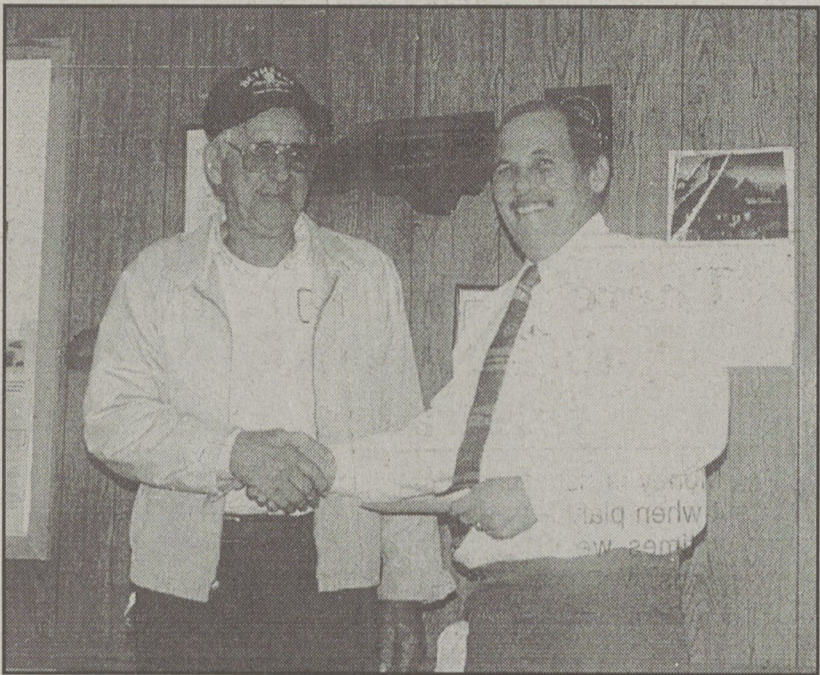




MOTHEREAD - Mrs. Martha Sloan, center, and Chelsea Penner, left, and Aishesha Fair enjoy a Motherhead story together in Janet Anthony's kindergarten class at Bethware School. Motherhead is a program coordinated by the Child Oriented Reading Experiences (C.O.R.E.) program. Teachers conduct a 30-minute story time each week to introduce children to the wonderful world of books. Puppets, drama, and art activities enhance the lessons. C.O.R.E. teachers believe that if children enjoy looking at books and being read to, they will become readers themselves.



CHECK TO SCHOOL - Marshall Jones, left, of the Bethware Progressive Club presents a check to Bethware assistant principal Steve Wells at last week's club meeting. The check represents proceeds from the recent Bethware Fair.



WINS PANTHERS TICKETS - West School Principal Sherrill Toney, left, presents Carolina Panthers game tickets to Ronnie Lawson, the winner of the recent raffle by the West PTO.

McCLAIN

From 1-A

KMHS isn't the only family that "occupies" McClain's time. He is the husband of Dorcas, father of 11 children, and step-father of three. McClain boasts that he has so many grandchildren he can't count.

Other activities that occupy McClain's time are clubs and social organizations. He is an active member of AARP, and the Masons. "I visit the hospital and nursing homes with AARP," says McClain, "and I have been a Worthy Patron of the Prince Hall Masonic Lodge for 40 years." McClain serves as the Master for the lodge as well. The McLains are members of Ebenezer Baptist Church, where he is also a Deacon. "I teach some on Wednesday nights," he says.

McClain doesn't think Kings Mountain has changed much, but the things he has noticed are the businesses that have left downtown and the youth.

"Let's just spell it out plain," he says, "There were no drugs when I was a boy. The youth are out-of-control, and everybody

should get involved. Tell 'em [the youth] something good. Find ways of making them see themselves."

McClain feels that the best teacher is your own actions. He reminisces about helping others see how their actions affect others. "Who are you hurtin'," asks McClain, "And they say -- myself." This jovial 81 year old doesn't let disrespect hold him down. Instead he thinks to himself, "they didn't know any better."

School is also important to McClain, who had to quit school after the fourth grade due to his father's death. "Back then most people didn't think school was important. People can take the money you earn, but they can't steal your education." McClain has participated in a Gaston College program to learn basic reading, writing and math.

