

Roamin' Around
Town



With

Darrell Austin

(Ingredients: There will be bits of news, very little wisdom, some humor and comments, some views from other editors. Directions: Take weekly, if possible, but please avoid an overdose.)

This week's comments come from the Herald's Publisher, Garland Atkins.

Now that Thanksgiving is over, it is time for all of us to start thinking about Christmas. Christmas should be a peaceful time of the year, but I'm afraid for most of us it's more of a "Plop-Plop-Fizz Fizz" time of the year.

There are more murders in December. More rapes, more robberies, more loneliness, more couples break up, more suicides, more tension, more headaches, more bitterness.

I don't think that is what "THE MAN" had in mind. Christmas seems to start out all right, but by the time it's over, the adults are worn out and the children are irritable.

I have thought about the situation and I have decided that it doesn't have to be that way. And so I am offering some suggestions as to how we can all enjoy Christmas more and avoid some of the miseries that seem to go along with the season.

(1) Never order Christmas gifts from a mail order catalogue. If you do, there are about five things that can happen, and four of them are bad. First of all, once you order from these out-of-town concerns, you get on every mailing list in the country, including catalogues from the Navajo Indians, every cheese maker from Switzerland, North Dakato orange groves, and manufacturers of \$300 a pair bedroom shoes.

If you are lucky enough to get the article, it never looks like what it did in the magazine. You will be lucky if you ever recognize it. Buy your gifts from local people who run local stores. They need the money more than these out-of-town people do.

(2) Don't buy a live Christmas tree if you have tiny children, cats or male dogs in the house. By the time they get through with the tree, it will wish it were dead.

(3) If you have purchased toys that have to be put together, assemble them sometime before midnight Christmas eve. There is nothing more frustrating than trying to fit part A to part B at 3 a.m.

(4) Forget to buy batteries. Then half of what you get for the kids won't run and you have bought a day or two of peace and quiet.

(5) Lock up everything—your house, your car, your office, and your garage. Try locking up your house even when you're in it. That helps to keep your relatives away.

(6) Never drink before you shop. Your will power is low and you will buy things that you never would had you been sober.

(7) Tell your teenagers that beginning December 1, no music will be played in the house but Christmas music. That gives you a whole month without any rock 'n' roll.

(8) Don't let Christmas run you. Have Christmas the way you want to. Don't go to any parties you don't want to. Don't buy any presents you don't want to, don't get caught up in the hassle.

Leave a little time to be by yourself. Save a moment just to walk out in the backyard, look up into the heavens, and search out that same star. It's up there somewhere.

(To comment in this column, write Roamin' Around Town, P.O. Box 752, or give me a call at 739-7496.)

Tuesday 15c

Kings Mountain Herald

VOLUME 90 - NUMBER 95 - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1979 - KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA

City Has 30 Days To Respond

Corrective Actions Listed By HUD

By ELIZABETH STEWART

The city will file answers within 30 days to 14 questions raised in a recent audit of the city's community development program by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

What action HUD expects on correcting the findings were detailed in a four-page memorandum from Betsy Stafford, area manager of

Greensboro's HUD office and received by Mayor John Henry Moss Thursday.

"We are currently working with the city's auditors, the firm of A.M. Pullen & Co. to provide the documentation," said Thomasson. The Pullen firm audits the city's books annually and has audited virtually all city programs since the city began receiving federal grants 15 years ago in the amount of more than \$22 million.

The list of suggested corrective actions were dated Nov. 27th and appear toned down from the original 28 page audit report which was issued Oct. 6th and the six page memorandum which followed a routine audit by the federal auditors of the city's community development block grant program.

Since receiving the initial copy of the audit, the city has been in process of collecting evidence to support each of the projects in question, said Thomasson.

Mr. Thomasson said that each question will be answered and that if the city disagrees with HUD on how to correct the items in question he understands "we will have an opportunity to present our case further."

The question, he said, is not of misuse of money but of eligibility of project money. It is the opinion of the HUD auditors, he said, that findings did not mean that the costs were for improper purposes but there was insufficient documentary evidence to allow a determination of their eligibility.

Two big projects in question are the use of the Community Center and the construction of the York Road sewer project which the audit says are in conflict with program requirements for low and moderate income families.

Mayor John Henry Moss says the city can document eligibility of project costs totaling over \$1 million but former Community Development Coordinator Arnold Gordon-Wright disagrees. Gordon-Wright, now CD director for the City of Forest City, told the Herald this week that "it will be an impossible task to come up with all the records for some of the programs," recalling that he was unable to provide the auditors some of the documents before he left the city's employment in mid-September.

