

City Limits	7,206
Trading Area	15,000
(1945 Nation Board Figures)	



**SITE OF LITHIUM CORPORATION PLANT** — The big circle in the aerial photo above locates the approximate site of the spodumene processing plant which Lithium Corporation of America has obtained from Dr. W. S. Matthews and others. The Southern Railway mainline tracks are clearly visible, as is Stumptown, around the

curve at the top of the circle and Bessemer City in the distance. The Lithium Corporation outlay for its mining operation will be \$7,000,000 according to the announcement of President K. M. Leute. (Gastonia Gazette photo by Bill Williams.)

## Plott Says Lithium Firm Hopes To Break Ground By April 15

### Lithium Corporation Of America \$7 Million Expansion Confirmed

Official confirmation that Lithium Corporation of America, Inc., will build a large spodumene processing plant in the Kings Mountain area came over the weekend in a formal statement from K. M. Leute, president.

E. T. Plott, Kings Mountain representative of the firm, said the company hopes to break ground on the processing plant by April 15.

The building of the processing plant will be the major portion of a \$7,000,000 expansion program of Lithium Corporation, which will also include mining operations in a general area from Grover to Lincolnton.

Home offices of Lithium Corporation, which will join Foote Mineral Company in mining the same product in this area, are Rand Tower, Minneapolis, Minn.

In his statement, Mr. Leute pointed out that expansion of production is necessary because of an increase since 1946 of nearly 1000 percent in the consumption of lithium for various commercial uses, of which the more important are in the ceramic, grease, air conditioning metallurgical and organic chemical fields. He said Lithium Corporation has made arrangements to borrow the necessary funds on favorable terms.

Mr. Leute said he thought government consumption of lithium over the next few years will not exceed 20 percent of the total increased capacity of the lithium industry.

Mr. Plott, the Kings Mountain

builder, who has been working for Lithium Corporation and obtaining mineral leases for them since 1946, said architects are completing plans for the processing plant and that local area construction firms, including Bennett Construction Co., of Kings Mountain, are being invited to bid on the construction.

Mr. Plott said Bessemer City has contracted to furnish his firm with more than a million gallons of water daily, with a major portion unfiltered raw water. Last weekend, Public Service Company of North Carolina, the natural gas utility, announced it had contracted with Lithium Corporation for two million cubic feet of natural gas per annum.

Mr. Plott said a temporary office would be set up in Bessemer City about April 15. He said purchase options or leases on 2,000 acres of ore property are held and President Leute termed the holdings the "largest single reserve of lithium ore in the world."

Available data on Lithium Corporation shows it was organized in 1944 as Lor Mining Co., and that its present name was adopted in March 1947. Its principal mining properties previously have been in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Its gross sales in 1952 totaled \$1,456,647 and it had total assets at the end of 1952 of \$1,895,273. Its capitalization at December 31, 1952, was 500,000 shares of par \$1 common stock and a long-term debt of \$597,000.

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### City Population Guesstimated At 7,578

Kings Mountain, if its growth in average, should now be a city of approximately 7,578 souls.

The Bureau of the Census estimated last week that population in the nation is increasing steadily at the rate of 1.7 percent per year.

Since the 1950 census showed the city with a population of 7,206, additions of 1.7 percent increases for three years would bring the total of 7,578.

### Architect Graves To Discuss Pools

Charles Graves, Atlanta recreation architect, is scheduled to be in Kings Mountain Thursday to discuss swimming pool plans with the parks and recreation commission.

Fred W. Plonk, commission chairman, made the announcement.

The group has voted approval of a proposal from Burlington Mills, Inc., concerning a tract northwest of Cleveland avenue between East Ridge and Broad streets, but had received no answer yesterday, he said.

The commission is seeking to purchase land for the Negro pool near Davidson school as a joint project with the city school board, which needs additional acreage for the new Negro elementary site.

### Ex-Harmon Lot Re-Zoning Asked

The city is advertising this week notice of a request for rezoning of the former T. N. Harmon property at the corner of Battleground avenue and Falls street.

