

Fighting 'Unfair Surcharges'

Ingram Wants Fair Insurance

North Carolina Insurance Commissioner John Ingram reiterated his pledge "not to give up my fight for fair insurance for everyone" in an address before the Kings Mountain Kiwanis Club Thursday night.

I have asked the Governor and Attorney General to help us get legislation to stop these unfair surcharges because our efforts in the courts thus far have not saved automobile policyholders one penny,

declared Ingram who encouraged Kiwanians and other citizens to "get behind your senators and representatives in Cleveland County and support House Bill Seven which will eliminate surcharges on every safe driver in North Carolina."

"My staff tells me," continued Ingram, "that both insurance committees are not balanced for the people. Legislators who feel the same as I do cannot make their voices heard for the people

if a bill is bottled up in committee and never reaches the floor." Ingram said that local people can make their voices heard by contacting local legislators about this important piece of legislation involving all safe drivers.

House Bill 7 has been introduced in this session of the N.C. General Assembly by Rep. Dick Barnes of Harnett County.

"Insurance tax on safe drivers must be stopped," said Ingram, who sees the issue as one of the

"most burning" issues coming before the General Assembly this session.

Kiwanian Kyle Smith was program chairman and presented Mr. Ingram. President Jerry Ledford welcomed visitors, including Clyde Nolan of Shelby, long lauded as "Mr. Democrat" in Cleveland County and Mrs. Joyce Falls Cashion, chairman of the Cleveland County Democratic Party.

Miss Lynch Wins Award

Beverly Ann Lynch of Kings Mountain, a student at Appalachian State University, is among 47 students selected for the honor teaching award.

The award is given each semester to approximately 10 percent of ASU students who demonstrate exceptional initiative, scholarship, and excellence in student teaching.

Lynch, a senior elementary education major, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dwain Lynch of 608 Sipes St., Kings Mountain.

During fall semester she taught 4th-5th grades at Fallston Elementary School under the supervision of Beverly Ledford.

SYMPHONY

The Kings Mountain chapter of the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra will make plans for concerts which are scheduled for May 12th at a planning meeting which is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, at 3:30 p.m. The meeting is to be in the Library at Kings Mountain Senior High School.



WINS AWARD - Gary Stewart, right, co-editor of the Herald, is presented an award from Governor Jim Hunt for winning second place in the feature writing division of the 1980 North Carolina Press Association competition.

Stewart Wins Writing Award

Gary Stewart, co-editor of the Herald, won a second place award for feature writing at the North Carolina Press Association 1980 Awards Banquet Thursday night at Chapel Hill.

Stewart was presented the award by Governor Jim Hunt. It was his second NCPA award and the veteran writer has also won a number of awards from other organizations. His other NCPA award came in 1974 and was a second place for the best local sports coverage.

Stewart won the award this year for a story titled "They Laughed It Off." It was a comical piece on Sam Leonard and Florence Holmes, who had to be married twice after it was discovered they secured their marriage license in Gaston County and were married in Kings Mountain Church of God. After Rev. Jerry Smith made the discovery, he drove the couple across the Gaston County line and they re-spoke their vows and made their marriage legal.

Over 1,200 writers across North Carolina entered the competition in the semi-weekly division, and over 1,800 more entered the daily division, accounting for a record of over 3,000 entries.

The judges made the following observations of the Stewart entry: "Good lead catches reader's attention in this light feature. Writer has taken what might have been a two paragraph news brief and turned it into a delightful and humorous feature that surely got the attention and tickled the funny bones of a lot of readers."

Stewart is a 17-year newspaper veteran, having begun his career in 1964 following graduation from Kings Mountain High School. He has worked at the Herald, Mirror-Herald and Gastonia Gazette in sports, news and photography.

He has been co-editor of the Herald since September of 1979.



Photo by Lib Stewart

KIWANIANS HEAR INGRAM - N.C. Commissioner of Insurance John Ingram, center, addressed a ladies night meeting of the KM Kiwanis club Thursday night. Kiwanis Presi-

dent Jerry Ledford, left, looks on as Program Chairman Kyle Smith welcomes Ingram to Kings Mountain.

