

Kings Mountain Police have reported an unidentified flying object heading for the city from the northerly direction.

The UFO is traveling at such a rapid rate of speed police say it's difficult to track it. It appears on the screen for just a fraction of a second and then is gone again.

Wait! Wait!

It's back on the screen again. a computer expert says the object appears to be a sleigh being pulled by seven...no, what's that, eight reindeer. The one in front has such a bright, red nose that it's almost blinding.

In the sleigh, there appears to be a big, fat man wearing a red and white suit and big, black boots. Several red bags appear to be filled with oranges, apples, candy, baby dolls, Nintendo games, teddy bears, cowboy suits, BB guns, and thousands of other toys.

A radar expert says the rate of speed indicates the sleigh will arrive in the Kings Mountain area sometime between 12 midnight Tuesday and 5 a.m. Wednesday.

Don't waste any sleep trying to get a glimpse of this UFO, though. It's too fast for the human eye.

Merry Christmas!

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Michael gets wish

By RENEE WALSER
Of The Herald Staff

Some wonderful things happen around this time of year. . .

There's a reason why we've had such mild weather the first two weeks of December, and it has to do with a special gift for a special young man from some special people.

Michael Styers is 23 years old and stricken with cerebral palsy. He doesn't let it get him down, though, or maybe he is just so stubborn he won't let you see the frustration that must go with that disease. He has a quick sense of humor and a love for life that is infectious.

Michael wanted a handicap ramp for Christmas, and because of some good friends, Santa came through. Now he can go outside of his trailer in Love Valley and watch the birds and squirrels play in the unusually good weather we've been having. That was the other special gift from Santa, good weather so Michael can make full use of his new ramp.

Michael said he wanted to thank Jake Greene of David Baptist Church, who supervised the building of the ramp. Dennis Stroupe also played the role of overseer. And the three boys who did the handy work: Clif Greene, Jonathan Lovelace and Tim Stroupe. But most of all, he wanted to thank his friend Hallie Blanton.

"If it wasn't for her, it wouldn't be out there at all," Michael said, with a lipstuck mark on his forehead from where Blanton kissed him.

Blanton heads social services for the Kings Mountain school system and met Michael when he was in school.

"He graduated from my school but not from my heart," she said.

Blanton explained that Michael doesn't get out of the house that much.

His mother tries to take him to the mall every Sunday. Last Sunday he ran into Santa at the mall. Instead of Michael sitting on Santa's lap (Michael is confined to a wheelchair), Santa sat on Michael's and told him, "Now you've got to tell me what you're going to bring me for Christmas."

"I was embarrassed," Michael said. "I wanted one of those lady elves to sit on my lap."

Michael likes the ladies. He is fond of telling the story about being at camp a few summers ago and watching all the girls in their bathing suits. Needless to say, swimming was his favorite activity.

And he loves soap operas. In high school, he was known as the "Soap Opera Kid."



Michael Styers and his friend Hallie Blanton enjoy the new handicap ramp built for Michael's Christmas by members of David Baptist Church.

"It's because of those pretty women in there," he said. "When you grow up in a house with three women . . . I guess it's a habit that's hard to break."

When Michael was in school, he enjoyed computers. Now he wants one of his own. The one he wants is \$699, but his mother said the merchant wouldn't extend her enough credit to buy it.

"We may get it or we may never get it," said Joyce, his mother.

Some wonderful things happen around this time of year. Who knows what other gifts, like good weather, Santa has in store for us and Michael?

It's Christmas time in the city

Three Christmas Eve 11 p.m. candlelight services and early worship services at six churches will highlight the Christian celebration of Christmas Tuesday.

St. Matthew's, Resurrection and First Presbyterian Churches have arranged the traditional 11 p.m. candlelight communion services with special music by the choirs.

Grace United Methodist Church and Central United Methodist Church will have 7 p.m. candlelight communion services and Boyce Memorial ARP Church will hold a 7:30 p.m. candlelight service. Christ the King Catholic Church will hold the traditional caroling service at 6:30 p.m.

At St. Matthew's Church a children's service at 4 p.m. Tuesday will feature the "arrival of the Christ Child" and parents and grandparents are invited, along with visitors. The 11 p.m. service will feature carol singing under the direction of Mrs. Virginia Hinnant and Mrs. Margaret McGinnis. Red poinsettias will bank the Chancel area of the sanctuary and a Chrismon tree will be decorated and lighted.

Donald Deal will direct three Christmas anthems by the choirs at Resurrection Lutheran Church for which Dina Jo Hannah of Dallas will be guest organist. Rev. John Futterer will lead a homily prior to the Sacrament of Holy Communion. White pine garlands and two ceiling-high Chrismon trees decorate the sanctuary which

will be filled with red and white poinsettias and arranged with wreaths and hurricane lamps in the windows.

