

Paul Fulton retires from Time Warner, but don't think he's going to lay his bugle down

ELIZABETH STEWART
Herald Correspondent

Music has always been a big part of Paul G. Fulton's life. Playing "Taps" is a service and a love that the Vietnam-era veteran performed so many times that he is known locally as the City of Kings Mountain bugler.

Fulton has no plans to retire from playing the trumpet, but he retired from a 23-year career with Time Warner Cable Thursday. He says he will miss his customers, many of whom he knows on a first name basis.

The Kings Mountain native started playing the trumpet as a fifth grade elementary student and played in the high school band until his graduation from KMHS in 1960. He followed both his older brothers, Bill and Oren Fulton, in the band, all talented musicians.

While a junior in high school, Paul joined his brother, Oren, as a member of the American Legion's Rambling Rebels & Bugle Corps spon-

sored by American Legion Post 23 in Gastonia. Paul recalled trips to national conventions in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Washington, DC, Miami, FL and Atlanta, GA.

It was also as an 11th grader that Paul joined the US Naval Reserves. After high school graduation he joined Uncle Sam's Navy and played in the ship's band for two years. He joined the US Army Reserve and was almost reactivated in 1990 in the Desert Storm campaign.

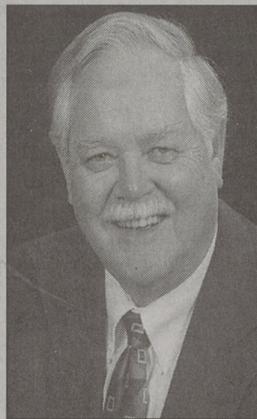
"I have always loved music," says Fulton, the baby child in a family of nine children of the late Palmer D. and Emma "Spoon" Witherspoon Fulton. His father, the first paid Kings Mountain fireman, came home from World War I in 1918 and joined the Kings Mountain Fire Department. The senior Fulton not only trained volunteers but was chief radio operator who operated the first radio communications in both the fire and police departments.

Mrs. Fulton was a former

nurse and school teacher and the family lived at 400 E. King Street and also harvested a cotton crop on farm land across the road from the Community Center.

Paul Fulton, not only followed his father in the military, but followed three of his four brothers.

The late Robert DeKalb Fulton served in the US Navy during World War II, 1941-47; James Oren Fulton served in the US Navy 1948-52 during the Korean Conflict; and William Palmer Fulton served in the US Army during the Korean Conflict from 1950-52. Preston Oliver Fulton died as a toddler and the four sisters,



PAUL FULTON

Louise Clemmer, Pansy Fulton, Eleanor Fulton, and Dorothy Fulton Costner are deceased.

P. D. Fulton, born in 1887, died in 1964, four years after Paul Gilbreath Fulton was born. Paul's older siblings recalled that their father was drafted

and served in the Army in France. During WWI there was no mechanization to move heavy cannons onto the battlefield. The solution was to import mules from Missouri to do that job. Since Fulton was a farm boy from the South, the troop picked him as the mule skinner and he took care of the mules and hitched them to the

heavy cannons to pull the weapon onto the battlefields.

His bride-to-be, Emma Witherspoon, and her sister, Ollie Mae Witherspoon, were members of the Class of 1914-15 at Linwood College and they married brothers: P. D. Fulton and Jason Dexter Fulton.

Paul Fulton came home from the Navy and his first job in Kings Mountain was with Gillie Falls Construction. He laid bricks for new home construction and for eight years also taught bricklaying at Kings Mountain High School from 1971-78 and worked at Eaton Corporation. He got into sales in Cable-TV in 1981, his first experience working with Rob Bridges at Kings Mountain's first cable company on North City Street. In 1983 he joined Jones Intercable at the Kings Mountain office on City Street which later moved to the Kings Mountain Herald building at Canterbury and King Street. The Kings Mountain office closed in

2004 and Fulton transferred to Cable TV's Gastonia location.

In 2000 Paul and Muriel Wortman were married and they reside in Shelby. Mrs. Fulton retired two years ago from Washington Elementary School after 30 years as a teacher's assistant.

They have three children, Angela and Tommy Shuda and Andrew and Sarah Fulton, all of Gastonia, and Jason Fulton, who is stationed with the US Army in Hawaii. They have four grandchildren: Derrick Shuda, Sarah and Jay Seagle and Brittany Southard.

In retirement, Fulton plans to continue teaching Sunday School to residents of White Oak Manor in Kings Mountain, singing in the choir of Kings Mountain's First Baptist Church, and he just completed training on the North Carolina Disaster Relief Team. And you can bet he will keep his horn in top shape. His bugle won't be silent.

