Population
Greater Kings Mountain 10,320
City Limits 8,008
This figure for Greater Kings Mountain is derived from the 1955 Kings Mountain city directory census. The city limits figure is from the United States census of 1960.

Kings Mountain Herald

Kings Mountain's Reliable Newspaper

14 Pages Today

VOL. 77 No. 3 | Established 1889 | Kings Mountain, N. C., Thursday, January 20, 1966 | Seventy-Seventh Year | PRICE TEN CENTS

Highway Commission Approves 7.3 Mile 74 By-Pass

New Firm Will Construct Brick-Making Plant Here

Donald McGinnis Is President Of New Company

By MARTIN HARMON

A new brick manufacturing plant is to be constructed within the near future on Grover road slightly south of Battleground Service Station.

Charter of incorporation for the manufacture, sale, and distribution of building brick, has been issued to Kings Mountain Brick, Inc., and grading of the 27-acre tract purchased by the firm is already underway.

Incorporators of the new firm and officers are Donald McGinnis, president; George F. Pettinos, vice-president; Paul A. Lancaster, secretary; and Roy H. Gunter, treasurer.

Donald McGinnis, Kings Mountain native and a ceramic engineer, will also serve as plant operations manager and will be in charge of construction. Mr. Pettinos is a citizen of Bala-Cynwynd, Pa., while Mr. Lancaster and Mr. Gunter are Kings Mountain citizens and active in the area's mica industry.

The plant site is on the north side of US 29 and is adjacent to the Southern Railway.

A tunnel-kiln type plant will be constructed to produce a specialty line of face brick, President McGinnis said Wednesday. It will be fired by natural gas.

President McGinnis is the son of Mrs. Hinkle W. McGinnis and the late Mr. McGinnis. An Air Corps veteran of World War II, he holds an engineering degree from North Carolina State University at Raleigh, '49, has since been associated with Kendrick Brick & Tile Company's Monroe plant and, for the past four years, with Broad River Brick Company at Gaffney, S. C., where he now resides. Mrs. McGinnis is the former Sarah Cooksey, of Charlotte. They have a son. The McGinnis family expects to move to Kings Mountain in the near future.

President McGinnis declined to give estimates of plant capacity potential and employment potential. He said final plant design is yet incomplete.

Tax Listing At Brisk Pace

Tax listing continued at a brisk pace this week.

Listing is underway daily, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Listers are also on duty during the lunch hour from 12 until 1 p.m., they reminded citizens this week.

On Saturdays, L. L. Benson, Number 4 Township tax lister, and his assistants, Mrs. C. T. Carpenter, Jr. and Mrs. Charles Ballard, are in Grover at R. E. Hambright's Store from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. They remain in the office during the 12 noon until 1 p.m. lunch hour.

Both Mrs. Steve Harmon, the city tax lister, and Mr Benson reported virtually all citizens are availing themselves of the "ten percent" option in listing their household properties. The alternative is to itemize all household goods.

Mrs. Carpenter says that farmers who list trucks should bring with them the serial numbers of the vehicles.

Listing will continue through February 1.

Sewer System Plans Required 174 Pages

Final plans for the $1,300,000 expansion of the city's sewage disposal system, delivered by Engineer W. K. Dickson Wednesday afternoon, make up a book totaling 174 pages.

As quickly as the city commission formally approves the plans, they will be forwarded to the State Stream Sanitation commission at Raleigh, which must also endorse the plans.

Meantime, the city is proceeding to meet legal requirements for the March 15 bond election.

Notice of intention to call the bond election is published for the first time in today's issue of the Herald.

Bank Open House Thursday Night

BUYS STOCK — Charles E. Dixon has acquired the outstanding stock in Victory Chevrolet Company, Inc., of Mr. and Mrs. W. Gurney Grantham.

Grantham Stock Bought By Dixon

Charles E. Dixon has acquired the stock of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Grantham in Victory Chevrolet Company, Inc., and assumed management Saturday.

New officers of the corporation are Mr. Dixon, president and treasurer, and his wife, Mrs. Mabel H. Dixon, vice-president and secretary.

Via the transaction, Mr. Dixon acquired the 280 shares of the Granthams' stock of which 260 had been held by Mr. Dixon.

A Kings Mountain native, Mr. Dixon joined Victory Chevrolet Company as a salesman in 1951, became sales manager a year later, and assistant general manager in 1955. In 1958, he acquired majority of the stock interest of T. A. Williams, of Greensboro, and became vice-president.

Mr. Grantham, a former city commissioner, terminated his connections Friday with the firm with which he had been associated for some 23 years. From Liberty, he and Mr. Williams bought the assets of the former Cleveland Motor Company in 1943.

Mr. Grantham has not announced his future plans.

