

Population

Greater Kings Mountain 21,914
City Limits 8,256

The Greater Kings Mountain figure is derived from the special United States Bureau of the Census report of January 1966, and includes the 14,890 population of Number 4 Township, and the remaining 6,124 from Number 5 Township, in Cleveland County and Crowder Mountain Township in Gaston County.

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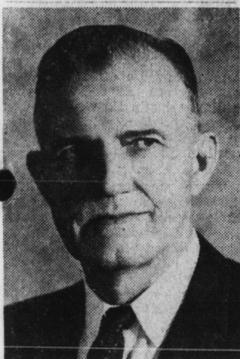
Kings Mountain, N. C., Thursday, February 8, 1968

Seventy-Eighth Year

PRICE TEN CENTS

16 Pages Today

Three Kings Mountain Men Jailed In Grover Bank Theft



ELECTED — Zeb O. Plonk, Kings Mountain native, has been elected a vice president of the Liberty Mutual Insurance Companies.

Zeb Plonk Wins Promotion

Zeb O. Plonk, Kings Mountain native, has been elected a vice president of the Liberty Mutual Insurance Companies, Frank L. Farwell, president, announced today.

Mr. Plonk is son of Mrs. C. S. Plonk, Sr. of Kings Mountain and the late Mr. Plonk.

Mr. Plonk joined Liberty Mutual's claims department in 1930. After holding posts in the companies' Boston, Baltimore, and New York City offices, he was named assistant division claims manager in Atlanta in 1940. In 1947 he was made division administrative assistant and in 1951 was appointed manager of underwriting and related functions in the Atlanta division office. Mr. Plonk returned to the firm's home office in Boston in 1953 and was made an assistant vice-president. In 1959, he was named assistant vice president and method of development and electronics research.

A graduate of North Carolina State University he attended the University of Baltimore Law School and holds a certificate in advanced management from Harvard Business School. He is a member of Guide International, the association of electronic computer users.

Mr. Plonk is married, has three children and lives at 42 Oxford Road in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

Rauch Supports Kindergartens

Senator Marshall A. Rauch, seeking re-election to a second term as senator from the 29th (Gaston-Cleveland) district, has issued a statement concerning his views about state government.

"We need to continue a strong fiscal policy with the minimum government that is essential. My philosophy on government is that before the people can ask their legislature to do something for them, they first must give up the privilege of doing it themselves. I am a strong advocate of the best possible educational system, and firmly believe in public kindergartens. I feel this can be done without an increase in taxes.

"There should be a number of reforms in our Constitution, including permitting the Governor to succeed himself, longer terms for legislators, and giving the Governor the veto power. I am definitely opposed to any secret meetings of any kind. I wish to make it clear that I am not allied with nor will I be supporting any other national, state or local candidates."

Kimbrell Rites Thursday At 2

Willis Kimbrell, 51, of Greenville, S. C., brother of Ray Kimbrell, Mrs. Frank Rippey and Mrs. Ralph Spake, all of Kings Mountain, died Tuesday morning in Greenville.

Funeral rites will be held Thursday afternoon at 2 p. m. in Greenville.

Gantt, Riley, Laws Arrested; Gantt Makes Bond

Two Kings Mountain men and a teenager have been arraigned before U.S. Commissioner Perry Swafford in Spartanburg, S. C., in the \$22,000 armed robbery Friday of the Grover branch of the Blacksburg, S. C. State Bank.

Arrested Saturday and charged with the robbery were Thurman Gantt, 50, Walter J. Riley, 36, and Roy Gene Laws, 17, all of Kings Mountain. Bond was set at \$20,000 each. Gantt made bond Monday afternoon.

The youth and Riley were picked up about an hour after Friday's robbery, but were released without charge. Later they and Gantt were arrested at Gantt's home here and charged in the robbery of the bank which is located just inside South Carolina about 25 feet from the N. C. line adjacent to the Cameron Plant of Minette Mills.

Laws and Riley had been picked up in Gaston County Friday morning after police spotted a car similar to one seen near the bank just before the robbery. Two men held the male bank manager, Bill Troublefield, and two women tellers — Mrs. Ann Sheave and Mrs. Elizabeth Hammett at gunpoint and escaped with \$22,000 in cash from the vault and teller's cages about 9:35 a.m. Friday.

