



We Wish You A  
Merry Christmas



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## CHRISTMAS WISH

Girl with inoperable tumor going to Disney World

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
of The Herald Staff

Her doctors call Mary Elizabeth Parton their "little walking miracle" but Cecil and Lynn Parton are confident their daughter's faith will beat the odds in her fight against an inoperable brain tumor.

Elizabeth, a black-haired brown-eyed 50-pound beauty and a kindergarten student at Bessemer City Primary School, got an early New Year's present last week when the Make A Wish Foundation gave her and her parents and six-year-old sister, Samantha Lynn, a free trip to Disney World in Florida where Elizabeth will celebrate her seventh birthday January 26.

"They came to the house and interviewed Elizabeth and asked her for a wish but she said what she liked to do best was wade in the creek at her uncle Joe Whisnant's house in Forest City," said Parton, manager of Kings Mountain's Ramada Limited hotel.

Elizabeth chose another wish and it wasn't long before the family was notified that they would be escorted via limousine to Charlotte's Douglas Airport on January 24th where they will board a jet for Orlando, Florida and stay at a Disney resort hotel and a week

filled with everything that a little girl would enjoy. Doctors diagnosed the tumor at the base of Elizabeth's skull when she was 10 months old and removed 40 percent of the tumor. Elizabeth recently completed her 14th chemotherapy treatment at Carolinas Medical Center and a nurse at CMC turned her name in to the Make A Wish Foundation.

Elizabeth's progress has surprised her doctors who feared she might never walk, that her balance would be impaired and that she would have some speech impediments. None of that prognosis happened and Elizabeth walks, plays, goes to school and in the summer time wants to stay at the creek banks.

"Elizabeth is the one in a million born with an inoperable tumor that we read about in the medical books," said the doting father who estimated medical costs have amounted to more than half a million dollars.

"Thank God we have good insurance," said Parton, who praises the medical teams at both Carolinas Medical Center and Duke Medical Center.

See Wish, 2-A



Elizabeth Parton, left, is entertained by a Carolinas Medical Center clown at the hospital recently. Elizabeth and her family will spend her seventh birthday at Disney World compliments of the Make A Wish Foundation.

## KM to pause for Christmas

Kings Mountain citizens were busily preparing for Christmas holidays this week.

For most, the holidays will begin with textile firms suspending operations on Friday for two days and up. Most employees are receiving holidays with pay while others are receiving gift certificates and being entertained at Yule parties.

Shortest holidays will be taken by employees of Commercial Intertech in Kings Mountain and Minette Mills and Cleveland Products in Grover. These two firms will close December 25 and December 26 for the Christmas holidays. Commercial Intertech will close January 1 and 2 for the New Year holiday but Minette and Cleveland Products will close only January 1 for the New Year holiday.

Other plants, including ABB Combustion Engineering, Kings Mountain Knit Fabrics and Mauney Hosiery, will close the full Christmas week. Combustion Engineering closes at 7 a.m. December 22, reopening at 7 a.m. January 2.

See Christmas, 2-A

## Church programs usher in Christmas season in KM

Christmas Eve candlelight communion services at 11 p.m. at the two Kings Mountain Lutheran churches and 11 a.m. morning worship services at all churches featuring special music will highlight the Christian celebration of Christmas for Kings Mountain area people.

The traditional 11 p.m. candle-light communion services will be held at St. Matthew's and

Resurrection Lutheran Churches. Earlier services are planned at Kings Mountain Baptist Church and Grace United Methodist Churches at 5 p.m., at Second Baptist Church at 6 p.m., at Boyce Memorial ARP at 7 p.m., at Central United Methodist Church at 7:30 p.m. and First Presbyterian Church at 9 p.m. A Christmas Eve Mass will be conducted at Christ the King Catholic Church on

Stone Street.

A Children's Christmas Eve service will also be held at 4 p.m. at Resurrection Church in Crescent Hill and at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church on Piedmont Avenue.

At First Presbyterian Church at 9 p.m. Dr. Dick Newsome will lead the worship service which will feature the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Special music will be presented by the choir under the direction of Shirley Austin.

Rev. Hal Schwantes will lead the service of Holy Communion at Central United Methodist Church for the 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Hayes Bishop will sing the solo, "Sweet Little Jesus Boy" and the Choir, under the direction of Linda Dixon, will present special music. Two Chrismon trees, candles, red poinsettias and greenery decorate the sanctuary.

The Choir of Dixon Presbyterian Church, under the direction of Nancy Hughes, will sing a Christmas cantata at the 11 a.m. worship service which will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the lighting of the Christ candle signifying the close of the Advent season.

Dennis Bolin will direct the David Baptist Church choir in a program of music at the 11 a.m.

service.

The Choir of Grace Methodist Church will sing a Christmas musical Sunday at the 11 a.m. worship service at Grace United Methodist Church. At 5 p.m. Rev. Patricia Stone will conduct the service of Holy Communion and the church will be decorated with candles.

