



Ho! Ho!
Merry Christmas

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A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

Chip Cash, critically injured in fall from deer stand, may be home for Christmas

Some wonderful things happen at Christmas.

Proof is the good news from his family that Chip Cash, 21, may be coming home for Christmas.

Jean McAbee, a family friend, called Chip's room in the Progressive Care Unit at Carolinas Medical Center Tuesday and got a surprise. She spoke with Chip, who regained consciousness last Friday after four weeks in the Trauma Unit.

Doctors told Pattie and Randy Cash in November that it would take a miracle for their only child to survive a 35 feet fall from a deer stand. But early this week

Chip was moved from the Intensive Care Unit to Progressive Care.

"Chip regained consciousness Friday, the pneumonia has cleared up, he's off the ventilator and there's reason to celebrate," said Chip's grandmother, Starr Huffstetler.

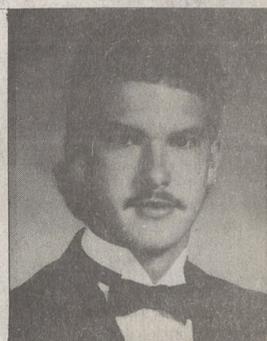
Huffstetler said Chip, who underwent five major operations, requires much healing and months of therapy. But, Huffstetler said the prayers of Kings Mountain people have provided the miracle the doctors needed with their expert health care.

"We are so appreciative of the prayers and calls of concerns and just want everyone to know that we love and appreciate them," said Huffstetler.

Chip's mother was serving her son his favorite food, French Fries and catsup, on Tuesday afternoon after doctors removed the feeding tubes.

"Nurses had Chip up walking around on Tuesday," said Mrs. Cash, who has seen more and more improvement in her son in the last few days.

"It's an answer to prayer," said Mrs. Cash. "We won't ever have a better Christmas present."



CHIP CASH

CHRISTMAS HOPE

Burned-out family wishes for home

All Ronald and Darlene Heffner want for Christmas is a house for their four children.

The family of six lost everything but their Christmas presents when fire swept through their rented Long Branch Road mobile home near Grover December 15.

Grandma Alma Black Heffner opened her arms and lodging for the family but her two-bedroom mobile home is crowded. Alma and one of the children share a couch and the other children find pallets on the floor. Alma also shares her home with her 19-year-old son, Danny, on Jim Patterson

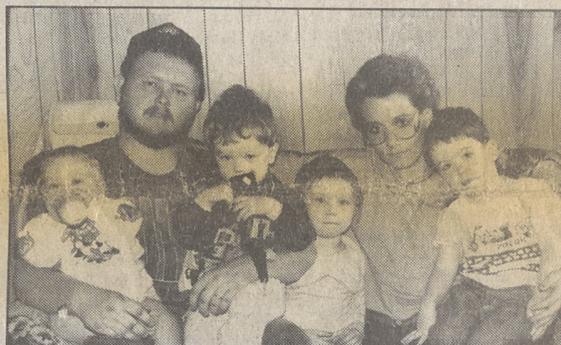
Road in the Dixon Community.

"People have been so kind to bring clothes for the family and money for groceries," said Darlene, who said finding a house at Christmas time would be difficult without money for a deposit for rent and utilities.

Darlene Heffner, 24, was home with her children, Allen Michael, 1; Nicholas, 2; Jennifer, 3 and Chris, 4 when fire broke out at 1 p.m. last Wednesday. Heffner, 23, was at work at Roosevelt Tire in Gastonia.

"I had gone to the mailbox and

See Hope, 8-A



Ronald and Darlene Heffner and their four children are praying for a house from Santa. A trailer fire took all their material possessions, but the young couple say they are blessed that the family is together this Christmas. Nicholas, 2, and baby Alan Michael are held by their father. Their mother holds Chris, 4, and Jennifer, 3.

KM citizens ready to pause for Christmas

With few exceptions, Kings Mountain citizens were preparing for Christmas this week.

Most industrial activity has been suspended for Christmas week as most plants started Christmas vacations in mid-week, and with pay.

In spite of a sluggish economy, most plants were treating their employees to Christmas bonuses, holiday pay and gifts.

Employees of Commercial Intertech worked three days this week and reopen at 10 p.m. Sunday night. Holiday pay was presented.

Combustion Engineering closes Thursday and some employees will be off all next week, returning to work on January 4. Maintenance and other workers will be on duty. Vacation pay will be made.

Minette Mills and Cleveland Products in Grover closes Thursday and reopens January 3.

Anvil Knitwear employees work through Thursday and return to jobs on the third shift at 10 p.m. January 2. Vacation pay will be made to eligible employees based on length of service. Turkeys were also presented to employees.

Grover Industries is closed Christmas week. Bonuses were paid to employees based on length of service.

Mauney Hosiery Mills closed December 21 and reopens January 3 on third shift. W. Kemp Mauney said that bonuses were distributed to employees based on length of service.

Spectrum will close on

See Pause, 2-B

Church services scheduled

At least six Christmas Eve services are planned by Kings Mountain churches, two of them at 11 p.m.

