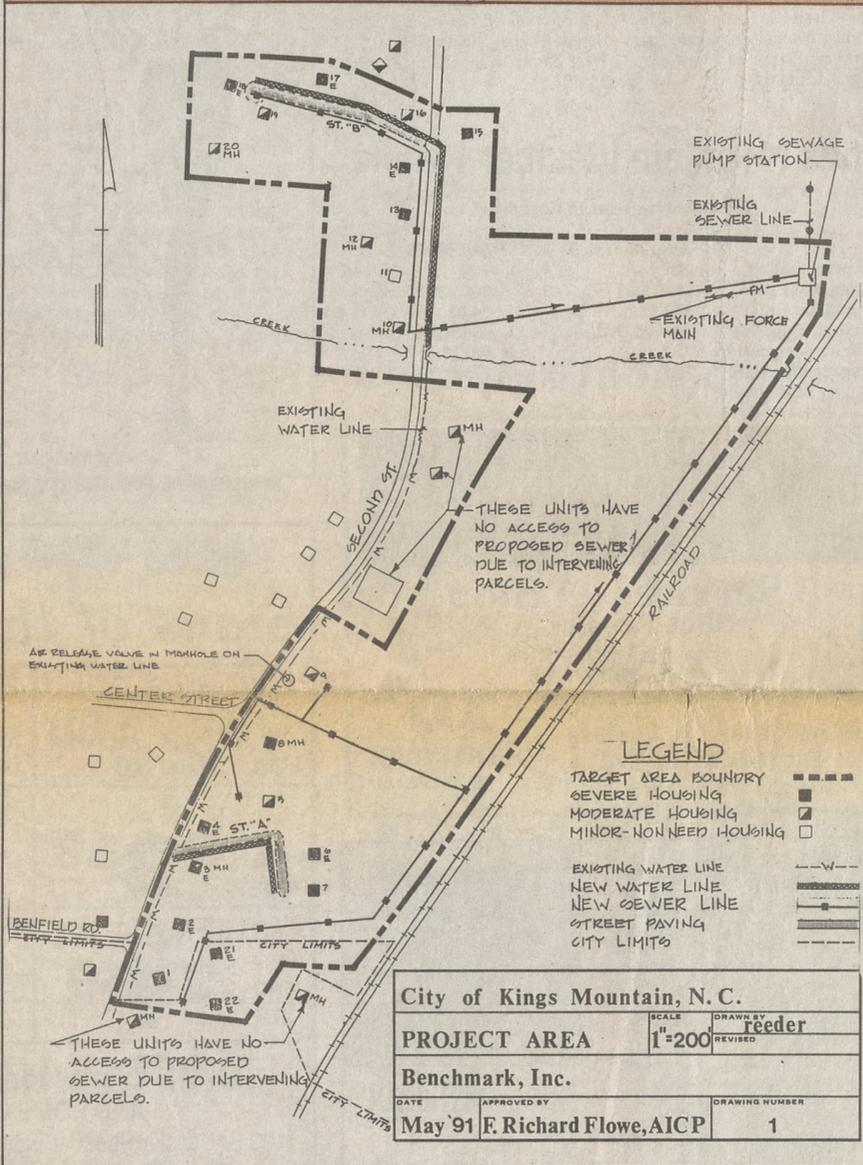
Intensive care unit beds will rise at KMH from \$690 to \$710 per day, an increase of 2.9 percent. Skilled beds at KM Hospital will be \$95 and psychiatric beds will be \$480.

The local increase is slightly less than the average rate hike being implemented for hospital rooms across the state, said KMH Administrator Huitt Reep who said that Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville has increased its rates to \$340 for semi-private and private rooms; ICU \$1270; Special Care \$1190; and psychiatric rooms \$540.

Reep said that in most cases Medicare isn't reimbursing but about 35% of the total cost of hospital care.

Gaston Memorial Hospital implemented its new rates in June. Private room rates jumped from \$215 to \$233 per day.

KM Homes To Be Spruced Up



\$600,000 grant for 21 KM homes

Governor Jim Martin announced today a Community Block Grant award of \$600,000 to Kings Mountain to rehabilitate 21 homes in the area of Second Street.

The city is among 45 municipalities and 14 county governments approved for community revitalization grants totaling over \$29.1 million, a portion of North Carolina's \$39.7 million CDBG allocation from the federal government for the program year that began April 1, 1991.

Community Planner Gene White said the funds will be used to rehabilitate substandard housing, improve water and sewer services to households and finance other revitalization activities in the low and moderate income neighborhood.

White, who said the city made application in May but first began the project in November 1990, said it is the first grant application of this type approved for the city since 1974. He estimated that work will begin on water, sewer and drainage improvements in early 1992.

The project will include \$89,888 in local option funds to be used to improve storm drainage and \$94,000 in local funds for water and sewer improvements.

The federal funds will be used to rehabilitate 21 housing units, connect 15 houses to the municipal water system, install 4,950 linear feet of sewer line and pave one street.

White said the city was recently among 27 units of local government awarded funds for energy-related and other costs of rehabilitating or building affordable housing up to \$7,500 per unit or a total of \$52,500 from the N.C. Housing Trust Fund which brings the total grant for the Second Street project to \$652,500.

The Governor said 105 commu-

nities made application for the funds which are awarded on a competitive basis and must meet minimum eligibility requirements including benefit to low-and moderate-income persons. Local governments may request a maximum of \$600,000 in any one program year.