First-Citizens To Open Here Friday Morning

First-Citizens Bank & Trust Company formally will open its new Kings Mountain branch Thursday evening and open for business Friday morning.

Mayor John Henry Moss will join Lewis R. Holding, president, and Richard E. Maxey, vice-president and resident manager, for ribbon-cutting ceremonies at 6:30 p.m., and the bank will hold open house immediately following until 9 p.m.

In addition to Mr. Maxey, other First-Citizens personnel will include L. C. Brower, manager of the industrial loan department; Mrs. Carol Brazzell and Miss Carol Bridges, tellers; Mrs. Donna Butler, receptionist and secretary; Mrs. Frances Leonard and Mrs. Joyce White, bookkeepers; and Mrs. Betty K. Davis, installment loan department secretary.

In addition to President Holding, numerous other First-Citizens officials will be here for the open house entertainment. They will include Vice - Presidents Broadrick, Charlotte, Ernest Hicks, Charlotte, Harold Sumner, Gastonia, Sidney Hughes, Charlotte, I. B. Julian, Fayetteville, B. K. Baucom, Hickory, J. E. Hendley, Lincolnton, and Norwood W. Pope, Raleigh. Other officials to be present will be Robert Baxter, trust officer of Charlotte, Horace Davis, mortgage loan officer of Charlotte, and M. B. McLeod, assistant vice-president, of Smierfield.

President Holding lives in Smithfield, home offices of First-Citizens, which showed assets of $145,726,979 at December 31.

Kings Mountain will be First-Citizens' 48th unit.

First-Citizens will be located at 131 West Mountain in the building of Dr. D. M. Morrison which has been extensively remodeled.

Regular banking hours will be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m., daily except Wednesdays and Saturdays, when the bank will close at noon.

SAFETY MEETING

Quarterly dinner meeting of the Blue Ridge Safety Council will be held at Rutherfordton-Spindale Central high school Thursday, January 27th, at 6:30 p.m. President Ben Goforth will preside.

Mayor Moss Names 14 Members To City Recreation Commission

Fourteen new members have been appointed by Mayor John H. Moss to the recently-expanded city recreation commission.

Three members remain to be appointed for a two-year term.

The new members join the original three-member commission composed of Bob Maner, Roy Pearson and Carl Wilson.

Mayor Moss also announced that Recreation Director Elmer Ross will move his office to City Hall.

The expansion of the commission, voted last week by the city board of commissioners, will spearhead a fund-raising drive to build a community recreation center and to offer 18 categories in recreation for Kings Mountain citizens including baseball, softball, football, basketball, bowling, swimming, archery, handball, badminton, weight-lifting, checkers tournament, hobbies, crafts, adult physical education groups, the senior citizens program, swimming and dancing.

Names of the new members are: Charles Ballard, Willie Grice, Rev. Bob Haden, Bill Grissom, Walter J. Keeter, Darvin

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COMMENDED — Win Goter, high school senior and son of Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Goter, has been awarded a letter of commendation for outstanding performance on the national merit scholarship test. An honor student, he is active in the high school band.

WINS ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL — SP/5 Donald E. Tignor was cited for "exceptionally meritorious service" as chief administrative clerk while serving in the office of the Assistant Chief of Staff in the U. S. Army Advisory Group, Korea, from December 12, 1964 to December 4, 1965. The Kings Mountain serviceman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Audley Tignor, is pictured above receiving the Army Commendation Medal from Major General James H. Sheldon at Fort Richie, Md. The citation read, he manifested a high degree of skill and extensive knowledge of manpower and budget matters while serving in a position authorized as staff sergeant. He displayed unusual competence, ability, untiring enthusiasm and selfless devotion to duty. He prepared the budget estimate which totaled $980,000 with actual expenditures for the first five months being 98 percent accurate. He served outstandingly as acting G1/AG Chief during the temporary absences of the Sergeant Major. His outstanding performance of duty reflect great credit upon himself, the U. S. Army Advisory Group, Korea and the United States Army." (U. S. Army Photo).

Mrs. H. T. Fulton "90 Years Young"

NOTES BIRTHDAY — Mrs. H. Tom Fulton, Sr., celebrated her 90th birthday Saturday.

Mrs. Fulton Celebrated Event Saturday

Mrs. H. Tom Fulton, Sr. said on her 90th birthday Saturday her secret of longevity is "living one day at a time."

The former Sallie Baker, widow of the late State Senator Fulton, greeted a number of friends Saturday afternoon at a surprise party given by her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. N. F. McGill, Sr.

It was Mrs. Fulton's second party of the day and she said she wouldn't have missed them, even though sleet and snow kept some of the guests away.

Mrs. Fulton's two great-grandsons, Chip and Trip McGill, had invited her to their birthday party that morning which was attended by 19 children and which also honored the boys' grandfather, Rev. W. F. McGinnis, of Ellenboro, also celebrating a birthday.

