

Mystery, Intrigue - All In Mayor's Praise

Normally Fridays are kind of dull. Last Friday was different. Shortly after noon I received a phone call. A woman's voice said, "Mr. McIntyre?" I said yes, then she said, "I have been told to give you some instructions."

"Oh, yeah?" "Go to Griffin's Drug Store," the woman continued. "On top of the cigarette machine where the display of pens are kept and you will find an envelope marked Mirror-Herald. Inside the envelope are further instructions for you to follow." By this time I was feeling like Mr.

Phelps on "Mission Impossible" so I said, "And as always if any member of your IM force is caught or killed the secretary will disavow any knowledge of your activities."

The caller hung up.

Anxious to discover the big joke the ladies at Griffin's were planning to spring on me, I went in and up front let them know that I wasn't falling for anything they did or said.

They all looked at me like I was bananas. I told Mary Stewart to go with me to the cig machine to search for the mysterious envelope. We

found it hidden beneath the Paper-Mate Pen display case. Back at the counter, where B. S. Peeler happened to be standing, I cautiously opened the envelope, expecting a funny noise or some other gag to pop out. Instead money popped out. A total of \$120 and two sheets of typing paper with handprinted information. The first sheet read:

"Dear Mirror-Herald: This town is lucky to have the mayor at the helm. We've got a progressive attitude developing. All of us can make it better!

Signed, A Progressive-Minded Kings Mountainian"

At the bottom of the page there was a P. S.:

"Enclosed is money to cover a half-page ad commemorating another return of \$1 million federal tax dollars. I'm not an artist, but please take the enclosed cartoon, dress it up and publish it."

The second sheet contained the ad information and cartoon ideas.

I checked with the people at the drug store to see if anyone had seen

anyone leave the envelope on top of the cigarette machine. No one recalled seeing anyone doing anything at the machine.

The M-H publisher, Garland Atkins, read the info over and discussed whether or not this constituted political advertising. There was only one thing to do. Call Bill Lassiter in Raleigh. He's the attorney for the N. C. Press Association.

He checked and checked. Conclusion? This violated no laws even

though the person or persons placing the ad is unknown.

"I can't imagine anyone paying out that much money to praise someone and not want to be identified," Lassiter said. "I've never run into anything like this."

So, there you have it.

To see the ad the "Progressive-minded Kings Mountainian" placed turn to page five in today's issue.

TOM MCINTYRE
Editor

THE TUESDAY EDITION

KINGS MOUNTAIN

MIRROR-HERALD

VOL. 88 NO. 3

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1977

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\$999,250 EDA Grant Approved

New City Hall To Become Reality

By TOM MCINTYRE
Editor, Mirror-Herald

It is official.

The City of Kings Mountain will receive \$999,250 from the Economic Development Administration for the construction of a governmental facilities building.

Mayor John H. Moss received notice Monday from the assistant secretary for Economic Development, J. W. Eades of Washington offering the city the EDA grant. Mayor Moss presented the offer to the commissioners Monday night, which was accepted, and the mayor will personally deliver the agreement to the EDA office in AUSA.

"We are extremely happy to have been selected for this grant," Mayor Moss said Monday. "The new governmental services facility approval is now a reality. My feeling is the mayor and commissioners will advise the architect that we and the citizens desire the design treatment of the building be in keeping with the city's historical background. We will take a closer review of the final design."

Although the mayor received the notice of grant approval Monday (January 10), the date of approval

on the grant is January 8, 1977.

The application for the grant was submitted November 10, 1976, five days before the deadline. The application itself consisted of 204 pages of data on unemployment and other requested background for the area. The grant agreement sent by EDA is about half the size of the application.

One of the stipulations for the grant is that on-site construction begin within 90 days of approval, in this case January 8, 1977.

Mayor Moss said the construction can begin well within the deadline.

As originally designed the new city hall will house the administrative and business offices, police and fire departments. Some alterations of the interior designs of the services departments is expected. The architectural firm of Peterson-Clary of Charlotte, who designed the building and assisted in making the EDA application, have stated that alterations can be made without increasing the construction projected costs.

The present city hall, which was renovated in the 1960's, was constructed in 1937.

Mayor Moss said the advertisement for construction bids will be made in the very near future.

