

Christmas Eve Gift - - Buffalo Water Project Go - Ahead - - Top News Event of '68

By MARTIN HARMON
Kings Mountain area's top news story in a news-filled year most will agree was the Christmas Eve gift received by the city: final clearance to proceed on the Buffalo Creek water project.

Top nominee for the second major news event was an aggregate of industrial growth and expansion, with six new industrial citizens and four major expansions by existing industry.

Other top news events (with no attempt to rate them in order of importance):

- 1) Approval of the Department of Housing and Urban Development

ment of \$1,644,680 in project share grants for a) the water project, b) neighborhood facilities building, and c) the urban renewal program, along with approval by the same department of \$2,500,000 borrowing permission for Kings Mountain Public Housing Authority to build 150 low-rent dwelling units.

2) Extension of the city limits first to the northwest, then to the southwest, and capped by the 425-acre extension southwest in December.

3) The record-setting contribution of \$242,000 by citizens for renovating and expanding Kings Mountain Hospital.

4) The early morning wreck of a Southern Railway freight which spread debris over a five-block area.

5) Establishment of a welfare department interviewing branch office here.

6) Construction begun on sewage disposal system addition and expansion.

7) Mrs. Maude R. Walker becomes first lady city commissioner, appointed to fill unexpired term of her late husband, Commissioner O. O. Walker.

8) Senators Jack White and Marshall Rauch and Representative W. K. Mauney, Jr., returned to General Assembly without opposition.

HONORS
Honors came to Kings Mountain groups and individuals during the year, major among them honors to high school seniors for scholarships. Rick Finger became Kings Mountain's first Morehead scholar, and Danny Dyke won two major scholarships, the William Whitaker award and the Pittsburgh Plate Glass scholarship. Carolyn Ann Falls won a major scholarship and Jean Davis the Otis D. Green Post American Legion scholarship.

Postmaster Charles L. Alexander was named North Carolina Postmaster of the Year, Mrs.

Haywood E. Lynch was appointed a director of the North Carolina Dental Health association, R. W. Hurlbut was elected, lieutenant-governor of North Carolina Optimists, Mrs. L. E. Hinnant was elected district director of the North Carolina Daughters of the American Revolution, and Mayor John Henry Moss was elected chairman of the Cleveland Association of Governmental Officials.

In sports, Kings Mountain entries in the duckpin bowling tournaments at Baltimore, Md., took national honors and the high school basketball team went to the finals of the Western North Carolina High School association tournament.

TRAGEDY
Eight lives were lost in accidents, four of them in car-train collisions, including Heyward M. Brooks, Mrs. Irene D. Randolph, David Harold Evans and Randy Glenn Evans. Killed in auto crashes were Police Officer Don Henderson, Eddie Horn, Jerry Dean Hope, and Harry L. Luke, of Georgia.

Six area servicemen died, five killed in action in Vietnam. These were Pfc. Harold Welch, 1st Lieutenant Roy P. Cochran, Cpl. Wayne Gregory Thomas, L/Cpl. William J. Moses, Jr., and Sgt.

Larry Dellinger, Pfc. Reece Dale Bowers was killed in an auto accident in Thailand.

NECROLOGY
Among well-known citizens claimed by death during the year were Former Mayor Garland E. Still, City Commissioner O. O. Walker, William Webster Hardin, Otis Falls, Sr., William B. Logan, A. Dewitte Cornwell, Arthur Phifer, Sr., John Dixon McDaniell, Mrs. Arthur Hay, William North Harmon, William Marvin Goforth, Sam D. Collins, Mrs. Amanda Hamrick, Miss Minnie Phifer, Rev. Ray Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Stewart, John Mitcham, Mrs. W. J. Craw-

ford, B. F. Bird, James H. Medlin, Mrs. Sarah C. Foster, and Mrs. Lillian Early.