Mr. McGinnis presented Mrs. Fulton with a four-tiered pink and white birthday cake. Mrs. Fulton's brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Fred A. Baker, unable to come from Atlanta, Ga., wired an arrangement of pink glads, carnations, and baby's breath. Both gifts were used in decorations for the second party later in the day. A pink orchid corsage pinned to the shoulder of her blue dress was a gift from her grandson's family.

Mrs. Fulton, a Kings Mountain native, said she didn't remember a single previous snowfall on her birthday. She said she enjoyed the snow as much as the young folk and replied to a well-wisher, "I'm really 90 years young today".

Daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Baker, Mrs. Fulton attended Kings Mountain schools and Linwood college. Her late husband, a Kings Mountain mortician, and county commission chairman, died in 1929. In addition to her daughter here, she has a son, H. Tom Fulton, Jr. of Chapel Hill, Tenn., a grandson, Norman F. McGill, Jr. a brother Dr. L. P. Baker, Sr. of Kings Mountain and a sister, Mrs. Ira

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Downtown Group To Study Reports

The mayoral committee on downtown development will study questionnaires returned to them from merchants, landowners and shoppers at a meeting Thursday (tonight) at 8 o'clock at City Hall.

From the questionnaires sent hundreds of people the 25-member committee expects to glean reaction from the public on planned revitalization of the downtown business area.

Shoppers were asked if they thought sweeping modernization changes should be made. Merchants and landowners were asked if they would be willing to finance the improvements.

Detailed plans suggested by the State Board of Conservation and Development call for modernization of stores, creation of large parking lots, building of pedestrian malls and beautifying the railroad tracks. Improvements would be made over the next several years and would approximate upwards to several million dollars.

Chairman John O. Plonk has said that federal assistance of up to 50 percent might be available for public improvements. Cost of improvements to stores would have to be borne by the landowners and/or merchants.

US 74 By-Pass Long In Fruition

Many Routes Were Checked, Found Wanting

By MARTIN HARMON

It will have been nearly two decades since a US 74 by-pass (or thruway) was first proposed and the date the first vehicle navigates the new section finally approved by the State Highway & Public Works commission.

During the administration of Governor W. Kerr Scott (1949-53) when the late Lewis B. Peck was division highway engineer, a thruway was projected which would have bisected what is now Landing street, navigated the railway tracks via bridge at Falls street, and continued east and northeast to present US 74.

Later, several other routes were projected, surveyed and found wanting.

Now retired Division Engineer Ed Kemper recommended the widening of King street, present US 74. At the time, such a project would have implied a large city share of the right-of-way and/or damages cost, which some estimated at $250,000, and which the city did not have. Mr. Kemper had commented, "I would like to see Kings Mountain have one decent City street."

Administrator Babcock did not share this view. Indeed, when this project was equivocated with Gastonia's Franklin avenue widening, he ejaculated, "Don't mention Franklin avenue to me. Everytime I pass through Gastonia I lose my religion!"

Meantime, the highway commission was investigating routes both south and north of Kings Mountain, each of which were ruled out for various reasons including distance and presence of mining operations and mineral rights.

In 1964, after prior formal commission go-ahead with the project, tentative approval was given a 3.13 mile project which would have followed an in-city roadbed largely like the in-city portion of the 7.3 mile route now formally approved.

Last change of US 74 was in 1938-39 when the bridge over the Southern Railway at Battleground and Railroad avenues was constructed and a new road built to replace West Mountain as US 74.

WINS PROMOTION — Dr. Paul H. McGinnis, Jr., is joining the faculty of the expanded Department of Textile Chemistry at North Carolina State University in Raleigh as an assistant professor.

Dr. McGinnis Wins Promotion

Dr. Paul H. McGinnis, Jr., native of Kings Mountain and son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. McGinnis, has been appointed a member of the faculty of the expanded Department of Textile Chemistry at North Carolina State University, Chancellor John T. Caldwell has announced.

Dr. McGinnis and Dr. Richard D. Gilbert, a native of Canada, will initiate new basic research programs in textile chemistry. Both will be assistant professors.

Since 1960 Dr. McGinnis has been a chemical engineer for the Esso Research Laboratories of the Humble Oil and Refining Company in Baton Rouge, La. Prior to his work with the Esso Company he was a research assistant at N. C. State and a summer worker in the Quality Control Laboratories of Foote's Kings Mountain Operation.

He holds membership in the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, and the Professional scientific Society of Sigma Xi.

Dr. McGinnis holds bachelors, masters and Ph.D. degrees from North Carolina State in chemical engineering. He received his Ph.D. in 1960.

Mrs. McGinnis is the former Libby Wehunt of Cherryville.

