



Homesley tops in field

One of world's best bird dog trainers

1-B

Mountaineers whip R-S

13-2 for SWC crown

6-A



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Is Russia Next?

Gage brings Word to KM

Rick Gage, evangelist from Atlanta, Ga., followed the rains last week, bringing refreshment in the form of the Gospel to Kings Mountain and area residents at his crusade Sunday through Wednesday nights.

Tuesday night he had many messages to relate to the crowd gathered in the high school football stadium.

He began by revealing that his ministry had been invited to Russia and Eastern Europe next November to preach.

"I'm in awe with these invitations," he said. "I'm overwhelmed."

Gage wants to recruit 100 "soul-winners" to make the trip with him. The cost will be \$50,000.

"I don't know how we're going to raise it," he said. But he hopes that 50 businessmen will donate a \$1,000 each toward the effort.

His goal is to take 1,000 Bibles on the trip to be handed out. Each Bible costs \$1 for printing and production. Gage said Russians will fill the halls if you promise them a Bible in return.

"Jesus deserves to be number one," was Gage's next message.

"Only he who does the will of the Father will be saved," he quoted, saying that those who claim to

believe but do not do God's will, are on a path to Hell and don't know it.

"Jesus said, 'Only a few people will find Heaven,'" said Gage, adding that "I'm not preaching tonight that you cannot fall as a Christian. . . . God knows what's in your heart."

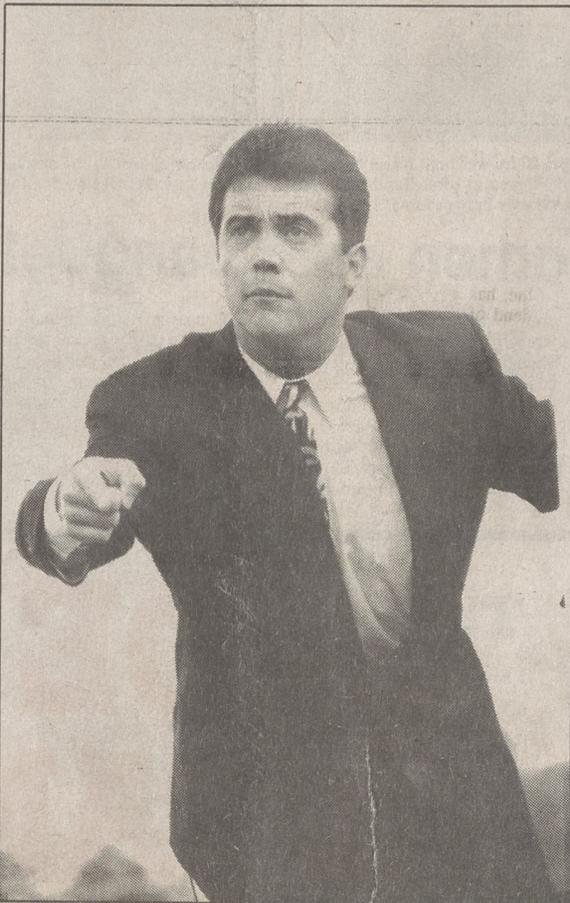
"Don't you leave the stadium tonight until you know that you know that you know that you are going to Heaven," he instructed.

The crusade began Saturday evening with a Youth Rally at Central School. Dana Russell entertained in concert and Gage spoke to the youngsters.

Sunday night was Church Night; Monday was Sunday School Night; Tuesday Night was Friends Night; and Wednesday Night was Youth Night. Also on Wednesday evening, a free Pizza Blast was planned for the youth before the 7 p.m. service.

Gage spoke to 1,100 high school students and 900 middle school students Tuesday in the Kings Mountain Schools. He has spoken to over a million students in the last five years in all parts of the country.

See Gage, 9-A



Rick Gage preaches to huge crowd at crusade at Kings Mountain's John Gamble Stadium.

