

**ST. PATRICK'S**  
Coupons Inside Today's Herald  
See Pages 28 and 78

**RICHARD GOLD  
TO BE INDUCTED  
INTO HALL OF FAME**  
See 1B

**WE SALUTE  
OUR  
GIRL SCOUTS**  
Page 10A

MAUNEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
100 S. PIEDMONT AVE.  
KINGS MOUNTAIN NC 28086

# Kings Mountain Herald

VOL. 105 NO. 10

Thursday, March 11, 1993

Kings Mountain,

35¢

## Couple say old bill city's fault

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
of The Herald Staff

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Corbin don't plan to stop battling City Hall over delinquent gas bills. They will be back with city fathers at the April 27 Council meeting.

At issue is how long a utility customer has to pay delinquent gas bills after the city made an error and didn't bill the customer for 14 months.

They told City Council last month they wanted the same amount of time to pay the back bill.

Council put the matter in the city manager's hands and said it would stick to the 90-day policy. City Manager George Wood gave the couple four months to pay the back gas bills and set up monthly payments of \$284.62. He says that's ample time but time is running out.

Wood said this week that he has invited Corbin to call him at home after hours or to come to see him at his office at City Hall to discuss the payment sched-

ule but Corbin has not replied. Wood said he had a conference with Mrs. Corbin the day after last month's board meeting.

Mrs. Corbin told The Herald there is no argument about owing for the gas.

The city utility department sent a registered letter Wednesday to the Corbins with a request for payment of utilities of \$853.84 by February 28, \$569.22 by March 30, \$284.61 by April 30 and \$284.61 by May 31. The Corbins are behind on their current bill for city services and payment of \$145.91 is required by March 12th or their utilities will be cut off. Mrs. Corbin said she mailed a check for \$400 to the city treasurer. Finance Officer Jeff Rosencrans had not received the check Tuesday.

"We will take responsibility for owing for the gas but we want to see something on the books so that other consumers will know if errors are made that they will have more time to pay the bills," said Mrs. Corbin, a dietitian at Kings Mountain Hospital. "It's

"It's hard for people to come up with that amount of money."

- Mrs. Corbin

hard for people to come up with that amount of money."

The Corbins moved to Kings Mountain two years ago and have renovated a home at 105 E. Mountain Street. The house has two gas meters and former occupants lived in a downstairs apartment and an upstairs apartment. Mrs. Corbin says she writes the checks for family bills every month and she didn't notice a charge for gas on her utility statement.

For 14 months the couple got city gas and didn't pay for it.

"We're not trying to gip the city," said Mrs. Corbin. Wood said that when the Corbins moved in they requested no gas service. He said he had documented the billing process and charges to Mrs. Corbin but

that her husband, who teaches at Myers Park High School in Charlotte, had not come to his office as he had hoped he would to discuss the situation.

Meier readers use the last reading from previous tenants, a policy which Corbin questioned.

Uncomfortable with paying the amount owed over a four month period, Mrs. Corbin said she would make a payment before the cut off date for the current bill. Through the Corbin's attorney, Scott Cloninger, Wood said he felt city council had extended the time for payment as far as they could without setting a precedent.

Last week Mrs. Corbin called City Clerk Marilyn Harrell and asked that Mr. Corbin be allowed time on the agenda for the City Council meeting in April.

"It's hard to deal with people who won't come in to talk and we have offered," said Wood. "We've apologized for the error but we are human and the city operates over 10,000 meters."

See Utility, 2-A

### Kristen to sing at Hornets game

East School fourth grader Kristen Feemster is a big fan of the Charlotte Hornets but that's not the reason she was picked over 250



FEEMSTER

people to sing The National Anthem at the opening of the March 20 basketball game in Charlotte Coliseum.

Talented Kristen has been singing and winning talent shows since she was five years old. The 10-year-old student auditioned recently in Charlotte and won the right to open the Hornets game with her popular rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner."

"I'm never afraid when the crowd is big or small," says Kristen. "I just do my best to make them happy when they hear me sing."

