



Heather Hughes, Christie Hughes and Ben Sanders, left to right, serve party refreshments to youngsters at the tree lighting ceremony Thursday at Mauney Memorial Library. Enjoying refreshments are Randy Kies, Brandon Mitchell, 4, and Clay Mitchell, 1.



A VISIT FROM SANTA - Santa and Elves visited White Manor in Kings Mountain Tuesday and presented stuffed animals to the residents. From left to right around the tree are Santa, Flora Green, Brittany Brafford, 4, Mary Houser, Heather Bridges, 7, and Activity Director Shirley Mathis.

Library lights Christmas tree

Jolly ole St. Nick was almost upstaged by free books Thursday at the Mauney Memorial Library's annual community-wide Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

The youngsters were so engrossed with reading and picking out their free books that they almost missed his appearance at the end of a carol sing on the lawn of

the library.

"Take a break, kids, here's Santa," Mayor Scott Neisler reminded the avid readers.

Rose Turner said that business for the free books was booming for about an hour before the tree lighting ceremonies began and continued long after Santa took wish lists from the boys and girls who sat on

his lap in Weir Auditorium.

A highlight of the ceremonies was the presentation by fireman Bill Ware of a framed colored photograph he made in 1976 of the city's old community tree which died last year and was replaced by the current tree.

"It was a foggy night close to Christmas 1976 when I stood on the corner of Piedmont Avenue and made this picture," said Ware, whose hobby is photography. Neisler and Turner accepted the picture which will hang in the library.

As the white lights twinkled on the tree, the crowd joined in the singing of traditional carols and the mayor read the Christmas Story from the Bible.

HARRIS

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honors he received working in the areas of mental health, said he was never more gratified than recently when the Ollie Harris Building of Cleveland Center was dedicated in his honor at Shelby.

Westmoreland, promising to continue the policies of Harris, called the KM Senator "one of the greatest public servants Cleveland County has ever produced."

He pledged to help stamp out waste in government and the violence sweeping our society because "we have not had the courage to put criminals in prison and keep them there."

"What I think is needed in Raleigh is some good old fashioned budget cutting that will put the money where it is needed and not reward waste and inefficiency," he said. Westmoreland said he will push for economic development that promises better jobs and a better life for everyone.

A life-long Democrat and Chairman of the Cleveland County Democrat Party, Westmoreland served on the Grover Precinct committee for many years before being elected chairman. He served 16 years as the Grover chairman and his work in local, congressional district and state Democratic party circles and his service as state president of the North Carolina Association of Educators made him a well known figure through-

out the state and in the halls of the legislature.

Under Westmoreland's direction, the Cleveland County Democrats last year raised more than \$15,000 and mounted a campaign that carried the party to victory in 39 of the 43 races on the ballot. Democrats have already raised more than \$7,000 this year in anticipation of next year's elections.

Westmoreland said he has attended scores of meetings and conventions and worked in countless campaigns manning telephones, writing letters, stuffing envelopes, putting up signs and stumping the countryside on behalf of Democratic candidates.

Westmoreland pledged that his office door will always be open to the home folks and that he would be a strong voice for continuing improvement in education and for reducing violence in schools. Westmoreland said he "will vigorously pursue legislation to combat crime, drugs, child abuse and domestic violence." He said he will continue Harris' focus on mental health, developmental disabilities and senior citizens' issues and that he would fight any attempt to put unfair taxes on citizens.

Westmoreland called a proposed Highway 74 bypass of Shelby a key to the economic development of Cleveland and Rutherford Counties. He pledges to "do everything in my power to speed up these efforts."

Recreation Activities

The Kings Mountain Parks and Recreation Department has announced the following activities. For more information or to register, call the department at 734-0449 or 739-9631. Unless otherwise noted, all activities are held at the Community Center.

Aerobics - Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8:40-9:40 a.m.; Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 6-7 p.m.; Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 7-8 p.m. \$10 inside city, \$15 outside. Register between the 1st and 5th of the month.

Walkers - Due to cooler weather the gym will be open for walkers Monday-Friday 8-9:45 a.m.

Open gym - Monday-Thursday, 1-4:45 p.m.; Friday, 1-9 p.m.

Church League basketball - An organizational meeting will be held Thursday, Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m. Each church interested in participating should have one representative at the meeting.



CHRISTMAS ART - Kings Mountain High School art students put up signs of the season at Kentucky Fried Chicken. More than 120 students created Hanukkah, Christmas and winter scenes for the windows. Chrissi Green, left, and Ebony Adams, seated, helped Vicki Franks, standing, left, art teacher, and Kia Degree put up the holiday art this week.