The most interesting place McClain has visited is Disney in Florida, and Oklahoma City during a 4th of July celebration. He boasts that he has never been arrested, or spent a night in jail.

"I get along with people. I'm pretty proud of my life. I try to keep peace."

PALS

From 1-A

front row Sunday and are always present for Wednesday night services.

The Pals program is not without some detailed work. Parents sign permission forms for their children to participate after which an adult is secured to be a pal to one or more of the kids. A pal is a special friend, doing special things for a child such as eating lunch at school, remembering birthdays, encouraging school and Sunday School attendance and spending time with the child. The ministry is open to children ages 4-12 and has grown from 25-62 in recent months.

A quarterly news letter, "Pal Update," goes out to all the families involved in the program and a social event is held quarterly. Last Christmas 130 people attended the pals party. Bible School is always a big event.

Being a Pal gave the MAbees a chance to work one-on-one with children. Jean, who is a substitute teacher, visits her pals at school to eat lunch and to check on their school progress. Kenny drives the church bus and is always eager

to give a helping hand.

"I love to make extra trips in the van to pick up a child for a church or pal event," says Kenny.

"We see new faces in the church and we meet new friends and the children reap the dividends," he said.

Jean says she has seen an excitement in the ministry that is contagious with kids and adults.

"The kids look for their pals and sit with them at church, they hug one another and it's just a special bonding of the church and Second Baptist community," she says.

"We are so thankful that God chose us to lead this special ministry and for our church family because it takes team work to make it succeed," said Mrs. McAbee.

Mrs. McAbee calls herself a full-time volunteer but Kenny says his wife is much more. He calls Jean a full-time missionary who has found her calling in life.

No one is more happy than Jean McAbee when her children are recognized on Sunday morning or when they become saved.

Kids are waiting to be loved, according to the McAbees, and that's no clowning around.

CITY

From 1-A

"City crews have been sprucing up the downtown area and putting the decorations up for the past several weeks to give the holiday look to the city," said Maney. He said the new lights will be installed hopefully by next week.

The City Hall will be closed Thursday and Friday for the holidays. Emergencies can be routed through the Kings Mountain Police Department.

In addition to treks to Grandma's house, numerous Kings Mountain people plan to go to Charlotte for the big Carolinas Carrousel parade. The parade will be televised by WBTV Channel 3. Molly Blanton is Kings Mountain High School Carrousel Princess

and will represent Kings Mountain in the gala event.

After-Thanksgiving sales will start Friday in area stores. Bell ringing by Kings Mountain ministers for benefit of the Crisis Ministry will get in full swing. Rev. Ron Caulder, president of the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association, said that bell ringers will be at Harris-Teeter, Winn-Dixie and Food Lion Friday from 2-8 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sixty-five teenagers, including two ball teams of Optimist Club Mountaineers and two teams of cheerleaders, will board the buses Thanksgiving Day for the Florida Sunshine Classics in Cocoa Beach, Fla. The championship games are at 2 and 4 p.m. Saturday between Kings Mountain and the Cocoa Beach Tigers, according to local coach Jeff Putnam.

DROPOUT

From 1-A

There is no state-to-state comparison of dropout rates in the United States.

Major reasons school systems report that students drop out are: attendance-related reasons, family, work, etc); choice of work over school; and academic problems.

Local dropout prevention coordinators are working with teachers, principals, counselors and others to develop and improve programs aimed at high-risk students. Efforts include addressing substance abuse, involving parents, integrating counseling into the curriculum, scheduling classes to meet the needs of working students, referring students to community agencies for assistance and offering health clinics.

CHRISTMAS

From 1-A

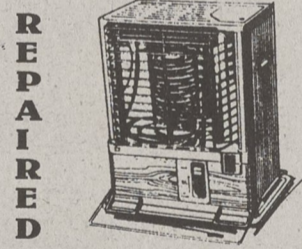
To volunteer for entertainment, call 734-5226.

Local businesses will be open until 9 p.m. for Christmas shoppers. Participants can also enjoy a store window decorating contest.

Horse and buggy rides will travel through the historical home district. The cost is \$3 per person, \$5 per couple and \$1 per child.

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