

300 attend tree lighting ceremony at KM library

Santa arrived Monday night in the new city fire truck and was hoisted in a bucket truck to light with twinkling lights the tall green community Christmas tree on the library lawn.

A crowd estimated at 300 enjoyed Christmas music by a chorus from North School under the direction of Judy Whisnant and were delighted by a fireworks show conducted by the city fire department.

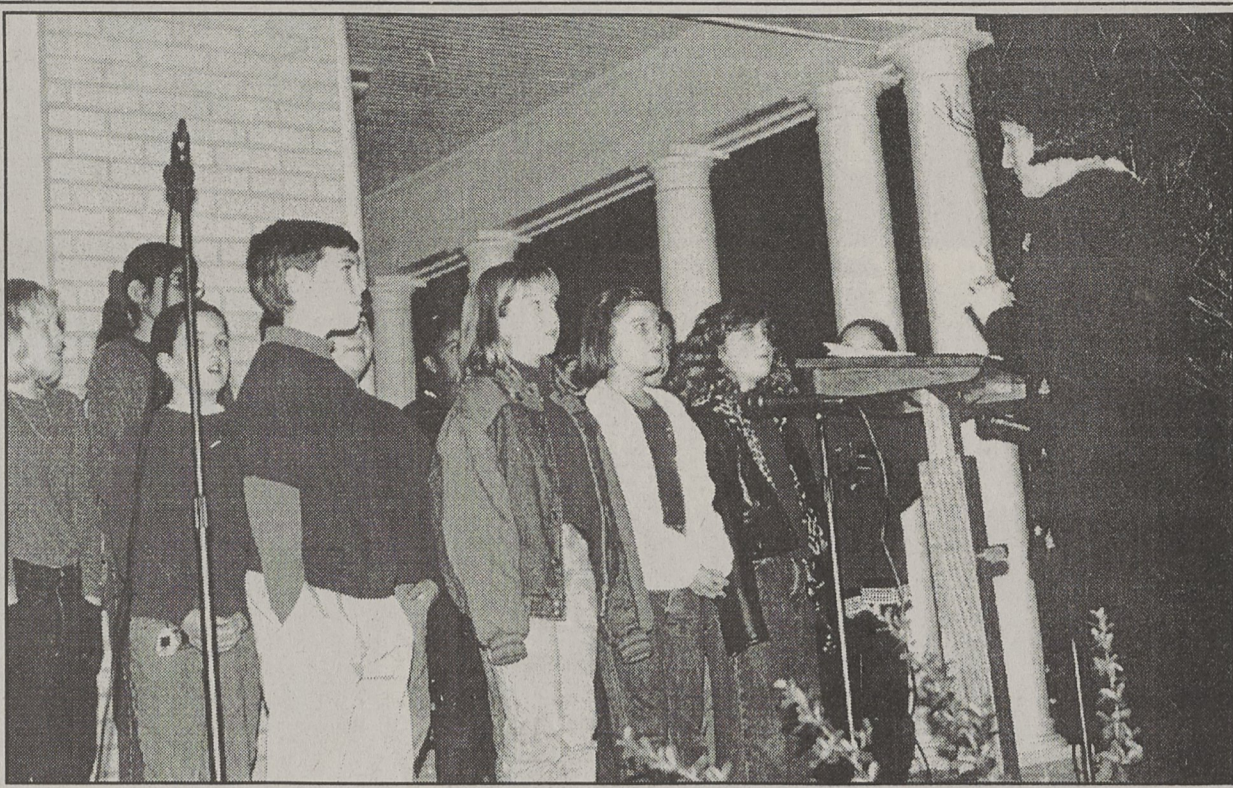
Children's Librarian Louise Sanders and Mayor Scott Neisler gave the welcome and the mayor read the Christmas Story from St. Luke.

Dr. Jeff Mauney, chairman of the Mauney Memorial Library board of trustees, spoke briefly about the library's 50-year history from its beginning in the

basement of the old City Hall to the present facility. He announced plans for a major fundraising project to build a Children's Wing.

After the tree lighting, Santa played host to an overflow crowd of children in Weir Auditorium. The kids climbed on his lap to give their Christmas wish list and afterwards enjoyed refreshments served by a library committee headed by Annie Corry, assisted by youth volunteers.

Readers who didn't visit the discard book room adjoining the main lobby may do so during the month of December and receive free books, according to Librarian Rose Turner. The giving of books is the traditional Christmas gift from library board and staff to its readers.



SING FOR JOY - North School students are directed by Judy Whisnant in Christmas songs at Mauney Memorial Library Monday night. The tree lighting festivity attracted 300 people.

