

Three Cars Wrecked

High Speed Chase Ends With Arrest

By TOM MCINTYRE
Editor, Mirror-Herald

Randall Edward Kellum, 20, Hartwell, Ga. faces six separate charges by the State Highway Patrol following a high speed chase which ended at the rear of the Joy Theatre downtown Kings Mountain Friday.

In the Cleveland County jail, Kellum is charged with speeding in excess of 100 mph speed, in excess of 80 mph while attempting to elude a police officer, careless and reckless driving, failure to stop for a sign, no operator's license and carrying a concealed weapon (a commercial brand gun advertised to ward off burglars).

Kellum, according to police, has been in this and the Thomasville area for about a year. He is employed by Rargin Construction Co. and his current address is Club Antonia Apartments, Lake Antonia, near Kings Mountain.

The chase began near the Highway Patrol station in Shelby before noon Friday, according to Trooper Craig Fish, when the trooper checked the Kellum vehicle, a white Buick, at 77 mph on radar. Fish crossed the 74 median and gave chase.

At Bethware School, Trooper Fish stated, "the driver of the Buick cut off the highway and onto the school ground where there were children playing, then drove back onto the highway." According to the patrol report the chase involved speeds of greater than 100 mph from the school into Kings Mountain.

Kellum entered Kings Mountain on W. Mountain St. where Police Chief William Roper Jr. was stationed to attempt to stop the white Buick. Kellum continued on W. Mountain with Trooper Fish and Chief Roper in pursuit. Other officers in

police units fell in along the one-mile route.

Kellum continued driving at high speed passing other vehicles on the way. Trooper Fish attempted to pull along side Kellum as the cars sped past the Cansler St. intersection. Kellum swerved into a driveway below the Joy Theatre and attempted to continue his flight up the sidewalk between parked cars and the theater building. At the moment Kellum made his turn into the drive, Trooper Fish and Chief Roper slammed on brakes, skidded sideways and bounced over the curb, crashing into the side of Kellum's vehicle. Kellum's car was pushed sideways for a short distance off the sidewalk.

Trooper Fish attempted to remove Kellum from his vehicle, but Kellum fought back and it wasn't until other

city police officers were on the scene a few seconds later that Kellum could be taken from his car and placed in the back of a Cleveland County Sheriff's vehicle on the scene.

Following Kellum's arrest, it was reported the young man had been in the Highway Patrol station at Shelby shortly before the chase began. The license examiner said he wanted a N. C. operator's license, but could not show proper identification. When asked if he had driven himself to the station, Kellum is quoted as saying, "No. A friend drove me here." After that the license examiner said Kellum rushed out of the station, jumped into the white Buick and "sped away recklessly" from the station.

Highway Patrol Sgt. W. W. Kellum (no relation to Randall

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Photo By Tom McIntyre

GATHERING WITNESSES — Highway Patrol Trooper Craig Fish is seen gathering witnesses to the high speed chase along W. Mountain St. last Friday about noon. The trooper and Kings Mountain Police Chief William Roper crashed their cars into the 1964 Buick (behind Fish) driven by Randall Edward Kellum. The fleeing driver was stopped behind the Joy Theatre as he attempted to evade the officers by driving up the sidewalk toward Railroad Ave. Kellum was arrested on six counts.



Photo By Gary Stewart

A SPECIAL VISIT — Following last week's Christmas parade here Santa Claus and his helpers went right on to the home of Shirley Moore. Here the nine-year old Leukemia victim sits on Santa's knee and talks about the yule season. Santa didn't come empty-handed.

He had a couple of gifts for the youngster. The youngster is a terminal case and her story has been told not only in this newspaper, but in other publications and on TV as well. Roy Pearson, city recreation director, looks on the background.

Holiday Schedule For Schools

The Christmas holiday schedule for Kings Mountain District Schools students: Fri., Dec. 19 — Last day for students prior to the holiday. Teachers will be off from Dec. 22 through Jan. 1, returning Jan. 2 for a workday. Students return to classes Jan. 5. Mid-term evaluation is set for Jan. 22-23, 1976.

Notice To Readers And Advertisers...

In order to give readers and advertisers full mailing and street sales service during the coming holidays, The Mirror-Herald will publish one day earlier than usual.

For Christmas, Wed., Dec. 24.
For New Years, Wed., Dec. 31.

This will necessitate moving all deadlines back in order to maintain the publishing schedule. The social and women's news

Police Have No Solid Lead In Rayfield Death

By TOM MCINTYRE
Editor, Mirror-Herald

Police said Wednesday they are no nearer discovering who robbed and killed James Luther Rayfield than they were early Saturday morning.