According to the bank clerks, the bandits had stockings over their faces. Authorities said two stockings were found in the Bethlehem community between the robbery scene and where the car was located. They quoted a bank employee as saying the stockings were similar in color to those worn by the bandits.

Officers are speculating that at least four persons and two automobiles may have been involved. FBI agents and Cherokee County authorities are in charge of the investigation, Cleveland County officers are assisting.

Friday's robbery was the first time the Grover branch has been robbed. The main Blacksburg State Bank office was robbed of \$23,500 by masked bandits in May, 1966.

City To Condemn Peeler Tract

The city will file condemnation action in Cleveland Superior Court Thursday against George Peeler, of Shelby, for right-of-way easement and 21.7 acres of property the city requires as a site for its projected sewage treatment plant on Pilot Branch.

City Attorney Jack White said the city will recommend to Clerk Paul Wilson appointment of W. A. Williams as its representative on the three-man appraisal team.

Construction on the sewage system expansion is scheduled to begin in the near future.

Lester D. Roark House Candidate; He Seeks Seat Number 2 Position

Lester D. Roark, 43, Grover native and Shelby city councilman since 1957, Monday filed as a candidate for a 43rd District seat in the North Carolina House of Representatives.

The 43rd District is entitled to three representatives from Cleveland, Polk and Rutherford Counties.

Under the numbered seat statute enacted by the 1967 General Assembly Roark filed as a candidate for seat No. 2 subject to the Democratic primary of May 4.

Roark is the third Democrat to file as a candidate for the 43rd District seat, Forest City attorney Robert A. Jones being the first to announce on January 24th for district seat No. 3 and incumbent W. K. Mauney, Jr. of Kings Mountain filing the next day for seat No. 1. Of the other two incumbents, William (Bill) Harrill of Forest City announced in mid-January that he would be a candidate for state superintendent of public instruction and Rep.

(Continued On Page Eight)



OFFICER — W. Trent Ragland, Jr., president of Superior Stone Company, has been elected vice-president of the National Crushed Stone Association for the coming year.

Ragland Elected NCSA Officer

W. Trent Ragland, Jr., president of Superior Stone Company, was elected vice president of the National Crushed Stone Association (NCSA) at its 51st annual convention recently in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Mr. Ragland, who has served on the NCSA's Board of Directors since 1948, was immediate past chairman of the NCSA's Technical Committee. He has also served as a regional vice president for 1966 and 1967, and has been a member of the association's Executive Committee since 1964.

A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Ragland has been connected with the mining industry all his life. He became president of Superior Stone in 1954.

Superior Stone Company is a rock products division of the Martin Marietta Corporation with headquarters in Raleigh, N. C. It operates 32 quarries in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and Georgia, including a quarry in Kings Mountain.

Mrs. Weaver's Mother Passes

Funeral rites for Mrs. Louella "Hedwick" Calhoun, 73, of Gastonia, mother of Mrs. Omelia Weaver of Kings Mountain, were held Tuesday at 4 p. m. from Gastonia's Gospel Baptist church, in interment following in Gaston Memorial cemetery.

Mrs. Calhoun died at 4 a.m. Sunday in a Gastonia hospital.

Other survivors include her husband, Burnett D. Calhoun; five sons, the Rev. L. D. Calhoun and Roy Calhoun, both of Baltimore, Md.; Rudolph Calhoun of Bessemer City and Thurman Calhoun of Polk AFB; a daughter, Mrs. Odessa Boyles of Gastonia; a brother, Luther Chadwick of East Point, Ga.; a sister, Mrs. Lela Davis of College Park, Ga.; 26 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

City To Grow Tuesday Night

The city is expected to grow by seven-plus acres Tuesday night.

Public hearing is scheduled by the city commission on the annexation request for the Thornburg-Parrish property on McGinnis street which is being acquired by Marshall Rauch and partners of Bessemer City for construction of a 5,000-square foot dyeing and finishing plant.

Other items on the agenda include confirmation of street improvements assessments and receipt of bids for a truck for the street department.

The board will convene at City Hall courtroom at 6:30 p.m.

