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KM Movie Becomes Reality-Filming Now Underway

By Rodney Dodson
Editor, The MIRROR

A dream became a reality Monday for Four Fellow, Inc., when Studio 1 Production Co. shot the first scenes of the movie "Sign Off" being filmed in its entirety locally and to be released this fall.

After months of planning and hard work, casting has been completed, the Louisville, Kentucky based production crew is here on location, and the feature-length motion picture is being filmed right here in Kings Mountain.

Pete Floyd, with Four Fellows, said on location Monday that the Studio 1 Company technicians are among the best in the business, and were hired because the film's backers wanted to "get the best because the script merited it."

The first scenes of the movie were interior shots, and the brick building behind Mountaineer Pharmacy, which serves as headquarters for Four Fellows, was used as a set for some police station interior shots. The Studio 1 van was parked beside the building and was loaded with about \$10,000 worth of equipment. The 35mm movie camera was set up inside, and a large reflector was placed across the street to throw more sunlight on the shaded building.

There was an air of excitement surrounding the set as the actors checked their lines and last minute props were added. The set was decorated with two cluttered desks, empty drink bottles added an authentic touch. The walls were cluttered with WANTED posters, newspaper clippings, and other paraphanelia adding to the clutter. On the police lieutenant's desk was an edition of the Kings Mountain Mirror.

The actors, some of whom have never been in front of a live camera, were anxious and excited, others seemed quite

calm. Linda Faile, who plays the female character of Gail, and appeared in "The Body Shop" and "Night of the Cat" had food on her mind as lunch time neared. "Is there anywhere close by to buy a hot dog or something?" She finally left, returning with some buns and pimento cheese spread. A sort of impromptu picnic resulted, with some of the cast sitting in the shade on a blanket eating lunch.

Mike Muscat, who plays Toby (The Town Idiot) approached reporters in his full costume and said forthrightly, "I'm Toby, the town idiot!" He gave a convincing per-

formance. He's a veteran of the Kings Mountain Little Theatre, and received acclaim for a similar role he played in "The Mousetrap." Mike said he enjoys that type of character portrayal, rather than a star role. He was sitting on the grass eating lunch between takes, reviewing his lines out loud, much to the amusement of himself and everyone around him.

Most of Monday morning was filled with getting the set ready, and it was after noon when the first takes were filmed involving Reb Wiesener, who portrays Police Lieutenant Reb, and Jim Arp, local disc jock,

who is playing himself as a former Country-Western singer being questioned by the Lieutenant about a girl's murder, around which the plot is centered.

Other cast members are: Carl Wiesener as Chief Lardas, Kay Wiesener as Melisa the maid, Phillip Sanders as Hipple Line, Francis Hutchins as Becky, Pete Floyd as Pete, Kay Jenkins as Candy Gordon, Sam Tuttle as Virgil, Jonas Bridges as Mr. Penny, Joe Davis as Joe (D.J.), Bob Reed as Rev. Roy Muscwhite, Barbara Willis as Kay, The Heavy's as Jim Arp's back-up band, The Radford Sisters as his back-up trio, Linda Faile as Gail, Jackie Melton as Queeny, Paul Murry as Mr. Smith, Bill Simpson as Sheriff Fargo, Frank Jones as George Webber.

Monday afternoon the crew moved to Shelby to shoot some scenes inside the Cleveland County Jail. One was an escape involving a dope addict, played by a Forest City disc jock. Tuesday it was back to Kings Mountain to wind up the police station segments at Four Fellows headquarters. On Wednesday the tentative schedule called for the radio station segments to be shot at WKMT.

Bill Girdler, Production Manager, and President of Studio 1, was asked his opinion of the film, and said if it comes off the way it's written, it'll be a good film. "It's a salable product," he offered, and added, "The group in Kings Mountain has done a tremendous job of pre-production, for never having made a film before."

Girdler was dressed comfortably, as were all the crew members, in jeans and short sleeve shirt. Bill said his father is from the West Coast, and told how he grew up on the set of Bonanza, sweeping up the sets when he was about 12-13 years old. In high school he was a projectionist, and served as a cameraman while in the service. He sees his Louisville based company as "Good for this part of the country because of its central location."

