

Kings Mountain Herald

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Audit Big News Story Of 1979

Compiled by Lib Stewart

As the strains of "Auld Lang Syne", traditional harbinger of a brand new year are played Monday night, Kings Mountain area citizens can look back on 1979 as a year in which they generally had their share of fun, prosperity, happiness and sadness.

The year will be remembered for many things.

The top news story in Kings Mountain, audit of the city by the Department of Housing and Urban Development of its Community Development Program got major attention in the news and it will probably be well into New Year 1980 before resolution of 11 questions of which the city is filing answers and for which city officials say they can document spending of nearly \$1 million in federal funds.

Nor will the top news story in the nation be resolved with the

entrance of New Year 1980.

America has had troublesome problems before in its dealing with other countries but none has seemed so fraught with potential danger as that now with Iran where 50 Americans are being held hostage at the American Embassy in Tehran. This country has sought not to be placed in a "damned if you do and damned if you don't" position. It is, nevertheless being pushed toward that point.

Another major news event which affects all Americans, and where KM area citizens have felt the pinch of the economy, is the rising costs of gasoline and fuel oil. Predictions of higher rates for gasoline cast another bad omen for us in the New Year 1980.

Month by month, the compilation from headlines of the Kings Mountain Herald, show some of the major news events of 1979.

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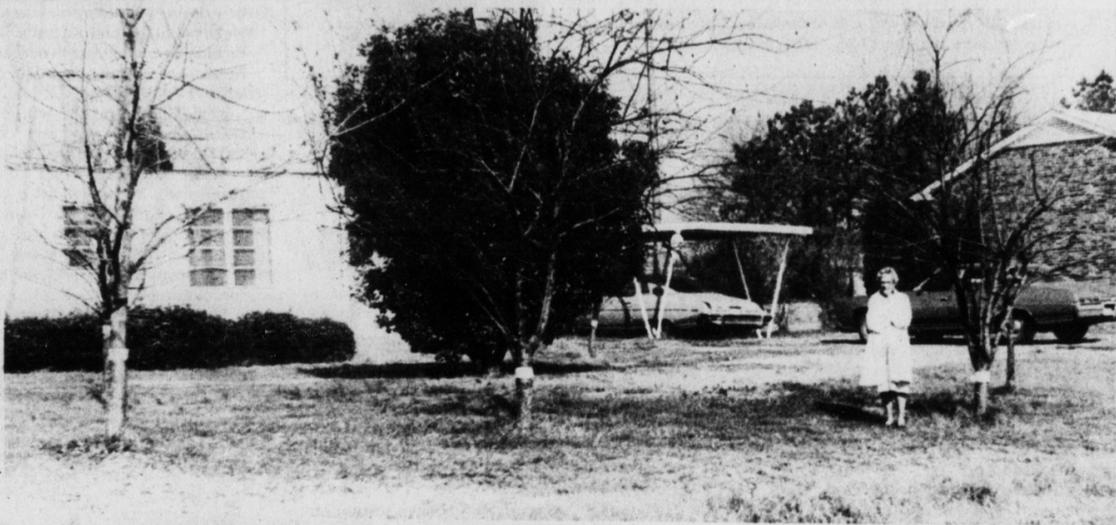


Photo by Gary Stewart

CONCERNED FOR HOSTAGES—Mrs. Naomi Hutto of Kings Mountain stands in her front lawn which she decorated with white cloths to show her concern for the 50 American hostages

being held at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. Mrs. Hutto tied a white cloth around her mailbox and trees.

Mrs. Hutto 'Arm-Bands' Her Trees

Concern For Hostages

By GARY STEWART
Co-Editor

For several weeks, Americans have worn white arm bands and flown their flags as a show of concern for the 50 Americans being held hostage at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

Mrs. Naomi Hutto, who lives on Margrace Road, has gone one better. She's decorated every tree in her front yard, as well as her mailbox, with white cloths. "I don't go anywhere to wear an arm band, and I don't own a flag," she said. "So I decided to show my concern by wrapping

white cloths around my trees." Mrs. Hutto, who lives in a house trailer, got the idea from a gospel radio station in Black Mountain which rings church bells every hour on the hour and asks its listeners to pause for a minute of silent prayer for the hostages.