Mrs. Crum's Rites Conducted

Funeral rites for Mrs. Carrie Lee Crum, 79, were held Wednesday afternoon at 3 p. m. from the Chapel of Harris Funeral Home, interment following in Mountain Rest cemetery.

Rev. D. B. Alderman, pastor of Central Methodist church, officiated at the final rites.

Home S & L Logs Record High Assets

Home Savings & Loan Association had a banner year in 1967, with year-end assets totaling \$9,322,750, up \$960,093, shareholders were told at the recent annual meeting.

The shareholders re-elected the eight directors, A. H. Patterson, I. G. Patterson, Jack H. White, Dr. Paul E. Hendricks, J. H. Thomson, Thomas A. Tate, B. D. Ratterree of Kings Mountain, and R. S. Plonk, of Bessemer City.

Following the meeting, directors re-elected these officers and employees: J. H. Thomson, president; A. H. Patterson and B. D. Ratterree, vice-presidents; Thomas A. Tate, executive vice-president; Emily A. Herndon, Treasurer; Nancy S. Seism, assistant secretary-treasurer; Jacob A. Dixon, manager of the Bessemer City branch; and Frances O. Herndon DeLora Lovelace and Rebecca Broome, tellers.

The voters retained again its legal staff of George B. Thomason, attorney-at-law, and Davis, White & Powell, attorneys-at-law.

Other annual report highlights given by Mr. Tate:

- 1) Savings increased \$806,343 to \$8,557,175; accounts increased \$14 to 4205.
 - 2) Mortgage loans increased \$1,016,729 to \$8,253,640; number of loans totaled 1456, 351 of them made in 1967.
 - 3) Dividends totaled \$359,255.
 - 4) \$46,438 were added to reserves totaling \$662,296 and \$11,152 were added to undivided profits totaling \$50,000.
- Other major assets included cash of \$336,315, U.S. bonds of \$440,495, and share loans of \$152,884.
- Jacob A. Dixon's report for the Bessemer City, subsidiary showed assets of \$2,118,037, slightly over 20 percent of the firm's total, and a 1967 increase of \$245,758.

Scott To Open Headquarters

Lieutenant-Governor Robert W. (Bob) Scott, candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor, will open his Cleveland County headquarters in Shelby Saturday morning at 10:30.

Pat Spangler, Scott manager in Gaston and Cleveland counties, said Wednesday he has a goal of attendance at the opening of "not less than 1000 people."

Chairman Spangler said he anticipates Candidate Scott will make a short address of "state-wide import."

"We are aiming at not less than 1000 people at the Cleveland headquarters opening," Chairman Spangler declared.

"Lt. Gov. Scott will greet and shake hands with every person present," he added.

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Rev. D. B. Alderman, pastor of Central Methodist church, officiated at the final rites.

Mrs. Crum, who had resided here with her sister, Mrs. Ben F. Crum, died Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. in a Rutherford hospital following several months' illness.

She was a native of Vance County, daughter of the late W. C. and Mary Harris Hammell. She was widow of Ralph Crum.

Some Cansler Street Citizens Object To Right-of-Way Plan

Thornburg Warns Trash Burning Requires Permits

A rash of fires Tuesday and Wednesday, including several grass fires, brought a reminder from Fire Chief Floyd Thornburg that permits must be obtained from the fire chief before rubbish or grass can be burned.

Chief Thornburg pointed out that Kings Mountain is under the fire prevention code of the American Insurance Association and that burning of trash and grass requires permits.

The city answered four alarms Tuesday, and two on Wednesday. Yet another Tuesday alarm was for a grass fire behind Rock Motel, a blaze fought by the Bethlehem Fire Department.

The Bethlehem department also aided the city in fighting a stubborn grass fire at the W. T. Weir pasture in the Gallilee community.

Chief Thornburg estimated that 50 acres were burned over.

Other Tuesday fires included: A car shed at the home of Paul Case on Center street was totally destroyed.

All the clothing in a closed at the Martin Wilson, Jr., residence, 513 Phenix street, was burned. Cause of the blaze was not determined.

A truck fire was extinguished on Cherokee street.

