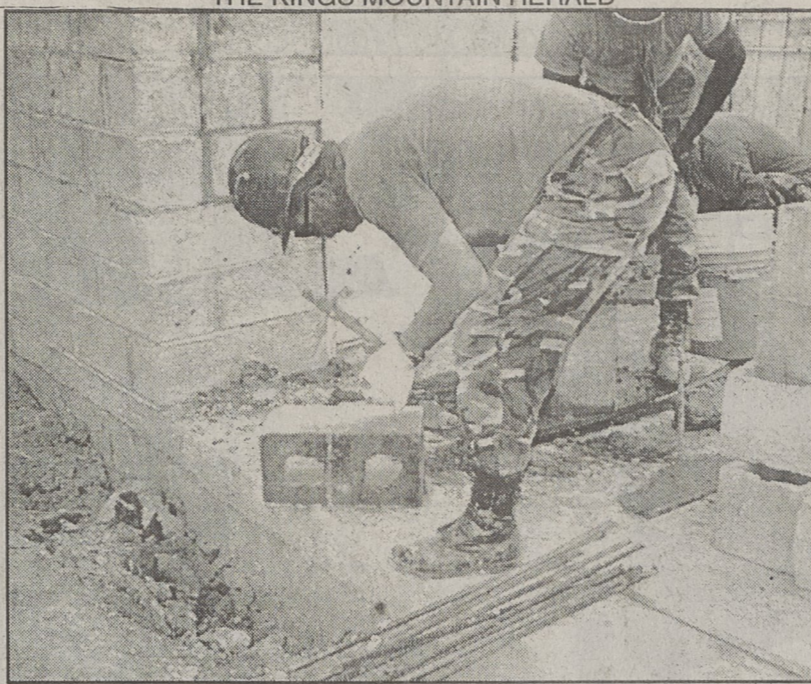


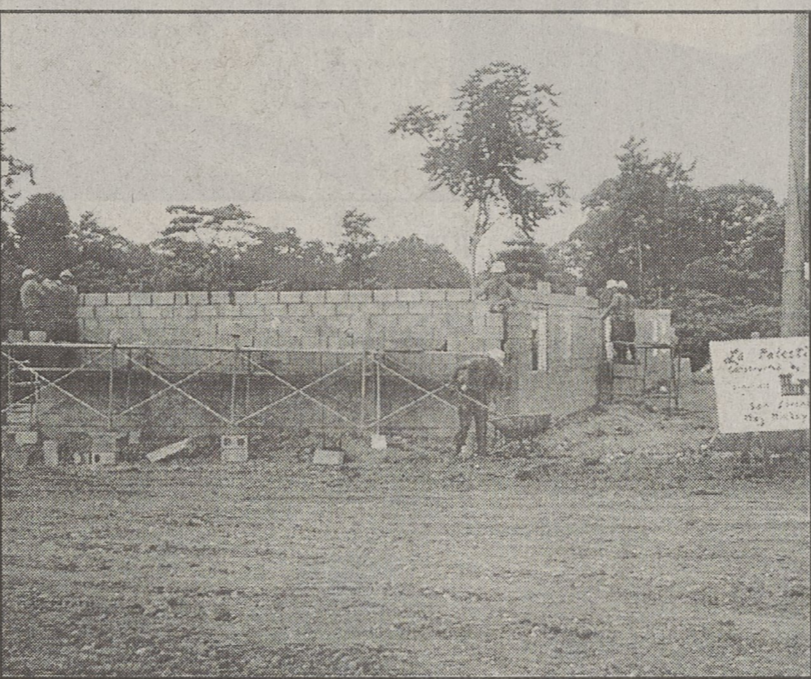
MIXING MORTAR - Specialist Elliott mixes mortar in Ecuador during a recent Kings Mountain National Guard project to build a school and day care center.



BUILDING SCHOOL - SFC George Crosswhite and other local National Guardsmen helped build a school in Ecuador recently as a community service project.



LOOKING AT SCHOOL SITE - A young child in Ecuador looks at the site for a new elementary school built recently by National Guardsmen from the Kings Mountain area.



SCHOOL GOES UP - The La Palestina School in Ecuador constructed by the 505th Engineering Battalion headquartered in Kings Mountain is pictured above.

KM National Guard builds school in Ecuador

Kings Mountain National Guardsmen returned Sunday from San Lorenzo, Ecuador, where they built a three-room block school house and two block buildings which will house a day care center.

