

The Herald

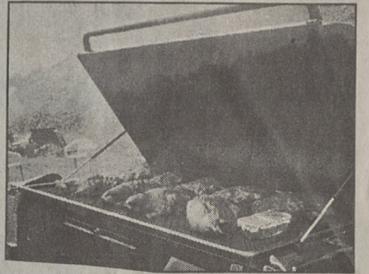
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Parker's Place

KMHS gym dedicated in honor of retired coach Donald Parker

By ALAN HODGE
 Staff Writer

A legendary figure in both athletics and education was honored Tuesday night when the gymnasium at Kings Mountain High School was named for former basketball coach Donald L. Parker. The 87-year-old Parker and his family came to town for the event from their current residence in Tennessee.

Parker's illustrious career during the 32 years he coached and worked for Kings Mountain District Schools was recalled by former students and colleagues during the Sports Hall of Fame Banquet.

Speaking of Parker, former student Bob Neill referred to him as "a dynamic role model." Neill also said that Parker was intent upon seeing his students succeed in their endeavors on

and off the court.

Jack Ruth, a student athlete during Parker's reign in the late 1940s said he too looked up to his coach and mentor.

"Don Parker is a hero in the old style of Tex Ritter and Hopalong Cassidy," said Ruth. "He was a hero then, and he's a hero now."

Speaking to the large crowd of well-wishers gathered in B.N. Barnes Auditorium, Parker gave an emotional acknowledgement to the honor bestowed upon him.

"It was a wonderful 55 years in Kings Mountain," said Parker. "I've had many wonderful moments in my life, and the day I came to Kings Mountain was one of them."

Parker also said that he and his family often think of their friends in Kings Mountain and of those he taught while here.

See Parker, 10A



Supt. of Schools Larry Allen congratulates retired coach Donald L. Parker at dedication of the Donald L. Parker Gymnasium Tuesday night at Kings Mountain High School.

City may get tough on peddlers

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

Peddling anywhere you like in the city limits of Kings Mountain may soon be outlawed if Mayor Rick Murphrey is successful in having city peddling codes updated.

So could loud noise, and vicious dogs running loose.

Murphrey said he and City Staff are reviewing all three ordinances with hopes of putting some enforcement teeth into them.

Murphrey said peddling in the downtown area is "not fair to our established retail businesses" and he is planning to promote an ordinance that would require all persons obtaining peddler's licenses to set up their stands at a specific location such as the old Kings Mountain Depot farmers market.

"We're looking at the ordinances, and maybe we'll designate just one area," Murphrey said. "The main point is that we're going to look at enforcing the code that eliminates a lot of this peddling on the side of the street."

Murphrey said peddling isn't a huge problem now, but with summer coming on it could be.

"We will be discussing this with City Council and City Staff, and may have it on the Council agenda at the May meeting," Murphrey said.

Murphrey said the ordinance would probably not include Kings Mountain's two-mile ETJ.

Murphrey said an amended noise ordinance could come before Council at its meeting next Tuesday night. He said loud cars are of particular interest.

"We get a lot of calls in the summer time as people get outside more in residential and business areas," he said. "We need to re-write the ordinance and put some enforcement into it."

"We're looking at all surrounding cities and reviewing their ordinances and discussing it will Council."

He said loud cars are always a problem, and sometimes outside neighborhood activities become very noisy.

See Peddler, 10A

City is included in hotel tax bill

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

The City of Kings Mountain is included in a hotel occupancy tax bill that was approved by the State Finance Committee last week and will now go before the House and Senate.

The bill is being sponsored by Senator David Hoyle of Gaston County.

If the 3% occupancy tax is approved, it would generate revenue for the City of Kings Mountain to use to promote and attract tourism.

"We would hope to use this money to help us become a gateway community to the parks," said KM Mayor Rick Murphrey. "You can use this money to promote tourism, develop billboards, use it for downtown revitalization or murals, and in other areas to attract people into town. This will be a big boost in developing tourism for the city."

If the bill passes through the State Legislature, Kings Mountain City Council would then adopt a resolution levying a room occupancy tax. It would also adopt a resolution creating a City Tourism Development Authority. One-third of the authority would be persons affiliated with businesses that collect the tax, and three-fourths of the membership would be individuals currently active in the promotion of travel and tourism in the city.

"I am excited about this news," Mayor Murphrey said. "This will help us with the particular programs we have in, downtown revitalization and the gateway to the parks. It's going to be a real progressive step toward expediting the programs of promoting tourism for the city of Kings Mountain."



Gary Stewart, Judy Medlin and Delbert Dixon, left to right, were inducted into the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame at the 14th annual banquet and induction ceremony Tuesday night at Kings Mountain High School.

3 inducted into Sports Hall of Fame

By Alan Hodge
 Staff Writer

Hundreds of friends, fans, and relatives gathered Tuesday evening at B.N. Barnes Auditorium to induct three new members into the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame. Inductees included veteran

Herald editor and sportswriter Gary Stewart, volunteer sports time clock keeper Delbert Dixon, and 1950s standout basketball star Judy Medlin Champion.

The candidates were inducted by longtime sportswriter Dwight Frady, former KMHS football coach Ron Massey, and

former coach and retired superintendent of Hendersonville city schools Bill Bates. Ron Wilson of Kings Mountain District Schools acted as MC of the event.

Also included in Tuesday's ceremony was a tribute to special guest legendary KMHS basketball coach and mentor Don

Parker.

Following introductions, Frady paid tribute to Stewart's long career as a writer and supporter of Kings Mountain sports.

"Gary comes from a simpler time," said Frady. "He has long

See Hall, 10A

Gone but not forgotten

Falls Exxon was downtown gathering spot since 1928

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

To some Kings Mountain folks it was a landmark. To others it was an eyesore and had to come down.

The old Otis Falls Esso Station at the corner of Business 74 and Battleground Avenue met the same fate as most of the old filling stations Thursday when Ken Bumgardner Excavating leveled it and hauled the old brick and cement away.

About the only things salvageable from the inside of the building were a stack of Kings Mountain Heralds tracing back to 1970 and a case of soft drink bottles commemorating Dale Earnhardt's first Winston Cup championship.

While Mayor Rick Murphrey, City Manager Jimmy Maney and Codes Inspector Scott Layton stood by with smiles on their faces to be rid of another dilapidated building, the occasion brought back some happy memories for some folks.

Retired Fire Chief Gene Tignor, who helped current Chief Frank Burns salvage an old 1930's light and globe for the Fire Museum, recalled being a mechanic at Fred Plonk's Ford dealership, which was located directly behind the station.

"I was working for Fred when Don Larsen of the Yankees pitched his perfect game in the 1956 World Series," Tignor recalled. "I'd go into Otis's every few minutes to check on the score, and as the game went on we just quit

working and watched the ball game."

It also brought back memories for Otis Falls Jr., who began helping his dad at the station before he was legally old enough to work. Otis Jr. ran the station for several years after his father died, and sold it in 1983.

"We rented the building from M.L. Harmon Sr., and then Martin Harmon Jr.," Falls recalled. "Martin had promised me if he ever sold it I would get first shot at it. But after he died I found out the building was going to be sold. I hurriedly applied for a loan and the bank told me they'd give me the money but did not recommend that I buy the station."

See Station, 3A



Ken Bumgardner Excavating of Kings Mountain demolishes the old Otis Falls Service Station at the intersection of Business 74/Battleground Avenue Thursday morning.



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