

**Spectrum to give away
70,000 tulip and daffodil
bulbs Mountaineer Day**
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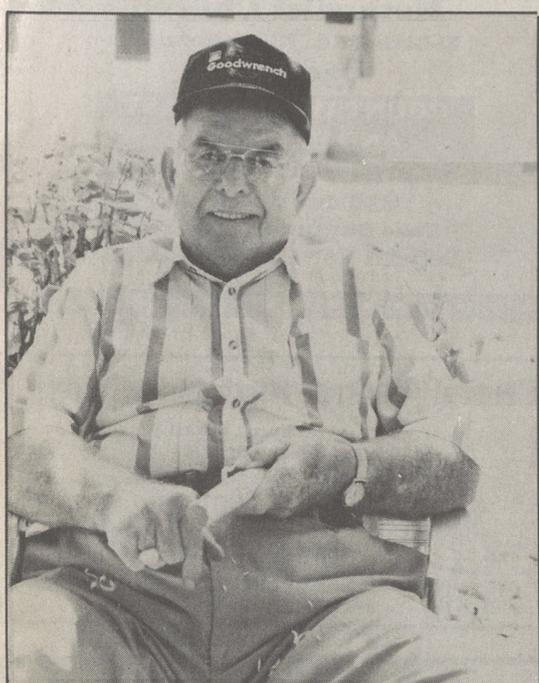
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JOHN BEAM

Art of whittling revived by Beam

By ELIZABETH STEWART
of The Herald Staff

Shades of Grandpa's day!

Whittling has returned as a favorite pastime of at least one Kings Mountain grandfather and his grandsons.

John Beam, 78, has created his own natural gazebo in his Wells Street back yard. White pine shavings nearly five feet tall and nearly 17 feet around center a wooded area where Beam relaxes with a knife, radio and a fan.

"It's the closest thing to camping and I love it," says the well-known Kings Mountain man who has almost worn out an eight-year old knife from whittling soft pine he cut from scraps supplied by plumber friend Raymond Gettys.

Johnny, as he is affectionately called by friends, started his unusual hobby four years ago after retiring from a camping hobby of 30 years. The family lived in the mountains 10 years in the summer and camped with a 31 foot Air Stream Travel Trailer.

"I loved Toe River in Western North Carolina, Foscoe Campground near Boone and Spruce Pine," said Beam, who belonged to Carolina Travel Trailer Club but sold his camper on the advice of his doctor.

"We used to have church at the campgrounds every Sunday and met some of the best friends there and our children grew up there and loved it," he said.

Grandchildren Chase Beam, 6, Ryan Davis, 5, Michael Davis, 3, Aundra Beam, 14, and Abby Beam, 12, have all learned to whittle on their grandpa's lap. Ryan whittles with his left hand.

"In a day and time when kids have a Nintendo to entertain them, our kids are entertained by whittling," said Vanessa Davis.

"We were married 16 years before we had our children and our grandchildren are our pride and joy," said Estelle Love Beam.

Vanessa and Tim Davis have two children and Adrian and Myra Beam have three children.

Estelle Love, 18, married John Howard Beam, 21, on December 1, 1937. They have lived on Wells Street since 1948 and have been active for over 40 years in First Baptist Church, where John is a deacon and sings in the Men's Choir. They moved here from Grover and Grover First Baptist Church to a Waco Road apartment and then built their home on Wells Street.

Reared on a 150-acre farm in

Grover, Beam is the son of the late Will I and Pearl Beam. He was reared in a family of two brothers and seven sisters. He likes to tell the story that six people in his family share the same first name.

Estelle, daughter of the late Pearl and Robert Love of the Antioch Community, was reared in a family of six brothers and six sisters. She has lost to death only one brother, Ed Love, who died last year at the age of 76.

Beam was drafted by Uncle Sam in 1941 and served with a Medical Detachment for 2 1/2 years at Oklahoma City, Okla., where Estelle said she had just fell in love with the area when Beam was shipped out with the Infantry to Germany in World War II.

"I was in one battle and the war ended," he laughed.

After the War, Beam took a job with the Kings Mountain Bus Company, managed the facility which was then located near the overhead bridge in Kings Mountain, and also drove a bus. In 1981, he returned from Lithium Corporation where he was supply clerk for 27 1/2 years.

