



The American Dream!

Citizens Appeal To Government To Allow Everyone To Own A Home

The American Dream—everyone's hope of owning a new home—is dying.

At least, that's the thought of many in the savings and loan, housing and real estate business, and people in North Carolina are taking steps to do something about it.

For the next six weeks, the North Carolina Savings and Loan League is sponsoring an advertising campaign in every newspaper, radio and television station in the state, and on billboards, urging citizens to write their elected officials and urge them to make housing their top priority.

An advertisement in today's Herald, sponsored locally by First Federal Savings and Loan and Home Federal Savings and Loan, is in the form of a letter to Congressmen. Readers are asked to sign the letter and mail it to one of their elected representatives, James Broyhill, Jesse Helms or John East.

In two weeks, another letter will appear to be addressed to Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill, or the Pro Tem of the Senate, Howard Baker.

Two weeks after that, a letter will appear to be sent to President Ronald Reagan.

The idea of the campaign originated in the office of the N.C. Savings and Loan League, and has now spread into realtors, home builders and others in the housing industry.

Becky Bradshaw of the League office said the main goal of the campaign is to "get the attention of our leaders, and then, for them to make this a priority and really work to do something."

Of course, the obvious goal is to lower the interest rate so more people can afford to own their own home. Interest rates have become so high, according to savings and loan officials, most people cannot afford to buy a home.

The letter in the advertisement, which is signed by local citizens, states: "Dr. Mr. Congressman: The American Dream is dying! I can't afford to buy a home. Even worse, if something isn't done, my children will never own a home. Something must be done."

"Mr. Congressman, affordable home ownership has been one of the great distinguishing triumphs of our nation. I don't know when the dream got put aside, but I don't want it to die."

"You have the ability to assure the perpetuation of the opportunity for home ownership."

"Please Mr. Congressman, save the American Dream."

Ms. Bradshaw says the Savings and Loan League hopes to "get as many citizens as possible to respond by clipping and mailing the letter, hoping to get the attention of our congressional leaders and have housing become a top priority with them. We hope to have so many letters going to Washington that they'll see that the citizens are so concerned that it will become the number one priority."

The League also hopes to see the campaign spread nationwide.

"We have indications that it has the potential to do so," Ms. Bradshaw said. "We have had many calls of interest from other states."

Home Federal Savings and Loan in Kings Mountain has purchased 500 envelopes and stamps, which will be available for area citizens to use. Tom Tate, President, said copies of the letters will be available and all citizens will have to do is sign them and put them into the envelopes.

"If we don't do something, our children will never be able to own anything," Tate said. "We're hoping Congress will take another look at housing."

Gary Whitaker of First Federal Savings and Loan of Kings Mountain said his employees have been talking to and calling customers to ask for their support "and so far the people are supporting the campaign 100 percent."

"I've been concerned about this for a long time," he said. "My kids may never own a home if something isn't done. It's something to think about."

Whitaker said his firm also hopes to have tear-sheets of the advertisement available for citizens to sign.



OLLIE HARRIS

They're Off And Running

With the deadline Friday for filing for the June 29 primary, most races for area county and state seats are taking shape.

Senators Ollie Harris, Helen Rhyne Marvin and Marshall Rauch filed this week for reelection and they'll have at least one competitor, newcomer Bruce Scism of Kings Mountain.

Incumbents John J. Hunt and Edith Ledford Lutz have also filed for the North Carolina House of Representatives.

Senator Harris has served in the North Carolina Senate for five terms. He is Chairman of the Senate Human Resources Committee, Co-Chairman of the North Carolina Transportation Study Committee, a member of the Mental Health Study Commission, and Vice Chairman of Senior Citizen Committee. He is a member of the Appropriation, Banking, Ways and Means, Rules and Judiciary 1 Committees of the Senate.

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Rauch Vs. Electric Rates Get Ready For Fight

Utility companies of North Carolina may be in for a battle during the next term of the General Assembly.

Senator Marshall Rauch of Gastonia said today that he is studying the ever-increasing costs of utilities in the state and hopes to be ready to do something about them when the General Assembly goes back into session next January.

Rauch's study is geared at public relations-type advertising campaigns of utility companies—and if they are necessary—and guaranteed dividends for their stockholders.

"I'm studying the increasing costs of utilities, including the necessity of increased dividends for utilities companies stockholders and the increasing cost of utilities' companies adver-

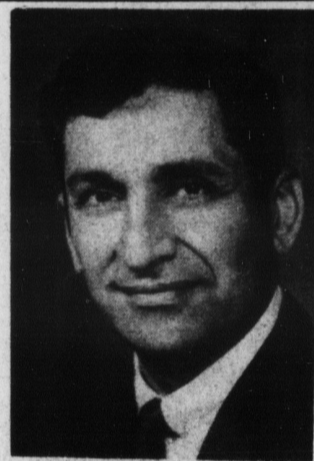
tising and public relations budgets and how it affects utility rates," Rauch said.