Jaycees To Conduct Kleenex Sale Here

Kings Mountain Jaycees will conduct their annual kleenex sale for benefit of the John Gamble Memorial Football Stadium Friday night from 7 until 8:30 p.m.

Project Chairman John Howze said the Jaycees will offer families a bargain in kleenex via a door-to-door sale.

The civic club has pledged $300 this year to the community-wide project to build a 4,000 seat stadium.

Shareholders Set Annual Meeting

Shareholders of Home Savings & Loan Association will hold the annual meeting Tuesday afternoon at 5 o'clock in the office of the Association on E. Mountain street.

Business of the meeting will include reports from the past year, Secretary-Treasurer Tom Tate reports.

Youthful Trio Relieves Carroll Of About $500 In Burger Barn Cash

Harold Carroll, manager of the Burger Barn on the York Road in Kings Mountain, was robbed of approximately $500 early Wednesday as he was leaving to take a night deposit to the bank.

Carroll told city police that two subjects stepped out of the shadows and demanded the money bags containing the days receipts. Carroll said that a third subject was in the getaway car.

The three thieves drove off in a 1958 black Chevrolet, which headed north on Cleveland Avenue, toward Bessemer City.

Carroll described the two men as young, white males. One was tall and the other short, Carroll said. He could not describe the subject that was waiting in the car.

Carroll said the men were not masked and that he didn't know if they had a weapon. One had his hands in his pockets, he told investigating officers Bob Hayes and B. P. Cook.

Cook and Hayes, along with City Police Sgt. Earl Stroupe, Jr., and officers William Roper and Ellis King worked on the robbery through a good portion of the night. No arrests have been made as of yet but the investigation is continuing.

Officer Stroupe said that one of the three money bags was found near the city limits on Cleveland Avenue.

Announcement Of Decision By Garrison

By MARTIN HARMON

The US 74 by-pass of Kings Mountain will be the 7.3 mile projection located as presented at the public hearings held last September 30 and last April 29.

W. B. Garrison, of Gastonia, 12th division highway commissioner, announced the decision Wednesday.

In turn, Comm. Garrison provided carbons of his letter to William F. Babcock, state highway administrator, urging that the project be expedited as much as possible.

Comm. Garrison wrote Mr. Babcock:

"...I would appreciate very much your personal attention to this project, taking into consideration, of course, your many other pressing problems. This project has been in the making for a long time and the people of Kings Mountain do not understand why it is taking so long. If you could possibly accelerate the beginning of the actual construction in any way possible, I am sure the citizens of Kings Mountain would be pleased immensely."

At the September hearing, R. L. McGowan, the commission's chief location engineer, estimated the 7.3 mile span will cost roughly $6,000,000.

In conversing with Comm. Garrison Wednesday, Mayor Moss reported he had heard expressions of concern that the projected plan envisions the closing of Phenix street, serving a large industrial area; and further concern that the projected Waco Road partial interchange does not tie in with West King street, regarded as necessary to properly serve the new 1,014 - member Kings Mountain high school.

Comm. Garrison replied that formalization of these objections would result in a thorough study by the design division of the highway commission staff.

He declined to estimate date for launching construction or for securing right - of - way, noting that the commission recently approved employment of additional personnel to speed the continually increasing workload.

Administrator Babcock and Engineer McGowan could not be reached by telephone Wednesday afternoon for further comment on completion of design, right-of-way acquisition and target date for inviting bids.

The projected road would leave US-74 near its intersection with Interstate 85, move northwest to the intersection of Piedmont avenue and Linwood road, then bear west and southwest to a diamond interchange at the intersection of present US 74 and county road 2036. It will continue south, then west, running south of Bethware school until it re-intersects with US 74 slightly east of the Buffalo Creek bridge. A diamond interchange is planned on Cleveland avenue south of East school.

A bridge under the Southern Railway tracks is envisioned between Phenix plant of Burlington Industries and Mullins Textiles. Another bridge is envisioned at North Cansler street.

The project is a 50-50 share cost project between the U. S. Bureau of Roads and the State of North Carolina. Under North Carolina law, the city will be required to defer expense of moving city utility lines already on highway right-of-way. City expense will be incurred at the Cleveland avenue and Piedmont avenue interchanges.

Garrison Advice: Maintain Property

"The highway commission endeavors to pay fair value for properties it acquires for building roads," Division Commissioner W. B. Garrison said Wednesday in announcing the commission decision to proceed on the US 74 by-pass.

He also gave a word of advice to persons with improved property (homes, business buildings, etc.) likely to be on the new roadbed.

"Keep your property in good repair," Comm. Garrison said. "It is obvious an appraiser will be less impressed price-wise with a home with doors hanging on one hinge than those well-maintained."