"This was just one of many community projects that the

Guard is involved in," said Captain Chris Newton of Company 505th Engineering Battalion which includes members from Kings Mountain and Forest City.

Newton said the first 50 soldiers went out on June 28 and returned July 13. The second

detachment of 50 soldiers went to Ecuador on July 13 and returned July 27.

"We had a great time and enjoyed working to build better schools and day care centers for children," he said.

Newton said Guard members also distributed school supplies

which were donated by Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church in Kings Mountain.

"We appreciate families and employers allowing their soldiers to be away from home and work to do this community service work," said Newton.

Myrick says tax cut has something for everyone

Rep. Sue Myrick, 9th District Republican, is headed home this week after a long session of the U.S. Congress in the nation's capital.

The Cleveland County legislator says she is elated that for the first time since 1969 the U. S. Congress has passed a balanced budget and made the deepest tax cuts in 16 years on millions of families, college students and investors.

"I am pleased about the tax bill because it gives relief to just about everyone. We had to spend more money than I would have liked to get the president to sign off on the tax cuts," said Myrick who voted yes.

Both the House and Senate approved the spending and tax measures by overwhelming margins.

Myrick gave the President's Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles of Charlotte much of the credit for the success of the bipartisan negotiations. "Mr. Bowles made a real concerted effort to get this done during this session," said Myrick.

The budget package eliminates deficit spending by 2002, providing billions of dollars in new federal outlays for some entitlement programs and health insurance coverage for poor children while cutting taxes by \$94 billion over five years. Families with children under 18 will qualify for a \$400 per child tax credit which increases to \$500 in 1999.

"We've balanced the budget, saved Medicare and given people tax relief," said Myrick who represents parts of Gaston, Cleveland, including Kings Mountain, and Mecklenburg Counties.

"This really benefits a lot of people across the boards. We've got a child tax credit, education tax credit, help for people buying their first home and you can keep up to \$500,000 in capital gains if you sell a home. In my mind, it is more important to let people keep more of their money. For all these years we've been taking it away from them."

Increasing spending on education, allowing families to pay no tax to qualify for the child tax credit and raising taxes on tobacco products to pay for children's medical care bothers



REP. SUE MYRICK

many Republicans," Mrs. Myrick said.

"A lot of us were concerned about the extra spending and new taxes," she said, "but again, the president demanded it."

Myrick said the capital gains relief decreased from 28 to 20 percent and if a senior citizen or couple earns \$41,000 or less the rates goes down to 10 percent allowing senior citizens to sell stocks and property.

"The capital gain is great for all because if you sell your home you get a \$500,000 deduction and there are no strings attached," she explained. "You can sell again in two years and get the same deal."

Educational credits for people with kids in school and college and a new savings program that allows withdrawal of money from an IRA if you have kids in school are other benefits as well as withdrawal tax free for payment of a first home.

Myrick said the changes in the estate and death package were not as good as she would have liked.

There were things she didn't like in the spending bill but Myrick declared, "we can't get everything, that's part of life up here but we did work together to get it done, a real bipartisan effort."

Mrs. Myrick defended criticism that Republicans gave away too much on the federal budget deal but she said there were positive results, praising the bipartisanship that led to its passage.

Myrick says she hopes

Democrats and Republicans can continue to work together in 1998. She said she would work for further tax cuts.

"Thirty months ago, the American people gave Republicans control of Congress. We made some important commitments," said Myrick. "We said we would balance the budget for our children's and grandchildren's future. We said we would save Medicare from bankruptcy, preserving it for today's and tomorrow's seniors. We said we would reverse Washington's reach and send power and money back to the states."

"This week we're making good on those commitments and setting this nation on a course to a more secure future for our children and our families."

Continued Myrick "The bipartisan plan to save Medicare from bankruptcy in this historic legislation will expand health care options for seniors, giving them the same choice of health care plans as working couples. We extend Medicare's solvency for at least a decade, giving Congress the opportunity to solve the problem of the Baby Boomers' retirement. And we modernize Medicare for today's seniors, extending preventive benefits so seniors stay healthy."

Myrick said a big push will begin with the next session to

change the income tax system but that the people will decide the issue at debates which start in the fall all around the country.

"We want to get the word out about the debates and have tentatively set the date of August 28 at 6:30 p.m. for a town meeting at Mauney Memorial Library in Kings Mountain," she said.

"The game plan which starts this fall is a push to pretty much eliminate the IRS," said Myrick.

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