Benefit Planned For Kelli

Concerned Citizens of the Grover area will sponsor a Valentine Day bluegrass and gospel benefit show Sat., Feb. 14th, at 7 p.m. at Grover School for benefit of Kelli Harry.

The Grover youngster remains in a coma at Charlotte Memorial Hospital where she was hospitalized Dec. 18th after she was struck by a pickup truck in front of the school and a day before the Christmas holidays began for school children.

Kelli, daughter of Phil and Maria Harry of Grover, darted from behind a large van type truck and was struck by a pickup truck coming in the opposite direction, according to police reports. She has multiple brain damage, a partially collapsed lung, which has become infected, and a dislocated elbow. Her parents commute from Grover to Charlotte each day and one of them has remained by her side throughout the long ordeal, while trying to maintain their jobs at Minette Mills and care for three other daughters, Elizabeth, Bettina and Nancy.

All proceeds from the benefit will go to the Harrys to help with transportation to and from the hospital.

A number of bands will perform free for the benefit and include Nelson Young and Sandy Valley Boys, Lincoln County Partners, The Roustabouts and Leonard McSwain Band. Donations, which are tax deductible, are also invited from the public and can be forwarded to Kelli Harry, c/o You-Nel Christian Foundation, PO Box 366, Blacksburg, S.C. 29702.

Tickets for the show are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for students.

James Ludlam, 96 Years Old

Granddaddy Likes To See 'Old People'

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Co-Editor

James Nelson Ludlam, 96 on Tuesday, has been issued a driver's license until he's 99 but has parked his 1965 Ford outside his daughter's home on North Goforth Street and started walking.

"Granddaddy," as Ludlam is affectionately called by kin and neighbors, has been a regular member of the Senior Citizens program at the Depot since he moved to Kings Mountain from Darlington, S.C. last year to live with Rev. and Mrs. Bob Austin.

A Senior Citizens van picks up Mr. Ludlam for his daily visit to the Depot Center, but after that "Granddaddy" takes several walks around the neighborhood with friends and goes to see "the old folks at Kings Mountain Convalescent Center."

Mr. Ludlam's keen sense of humor and good health belies his years. He prepares his own breakfast, is the official "leaf raker" at the Austin home and stays busy while his daughter and son-in-law are at work and while his grandchildren, Lisa, 14, and Edward, 16, are in school.

Washing the dishes is definitely "out of his line," he tells his daughter, and he's retired from all household chores except leaf raking which he enjoys about as much as his vintage auto, which has only 52,000 actual miles accounted for by his grandchildren.

Born in 1885 in Oree County, S.C. Mr. Ludlam used to raise cotton, tobacco, corn, sweet potatoes and hay on a 70 acre farm where he and his wife of 54 years reared six children. His father was a Baptist preacher who never received a regular

salary but was paid with whatever his parishioners could afford, sometimes with a dollar but most of the time in potatoes and a slab of meat.

"It's a whole different world now," Mr. Ludlam says of the modern times in which we live. Educated in a one room school house, Mr. Ludlam remembers the horse and buggy days with much fondness. He courted his wife in a horse and buggy, never had much time to read by the lamplight because of the field work that needed attention, but always went to church. He recalled how his mother used to knit his socks and how different the early churches and homes were constructed in "the good old days." Now, Mr. Ludlam has time to read and enjoys it, has read the Bible through four or five times and shares stories with the family. He also likes to sing and joins his son-in-law at the piano and organ for songfests when his 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren come to visit.

Mr. Ludlam learned to drive at the age of 72 when he retired from the farm. "The boys had all moved away and made homes of their own and it became a necessity," he said. He bought a new car in 1965 and 15 years later the car "drives as good as new," he boasts. Since he is unfamiliar with Kings Mountain roads, he leaves most of the driving to his son-in-law and his grandchildren.

"I married one of the finest girls in America and a Christian and church-goer who had a great influence on my life," Mr. Ludlam said of his late wife who died nine years ago. He recalled going to see his sweetheart dur-

ing the pouring rain in a brand new buggy. "I told her Pa that I didn't want to return home in all that rain and thought I'd best stay the night," said Mr. Ludlam. His future father-in-law replied, "You came here in the rain, didn't you boy?"

