

Letter To Editor

Mr. Martin Harmon, Editor Kings Mountain Herald Dear Martin: I have noticed with considerable interest and curiosity the recent writings regarding bids on paving in the City of Kings Mountain. I could not help but take the time to write you a letter concerning the situation.

From what you say, it appears that the City of Kings Mountain has made substantial savings by awarding contracts to one contractor on the basis reported in your paper since 1965.

Knowing all of the city commissioners and the mayor and Pat Spangler, I cannot honestly state that they have intended any degree of malpractice involving city funds in bidding on pavement contracts. It may be, as you say, that their method of bidding has been beneficial to the city coffers. The problem, Martin, is the same that surrounds most reasons for all of our laws, and that is that a few rotten apples require that all be protected by the law. If the law requires open bidding on these contracts, then that should be the case. These laws were made to protect the citizens from those that would allow malpractice or under the table dealings in a situation of this nature. I also consider that these laws protect both parties; for example, when governmental bodies operate by the law they cannot be accused or be tempted to operate under the table and then the citizens, secondly, receive the added benefit of being protected by a law requiring open public bidding on such as street and curbing contracts. What is unusually odd about this situation is that competition, especially in city contracts, usually provides a better price than single awarding of contracts to one individual. I think that you would agree that in most markets competition brings the price in line.

It appears to me then from what has been reported that the city has saved a substantial amount of money by their method of bidding, but because the city is operating on monies supplied by the citizens of Kings Mountain it stands to reason that all bids should be held under the law to protect both the stockholders (tax payers) and the administrators (city government officials). Then too, you may want to use the analogy of price versus risk.

It may cost the taxpayers of the City of Kings Mountain a higher price through comparative bidding if we use your reporting as fact, but the risk is less. The risk, of course, being that if such as this is allowed to be handled outside of the law no citizen really rests assured that there are not other situations in the city government being handled outside the law which may be costing them their very soul.

As you know, Martin, I'm not any longer a resident of the City of Kings Mountain, but I do have great feelings for the people there. For this reason I have written this letter to you personally as I felt compelled, as I have many times in the past, to give you my opinion. In summation, then, I would say that if it is the law, let us follow it; if we do not like the law, let's change it through the proper legal channels.

With best regards, Richard E. Maxey Vice President First-Citizens Bank & Trust Co. Asheville, N. C.

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Birth

Announcements

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas James Smith, Route 2, Box 207, announce the birth of their son, Thursday, March 7, Kings Mountain hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Creswell, Route 1, Kings Creek, S. C., announce the birth of their daughter, Thursday, March 7, Kings Mountain hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby L. Pearson, 1615 Shelby Road, announce the birth of their son, Friday, March 8, Kings Mountain hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thompson, 104 E. Indiana Ave., Bessemer City, announce the birth of their daughter, Sunday, March 10, Kings Mountain hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Sammy Godburn, 714 W. Virginia Ave., announce the birth of their son, Sunday, March 10, Kings Mountain hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Mincey, W. Ballard St., Cherryville, announce the birth of their son, Tuesday, March 12, Kings Mountain hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. George Floyd, Route 3, Box 212, announce the birth of their son, Tuesday, March 12, Kings Mountain hospital.

CHURCHWOMEN Women of First Presbyterian church will hold their regular meeting Monday night at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel of the church.

POWER OFF SUNDAY Power in the Kings Mountain area will be off Sunday, March 17 from 6:00 a.m. to approximately 6:15 a.m., also, from 1:00 p.m. to approximately 1:15 p.m. Transformers are being replaced with larger ones to increase capacity announced the Kings Mountain Electric Department.

NOTICE! STERCHI'S WILL BE CLOSED TODAY 'TIL 3 P.M. THURSDAY MARCH 14

We are marking down prices for this great sale!

ON SALE TODAY ONLY...FROM 3 P.M. 'til 9 P.M.