Mrs. Linda Dixon will direct the Central United Methodist Church Choir in special music at 7 p.m. Red and white poinsettias and Chrismon trees decorate the sanctuary.

Rev. Patricia Stone will lead the 7 p.m. worship service at Grace United Methodist Church which will include candlelight communion and special music by the choir. The sanctuary is beautifully decorated for Christmas.

Mrs. Shirley Austin will direct the choir of First Presbyterian Church in special music at the 11 p.m. service which will include candlelight communion. The church is decorated with Chrismon trees, candles, greenery and poinsettias.

Trip McGill will direct carol singing at Boyce Memorial ARP Church at 7:30 p.m. and Rev. William Blanton will lead the worship service. The sanctuary is decorated in green and red.

Bethlehem Baptist Church will hold 5:15 p.m. candlelight services on Christmas Eve.

Trinity Episcopal Church will hold "A Festival of Carols" Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. and young people of the church will sing anthems. After the worship service, Dr. and Mrs. Larry Muench will host a Christmas party at their home on Downing Drive.

Family celebrates Christmas together

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Of The Herald Staff

All John and Susan Peppard wanted for Christmas was to have Susan's mother home for Christmas.

The 82-year-old Englishwoman made their wishes come true by flying from New Haven, England to spend her first Christmas with her daughter in 27 years.

Not only is Ollie Penfold's visit a reunion with the Kings Mountain family but a reunion with her sister,

Joan Lloyd, 86, who will be flying from Florida for a New Year's visit in Kings Mountain.

"We're so excited," said Susan, who became a U. S. citizen in 1965 when she left her native England at age 19 to work in New York City and there met her husband, a sailor. The Peppards were married in John's hometown in Pennsylvania. His job as a truck driver took them to various other places but eight years ago they moved to Kings Mountain from West Virginia, re-

See Reunion, 4-A



Ollie Penfold of England and her daughter, Susan Peppard of Kings Mountain are spending Christmas together for the first time in 27 years.

KM United Fund plans celebration

A victory celebration will be held in late January by Kings Mountain United Fund.

"It's truly fabulous," said UF President Glenn Anderson, commenting on the efforts of Kings Mountain people who surpassed the goal of \$120,750.00 for 16 agencies.

"I want to salute everyone involved in making the campaign a success," said Anderson.

Three divisions topped 1991 quotas, including the big industrial division which led the campaign;

advance gifts and commercial, according to campaign chairman Pat Carter, who said funds are still coming in. Carter said the drive will probably end with total contributions of \$121,688.67.

"It's been a tough year in a tough economy but Kings Mountain citizens came through again and we are so pleased and grateful," said Carter, noting that two weeks ago a shortfall of over \$6,000 would have resulted in cuts to agency requests.



Pat Thompson, left, Johannna Cole, Avis Morrow and Pat Schronce prepare to deliver 85 packages to the needy which decorated an Angel Tree at the Kings Mountain Hospital Outpatient Department.

Tis the season of sharing

Kings Mountain's tradition of giving to the needy reaches its peak in the Christmas season as churches, organizations and other groups band together to help the less fortunate.

No one wants to be in the hospital at Christmas time but the staff of Kings Mountain Hospital have said merry Christmas with bright decorations and Christmas trees throughout the facility.

An Angel Tree was decorated by the Outpatient Department staff. Names of needy children were obtained from the Kings Mountain Empty Stocking Fund and Cleveland County Department of Social Services. Eighty-five angels were selected from the tree during a 24-hour period and now the tree is laden with presents for needy children. Social worker Freida Hardin says the response was overwhelming.

A tree in the hospital lobby has been decorated by the Kings Mountain Hospital Auxiliary.

An original tree by the nursing staff features tiny nurses' caps with individual employees' names on them. The tiny caps are replicas of those from the various nursing schools.

A special tree on North Nursing Station has unusual gifts under it. Employees have brought canned food items and filled three big boxes with staple items. This food is being donated to the Kings Mountain Crisis Ministry.

Employees dressed in Christmas sweat shirts cared for the patients in the hospital and Skilled Nursing Care Unit Wednesday. Junior Auxiliary members have been busy making tray favors and door decorations. A group of candy strippers hung paper wreaths on each patient door.

At Cornwell Drug Store an Angel Tree provided names of needy school children and visitors to the store have wrapped presents to be delivered this week.

White Plains Shrinic Club hosted a party Thursday night for crippled children and burned children and their families at Masonic Temple and presented treats and gifts.

Fairview Lodge 339 AF&AM is giving 50 fruit baskets to widows of Masons.

The Empty Stocking Fund, Crisis Ministry, and the Ministerial Association-sponsored bell ringing benefit needy families and the Crisis Ministry with its Food Bank at the Community Center is a year round project to help the area less fortunate.

Kings Mountain Lions Club members distributed 18 fruit baskets to the blind this week. Lion Richard Barnette said the club discontinued its fruit cake project but has available socks and commercial and household brooms.