BUSINESS
King Kampers, Inc. opened a campground off Interstate 85. Fashion Cleaners began a major renovation and expansion, Kings Mountain Cablevision, Inc. was chartered and granted franchise for Kings Mountain, and the venerable Bonnie Mills Company was sold to Mur-Glo, Inc. Oxford Industries, now building on York road, acquired Barwin Knit, Inc. George Lublanekzi bought the former First Union National Bank building and C. T. (Chick)

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Population	
Greater Kings Mountain	21,914
City Limits (1966 Census)	8,256
City Limits (Estimate 1968)	9300

The Greater Kings Mountain figure is derived from the special United States Bureau of the Census report of January 1966, and includes the 14,990 population of Number 4 Township, and the remaining 6,124 from Number 5 Township, in Cleveland County and Crowder Mountain Township in Gaston County.



20 Pages Today

VOL. 81 No. 1 Established 1889 Kings Mountain, N. C., Thursday, January 2, 1969 Seventy-Eighth Year PRICE TEN CENT!

Buffalo Creek Water Project Bids Invited January 22

Francis Succeeds B. Holmes Harry

Board Reviews High School Addition Plans

Holmes Harry, of Grover, veteran member of the Kings Mountain district board of education, resigned this week.

Phillip A. (Tippy) Francis, also a Minette Mills official of Grover, has been appointed by the board of education to fill Mr. Harry's unexpired term which would have ended in May 1971.

Mr. Harry became a member of the education board when area consolidation was effected July 1, 1965. He was re-elected without opposition to a full six-year term in 1965. He gave ill health as his reason for resigning.

Mrs. Francis is a member of Shiloh Presbyterian church, the Grover Lions club, and other organizations. His wife is the former Jean Harry, daughter of Mayor and Mrs. Franklin Harry.

At Monday night's meeting the board accepted the resignation of Mrs. Diane Randolph as physical education instructor at Central school and elected to succeed her Miss Sara Elizabeth McGill, of Blacksburg, S. C.

After looking over sketches of possible additions to Kings Mountain high school, board members expressed favor for a two-story 12-room addition and instructed Superintendent Donald D. Jones to confer with state officials concerning such an addition, plus quarters for additional vocational education instruction.

Supt. Jones said Wednesday funds are available or will be available in the foreseeable future to construct the high school addition, hopefully for use in the 1970-71 school term.



PROMOTED - Lt. James C. Blanton has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant in the U. S. Navy. He is son of Mr. and Mrs. Dewitt Blanton.

Lt. Blanton Is Promoted

Lieutenant James C. Blanton, USNR, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles DeWitt Blanton of Kings Mountain, was advanced to the rank of Lieutenant recently.

Lt. Blanton is a 1965 graduate of East Carolina University with a bachelor of science degree in business. After receiving his commission for Officer's Candidate School, Newport, R. I., he served aboard the USS Sheldrake (AGS-19), homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. He served as Engineering Officer and made two cruises to the Republic of South Vietnam while stationed aboard the hydrographic survey ship Sheldrake.

Recently he volunteered to undergo training in Explosive Ordnance Disposal where he will receive 36 weeks of Naval schooling to train to recognize, handle, disarm, and dispose of all explosive ordnance be it on land or under the sea.

Lt. Blanton is presently enrolled at the Underwater Swimmers School Key West, Florida, for an eight week course of instruction in the principles of diving. Upon

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Bob Southwell Retains Ford Dealership

Robert O. (Bob) Southwell retains ownership of Southwell Motor Company, Kings Mountain Ford dealer, Mr. Southwell announced this week.

Concurrently, he announced that Jimmy Armstrong, of Gastonia, who, it had been previously announced was purchasing the Ford dealership here, will join Southwell Motor as sales manager.

Doug Eubanks has been appointed assistant sales manager. Ford Motor Company, Mr. Southwell said, deferred approval of the franchise transfer, and both he and Mr. Armstrong decided to cancel the purchase agreement.