A live nativity scene will be presented by adults of Grace Church

See Church, 2-A

## Fryer's first book of poetry to benefit Historical Museum

Hazel Herndon Fryer, affectionately called "Kings Mountain's walking historian," retired in Hendersonville nearly two years ago but her heart is still in Kings Mountain.

Fryer started poetry classes at Blue Ridge Community College about a year ago and the love of poetry that she began 20 years ago with a homemade book of poems for her children was rekindled and she published recently her first book of poetry, "One Brash Mockingbird."

Fryer has donated 100 of her new books to the Kings Mountain Historical Museum Foundation and proceeds from the sale of the books at \$10 each will benefit the local Museum.

Larry Hamrick Sr., a local member of the Museum Foundation board, acknowledged the Christmas gift this week and said



HAZEL FRYER

copies of the book are available from any member or from Warlick-Hamrick Insurance Agency.

Although Fryer says she has retired, she works full time as the librarian at the retirement village where she has an efficiency apartment and oversees a staff of 23 who run seven satellite libraries in the complex of 350 families.

"We are really doing a lot of fun things," said Fryer this week. She joins a poetry reading/writing class at the local community college at least once a month and they give readings at the library.

She attends First Presbyterian Church but retains her membership in the local First Presbyterian Church. She attends musicals and plays at nearby Asheville, Brevard and Tryon and on weekends she camps out on the river at Chimney

See Fryer, 2-A

Stone.

Larry Hamrick Sr. holds up copies of Hazel Fryer's first book of poetry.

## UF drive extended

The closing of the Clemont Fruit of the Loom plant in Kings Mountain has caused a major hurdle to the finish of the Kings Mountain United Fund campaign.

Local workers are scurrying to complete the fund drive but Mikie Smith, drive chairman, said that it will be continued through the month of December and probably longer.

Clemont workers are among the major contributors to the campaign and other industry is trying to pick up the slack but is having a difficult time particularly at the holiday season, said Smith.

Most of Clemont's 400 workers will complete their duties with Clemont by month end.

As long as the plant sits idle, city finances also take a major hit.

See Fund, 2-A



Rebecca Lineberger, Director of the Kings Mountain Crisis Ministry, takes a turn ringing the bell to solicit donations to the Ministry Friday at Kings Mountain Plaza. Money raised during the Christmas bell-ringing project goes to help families in the Kings Mountain and Grover area with food, clothing, heat, rent, lights, water and medicine throughout the year. The Crisis Ministry's needs will be greater in 1996 because of recent plant closings and lay-offs. Anyone may donate throughout the year through their local church or by contacting The Crisis Ministry at 739-7256.

Ramada Franchise Systems, Inc. announced this week the grand opening of Ramada Limited Kings Mountain.

This 104-room hotel at 1300 York Road and Exit 8, I-85, was formerly operating as the Holiday Inn of Kings Mountain.

It is owned and operated by

Kings Mountain Motor Inn, Inc., owned by local businessmen Odus Smith Jr., W. K. Mauney Jr., Larry Hamrick, Jim Ware and Mack Lefever.

In announcing the opening General Manager Cecil Parton said, "We're happy to join Ramada, an established company that pro-

motes quality, value and great service to our guests. We will become a part of the Ramada network serving guests on a nationwide basis but we'll retain our local ownership, however."

Parton said that Ramada Limited Hotels offer a limited service option that appeals to guests

who are looking for quality lodging but do not require all the amenities of a full service hotel. He says Ramada offers the same quality rooms without food and beverage facilities, which is a savings benefit passed on to guests.

See Ramada, 2-A

## Kings Mountain People

### Tessneer to open funeral home

The compassion that Dwight Tessneer exhibits as a professional mortician spills over into The Gideons, an organization he joined seven years ago when the local Camp was formed and which he serves as president.

Tessneer is a familiar face at local churches as a guest speaker distributing Bibles. In 1994 Gideons worldwide distributed 48 million copies of the Holy Word.

Tessneer is leaving Harris Funeral Home on December 24 after 16 years to open Cleveland Funeral Services on Highway 74 West across from Kemet.

"I am excited about my new partnership with J. Robert Jones of Shelby and stockholders Glenn Williams and Bob Hamrick of Boiling Springs, Tony Blanton of Shelby and Ayden Rucker of Rutherford County," he said.

But Tessneer said he will miss the comradery at the local funeral home, a Kings Mountain institution, and the friends he has made in the Kings Mountain area. He and his family will continue to reside in the White Plains Community and belong to First Baptist Church. Tessneer is also active in the Kings Mountain Rotary Club.

"I appreciate the confidence that local families have placed in me during difficult times in their lives," said Tessneer.

Tessneer will be going into a new enterprise for the second time during his life. He left the dairy business in 1973, where he and his father had 250 head of Holstein and sold milk to Pet dairies in Mecklenburg County to enter a new profession as a mortician, a career he said he had always dreamed of since he was boy.

A Cleveland County native, he

See Tessneer, 2-A



DWIGHT TESSNEER