"This is a way that I can show that I pray for the hostages and think about them," said Mrs. Hutto. "I wish they could all be home. I often think what it would be like if one of my sons was over there. I've always thought of others as well as I do myself."

Mrs. Hutto said she really

didn't believe anyone would notice her lawn.

"My daughter Toy (Mrs. Vernon Smith) came down one day and asked me 'why in the world have you tied a rag around all of your trees?', she said. "Since then, several people have commented on them."

Mrs. Hutto supports President Carter's handling of the situation.

"I think it's horrible," she said. "I hope they (the Iranians) don't do anything to the hostages. I wonder what they'd think if we would do this to all the Iranians in this country. But

we won't do that because the United States has a heart.

"I think the United States is doing all they can to keep from going to war," she continued. "I reckon if they have to go to war they will. The President is doing as good a job as he can. He's afraid if he does anything, they'll kill them. It would do those people (the Iranians) good to kill them."

"I don't see what they're so mad at the United States for doctoring the Shah," she went on. "If you can save somebody's life, you should."



HONORED BY FIREMEN—The Kings Mountain Fire Department presented plaques to two former members Thursday in appreciation of years of dedicated service. In top photo is John White, who retired after 20 years in the department. Bottom photo, fireman Ronnie Hawkins presents a plaque to Mrs. L.D. Scruggs in memory of her husband, Rev. Scruggs, who before his death served as the department chaplain.

Moving Upsets City Police

Moving Day Friday of occupants of the KM Chamber of Commerce and Merchants Association offices in the Community Center to the old City Hall on S. Piedmont Ave. was getting some flak from city police personnel who want the old City Hall to be renovated into a KM Law Enforcement Center.

The move was dictated after a recent finding on HUD's audit of the Community Development Block Grant Program that said KM is not complying with low-income criteria by allowing organizations to rent the plush office spaces in the Community Center on Cleveland Ave.

Since the Center was ex-

panded, two of the offices have housed the combined KM Merchants Association and Chamber of Commerce and that of Jerry King, and Community Development Corporation.

Following Hud's directive, King's office and the C of C and Merchants Association were moved, King's office to the new Kings Mountain Government Facilities Building and the C of C and retailers groups to the old City Hall in what was the city utility department.

A spokesman for the KM Police Department said that the police staff have used small quarters at the back of the

building and offices in the basement in "cramped and rat-infested quarters" for years in the hope that when renovation of the building to a Law Enforcement Facility was accomplished that police would utilize the old utility department for dispatcher offices.

Moved out of the new City Hall and into offices at the Community Center was the CETA program, another move which complies with the HUD requirements.

"We're very disappointed," said a police department spokesman.

Kings Mountain Woman Gets 10-Year Sentence

Superior Court Judge Robert D. Lewis of Asheville sentenced Kay Wright of Kings Mountain to 10 years in prison on two counts of accessory after the fact of murder in McDowell County Superior Court last week.

Active prison sentence was also handed down to Henry Burnette, three to five years on charges of being an accessory to the murder of Cathy Mosely, 24, and 10 years in connection with the murder of Kathy Carnes, 23.

One Paper Next Week

Because New Year's Day falls on our regular Tuesday press day, the Herald will again publish only one paper next week.

It will appear under the date of Thurs., Jan. 3.

Deadline for news and advertising will be Friday at 5 p.m.

We will be closed Monday and Tuesday.

The sentencing of the two ended the case that began in McDowell County in July when Danny Parton, formerly of Bessemer City, led authorities to the bodies of the two women and said he knew where there were more. Parton later retracted his statement and an extensive search of the area around Marion turned up nothing.

Parton was convicted last week of first degree murder in the deaths of the two women and sentenced to two consecutive life terms in prison.

Burnett testified that he was with Parton when he buried the bodies of the two women last summer. He also told the court that he was in Parton's home in the North Cove Community along with Miss Wright when Parton allegedly told him that he had killed his wife, a reference to Ms. Mosley. Burnette also told the court that he accompanied Parton and Miss Wright on a drive to a wooded area where Parton buried the body.



Photo by Rick McDaniel

WALT DISNEY CHARACTERS are actually teachers who dressed up to entertain during the recent KM District Schools Band Concert to kickoff a fund-raising drive by parents to help defray costs of the band trip to Disney World in Orlando, Fla. The fund drive begins this week.