John attended the old Dixon School and used to walk from Grover to the elementary school. He also attended Grover High School.

"I was always good in math so the Lithium job came naturally," said Beam.

Mrs. Beam attended Blacksburg High School. She is a former East School crossing guard and worked at the old Saunders Cleaners, McCurdy Cleaners and Mauney Hosiery Mill.

"I really miss the kids I helped cross the street for 13 years," said Estelle, who took the job after she raised her children.

Now Beam walks a mile every day and stops for biscuits at Hardees where he chats with many of his friends who are early risers. He also cuts grass for himself and neighbors, plants and works a neighborhood garden, and often gets out his tractor to plow.

"If I'm tired or bothered about something or just want to relax I get out my knife and whittle," said Beam.

For Beam whittling is better than any medicine and on fall days nothing suits him any better than to take his grandsons to his outdoor spot and whittle.

Never idle, Beam started a special project in his yard this week. He is building a glassed-in gazebo so that on winter days he can sit and watch the world go by as he whittles beside a warm stove.

Council approves dam repairs

Councilmen Jerry White, Ralph Grindstaff vote against \$197,630 expenditure

Kings Mountain City Council voted 5-2 Tuesday night to move ahead on plans to repair old Davidson Lake dam despite reservations by Council on spending \$197,630.

"We're playing with fire on a state mandate if we don't award the bid tonight," said Councilman Phil Hager after Councilman Dean Spears asked what would happen if Council postponed the action for 30 days and found a buyer.

"I just have a problem with

spending the city's money to fix up a dam that does no one any good," said Councilman Jerry White. Councilman Ralph Grindstaff also voted against the motion by Hager, seconded by Commissioner Norma Bridges, with Mayor Pro Tem Rick Murphrey and Councilmen Hager and Jim Guyton approving. Murphrey presided in the absence of Mayor Scott Neisler who was out of town.

Alex Berkley, engineer with W. K. Dickson Company, said the

state has been pushing Kings Mountain to make the dam improvements for two years and probably would not take lightly the local board's decision to put it off again.

City Attorney Mickey Corry agreed and said that if a buyer is found that the buyer could assume the liability but Guyton said the city is mandated to fix the lake and when the city finds a buyer the city can recoup its investment.

Murphrey said that if the city de-

layed inking the agreement with Hickory Construction Company in a negotiated bid that it's possible the contractor could change his mind and back out of the deal.

"We haven't had many people wanting to do this project," he said.

Guyton said the city was to have started improvements at Davidson Lake on June 28 under a state order.

The city has also been told by

See Council, 2-A

Council revises water/sewer plan

City Council Tuesday approved a revised supplemental agreement with NCDOT on the Rest Stop-Welcome Center-Dixon Road water/sewer project.

The new agreement specifies that six inch force main sewer lines will be used instead of four and eight inch gravity lines will be used instead of six.

The sewer connection will run from a manhole at the Chesterfield Apartments on Margrace Road and the gravity line will run from a lift station just outside the DOT right-of-way.

Walt Ollis, Supt. of Water/Wastewater, said the major change is that the existing lift station at Chesterfield will be eliminated with the proposed addition of 2500 lineal feet of eight inch gravity flow sewer with manholes.

Ollis said the city will be responsible for the redesign of the proposed gravity sewer system and the acquisition of any additional easements needed for the installation of the sewer system.

The State Department of Transportation will be responsible for the total cost of installing the sewer facilities except for the cost of installing the eight inch line and manholes but will share in a prorated cost of 50/50 with Kings Mountain. Kings Mountain would not put up any cash until a year after the project is completed and would have three years to pay its share of the cost.

Responding to question by Mayor Pro Tem Rick Murphrey, Ollis said that he had no time table on the project since the state is looking for federal funds to pay for it.

"The ball is in the state's court," said Ollis.



Senior citizens are gearing up for Mountaineer Day on October 8 by making long dresses and bonnets for the festivities. Front row, left to right, Dorothy T. Marshall, Joe R. Smith and Edna Smith. Back row, Ruby Burris, Elizabeth Jamerson and Martha Taylor.

Mountaineer Day events taking shape

Plans for Mountaineer Day 1994 on October 8 are well underway.

