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RETIRE? NO WAY!

95-year-old John Yarbro still has lot of hard work to do

While some men his age may prefer retirement to the front porch rocking chair, John E. Yarbro at 95 is still tending his cattle.

Yarbro's trademark are his bib overalls, cap and denim jacket.

His love of farming has been his lifelong occupation and he doesn't plan to quit.

Yarbro still oversees his Bethlehem Community farm even though his eyesight and hearing are not quite as sharp.

"I can't bale hay like I used to do and I can't disk a field for planting but we still raise all our vegetables and meats and kill hogs every year," he said this week on his birthday.

Yarbro has seen the Bethlehem Community grow by leaps and bounds in the 75 years he has lived on the former old Herndon farmplace at the corner of Bethlehem and Yarbro Road. It was to that 10-room two-story frame house that he took his bride and there they raised their children. Before his wife's death the couple had been mar-

ried over 50 years. The house is a bout 140 years old and the 50-plus acres contains two covered sheds and two barns.

"My children take care of me and the house is always full with 14 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren," Yarbro said at his family party planned by his children.

Yarbro was born September 27, 1901 to the late Albert and Ida Yarbro and was reared in the Fairview Farms area of Shelby. He married Sarah Vela Herndon, daughter of Walter and Pratt Herndon of the Bethlehem Community, on December 27, 1923 and they had six sons and three daughters. He is the oldest living member of Bethlehem Baptist Church.

"Dad oversees everything on our farm and has an active part in the farm decisions and always has the final word," said his son.

See Yarbro, 10-A



JOHN E. YARBRO

Hearing set on proposed industrial park

A heated controversy which has simmered for months among county commissioners over the site of a proposed county industrial park escalated into a shouting match Tuesday night in Shelby.

After trading barbs and accusations and following lengthy oration by county commissioner Ralph Gilbert who has led the opposition, the board voted 6-1 on motion of Commissioner Jim Crawley, with Commissioner E. T. Vanhoy opposing, to hold a public hearing October 15 at 7 p.m.

Vanhoy's earlier motion to postpone indefinitely the decision about a park was rejected by vote of 2-5. Joining Vanhoy in seconding the motion was Gilbert.

"Society is confused and I'm confused and I don't think we need to do anything on the spur of the moment," said Vanhoy who said the county needs an industrial park but the decision needs to be made in an orderly fashion. He said three of the seven county commissioners go off the board next month and some were pushing to get the park decision made before the new board is seated.

"Some of us have been ignored throughout this whole procedure and were even called for an emergency meeting this afternoon to be told we could take a \$1 a month option two pieces of property for the next 120 days," said Vanhoy.

"There are too many unanswered questions and I didn't get a lot out of this presentation by the engineer tonight," he added.

See County, 3-A

Mountaineer Day Saturday in downtown KM

Fun for all is promised by promoters of Mountaineer Day 1996 Saturday in downtown Kings Mountain.

"The place to be is the intersection of Gold and Cherokee Streets in front of Kings Mountain City Hall," says Tandra Ramsey, events chairman for the sponsoring Kings Mountain Parks & Recreation Department.

Kiddie rides and games, a big car show, a variety of all-day entertainment from the Mountaineer stage, Pro wrestling, crafts galore and plenty to eat from nine vendors offering

hamburgers and hotdogs, Polish sausage, caramel apples and cotton candy features the agenda.

Mayor Scott Neisler and the Kings Mountain High School Pep Band will open the event at 9:45 a.m. The mayor will conduct the colorful fireworks show with a big fireworks extravaganza scheduled to go off between 8:15 and 8:30 p.m.

Ramsey said the day's event will end with a street dance from 8:30 until 11 p.m. with music by the popular dance band, Mink.

Featured entertainers include the Old Habits Country Band from Shelby, vocalist Chuck

Brimer from Gastonia, gospel group Carver Crusaders, gospel singer Shane Facemeyer, vocalist Talia Quinn, the cloggers of Dance Magic, Jane Campbell dancers from Dance Academy and Miracle Tabernacle Choir.

"Every event will be held in the downtown area with the back lot behind KM Office Supply and Sub Factory to be used for kiddie rides, games and vendors," said Ramsey.

See Mountaineer, 10-A

First Wesleyan to build family life center

Their dream for several years for a Family Life Center is beginning to take shape for the 200 members of First Wesleyan Church.

Last Wednesday night the church broke ground for a \$550,000 facility that will house a gymnasium, kitchen, classrooms and multipurpose facilities in 7,800 square feet of floor space.

The proposed building will be connected to the present building at the drive-through at the back of the church.

"The vision is here to build a K-6 school," said Rev. Don Williams as he turned the dirt with a shovel, assisted by Clyde

Dixon of the building committee; Richard Reynolds, vice-chairman of the church board; Jay Rhodes, vice-president of Carolina State Bank and Jim Ramsey, building contractor for AA Ramsey & Sons Inc.