D. W. Royster, president of Western Carolina Properties, Inc., of Shelby, appeared before the board of commissioners last Thursday night to request the rezoning of the property from residential to commercial designation, stating that he wished to build a modern super market for the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company.

Mr. Royster said the building would be approximately 50 feet by 100 feet, with ample parking areas, and that, with the exception of size, it would be similar in architectural style and accommodations to the A & P Super Market now being constructed on Franklin Avenue in Gastonia.

The board voted to call a hearing on the request for Thursday night, April 1.

### TAG SALES

A total of 910 Kings Mountain motorists had purchased 1954 city tag "stickers" at noon Wednesday, according to a report by the city clerk.

## Kiwanis President Forsythe Will Speak Here March 19

### Engineer's Report On Water Received

#### Dickson Advises Buffalo Source For Long Term

W. K. Dickson, Charlotte civil engineer, favors increasing the city's water supply by raising of the dam at city lake and by equipping the Gold Mine shaft with a pump for stand-by usage, he told the city board of commissioners at their March meeting.

He said the city could increase its available supply via this method by a half-million gallons per day for \$65,000, whereas utilization of the Davidson creek would give about the same amount of water but would cost about \$91,000.

Principally, however, he directed attention of the board to the fact that the total water available to the city in the present source area is only two million gallons daily and he recommended that "studies be initiated looking to the development of the watershed of Muddy and Buffalo Creeks."

Dickson continued, "This area appears to offer the best possibilities for securing a safe, dependable supply for the City of Kings Mountain. So far as is known by us, Buffalo Creek is not contaminated in view at present and does not drain any large communities or large towns above the mouth of Muddy Creek. Muddy Creek has a very fine drainage area but does drain a portion of the Town of Cherryville."

The engineer told the board he estimated a filter plant addition to double the daily capacity of one million gallons would cost \$180,000, and, to a question from the board, said improvement and expansion of the McGill septic tank would cost about the same figure.

Mr. Dickson's estimations on the city lake changes include raising of the dam by ten feet to a level of 830 feet, raising of N. C. Highway 161 in its lowest spots by about two feet, acquiring of 32 acres of the Gold Mine tract owned by C. F. Mauney, and erection of a pump house and installation of a pump at the Old Gold Mine shaft. He estimated the land cost at \$4,000, the pump cost at \$4,000, cost of clearing the land, raising the roadbed and raising the dam at \$57,000. The changes would add 110 million gallons to the storage basin, with a potential of 576,000 gallons of raw water available as stand-by from the Gold Mine shaft.

The estimates on utilizing the Davidson branch stated that a dam, located on the John Owens

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**AT FAITH BAPTIST** — Rev. W. F. Monroe, above, pastor of Grover First Baptist church, will conduct a revival at Faith Baptist church March 11-19, with services each evening at 7 p. m. The church is located on Bennett Drive.

### Father Warned On Truant Law

"He was absent most times without my knowledge," said R. I. Gunnells of Popular Courts as he entered a plea of not guilty Monday afternoon in Recorder's court on violation of the school attendance law.

Principal Rowell Lane testified that the defendant's son, Pete Gunnells, 14, had been absent approximately half of the present school year. On one occasion, Mr. Lane stated, the child did have a legitimate excuse, being ill in bed at that time.

Truant Officer M. C. Poston corroborated the testimony of Mr. Lane, but added that on several occasions after visiting the boy's home and talking with the mother, the boy would return to school. Mr. Poston further stated the youth had been well enough to be out on the streets.

With a warning to the defendant it was his duty to see that his son attended school until he becomes 16, Judge Jack White continued prayer for judgment for 60 days with instructions to Mr. Poston to check periodically and report to the court on any further absenteeism.

Edward Watson, Negro, of Winston Salem, entered a plea of not guilty to non-support of his minor child. Probable cause was found by Judge White, and the defendant was sentenced to serve four months on the roads, sentence suspended on condition Watson pay his ex-wife \$7 each

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### Commissioners Held Busy Session; Mass Of Routine Actions Listed

In a busy session Thursday night, the city board of commissioners, in addition to receiving a detailed report on the engineering for its water plant improvements, conducted a mass of detailed business.