Wednesday afternoon the department extinguished two grass fires, one on the railroad bank on Grace street and the other on Bennett drive.

F. J. Dyke's Rites Conducted

Funeral rites for Elbert Joseph Dyke, 76, were held Friday afternoon at 4 p. m. from the Chapel of Harris Funeral Home, interment following in Mountain Rest cemetery.

Mr. Dyke died at 12:45 Thursday at his home.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Mattie Dunn Dyke; two sons, William M. Dyke and Elbert M. Dyke, Jr., both of Kings Mountain; two daughters, Mrs. James Sotelo and Mrs. Virgie Hutchins, both of Kings Mountain; a brother, Charles Dyke of Spartanburg, S. C.; one sister, Mrs. Belle Case of Canton; and seven grandchildren.

L/Cpl. Caldwell Back To Viet Nam

Lance Corporal James H. Caldwell returned to Viet Nam Tuesday after a 30-day leave.

Before his leave here L/Cpl. Caldwell was hospitalized for two months after suffering arm and leg wounds as a result of mortar fire.

He is the son of Mrs. Wiley Harbin, 102 East King street, and a grandson of Mrs. Mildred Caldwell, 301 Margrace.

Chamber Of Commerce, Merchants Will Occupy Union Bus Terminal

Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce and Merchants Association have contracted with Queen City Bus Company to occupy Union Bus Terminal and to operate the terminal.

Joint announcement was made Wednesday by W. S. Fulton, Jr., Chamber of Commerce president, and Glee E. Bridges, Merchants Association president.

The two organizations, now joint tenants of offices in the Lynch building on West Mountain street, will remodel both waiting rooms at the terminal, the North waiting room to be converted into offices of two organizations.

Under terms of the contract, the two organizations will be paid commissions on bus ticket and package fees and will occupy the building rent-free.

The organizations will not operate a cafe but will offer snacks and sundries via vending machine. The spokesmen said they expect to be in operation by next week.

Scouts To Manage City on Thursday

Nine Scouts To Man City Posts For Day

Kings Mountain Boy Scouts will become city officials Thursday as they get a practical lesson in municipal government operations and titulary "manage" the city from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p. m., an annual feature of Boy Scout week.

Mayor John Henry Moss has made the following appointments from Boy Scouts elected by their fellows from Kings Mountain Troops 91, Otis Falls, Jr., Scoutmaster, and Troop 92, Ken Pruitt, Scoutmaster:

Charles W. (Rocky) Ford, Jr., Troop 91, mayor.

Ricky Falls, Troop 91, city clerk.

Frank Humphries, Troop 92 chief of police.

Buddy Oliver, Troop 92, fire chief.

Steve Ingle, Troop 91, public works superintendent.

Eddie Bridges, Troop 92, water plant superintendent.

Reid Strickland, Troop 91, electrical superintendent.

Bill Tolbert, Troop 92, sanitation superintendent.

Steve Cook, Troop 92, street department superintendent.

Both Kings Mountain troops will participate in the Saturday Scout Show at the Shelby Recreation Center. Troop 91 will have a booth and give an exhibition on requirements of the chemistry merit badge. Troop 92 will have a booth demonstrating "airline" and outdoor cooking skills. Tickets are 35 cents.

On Sunday, both troops will attend 11 a.m. services at their sponsoring churches. Troop 91 at St. Matthew's Lutheran and Troop 92 at First Baptist.

"I speak for all city employees in saying we look forward annually to Boy Scout day at City Hall," Mayor John Henry Moss commented.

Mall Meeting Monday At 10

Annual business meeting of Kings Mountain Mall, Inc. will be held Monday morning at 10 in the conference room of Kings Mountain Savings & Loan Association on West Mountain street.

Business of the meeting will include the election of new officers for 1968-69 and reports of officers and directors.

Paul H. McGinnis, Jr., is Mall president.



RICKY FALLS



ROCKY FORD, JR.

Falls And Ford Win Eagle Rank

Two Kings Mountain Boy Scouts recently received the Eagle Award, highest honor in Boy Scouting.

Charles (Rocky) Ford, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Ford, and Otis (Ricky) Falls, III, son of Mr. and Mrs. Otis Falls, Jr., are recipients.