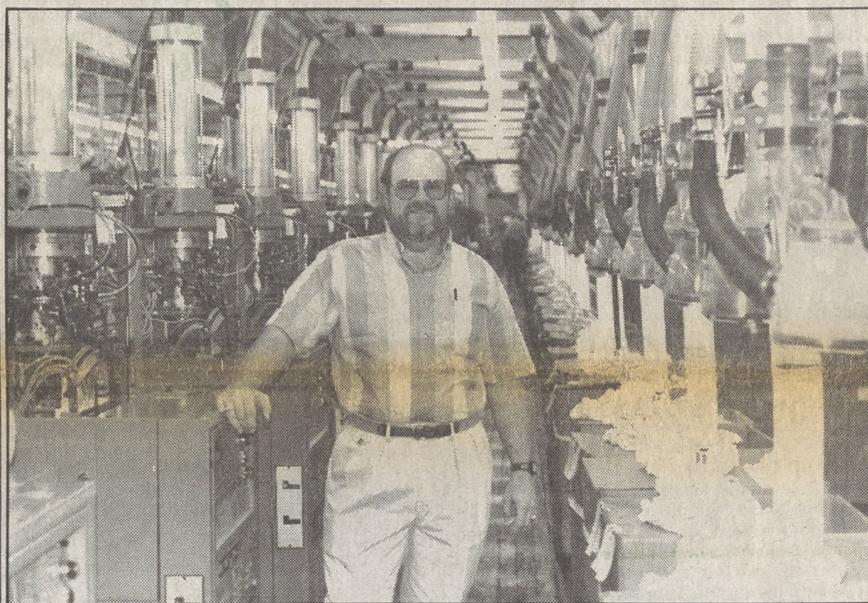
Kristen, daughter of Clinton and Carrie Feemster and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Watson and Mrs. Ollie Feemster, all of Kings Mountain, is a three-time winner of city-wide talent shows sponsored by the Kiwanis Club. She won talent contests at North School in both the Kindergarten and second grade division and was winner of the East School third grade division. She was grand prize winner of talent competition sponsored by Sara Lee Corporation last July and performed before 2,000 spectators.

An active Brownie Scout, she is vocal soloist for Shady Grove Baptist Church.

Musical ability apparently runs in the Feemster family. Mr. Feemster sings and do does Kristen's older sister, Lakeitha, a senior at Kings Mountain High School.

Kristen is in demand to sing the National Anthem at various functions. Saturday she will open the concert by the Richard Smallwood Singers at Ashbrook High School with a rendition of "Go."

### Kings Mountain People



Kemp Mauney, new president of Mauney Hosiery Inc., shows off a new line of Italian knitting machines which have revolutionized the Kings Mountain industry.

### Mauney advances with industry

Kemp Mauney, 41, the new president of Mauney Hosiery Mill Inc., advanced through the ranks literally from the basement of the big industry to the executive office.

Mauney's after-school job in the early 1970's was the dye house where he hand loaded socks and added dye formula by hand in 120-degree temperatures.

The hosiery mill, the city's oldest continuing mill founded by Kemp's father, W. K. Mauney Jr. and cousin, the late Carl F. Mauney, has come a long way. A small operation founded in the basement of the old Mauney Cotton Mill with five employees in 1939 has grown to a textile giant in the community with 325 employees and annual sales of \$13 million.

The younger Mauney follows his father and his grandfather, the late W. K. Mauney Sr., in the business.

Today's new look at Mauney Hosiery is a far cry from the mill's beginning. Today, automation has revolutionized the industry and Mauney sees even more high-technology in the future.

Ninety-one new knitting machines purchased at a cost of \$3 million in the last three years have increased production and efficiency and Mauney's goal is to hook up each one to computers which will

rapidly transmit production information to each shift and track inventory.

The all-electronic Bravo Italian machines stand side by side with less sophisticated machinery which Mauney hopes to replace in the future.

Another big plus for the business was the redoing of piping two years ago for a heat reclamation system which extracts the heat out of the wastewater before it goes to sewage and saves the firm about \$20,000 a year. New automatic dye tubs weigh 200 pounds. With a push of a button the tubs automatically unload.

Mauney Hosiery's reputation as a high quality sock producer is well known. Banana Republic, Gap, Limited and Izod are some of the buyers of Mauney "made in the USA" hosiery.

Kemp Mauney got his chance to work on older model knitting machines too but his big break for an executive position came when he broke his arm skiing. Because he had taken computer courses in school and fixing classes at Catawba Valley Technical Institute, he could not only fix computers but could fix knitting machines when they broke

See Mauney, 5-A

## Schools budget is on the table

The proposed current expense and capital outlay budget which Supt. Dr. Bob McRae will present to county commissioners soon will request a 12 percent increase in current expenses and a 6.7 percent increase in capital outlay.

"Since we received no increase from Cleveland County last year we feel these requests are not unreasonable," said McRae.

