

COMMUNITY

Mural lighting set for New Year's Eve

ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

At 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 31, the city will celebrate the new murals by lighting them. After that day, the lights will come on each night to draw attention to the murals, said Mayor Rick Murphrey. The public is invited to the ceremony.

"We'll have a lot of fun. We think that everyone will enjoy the murals even more when they're lit up," said Murphrey.

The murals are intended to draw in some of the people who stop near Kings Mountain to see the three parks, said Murphrey.

"Over 500,000 visitors come to the parks every year. Now we need to be able to have sites for visitors to come on into Kings Mountain. The murals will be a great way to show off the sites of Kings Mountain," said Murphrey.

The extra visitors to the city each year would help strengthen the already strong economy in Kings Mountain as well. Plus the citizens of Kings Mountain will be able to enjoy looking at their heritage each time they drive downtown, bringing them a sense of community pride in their city's heritage.

"As a historical city, we need to have sites for people to observe," said Murphrey.

The murals will also serve as part of the revitalization effort in the downtown area, said Murphrey.

"It will assist in the revitalization of the downtown area. We look forward to bringing more murals into Kings Mountain," said Murphrey.

These two murals are not the end of the revitalization effort, said Murphrey. Future murals and renovations will also celebrate and honor the heritage of Kings Mountain and its citizens.

"We'll continue to work on having different sites of interest so that we can bring people into town in an effort to revitalize the downtown area," said Murphrey. "It's a slow process, but I think we'll just continue to work to bring more activities to the downtown area."

The lights will be above the mural on the side of the Minit Grill and below the

mural on Plonk's Department Store. They will have sensors so that they come on at night, said Murphrey.

At the lighting ceremony, the First Baptist Church choir will sing, and Mayor Murphrey will recognize those that served on the Kings Mountain Mural Commission. Refreshments will be served.

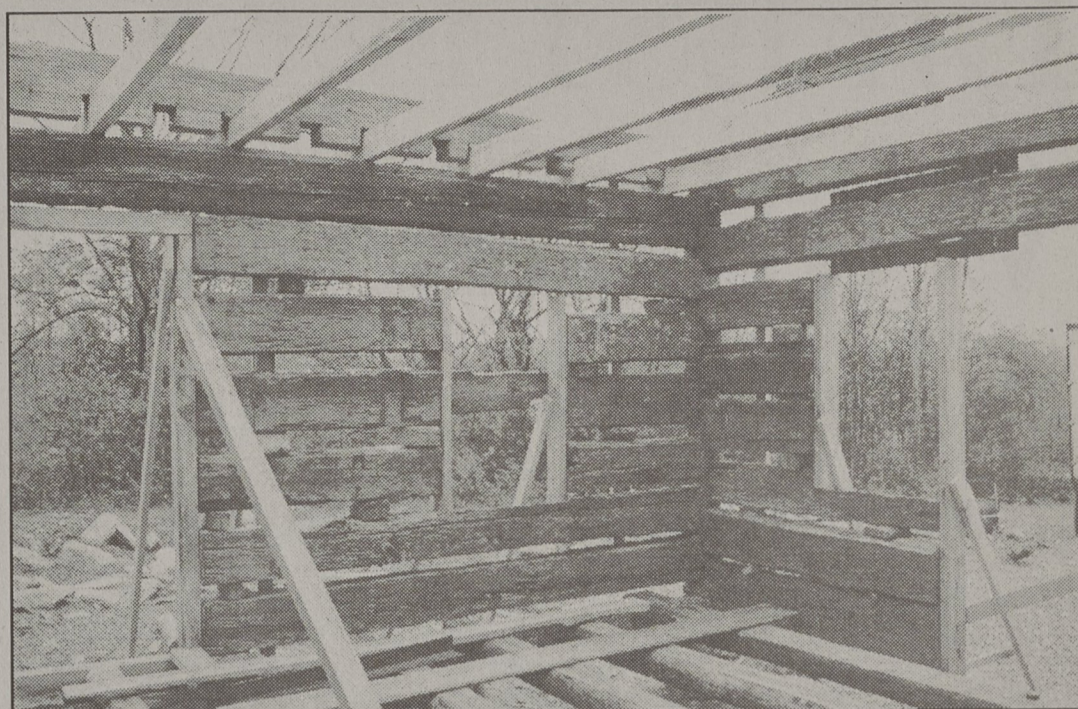
The mural artist, Clive Haynes, from England, also did a mural in Rutherfordton. The Mural Commission went to look at the other murals that he did before they hired him, said Murphrey. Haynes also did the paintings representing the different wars on the Veteran's Memorial, said Murphrey.

Margaret Ledford, a member of the Mural Commission, did the research for the historical significance of each of the buildings portrayed in the "Discovering Gold" mural.

The "Discovering Gold" mural, located on the side of the Minit Grill restaurant on Gold Street, depicts many of the original buildings in Kings Mountain in the 1800s. Among the scenes in the many scenes in the mural, the title scene is taken from the time when Mrs. Ben Briggs, a farmer's wife, discovered gold in a spring near her house. The Kings Mountain Gold Mine was built and ran continuously until 1895. Most of the gold from the mine was sold to the U.S. Mint in Charlotte.

The buildings depicted in the mural include: Briggs Tavern, which was the first house built in Kings Mountain; the first hotel in Kings Mountain, which accommodated people on the railroad; W.T.R. Bell Military Academy, which served as the town's public school system until 1886; Ware's Mill, a grist and saw mill which was the first industry in Kings Mountain; freight station; and First Baptist Church, which was built in 1890.