STUDENT

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KMMS Principal John Goforth said that Channel One called him for names of five students and a reporter selected Will for his insight on school violence after a 15-minute telephone interview. Will told the reporter about measures the KM school system has taken to curb violence and that the task force, of which he is a member, recommended random student searches.

Goforth said KM District Schools got national attention for its decision to use metal detectors to randomly search middle and high school students for weapons.

Will said that other concerns of students is gun control. One student asked if Reno though rap music influenced violence. Most of the problems dealt with inner-city concerns and with areas where shots were fired and people wounded.

Goforth said that Will's question was a focus of concerns expressed in the newscast. "Should a witness tell and face possible revenge by his fellow classmate?"

From Washington, DC, Reno talked via satellite hookup with the students in Los Angeles. Some of the students selected for the taping didn't get to ask questions.

"It was an exciting trip," said Will.

After the shoot at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, the students were taken on a shopping trip. They saw Beverly Hills, Santa Monica

Beach, Rodeo Drive, Third Street and Paramount Studios, among other spots of interest to tourists.

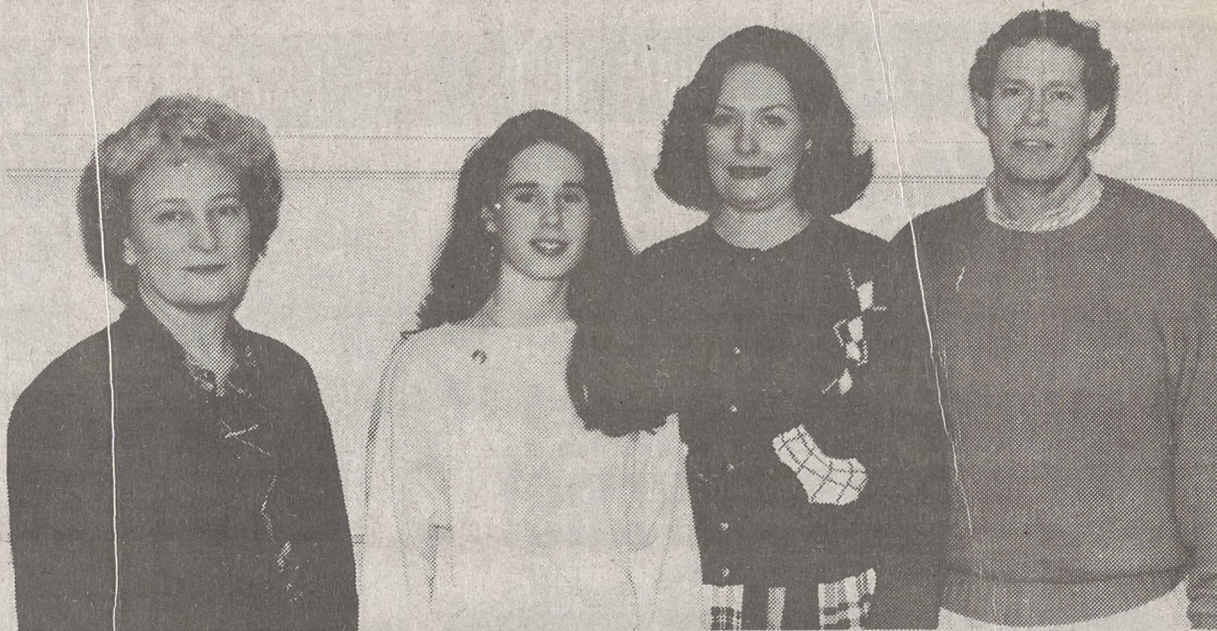
Will said he was proud to represent his school and Kings Mountain. Will's parents picked him up at Charlotte Airport Monday night and it was back in school on regular schedules Tuesday morning.

An honor student, Will aspires to be a doctor, following in the footsteps of his late grandfather, medical doctor Paul Hendricks Sr., his aunt, Sarah Sinal, a pediatrician, and his father, Dr. Hendricks Jr., a dentist.

Will said he was told by producers that the special newscast was well received.

Goforth said that most middle school classes saw the tape Tuesday but two copies are available for viewing in the school library.

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DAR GOOD CITIZEN OF YEAR - Courtney Goforth, senior student at Kings Mountain High School, is recipient of the DAR Good Citizen of the Year award from Colonel Frederick Hambright Chapter DAR. KMHS Principal Jackie Lavender, left, Miss Goforth and her parents, Pam and Bo Goforth, were guests at the DAR meeting last week for the presentation and a special program by the KMHS King's Revue.

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