

Empty Stocking Fund reaches \$3,218

Jones hit every shot in '92

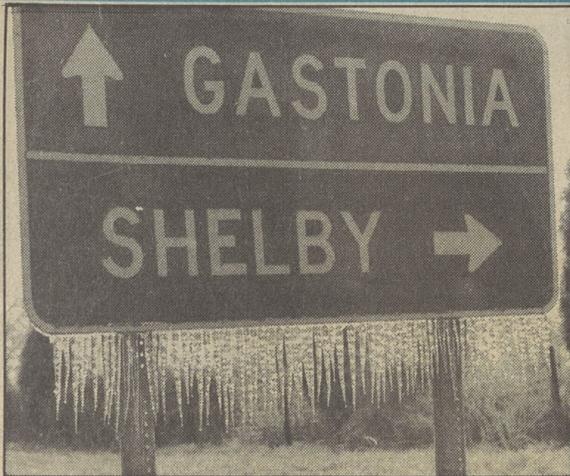
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Motorists were greeted by ice as they went to work early Monday morning. But the mercury began rising and by mid-morning the ice had melted.

KM gets taste of winter

King Winter gave Kings Mountain residents their first snow flurries Sunday morning and an icing Sunday night that caused power outages at about 50 homes. There were few traffic problems.

"We were lucky," said Community Services Director Tom Howard. He credited the aggressive tree cutting program of the city for saving residences some of the inconveniences that neighboring cities felt during the wintry blast.

Six trees falling across primary feed lines to the Country Creek Subdivision on Shelby Road and to Meadowbrook Road were blamed for power outages in two sections of the city. Country Creek residents were without power from about 2 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Meadowbrook residents were in the dark for several hours.

"I am surprised that a storm of that magnitude didn't create any more havoc in

Kings Mountain but I think the reason is that the city has cut down more than 500 trees of various sizes in an aggressive tree cutting/trimming effort that started last summer," said Howard. "We've got a long way to go."

Howard said Duke Power, the city's supplier of electricity, expected to have power fully restored in a wide area of Mecklenburg County and in York County, South Carolina by close of business Tuesday. More than 100,000 homes in those areas were without power.

"We've been working hard to improve the odds that we don't get major outages," said Howard.

Department of Transportation workers stayed busy Sunday afternoon through early Monday morning putting a sand and salt mixture on Cleveland County roads.

The ice storm left bridges and ramps dangerously slick from about 4 p.m. Sunday to 9 a.m. Monday.

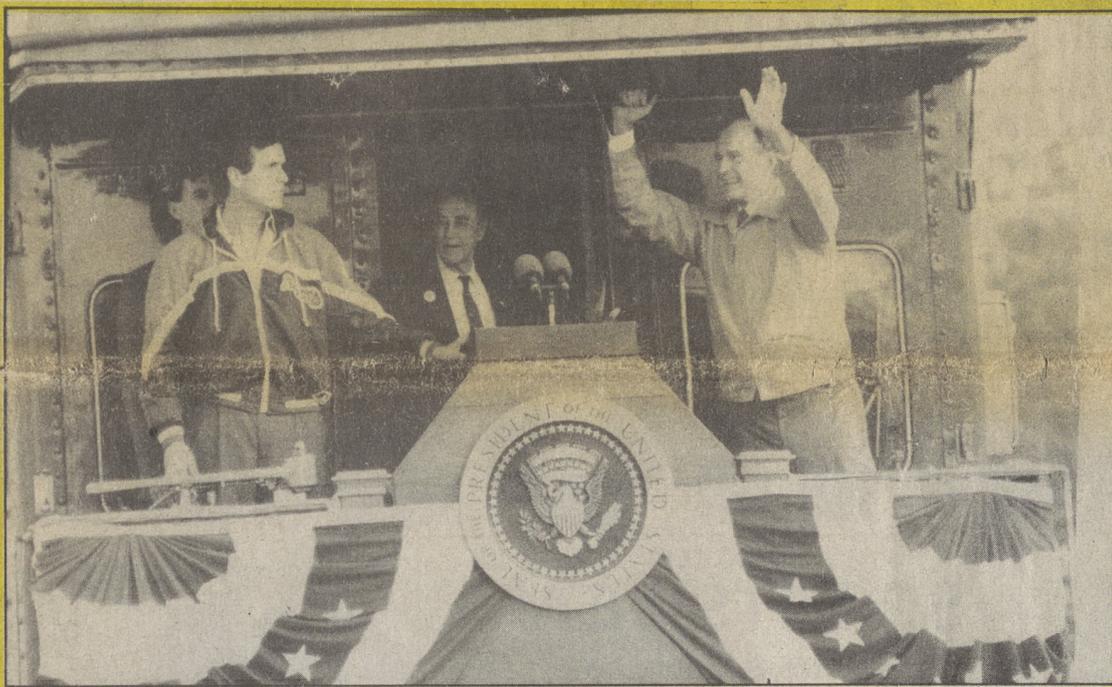
Two people were taken to the hospital after a wreck on I-85 at the Gaston County line about 7 p.m. Sunday.