Both Mr. Southwell and Mr. Armstrong have been in the automobile business all their working lives. Mr. Southwell, a native of Rome, Ga., came to Kings Mountain in 1960 and was employed first as a salesman by Plonk Motor Company. He obtained the Ford dealership from Fred W. Plonk and in 1963 opened a new building and business on Shelby road.

Armstrong, 36, got his start as a car salesman with his father, Arnold Armstrong. They are partners in Arnold Armstrong & Sons, used car firm, in Gastonia.

Barbara Goins Is First Baby Of '69

KM Winner Also County's First Of Year

Barbara Diane Goins, who arrived two hours and 39 minutes after the New Year Wednesday morning, is winner of both the Kings Mountain and Cleveland County Baby Derbies for 1969.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Goins of 1440 Second street are proud parents of the new arrival, a brunette, who weighed in at Kings Mountain hospital at five pounds, 13 ounces.

She is second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Goins. Older sister is five-year-old Tammy Goins.

Dr. John C. McGill was the attending physician.

Both mother and daughter were anticipating going home from the hospital Thursday or Friday, Mrs. Goins said yesterday. As winner of the Kings Mountain First Baby Derby, the parents will receive a large number of prizes from Kings Mountain area merchants.

Mr. Goins is a native of Kings Mountain. He works for Wix Corporation, Gastonia.

Mrs. Goins is the former Edna Haney, native of Gastonia. Prior to her marriage she worked for Wix Corporation.

Proud grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Clyde E. Goins of Kings Mountain and Mrs. Annie Lee Haney of Gastonia.



EAGLE SCOUT - Frank Humphries, 13-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Humphries, is recipient of the Eagle badge, highest award in Boy Scouting.

Scout Humphries Wins High Award

Frank Humphries, 13-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Humphries, was awarded his Eagle rank in Scouting at close of Sunday morning worship services Sunday at First Baptist church.

First Baptist church sponsors Troop 92 of which young Humphries is a member.

Scoutmasters Jim Yarbro and Ken Pruitt made the presentation.

Humphries, a charter member of the troop since its organization 30 months ago, is the first Eagle Scout pinned in the troop. He accumulated 26 merit badges the past summer and was awarded a scholarship to Schief Scout Ranch at Mendham, N. J., representing Cleveland County. He was co-chairman of a Junior leadership training weekend for county patrol leaders and served as vice-chairman of the Battle-ground district in the Order of Arrow, a fraternity of Scouts who have exceptional ability at camping. He qualified in mile swim, lifesaving, canoeing and Scout life guard during a summer Aquatics course. He has served his troop as senior patrol leader for two years.

Final Approval Was Received Christmas Eve

The city commission will receive bids January 22 on the Buffalo Creek water project. Action was taken at a special meeting Friday night, after final clearance was received Christmas Eve from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In announcing the go-ahead, Mayor John Henry Moss reported land acquisition progressing well, with 49 of 71 properties required for the dam and lake site either purchased or optioned, representing 69% of owners.

Mayor Moss said the city would proceed immediately to pursue plans to develop recreational aspects of the lake area, reported 22 agencies, federal, state, county and local, had been involved in the project, in addition to individuals and private business firms.

He reiterated appreciation to Jean Schenck, U. L. Patterson, Virgil McIntyre, and Jenkins Morrison for making lake site property available to the city free-of-charge.

Mr. Schenck, who was present, commented, "I don't believe ten percent of the people of Cleveland County yet conceive what this project will mean to the county economically and recreationally. I foresee the day when the whole lake area will be served with water and sewage."

W. K. Dickson, city consulting engineer, pointed out the project has a two-fold purpose: 1) as a water supply for the Kings Mountain area and Eastern Cleveland County and 2) as a recreation center. He noted that the State Board of Health has approved the lake for recreational development.

Congratulating the city were Lamar Young, chairman of the Cleveland Organization of Governmental Officials, Magistrate J. Lee Roberts, Gene Timms, president of the Chamber of Commerce, Rev. S. T. Cooke, Captain B. M. Ormand, and Senator Jack White.