Gordon-Wright, who worked for the city two years, maintains the audit points up discrepancies in the community development program which he knew existed all along. He confirmed that he, as CD co-ordinator for the city, made HUD aware on several occasions but "never in an accusing manner."

Gordon-Wright guessed it will take about a year for the city to resolve the matter with HUD.

Attorney Thomasson and CD interim director Alvin Moretz did not estimate how long the process would evolve but acknowledged that the city will make every effort to provide the necessary documentation.

Enumerated are the outstanding findings, along with suggested corrective actions HUD says should be taken by the city to resolve them:

+Finding No. 1 - Use of Neighborhood Facility in conflict with program requirements-The city

(Turn to page 9)

Bridges Services Are Held

One thing six-year-old Tracy Bridges had been looking forward to of late was seeing Santa Claus ride in the Kings Mountain Christmas Parade.

Although he wasn't feeling well, he was granted his wish last Wednesday and sat wrapped up in a wheelchair on Battleground Avenue as the 90 units circled through downtown.

Thursday night, his condition worsened and he was rushed to a local hospital. Doctors said they could do no more for him and he returned to his home in Mid-pines, where he died at 9:45 a.m. Friday.

Death ended an almost life-long battle with cancer for the handsome six-year-old. Cancer was first discovered behind his ear when he was 18 months old. The last year his condition continuously worsened as he made constant trips to Duke Hospital for treatment.

His battle was unknown to most until several weeks ago when it was brought to the community's attention through a story in the Herald. Since that time, Tracy and his family made hundreds of new and concerned friends.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday afternoon at Westover Baptist Church by Rev. Roger Webb, who was at the family's side during much of the crisis and at Tracy's side at the time of death. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Tracy is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Bridges, a twin brother, Stacy, and his two-year-old sister, Tammy. Also surviving are his grandparents, Lester Summitt and Mrs. Thelma Summitt, both of Kings Mountain, and Mrs. Dora Lee Bridges of Conover.



Photo by Gary Stewart

VIEW DISPLAY—Central School students look over photographs and jewelry which were a part of a display on the culture of Iran presented by an

Iranian college student on Friday. The student also showed slides, and gave a brief talk and answered questions during every class period.

Thursday At 4 p.m.

Grover Parade Slated

The annual Grover Christmas Parade is scheduled for Thursday at 4 p.m.

The parade, sponsored by the Grover Lions Club, will form on Highway 226 near Bethany Baptist Church. It will proceed to Main Street, then to Laurel Avenue and disband at the Grover Medical Clinic.

The Grover School PTO will sell doughnuts along the parade route, and immediately following the parade will sponsor a hot dog supper at the school cafeteria.

Units, in order of appearance, include:

N.C. Highway Patrol, flag horses, Grover Police, Rambling Rebels band, Grand Marshall H.A. Thompson of WBT Radio, Air National Guard, skull and dragon team, Kings Mountain National Park, Grover Cub Scouts, Number Three Fire Dept., Cleveland County Sheriff Haywood Allen, WXIK Radio, Shiloh Centennial float, Grover Town officials, Senator Ollie Harris, Cleveland Tech float, Grover Fire Dept.;

Also, County Commissions, Boling Springs units, Carousel Princess Melany Clark, KMHS Homecoming Queen Wendy Stringfellow, KMHS cheerleaders, KMHS band, Kings Mountain bankers and savings and loans float, Grover Rescue Squad, Grover Little League, Grover Girl Scouts, Grover tooth fairy, Shriners cars, Grover Fire Dept., Clover Junior High band, Minette Mill float, Kings Mountain School Board;

(Turn to page 10)

Parade Was One Of Best

"One of the city's best Christmas parades."

This is the way the Kings Mountain Fire Department-sponsored Christmas parade in Kings Mountain was described by one spectator.

With the weather perfect, crowds of Greater-Kings Mountain area citizens crowded the downtown streets last Wednesday to watch a colorful "Mountaineer" theme parade which officially opened the 1979 Christmas shopping season.

Approximately 85 units made up the parade which required about 50 minutes to pass through the business district and culminated with Santa Claus and reindeer with Roy Pearson assisting as Santa's helper in distributing candy to kids lining the route.

The parade featured a bit of almost everything. There were pretty girls, including the reigning Miss North Carolina Monta Maki of Hickory, Trisha

(Turn to page 3)



Photo by Gary Stewart

THOUSANDS VIEW PARADE—Both sides of Battleground Avenue are thickly lined with citizens attending Wednesday's annual Christmas Parade, sponsored by the Kings Mountain Fire Department. At time this photo was taken they were watching a

good show put on by the Piedmont Shriners on go-carts. Over 80 units were in the parade, which was termed as one of the best ever.