

**KINGS MOUNTAIN'S FIRST ORGANIZED FIRE DEPARTMENT**



Organized May 22, 1931. Answered first alarm May 23, 1931; 2:00 A. M. Charter members: reading from left to right, H. E. Grant, Capt., Claude Hambricht, G. W. King, Chief, P. F. Dilling, C. G. Dilling, P. D. Fulton, Driver, J. W. Clary, Asst. Chief, J. W. Clary, Jr., Mascot, C. W. Davidson, M. C. Wingate, Lieut., L. L. Guyton, R. L. Lovell, J. P. Tignor, O. C. Falls, M. M. Wilson, J. D. Hord, and H. T. Fulton. J. M. McGinnis was a charter member of the department but was out of town when the picture was taken.

**KINGS MOUNTAIN'S PRESENT FIRE DEPARTMENT**



Photo By Hord Studio

The department has grown in both service and equipment during the 18 years of its organization. Present members reading from left to right, asterisk denotes charter members: Otis Falls, Chief\*, D. H. Allen, G. G. Grigg, J. P. Tignor\*, P. D. Fulton, Driver\*, C. W. Davidson, Captain\*, M. L. Wilson\*, P. K. Falls, Earle McGill, T. W. Gamble, E. B. Bridges, C. H. McDaniel, C. G. Dilling, Lieut., M. C. Wingate\*, L. M. Logan, J. W. Mham, G. W. King, Chief\*.

**History Of Boyce Memorial A. R. P. Church**

(By Mrs. L. F. Neal)

The forefathers of this church came to America from northeast Ireland to which place they had come from the lowlands of Scotland. Their first settlement was in the vicinity of Gettysburg and Pittsburgh, Penn. Almost to a man they were Scotch-Irish. They had left their native homeland that they might enjoy the privilege of worshipping God in accordance with their interpretation of the Holy Scriptures. In a short time large numbers migrated to North Carolina, settling in what is now Cabarrus, Iredell, Mecklenburg, Gaston and Cleveland Counties.

The settlement around Pisgah Church began about 1750. The first church perhaps was not organized until after the Revolutionary War. The first church stood on the slopes of Kings Mountain in the regions where the Scotch-Irish patriots so successfully contested for civil liberty. Rev. James Rogers was the first minister to visit these enthusiastic Psalm singers. Rev. William Dixon, whose body lies in Bethany Cemetery, was installed June 5, 1797, forming the first pastoral relationship.

This old log church, the original pillars of which are still standing on land now owned by Mr. Wray Williams, became the mother of twin daughters, giving up her life in their birth. The daughters are called Bethany and Pisgah. Pisgah, known to us today as 'Old Pisgah' stood a few miles east of Kings Mountain on the present farm of Dr. J. E. Anthony. Ten acres of land were deeded to this organization on Feb. 2, 1801, for the sum of \$28.50.

In 1856 Old Pisgah branched into the present Pisgah and Mount Nebo. Nebo was made of the western section of the old congregation and stood about a mile and a half west of Kings Mountain just across from P. D. Herndon's farm. In the early '70s, Mr. Robert Falls who owned practically all of the land upon which the present town is located, gave land for a new church in the little village. This church was first used in 1876, standing on King Street including the present homes of P. D. Herndon, Mrs. Minnie Crawford and Aee Goforth. The sainted pastor of Pisgah and Mt. Nebo—Dr. E. E. Boyce—continued as the pastor of the village church.

In 1879, the heirs of the late A. V. Falls, brother to Robert Falls, donated the old Falls home site for the location of a new church. This church—the present building—was dedicated Oct. 30, 1898, under the leadership of Dr. J. M. Garrison. Through these early years, the Falls Wars, Dillings and McGills formed

At the dedication in 1898, the name of the church was changed to Boyce Memorial in memory of Dr. E. E. Boyce who served the congregation and its maternal organization.

...died of 26 years. Fifty years ago, there were four-teen young people in the church of Sabbath School age. Today the Church School has an enrollment of 225 from a membership of 275. In 1872 the total congregational budget was approximately \$300.00. Today the yearly budget is \$6,000.00. The outstanding pastorate through these years was the 28 years through Dr. J. M. Garrison served. He retired June 30, 1934. Rev. W. M. Boyce was installed July 15, 1934. Boyce Memorial Church has grown with the city. Occupying one of the enviable locations at the corner of King and Piedmont and including in her membership a cross section of the substantial residents of the community, she looks to the coming years for the opportunity of continued usefulness and service.

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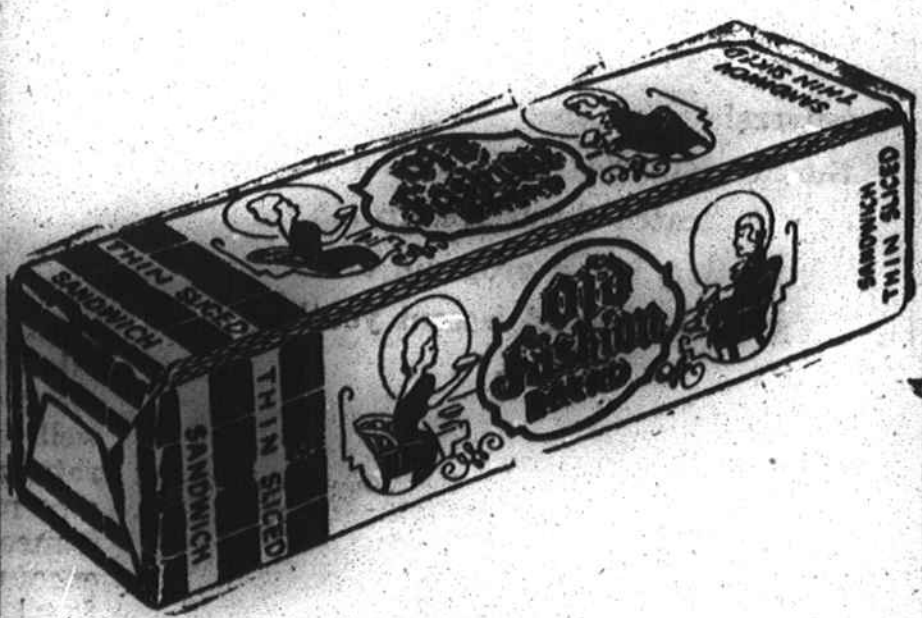
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