The ice was blamed for a minor wreck Sunday at the 74 By-pass bridge on Cleveland Avenue. A car operated by Melissa Jane Mitchell, 1001 Cleveland Ave., slid on ice and veered into the Southbound lane and hit a guard rail. Damages were estimated at \$600.

The icy conditions slowed sanitation workers Monday but Howard said that the regular two day a week pick-up schedule would resume next week after the holidays.

The weatherman was promising spring-like temperatures with highs in the 60's predicted for New Year's Day.

Looking Back at 1992



President Bush came through Kings Mountain during his October whistle-stop tour of the Carolinas.

KM had ups and downs in '92

Like any other town, Kings Mountain had its share of ups and downs in 1992, but an economy that is on the move brings hope that there will be many more ups than downs in 1993.

As the old clock winds down to midnight, the city and area is seeing a resurgence in building as several projects are under way, and the hope is that new plants like Bridgestone/Firestone which is constructing a new manufacturing plant off I-85 will bring more jobs into the area.

Kings Mountain voters helped sweep the County Commissioners' races for Democrats and helped put Bill Clinton in the White House, Jim Hunt in the Governor's Mansion, and Lauch Faircloth in

the Senate; and helped return their own Ollie Harris and John Weatherly to the General Assembly.

1992 was the year the President came to town. Although he didn't stop for a speech, thousands lined the Southern Railway tracks to see his train slow down to 10 miles per hour en route to Gastonia on a three-state whistle-stop tour.

The school system faced several issues in 1992, including a 12-month school proposal which failed; tardies, videos and drugs and weapons on school grounds.

Month-by-month, here are some of the news highlights of 1992 as taken from the front pages of the Herald:

January:

The Empty Stocking Fund collected a record \$4,176.14 allowing it to serve 79 children and 49 families in the Kings Mountain area during Christmas.

The mother and stepfather of Grover murder suspect Dean Hamrick, who took his own life Dec. 30 after a five-hour standoff with police, were charged with accessory after the fact of homicide. Officers alleged the Grover couple hit Dean Hamrick, wanted for four murders in Alexander County, at the home of Hamrick's stepgrandmother on Groves Street.

A fire which destroyed the home of Bryant Kennedy Grier at Lake Montonia was investigated as possible arson by Fire Marshall Beau Lovelace.

Charles Walker, program director for the Senior Center, died at age 69. He had worked the day before but began complaining of chest pains that night.

The new Chill Out policy, which is drawing the ire of some parents and students now, was approved for KMHS. Principal Jackie Lavender told the school board that students in hallways during class time were disrupting the school day and stringent rules were needed; now, almost a year later, some parents and students say the school went overboard in enforcing the rules.

The Moss Lake Commission approved regulations for dock per-

See 1992, 7-A

Tax listing change takes effect Friday

A new state law effective Friday changes the way you're taxed for cars and trucks.

The good news is that you won't have to list your cars and trucks at the county tax office in January but the bad news is that it means you can't postpone until next December the payment of the taxes. The bill comes with your vehicle registration card you receive from the N.C. Department of Motor Vehicles and is payable to the county tax office the first of the month after you are billed.

Jim Hendrick, Cleveland County tax assessor, says other personal property, such as single-wide mobile homes, boats, jet skis, campers, and outboard motors still have to be listed with the county tax assessor in January.

"This new system approved by the state legislature last year is a means to keep the cash flowing," explained Hendrick.

Hendrick said green postcards are going out to people who didn't list last January at the county office

See Tax, 2-A

Woman robbed in parking lot

Two Kings Mountain men face felony charges of common law robbery after a mugging in a local shopping center parking lot Monday.