Paving bid awarded by KM City Council

Patching crews will soon begin work on some city streets in preparation for paving which gets underway, weather permitting, after the first of the year.

City Council Tuesday night awarded the low bid of \$228,921.20 to John Jenkins for paving. The money will come from state Powell Bill funds.

City Manager Jimmy Maney said the board had approved \$150,000 initially in the 1997-98 budget for street paving but that Powell Bill funds received recently total \$305,000 and he recommended that the board could move ahead with spending more this year on overlays and patch work.

Maney said the city will spend a half million dollars in 1997-98 from Powell Bill funds for street improvements and he said potholes are getting attention and most streets will get repaired.

Engineer Al Moretz outlined plans for the street improvements during a lengthy City Council meeting last Tuesday night.

Moretz displayed drawings of projected overlays planned on Carpenter from King to Ridge, Ridge from Gaston to Carpenter, Gold Street, Battleground to Gaston and a portion of Alpine and Northwoods Drive. In addition resurfacing of Waco and Cansler to Piedmont Avenue is planned and seal coating is planned for Allison Court and Downing Street.

Councilman Jerry Mullinax asked why overlays couldn't be done on Monroe Avenue. "It's badly needed now and this project has been on the back burner too long," he said.

Moretz estimated an additional cost of \$44,000 for the Monroe Avenue improvements not designated in the current paving schedule.

Maney said the patching of numerous streets all over town will amount to \$68,000 which he said "is a good price."

In other actions Tuesday, Council:

Rezoned property of Todd Weaver at West King and City Streets conditional use/ light industrial to allow an automobile body shop and automobile towing and storage operation at Weaver Body Shop and approved Beulah Anderson's request for modification of the city's subdivision ordinance for her lot located at the end of Afton Drive.

The board authorized proposed use of law enforcement funds from the Bureau of Justice Assistance of \$29,000. Chief Richard Reynolds said the funds would be used for computers to tie-in the local police office to the county and Shelby Police Departments.

The board renewed an annual resolution by the Planning Department which would keep the city's annexation options open.

Released \$1,519.11 to the Isothermal Planning and Development Commission

Council denies developer's variance request

Siding with neighbors opposing a variance from a builder to develop four lots on Jackson Street, the Kings Mountain Board of Adjustment voted 4-1 Tuesday morning to deny the request.

City Councilman Dean Spears, contractor for Castlegate Construction, said the firm wanted to build four homes instead of two at 1001-1003 Jackson Street but in order

to do that a variance would be needed to reduce the lot width from 75 feet for a R-10 lot to 64 and 67 feet.

Spears said the firm wanted to put up \$90,000 homes similar to those it is building in Mountain Manor on Joann Court.

But David Carpenter, 1003 Groves St.; Richard Styers, 808 Boyce St., Clint Feemster, Thomas Perry, Carrie Hardin

and Carl and Lynn Swink said it is hard to justify any additional homes in the area because of the road conditions and traffic.

Carpenter said motorists ignore the three-way stop sign at Boyce and Grove and buses bottleneck at the intersection. He called attention to poor drainage and said the new construction would devalue his property directly in front of the proposed construction.

Feemster said the houses would be stacked against each other if four houses are built on the lot under consideration.

"We just can't handle four more homes, maybe two," said Perry.

Mrs. Hardin and Becky Styers, representing her daughter and son-in-law, Lynn and Carl Swink, said granting the variance would be a hardship on current property owners. "Two houses may be okay but four, no," said Hardin.

Spears said the new homes would enhance the area and would not lower property values. "The traffic is already there," he said.

Voting on each "finding of fact" by 4-1, the board determined there were no grounds for undue hardship preventing reasonable use of the property since the developer can put at least one or two houses on the lot and comply with the city codes and ordinances. Voting against the variance were Jim Belt, G. C. Kelly, Bud Ballard and Lou Ballew. Voting for the variance was Herman Greene. Chairman Bob Myers presided.

"These new homes would be an improvement on Jackson Street and overall we'd be investing in the future of Kings Mountain," said Greene, noting that he could appreciate the concern of the adjoining property owners.

A request from Ann Falls Davis for a variance for a lot to front a publicly maintained

road was granted by the board. Tommy Hall said he has purchased 6 1/2 acres on Merrimont Drive to build a home. Several neighbors questioned why a variance was required. Denise Stallings and Rev. Olin Byrum asked whether or not the initial development of a 67 acre tract west of the property would include a lot of traffic and a lot of homes and lots but Hall said he is interested in building only one house.

Planning Director Steve Killian said the property owned by Ken and Ann Davis is being annexed by the city June 30, 1998. "Until it's annexed there's no way a publicly maintained road can be created," he explained.