Since the discovery of the shooting and robbery at Doug Falls Phillips 66 station at E. King and York Rd. about 1:30 a. m. Saturday, police have taken statements from several citizens about what they saw at the station between 1-1:30 a. m.

Chief William Roper Jr. said one statement places Rayfield outside pumping gas into a car shortly after 1 a. m. Another statement informed the police that about 1:15 a. m. there were no cars and no signs of anyone inside or outside the station.

Roper said so far no one has come forward with any information about seeing a car and people in or near the station from 1:15 until 1:30 a. m. Police were originally notified of the shooting and robbery shortly after 1:30 a. m. by two teenage boys who stopped at the station for gas.

"The teenagers said they went inside the station and found Rayfield on the floor behind the cash register," Roper said.

Lt. Johnny Belk said when officers arrived at the station Rayfield was alive, but unconscious. Rescue squad members rushed Rayfield to Kings Mountain Hospital, then to a Charlotte hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

"We think the victim was in the process of closing the station when he was shot and robbed," Belk said. "Rayfield worked Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays as the attendant, closing about 1:30 a. m."

Belk said police found blood in the cash drawer, which leads investigators to believe the first shot that struck Rayfield was through the fleshy part beneath his skin. That slug was removed from the station wall. Belk said the slug went through a clipboard hanging on the paneled wall, through the panel and lodged against the brick beneath.

Belk said the police theory is the second slug was in the stomach. "Possibly as Rayfield turned toward his assailant,"

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EDA Approves \$300,000 For Sewer Line To Eaton Corp.

Congressman James T. Broyhill announced this week that the Economic Development Administration of the Department of Commerce has approved a \$300,000 grant to Cleveland County for construction of a sewer line into the southeastern section of the county.

"This grant will provide the necessary funds," the Congressman said, "to complete the construction of a sewer line to Eaton Corporation between Kings Mountain and Grover and will allow the plant to begin operation, thus employing many residents in the area."

County Manager Joe Hendrick said he expected the contract to the low bidder, Hickory Sand Co., to be awarded by Dec. 22 or 23.

"The bid deadline was Monday," Hendrick said, "but Hickory Sand gave the commissioners an extension

until Dec. 31."

Hendrick said the low bidder will have 150 days from the day the contract is awarded to install the line.

The county manager said half of the EDA grant will be forwarded upon the commissioner's acceptance of the grant proposal and that the remaining half will be supplied in monthly installments as needed and until the full \$300,000 is exhausted.

A special meeting of the commissioners, according to Hendrick, will "probably" be called to accept the grant and to award the contract.

Hickory Sand Company's low base bid (for a large line to also serve the Town of Grover) was \$842,463.54. The low base bid from National Electric Co. for the electrical work was \$46,406.

"I believe Cleveland County is the first in the U. S. outside of an economically depressed

area to receive an EDA grant" Hendrick said. "We're real happy to have it."

Ron Tompkins, Eaton plant manager, told The Mirror-Herald, "I'm certainly glad to hear this. It allows us to take a look at a positive timetable, which is something we have not had. Since July 14, 1974 we have been promised a lot of tomorrows, but now it looks

like Christmas 1975 will be real bright for Eaton."

Tompkins said he had not been officially notified of the grant approval, but would take the news with him to a planning meeting at Eaton's home offices in Cleveland, Ohio on Wednesday.

"They'll be happy to hear the news," Tompkins said.

'Give Me A Yes Or No!' - Harley Gore

Before turning the offices over to a brand new board last week, the former commissioners voted to resubmit a request to rezone a 150 by 200 foot lot from residential to neighborhood business to the zoning board.

At the time it appeared to be routine enough, even though it was commented at the time by the board the request had been submitted before, then withdrawn.

After the action was published in last week's Mirror-Herald the owners of that lot on Walker and Cansler Sts. were upset.

Harley Gore, who lives at the address, said, "All I want is a yes or no answer to the request. I'm willing to abide by whatever decision the board reaches."

Gore said this business has been hanging since last March when C. M. Peeler Insurance and Realty of Shelby "came

knocking on our door and made us an offer for the property."

Gore said the offer was accepted and he entered the request to change the zoning on the lot from R-8 (residential) to NB (neighborhood business). The request was sent on to the zoning board for a recommendation.

"The zoning board met at 5 p. m. on Mar. 18, the day the ABC referendum was held in Kings Mountain," Gore said. "Members of Temple Baptist Church appeared before the board to protest the rezoning, stating they did not want a place that would sell liquor and beer that close to the church. The zoning board recommended the rezoning request be denied."

Gore said Peeler Realty suggested the request be withdrawn from city board action

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