

MAN ON THE HOSE - C.D. (Red) Ware is pictured on his retirement in 1973 with the city's 1938 pumper truck which was practically brand new when Ware began his volunteer service as a fire-

and Charles and Rick Witherspoon and other greatgrandchildren C. J. Austin, Charlie, John and Ashley Witherspoon. He misses his buddies at the fire department and rescue squad and says the red carpet is out for them to visit him.

After his retirement from the City of Kings Mountain, Red was a security guard supervisor at Clevemont Mills for 10 years. He also formerly volunteered with the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad and at one time was a shipping clerk at the Margrace Mill (1928-47) and a mailman for three years from 1947-50. He is a former deacon at Kings Mountain Baptist Church and a former scoutmaster and held perfect attendance in the Kings Mountain Lions Club for 15 years.

But firefighting was the love that caught his fancy.

During his tenure with the local department Red discovered his education never stopped. He has attended state and county fire schools so many times that he lost track of the diplomas and certificates he has received. He served under four chiefs, Grady King, Pat Tignor, Floyd Thornburg and Gene and deep sea. Hunting and fish-Tignor. Current Chief Frank ing were a part of growing up Burns was a young fireman when Ware left the squad 20

Firefighting has changed since Red Ware first volunteered his services.

"Used to we would just take a hose, run up to the window of a burning house and start flooding the place," he said. "Now I'd guess we don't use a tenth of the water we used back then. Now we have equipment that will allow us to breathe inside a burning building. Way back years ago you couldn't even get close to the building."

The veteran fireman recalled no narrow escapes but admitted he had to move the pumper a few times because of the heat. He said he got a bit heat-burned in his face one time but that was because he had the pumper too close to the blaze. The biggest fire he recalled fighting was when the old Slater Mill

Ware said the local department has never lost a fireman fighting fire but one fireman was killed in a wreck on his way to a fire.

In his younger days Ware also loved to fish and hunt. He still belongs to the Clover, SC Deer Club and used to hunt about eight times a year and bring deer home with him.

"I can't climb now and the mountains seem to grow taller," he laughed.

The fishing goes back to his younger days too and he's fished in rivers, creeks, lakes and deep sea. Hunting and fishon a farm. The oldest in a family of five boys and two girls, Ware lived on the farm until he was 20 years old. His parents were the late Charles P. and Lula Carroll Ware. His brothers

are James, Howard and Robert Ware, all of Kings Mountain, and the late Carl Ware. His sisters were the late Nellie Thornburg, Mary Spearman and Lucille Randall.

In 1928 he married Estelle Hord and they had two children, Charles "Bud" Ware and Phyllis Ware Austin.

As a former firefighter Ware recalled dreams of the late Grady King that someday another fire station would be located in the Linwood section of the city. "Who knows, maybe Grady's dream will come true,"

When Red hears his friends talk about new building activity in the present City Hall section of the city King can't help but remember the drowning of two boys in a lake in the area of Lake Street which is now Regal Drive and the location of a new office complex.

'Things have changed in Kings Mountain over the years and I've seen and been a part of some of it," says Ware. He said the current fire department began with a handful of volun-

"I am really proud of the Mountain Department," says Ware as he leafed through his scrapbook which showed a picture made in 1973 of Ware in his familiar uniform standing beside the city's pumper which was practically brand new when Ware began his volunteer service as a firefighter back in 1941.

Hanging up his hard hat was tough for Ware who liked to be where the action was.

### ZONING

Shelby realtor John Barker has submitted an application for rezoning of the 80 acres which front 2000 feet on the east side of Crocker Road.

City Planning Director Steve Killian said an Indiana company is eying the property to build manufactured homes that

could employ up to 250 people. Killian's staff is ready to make a recommendation to members of the board which will vote on the request which will be forwarded to City Council for consideration at the February 25 regular meeting.



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# AIRBAG

facing child safety seat, and allowing car owners to have their airbags deactivated.

It was the government's arrogant disdain for cynics. the ability of the public to make competent choices that created the airbag problem in the first best remedy. The government's underlying message is still the same: consumers should not be allowed to choose between a new car with airbags or a new car without.

Sadly, the deaths caused by airbags were all san public policy think tank in Raleigh.

preventable. As long ago as the mid-1970s the automobile industry warned the government that airbags posed a serious threat to children. But overzealous safety advocates, particularly Ralph Nader's Public Citizen, cynically waved away the back seat or one that is too small to hold a rear-studies, claiming that the auto companies only wanted to save the expense of installing the devices. Tragically, the government sided with the

Now that we know the auto manufacturers were right, the government should revoke the place, and that same disdain now prohibits the mandate immediately. Otherwise, more women and children will needlessly die.

> Cline is the director of publications at the John Locke Foundation, a non-profit, non-parti-

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