

## Look back at a special lady, special event

With the year winding down I've been going through this year's papers looking for what will be the top ten stories of the year. They will be printed next week.

But during this process you always come across some stories - most of them positive - that won't make the top ten but deserve another mention.

After seeing some of those I've wondered why Kings Mountain doesn't give a Citizen of the Year Award. Most cities do.

I remember back many years ago when the Jaycees used to give the Young Man of the Year Award. Sometimes I agreed with the selections and sometimes I thought they were very political. Usually, the award went to a member of the club or to a person from a prominent family.

My idea of a Citizen of the Year is one who does something not for personal gain, but to benefit someone less fortunate.

In thumbing through those old papers I was reminded of a very special event this year that was spearheaded by a very special lady. Of all the people I know of in the Kings Mountain area, she would be my choice as Citizen of the Year.

That person is Joyce Roark, who has giving unselfishly over the past two years to head the Joseph R. Smith Relay for Life at the Kings Mountain Walking Track.

This is an event that began about five years ago, and as well as I remember off the top of my head raised about \$20,000 for cancer research and programs. Through the efforts of a lot of people - individuals, churches, families and businesses - the event has increased in participation and financially each year since.

This year's event, which was held in June, raised \$84,000. For the past two years, that effort headed by Joyce has helped Cleveland County rank as one of the top ten counties in the United States in per capita giving.

I don't have a plaque for her, but I know her reward is coming someday.

Meanwhile, I hope some organization or special committee will take it upon themselves to begin officially recognizing a citizen of the year. A lot of clubs already recognized top educators, firemen, police personnel, etc., and they're to be commended. But let's get the whole community involved.



Gary Stewart  
Editor

## PICTORIAL EDITORIAL



GARY STEWART / HERALD

**COUNTY UNITY** - Kings Mountain Police and Cleveland County Sheriff's departments pledged "unity" in fighting the drug battle during a press conference Thursday morning at KMPD after 59 charges were filed against 21 individuals. Left to right are Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey, Kings Mountain Police Chief Melvin Proctor, Sheriff Raymond Hamrick and Chief Deputy Tony Gordon

## Santa will try his best to grant everyone's wishes



Abigail Wolford  
Staff Writer

Dear Editor:

Abigail gave me permission to use her column this week to bring a Christmas message to you and to Kings Mountain. I recently received a copy of the Herald with all of the letters from the Kings Mountain children and the one from you as well. It's not often I find a man of your age with such profound faith in me. You certainly must have a lot of faith with that list you gave me. I will try very hard not to let you down.

I was very touched this past week by your concern with the lack of peace in the world. My job gets more difficult each year with all of the people trying to hurt the children in the world. Maybe they are not really trying to hurt them. Maybe they have simply forgotten about them. Each year I see thousands of children in the world die of starvation. Thousands others are wounded in senseless among adults who should know better.

What goes on in the twisted hearts of people is a realm beyond that which I can penetrate. I find at times that I simply have to yield my grief to the One who is much greater than I will ever be. Perhaps with His help and the help of a few adults with some sense, the children will have a better world to live in. My elves and I are in the toy business. How I wish we were also in politics.

A few children in the world give me hope in the future, however. One young man named Billy Bridges shows more courage in a single minute than it took my friend Rudolph to muster to face the reindeer who laughed at him because of his nose. Billy, if all children were as strong as you, the world would be a much better place. I wish you the best with your knee.

Because it is time to hitch up my team of reindeer, I am afraid I'm going to have to cut this letter short. To all of the children who wrote to me, I will certainly try my best to fulfill your wishes. My elves have been working around the clock since your letters arrived. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Love,  
Santa Claus

## Lott's probably going to have to give it up



Jim Heffner  
Columnist

As this is written, Trent Lott is hanging on to his job as Senate Majority Leader by the barest of threads. Chances are he will have to give it up.

Frankly, a man who obviously speaks without thinking, regardless of the venue, should not be the person to chart the course of any presidential program.

I have never been a Lott fan, but I see his problem as one the liberals love. All of the usual suspects are lining up trying to get a little camera time on the evening news by piling on one man. Even the women's organizations are putting their two cents worth in.

It's funny how the N.O.W. gang refused to chastise Fuzzy Clinton when he was fondling and abusing women. It's also funny how the New York Times, Washington Post and the TV networks never saw fit to call Clinton when he praised William J. Fulbright, one of the authors of the 1954 Southern Manifesto.

Let any conservative have a slip of the tongue, and he is dead meat, but the news media always gives liberals a pass. It's so obvious you'd think they would be embarrassed, but they aren't. The funny thing about the Lott fiasco, is that many Democrats would like to leave him alone, because they think it will give them an issue in the next election, and they could be right.