Tom Todd, assistant cameraman, also handles publicity. He describes the local movie as the coming thing in films—"A good, low budget film by regional producers. He too expressed pleasure with the pre-production work, calling it well organized.

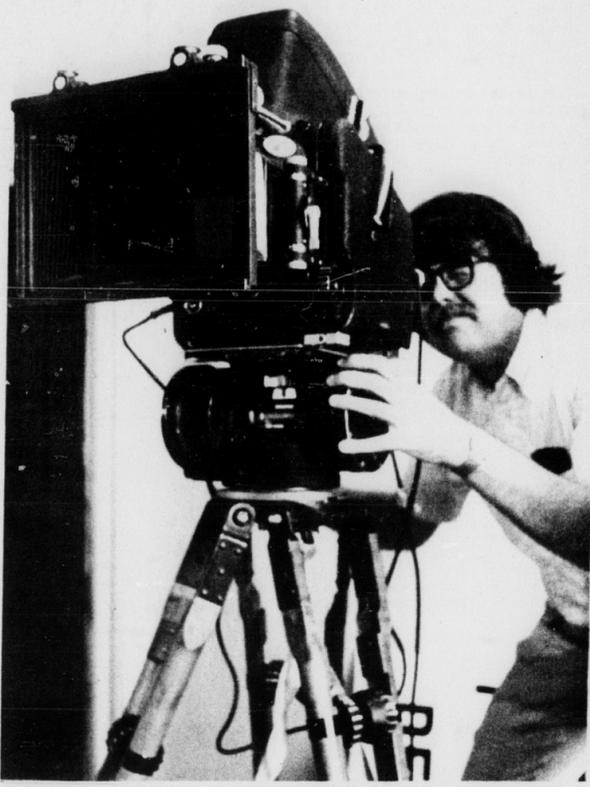
Todd said he likes Kings Mountain, called it a "pretty town" similar to the one in which he grew up in Kentucky.

Studio 1 has done two features of their own, "Asylum of Satan" and "Three on a Meathook." They produce medium budget horror pictures, TV commercials, and documentaries. The Four Fellows production, said Todd, is the basic type they've done on their own films.

Other crew members on location here this week are Bill Asman, Director of Photography; John Asman, sound recorder; Warren Maxey, assistant sound recorder; and Jim Pickett, script clerk.

As the filming goes on here this week, it's business as usual around Kings Mountain, and most people seem unaware of anything going on, but on Monday the motorists on Watterson Street where the crew was set up slowed and stared, but few stopped. During takes the traffic had to be diverted to keep the noise of passing cars from being picked up on the sound recorder.

Director-Producer of the film is Pat Patterson of Charlotte. Patterson says he feels good about the production, it's already booked in some of the top theatres in the Southeast even before completion.



The cameraman takes aim as filming began Monday in Kings Mountain on the movie Sign-Off. The production work is being done by Studio 1 out of Louisville, Kentucky. The shooting will continue throughout this week at area locations. (Mirror Photo)



On the set are Bettina Drake, Jim Arp and Reb Wiesener, doing a run-through of their lines for a scene Monday. This segment was filmed at Four Fellows headquarters on Watterson Street. (Mirror Photo)

Sheriff's Dept. Arrest 9 -Area Break-Ins Reported

Several break-ins were recorded this past week around Kings Mountain.

Jimmie McEntire reported to Cleveland County deputies that someone broke out a window on the south side of his home sometime over the weekend. The Route 2, Cherryville resident reported that two dark brown wigs were missing.

Last Wednesday, Ralph Maehen discovered that the office of Neal Hawkins, located on the Service Road below Highway 161 south of Kings Mountain had been broken into. A Gibson Air Conditioner and an AM-FM radio belonging to Maehen was missing.

A tool box full of tools was missing at the home of Clyde Harden. Harden of Route 3, Kings Mountain reported the tool box gone Friday.

A break in at the Battleground Service Station Sunday night netted thieves approximately \$8 and six cartons of cigarettes.

According to Sheriff's Department reports the station on Highway 216 was entered through a rear door. A panel had been removed from the door allowing a

very small person to get in. Detective Paul Barbe investigated the break in.

Nine area residents were listed on the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department arrest reports last week.

Thomas Jenkins, 33, of 7250 Midpines in Kings Mountain arrested for assault on a female.

