2-A Bill Early's dying wish to be buried with full military honors

6-B Mountaineers win opener

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Council may abolish Moss Lake Commission

Some say it would be mistake, others say it would be good move

There is apparently mixed reaction to a proposal on the agenda for City Council's Tuesday's 7:30 p.m. meeting to abolish the Moss Lake Commission.

John Henry Moss, former mayor who established Moss Lake Authority in 1967, Jim Childers, a former councilman, and Murray Pruette, a former councilman and current member and former chairman who was first appointed by Moss in 1973, say they feel Council is making a mistake if it votes following the hearing to abolish the seven-member board.

But Commission member Gary Joy says he agrees with the proposal to abolish the commission unless some changes are made. He says the Commission has no real authority and the city is losing money by not using the lake to its fullest potential.

"The city should be collecting a half million dollars a year from that lake operation but we continue to shift the responsibility from department to department and commission members are afraid they will hurt someone's feelings by not upping fees and looking at more strict rules," said Joy who is a new member of the board.

Moss, Childers and Pruette think Council should reestablish the Moss Lake Authority which was formed by the Moss Administration with guidelines from state agencies with the inception of city owned Moss Lake, Kings Mountain's water supply.

The Lake Authority became the Lake Commission by local ordinance when Council stripped it of its authority in 1982 and its funds were transferred to the general operating account of the city and it became an advisory board with no power answering to City Council. City Council can amend the current ordinance to abolish the current commission and change the structure of how the lake operates.

But Planning Director Steve Killian said the city staff has an eye to treating the Moss Lake area as a capital improvement owned by the city and functioning as a department.

See Lake, 10-A

Costner's Midpines home as beautiful as McAdenville

You don't have to drive any further than the Midpines Community to see and get in the holiday spirit.

Grady Costner's house and yard are ablaze with lights and glitter this holiday season. The Kings Mountain man has added more merry go rounds and horses and carriages that will delight people of all ages. There is nothing in his front yard and back yard nor on his house that isn't glowing in the colors of the season.

And if you want to see more glitter, just drive downtown in Kings Mountain and view the gold sparkle on all the trees that line the main streets of town.

Christmas Town USA is not far up Interstate 85 north. Take the Lowell exit, No. 22, to view the McAdenville lights that were turned on December 1 and remain on Monday through Friday from 5-9:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 5-11 p.m. Last year 336,272 vehicles wound their way through the streets of this nearby Gaston County town.

There are numerous other holiday events underway in this area.

The Kings Mountain Christmas parade is Sunday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. and Santa

See Sights, 10-A

SIGHTS OF SEASON - The home of Mr. and Mrs. Grady Costner in the Midpines Community on Margrace Road is ablaze with all the glitter of the holiday season. The addition of more handmade Christmas decorations make the home a must see this Christmas season. The decoratios rival any you may see in more far distant places.

Christmas parade Saturday

High stepping bands, pretty girls and Santa Claus will feature Kings Mountain's 133-unit Christmas parade Saturday at 3:30 p.m.

The parade route will be the same as last year, turning right at Fred Kiser's Restaurant and proceeding through the main section of town on Battleground Avenue, turning right at West King Street at the overhead bridge and then left at Kentucky Fried Chicken on East King Street and disbanding in the Community Center parking lots.

Parade participants will line up on 161- York Road and East Gold Street in the area of Kings Mountain City Hall.

"We're ready to roll and are expecting sunny weather and temperatures of 58 degrees," says city recreation director Tripp Hord for the sponsoring Parks and Recreation Commission.

Kings Mountain's Tony Cloninger, bullpen coach for the world champion New York Yankees, will be grand marshal.

In addition to the Kings Mountain High School Band, the Crest High School Air Force Junior ROTC color guard, the Livingstone College Marching Horn, the Cherryville Police Cadet Drill Team. the Greenville CC Youth Marching Band, the Rockwell Park Steppers and the Piedmont Pistons will be featured units.

The Telephone Pioneer Clowns, Rogers Pontiac Cadillac Buick's blimp, Smokey the Bear, and numerous floats and beauty queens will be featured.

"We have a really good parade and more participation from the Greater Kings Mountain area," said Hord.