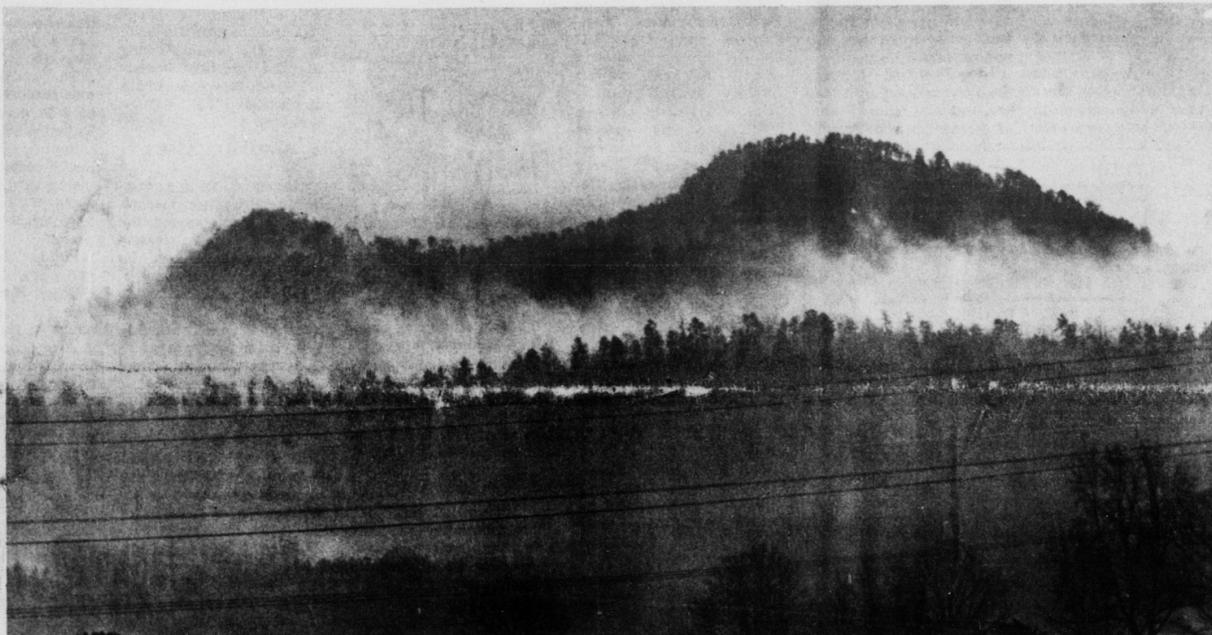


Photo By Tom McIntyre

An Island In The Sky?

It might, at first glance, look like an island in the sky, but on closer examination you can see this is the familiar knob of Kings Mountain shrouded in fog as if the fog rises from the trees and low areas surrounding

the mountain. On the day this photo was made (Friday) a brilliant sun, unhampered by any cloud cover, burned away the mist as fast as it crept up the historical slopes.

Green's Hearing January 26

Preliminary hearings for Jimmie Eugene Green, 28, of Gaffney, S. C. on charges of murder and rape in the death of Mrs. Rosemary Knauer, 48, on October 3, have been slated for January 26 in Shelby.

At Green's arraignment and initial appearance in 27th District court Thursday, the public defender's office was ordered by Judge Berlin Carpenter to provide an attorney for Green, who qualified as an indigent, for the preliminary hearings. Judge Carpenter set no bond and assistant district attorney Jack White recommended that Green be held without bond in Cleveland County Jail pending a hearing within the 15-day period under law.

The murder suspect was returned to Cleveland County about 8 p. m. Wednesday from Northeast State Mental Hospital in MacClenny, Fla. In the custody of Kings Mountain, Cleveland County and state law enforcement agents to face the charges of murder and rape in the stabbing death of Mrs. Knauer, Cleveland County fair worker whose partially clothed body was found in a wooded area near Kings Mountain Inn October 3 where she was a guest. Green, according to KM police, had been in Mrs. Knauer's employ at the fair for a few days before her death.

Det. Sgt. Richard Reynolds of KMPD, SBI Agent Jim Woodard and Paul Barebee of the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department left Sunday for Florida and returned late Wednesday after arresting Green on a first degree murder warrant signed by KM PD Chief Earl Lloyd, Reynolds and Woodard. A warrant charging first degree rape was issued Thursday morning.

