



Santa Claus comes to town

See Parade photos 1-B

# Kings Mountain Herald

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## WELCOME BACK

### Former Kings Mountain residents purchase Sadie Mill

Burke Narrow Fabrics Corporation has purchased the old Sadie Cotton Mill and is moving its Charlotte plant and fixtures to Kings Mountain.

Thomas F. Burke Sr., president, and his wife, Vivian Burke, vice-president, announced Tuesday at a press conference at Kings Mountain City Hall that production could start at the new location as early as next week.

The plant will initially employ 40-50 people for which applications are being accepted for training in the production of industrial narrow fabric for shipment to

national and international markets. Burke, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burke of Kings Mountain, worked at the old Lambeth Rope Corporation on Phifer Road for his father who was associated with that industry from 1950-71. Burke, who attended Western Carolina University and UCN at Chapel Hill, opened his own plant in Charlotte in 1975. Mrs. Burke, the former Vivian Hill, worked at Trinity Episcopal Day School for a number of years before the family moved from Sherwood Lane to Charlotte. The Sadie property was purchased from

Mr. and Mrs. George Houser for an undisclosed price. The mill, one of the community's oldest and longest-running industries, closed two years ago.

Burke said the plant is moving to Kings Mountain because it is growing and the expansion requires a larger building. He said the new location will be productive for both the employer and community.

"Mr. Houser has been a good friend and supplier for years," said Burke. "I was born in Charlotte but Kings Mountain has always seemed like home."

See Industry, 11-A



Mayor Scott Neisler, center, welcomes Burke Narrow Fabric Corporation to Kings Mountain. Thomas Burke, right, and his wife, Vivian, have purchased the old Sadie Cotton Mill and are moving their operation from Charlotte.

### KMHS tardy policy to come before board

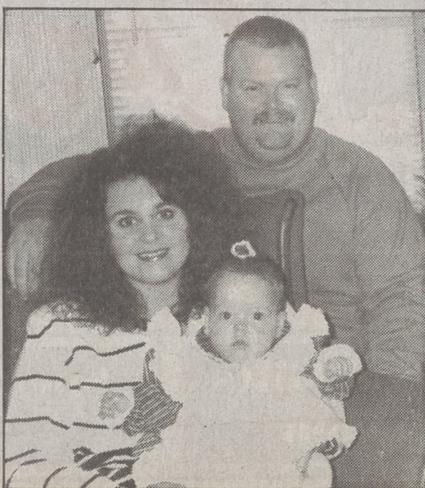
Kings Mountain High School's tardy policy will come under fire at Monday night's Board of Education meeting at 7 p.m. at the Superintendent's Office.

Joyce Green will serve as spokesperson for a group of parents who will voice their concerns with "Chill Out," a tardy policy which was put into effect during the last school year.

Under the policy, which was approved by the Board of Education, students who are late for a class because of unexcused reasons are not allowed to come in but are instead sent to a "Chill Out" room for the remainder of the period. They are excused for doctor's appointments, deaths in the immediate family and court appearances, as well as all other excuses defined by the State Department of Public Instruction, such as illness, quarantine, religious observances and educational opportunities approved in advance.

The policy requires students with unexcused tardies to spend time in lunch detention (first two offenses), after school (third offense) and for two hours on

See School Board, 9-A



Shannon and Eric Sellers will celebrate their best Christmas ever with baby daughter Brooke.

## A Christmas Miracle

### Brooke Sellers' parents cherish the gift of life

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
of The Herald Staff

Christmas will be Brooke Olivia Sellers' first Christmas.

Eight months ago when the tiny strawberry blonde blue-eyed bundle of joy was born to Shannon and Eric Sellers, she weighed 2 pounds, 1 1/2 ounces, spent 6 1/2 weeks in Carolinas Medical Center and three weeks in Cleveland Memorial Hospital and required five life-saving blood transfusions.

Brooke now tips the scales at 15 pounds, is 24 inches long and has outgrown her baby doll dresses and wears a size 6-9 months. She is also learning to walk and is the pride and joy of her doting parents and family.

"We have much to be thankful for this holiday season," said Shannon, as she sat with her husband and daughter around a lighted Christmas tree in their beautifully decorated home on Bethlehem Road. Life is a miracle but Brooke's entry into the world

was extra special.