Boyd Gilliam, 67, of Route 1, Grover, apprehended for carrying a concealed weapon.

William Neil Blanton, 35, of Route 2, Kings Mountain taken in for public drunkenness.

Willie Gene Self, 25, of Route 1, Grover, also a capias for non-support.

Patsy Ann Burton, 29, of 206 Blanton Street in Kings Mountain was arrested for injury to real property.

Perry Lane Clack, 17, of 106 Wells Street in Kings Mountain charged with larceny and violation of probation.

David Herndon, 33, of Route 2, Kings Mountain, assault on a female.

Fred Lovelace, 41, of Route 2, Kings Mountain arrested for simple assault.

James Alfred Kilgore, of Route 2, Kings Mountain, capias for non-support.

Local Man Charged In Bessemer City Murder

John Roscoe Teat of Kings Mountain was one of two men charged in the murder of Lauder McCullough, a 60 year old resident of Bessemer City.

The other suspect, Melvin D. Berry, of Bessemer City and Teat were arrested early Tuesday morning.

Reports had stated that McCullough was a convicted bootlegger and the motive behind the murder was believed to be robbery.

The body was discovered Monday in the woods on the Landers Chapel-High Shoals Road, by a youth riding his bicycle along the road. The body had been shot three times and also had received cuts on the face.

Police believe that the cutting took place in McCullough's Texas Avenue Trailer home and then he was taken to the High Shoals Road site where he was shot. When the body was found, McCullough's wallet was missing and an undetermined amount of money had been taken. No weapons had been found.

Police Chief Tom McDevitt of the Kings Mountain Police Department assisted in the Tuesday morning arrests.

School Opens August 25th

In about three weeks the school doors all over the city will open for the students in Kings Mountain.

According to the superintendent's office teachers report for duty August 21st. Pupil orientation will be on the 24th, and the first full day of school for the 72-73 school year will fall on August 25th.

KM Youth Killed In S.C. Wreck

A Kings Mountain youth was killed in an auto accident Saturday near Aynor, South Carolina.

Highway Patrol reports stated that Johnny Costner, 18, of 1270 Midpines in Kings Mountain was killed when his truck hit a car driven by Ernest Galloway of High Point head-on. The wreck occurred on Highway 501, five miles east of Aynor at 5:20 a.m.

Burford Bowers, a passenger in the truck with Costner was listed in fair condition by the Conway hospital. Galloway was also listed as being in fair condition but a passenger in his car, Dawn Dawkins, 12, was dead on arrival. Mrs. Galloway was in critical condition.

Fire Damages Vaughn Home

The Kings Mountain Fire Department answered a call at the home of Bill Vaughn, 701 Stone Street. The call came at 3:10 p.m., and damages were listed as severe.

A fire resulting from a faulty fuse box occurred at the home of Mrs. Lottie Burton of 612 Meadowbrook Road. Firemen were dispatched to the fire at 5:30 a.m. Friday morning. Firemen reported damage as light.



Mickey Floyd, son of Pete Floyd, who is a member of Four Fellows production currently producing the movie here in Kings Mountain, is on a 10 day leave from the Eglu U. S. Air Force Base to do a musical performance in the film. Floyd arrived in town Monday night, and will serve as a back-up man for Jim Arp and will do one song in a musical segment. When he returns to the A. F. base, he will begin touring with a 7 piece band representing the Air Force.

Wreck Damages Three Cars, Two Houses

Two houses and three parked cars were victims in wrecks occurring in Kings Mountain this week.

Houses at 219 and 221 Watterson Street were hit last Wednesday at 5:37 p.m. by a car driven by Barry Randall Dellinger, 23, of 606 Bridges Drive, Kings Mountain. According to the report filed by Sgt. Johnny Beik, a 1962 Chevrolet driven by William Duke Kerns, Jr. of 300 Edgemont Drive in Kings Mountain pulled onto Watterson and hit the car driven by Dellinger. The impact caused Dellinger's car to spin across the road and hit a 1968 Ford driven by Betty Jefferson Burch of Route 1, Box 191, Kings Mountain. Damage to the Burch car was listed at \$300.

After hitting the Burch car, Dellinger's car left the road and struck the homes at 219 and 221 Watterson. An estimated amount of damage was inflicted.

