

Looking Back



April 7, 1983

North Carolina State University basketball fever was sweeping the front page of the April 7, 1983 Kings Mountain Herald. The lead story and photograph showed N.C. State graduate and former athlete Zeb Plonk proudly displaying his Wolfpack car tag after learning that his alma mater had won the NCAA national basketball championship. Also on the front page was a photo of nurse Linda Sanders dressed in her N.C. State sweatshirt and pants combo.

School news in the April 7, 1983 Herald was highlighted by a story about Jennifer Hamrick winning the District Spelling Bee. Hamrick had correctly spelled "sapphire" and "pendulum" to take the top prize. She was an eighth grader at Kings Mountain High School at the time. Also in Herald school news for the first week of April, 1983, winners of the West School Talent Show were featured. Winners were Heather Melton, Abbey Gann and Rivers Smith.

Herald sports news for April 7 spotlighted a ladies golf tournament that was scheduled for the Kings Mountain Country Club. Over 65 lady duffers were slated to play in the contest which had contestants come from as far away as Charlotte.

Agriculture also made the April 7, 1983 edition of the Herald. In a story and photo feature, it was announced that the poultry judging team from Kings Mountain High School had placed fifth in the State Future Farmers of America competition held in Raleigh. The students graded eggs as well as dressed chickens.

A bevy of young beauty queens made the social page in the April 7 Herald. Sponsored by the Kings Mountain Booster Club, a beauty contest was held at B.N. Barnes Auditorium that saw Heather Melton crowned Little Miss Kings Mountain. Runner-ups were Venia Elliot and Laura Beth Moss.

Local food stores were big advertisers in the April 7, 1983 Herald. Several full-page color ads featured Buffet cat food at just 33 cents a can at Ingles, Clinomint toothpaste at Winn-Dixie for \$1.79 a tube, and a whole Mexican pineapple at Harris-Teeter for \$1.59.

Spring Clean

Church youth give up their Saturday to clean exit ramps in Kings Mountain

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Twenty-one young people from the Kings Mountain Family Worship Center Church of God have a better appreciation of a clean city and hard work after a massive fund-raising project Saturday which saw them clean five major exit ramps of U.S. 74 Bypass and Interstate 85, resulting in 165 bags of trash.

Spring Clean 2000, coordinated by youth pastor Philip Burton, resulted in \$3,000 being raised to help sponsor the youth trips summer mission to the New Mexico State Church of God Camp, where local youth will serve as counselors and recreation leaders while Rev. Burton preaches and helps lead worship services and other activities.

Members of the group will also take a trip to St. Simon's Island, Georgia during spring break to minister at weekend praise and worship services through a joint effort with a Georgia church.

Members of the group probably didn't know picking up trash would be such hard work when they signed on to help with Saturday's project. But the eight-hour effort was well worth it, and they have plans to do more of it in the future.

"We ended up covering both sides of the roads at each exit ramp, and covered several areas in the middle of the highways," noted Burton. "In addition, a group worked inside at the Crisis Ministry helping organize closets and get everything in shape. It was just a great lesson for the kids. I heard a lot of them say how it would make them think twice about throwing out trash. I was really impressed with them."

The youth plan to apply for a project in the State's Adopt a Highway Project, an ongoing effort by many organizations, church and school groups to clear major highways and road-sides of trash.

"We would like to be able to just take care of the on and off ramps in the area," said Burton. "That seems to be the area where the trash is the worst. Cars are coming to a stop there and it seems to be a nice location to throw out trash."

Burton, other youth leaders and the youth, who ranged in age from 12 to 21, were appalled at the number of beer cans and bottles that we thrown

along the highways, and many of them weren't empty.

"We picked up about everything you can imagine, including a lot of things you wouldn't want to print," Burton said.

Burton receives much of the credit for the idea behind a clean-up campaign, but he said local businesses, individuals and corporations who sponsored the group saw a great need for it, also.

"We talked to a lot of different companies, and every one of them was very repulse by the trash in the community," he said. "It just seemed to be a real springboard for them seeing it done."

The group planned to evaluate their effort at their regular weekly youth meeting last

night, and begin making plans for future clean-up efforts.

"The church was very appreciative of their effort," Burton said. "They honored the young people Sunday morning and definitely let them know that they appreciated it. They saw the orange bags all over the community."

"It was one of those experiences where the young people left feeling very excited," he said. "They looked back at all the did and just couldn't believe that they accomplished that much. Some said they hadn't work so hard in their lives."

"It left a lot of them sore - because they worked a hard eight hours - but when they get on and off those exits and see how clean they look they have something to really be proud of."



Young people from The Family Worship Center Church of God of Kings Mountain spent all day Saturday cleaning the exit ramps of U.S. 74 Bypass and I-85 of trash and litter. In top photo, Elizabeth Carroll picks up trash at the Moss Lake Exit near Bethware School. In bottom photo are other members of the group who were collecting trash on Business 74. Front is Karissa Burton. Back, left to right, are Richie Wells, Becky Burton, Philip Burton, Anthony Fleming, Chris Markcum and Johnathon Tittle.

Photos by Gary Stewart




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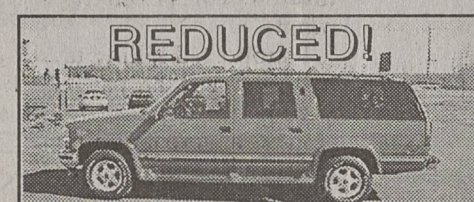
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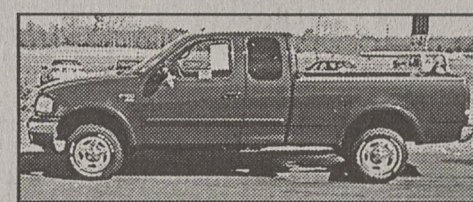
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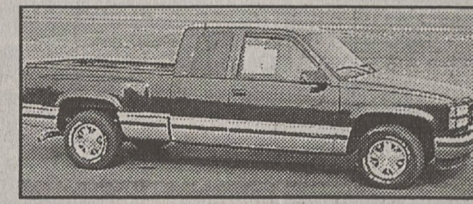
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