Rauch hinted that he would begin his study at a recent meeting in Cleveland County.

Kings Mountain Mayor John Henry Moss picked up on the idea and last week the City Board of Commissioners passed a resolution asking Duke Power, its electricity supplier, to con-

sider "constraints" on such things as PR advertising and guaranteed dividends, and urging the State Utilities Commission to refuse unwarranted price increase requests by Duke.

According to Moss, Duke spent \$1.4 million in advertising last year and guarantees its stockholders a 17 percent dividend.



MARSHALL RAUCH



Photo by Gary Stewart

TOP 10 SENIORS - The KMHS seniors pictured above were honored Tuesday night at the annual Top Ten Banquet at the high school. Front row, left to right, Janet Blair.

Henry Clark, Aaron Dixon and Pamela Hatch. Back row, Laura Herndon, Robin Masters, James Rikard and Scott Shaw.

Top Ten Banquet Honors KMHS Students

Thirty-three Kings Mountain High students who have excelled in the classroom were honored Tuesday night at the second annual KMHS Top Ten Banquet at the school cafeteria.

The fete recognizes those students who rank in the top ten percent academically in their classroom. Twelve sophomores, 11 juniors and 10 seniors were recognized and presented plaques and certificates by Principal Bob McRae and assistant principals Blaine Froneberger and Jackie Lavender.

Dr. Craven Williams, president of Gardner-Webb College, was the guest speaker.

Students honored included sophomores Susan Biggers, Tracy Bolin, Toni Camp, Shawn Gibby, Devra Haney, Lisa Nation, Jill Plonk, Lisa Raby, Tracy Scism, Jeff Smith, Sandra Watterson and Laura Wright; juniors Lynn Bolin, Mark Cloninger, Sharon Dilling, Kevin Dix-

on, Joan Finger, Kelly Goodson, Roger Grant, Joanie Hamrick, Jimmy Lackey, Tim Plonk, and Todd Weaver; and seniors Elaine Anderson, Sandra Appling, Janet Blair, Henry Clark, Aaron Dixon, Pamela Hatch, Laura Herndon, Robin Masters, James Rikard and Scott Shaw. Miss Hatch received a special award for making all A's throughout her high school career.

Dr. Williams urged to students to accomplish even more in the future. "You have been singled out and set apart from your classmates, and dubbed with a title that exceeds the others," Williams told the students. "They're going to expect more of you now because you have something special."

Williams said the students should strive for quality and be determined to do their job "bet-

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KM Students Get \$1,850 For Cancer

By GARY STEWART
Editor

When Kings Mountain High students Janet Blair and Danna Scism agreed to co-chair a cancer fund drive at the school, they had little idea what they were getting into.

The two, under the sponsorship of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, coordinated a very successful chain link sale and pretty legs contest, which netted \$1,850.

The drive lasted all last week and drew almost 100 percent participation from KMHS students and teachers.

The two were recruited for the effort by Jake Dixon, chairman of the Kings Mountain area fund drive for the Cleveland County Unit of the American Cancer Society.

Janet and Danna met at Janet's home two Sundays ago to begin making plans. They

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HANGING CHAIN - Kings Mountain High students get a boost from the shoulders of some of their classmates to hang a paper chain in the commons area. Each link of the chain represents a 10-cent donation to the Cleveland County Unit of the American

Cancer Society. KMHS students raised \$1,850. Students pictured above include, front row, left to right, Gerald Gladden, Larry Wilson, Laura Herndon and Janet Blair. On shoulders, Terri Plonk, Danna Scism and Lee Ann Lineberger.

KM Railroad Crossing Projects Are Approved

The North Carolina Department of Transportation and Southern Railway have signed an agreement to upgrade the Baker Street and Oak Street railway crossings and expect work to begin in four to six weeks.

Mayor John Henry Moss said the city received notification of the projects Tuesday.

The projects include the widening and signalization of the crossings and will cost \$80,000 each. Costs will be shared by the DOT and Southern Railway.

The projects are part of a long, ongoing project of upgrading all railroad crossings in the city. When the projects are completed, all crossings in the city will have been upgraded except the Hawthorne Street crossing.

"This has been a program that we've worked hard on," Moss stated, "because we feel that the citizens need the protection and are hopeful that we can resolve the Hawthorne crossing design

and reach an agreement for signalization there at an early date."

The Hawthorne project has been held up for several months after citizens of the area protested Southern Railway's suggestion that it be closed.

The city's only financial responsibility in railroad crossings is a share of the maintenance costs with Southern. Moss said those costs are "very small."

Park Yarn Mill Is Sold

J.P. Stevens & Co. said Thursday that it plans to acquire Stevcoknit, Inc., subject to several conditions and the approval of the directors of both companies, Stevcoknit, a circular knitter, has been in Chapter 11 since Nov. 16, 1981.

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