\$10 damage was done to the Kerns car and the Dellinger car was a total loss. Dellinger was taken to the K.M. Hospital where he was treated and released. Kerns was charged with failure to yield right of way.

Steve Bradley Carroll, 20, of Route 5, Box 145 Francis Avenue in Union, South Carolina was charged with reckless driving following an accident Thursday morning at 2:45 a.m.

Patrolman Madison Hunter reported that Carroll made a left onto Cranford Street

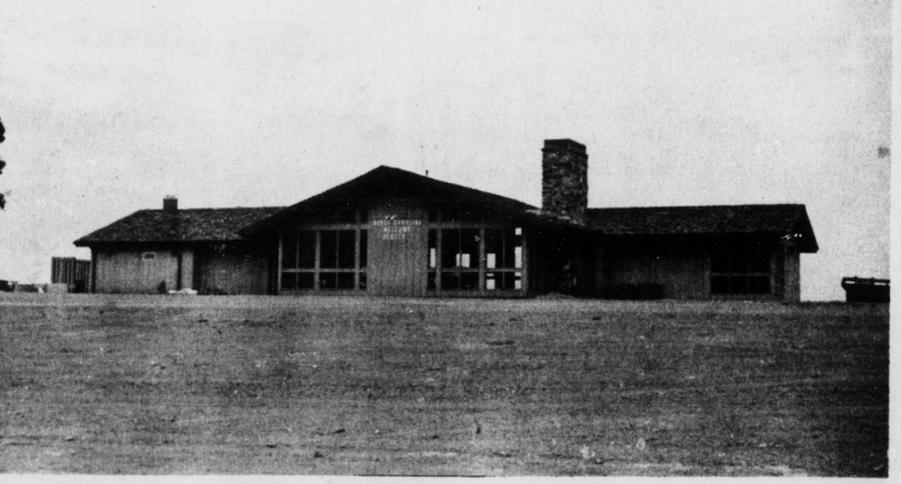
at high speed and lost control of his car. He then traveled into the backyard of 815 Third Street striking cars owned by Jesse Milling and Steve Eugene Robinson. Damage to the Carroll car was \$500 and the cars of Milling and Robinson both sustained \$800 worth of damage.

No violations were indicated in a wreck involving Phyllis Smith Dixon and Cynthia Kay Robinson Friday morning. The accident occurred at 10:30 a.m. when the 1970 Lincoln driven by Dixon was hit by Cynthia Robinson's 1971 Chevrolet on Sherwood Lane. According to reports by Patrolman L. D. Beattie the Robinson car pulled from the driveway at 906 Sherwood Lane and hit the eastbound Lincoln. Damage to the Dixon car was estimated at \$750 and \$50 to the Robinson vehicle.

Phyllis Smith Dixon is a resident of 1210 Wales Road in Kings Mountain and Cynthia Kay Robinson listed her home at 906 Sherwood Lane in Kings Mountain.

Patrolman Bynum Cook filed a report Saturday after an accident on Second Street. According to Cook's report, Howard Bolt of 820 Second Street was backing out onto the street when he struck a 1972 Chevrolet owned by Edly Brodus Merch of 808 Second Street.

Bolt's car was damaged \$70 worth and the Merch car damage was estimated at \$175. Bolt was charged with improper parking location.



Welcome Center Nears Completion

Nearly completed is the new North Carolina Welcome Center on I-85 in the vicinity of Kings Mountain. Over two months behind schedule, the center has not yet opened its doors to the travelling public. Situated just north of the 216 exit to the National Military Park, the center will cater to northbound traffic as tourists first enter the State. South Carolina already has a similar Welcome Center just south of Grover and many miles further down I-85 is the Georgia Center. The rustic design of the building is the same one used for the Center which is located on I-40 near the Tennessee border. It is designed differently to the Cen-

ter on the Virginia Line which many motorists visit as they come down from New York or Washington.

The new Welcome Center covers a large tract of land which has already been graded and extensive parking areas have been paved. There are many picnic tables spread out both in open areas and under trees. Barbecue grills have also been installed at some of the picnic sites. It won't be too long now before the center is stocked with hundreds of brochures extolling the delights of Variety Vacationland and the passing motorists will pull off the road for a welcome rest and a chance to stretch their legs in a really delightful setting. (Mirror Photo By Sylvia Holmes)