The parade lineup includes:

Kings Mountain Police Chief Bob Hayes, Kings Mountain Police D.A.R.E car, Kings Mountain High School Resource Officer, Kings Mountain Fire Chief Frank Burns, Cleveland County Sheriff Dan Crawford, NC Highway Patrol, Crest High School Air Force Junior ROTC Color Guard, Kings Mountain Christmas Parade Banner, Grand Marshal Tony Cloninger, Livingstone College Marching Horn, Congresswoman Sue Myrick, Kings Mountain Mayor Scott Neisler, City Council members Phil Hager, Jerry Mullinax, Ralph Grindstaff, Jerry White, Rick Murphrey, Norma Bridges and Dean Spears, Kings Mountain Fire Truck, Kings Mountain Antique Fire Truck, Kings Mountain Antique Fire Truck and Smokey the Bear, Gaston Gazette float, Dance Reflections., Float I Dance Reflections and No. 24 sponsored by Dance Reflections and Town and Country BBQ.

Also: Kings Mountain Varsity cheerleaders, Kings Mountain Marching Band, Maegan

See Parade, 10-A

Tree lighting held at library

The jolly ole man from the North Pole arrived in a bucket truck and was lifted to the top of the community Christmas tree Monday night and officially turned on the lights to open the Christmas season in Kings Mountain.

Santa Claus stole the show at the community-wide tree lighting at Mauney Memorial Library. Police estimated crowds at between 250-300 people.

Before the unusual appearance - Santa usually arrives on a sleigh pulled by reindeer - children from Trinity Day School sang Christmas carols and Mayor Scott Neisler read the Christmas Story from St. Luke.

Santa's lap was full of children for about an hour after the holiday gathering as they gave him their Christmas wish list. Rev. Doug Peterson, pastor of Boyce Memorial ARP Church, a new board member, assisted by a member of his congregation and youth volunteers Donta Adams, Abby Kates and Danielle Miller, served refreshments.

LISTEN UP SANTA - Trey Edgerton and Erin Moore give Santa their wish list for Christmas during the jolly ole man's visit to Mauney Memorial Library Monday night as 250 people officially opened the Christmas season as lights were turned on the community Christmas tree.

Jim Crawley elected chairman of Cleveland County Commission

Jim Crawley, retired manager at Kings Mountain's PMDC plant, was elected chairman of the county board of commissioners Monday night by vote of 4-3 after three new commissioners, Ray Thomas, Willie McIntosh and Joe Cabaniss, took the oath of office.

Cabaniss was elected vice-chairman.

Before the elections got underway County Manager Lane Alexander said he had asked advice from the Institute of Government at Chapel Hill which suggested that a majority of four votes would be required to elect the chairman and vice-chairman of the seven member board.

McIntosh nominated Ralph Gilbert for the office of chairman and Bobby Malloy nominated Crawley. Crawley took the chairman's position with four votes. McIntosh voted for his nominee and Gilbert voted for himself.

Gilbert, Cabaniss and Malloy were nominated for the position of vice chairman with Gilbert receiving three votes, Cabaniss two and Malloy two.

In a second round of nominations, McIntosh nominated Gilbert and Thomas nominated Cabaniss with Cabaniss receiving the necessary four votes.

"I never heard of a voting method that required four votes,"said Gilbert after the meeting. Mary Accor agreed, saying that General Statutes 153A-39 does not stipulate the number of votes needed to elect either officer.

The three outgoing members on the board, Chairman Cecil Dickson, E. T. Vanhoy and Sam Gold, cited accomplishments during their terms together, including improved relations between rescue squads and other emergency personnel, placing an EMS unit in Waco, purchasing land for the Broad River project, appointment of a land use board, increased funding for the sheriff's department and the three school districts, contracting with the county's waste haulers, improvements on county buildings and restoration of the merit raise system for county employees.

Pauline Mill gutted by fire

Pauline Mill, one of the city's oldest mills which dates to 1916 and abandoned for about 20 years, was gutted by fire Friday night and city firemen and the county fire marshal say the fire was set.

City police, the city fire department and county fire marshal Beau Lovelace are investigating the blaze which required nearly one million gallons of water to control.