White said that First Union National Bank will loan up to \$50,000 during the projected 24 months the program is expected to run and will be looking at individual requests from residents in the project area. White said all the home owners in the project area are being contacted and he said, in some cases, the owners will receive grants for the rehabilitation. White said that 14 dwellings are severely deteriorated, seven are substandard.

"The target area has severe housing problems, severe sewer problems and water problems as well as street and drainage needs and was chosen because of its concentration of needs and because of the severity of needs which exists," said White.

To identify the project area city staffers, with assistance of planning consultants with Benchmark Inc., conducted a door-to-door survey and inspected the interior/exterior of each dwelling. Twenty-two single family homes, 17 conventional homes and five mobile homes are located in the area. Nine houses have well systems and five households reported contaminated wells. Fourteen dwellings have failing septic tanks. Six houses are either adjacent to or front the street with what White labeled as severe street needs. Two houses don't have access to a public street. Seven dwellings have periodic flooding due to poor or non-existent street drainage.

Ocie not over 'Hill' yet

Ocie Hill, 88, quit driving her car several years ago but she still climbs on board a motorcycle.

The spry mother of eight daughters, grandmother of 34, great-grandmother of 65 and great-great-grandmother of three rides a motorcycle "every chance I get" and loves it.

Sitting behind a grandchild or son-in-law with a helmet on her silver hair and riding several miles is pure heaven.

Unlike some senior citizens her age who prefer a more non-challenging sport, Ocie rides a Harley Davidson motorcycle and recently rode "a big scary looking contraption called Gold Wing" her daughter and son-in-law rode from Indiana for a visit.

Just back from Fort Wayne, Indiana, where she visited two daughters and their families, Ocie brought back tomatoes and grapes to can soup and

jelly and bass and bream she caught on a fishing trip.

A Kings Mountain resident 10 years, Ocie likes to fish and travel and loves the regular dances at Kings Mountain Depot Center where she attends the Senior Citizen activities. She has been to the Holy Land, California and most states in the U. S. with her large family. Every year the family gets together at Kings Mountain State Park for a reunion and for Christmas and her birthday. Her apartment at Battle Forest is too small to accommodate the large crowd for gatherings but it's always full of kinfolk and friends. A retired textile employee, she was a practical nurse for 20 years before retirement.

Ocie credits her good health and longevity to "loving the Lord and hard work" and says keeping active keeps her on her feet. She rarely misses a service at Piedmont Baptist Church or a program at the Senior Center.

See Hill, 11-A



RIDING HIGH - Ocie Hill, 88, has always liked a challenge. She is pictured behind her grandson, Ted Burgess, on a motorcycle, her favorite transportation since she quit driving a car.

Utility projects near completion

The fall months will see the completion and dedication of major utility projects.

Community Services Director Tom Howard said workers are finalizing the backfill around the five million gallon storage tank on Piedmont Avenue to tie into the existing two million gallon water tank. Formal dedication will be held in October.

Weather permitting, Howard said that construction at the wastewater plant on U.S. 74 west and the water plant at the KM Reservoir will finish up in October and dedication at the two sites will be held in November.

The cost of the three projects--paid by bond monies--is approximately \$6 million.

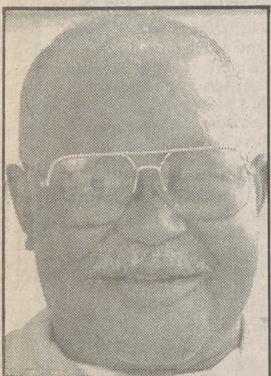
Howard said that superstructures have been erected for two new substations and work on this major piece of construction is 70 percent complete.

The electrical phase of the bond projects will be last to be completed. "Everything looks good," said Howard.

Howard said final inspection on the Woodside-Monroe drainage project was held last week.

City crews will start taking orders for free gas light-ups this month. Residents may call during the month of September for one free light up and names must be on the list at Public Works before October 1 to qualify for one free gas light-up.

Kings Mountain People



JAMES ADAMS

James Adams keeps KM clean

James Adams took up tickets at the old Imperial Theater before he got hooked in the dry cleaning business 40 years ago.

The well-known leader and businessman in the black community still has his hand in the family-operated Adams Cleaners but he retired recently from the Kings Mountain Planning & Zoning Board where he served a dozen years.

Adams, 64, has owned and operated Adams Cleaners since 1969 but worked at Logan Cleaners, Sanders Cleaners, McCurdy

Cleaners, all local businesses, and at People's Dry Cleaners in Cherryville before he opened his own business.

In 1949 Adams went to work for F. R. McCurdy at McCurdy Cleaners downtown to help out one day. He stayed on the job 20 years before opening his own business on East Ridge Street of which his wife of 39 years, Grace McClain Adams, is manager.

Like most of Kings Mountain, the dry cleaning business has changed, according to Adams, who remembers the day when cus-

tomers only took their wool garments to be dry cleaned. "Now we get all kinds of materials," he says.

His family and church come first with Adams but running second is his love of politics. Although he has never been a candidate himself, he has worked for some and served as Democratic registrar at East Kings Mountain precinct four years. His business and the front porch of his nearby residence often is a favorite spot for candidate hopefuls to politic.

Adams retired from his business in 1988 due to declining health and

stepped down from several community jobs. He was on the advisory board for Kings Mountain's first Public Housing Authority and for the Senior Citizen Center and on the building committee for the Kings Mountain Community Center. Past president of Kings Mountain Improvement Association, he credits the group with improving working conditions for blacks. He was the first superintendent of the Sunday School at the new Bynum Chapel AME Zion Church, where he is now assistant

See Adams, 11-A