Cloth Business In New Site

Sample Yardage, owned and operated by Foust Textiles since 1964, is moving from S. Railroad Ave. to the former Winn-Dixie Building off Cherokee St.

Grand opening is slated for Thursday, said John O. Plonk, President of the company. Mr. Plonk said that Jerry Ledbetter of Lawndale will manage the store and that other employees are being hired to complete the staff. Mr. Ledbetter was formerly employed by Ansley, Inc. and Dixie Industrial, both Shelby firms, and has wide experience in both retail and wholesale fabric business.

Foust has leased the Winn-Dixie building from Bob Yoder of Charlotte and Spencer Willingham of Greenville, owners.

The spacious building will give the company 12,000 square feet of floor space to display sample overages on samples from mills all over the country left over from Foust contracts and includes yardage in cottons, woolens, knits and all fabrics. Sample Yardage was formerly housed in the small building adjacent to Plonk Brothers on S. Railroad Ave.

A new feature of the business, in its new location, will be a notions department, featuring sewing supplies and a wide variety of patterns. There will also be home furnishings, including towels, bedspreads, and blankets, said Plonk.

Blazer Building To Open Soon

The Blazer Building may be open by January 15.

That is the date Blazer Construction Co. is shooting for at this point, but John Cheshire, company president, said that close date may still be too optimistic.

The two-story building, which has been under construction since early spring of 1976, will feature a restaurant with a 55-person seating capacity, on the ground floor. The restaurant will feature deli sandwiches, soups and salads and limited plate lunches.

Cheshire said The Meeting Place will be open from 6 a. m. until 2 p. m. and will be available in the evenings for special parties.

Also on the ground floor will be Alfred Crawford's barber shop, Gail Tatum's Beauty World beauty shop, and an optometrist's office.

On the second floor are the offices of attorneys Bob Bradley and George Thomasson, plus a complex of smaller offices.

The brick structure features a ramp access on the city parking plaza entrance and a covering over the pedestrian walkway. The building is located on S. Battleground Ave. between B&B Food Store and the former Roses Store.

Also under construction half a block away are the new legal offices of Attorneys Tim Harris, Don Bumgardner and Mickey Corry.

This one-story structure is located on S. Battleground beside Neisler Brothers building and will feature a suite of smaller offices for lease.

Completion date for the building is not known at this time.

Savings & Loans Pay Out Record Dividends

Kings Mountain's two financial institutions paid record dividends to savings account customers in 1976. Thomas A. Tate, executive officer of Home Savings & Loan Association on E. Mountain St., said his firm paid \$1,700,242.58 in dividends to savings account customers.

Mrs. Ruby H. Baker, executive officer of Kings Mountain Savings & Loan Association, said her firm paid a total of \$783,596.78 in 1976 to savings account customers. Mrs. Baker said that dividends paid last quarter, for the period ending Dec. 31, 1976, were a record \$206,706.00.

CPR Program Is Getting Underway

Thanks to \$3,000 worth of valuable life-saving equipment donated by Kings Mountain civic clubs and interested citizens the CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) program is well underway.

Lyn Cheshire and Sandy Mauney, certified instructors by the American Red Cross, have already given the 12-hour course to the Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club, First Presbyterian Church, Kings Mountain Police Department and Kings Mountain Fire Department. As soon as more instructors are qualified, a community-wide CPR course is slated in town.

Using four mannequins - CPR Manie, Ambu Simulator, Recording Annie and Baby Mannequin - the students are taught to demonstrate the "kiss of life." There is also a filmstrip provided plus the recording "Annie" borrowed from

Cleveland County Technical Institute. To be certified, students must pass both a skills test and a written test.

KM Fire Department Chief Gene Tignor said the course is being offered before virtually all civic clubs. Last night the Kings Mountain Board of Education got a preview of the course at their regular board meeting.

Chief Tignor said target date for kickoff of the community wide instruction is sometime this month. He said the city has offered a central training room at KM Community Center where majority of the classes, to be offered to all citizens free of charge, will be held.

The program is co-sponsored by the Kings Mountain Fire Department, City of Kings Mountain and Cleveland County Red Cross Chapter.