Born prematurely at 6 1/2 months, a 27-week baby, on March 23, 1992, she was delivered by Caesarean Section. Her mother, in bed for nine weeks prior to the birth, had been told she would not be able to carry the baby to full term. She had delivered two babies prematurely: a boy, Casey Lee, on March 18, 1985 who weighed one pound and was a 26-week baby and a boy, Dustin Colt, on March 8, 1991 who weighed 1 pound, two ounces and was a 22-week baby.

Brooke's due date was June 21, 1992 and Shannon worried that something bad would happen.

Childhood sweethearts Shannon, 24, and Eric, 26, married eight years ago. They wanted a big family. Doctors told Shannon she would have a difficult pregnancy. "I was determined and Mama told me that if I prayed and had faith that everything would work out," said Shannon.

See Miracle, 12-A

## SPREADING WORD

### Kings Mountain men minister in Russia

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Of The Herald Staff

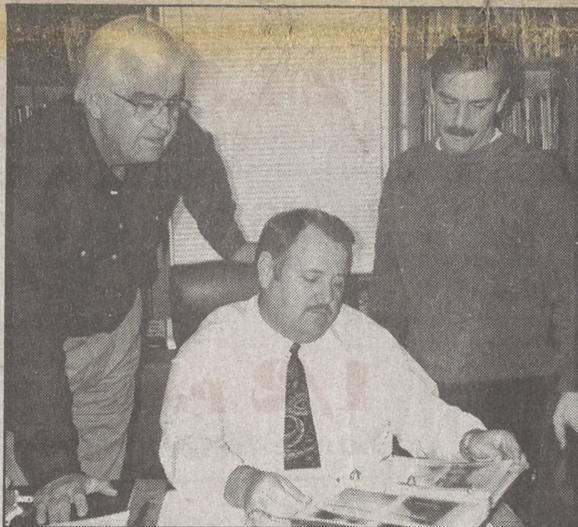
Singing "Victory In Jesus" in Red Square in Moscow was an exhilarating experience that three Kings Mountain men won't forget.

Their recent trip to carry the gospel to the Soviet Union with Rick Gage Ministries was much different from what Rev. David Philbeck, Hal Glass and Gene Stone ever imagined it would be. They found the people friendly, loving, appreciative, and humble.

Philbeck, pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church and laymen Glass, of Macedonia, and Stone of Bethlehem Baptist Church joined 43 other Gage team members and in 4 1/2 days helped distribute 89,500 pieces of religious literature, including 20,000 Russian New Testaments, to 45 church services, 34 public schools, one village rally, and one military base, preaching and witnessing at 81 meetings.

Before they returned to the U.S.A. they saw 5,122 people saved and distributed 4,500 Russian-English Parallel New Testaments, 40,000 gospel tracts, 20,000 "To Be A Christian Book," 5,000 power bands, 75,000 Parallel New Testaments and 43 audio tapes of the Russian New Testament and witnessed to a crowd of 17,864.

See Russia, 12-A



Gene Stone, left, Rev. David Philbeck and Hal Glass look at pictures they made during their recent mission trip to Russia.

## Grover parade this Saturday

GROVER - Santa Claus will come to town Saturday in a 114-unit Christmas Parade which begins at 3 p.m.

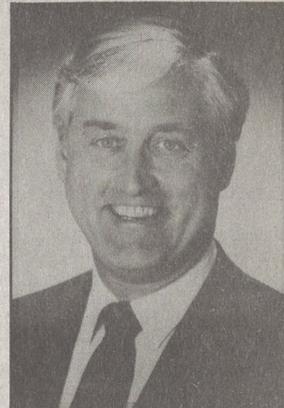
Grand marshal will be WSOC-TV Channel 9's Cullen Ferguson, who anchors "Eyewitness News This Morning" at 6:15 a.m. and 6:45 a.m. and co-anchors "Eyewitness News: MIDDAY."

Co-chairmen Sharon White and Judy White said the parade will line up on Spring Acres, travel down Main Street, turn right at the next block, turn left and end at First Baptist Church. Entries will be accepted until starting time.

A highlight of the event will be the Carolina Cruisers from Bessemer City. The high-stepping Kings Mountain High School Band and Blacksburg, SC High School Band will also set the pace for the holiday spectacle which features pretty girls, floats, clowns, and celebrities.