1) The board approved, at the request of Superintendent Sam Suber, setting up of a filling system on cemetery lot ownership, estimated to cost \$587.87.

2) It deferred for investigation request by two ministers, Rev. P. D. Patrick and Rev. W. L. Pressley, that the city resume its appropriation of \$600 per year to the Red Cross. Question hinged on the legality of such a payment.

City Attorney J. R. Davis said the city had no legal right to make the appropriation and that the board members would be legally liable for the amount, if appropriated.

3) The board gave approval of advertising bids on a street sweeper. Representatives of N. C. Equipment Company had told the board their Elgin model at \$10,090 is the best in the business.

### Kings Mountain Club To Be Host To Top Kiwanian

Donald T. Forsythe, president of Kiwanis International, will address Carolinas District Division 1 Kiwanians at a meeting here on March 19, according to announcement this week by Kings Mountain Kiwanis officials.

It will be the first time a Kings Mountain civic club has been host to an international president. The dinner will be held in the evening at Masonic Dining Hall.

Mr. Forsythe will address an anticipated crowd of 200 Kiwanians and guests. Kiwanians from each of the 13 clubs in Division 1, bounded by Kings Mountain and Waynesville will be present, along with C. J. (Skinny) Hyslop, of Elkin, district governor, and Herb Hennig, of Darlington, S. C., district secretary - treasurer.

Mr. Forsythe is a small-town newspaper publisher from Carthage, Ill., and he attended Thiel College, as did Dr. W. P. Gerberding, current president of the Kings Mountain Kiwanis club and pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran church. His election gave Carthage the distinction of being the smallest town yet to furnish a Kiwanis International president.

"We are quite elated over the forthcoming visit of President Forsythe," Dr. Gerberding said. "It will be a distinction for the club and for the community as well."

A Kiwanian since 1926, Mr. Forsythe has served as president of the Kiwanis Club of Carthage, lieutenant governor and governor of the Illinois - Eastern Iowa Kiwanis District, and was founder of the district's Kiwanis Foundation for the Hard of Hearing, Inc. He also served as chairman of the International Committee on Public Relations, trustee, and treasurer. As president, Mr. Forsythe is chairman of the Executive Committee of the International Board of Trustees.

He is a past president of the Illinois Press Association and for two years served the Greater Weeklies Associates, Inc., as president and is now chairman of the Board of Directors.

He is a director of the Marine Trust Company of Carthage, secretary of the Carthage College Board of Trustees and was active in organizing a department of journalism at that school. He is a life member of the Northwestern University Chapter of Sigma Delta Chi, national professional journalistic fraternity, and is an active member of the Lutheran Church.

### Three Local Folk Had Parrot Fever

"Be cautious" is the advice of Dr. Z. P. Mitchell, county health officer, concerning parrot fever, following receipt of positive reports of prior existence of the illness in Kings Mountain.

Dr. Mitchell said two separate blood samples of Phillip Baker, his daughter, Ellen Baker, and the Baker maid, Lelia Garner, tested for parrot fever, proved positive, while tests on seven others proved negative.

Mr. Baker is a parakeet breeder.

Persons who have come in contact with parakeets, and who have symptoms of influenza and pneumonia should call their family physician, Dr. Mitchell said, reporting that Dr. J. Graham Smith, of the U. S. Public Health Service was in Kings Mountain Wednesday visiting persons who might have been exposed to psittacosis.

"We are not condemning any birds, however," Dr. Mitchell added, "until we have sufficient evidence. To date, we don't have it, and we hope we don't get it."

Reports on birds from local flocks sent to the U. S. Public Health Service laboratory at Montgomery, Ala., have still not been received, he added, though a positive report on a Shelby bird was received.

Also back in the county was Dr. Martin Hines of the North Carolina State Board of Health. On Wednesday, however, Dr. Hines had gone to Hendersonville to check reports of an outbreak of parrot fever there.

Physicians here are being kept informed of developments in the check-up on the illness, Dr. Mitchell added.



**EVANGELIST** — Rev. Vernon S. Broyles, Jr., of Atlanta, Ga., begins an evangelistic series at First Presbyterian church Sunday morning with services to continue through the following Sunday evening.

