



Crystal Fisher, 13, Katie George, 12, and Cheryl Fisher, 13, are three of the 12 members of Kings Crusaders Puppet Theatre at First Baptist Church.

Kings Crusaders puppeteers not a simple presentation

Richard Young said when you think of puppet shows, you think of two things: a simple production or the Muppets.

What he's been doing at First Baptist Church in Kings Mountain for the past two years with the youth is closer to the Muppet Theatre than a simple production.

Young started a drama group at the church. That paved the way for the puppet theatre, which he had led at another church in the past.

The group, called Kings Crusaders, has become popular in the area, especially for school programs. They performed their latest piece of theatre for four school groups at the end of this school year. And they've had many requests for more performances, said Young.

"We really worked hard," said Young.

The productions are elaborate, he said. They take about five hours of practice for each five minutes of performance. So the eighth, ninth and tenth graders practice one to

two times a week.

"It's a production," said Young. "Not just a simple presentation."

The production consists of a stage (last year they used two stages for their show), lighting, sound system and a fog machine.

This year's musical is about Nathaniel the Grublet and his realization that honesty is the best policy. It's about standing your ground and not hanging around the wrong crowd, said Young.

It's not an overtly religious play, he said. That's how the students could perform the show in schools.

"We did not expect the schools to open up their arms like that," said Young.

The students who do the work must audition for the parts after hearing a tape of the production. There are twelve members in the Kings Crusaders. They also help paint scenery.

The puppets are bought at about \$110 each. The church has four puppets per year budgeted for the group. Some are on loan from

Regal Ventures, where Young works.

Young said for the future, he planned to have the puppeteers talk live for the puppets with the help of headsets and microphones.

Next year's production is to be a Christmas show, The Littlest Shepherd. Plans are to begin rehearsing after Labor Day.

If anyone is interested in having the Kings Crusaders for a performance, call Richard Young at First Baptist Church. The show is free.

Participants in the group are: Crystal Fisher, Cheryl Fisher, Katie George, Molly Blanton, Jaime Sherrill, Kristen Miller, Adam Smith, Alex Smith, Brian King, Drew Howell, Mike Bumgardner and Jimmy Boheler. Sound is by Dick Fisher. Debbie Dye is director of the group and Joe Hord is assistant director.



TRAINING EXERCISE - Firemen from Kings Mountain, Oak Grove, and Bethlehem Fire Departments burned a vacant house on East King Street Saturday as a practice and training exercise led by Chief Frank Burns and at the request of the property owner, Paul Sheffield. Twenty-six firemen participated in the exercise.

Program boosts use of seat belts

Operation Buckle Down stopped in Kings Mountain Wednesday at the Kings Mountain Police Department to boost seat belt use.

The caravan was composed of law enforcement, emergency medical services, and civilian and business groups including independent insurance agents. Local insurance agent Larry Hamrick Jr. led the rally.

The North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program sponsored five Buckle Down caravans on a three day trip through 60 towns which began Wednesday and ends on Friday at 10 a.m. at Four Seasons Town Centre in Greensboro for an exciting final ceremony.

As the groups approached a new county line, local caravan vehicles

joined in and drove to a designated site for a ceremony/press conference on seat belts usage and people saved by the belt.

The caravans focus on informing and educating the public on the necessity of seat belts and child safety seats.

Hamrick said that nearly 1,000 independent insurance agencies across the state are participating in efforts to try to get the state's belt use rate to 70 percent. They comprise a statewide network of offices from which literature, videotapes, bumper stickers and other materials are being distributed. Individual agents are visiting schools, businesses and other organizations in their respective communities to urge motorists and passengers to use seat belts.

"Independent Insurance Agents are keenly aware of the deaths and serious injuries that result from the failure of people to wear seat belts," said Hamrick. "Independent agents know that seat belts save lives and prevent injuries, so we are enthusiastic about this program."

KMPD Captain Bob Hayes said he hopes the four-day event will alert motorists to the dangers of

traveling without safety belts, especially during the heavily traveled holiday and summer vacation period.

Motor vehicle crash survivors who wore their safety belts receive "Saved By The Belt Award."

Local police are telling motorists to buckle up, or else. "We find this to be a very strong and effective message in getting motorists to buckle up," says Hayes.

Obituaries

MARION CLONINGER

Marion Everette Cloninger, 73, 533 Baker St., died June 22, 1992 at Kings Mountain Hospital.

A native of Gaston County, he was the son of the late Marion Philo and Miley Medlin Cloninger. He was married to Hortense Smith McGuire Cloninger, who survives.

Surviving, in addition to his wife, are three sisters, Lois Falls and Doris Ware, both of Kings Mountain, and Helen Price of Ellenboro. He was a Navy veteran of world War II and recipient of the Purple Heart.

The funeral was held Wednesday at 4 p.m. at Harris Funeral Home. Rev. Eugene Land officiated. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Connie Maxwell Children's Home or to Second Baptist Church.

BERTHA MAE STROUPE

Bertha Mae Stroupe, 90, Route 4, died Thursday, June 18, 1992, at

Cleveland Memorial Hospital, Shelby.

A native of Gaston County, she was the daughter of the late Michael L. and Bertie Helton Stroupe. She was a homemaker and a member of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Survivors include three brothers, Aaron Stroupe of Cherryville, Tamar Stroupe of Bessemer City and Coleman Stroupe of Kings Mountain; and a sister, Mamie Sellers of Cherryville. Three brothers preceded her in death, Winfred, Connie and Berlin Stroupe.

The funeral was conducted by the Revs. Charles Bernhardt and Leroy Trexler on Saturday, June 20, at St. John's Lutheran Church. Burial was in St. Mark's Lutheran Church Cemetery. Carpenter's Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Memorials may be made to St. John's Lutheran Church, 310 W. Church St., Cherryville 28021.



KIM FRANKLIN



BETH YORK

Area queens seek Miss N.C. title

Two area beauty queens will compete with 46 other contestants for the title of Miss North Carolina this weekend in Raleigh.

Beth York, daughter of Sharon Kale of Cherryville, and Kim Franklin, daughter of Kay and Randy Franklin of Moss Lake, are both students at UNC at Charlotte. York was the reigning Miss Cherryville last year. Franklin is the reigning Miss Cherryville this year.

In the state pageant Franklin will represent Cherryville and York will

represent the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Local people attending the pageant include members of both families and Beth's aunt, Ruth Hoyle, and her cousin, Leslie Houser, both of Kings Mountain.

The talent competition was held on Wednesday evening. York sang a solo and Franklin tap danced to "Big Noise from Winnetka."

Finals of the Miss North Carolina pageant will be televised Saturday night from Memorial Auditorium in Raleigh.

Kings Mountain Weather Report

	June 17-23	Year Ago
Total precipitation	.13	1.73
Maximum one day	.13 (21st)	1.05 (17th)
Year to date	27.78	31.91
Minimum temperature	54 (21st)	69 (17th, 21st, 22nd)
Maximum temperature	90 (19th)	93 (17th)
Average temperature	73.5	79.1

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