Grover Elementary

Multi-age class gets

Sixty-eight Grover Elementary students will participate in a new program next school year to help expand their learning opportunities outside the traditional classroom.

A multi-age classroom will be set up in the old cafeteria building at Grover to hold the first, second and third grade students along with three teachers and three teacher assistants.

The new program was approved at Monday's Kings Mountain School Board meeting. Grover principal Jim Scruggs said teachers Terri Briggs and Gale Baber had worked on the program for three years now and he believed that they could make it work.

One of the features of the multi-age classroom is an open space class with students working in groups or individually. There will be no student desks.

The teachers say that many students are not reaching their potential under the traditional structure. Multi-age classes will allow students to learn at an appropriate level and pace.

"The setting is more natural," said Baber. "And it does away with a lot of frustration and isolation."

A graded structure does not allow for deviation below or above

grade level in a variety of subjects, Baber said. But multi-age classes let students excel in some areas and receive remediation in others.

Spanish will be taught one to two hours each day as a partial immersion part of the program.

The make-up of the students includes: 13 exceptional students; two academically gifted students; and 14 Chapter 1 students.

Parental consent is necessary and a skills checklist will be sent home with students along with report cards for parental monitoring.

A grant proposal has been submitted for \$75,000 to enhance the program, but teachers say the money is not necessary for the program to work. Baber said they expect to hear by the end of the month whether they receive the grant. She is hopeful that Grover will be one of the four schools awarded the money since there are only six applicants.

Baber said the other teachers besides Briggs, Lynn Ellis and herself have been very cooperative in starting up the program.

"They're very optimistic about it," she said. "This has been a total school effort."

See Grover, 9-A



Railroad displays to be at Kings Mountain Depot Center during



Mountain Fest Celebration on Saturday, May 30.

Railroad display planned for Mountain Fest

A big layout of a Piedmont Southern railroad will be one of the free featured exhibits at the May 30 Mountain Fest shaping up to be one of the top events ever held in the city.

Branch Bank & Trust Company of Kings Mountain is sponsoring the exhibit, which will be free to

the public at the Depot Center during the day-long festival.

BB&T President Glenn Anderson said the model railroad is 12x28 feet and was constructed by the Piedmont N Southern Model Railroad Club, a club organized in 1980 in Greenville, SC as an N-Trak module club. N-Trak is an or-

ganization that really advanced N-Scale railroading. Any module built by N-Trak module standards can interconnect with any other N-Trak module in the world, he said. Large layouts are set up at shows and conventions that are very impressive.

"We are delighted that BB&T is

bringing this outstanding exhibit to Kings Mountain and at no charge for King Mountain citizens to see this continuous loop of tracks. All modules have the optional Mountain Division trackage so that four trains can be operated independently," said Chamber

See Fest, 9-A

Kings Mountain People

Jim Wright turned hobby into full-time employment

By Elizabeth Stewart of The Herald Staff

Jim Wright clipped his wings a few years ago and settled down to fixing anything that's fixable--on the ground.

Wright, who flew his own plane and set up textile plants all over the world during a 43 year career in textiles, sold his plane, built a house in 1976, and bought a tractor when he retired from textiles in 1985 and opened Jim's Small Engine Repairs on Chestnut Ridge Road.

He has earned the enviable reputation of being able to fix "almost anything" after practicing a hobby for years in which he repaired free of charge his neighbors and co-workers lawn mowers and tillers from a back yard hobby shop.