### Broyles Series To Begin Sunday

Rev. Vernon S. Broyles, Jr., D. D., of Atlanta, Ga., will begin a special series of evangelistic services at First Presbyterian church on Sunday morning, at 11 o'clock. The services will continue through the following Sunday evening. Weekday services will be held, except Saturday, at 10:00 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.

Dr. Broyles is a graduate of Davidson College and Union Theological Seminary. He has served with distinction in the pastorate, his last pastorate being with the North Avenue Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia, from 1941-1950. "His work there was so outstanding that he was unanimously called by the General Assembly of the Church to head the Extension Committee which includes the work of Evangelism, Radio, Christian Relations, and Home Missions. In this new position he is known widely in church circles as a most able preacher and executive." Rev. P. D. Patrick pastor of the church, said in announcing the evangelistic series.

### Scout Fund Drive Exceeds Quota

Annual Kings Mountain Boy Scout District fund drive is over the top, Chairman G. C. Kelly reported this week.

Some \$1,775 has already been turned in, against a quota of \$1,700, and Mr. Kelly said that several groups of solicitors had not yet made reports and he expects an additional \$300 to be turned in.

"On behalf of the Scouts in the district, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the contributors and to the fund drive workers for the very successful effort," Mr. Kelly said.

Workers who have not yet made their reports are urged to do so in order that the campaign can be closed, he urged.

### Monday Tax Filing Report Deadline

Monday is D-Day for millions of taxpayers, among them the citizens of Kings Mountain, North Carolina.

Monday midnight is the final absolute deadline for posting federal income tax reports, state income tax reports, and state intangibles tax reports for those who expect to avoid the penalty for late filing. People who don't have most of their income from wages are also required to pay one-fourth of their estimated 1954 income tax.

People rendering tax service — lawyers, accountants, bookkeepers, and individuals specializing in fixing income tax forms — are burning the midnight oil, and one moaned that he didn't believe he'd have time to prepare his own tax forms. The press of tax clients was that heavy.

Since Kings Mountain post-office closes at 6 o'clock and since there is no longer any night dispatching, Kings Mountain area taxpayers should aim at 5 p. m. Monday as the last-minute dropping-in-letter-box deadline.

### Local News Bulletins

#### GRASS FIRE

Kings Mountain firemen extinguished a grass fire on Parker street Monday, according to a report from city firemen Wednesday morning.

#### SUMMERS PROMOTED

First Lieutenant Frank A. Summers, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Summers, has been promoted to that rank as of February 21, according to information received here. Lt. Summers is serving with the 32nd Group, Army Corps of Engineers, in Korea.

#### KIWANIS PROGRAM

"Fun with Glass" will be the program theme at the Kings Mountain Kiwanis club Thursday night at 6:45, with W. H. Hobbs, sales manager, and H. S. Muse, salesman, of Pritchard Paint & Glass Company, Charlotte, conducting. B. S. Peeler, Jr., arranged the program.

#### PRACTICE TEACHING

NEWBERRY, S. C. — William Cashion, of Kings Mountain, among 41 Newberry College students practice teaching in South Carolina public schools. Mr. Cashion has completed three weeks of practice teaching at Hollywood high school.

#### OPTIMIST CLUB

Chester Freeman, of Gastonia, Optimist district chairman of boys' work, will address members of the Optimist club at their regular meeting tonight (Thursday) at 6:30 o'clock at the Corner Cafe, according to announcement by Tommy Owens, secretary.

#### ERSKINE SINGERS

The Erskine College Choralists will present a program from the Psalms at the morning service of Boyce Memorial A.R.P. church on March 21 under sponsorship of the Erskine Alumni association, it was announced this week.

#### MAUNEY CONDITION

D. C. Mauney is reported still improving at Charlotte Memorial hospital where he has been a patient for several weeks, members of his family said yesterday.

#### COMMUNICATION

An emergent communication of Fairview Lodge No. 333, A. F. & A. M., for work in the first degree, will be held at the Masonic hall Monday at 7:30 p. m., according to announcement by Joe McDaniel, secretary.