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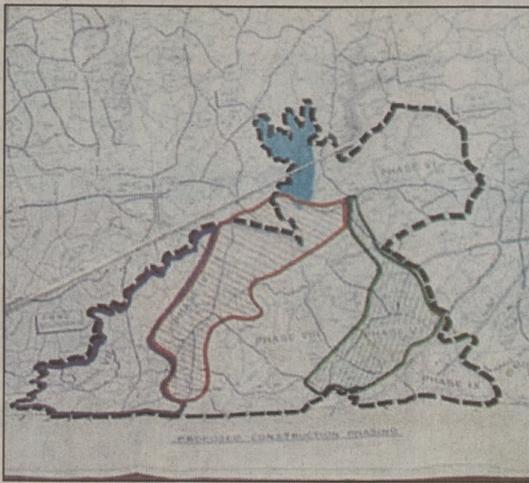
Surviving the drought

New lake idea to go to Council August 27

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

During his 23 years as mayor of Kings Mountain John Henry Moss earned the reputation as "the Mayor with the Midas touch" for his ability to get federal grants to help fund numerous city projects. During his administration the city received well over \$20 million in grants. But, the former mayor's legacy is the 15 billion-gallon John Henry Moss Reservoir, which has not only supplied drinking water for Kings Mountain residents for over 30 years but is largely responsible for the industrial boom that occurred in the east end of Cleveland County during that time. While most area municipalities

that are getting their water out of streams and rivers are facing a severe water crisis because of the current five-year drought, Kings Mountain not only has enough water in Moss Lake for its own needs but also enough to help area cities through their crisis. But even Moss says another lake is needed to take care of the future water needs and growth of the Kings Mountain area. Enter current Mayor Rick Murphrey. He says he wants to be the same "visionary" mayor that Moss was, and he has asked Moss' help in reviving a 1986 plan for a second lake near Moss Lake. It would be a 1,500 acre, 40-square mile watershed that would impound an additional



GARY STEWART / THE HERALD
 The map above shows the proposed area for a new lake on Muddy Fork Creek near the existing Moss Lake. Below, Kings Mountain mayor Rick Murphrey, left, and former mayor John Henry Moss overlook Moss Lake, which is down four feet because of the drought but still holds plenty of water to supply Kings Mountain's needs and help Shelby during its current water crisis.

BC off, Shelby on KM water

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

After working out a late night deal Thursday to provide two million gallons of water a day to Shelby, Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey assures Kings Mountain citizens that having an adequate water supply for them has been, and will continue to be the city's top priority. Shelby, which had been pumping approximately 3.5 million gallons a day out of Broad River, is now not getting enough out of that source to amount to anything, and asked Kings Mountain City Council in an emergency meeting Thursday at 11 p.m. to help them during their crisis. Shelby was facing requiring industries to scale back water use by at least 40 percent, which could have resulted in loss of jobs in an area where unemployment is already over 12 percent. Kings Mountain, which had been pumping about 4.5 million gallons a day out of Moss Lake to serve its customers, has been letting Shelby have a million gallons a day for a week. As soon as Shelby lays connector pipe (which should be finished today or Friday) that total will increase to two million, and KM's overall output to about 6.5 million. Murphrey said because of special arrangements with Gaston County and the State of North Carolina, and the fact that one of Kings Mountain's largest users, Anvil Knit, has cut its consumption because of scaling back its operation, the total number of gallons sold to Shelby may be balanced out. The State has given the city permission to keep more of the water coming down Buffalo Creek into Moss Lake, and has increased its pumping capacity from 8 million gallons a day to 8.4 million. In addition, a deal was worked out with Bessemer City and Gastonia for Gastonia to provide water to BC. Bessemer had been buying approximately 700,000 to 800,000 gallons a day from Kings Mountain. BC is already getting water from Gastonia. Murphrey said Moss Lake is being monitored daily. The lake level has dropped four feet during the drought and averages drop



From Russia with love

Jesse was 'chosen' for Kim and Jeff Hughes

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

Going into their marriage three years ago, Kim and Jeff Hughes of Kings Mountain knew that they could never have a child of their own. But, it would be hard to convince anyone who has seen their adopted son, Jesse Evan Denis Hughes, that he is adopted. He looks remarkably like his dad, and has many of his mother's features. Jesse was born November 21, 2001 in Russia. Almost nine months to the day, his adoption was approved and he flew with his exhausted new parents to a new life as an American citizen. Jesse may never know the conditions he lived in at an orphanage in Siberia. He will, however, know his heritage and his parents say when the time is right they will tell him about his natural parents and 2 1/2-year-old sister, Valerie. The Hughes began their adoption process late last year. They opted to adopt through an international



Jeff and Kim Hughes and their adopted son Jesse

agency rather than domestic, because they were told the process could be a year quicker. "We were told the process could take three years here," Kim recalled,

"and two years internationally and we didn't want to wait another year. We started looking into it and prayed that we would be led to people that could help us." They learned of Children's Hope International, which is based in St. Louis but has branches all over the world. The closest one to Kings Mountain is in Nashville, TN and the agency there began a home study that thoroughly checked out the couple and their home. That took several months, and Kim said an agency in Greensboro that conducted the study "went over us with a fine tooth comb - they looked under beds and in closets and everything." Surprisingly, after the home study and all the paperwork was finished the adoption process went much quicker than first thought. The couple had requested a male child between the ages of 12 and 18 months. Out of the blue one day they received a call saying a baby boy had been born on November 21, 2001 in Russia and the mother could not keep him for financial reasons. See Jesse, 2A

County sending birds for West Nile testing

By BEN LEDBETTER
 Staff Writer

With increased mosquito-borne disease activity seen across the Southeast this summer, state health and environmental officials are renewing their call for North Carolinians to take steps to protect themselves. Currently, 14 cases of mosquito-borne West Nile virus have been found in birds this summer in North Carolina. Roger Lowrance, Cleveland County Animal Control Chief said they are sending most birds they find in for testing. He said they have sent four to five blue jays and a hawk to be tested but no results have been given. While the area has been facing a drought and 90-degree days, the combination has been hurting the birds also, he said. "We're getting a lot of calls about birds especially since they found them in Mecklenburg," he said.

WEST NILE VIRUS PRECAUTIONS

- ▶ Get rid of all containers in yards that can hold water
- ▶ Keep gutters clean and in good repair
- ▶ Repair leaky outdoor faucets and change the water in bird baths and pet bowls at least twice a week
- ▶ Prevent bites by wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants
- ▶ Use repellent containing low concentrations of DEET (10% or less for children and 30% or less for adults)
- ▶ Avoid outdoor activities in the evening, when mosquitoes are most active
- ▶ Use screened windows and doors and make sure screens fit tightly and are not torn

The only birds that are being tested are ones that have been dead for a short time and have not deteriorated, he said. If people find a bird that could possibly be sent in for testing, see West Nile, 7A

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