

# KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

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## MERRY CHRISTMAS, KINGS MOUNTAIN



**Kings Mountain resident Toby Williams recently donated a log cabin, believed to be over 200 years old, to the Kings Mountain Historical Museum.**

## Williams donates 200-year-old cabin to Kings Mountain Historical Museum

By BEN LEDBETTER  
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain will be receiving a gift this year from one of its residents.

Toby Williams has donated a log cabin to the Kings Mountain Historical Museum, which has been on land he has owned for a number of years.

Williams, who bought the cabin from his sisters, said the cabin has a history before his own life.

"That cabin's there a long time before I was," Williams said. "I bet I don't know how old it was."

The cabin, which is now disassembled, sits in a truck until it will be erected again on property next to the Historical Museum on Piedmont Avenue.

Although Williams never lived in the cabin, he spent a lot of time around it, especially when he was between 12 and 13 years old.

"I just played around and worked out there," Williams said. "My daddy would take me out there on the wagon and say, 'you do this, and you do that.'"

Williams worked as a farmer who grew crops that included cotton, wheat, barley, and oats.

Progress, although it did not interfere with his farming, came through another piece of land he currently owns in the form of the U.S. Highway 74

BEN LEDBETTER / THE HERALD



**Mary Neisler looks inside the cabin while it was at its original site on the western side of Kings Mountain.**



TOBY WILLIAMS

Bypass.

Along with his cabin, the bypass has also become historical, according to Williams.

"It's not the bypass, it's the main highway now," Williams said. "They came through there and got 22 acres."

Williams received some money to build another house, with the building of the bypass.

The ownership of the cabin went through different owners, like the bypass assuming another function.

Williams' grandfather George Ware owned it before it was passed on to his father W.A. Williams.

See Cabin, 5A

## Christmas compassion

### Christmas party Friday at City Hall for families who lost homes in fires

By BEN LEDBETTER  
Staff Writer

Bob Grindell was at City Hall the day after the house he rented burned when he ran into Mayor Rick Murphrey.

After hearing about Grindell's losses in last Tuesday's house fire, the mayor decided to do something.

"He was down here doing some business and I came over to speak to him," Murphrey said. "In talking to him he said at that time he had been burnt out and had nothing."

"At that time, I said, 'We'll ask the community to get together and we'll hold a Christmas party.'"

And after receiving numerous

calls about people wanting to make donations toward the family, Murphrey is helping organize a Christmas party for the Grindells and the Swangers Friday at 3 p.m. at City Hall.

City Hall has become one of the donation drop off sites as Murphrey said he's seen money, cash, and clothing arrive. Furniture is also expected to arrive, and Murphrey said packages should be wrapped before being dropped off.

On Monday, the Christmas tree had a number of gifts under it, and others were stored in the council chambers.

But individuals have not been the only ones giving.

See Christmas, 5A

## Guiding hand

### Woman says man saved her life when she made wrong turn on 74

By GARY STEWART  
Editor of The Herald

This Christmas is one Marvita Spann of Kings Mountain will remember for a long time.

She witnessed what she calls "the hand of the Lord" guiding

her last Thursday when she came out of the parking lot of K-Mart in Shelby and turned the wrong way on a busy Highway 74 Bypass.

Spann, 79, said she had her mind on things other than driver after losing her keys in K-Mart. She had to call a locksmith to unlock her car so she could get a spare car key to crank her car.

"I had all of that on my mind, and it was also about 6:30 at night and I'm not used to driving at night," she said. "When I came out the light was green and instead of turning up the right lane (74 East) and coming back toward Kings Mountain I went across the to left side of

the road (74 West) and turned back toward Kings Mountain.

Spann said there were numerous cars "coming over the hill" on the westbound lanes and she began saying "Oh, Lord Jesus, please help me!"

Almost immediately a motorist came "out of nowhere" and blocked the lane she was in, got out of his car and directed traffic away from her vehicle.

"I rolled down my window, and he said 'watch my hand,'" Spann recalled. "When the traffic cleared he directed me back across the highway to the right lane and on toward Kings Mountain."

Everything happened so fast, Spann was not able to get the man's name and thank him for his actions.

"I would like to get in touch with him, because without him I don't think I would be here today," Spann said. "I thank God for him coming over and saving my life."

Spann said her hero was about 40 years old, "a nice looking young man" wearing a yellow shirt.

"I go to Shiloh church in

See Spann, 5A



SPANN

## Mabrys note 65th Christmas together

By BEN LEDBETTER  
Staff Writer

Hoyle and Eloise Mabry will have seen a lot in their 65 years together on Christmas Day.

It all started at a party one night.

"We didn't know each other before that," Eloise said.

And through the years, teamwork and faith are elements that have helped keep the Mabrys

together through the years.

"Just have to work together and trust in the Lord," Eloise said. "And he helps you through all the way."

The two married in 1936 in Gaffney, SC,



MABRYS

with a judge conducting the ceremony.

That was shortly after Eloise graduated from Central School. Currently the Mabrys attend Boyce Memorial Associated Reformed Presbyterian Church on King St. She attended a church in her hometown of Bessemer City before moving to Kings Mountain when the couple married.

When Hoyle joined the Navy,

he served during World War II and he saw different parts of the world. Some of the places he saw during his tour of duty included Guam, The Philippines, and Pearl Harbor.

"It was rough," Hoyle said "I don't want to go through it again."

The two were married during Hoyle's time in the Navy, and

See Mabrys, 5A



**David Gamble, son of Anne and John Gamble, tells Santa what he wants for Christmas Saturday at the Kings Mountain History Museum.**



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