6 HOUR! FURNITURE CLEARANCE

This is our FISCAL END-OF-YEAR CLEAR-OUT! We have just completed inventory and do we have left-overs! Everything must go. Our buying mistakes are your gain! SAVINGS UP TO 65%! Many one-of-a-kind! Buy with NO MONEY DOWN, just add it to your account! Whatever you do...DON'T MISS IT! The savings event of the year!

FREE COKE AND SOUVENIRS FOR THE KIDS!

ADMIRAL PORTABLE T-V Good Used Picture Sale Price \$39.80

32-PC. SET DINNERWARE Only 12 To Sell. Regular Price \$6.95 Sale Price \$3.80

4-PC. BEDROOM SUITE Modern Walnut. Regular Price \$229.95 Sale Price \$189.80

ICE CUBE TRAYS Only 50 To Sell, Aluminum, With Cube Release Each 99c

23-IN. ADMIRAL CONSOLE T-V SALE - USED PRICE Sale Price \$139.80

GOLD CHAIR (OCCASIONAL) Only One To Sell. Regular Price \$59.95 Sale Price \$29.80

METAL ROBES Only 5 To Sell. Regular Price \$34.95 Each \$24.80

NORGE DRYER Regular Price \$139.00. Sale Price \$98.80

When New \$129 SOFA Good - Used Condition Sale Price \$29.80

FRENCH PROVINCIAL CHAIR Only One To Sell. Regular Price \$149.95 Sale Price \$79.80

5-PC. BRONZETONE DINETTE Regular Price \$79.95 Sale Price \$49.80

AUTOMATIC WASHER Kelvinator. Regular Price \$189.95. Sale Price \$168.80

5-PC. DINETTE Originally - Used \$99 Sale Price \$29.80

ROCK-A-LOUNGER Only One To Sell. Regular Price \$119.95 Sale Price \$69.80

7-PC. CHROME DINETTE Regular Price \$89.95 Sale Price \$68.80

G.E. STEAM IRONS Only Six To Sell. Sorry No Phone Orders or Layaways. Reg. \$12.90 Ea. \$2.80

REFRIGERATOR Hotpoint - Used Sale Price \$49.80

SWIVEL ROCKERS Only Two To Sell. Regular Price \$89.95 Sale Price \$49.80

TWO-DOOR KELVINATOR Automatic Defroster. Reg. \$299.95 Sale Price EX. \$239.80

G.E. MIXERS Only Two To Sell. Regular Price \$14.95 Sale Price \$9.80

ELECTRIC RANGE Kelvinator - Used Originally \$179.95 Sale Price \$99.80

BERKLINE ROCKER Only One To Sell. Regular Price \$89.95 Sale Price \$59.80

ADMIRAL TELEVISIONS Regular Price \$239.95. Sale Price EX. \$199.95

PORTABLE SEWING MACHINE Only Two To Sell. Regular Price \$69.95 Sale Price \$49.80

BOOKCASE in Maple or Walnut Only 4 To Sell. Regular Price \$34.95 Sale Price \$19.80

NYLON RUGS Reg. To \$109.95, 12x12, 12x14, 12x15, 12x21 Your Choice \$79.80

G.E. RADIOS Only Two To Sell. Regular Price \$18.95 Sale Price \$8.80

6x9 RUG - Color Moss 100% Viscose Rayon File. Only One To Sell. Regular Price \$39.95 Only \$19.80

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KELVINATOR RANGE Regular Price \$199.95. Sale Price EX. \$159.80

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3-PC. BEDROOM SUITE Blonde. Regular Price \$189.95 Sale Price \$149.80

ELECTRIC RANGES Just 2 To Sell. Apartment Size. Regular Price \$169.95 Sale Price \$139.80

ORIG. \$169 OIL HEATER Duo-Therm. With Carburetor & Oil Tank Used Sale Price \$49.80

Ironing Board Pad and Cover Set Regular \$1.29, NOW ONLY 69c

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IT COSTS LESS AT - Sterchi's THE SOUTH'S LARGEST HOME FURNISHERS