Mayor Moss, reviewing from minutes of the commission, said first step on the Buffalo project was taken in July 1966.

Engineer Dickson estimated completion date at March 31, 1970.

In other actions, the board:

- 1) Received bids on a sewer line, as agent for Gaston County to serve Kings Mountain industrial park, with Sanders Brothers, of Charlotte, apparent low bidder at \$37,532. A. P. White, Continued On Page Six

HEW Approves Assignment Plan



OFFICER - Nancy Lublanekzi, senior student at the University of Mississippi, was recently elected an officer in the student chapter of the American Pharmaceutical Association. She is recipient of a scholarship from the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education.

Miss Lublanekzi In Student Post

Miss Nancy Lublanekzi, a senior at the University of Mississippi, was recently elected as an officer in the Joint Student Chapter of the American Pharmaceutical Association - Mississippi State Pharmaceutical Association.

This Association is concerned with stimulating greater interest in the profession of pharmacy. Miss Lublanekzi is also active in other student organizations as she is a member of Kappa Epsilon, National pharmaceutical sorority, and a member of the Women's House Council at the University.

Earlier in the year, she was honored at a banquet as one of the recipients of a scholarship from the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education.

She is daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Lublanekzi of Kings Mountain.

1969-70 Plan Meets Tests Of Rights Act

Kings Mountain school district's assignment plan for the 1969-70 term starting next September complies with the civil rights act, officials of the Office of Education, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, have informed the board of education.

Congratulations were tendered in the letter by federal education officials.

Under the plan, Park Grace and Compact schools will cease to exist. Park Grace plant will be offered for sale, and Compact will be utilized for special education for the retarded. New Davidson, now the center for special education, will be utilized for administrative offices. Students at Park Grace and Compact will be transferred to other plants.

Initially ordered to pair Park Grace and Compact schools as to pupils (Compact being the district's last all-Negro school), the board of education asked dispensation for the current term on grounds that late reassignment of pupils would be confusing to parents and pupils and that the North School addition under construction would simplify reassignment problems.

The Office of Education agreed with the stipulation faculty desegregation of Compact and Park Grace be effected.

City Commends NASA Astronauts

The Kings Mountain city commission, meeting in special session Friday, adopted a resolution commending the moon orbiting astronauts and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for their historic accomplishment.

The resolution was dispatched to Dr. Thomas O. Paine, acting director of NASA.

The resolution reads: "The city commission of Kings Mountain, North Carolina, site of the Battle of Kings Mountain, October 7, 1789, which turned the tide of the Revolutionary War to victory for the American colonies, in meeting on this historic day of December 27, 1968, hereby RESOLVES: "That the magnificent feat of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration organization and its valiant astronauts in the Apollo 8 flight, successfully completed with their return to day from orbiting the moon, is another major milestone in the history of the United States of America and reflects the highest patriotism and courage by the astronauts themselves and the many other thousands of people involved in this furthest exploration of the planetary system."

QUIET DAY
City police reported no wrecks or fires nor arrests made on New Year's Day Wednesday in the city limits.

New Year's Day No Holiday For Some

The city sanitation crews were on duty as usual New Year's Day. But, virtually all other businesses closed their doors for the day.

The city's drugstores operated until 7 p.m., the newspaper office was open as the New Year's Day Herald was published, the city news stand was open and service stations operated.

Most store personnel were on duty for at least half the day or longer to attend to end-of-the-year inventory.

Crawford Heads Realtor Group

J. Wilson Crawford was named chairman of a to-be-formed Kings Mountain Board of Realtors Tuesday, as realtors, builders, and contractors met to discuss implementation of the Mayor's call for 1000 houses within a three-year period.

The Mayor opened the meeting by pointing out that 46 houses had been razed in Kings Mountain during the past year, but that only 26 new houses had been built.

Mr. Crawford had previously told the group he was "close to trading with a party" who planned to build a 40 to 60 unit apartment complex.