The railroad is also depicted because it played an important part in the founding of Kings Mountain because it brought people to the city. Presidents Herbert Hoover and George Bush have even traveled through Kings Mountain on the train. One train carried Franklin Roosevelt's body through Kings Mountain on the way to Washington, D.C. in 1945.



ABIGAIL WOLFORD/HERALD

Eventually two stone fireplaces will stand inside the cabin being reconstructed across the street from the Red Cross office on South Piedmont Avenue. The cabin will be finished by June. Below, The logs are being reconstructed on the exterior of the cabin.

Public gets peek at restored cabin

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, December 18, three Kings Mountain organizations, the Red Cross, Historical Museum, and Historical Cabin Project committee, hosted special Christmas activities from 1-3 p.m.

The Historical Cabin Project committee offered narratives and a peek inside the cabin to those who wanted to see it. The log cabin being reconstructed

across the street from the Red Cross building dates back to the late 1700s. The construction should be complete by June at the latest, said Shirley Brutko, chair of the Historical Cabin Project committee. The roof should be on in the next month, she said.

The cabin is a combination of the Barber and Patterson cabins, although it is mostly the Barber cabin. The Barber cabin was found in a cow pasture on Countryside Road, said Brutko. The Patterson cabin was located on Dixon School Road, she said, and some of the logs in the reconstructed cabin came from it.

By next Christmas, Brutko said she hopes to have fires in the two stone fireplaces that will be in the cabin. She would also like to have a mulch sidewalk leading to the cabin and picnic tables and benches around it. At least four times a year, she would like to see events hosted in the cabin.

Much of the land behind the cabin is also available to reconstruct other historical buildings, like barns. However, the committee will have to rely on donations of historical buildings dating from the late 1700s.

"We'd love to have someone donate more structures," said Brutko.

Many of the events hosted in the cabin will include old-fashioned chores like turning cotton into thread, cooking, and singing. "We'll host all kinds of old-fashioned

things to teach people how we used to do things in the late 1700s," said Brutko.

The committee will also leave a space on the wall of the cabin open to show how the clapboard was attached to preserve the logs in the late 1700s. Clapboard is the main reason the logs from the cabin have survived, said Brutko.

Brutko is also researching stories from the two cabins to tell to visitors. For example, Mr. Barber was chained to one of the walls of the cabin after he went insane because someone killed his horses. She said she is looking for family stories.

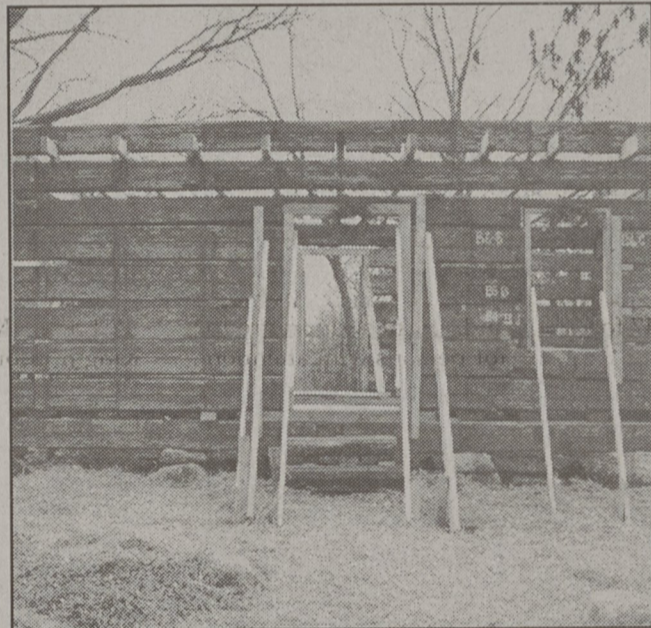
Sometime this spring or early summer, the public will be invited to a "chinking" party to fill in the gaps between the logs in the cabin. Also anyone who would like to donate old wide flooring or furniture dating

from the late 1700s or who would like to help with the project should contact Shirley Brutko at the Chamber office at 704-739-4755.

The Historical Museum also opened its doors for the public to see its "Toys, Games, and Trains" exhibit, which features toys from the 1920s and 1930s. Some of the highlights of the collection include two trains from the 1930s and a functional miniature stove from around the turn of the century.

The Kings Mountain Red Cross offered old-fashioned snacks, including cookies and wassail, to those who came to tour the cabin and the museum. The Red Cross opened in July and is mainly staffed by volunteers, said Sandi Bolick, the assistant director of the Red Cross. The organization holds blood drives and offers safety classes for the community. Bolick said the purpose of the open house was simply to let people know that they are there.

"We're here for their [public's] use. We're excited about being here," she said.



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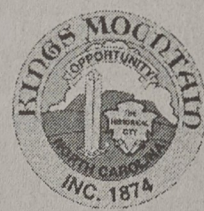


- ✓ Put oil and grease in collection containers.
- ✓ Remove oil and grease from kitchen utensils, equipment, and food preparation areas with scrapers/towels/brooms.
- ✓ Keep grease out of wash water.
- ✓ Place food scraps in collection containers.



- ⊗ Pour oil and grease down drains.
- ⊗ Wash fryers/griddles, pots/pans, and plates with water until oil and grease are removed.
- ⊗ Use hot water to rinse grease from surfaces.
- ⊗ Put food scraps down drains.

Help keep this guy out of your drains and in the hands of the proper authorities!



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BRIAN K. RAMSEY
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