Pointer Brand

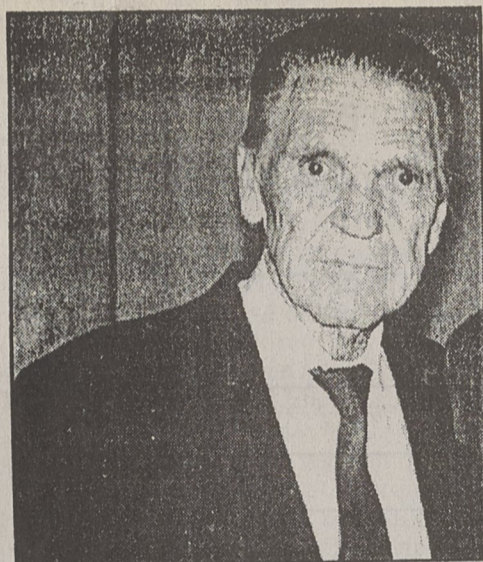
Overalls and Work Dungarees



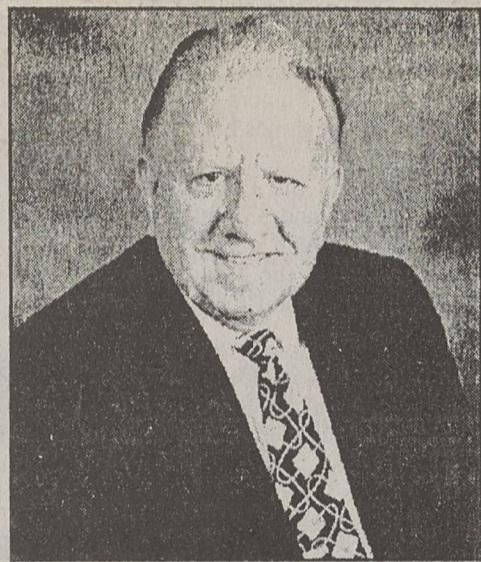
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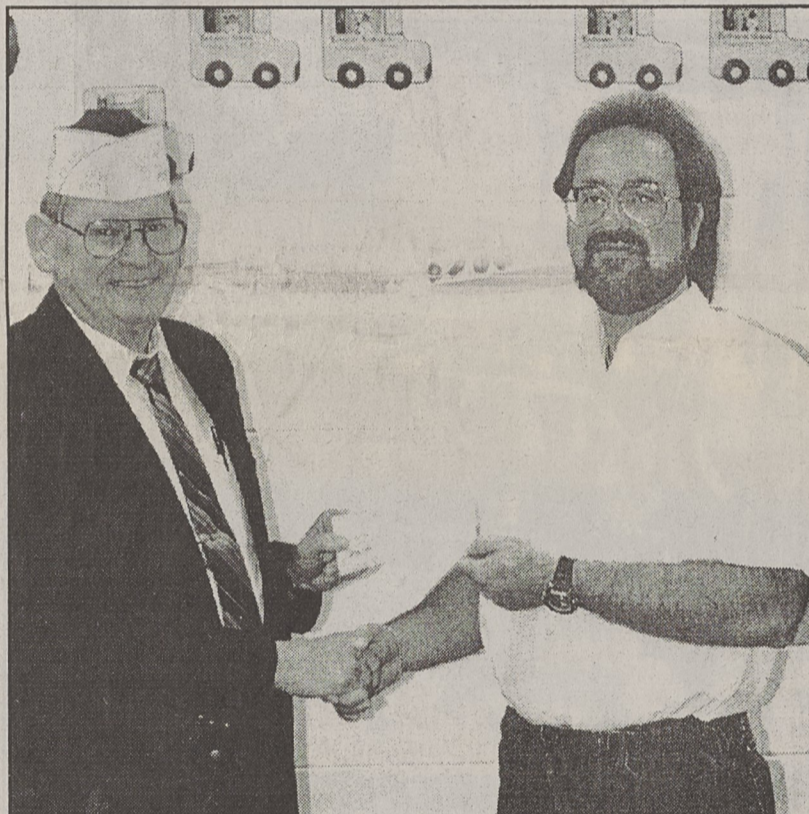
7:30 pm NIGHTLY

Don Warren, W.N. Podaras, & Others

Sunday 2:30pm,

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GIFT TO NEEDY CHILDREN - Frank B. Glass VFW Post 9811 Commander Don Adams, left, presents a check for \$1,000 to Bethware School PTO President Claude Suber. The money will be used for Christmas presents for 50-75 underprivileged children. Adams said the Post wanted to make Christmas merrier for others.

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