Arrested just after the 5 p.m. incident were James Jeffrey Huffstickler, 23, of 319 Chestnut St., and a 17-year-old male. Their \$5,000 bonds were secured.

Chief Warren Goforth said that the two white males are accused of mugging Phyllis Ware Austin, of West Mountain Street, as the woman unlocked her car after a shopping trip.

Austin told officers that she came out of Eckerd Drug Store and found two men standing by her car. She said they exchanged conversation and she wished them a happy new year. "It happened so quickly," said Austin. "I turned my back to get in the front seat and was struck

on the right temple."

Austin said the suspects fled on foot after taking her purse from the front seat, running in the direction of the Sadie Mill. She went into the drug store and called police who gave chase and apprehended the suspects on Sadie Loop and East Gold Street shortly after the incident. Austin said the Eckerd Store manager and a customer assisted in the chase.

Investigating officers for KM-PD were Ptl. William Fredell, Ptl. Linda Haynes, Ptl. Thomas Fletcher, Det. Sgt. Houston Corn, and dispatcher Diane Whetstone.

Austin was treated at the hospital emergency room. She suffered a black eye and soreness in her right leg and shoulder. She was back at work Tuesday at Kings Mountain Country Club, where she is employed as dining room manager.

United Fund extends deadline again

Kings Mountain United Fund is extending its appeal for funds until January 20.

"Due to additional participation, we find it necessary to extend our campaign again," said President Pat Carter. "Hopefully this extra time and participation will help us to exceed our campaign goal for \$121,500."

Campaign chairman Maude Norris encourages volunteers to make their report of solicitations as

soon as possible. "Any gift, large or small, is appreciated," said Norris, who said contributions may be forwarded to Kings Mountain United Fund, PO Box 122, Kings Mountain, 28086.

The United Fund has targeted 14 agencies for assistance this year. They include: American Red Cross, \$19,000; Ministerial Association Helping Hand Fund and chaplain service, \$14,500; Girl

See Fund, 3-A

Subscription rates increase January 1

We have some good news and some bad news for you.

The bad news is, effective January 1, 1993, the Herald will have to increase prices on its mail subscriptions. This is due to the ever-increasing cost of newsprint. Despite those increases, this is the first time in four years the Herald has increased its subscription rates.

Effective January 1, mail subscriptions will be:

■ One year, \$16 in Cleveland and Gaston Counties; \$18 in other North Carolina counties; and \$21 outside North Carolina.

■ Six months, \$9 in Cleveland and Gaston Counties; \$10 in other North Carolina counties; and \$11.50 outside North Carolina. All prices include tax.

The good news is, you will continue to receive good, local news and feature stories about your friends and neighbors at a yearly cost that is lower than the single copy price of 35 cents each.

To subscribe my mail, call the Herald's Circulation Department at 739-7496.

Happy New Year!

Kings Mountain People

Scism stays close by

Nancy Scism, the new Senior Vice-President and Chief Executive Officer of Home Savings Bank, doesn't plan to swap her comfortable first-floor office for the spacious second floor suite of her former boss.

Instead, she plans to remain readily accessible to the customers who call her and her former employer, Tom Tate, by their first names.

It's a trademark of the soon-to-be 70-year-old institution.

From her office, Nancy says she sees many of the people who come to the banking institution on a daily basis and many of them stop to chat. Many of them affectionately

refer to Scism as their "personal banker."

The promotion of the 29-year veteran who worked her way up the ladder from teller to the top slot and the retirement of 34-year veteran Tom Tate becomes effective December 31.

Scism is the only woman CEO in the holding company, Security Capital Bancorp. She will supervise 26 employees in three branches: Kings Mountain, Bessemer City and Gastonia.

Scism credits her people-oriented former boss Tom Tate, her first boss, Hilton Ruth, former manager of Belk's Department Store, and her second boss R.S. Lennon, CEO

at the old First National Bank, for her rapid advancement in the business.

"Mr. Ruth told me when I applied for a sales clerk position in 1959 that when I made a mistake to learn from it," said Scism. "He also told me that a person who never makes a mistake never learns."

Ruth also helped Scism get her second job working as a teller at First National Bank for Lennon and both gave her recommendations when she was approached by Tom Tate about joining his small staff of three people at Home Savings & Loan Association in its

See Scism, 10-A



NANCY SCISM