Young Falls, son of Lutheran Scoutmaster Falls, earned his Eagle in 28 months. He attributes his quick advancement to "help from older boys who have led him in Scouting since he was four years old and assistance from Scoutleaders Manley Hayes, Mat Pouchak and Richard Culyer. Rick Falls has attended Aquatics school and holds a Life Guard certificate. He took Junior leader's training in Statesville and instructed Junior leader training in the county-wide event. He is currently assistant Senior Patrol leader and specializes in tenderfoot instruction. He is Den Chief for Mrs. Tommy Bridges' den in Cub Pack 90 and is a member of Order of the Arrow.

Rocky Ford, 13, has completed the Aquatics school at Shiloh Scout Reservation and holds the Boy Scout Life Guard certificate. He attended the Piedmont Council Junior Leader Training course held last summer in Statesville and served as instructor in this year's Cleveland County Junior Leader training event. He has served Troop 91 in every leadership capacity including assistant Senior Patrol leader. He is a member of the scouting camping fraternity Order of the Arrow.

The \$278,000 Cansler St. project was requested by the city board of commissioners and meets the criteria for the city's share, \$314,000 of a \$300 million state-wide road bond issue which voters approved in 1965. "Advent

(Continued On Page 8)

Hearing Held On Cansler Improvements

Two dozen Cansler street property owners, 16 living on the East side and eight living on the West side, registered their opposition to proposed widening of Cansler street at Tuesday's 45-minute public hearing conducted by the State Highway Commission at the Armory.

Proposed improvements are projected beginning at the intersection of Cansler with Gold and continuing to the intersection of Walker street.

Strongest opposition was voiced by Everett (Buddy) Medlin, spokesman for a three-block segment of residents on East Cansler, who contend the widening to a 60 foot right-of-way, of which 44 feet would be paved, with curb-and-gutter would require most of the front yards of houses on the East side.

Medlin, who lives at 504 North Cansler, said he represented property owners on the East side of Cansler from Walker to Childers who resent the fact that the increased right-of-way (the project calls for widening the street from 38 feet to 44 feet and increasing the right-of-way from 40 to 60 feet) will be taken off the East side only in this area and none from the West side.

"We feel it unjust to take property on one side only," said Medlin.

To Medlin's question, "what will happen if all the residents stick together, would we all be condemned?" W. A. Garrett, Jr., who conducted the hearing, replied, "The highway department will deal with each property owner individually in obtaining the right-of-way and not with a group."

In answer to Medlin's question on project design, Garrett said "the State Highway Department attempts to design the most economical project, and, that in this case the engineers apparently decided it would be less costly to take right-of-way from the east side only in the three block area. Additional right-of-way would be taken from both sides of the street in other areas, said Garrett."

Maps showing the location of the project showed that because of the closeness of houses and other structures to the present street, the widened street would place the pavement edge almost up against some of the structures.

Highway Commissioner W. B. Garrison of Gastonia, also present at the hearing, told the group, "It is not our intention to hurt anyone with this project. We hope it can be done to benefit all of Kings Mountain."

Mr. Medlin reiterated Wednesday East Cansler residents only oppose the widening of the road, not street improvements, curb and gutter and sidewalks. "Any development of this street has come off the east side," said Medlin.

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(Continued On Page 8)

Moore Praises City On Award

Governor Dan K. Moore has commended Kings Mountain for its recent honor in being awarded honorable mention in the National Clean Up-Paint Up-Fix Up contest.

The Governor wrote Mayor Moss: "Your city is certainly to be highly commended for being named recipient of an Honorable Mention in the National Clean Up-Paint Up-Fix Up contest."

"I know that such an honor only came about through hard work and good cooperation from all your citizens."

The awards are to be presented at a convention to be held in Washington, D. C., February 18-20.

Co-Chairmen of the citizens clean-up committee were Claxon Kelly and Mrs. E. W. Griffin, Sr.

Nursing Home Meeting Monday

Officers and directors of Kings Mountain Nursing and Convalescent Home will hold the annual meeting Monday afternoon at 2 p. m. in the conference room of Kings Mountain Savings & Loan Association on West Mountain street.

Business of the meeting will include election of new officers and directors for 1968-69.