

ICE

From 1-A

shelter. Two shelters were operated by the American Red Cross.

"It could have been worse but the ice storm was worse for us than Hugo," said the city's utilities superintendent Maney who headed the city's power restoration effort.

Trees and branches began breaking and falling under the weight of ice. Large broken tree branches littered lawns and streets and at least one block of Fulton Road through the Margrace section was closed off because of oak tree limbs that littered the streets. Ice remained on tree shaded areas Tuesday.

Maney called in Scott Buchanan, Nick Hendricks, Tom Roddy, John Houser, Gene Waldrep, Bobby Boles, Timmy Adams, Ricky Chapman and Janet Hayes, all of the electric department, and Johnny Putnam and John Clemmer and Lee Perry of the gas department and Maney's wife, Cathy, Public Works Department receptionist, and they all worked almost non-stop during the emergency.

Public Works Supt. Moss and 16 members of his crew started Friday afternoon removing tree limbs hanging over roads and sidewalks, working ahead of electric crews and primarily concerned with removing fallen debris from the roads.

City Councilman Dean Spears operated a chain saw Saturday to help cut trees off lines. Councilman Rick Murphy assisted Mrs. Maney and Janet Hayes with phones, Mayor Scott Neisler arranged emergency shelters and gave out emergency information on radio and Councilman Jerry Mullinax delivered food to the working crews and Diane Barrett opened her house on North Piedmont Avenue to the volunteers and cooked food and hot drinks on a gas stove during the effort.

Power was restored after 18 hours to Kings Mountain Hospital and White Oak Manor but both had emergency back up generators as did the police department and 911.

The Meadowbrook feeder which runs power to the police department and public works and emergency facilities was also back on line in about 18 hours.

One of the last areas where electricity was restored was Hillside Drive but Maney explained that he concentrated on areas where the most people were affected.

"When trees fall across primary circuits you can't take a big truck in and out during a storm like we had during the weekend," he said.

In some areas Maney said that 100 electric boxes were ripped off houses that would require an electrician to repair the meter base and other repairs before a power line could go up.

Maney could not estimate the dollar figure from the cost of the storm but he said that since the work was handled in house the savings would be considerable.

Maney said City Council's approval of a tree trimming program several years ago paid off and the storm could have been much worse.

"Kings Mountain would have been in a terrible situation if the winds had blown 15-20 miles an hour as the weathermen were at first predicting," he said.

Maney said the below-freezing wind chill factor only enhanced the dangerous conditions that workers faced as they worked to fix electric lines.

No one was hurt.

Kings Mountain Police reported no major accidents.

There were no fires in Kings Mountain.

A house fire killed a 72-year-old Gaston County woman near Kings Mountain on Sunday but the fire was not weather-related.

BREAK

From 1-A

on and it comes down we pass it on," he said.

"In January 1996 the same gas cost us \$3.77, over 100 percent increase from 1.78 in 1995," said Maney. He compared month by month the city's cost, including \$1.78 in February 1995, \$1.61 in March, \$1.74 in April, \$1.86 in May, \$1.93 in June, \$1.67 in July, \$1.53 in August, \$1.73 in September, \$1.84 in October, \$2 in November and \$2.51 in December.

Maney said his personal bill for natural gas is the highest ever.

"But it's not due to an increase by the city and next month will be better," he said.

Maney said he is happy that city officials will work out payment plans for citizens who find it hard to pay the monthly bill.

But, there is good news. Maney said prices for February have been locked in at a rate of \$2.50.

Weaving in Grover for 13 years and retired 10 years ago from the shipping and receiving department.

Both he and his wife were reared in large families. Al has one brother and three sisters surviving in a family of 11 children and Evelyn has six surviving siblings in a close knit family of 10.

The Grahams are Baptist, attend the Oak View Senior Citizens Club and Oak View and Antioch Baptist Churches.

Several years ago they got the traveling bug and took their first flying trip to Hawaii but later drove the car on trips which took them all around the United States and to Nova Scotia and Canada.

Someday they may return to Hawaii but Al never plans to return to the South Pacific.

Maps of Angaur Island in 1944, Peleliu Island, and the West Caroline Islands in the South Pacific with its year round temperatures of 100-110 degrees have no fascination.

Thirty years after the war Graham and his wife were vacationing and Al saw a former buddy. The man didn't recognize Graham but Graham said he never forgets a GI's face.

In his book of memories is a letter from his commanding officer,

Major General Paul J. Mueller in which he wrote on August 15, 1945 that "this is a day of rejoicing, a day to give thanks with all reverence to our Maker for His divine guidance in the perilous months through which we have passed. As we bow our heads let us give thought to the memories of our comrades who gave their all to assure this hour of victory for all the world."

Fifty years isn't really such a long time.

SHELTER

From 1-A

made down bunks for nine people and cooked together on the grill," said Police Officer Linda Belk.

"It was really fun and made us all appreciate our good fortune."

Senior citizens reported numerous incidents of Good Samaritans who took them kerosene and heaters and carried food. One 81-year-old resident said her neighbor also carried her newspaper from the yard and took it to her door.

"Kenny Bridges was an angel of mercy for many of the residents on Gaston Street," said Mrs. David Saunders.

"He checked on the elderly, took

heaters to residents and picked up at least one resident and took her to a neighbor's house."

Modie Houston, a newcomer to Kings Mountain, said she has never seen such caring people, not only in crisis situations but all the time.

"It really makes me feel good to live in a neighborhood where people care about me," she said.

Mayor Scott Neisler called the city's utilities department heroes.

"They worked around the clock to restore power and in single digit weather it's a wonder that someone didn't freeze to death," he said.

"We had a few people complaining but we just chalked that up to strained conditions," he said.

"All city crews deserve a much-deserved pat on the back."

times during the weekend to warn residents to cut back on usage until the repairs were done," said Causby.

"There was no back up of sewer," said Causby.

Queen said he appreciated the community's patience during the emergency and thanked firemen who volunteered to help out.

WARM-UP

From 1-A

Power went off at the Watterson Road waste treatment plant and malfunctioned. Finally the lift station on Adkins Road was operational by 3 p.m. Sunday.

"We used the fire department and about 10 volunteers at different

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GRAHAM

From 1-A

names synonymous with war.

For 38 days and nights Graham said he didn't take off his shoes or his clothes while stationed on Peleliu Island. His patrol vowed not to be taken prisoner. An ammunition handler or rifleman in the 81st Wildcat Division, 323rd Infantry, he was in the thick of things. Graham was 19 when he was drafted and discharged at age 22 as a Private First Class January 31, 1946.

He considers himself one of the lucky ones.

He went on patrols and scouting parties looking for enemy soldiers and spent 20 months overseas in the Pacific Theatre of Operations. He was in The Philippines when the War ended awaiting orders to Layte for training for the invasion of Japan.

He came home with the World War II Victory Medal, the Combat Infantry Medal, the Philippines Liberation Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Asiatic Pacific Service Medal with two bronze service stars and memories that invaded his sleep for years as nightmares.

Raised on a farm in Cherokee County, his parents Robert C. and Lanie Smith Graham moved their family to the Kings Mountain area in 1935.

He cut his teeth in textiles at the old Margrace Mill at the age of 17 working for 32 1/2 cents an hour sweeping floors and inspecting cloth. His Army pay was \$50 a month.

After the War he went to work in Ellenboro in a weave shop and then worked in several other industries before joining Elizabeth

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