Lukjan Metal to move to KM

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Lukjan Metal Products of Conneaut, Ohio will begin operation in August in the former Hayward Pool building in Kings Mountain Industrial Park, Mayor Rick Murphrey and Donnie Hicks, Executive director of the Gaston County Economic Development Commission, announced this week.

The manufacturer of quali-

ty metal duct, pipe and fittings for the heating, ventilating and air conditioning industry will be hiring 50 people initially and make an investment of \$3.5 million in the community. Lukjan has been a family owned and operated business over 39 years.

"We are delighted to welcome Lukjan Metal to Kings Mountain and look forward to working with them as they

become Kings Mountain industrial citizens," said the mayor. He said that Lukjan expects to employ 150 people in the future.

Murphrey said that the main manufacturing facility of Lukjan is in Conneaut, Ohio, 70 miles east of Cleveland, Ohio and less than 30 miles west of Erie, PA. He says Lukjan serves an impressive client base in 12 states with a highly reliable

company operated distribution network and responsive customer service organization. The mayor said that Lukjan offers the highest quality metal pipe, duct fittings on the market at competitive prices and is a long-standing member of the Air Distribution Institute (ADI) and participates in other associations dedicated to the advancement of the HVAC industry.

STORM

From 1A

hard into the wee hours fixing lines and bringing power to hundreds of people left in the dark.

"We started when the storm hit around 5 o'clock and we got everybody back on line around 3 am," said Nick Hendricks with the KM City Electric Department. He said that although they did not lose any of the circuits during the initial storm, there were tree limbs that had fallen on power lines, forcing them to drop some of the circuits out to get the branches down and make sure that all was safe.

"Some people would have power for a while and then

we'd have to take it down (for repairs). They'd have power and then lose it and then it would come back," he said. "When we get used to power it's very frustrating not to have it. But we appreciate everyone's patience during this mess."

Hendricks said that all of the problems they incurred last night were due to fallen tree limbs, fallen trees and lightning. "When lightning hits, sometimes it gets on the lines and amps get so high that it blows the fuses." But he said that for as bad as the storm was with wind gusts exceeding 30 mph and lightning, the outages were very minimal. "Let's hope we don't get round 2 tonight (June 12th)," he said. "But if we do, then we're ready for

it."

Most of the electric problems were from the storm but around 1:30 am, he said that the Linwood section of town lost power from a car accidentally running into a power pole. He and his crew worked until about 4 am and returned bright and early, three hours later, to start the work week.

Kings Mountain Fire Investigator Joey Davis, said that he did not think that they had too many problems from the storms. One call they responded to was a small transformer fire on Hawthorne and Marion. Something had fallen on the transformer box, which produced a loud "pop." A tree fell on a house at 203 S. Sims St. and on a vehicle at 613 W.

Mountain St., which firefighters helped clear up. But the storm did not cause any significant fires within the city limits.

An official at the Public Works Department said that there were no significant flooding or drainage problems caused by the storm, either. According to weatherunderground.com, the approximate amount of rainfall in Kings Mountain, on Sunday, was between 0.6 inches and 1.6 inches. Hendricks said that although some precautions may be taken, like trimming and maintaining trees to lessen the likelihood of branches falling on power lines, there is no sure fire way of preparing for mother nature's wrath.

BUDGET

From 1A

council members, but he said council didn't want to cut jobs as some communities have had to do due to loss of industry and the decision was to approve a 4 cent tax increase.

In her budget message, Sellers said it was important to review a few achievements and projects completed or near completion.

+The city received a perfect audit.

+Vision statement and core values were established at city council retreat.

+Information Technology - development of the city web page in addition to addressing security, hardware, software, and departmental technical support.

+Began comprehensive analysis of the Mauney Memorial Library.

+Began Energy Performance Contracting.

+Awarded numerous industrial and downtown incentive grants.

+Continued study by HDR Engineering of the reservoir as well as exploring the possible need for a second reservoir to supplement Moss Lake.

+Debt paid off to the City of Gastonia for the buy-out of contract for the treatment of wastewater, Last payment of \$675,000 made in June

2006.

+Completion of the new substation on Margrace Road.

+Began process to obtain necessary permits for dredging at Moss Lake.

+Continued downtown revitalization.

+Approved plans for construction of new subdivisions.

Rezoning request tabled until July

Kings Mountain Planning & Zoning Board Tuesday tabled until the July meeting a rezoning request of James Payseur who wants to build eight single family homes in the Crescent Hill neighborhood.

Payseur and developers Kevin Pedego and Georgina Brustmaker asked for the rescheduling. They want to meet with adjoining property owners to answer any questions they may have on their plans for the property prior to the action by the planning board and public hearing by city council in July.

The developers scrapped plans for townhouses on Payseur's property 135 feet from the intersection of Joyce Street and Meadowbrook Road due to objections of adjoining property owners.

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