

Revolutionary War Display at Belmont Historical Museum

By Alan Hodge
Special to the Herald

There's a battle raging at the Belmont Historical Museum. Actually, the fight is a scale model recreation of the October 7, 1780 Revolutionary War Battle of Kings Mountain designed and built by Evan Ridlon of Mount Holly.

Ridlon's love of history and scale modeling led him to create the diorama complete with over 200 miniature soldiers, trees, rocks, and landscape representing the shape of the Kings Mountain battlefield.

"I became interested in scale models as a child building airplanes, ships, and tanks," Ridlon said. "Then I moved on to historical gaming with miniature soldiers."

To create the soldiers for his Kings Mountain battlefield, Ridlon started with soft plastic figures then hardened them with floor wax. Next, he painted each and every one of them in correct uniform colors ranging from bright scarlet to buckskin brown.

"The size of the soldiers and trees is one inch equals 72 inches," Ridlon said. "So a soldier one inch tall would represent a man six feet tall."

To make the diorama's battlefield, he used sections of green Styrofoam sculpted in the shape of the Kings Mountain landform. The diorama on display at the museum is about 2-feet wide and 4-feet long and is part of a larger display Ridlon has at home that's twice that size.

"The diorama is part of a larger war gaming board," he explained.

In addition to the figures and landscape, Ridlon has placed markers at strategic points on the diorama explaining what officers were in charge of troops at that spot. One of the markers shows the position of Major William Chronicle, a native of the Belmont area, who was killed in the fight. A NC Highway Historical Marker recognizing Chronicle is actually on the museum grounds.

According to Ridlon, the entire set-up shows the final phase of the Battle of Kings Mountain when Patriots were encircling British and Loyalist troops and ready for the final charge.

Ridlon credits his wife Sherry for helping him with the project. "She did a lot of the historical research," he said. "One of the



photo/Alan Hodge

Evan Ridlon of Mount Holly has built a diorama of the battle of Kings Mountain that is currently on display at the Belmont Historical Museum. He hand painted over 200 toy soldiers for the piece.

facts she uncovered was that Daniel Boone's father fought in the battle.

For Ridlon, his Battle of Kings Mountain modeling looks like it will be an ongoing thing. He plans to expand the scope of the diorama and add even more detail.

"So far, I've been working on it for about a year and half," he said. "It is constantly evolving."

Though the "portable" version of the diorama is currently educating folks that stop by the museum, Ridlon says that when that gig

is up he will be glad to set it up wherever else it might be appreciated. "I hope it fosters an interest in history," he said. "Especially in children."

Sales tax holiday this weekend

With the dawn of another school year mere weeks away the clock is ticking on buying school supplies, but shoppers may see some savings this weekend as the state suspends its sales tax on certain items for 36 hours.

North Carolina's annual back-to-school tax-free weekend starts at midnight Friday and continues through midnight Sunday. Over the weekend, shoppers will save 4.75% (nearly 5 cents on every dollar) in sales taxes on purchases for back-to-school items, ranging from clothes to certain electronics. Local sales taxes (2.75% - nearly 3 cents on every dollar in Cleveland and Gaston counties) will still apply to purchases.

Under state guidelines, the following items will be exempt

from sales tax this weekend:

- Clothing, footwear and school supplies of \$100 or less per item
 - School instructional materials of \$300 or less per item
 - Sports and recreation equipment of \$50 or less per item
 - Computers of \$3,500 or less per item
 - Computer supplies of \$250 or less per item
- Clothing accessories, jewelry, cosmetics, protective equipment, wallets, furniture, items used in a trade or business, and rentals are not covered by the exemption and will be subject to the applicable tax.

For more information, visit www.dorn.com/taxes/sales/salestax_holiday.html

Mary Neisler Kings Mountain Rotary Club's Citizen of the Year



Brenda Lovelace, Andy Neisler, Mary Neisler, Scott Neisler, and Rotary President Jonathan Rhodes at last week's meeting of the Rotary Club. Mrs. Neisler won the Rotary Club's Citizen of the Year award.

Mary (Mrs. Charles) Neisler is Kings Mountain Rotary Club's Citizen of the Year for 2012.

The prominent Kings Mountain woman was honored for longtime community service at the civic club's recent meeting at the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Center.

Mrs. Neisler was recognized for her service in many areas in the community.

"I am very humbled," said Mrs. Neisler, adding, "I love Kings Mountain."

Shirley Bruko, who made the nomination, cited Mrs. Neisler's accomplishments in downtown beautification and revitalization in the historic district, her work in the Kings Mountain Historical Museum, her activity in First Presbyterian Church, and recalled that she won the first Gateway award from the Kings Mountain Business & Professional Club.

"Mary is very familiar to local people who see her in her little red truck doing good work to make our community

beautiful," said Mrs. Bruko.

Mary Somers met her husband, Charles Neisler, over 50 years ago at a Tommy Dorsey concert in Charlotte that she was attending with her sister, Jenny (Mrs. Bob) Maner. The Neislers have been married for 51 years and are parents of five sons, Andy, Scott and Lee Neisler. Mr. Neisler, now retired, was active for a number of years with Neisler Mills and Dicey Fabrics.

Co-chairmen of the citizen award committee were Brenda Lovelace and Doug Satter-

field.

The Citizen of the Year award is given annually to a non Rotarian and includes the prestigious Paul Harris Fellow award, a \$1,000 contribution to Rotary International in honor of the recipient.

FISH DAY!
It's time to stock your pond!
Delivery will be:
Monday, August 13
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KM Walgreens now open for business

Walgreens is now open for business in Kings Mountain.

Chris Robinson, who grew up in Kings Mountain and is the son of Barry and Doris Robinson, says that shoppers will get a new experience in drug store shopping at Walgreens.

The 12,000 square foot business includes a pharmacy and photo lab and many amenities, including on-line shopping if the customer prefers. "You can order on line and we'll have

your merchandise or prescriptions ready for you to pick up at the store," said

Robinson.

The new Walgreens employs a staff of 20.

Kings Mountain Weekend Weather

Thursday July 19	Friday July 20	Saturday July 21	Sunday July 22
Scattered Storms - 89° 50% Chance of precipitation Night time Low 70°	Isolated T-Storms - 86° 30% Chance of precipitation Night time Low 69°	Isolated T-Storms - 84° 30% Chance of precipitation Night time Low 69°	Partly Cloudy - 85° 10% Chance of precipitation Night time Low 69°

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