



Holiday Inn Clerk Robbed, Shot Sunday

A night clerk for the Holiday Inn in Kings Mountain was robbed, abducted and taken to a remote rural area of Gaston County and shot early Sunday morning.

Derrick Lewis Freeman, 23, of Shelby, who escaped when the two attackers became entangled in some vines and fallen trees, ran a half-mile to a farm house, where residents there called an ambulance and police.

Freeman was shot once in the upper right back area. He was treated and kept overnight at Gaston Memorial Hospital, and

was released around noon Sunday. He is reportedly "doing fine" but has not returned to work.

According to Detective Richard Reynolds of the Kings Mountain Police Department, this is what happened:

Around 1 a.m. Sunday, two white males entered the lobby of the Holiday Inn. Freeman did not see them enter.

One approached the counter and asked Freeman for change, then pulled a gun on Freeman and demanded the money from the cash drawer.

At that time, Reynolds said, the other suspect came up. The two got the money and forced the clerk to go with them. They had him remove his shirt, and it was placed over Freeman's head. Freeman's necktie was tied around his eyes.

Reynolds said Freeman was placed in the trunk of the car and was driven to an area near Lower Crowders Creek Church Road in Gaston County. The car stopped and Freeman was taken out of the trunk.

"But one of the men thought he heard something and they put

him back in the trunk," Reynolds said. "They went on down the road to a field access road located off the hard-surfaced road."

Reynolds said the car traveled about 150 yards down the access road and stopped again. Freeman was taken out of the trunk and taken about 10 yards into a heavily wooded area.

"They tied his hands behind his back with his shirt and tie," Reynolds said, "and laid him down and shot him in the right upper back. The bullet went in at an angle and didn't hit any vital

organs or bones. He was very lucky."

Reynolds said the three were on a hillside, and after Freeman was shot, one of the attackers stepped backward into the other one and they "undoubtedly became entangled in vines and fallen trees. It was extremely dark and Freeman took off and ran."

In the meantime, Kings Mountain police officers on routine patrol found the clerk missing and the cash drawer open at the Holiday Inn. They put out an alert to departments

in the area to be on the lookout for him and within minutes received a call from the Gaston County Rural Police.

Reynolds said Freeman accompanied police to the shooting scene Monday "and was very helpful in us locating the area."

No arrests have been made but police are continuing their investigation.

Detectives Reynolds and Robert Dodge, and officers L.D. Beattie, Don Ivey, James Camp and Gary Sales of the Kings Mountain Police Department are working on the case, along with Detective Randy Moore and other members of the Gaston County Rurals.

Jaycee Banquet Slated

The Kings Mountain Jaycees will hold their third annual Distinguished Service Award banquet on January 9 at the Holiday Inn.

Guest speaker for the event will be H.A. Thompson, popular WBT-Charlotte radio personality.

The Jaycees are now taking applications for the DSA Award. Applications may be picked up from Louie Sabetti at the C&S Mart on Battleground Avenue and must be turned in by December 14.

Any persons between the ages of 18 and 35 who live in the greater Kings Mountain area are eligible to be nominated.

Interviews will be held on December 20.

Winners of the past two DSA awards were Lyn Cheshire and Corky Fulton.

Awards to be given, in addition to the DSA, are Outstanding Young Educator, Outstanding Young Farmer, Outstanding Young Fireman, Outstanding Young Rescuer and Outstanding Young Policeman.

Banquet reservations may be made through Corky Fulton or Larry Hamrick Jr. The price will be \$16 per couple or \$10 each.

Bloodmobile Here Monday

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at Kings Mountain High School Monday for a visit sponsored by the KMHS Student Council.

Blood can be given in B.N. Barnes Auditorium from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. The goal is 200 pints.

The visit was originally scheduled for Wed., Dec. 2, but KMHS and Shelby High School switched dates at the request of Kings Mountain area doctors.

Mrs. Martha Scruggs, director, said the Cleveland County Chapter came through the month of November with a 130-pint deficit, thus, Monday's visit is very important.

"It is most important to come out and donate blood to provide the blood center in Charlotte during the holiday season," she said. "Anyone wishing to come may call the high school and discuss it with them."

Jaycees Selling Coloring Books

The Kings Mountain Jaycees are selling Christmas coloring books for \$5 each.

They may be obtained from First Citizens Bank and Trust Co., or Warlick and Hamrick Associates.

The coloring book sale replaces the Jaycee Christmas tree sale. Proceeds will go to Jaycee projects.



Photo by Gary Stewart
HERE'S SANTA - Santa Claus paid one of many visits to Kings Mountain Sunday to ride in the annual Christmas Parade. He said he'll be back soon to take requests from the children, and he'll definitely be around late the night of December 24. Other parade pictures are on page 2-B.

