



**Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday**  
Turn Clocks Ahead 1 Hour

**Sports Hall of Fame Pictures 1B**

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# Kings Mountain Herald

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Kings Mountain

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## Boat slip approved

City Council upheld a recommendation of the Moss Lake Commission 5-1 Tuesday night and authorized Moss Lake residents Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Wherry's request to install boat slip and lift.

The Wherrys have been to several Lake Commission meetings recently, and City Council last month returned the matter to the Lake Commission.

"The boat slip would keep the natural shoreline and would be more of a safety factor than anything else," Mrs. Wherry said again Tuesday night. Lake Commission Chairman Joe Smith agreed.

City Manager George Wood had recommended that the board deny the boat slip because city ordinance stipulates that no alterations to the shoreline be allowed. Utility Commissioner Al Moretz agreed and voted against the motion to approve.

Wood said a seawall would take care of erosion but said city ordinances permit no alterations to contour lines.

Smith contended the city won't be setting a precedence in authorizing the boat slip and lift. He maintained that a dock built on the shoreline would extend too far into the water.

"This is an unusual situation and we could have a problem with a lift jutting too far and a boat slip would be a safety factor," said Smith.

Another resident of Moss Lake was at Tuesday's meeting to complain about what he says are strict requirements for certified plans for dock covers.

Myron Marchant says he wants to build a dock cover which will cost over \$2,650 but that the city requires certification from an architect which could cost another \$400. "This sticks in my craw," he said. "I have to pay 20 percent of the finished product to get a stamp of approval."

"It's hard for us to improve the looks of the lake," said Marchant.

Mayor Scott Neisler said Moss Lake is different from other recreational areas in that it is the chief source of Kings Mountain's drinking water and must be protected.

## Lake gates to be locked

Gates on New Camp Creek Church Road at Moss Lake will be locked from dusk to dawn beginning March 1-October 31, the City Council agreed Tuesday night after discussing recommendations presented by Recreation Director David Hancock.

These same gates remain locked 24 hours per day, except for maintenance, from November 1-February 28, as an off season safety control measure.

Hancock said that property lines along New Camp Creek Road will be protected with a barrier appropriate to keep vehicles out when the park is closed.

He also suggested that the bait shop be demolished but at the urgent request of the city.

See Lake, 11-A

## THE BEST OF THE BEST



Photos by Gary Stewart

**HONORED BY HALL OF FAME** - The Kings Mountain Hall of Fame held its sixth induction ceremony Monday at the Community Center. In top photo are the individual inductees and Special Achievement Award winners. Left to right are Carl Champion of the Hall of Fame Committee, Freddy Smith, Steve Moffitt, Ann Davis (representing the late Coman Falls) and Richard Gold. Back is guest speaker Mickey Marvin. In lower photo are members of the unbeaten 1945 KMHS men's basketball team. Left to right, Jim Herndon, Dub Hicks, Houston Black, Bob Neill, Jim Hullender and Coach Don Parker.

## Hall of Fame inductions held

Three individuals who attained much success in sports and Kings Mountain High's only unbeaten basketball team were inducted into the Chamber of Commerce Sports Hall of Fame Monday night at the Community Center.

Honored were the 1945 KMHS men's basketball team, which compiled a 15-0 record en route to the Western Conference title; dirt track racing legend Freddy Smith and baseball, football and basketball stars Coman Falls and Richard Gold.

Mickey Marvin, former All-Pro guard with the Oakland Raiders, was guest speaker for the sixth annual event which was attended by 350 people.

The new inductees brought the number of Hall of Famers to 23. Four have been inducted each year except for 1990 when three were honored. Since '90 the Hall of Fame committee has selected one deceased and three living members.

Don Parker, who coached basketball at KMHS from 1943-67, inducted his '45 team which ran roughshod over all 15 of its opponents. In an era when low-scoring games were the norm, the Mountaineers averaged over 50 points per game and held seven of their opponents to 15 points or less.

All five starters attended Monday's fete. They included Houston Black, Jim Hullender, Jim Herndon, Dub Hicks and Bob Neill. They received framed certificates and the team received a huge Hall of Fame plaque which will hang in Mauney Memorial Library.