Ferguson joined Channel 9 in July 1969. He is a 1965 graduate of Florida State University. He earned his master's degree in journalism from Northwestern University. He spent two years as a lieutenant in the United States Army Intelligence.

Ferguson's other broadcast experience includes positions with WAYS-AM and WSOC-FM 103, both in Charlotte. During his tenure with Channel 9 Eyewitness News, he spent 10 years as Action



CULLEN FERGUSON

9 reporter which is a consumer beat, and was assignment reporter until his current position. He has become known for his often whimsical feature stories.

A resident of Charlotte, Ferguson and his wife, Gwendolyn, have three children, Michelle, Doug and Bo.

The lineup for the parade includes: Grover Police Department, North Carolina Highway Patrol, Air National Guard Color Guard, Cleveland County Sheriff's Department, Grand marshal, town officials, First National Bank, Jim

See Parade, 5-A

## Empty Stocking still needs your help

The Kings Mountain Empty Stocking Fund is growing, but still needs your help to make Christmas brighter for needy children in the Kings Mountain area.

During the past week, \$720 was donated by area individuals, businesses and groups, bringing the year's total to \$870. With Christmas just two weeks away, the fund will have to have some sizeable donations to match the \$3,000-plus that has been the average over the past three years.

Persons are asked to mail their donations to the Empty Stocking Fund, P.O. Box 1461, Kings Mountain, 28086; or take them to Home Federal Savings and Loan and deposit them in a special account there.

While other charitable projects provide for needs the year round, the Stocking Fund places its emphasis on helping children during Christmas. Some children will

not receive a toy or needed clothing and other items if the Empty Stocking Fund drive is not successful.

In addition to giving money, area citizens can help the fund by participating in projects of two local businesses.

Cornwell Drug each year sponsor's an Angel Tree for benefit of Empty Stocking Fund children. On the tree in the drug store you will find the description of children whose names have been provided by social workers. You are asked to purchase a gift for the children, wrap them and place them under the tree. They will be distributed before Christmas.

Bridges Hardware, which is a drop off point for can goods and toys for the needy, will contribute 10 percent of its gross sales on December 20 to the Empty Stocking Fund.

See Stocking, 9-A



## N.M. Farr dead at age 84

Norwood Milton Farr, 84, of 608 E. Ridge Street, retired longtime member of the Kings Mountain Fire Department and Kings Mountain Chief of Police from 1946-50, died December 8, 1992 at White Oak Manor.

A native of Greenville County, SC, he was married to the late Mary Somers Farr and was son of the late William M. and Lula Hodgens Farr.

He was a World War II Marine veteran and a member of Boyce Memorial ARP Church.

Surviving are one daughter, Norma Herndon of Kings Mountain; three brothers,

Haywood Farr of Swannanoa, Blease Farr of Black Mountain and Wilson Farr of Travelers Rest, SC; three sisters, Beulah Keeler of Greenville, SC, Ruby Sims of Cleveland, GA, Ruth Porcher of Swannanoa; and two grandsons, Brad Herndon of Chapel Hill and Brent Herndon of Kings Mountain.

The memorial service will be conducted Friday at 11 a.m. at Boyce Memorial ARP Church by his pastor, Rev. Bill Barron. Graveside service will follow at Mountain Rest Cemetery.

The family will receive friends Thursday night from 7-9 p.m. at Harris Funeral Home.



N.M. FARR



BEN F. BEAM

## Insuranceman Ben Beam is dead

Benjamin "Ben" Franklin Beam, 85, died December 6, 1992 at Cleveland Memorial Hospital after a brief illness.

He had been a resident of Carolina Care Center in Cheryville for nearly two years.

Born in Gaston County in 1907, he was son of the late Elzie and Julia Ann Houser Beam. He grew up in Bessemer City and after graduating from high school attended the University of North Carolina. He later made his home in Kings Mountain after his marriage to Sarah Mae Hammell Harmon.

Beam was a member of Central

United Methodist Church for more than 50 years and served as its treasurer for 27 years. In 1980, his church recognized him as "Father of the Year." He was also later honored for his many years of church service.

Prior to his death, Beam established the Ben F. Beam Scholarship Fund at Central United Methodist Church, the purpose of which was to assist young students from the church who need financial assistance to attend college.

He retired from Western & Southern Life Insurance Company

See Beam, 2-A