The budget anticipates a five percent supplementary increase for certified employees and a four percent pay raise for locally paid teachers.

Finance officer Terri Haas said the system is requesting \$1,857,156.00 in county appropriations for current expenses and \$300,000 in capital outlay for equipment and building maintenance. She said the \$3,730,689.00 budget for current expenses includes \$1,310,000 in supplemental taxes, \$80,634.00 in inventory taxes, \$118,336.00 in Gaston County taxes and \$105,000 from share of ABC profits and out-of-district tuition costs.

McRae said the \$300,000 request for capital outlay funds is in addition to the sales tax distribution monies the system receives. "We want to lobby commissioners to keep that money in place because it's needed for paving, roofing, bleachers, and computers," he said.

Associate Supt. Dr. Larry Allen said that a priority for spending next year will be for roofs. Replacement of roofs at Bethware and East Schools will be high dollar items. He estimated expenditures of \$246,308 for roof replacements, computer upgrades, insurance, repairs to one building at Grover School, fixing an underground gas line at Kings Mountain High School and painting the stage area of Barnes Auditorium. Allen said that left over funds from capital outlay appropriations will be distributed at each school.

See Budget, 5-A

### School tax may go up

Kings Mountain citizens could see their school supplemental taxes go up a penny if Board of Education members decide to ask for the hike from the Cleveland County Commissioners.

Supt. Dr. Bob McRae approached the board Monday night on an idea which would halt the door-to-door solicitation by school pupils, a policy in vogue for many years to raise funds at the various elementary plants.

McRae wants input from other citizens and has asked PTO Parent-Advisory groups to conduct surveys and report results to the board of education for discussion before budget requests are made to the county commission.

If citizens like the idea, this would mean, for instance, that a property owner with \$100,000 taxable valuation would be paying an additional \$10 a year. The raise would be from 17 to 18 cents per \$100 property valuation.

"I am concerned that kids face too many undetermined situations when they knock on doors to raise funds and we need to protect them," said McRae.

Adding a penny to the supplemental tax would generate about \$65,000 a year but another problem would be how to distribute the money fairly to the schools, said McRae. The door to door sales would be eliminated but spring flings and fall festivals could still be held.

"We need to get feedback from the public before we go before the county board," said McRae. "It will be tough for the individual schools to lose the money they are earning from door to door sales because some plants raise much more than others and the problem will come in how to distribute it."

See School Tax, 5-A

### Outside city residents may get water

Thirty families on Dixon School Road could get water from Kings Mountain next fall if a draft agreement with the City of Kings Mountain and the State of North Carolina for a \$1 million water/sewer line project jells.

Community Service Director Tom Howard met with members of the city utilities commission

Wednesday afternoon to go over a draft agreement for the project. If state-approved, the state would pay for 85-90 percent of the cost.

Kings Mountain would run the water line from Chesterfield Apartments on Margrace Road across Battleground Avenue and Highway 216 down Dixon School Road and the Tin Mine Road to the

Rest Stop.

Howard said once the state reviews and approves the project that negotiations will begin for an engineering contract which City Council would have to approve as well as the state agreement when the state officials return the completed contract to the city.

### Elections Board reviewing beer petition

Cleveland County Board of Elections was meeting Wednesday to take a look at names on a beer/wine petition from residents of Grover.

Once the county board verifies the required 121 signatures are registered voters, they have four months to call for the election for the sale of beer and wine for off

premise use. The Elections Board will also meet March 24 in the next step toward resolving a dispute over how to count the paper ballots from the November county commission election between third place finisher Sam Gold and fourth place finisher Charlie Harry. Gold has said he would not agree to a different

type of recount or a visual inspection of the ballots for irregular marking of the candidates for county commissioner.

The State Board of Elections has told the county board to resolve the matter through a local hearing but Gold has filed a restraining order to stop a recount by the board.



Ken Hamrick, left, top bidder for the old steak house property on King Street, is congratulated by Chuck Lowe, vice president of Carolina Auction. A large crowd of spectators joined bidders at the public auction Tuesday.

### Hamrick buys old steak house

Kings Mountain businessman Kenneth Hamrick bought the old steak house property on King Street Tuesday for \$116,000.

The property was auctioned by Carolina Auction of Spartanburg, S.C. Col. Carroll Pinkney was auctioneer.

Hamrick says he has several options for use of the property. He said that he is looking at the possibility of opening another steak house on the property which fronts East King Street.

The auction drew several bidders and a crowd of spectators who gathered at a colorful tent for the bidding and sale which took only a few minutes.