Fire Chief Frank Burns said the call came into the local department at 9:38 p.m. Friday and when firemen arrived on the scene fire was raging inside the east end of the mill on Walker Street.

"The building is in such bad shape that we made an outside defensive attack so we would not put people at risk for injury," said the chief. He said no one was injured and there was no danger of the fire spreading to nearby houses.

Oak Grove and Bethlehem Volunteer firemen helped fight the fire and Shelby firemen donated an elevated fire stream because local firemen couldn't get on top of the building, said Burns.

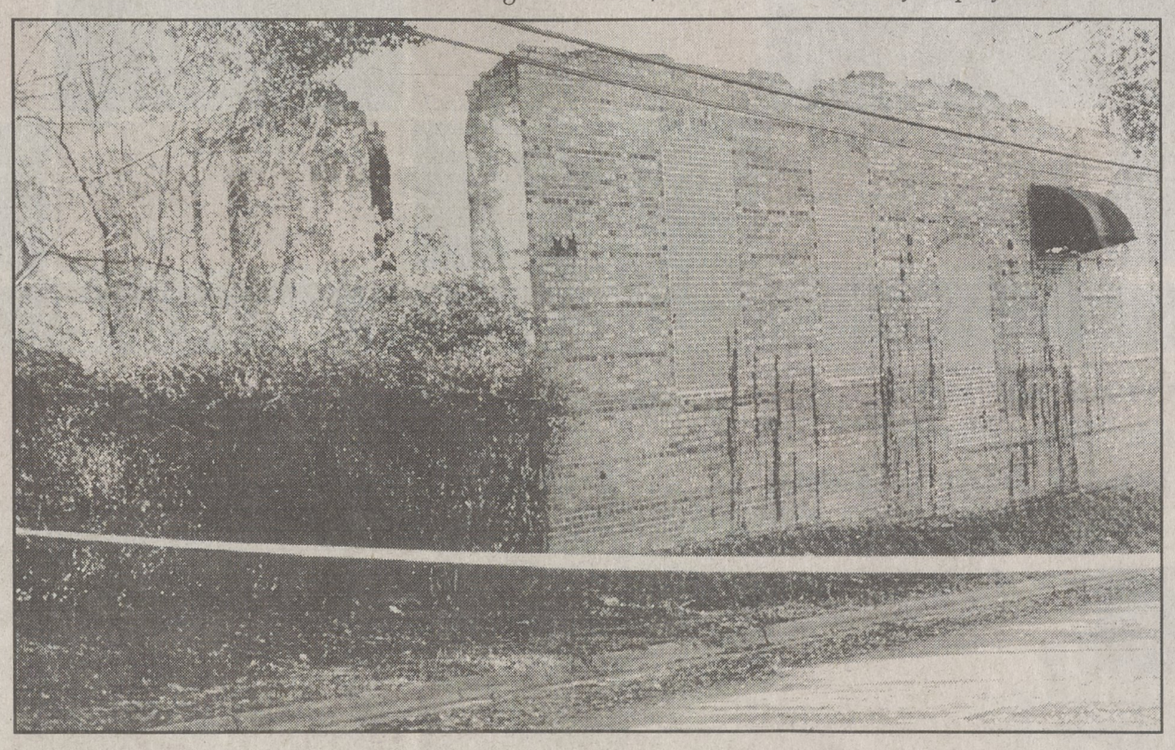
Old looms and machinery owned by Johnny Bunch and Bunch Inc. were stored inside the building. Burns said neither the building or its contents were insured.

Firemen were on the scene 18 hours. For safety reasons they had to wait until daylight Saturday to tear off part of the old roof and put out the remaining hot spots. Because of the chance of debris falling firemen pushed down the wall next to the street.

Monday city police and fire investigators were interviewing neighbors who live across the street from the mill.

Captain Richard Reynolds said there are no suspects and encourages anyone who may

See Mill, 10-A



FIRE GUTS MILL - The photograph above shows the walls still standing in the fire-gutted Pauline Mill which law enforcement officers say was the work of arsonists Friday night. The wall close to the street has since been pushed down by firemen to avoid injuries from debris falling from the structure.