Resurrection Lutheran Church in Crescent Hill and St. Matthew's Lutheran Church on Piedmont Avenue plan special musical and candlelight services in celebration of Christmas.

The 11 p.m. candlelight communion service at Resurrection Church will feature three anthems by the choir, under the direction of Donald Deal with Dina Jo Hannah as visiting organist. Mrs. John Futterer and Mrs. Donald Deal will be soloists.

At 3 p.m. a special children's service will be held with a brief sermon by Rev. John Futterer and Christmas hymn singing.

The church is decorated with two ceiling high Christmas trees, red and white poinsettias and garlands of greenery.

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church has also planned a children's service at 4 p.m. with carol singing led by Priscilla Mauney, traditional scripture readings and special music by the children's choir. The 11 p.m. candlelight service will feature special music by the Adult

See Church, 2-B

United Fund breaks record

Kings Mountain area citizens set a record in giving to the Kings Mountain United Fund for 1994 and also completed the campaign in record time.

UF Chairman Jay Rhodes said the goal of \$121,500 was topped in November. Since then, more donations have been reported which brings the grand total of pledges and cash to \$130,952.93 for 16 charitable causes and agencies.

"Blue collar" workers contributed the bulk of the money, a whopping \$92,408, by industries. Ken Howley of Commercial Intertech was chairman for this

See Fund, 2-A



Yassah Degbeh, with her father, Yarseah, front row, and Doris Degbeh, standing left, with stepdaughter Korpo, are looking forward to Saturday, the girls' first Christmas in the USA.

CHRISTMAS PEACE

Children move to KM from war-torn Liberia

Their first Christmas in the United States of America will be special for Kings Mountain teenagers Yassah and Korpo Degbeh.

For two years now their father, Yarseah, and their stepmother, Doris, have been trying to liberate the children from Civil War-torn Liberia. After two trips back to Liberia and much government red tape, the family will celebrate Christmas together on Saturday.

This week the Degbeh family is putting up a Christmas tree at their home on Cleveland Avenue. The two girls wrote letters to Santa Claus. Yassah, 14, a fifth grader at East School, is asking for a Walkman Nintendo and a Hornet's basketball cap. Korpo 15, a eighth grade Middle School student, is looking for a computer, jeans, and a small radio and camera in her stocking on Christmas morning.

"We don't spoil the children, so they may not get every present they ask for," said Mrs. Degbeh, formerly of Stanley and a postal clerk at the Lincolnton Post Office, who married her husband nearly three years ago.

Yarseah, who came to the United States in 1979, studied at North Hennippia College in Minnesota and came to the South to Charlotte in 1981 where he works with BFI. He moved to Kings Mountain in 1990. He taught primary school three years after graduating from a teacher's college in 1974.

"The outbreak of civil war is bad in Liberia," said Degbeh. On his last visit in March he saw kids 8-12 years of age dressed out in fatigues in the Rebel Army.

"War lords don't care," said Mrs. Degbeh. "We had to get records as far back as five years to finally get all the paper work completed to get these girls home," said Degbeh who said he was assisted by Kings Mountain surgeon Dr. Staley Jackson in getting the ball rolling with the American Embassy in Liberia. Jackson sent a letter seeking visas for the girls.

Jackson treated Yassah when she first came to the United States March 17 with both legs crooked from a severe case of rickets. Yassah had both legs in a cast for ten weeks her first summer in the United States and went to school this fall in a wheelchair. She didn't miss a day of school and is East School's top student in the accelerated reading program.

"Yassah could not read when she first came home," said Mrs. Degbeh. "Now she reads everything she gets her hands on and we are thrilled."

Bethel Temple Elementary School was closed in Glugbor near Monrovia, the capital city of Liberia, with the outbreak of war and the girls missed years of schooling.

Although they have only been in Kings Mountain nine months, the girls say they are catching up with their studies and making their parents proud. Mrs. Degbeh works an early morning shift to pick up the girls at school.

"We made our first trip to Liberia for the girls in September 1992 after an initial visit was canceled out due to the war in the country and were supposed to go in January of 1993 to pick them up," said Degbeh. Civil War broke out again and canceled the trip until March of this year.

How will they celebrate Christmas in America? Yassah says they plan to play music, put up a tree and visit friends. Korpo says they plan to attend church services at New Providence Baptist Church in Mount Holly, stay up later since school is out for the holidays, and wear new clothes.

Digbeh says prayer should be returned to the schools of America and speaks out against what he calls a secular movement in society, not only among the older population but among the young people.

See Peace, 8-A



Divisional leaders in the successful Kings Mountain United Fund campaign are pictured with their plaques after a celebration luncheon Wednesday. Front row, from left, Kyle Smith, Tom Tate, Elaine Grigg, Mikie Smith and Ronnie Wilson. Back row, from left, Ronnie Whetstine, Rev. John Futterer and Huitt Reep.



The Herald Office will be closed
 Thursday and Friday ... Merry Christmas