Mayor John Henry Moss told the group, "We feel we can continue our present service, which we regard as good." He spoke concerning provision of city utility services and street improvements. He added, "We feel we can expand in about any direction within reason."

Hal S. Plonk said Crescent Hill Development Company is in process of opening 70 to 80 lots.

Fred Wright suggested Kings Mountain lacked "speculative builders", added, "a man wants to see more than one when he is buying a suit of clothes."

Miss Pennington Is Graduated

A Grover student, Joyce Paulette Pennington, received her B. A. degree December 21 in Winthrop's mid-year graduation exercises on the Rock Hill, S. C. campus.

Dr. Charles S. Davis, Winthrop president, conferred degrees on 205 graduates.

Jaycees Seek DSA Nominees

The Kings Mountain Jaycees are now taking applications for their annual "Young Man of the Year" award to be presented January 21st at the Woman's Club.

Deadline for nominations is Saturday, Bill Allen, DSA committee chairman, reminded yesterday. Letters of nomination should be addressed to Mr. Allen at PO Box 303, Kings Mountain, N. C. 28086.

Nominees should be between the ages of 21 and 35 and a resident of the Kings Mountain area. Anyone is eligible for the award and anyone is eligible to nominate a candidate, said Mr. Allen.

Wife Burned in Blaze, Husband Dies Two Hours Later; Rites Friday

A Grover service station operator - Ernest Alfred Gilliam, 52, died of a heart attack Monday morning at 9:30, two hours after he extinguished an oil stove blaze at his home and rushed his burned wife to the hospital.

Mrs. Gilliam, 42, is being treated for first and second degree burns. Coroner Ollie Harris said either Mrs. Gilliam or her husband were lighting a fire and had poured kerosene into a stove which exploded.

Mr. Gilliam suffered the attack at his home in the Antioch community after admitting his wife to the hospital. At 9:30 a.m. he was pronounced dead on arrival at the Kings Mountain hospital.

Funeral rites for Mr. Gilliam will be held Friday at 3 p.m. from Antioch Baptist church of which he was a member. Rev. Wayne Tuttle and Rev. Rudolph Lemmons will officiate, and interment will be in the Grover cemetery.

The body will be taken to the Gilliam home Thursday morning at 11 and will lie in state until the hour of service.

Mr. Gilliam was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Gilliam. He owned and operated Spur Service Station in Grover.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Geneva Jackson Gilliam; four sons, Bobby Gilliam, Charles Gilliam, both of Grover; Junior Gilliam of Monroe and James Gilliam of Kings Mountain; two daughters, Mrs. Margaret Ann Black of Germany and Miss Judy Irene Gilliam of the home; one brother, Boyd Gilliam of Kings Mountain; and one half-brother, Gene Manis of Grover; two sisters, Mrs. Geneva Hudson and Mrs. Virgie Adams of Grover; and two grandchildren.

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Ray Receives Purple Heart

Daniel J. Ray, son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Ray, received the Purple Heart December 21 for wounds he received in Vietnam.

Pfc. Ray is recuperating in a hospital in Japan, his parents report.

Pfc. Ray's address: RA 1281-3903 Co. A-2 505 82ARB Div. APO, San Francisco, California 96228.

Concept Furniture Is Continuing Interviewing Potential Employees

Wayne Farrington of High Point, plant manager of Concept Furniture Corporation, is interviewing potential employees of the new firm which is building here.

Mr. Farrington said he had interviewed over 40 production and office workers and noted that the firm expects to hire 100 local people. He is conducting the interviews during banking hours in the upstairs office of First Union National Bank.

"We don't have a roof on yet but building plans are progressing," Mr. Farrington, an engineer by profession, said this week. He and his family, which includes his wife, Billie Oakley Farrington, and their six-year-old son, DeWayne, have moved here and are residing at 613 North Casler street.

Mr. Farrington was graduated from Summer high school of Greensboro and Engineering