

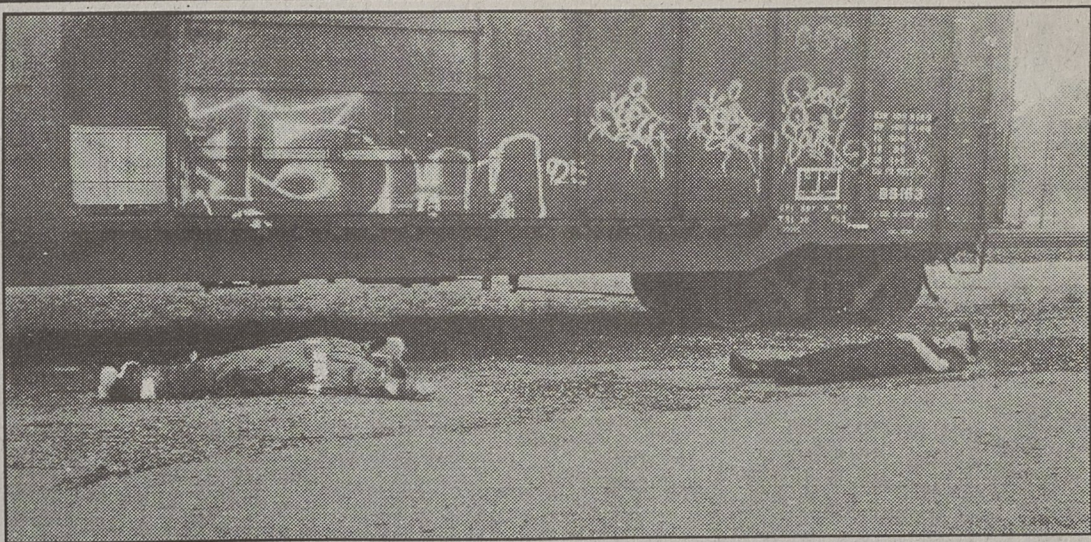
# SERT

From 1A

he had not been taking his medicine. "When officers first got there, he didn't come to the door," Cash noted. "He came to a window and brandished a knife to his wrist and said he was going to kill himself." Cash said deputies talked to the man for 2 1/2 hours. Nearby Cansler Street was lined with police cars. An ambulance waited on one side of the street, and the Sheriff's Department's emergency command center set up on the other side. "We talked to him the entire time," Cash said. "We wanted to negotiate him out. He'd talk to us for awhile and then he would be mute for 10 or 15 minutes." The man did allow the officers to put a wireless phone in to talk to him. "We got it into the room with him but he never would

use it," Cash said. "We could hear him but he never talked on it. He would talk to people at the window." Cash said the man said he wanted a computer, and to see the Pope. "He never talked anything rational and never made any demands," Cash said. "His mother said he has never had a computer and wouldn't know how to operate one." After negotiating continuously for over two hours, Cash said officers felt they had done what they needed to do and, when they saw the back door open they feared the man may be getting ready to carry out his suicide threat.

"About 12 o'clock he started moving around and opened the back door, and we were concerned that he might be about to do something," Cash said. "We felt like we should go ahead and do something in case he tried to commit suicide."



**BEN LEDBETTER / THE HERALD**  
Andy Nichols, left, and Kale Hallman are in position as accident victims during Saturday's mock disaster drill at the depot on Piedmont Ave.

# RAIN

From 1A

the whole lake. We need the rain to continue to fall regularly."

Moss Lake, which holds 15 billion gallons of water, probably has about 12 billion in it because the four-year drought has dropped the lake level four feet, Ollis said.

"The top four feet of the lake probably holds 20 percent of the water," he said, "so we're probably missing three billion gallons."

Kings Mountain, which is permitted to pump up to 8.4 million gallons a day, averages pumping about 6.5 million when Shelby's on line, Ollis said.

While Kings Mountain is not suffering any water woes of its own, Ollis said it will take good levels of rain over several months to assure plenty of water for the future.

"We can pump, with our regular pumps, down to 20 feet," Ollis said. "If it ever gets to that point the Lord only knows what quality of water we'll be getting. It's down four feet now. If it gets down 20, it will mean there's no water coming in."

At this time, Buffalo Creek, which feeds the lake, is running very slowly, Ollis said. "It's better today than it was two weeks ago, but it's still not very good."

The City continues to monitor the intake and outtake of water at Moss Lake on a daily basis. Ollis posts the water level and the rain level on a chart at City Hall.

If the lake level doesn't pick up, Ollis predicted that the city could begin experiencing some water problems of its own early next year.

"That's if we don't get some pretty hefty rains by Christmas," he said.

"The bad thing is, if we're in trouble at that point in time then everybody else is going to be in worse trouble. It would be mean," he said.

Ollis attended a meeting in Rutherfordton Tuesday morning at which area and State officials talked about the drought situation. It was revealed that Broad River would normally flow 400 million gallons of water a day. That day, it was flowing 20 million.

"You're talking about five percent," he said.

"What we really need is to get two inches of rain a week for the next six months."

Most water districts in this area of North Carolina that get their water from streams and rivers are facing the same situation as Kings Mountain's neighbors, Ollis said.

"You have counties along the Tennessee border that are in good shape because of rain coming off the mountains, and you have counties in the eastern part of the state that have water coming from the ocean, and they're all in good shape," he said. "Everybody in between has problems, and

the farther away you are from those areas the worse your problems are."