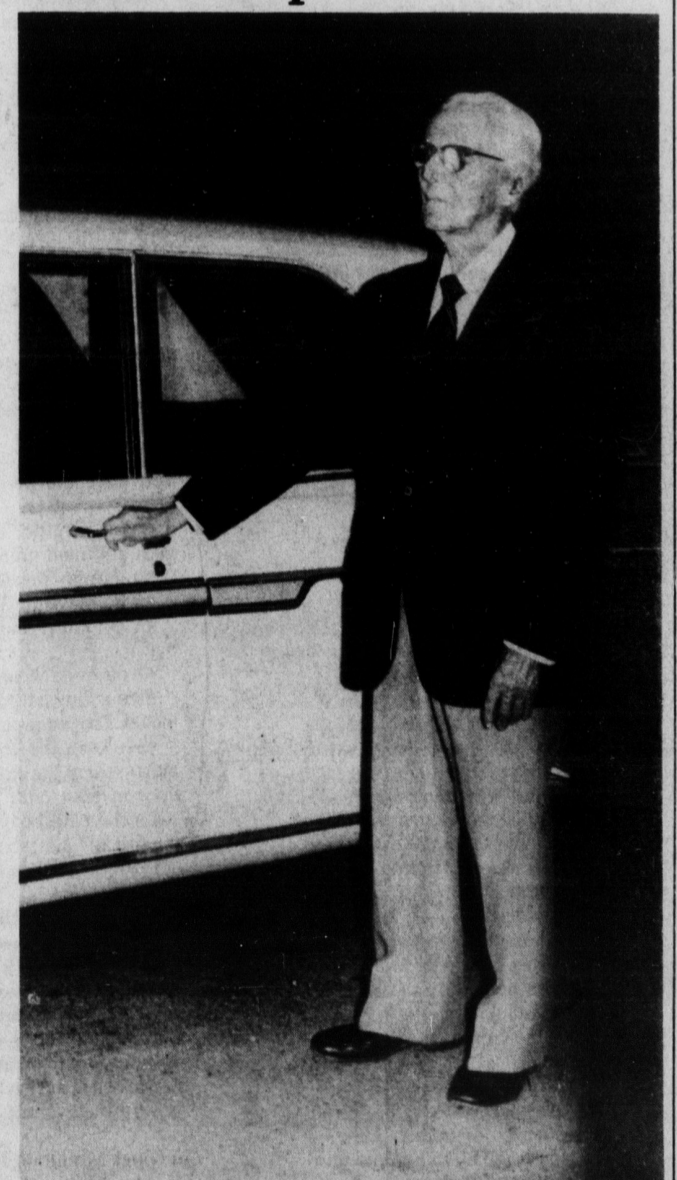
Mr. Ludlam credits his good health to never smoking and never drinking a drop of alcoholic beverages. And, living a Christian life. His faith in God has given him the strength he has needed to work hard all his life, he said, and in recent years he has only lost through death one member of his large family, a 27-year-old grandson who was killed in an automobile accident recently in South Carolina.

Tuesday's birthday celebration for "Granddaddy" was the 31st annual big birthday celebration of the large family. A small party was held at the Austin home here and a yellow and white birthday cake was cut and served. A large family reunion is scheduled this weekend in Charlotte and in Hartsville, S.C.

Mr. Ludlam is active in the Sunday School of First Baptist Church and walks with his family to church every Sunday morning.

When "Granddaddy" first came to live with the Austins, Mrs. Austin invited him to use a first floor bedroom in the tri-level house. Mr. Ludlam declined. He can navigate the stairs as well as the rest of the family.

As Mr. Ludlam blew out one candle on his cake Tuesday he said he was "going to do my best to live to be 99 and after that I'm going to be very careful so that I can make it to 100." And he'll probably be around much longer.



LUDLAM AND VINTAGE AUTO—James Nelson Ludlam was 96 on Tuesday. He has been issued a driver's license until he's 99. But the active senior citizens plans to be around until he's 100 or longer.