What really bugs me about an incident such as this is that it gives all the south haters an opportunity to spout off about everything they don't like about us.

I get really tired of hearing about marriage between relatives, bigotry, how bad a senator Jesse Helms has been, ad nauseam.

Geraldo Rivera made a statement the other night which pushed my hot button. "I've always thought," he said, "that if you scratched the surface of a Republican, especially a Southern Republican, you'd find a Dixiecrat." In other words, all Southerners are racists.

I have witnessed two incidents of open prejudice in my life and both were ugly, but I guess, somewhere along the way I've been deprived. I honestly am not acquainted with any racists I know about, and I've never even seen a KKK robe.

Rivera is just like most Yankees. They have blinders JIM

See Jim, 5A

## LOOK BACK

### KMHS looking for grid coach in December '70

From the December 23, 1970 edition of The Herald:

Kings Mountain Schools Supt. Donald Jones said he has already begun official interviews with prospects for the post of football coach and athletic director at Kings Mountain High School. Kings Mountain is looking for a replacement for Bill Bates, who resigned a week after the 1970 season to take the post of director of school-community relations.

Kemp Mauney, Kings Mountain freshman at NC State University, won fourth place among freshmen in the School of Electronics in Lock System awards recently.

Members of the Kings Mountain Merchants Association in mail balloting declined to merge with the Chamber of Commerce by a vote of 22 to 13. The vote represented 51 percent of the eligible membership.

Joe R. Smith, president of Kings Mountain Nursing and Convalescent Center, foresees construction of the projected 100-bed unit in the near future.

Kings Mountain native Jimmy Kimmell has been named South Carolina Eastern 4-A Conference coach of the year for the second straight season.

Kings Mountain's George Adams has picked up where he left off last basketball season as he leads the Gardner-Webb Bulldogs to one victory after another. Adams is averaging 26.4 points and 14 rebounds per game.

Kings Mountain's United Fund campaign for 1971 reached \$27,764.42 this week.

SP/4 Jesse W. "Rocky" Martin was promoted to his present rank while serving with the Army in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division (Radar) at Phu Lac.

Rev. Ansel Center Jr. of Greer, SC has assumed new pastorate duties at Piedmont Baptist Church.

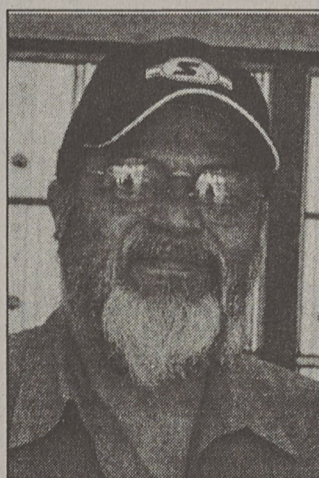
The 1970-71 basketball season is only three weeks old but Kings Mountain's girls have already won more games than they did all of last season. Coach Blaine Froneberger's Mountaintettes captured their fourth victory in five games Friday at home, defeating South Point 25-20.

Patricia Ann McDaniel became the bride of Mark Elwyn Hughes Friday evening in a 7:30 candlelight wedding in Grover's Antioch Baptist Church.

## SIDEWALK SURVEY

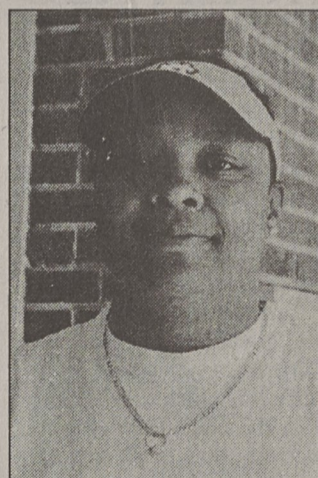
BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD  
THE HERALD

## What is your family's most special holiday tradition?



"Celebrating the birth of Christ."

Bartolo Vega Figueroa  
Kings Mountain



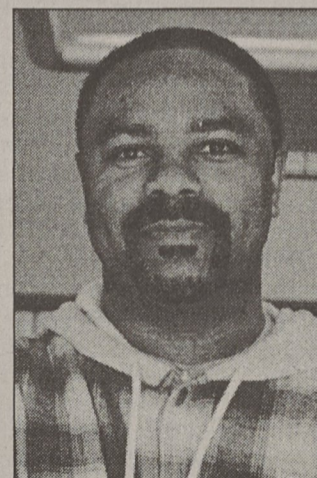
"Sitting around the fireplace having Christmas dinner."

Octavia Childers  
Kings Mountain



"On Christmas day, I cook breakfast for all my kids and grandkids, and then we go over to my dad's for dinner."

Brenda Short  
Kings Mountain



"Family gatherings."

Earnest Hamrick  
Grover



"Being together."

Helen Thombs  
Kings Mountain