"All five of these men were not only good basketball players but they have been successful in life," said Coach Parker. "That's what makes me so proud of them."

Freddy Smith, who has accumulated over 700 victories and three World Championships in 28 years of dirt track racing, was inducted by his long-time friend

Haskell Blackwell. Blackwell, a mechanic, helped Freddy get his start in racing.

"The Smith name will last forever in dirt racing," Blackwell said. "I remember in 1965 when Freddy won his first race at Gaffney. He is one of the greatest drivers anywhere, including NASCAR."

Smith has such talent, Blackwell said, that he drives his car at top speed in the turns. When other drivers try to follow him, they spin out because they don't have Smith's driving ability.

"When Freddy's out walking, he walks so slow," Blackwell noted, "but when he gets in that race car he really goes."

Smith has been hailed as one of racing's gentlemen. He always has a big smile on his face and never gets upset with another driver.

"His sportsmanship qualities came from his mother, who told him to always do what is right," Blackwell said. "I always wanted him to run over people."

Off the race track, Blackwell said Smith is a very caring and compassionate person. He often visits people in the hospital and always takes time to be friendly to his fans and everyone he comes in contact with.

"Three months ago I was in the hospital and couldn't walk and could barely talk," Blackwell noted. "Freddy came in with his famous smile on his face and said, 'you're too tough to let this get you down. We need to talk about you getting out of here.' People always talk about Richard Petty's smile, but his is nothing compared to Freddy's."

Smith, who has a quiet nature, accepted his award with humility.

"I appreciate the Hall of Fame for selecting me, and I appreciate the Good Lord for letting me do all of this in racing," he said. "I appreciate my family. I couldn't be here without them."

See Hall, 6-A

## Water plan is approved

A joint agreement was signed Tuesday by Kings Mountain and the State Department of Transportation to run water and sewer lines to approximately 30 houses on Dixon School Road in a major utility project that will run \$1.4 million.

Engineering fees for the preliminary routing phase of the project were approved by City Council. The state will pay for all but 10 percent of the cost of \$155,000.

The city's total share, 10 percent of the total cost of the project, including the design cost of \$110,000, would be paid over a three year period beginning with the 1994-95 fiscal year.

The N.C. Department of Transportation has adopted plans for the utility improvements at the northbound Welcome Center and southbound Rest Area along I-85 in Cleveland County and is joining with the city which has been studying for three years ways to expand its water and sewer system to serve that area.

The water connection to the I-85 Rest Area will include the installation of an eight inch water line to be built from an existing water service at the southwest corporate limits of the City of Kings Mountain adjacent to the Chesterfield Apartments on Margrace Road. The line would turn south under the Norfolk Southern Railroad, cross NC 216 and change to a 12 inch water line southward onto Dixon School Road and change to a six inch water line on Tin Mine Road and run to the rear of the Departments' Rest Area property.

A four-inch force main sewer line will be constructed from a manhole at the Chesterfield Apartments, proceed south under the Norfolk Southern Railroad and onto Tin Mine Road.

A proposed lift station would be installed on Tin Mine Road and the

See Water, 11-A

## Pay deadline is extended

The city's goof in failing to enter two gas accounts into the billing system got the attention of City Council Tuesday and Danielle Corbin, of East Mountain Street, and Jeff Gregory, of Fairview Street, were given six months to pay back bills.

Utility Commission Chairman Al Moretz said he advocates extending more time for payment of accounts in situations posing financial hardships but defended the city staff who, he said, was following the city policy of extending no more than 90 days for overdue accounts.

Moretz also defended City Manager George Wood and said that Wood had worked hard "to work something out" after Corbin had come to last month's board meeting.

"We don't need to keep this matter hanging," said Councilman Jim Guyton. "Take each case as individual on special accounts like these and let Council take the responsibility."

But Moretz disagreed with that theory and said that the city doesn't need to change its policy. "We have a cap of three months and we need to stick with it."

Commissioner Norma Bridges asked Mrs. Corbin what she thought was a fair extension of time. Corbin said the payment plan had not been satisfactory and that the board should rectify the problem.