The sponsoring Kings Mountain Parks & Recreation Commission is busy lining up talented performers to present a variety of entertainment.

There's plenty of time for last-minute performers to register with Monty Deaton at the Kings Mountain Community Center, 734-0449, or Betsy Wells at Kings Mountain High School, 734-5647, or at her home, 739-1585.

The stage will be located downtown at the corner of Floating Affections and City Hall and will run continuous acts from 10 a.m. and continue throughout the street

dance featuring "Mink" until midnight.

The Kings Mountain High School Pep Band, under the direction of Chris Cole and Gil Doggett, will open the festivities.

Other performers on stage during the day-long event will include: Jennifer and Becky Senter, singers; Long Branch Baptist Church Choir; Jada Clark and Meagan Meade, dancers; Mike Hayes, Keepsake Recording artist; Arnold Clayton, banjo picker; Jane Campbell's Dance Academy; St. Peter Baptist Church singers; Jackie Blanton, storyteller; Jerry Edmonson and family; Bible Holiness Church singers; Talia

Quinn, singer; Hart Wells and Pete Small, guitarists; and drama students from Kings Mountain High School.

Also Rev. Theron Feemster and Miracle Tabernacle Singers; Gold Street Wesleyan Choir; Christy Walker, singer; Erin Lovelace and Charity Moss, dancers; Kings Mountain High School cheerleaders; The Swinging Mountaineer Band of Kings Mountain senior citizens; Senior Citizens line dancers; Tracy King and Gastonia Cloggers; Jada Brown, singer; Telina Griffin, singer; Laotian dancers and the Rappers of Kings Mountain High School.

Minority commissioners to be selected

The two new minority members of the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners probably won't be appointed until sometime in November, according to Chairman Cecil Dickson.

Dickson said that 22 names of possible appointees are under consideration for the two slots on the board which will enlarge the board to seven members. Dickson said the two new members will be seated on December 6 with the two commissioners elected by voters

November 8.

Dickson was meeting with Rev. John Osborne, chairman of the Cleveland County Chapter of the NAACP, on Wednesday. He said that the NAACP has reviewed the names of possible candidates and would probably be making a recommendation to him for a final decision by the county commissioners.

Dickson said that the board will probably call a special meeting between now and December 6 to

name the two new commissioners.

He would not identify any of the candidates for the positions nor their place of residence.

The rumor mill has been grinding out the names of City Councilman Phil Hager and Housing Authority officer Mary Edwards as possible candidates from the Kings Mountain area.

Dickson said that he had talked with Sam Gold, the commissioner injured during a tractor accident recently, and that Gold is continuing

to recuperate at his home in Earl.

"Sam will be flat on his back for awhile but we expect he will be able to attend the November meeting but certainly not the October 4 meeting which is next Tuesday," said Dickson.

Other members of the county board are Joyce Cashon of Kings Mountain, E. T. Vanhoy of Shelby and Ralph Gilbert of Lawndale.

Kings Mountain People

'Preacher' big hit with Bethware students

By ELIZABETH STEWART
of The Herald Staff

The "Preacher" rides a different school bus twice a day at Bethware School and is recognized by the children and staff as a friend and confidante. He never fails to tell them he loves them.

Enslow McClain, 64, started his volunteer job three years ago when his bride of five years, Dorothy McClain, took a second shift job as the school custodian.

"I didn't want my wife to work by herself at night so I went to work with her and after she got a first shift job driving a bus and as a custodian I kept riding the bus to school and back every day," said McClain whose kindness and concern for people comes naturally.

"I like to ride a different bus so I can get to know the children," said McClain, who said he uses his time

at school to think about the sermons he will preach from the pulpit.

McClain formerly pastored Mount Zion Holiness Church for 9 1/2 years but now is an Associate Minister at Ebenezer Baptist Church and is called on to run revivals at churches far and near. He has preached in revival services in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC and is a life-long Baptist who was reared in the Ebenezer Community.

Together, he and his wife have nine children and 22 grandchildren. He is the son of Maggie McClain, 90, and the late Allie McClain and was born in a family of four brothers and five sisters.

The McClains start their bus duty at 6:50 a.m. and return to their home at 304 Branchwood about 4 p.m.

See McClain, 11-A



ENSLAW MCCLAIN