Kings Mountain has been given special permission from the State to increase its maximum pumping level to 8.4 million instead of 8 million gallons a day, and to keep more of the water that's flowing into the lake. Kings Mountain is the only municipal water system on Buffalo Creek. The city is keeping its reserve tank at Public Works full with nine million gallons of water, and the clear well at Moss Lake is full with an additional two million gallons.

"We're in good shape right now, but again this is a temporary fix for those communities that depend on the river," Murphrey said. "It'll just flow by and they'll get what they can, and if it doesn't rain it'll start drying back up."

Murphrey, Shelby Mayor Mike Philbeck, Cleveland County Commission Chairman Willie McIntosh, and John Cline of the Cleveland County Sanitary District last week signed a proclamation declaring Thursday as a Day of Prayer for Drought Relief. A prayer service will be held from 12:20-12:40 p.m. Thursday at Bethel Baptist Church, 600 South DeKalb Street, Shelby. People from all over the county are invited to participate.

Murphrey said he and city staff plan to continue working on a presentation to City Council calling for a study for a second lake near Moss Lake. The concept will be taken to Council at its August 27 meeting.

Murphrey wants to resurrect a 1986 plan by then Mayor John Henry Moss to build a 1,500 acre lake on Muddy Fork Creek which would impound approximately 12 billion gallons of water.

Ollis says it's a good idea. "At the rate this area is growing, it could very well be needed by the time they get it built," he said. "If I'm a business or industry considering this area, one thing I'm going to check before I move in is who has water and who doesn't, and who's going to shut me down and who isn't."

Murphrey said he is confident the idea will get the approval of City Council.

"We want to make a good presentation to them and answer any questions they have," he said.

# BARN

From 1A

barn to positive words about Putnam.

Putnam has since moved from Kings Mountain to Cherokee County in South Carolina and said the barn was part of the reason for the move.

He was raised in the Kings Mountain area but said the whole ordeal with the barn has soured him to the city.

"I think I got a dirty deal," he said. "I'm really kind of down on Kings Mountain."

While he has moved, Putnam said he did not plan to build another barn.

"That barn disheartened me so bad I doubt I will build another barn like that," he said. "It's been kind of a mental thing. It's been kind of rough."

Putnam estimated that after the barn is torn down that it would have cost him \$75,000.

"I took a beating," he said. "It's just an unfair situation."

Kings Mountain Building Codes and Zoning Enforcement Director Holly Black said Putnam complied with a request to remove the horses. He also removed a camper from the property, she said.

With some more work, it could have been a home, she said.

"The barn could have been converted to a single family dwelling," she said. "It would have taken some work to convert but it could have been done."

# BUS

From 1A

Byrnes' office serves all three Cleveland County school systems.

He said it has not happened here but it has in other places.

"It's a very very rare occurrence," he said. "It's a freak incident. Occasionally you'll hear of one somewhere."

Byrnes said the bus that burned Monday is a total loss.

## JOY NIGHT SERVICE

Rev. Jeff Ross of Shelby will be the speaker for Joy Night August 25 at 6 p.m. at Long Branch First Baptist Church in Grover. For more information call 937-3834.

# RESCUE

From 1A

fatalities. The drill started at 8:22 a.m., with Grover arriving at about 8:50 a.m.

While the scene was not real some aspects of Saturday's drill were real.

When the Kings Mountain Fire Department got the call from its dispatcher, no mention of the drill was mentioned.

"I have a report of a train wreck..." the voice said on Rescue Squad member James Ledbetter's radio.

Other agencies that were called were Kings Mountain Police Department, Cleveland County EMS, the Cleveland County Hazardous Materials Team, Oak Grove Volunteer Fire Department, Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Department and the Norfolk Southern Police.

The Haz-Mat team had its decontaminating station set up in the middle of Piedmont Avenue where both emergency workers and patients were sent through.

Ledbetter, who organized the drill, said he thought it went well.

"So far it's going pretty good," he said. "We're going to sit back after the drill is



**BEN LEDBETTER / THE HERALD**

Fire and rescue workers put victim Kale Hallman on a stretcher and wheel him for treatment during Saturday's mock disaster drill at the depot.

over with and we're going to critique our members. From what we've seen everything went pretty good."

Ledbetter said the squad tries to do two drills per year. He said an objective of the drills is to see how what type of resources the squad could use.

Emergency agencies were not the only ones honing their skills Saturday.

Norfolk Southern Trainmaster Ray Wallace said disaster drills helps him

train the company's personnel.

"This gives me a look at ways that I can help them to make it as quick as possible so that I can train my people on the train," he said.

The people who served as accident victims Saturday said it gave them insight into the events of an actual disaster.

"It's a very interesting experience," James Gladden said. "You really don't realize what all goes into this when you just hear about it on TV." Gladden was a bystander who got everybody out of the church van. He burned his hand and cut his forearm.

Karen Snyder was the engineer of the train. She was conscious, but had cuts over her face and arm and could not move her right leg.

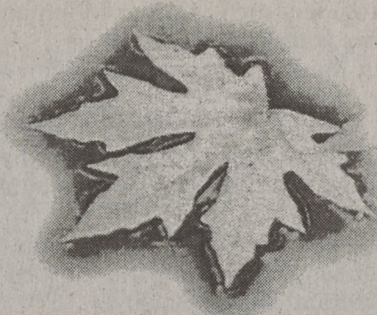
KM Rescue Squad member Mark Mull prioritized the order in which the six people were treated.

Sheets with color codes were set out in a parking lot across the street where the victims were taken for initial treatment.

Red was an emergency, Mull said. Yellow was treated within an hour, green was treated in a couple hours and black was not treatable.

Mull said there was only supposed to be one fatality.

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