Parade Puts Christmas Spirit Into KM Citizens

Sunday's Christmas Parade and the early arrival of Santa Claus apparently put the Christmas spirit into Kings Mountain area citizens.

Downtown merchants said today that shopping has been good since the day after Thanksgiving, and only the rains Monday and Tuesday dampened any spirits.

Most merchants said their sales have been as good or better than last year and expect them to be even better from now until Christmas Eve.

Most merchants are running special Christmas sales.

Corky Fulton of the Department Store said his sales were up 20 percent the two days after Thanksgiving.

"And last year was the best year we've ever had," he said.

Fulton said business on December 1 was also better than last December 1, so expects the Christmas season to be "equal to or better than last year."

"Generally," he said, "the traffic in downtown is not what it once was, but people are purchasing more."

Doyle Campbell of McGinnis Department Store said shopping has not had the "spark it would have if we weren't having the slump in the economy, but business is running very close to last year."

He said the next two weeks are traditionally the busiest weeks of the year.

"What happens the next two weeks will be important to all the merchants," he said.

Shopping Center traffic has also been good, according to

Don Wagoner, Manager of the TG&Y Store in the Westgate Plaza.

"Friday was very good," he said, "but Saturday was disappointing and the rain hurt us on Monday and Tuesday. But I'd say shopping is a little better than last year."

Wagoner, whose store sells a variety of items, said clothes and toys are the most popular.

"Most of the Christmas shopping is done the last couple of weeks before Christmas," he said.

Meanwhile, Postmaster Fred Weaver reminds citizens that they should mail their cards and packages as early as possible, and should take extra care to see that their cards and packages are addressed correctly.

"It is also a good idea to put a slip of paper with the recipient's name and address and your return address inside parcels, and be sure the addressing on the outside of the parcel includes your return address and zip code," he said.

The contents of packages should be well-cushioned, Weaver said, and there should be no empty spaces in the box. Crumpled newspapers, foam shells or air-pocket padding should be used for cushioning.

He also urges that cartons not be overwrapped. Brown paper and twine cord are not necessary, he said. Paper can rip and twine can become entangled with the processing equipment.

Packages should be sealed properly, and smudge-proof ink should be used for addressing.



REPAIR TOYS - Kings Mountain firemen Gene Tignor, Joe Hamrick and Rick Witherspoon (left to right) are pictured above repairing some toys which will be presented to needy children in the area on Christmas. The firemen annually sponsor their Toys for Tots project in cooperation with the Ministerial Association. Chief Tignor said anyone with any toys, or funds, to donate may call the fire department at 739-2552.

Community Schools A Dream Come True

By BILL HAGER

Governor Jim Hunt had a dream about the public schools of North Carolina and the communities that they served. He saw in his dream the schools becoming centers for community development. He saw people using school facilities for non-traditional uses, not just K-12 programs but programs for children, youths, and adults. He saw people becoming involved in solving community problems, people helping people to help themselves. He saw the schools being open not just 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., but also after regular school hours meeting community needs.

This dream became a reality with the ratification of the Community Schools Act (C.S. 115-73.1) by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1977. The purpose of the program is to (1) maximize use of school facilities for community activities for citizens of all ages, (2) insure citizen involvement in public schools through representative advisory councils and

volunteers. The program also included:

- Interagency involvement in the planning and implementation process.
- Community needs/resource assessments involving advisory councils and agencies.
- Programs and activities for all ages in school facilities.
- Increased communications between schools, other agencies, institutions and citizens.

Governor Hunt sees the act as a means of providing for more citizen involvement and participation in the public schools. He says "Public schools are owned by the community and should be used for a wide range of community activities and services".

Kings Mountain District Schools has always made its facilities available to the community but see the act as a means of expanding and building on this commitment.

In August 1979 the Kings Mountain Board of Education made its formal commitment to join with other schools systems across the state in participation in the Community Schools program. Since its inception many

improvements and successes have come about. Three of eight schools have been designated Community Schools, North, East and Central schools. It is in these schools that the major thrust of the programs are centered. Advisory Councils have been appointed for each of these schools to assess the felt needs of the school and the community through discussions and surveys to determine the most pressing needs and to set priorities on program offerings. As a result of the surveys more than 68,000 people have participated in educational, recreational, cultural, civic, and religious programs offered in our schools. One of the major needs was the need for parenting help and 13 parenting classes were offered co-sponsored by Codar, Mental Health and Step Trainers involving over 159 parents.

Agencies through out the county have been very cooperative about coming into the schools to help meet the identified needs of the community. Cleveland Technical College