Williams, who came to Kings Mountain last July from Rockingham, said the congregation sees the building program as a facet of ministry to the congregation and the community of every age, particularly children. "We have accepted the challenge to better minister to the community's children," he said.

Mrs. Williams, the former Debra Conner of Kings

Mountain, says it's anticipated that someday a Christian school will be located at the site if God sees fit to lead them.

Mrs. Williams said the vision for the school started several years ago under the leadership of former pastor Rev. Mark Bardsley and has continued to develop.

"God has confirmed His timing for the building and the time is now," said Rev. Williams at the groundbreaking. Sunday School Supt. Gary Crisp opened the service with prayer. Kevin Bolin, Youth/Music Director, led in the singing of "To God Be

See Wesleyan, 10-A



GROUND-BREAKING - First Wesleyan Church broke ground last week for a Family Life Center. From left, Pastor Don L. Williams; Clyde Dixon of the building committee; Richard Reynolds of the church board; Jay Rhodes of Carolina State Bank; and Jim Ramsey, building contractor.

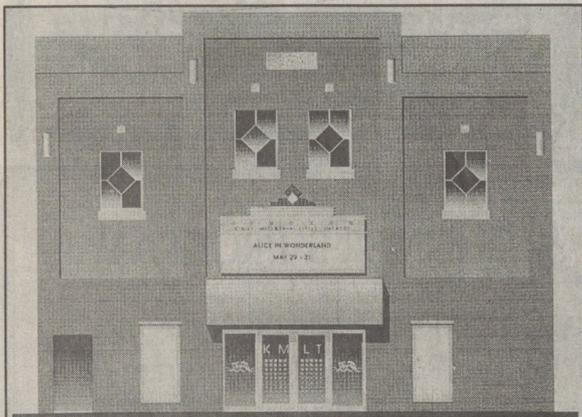
Manager says city cannot light pilots

The first cool snap of the fall season has made the telephones ring at City Hall from gas customers wanting their pilot lights turned on.

The city stopped lighting pilot lights last January when City Council voted on advice of the city attorney to pass an ordinance which stopped the practice.

"We can't be liable for what might happen if a furnace has a cracked firebox that we can't visibly spot," said City Manager Jimmy Maney who explained that the reason the board made the decision to get out of the

See Light, 10-A



LITTLE THEATRE - This is an architect's rendering of the proposed new home of the Kings Mountain Little Theatre to go up in the former Dixie Theatre building on Railroad Avenue.

KM Little Theatre raising funds

Final architectural plans are expected in six to eight weeks after which the Kings Mountain Little Theatre will begin bid letting for a \$300,000 to \$400,000 new home in the former Dixie Theatre in downtown Kings Mountain.

Terry Barrett of Barrett Architects has been hired as the architect for the project and city councilman Dean Spears, a local building contractor, will be general contractor.

President Jim Champion said that pledges and donations are encouraged from the public. Champion said that about 65 percent of the necessary monies have been secured, and tax-de-

ductible donations may be sent to Box 1022, Kings Mountain, 28086.

Seventy-five Little Theatre-goers were given an update on the project at Saturday's "Sample the Season" by the theatrical group at Kings Mountain Country Club. Hammer dulcimer player John Mason presented the entertainment for the evening.

A computer model display of the proposed building and diagrams of floor plans were featured.

"This is a major undertaking but something that everyone will be proud of when it's completed," said Champion.

Local firemen train for emergencies

Area firemen were being trained this week to cope with any emergency.

Dressed out in fully encapsulated vapor-type suits and headgear, Kings Mountain, Bethlehem, Oak Grove and Waco firemen together with the Cleveland County Fire Marshal's staff, the hazardous materials team from the county and volunteers from as far distant as Asheville and Morganton were in school at the Kings Mountain Fire Department.

Thursday they will experience an all day exercise at the Kings Mountain Community Center to complete a 92-hour

school led by Jim Covington of the North Carolina Department of Insurance.

Covington trains firemen as regional response teams to work with the county HASMET team and County Fire Marshal.

A group of firemen were simulating a chlorine leak at City Hall and others were simulating a transportation, storage and facility problem and wearing the Level A suits and then taking their turn in the showers to rid their clothing of any contamination. The contamination reduction zone was clearly roped off on the grounds of the Kings Mountain fire station and

See Training, 2-A



SCHOOL FOR FIREMEN - Local firemen are training to survive hazardous situations.



HOMECOMING QUEEN - Molly Blanton, daughter of Jerry and Libby Blanton and a senior at Kings Mountain High School, was crowned homecoming queen during halftime of Friday's Mooresville-Kings Mountain football game at Gamble Stadium. Molly is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Blanton and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Trot.