Gregory asked for a six month's extension of time due to what he called extenuating circumstances and Wood recommended that the extension be given.

Gregory applied for gas in July 1991 when the family moved back to Kings Mountain from

See Gas, 11-A

## Texas men face drug charges

Two Texas men are in Cleveland County jail facing felony charges of conspiracy to traffic marijuana and trafficking marijuana.

Ambrosio C. Escamilla, 40, of 3713 Pike St., Weslaco, Texas, and Isidro de Leon Rodriguez, 34, of Houston, Texas, were arrested in Kings Mountain Tuesday at 9:15 p.m. The suspects were jailed in lieu of \$250,000 secured bond.

Chief Warren Goforth said police seized 150 pounds of marijuana hidden inside the gas tank of a black and silver GMC Suburban truck they stopped in the parking lot of Burger King on York Road. Goforth said the marijuana has a street value of over \$100,000.

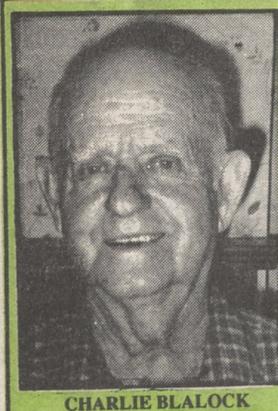
Goforth said that officers observed the back end of the vehicle was loaded down and stopped it. Goforth said that police drug dogs scented the controlled substance in

the gas tank area of the vehicle and the vehicle was taken to city garage where the gas tank was removed.

Assisting in the drug bust were members of the 27B Drug Task Force along with Goforth and his officers, Ptl. Wayne Thomas and K-9 Joker, Shelby officer Tim Walker and K-9 Nero, Reserve Commander Jackie Barnette, Ptl. Maurice Jamerson, Sgt. Billy Benton and Sgt. Phil Witherspoon with the Kings Mountain Police Department.

The drug bust is reported to be part of an international drug smuggling ring operating out of Gastonia. A task force of local, state and federal agents have been investigating the ring since May 1992. Agents called the ring Operation Turcoat because almost everyone arrested has cooperated with police.

## Kings Mountain People



CHARLIE BLALOCK

## Retired grocer Charlie Blalock is now 'Apple Man of Bethlehem'

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
of The Herald Staff

Charlie Blalock, the 'apple man' in the Bethlehem Community, has been growing home-grown apples for years and producing fine cider from 200 trees he planted in 1961.

People ask him how he got his reputation and he tells them quite simply that "God is good to me and I worked hard."

Golden and Red Delicious apples and Granny Smith apples are the favorites of apple lovers who come from far and near to sample

his crops from trees on his 100-year-old farm and Blalock home-place and from dwarf trees in his garden at the comfortable brick home he shares with his wife, Nora, a short distance from his apple orchards.

Spraying the trees eight to ten times a year and replacing some are his tricks of the trade.

He admits that his cider crop hasn't been as heavy during the past several years because he and his wife haven't been able to climb

See Blalock, 12-A



FRANK MARK RIPPY

## Jeweler Frank Rippy, 76, dies March 25 in Asheville

Frank Mark Rippy's philosophy was that "you don't go wrong when you try to help somebody else, if you do it from the heart."

Rippy, of 411 N. Piedmont Ave., died March 25, 1993 at VA Medical Center in Asheville. He was 76.

Kings Mountain's oldest jeweler, both in terms of age and years of service, sold his 40-year-old Piedmont Avenue jewelry store nine years ago to take care of his sick wife who died in 1990 after 55 years of marriage.

Repairing clocks and watches came easy for Rippy. He made

house calls to repair large clocks and also fixed watchmen's clocks for some of the mills in town and also for Southern Railway.

Rippy worked 14 hour days, except Sunday, and took only one week's vacation in his life and that was to New York City to buy parts.

The native of Earl got hooked on the jewelry business after several years in the textile mills. He started working at the old Phenix Mill in the 1930's and then took a sweeping job at Park Yarn Mills in 1935. In 1941, Rippy borrowed the money from grocer W. T. Weir to buy

See Rippy, 2-A