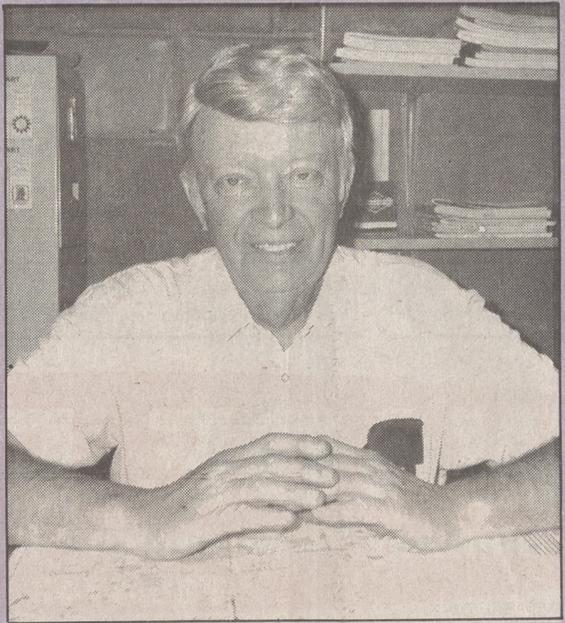
As plant manager of Fieldcrest Mills in 1969, Jim recalled that in Worthville, 'Richard Petty Country,' he was the only man who

could fix a garden tractor. When it was time to plant gardens, he was flooded with requests. "I didn't charge anyone because it was a hobby I loved and never thought about getting into a business for profit until we returned to live in Kings Mountain."

Goal setting was always important to Wright, 62, who had his solo, private, and commercial license to fly an airplane at age 40. He logged 9,000 hours in the air, making 21 trips to Kingston, Jamaica and Nassau and Freeport in the Bahamas, among other places.

Wright loved to fly and owned a Commander 250 four-seater and was a licensed instrument rated pilot, taking hours to complete his schooling while working in the textile mill. The couple lived in Thomasville, Worthville, and Alabama but found the perfect spot on Chestnut Ridge Road close

See Wright, 9-A



JIM WRIGHT

Sixth grade scores up, eight grade decreases

Jean Thrift, director of pupil support services in the Kings Mountain School District, reported to the school board Monday night that local 6th and 8th grade students continue to be ahead of state and regional student averages in the annual writing assessment.

She said scores are not as high as they were two years ago before a middle school was incorporated.

Thrift said that this year's 6th graders gained 20 percent in scores over last year's students, with a slight decrease in 8th grade performance. But she said it was not an alarming drop.

Other issues before the board included:

■ The board approved use of school facilities for the summer tennis clinic for elementary and middle school-age children. Sessions will be held on June 8-12 and June 15-19. Kathy James and Barbara Jones will conduct the clinics.

■ Dave Hinson, county transportation director, reviewed the funding formula for school district

transportation. Hinson said he was looking for a 100 percent efficiency rating in the future and would find ways to upgrade efficiency from the present rate of 94.8 percent. Suggestions include combining bus routes and staggering times. Dr. Larry Allen, associate superintendent, presented a sample of a bus route and said he is working with the computer system to map out all routes, which will be reviewed with principals this summer.

■ The board approved the Chapter I Reading Program application, which expands one half time teacher/parent trainer position to full time and adds one Chapter I teacher with a 10 percent increase in funding.

■ The board approved plans for summer school as submitted by Jean Thrift. Third, 6th and 8th grade summer school will be state-funded. Middle School and High School summer school will be tuition-funded and will not make lunch or transportation available. Summer school dates are June 17

KM's Larry Hamrick named to development commission

Larry Hamrick Sr., Kings Mountain insurance man since 1955 and a Kings Mountain realtor for a quarter century, will fill one of the four seats appointed by the County Board of Commissioners on the new Economic Development Commission.

The other members of the nine-member board will come from Kings Mountain city council, Shelby city council, Boiling Springs city council, Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce, and the Cleveland County Sanitary District.

The commissioners also appointed Jim Crawley, who heads up Phillips Optical Media in Kings Mountain, Jack Mabry of Shelby, and Jim Boggs of Upper Cleveland. All four appointees had previously served on the old board which has previously functioned as an advisory board reporting to the county commission. Each munici-



LARRY HAMRICK SR.

pality will pay \$3,000 for a seat on the board in a restructuring effort aimed to give members more control and municipalities more input

See Hamrick, 9-A