Tree lighting held at library

The tree lighting ceremony and dedication at Mauney Memorial Library on December 1 ushered in the Christmas season in Kings Mountain. Over 300 people gathered on the front lawn of the library in the singing of old familiar carols and the dedication of the new tree.

The program began at 7 p.m. with singing the well loved old carols including "Silent Night,"
"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," and "Joy to the World." The music swelled in the crisp night air as the audience sang of hope and joy and the Christ Child.

Mayor Scott Neisler dedicated the new tree and said that we were turning over a new page in our his-



tory. The Cryptomeria Japonica takes the place of the big White Pine that succumbed to the pine bark beetle earlier this year. Although the new tree is smaller and different from the beloved pine which symbolized the Christmas season for so many years, we look forward to many decades with the

size and in the hearts of the community. The dedication was punctuated by fireworks as the mayor talked about the star in the east. He gave a brief history of the Christmas tree as it was transformed from a pagan' custom to a Christian symbol. The dedication concluded with a reading from the scripture of the birth of Christ.

The lighting of the tree was assisted by the Boy Scouts of Troops 91, 92 and 95. They lined the sidewalk and passed the torch. Youth volunteers of Mauney Memorial Library sang "O, Christmas Tree," "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" while the tiny lights twinkled through the lacy limbs of

Preschoolers ages 2-5 from Dot's Day Care Center continued the program with "Jingle Bells" and "Rudolf, the Red Nosed Reindeer." Dressed in Christmas red and white and green, the children held hands as they walked out on the front porch and warmed the audience with their songs.

The program was concluded by the excellent selections sung by the First Presbyterian Church choir, under the direction of Shirley Austin. Bundled up in coats and gloves, the choir sang "Ding Dong Merrily on High" and "Angels We Have Heard on High."

Following the program, the audience was invited to tour the library and assemble in the auditorium for refreshments. Marie Brinkley, President of the Mauney Memorial Friends of the Library, assisted by youth volunteers, served refreshments consisting of hot apple cider, green punch and cookies. The hot apple cider was particularly enjoyable after standing in the cold for the program. Mrs. Brinkley and her helpers did an excellent job of preparing the refreshments and table decorations.

Children were invited to form a line and visit with Santa Claus who sat on the stage beside the Christmas tree. Some overly eager parents put their children up front of the stage to see Santa rather than wait in the line which formed against the wall and up the steps. Elves worked hard to get these children in line and eliminate any confusion which might occur. The charge that parents with cam-

Cryptomeria as it grows both in corders were given precedence was definitely not true. All children who stood in line and waited their turn were able to talk to Santa Claus. Santa stayed overtime in order to give every child the opportunity to sit in his lap, and he took as much time as needed with each

> The Youth Volunteers of Mauney Memorial Library worked hard. After singing two songs in the program in front of the library, they went back to the auditorium to help serve refreshments and assist Santa. After Santa retired and folded up his suit, the youth volunteers cleaned up, picked up trash, and vacuumed the carpet.

The tree lighting and dedication marks the beginning of a new era in our history. There are many people, too numerous to mention, who worked hard to make the program a success. The Mauney Memorial Library Board of Trustees, and its chairman, Mrs. Jan Neisler, worked long hours to secure the tree and get it planted in time for the holidays. Many departments of the City of Kings Mountain worked to plant the tree, put the lights on it, and set up the sound equipment. David Hancock, Director of the Recreation Department, spent the entire day working on technical problems and placing the star on top of the tree.

I would also like to thank the community for supporting the new tree and enriching the Christmas season by their participation in the ceremony. We look forward to many more years of celebration as the Cryptomeria Japonica lights the

Angel tree benefits kids

An angel tree for benefit of Kids of Emergency Relief, Baptist Children's Home, has been placed in Anderson & Associates, 115 Morris Street. Deadline for donations and gifts is December 21. Jennifer Anderson, partner in the business with Ron Costner and Ron Conner, said the gifts would be delivered to the Children's Home on Christmas Eve. Call 739-8782 for more details.

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TALKS TO SANTA - Brandon Lackey, 3, son of Jevongela Lackey, whispers in Santa's ear during a recent visit to Mauney Memorial Library for lighting of the Christmas tree.





Brooke Canter, 4, daughter of Steve and Maria Canter, talks to Santa Claus as Santa Elves Erica



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